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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 14 No. 10 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of January 9, 2014

Person held in connection with Jamaica murder

By Brock Weir

Police investigating the murder of Shirley Lewis-McFarlane in Discovery Bay, Jamaica, have concluded the Aurora resident died of blunt force trauma and strangulation.

As The Auroran went to press this week, police in the Jamaica Constabulary Force confirmed they had someone in custody related to the incident, but would not go as far as to name the individual a suspect.

“We do have someone in custody and the person is awaiting questioning with their attorney,” said Assistant Superintendent Tanisha Ellison on Tuesday evening. “The date has not been set as of yet. We believe the person has information connected with the investigation.”

On Monday, Deputy Superintendent Steve Brown told The Auroran questioning continued with an “acquaintance” of Ms. Lewis-McFarlane picked up earlier that day. He would not elaborate on the relationship between the person and the victim other than they were “very close.”

Ms. Lewis-McFarlane, 53, was found dead in her Discovery Bay home in Jamaica’s St. Ann parish on Monday, December 30 with injuries to her body. Described as a frequent visitor to the island, Jamaican media reported there was no signs of forced entry, but she suffered injuries to her head and face, ranging from bruises to a slit throat. Police say early reports that her throat had been slashed were untrue.

By last Friday, officials with the Constabulary Force told The Auroran police from Kingston were on the ground in St. Ann continuing the investigation.

Little had changed in the investigation by Saturday as police continued conducting interviews in the area.

“Efforts are also being made to locate her husband, whom she is said to have separated from some time ago,” said Brown that afternoon.

By Monday, however, the Constabulary had established contact with Ms. Lewis-McFarlane’s estranged husband, Carlisle McFarlane, who Ms. Lewis-McFarlane first met in Jamaica in 2001.

Ms. Lewis-McFarlane, a long-time resident of Aurora, had since established her roots in the island nation. Survived by her three children, Jasmine, Amanda, and Shawn, she was also the

Continued on page 3



Aurora native Shirley Lewis-McFarlane was found dead December 30



SHAKING THE BLUES AWAY – (From Left) Aurora Winter Blues Fest founders Helen Gushue and Jamie MacDonald, seen here with Karen Mason of Blue Door Shelters and Tim Jones of CHATS, took in the scene at the Aurora Cultural Centre last week in preparation for their first ever Blues Bash, which will take place March 6. A kick-off party for the third annual Blues Fest, it is designed to shine the spotlight on their two partner charities and the service they do in the community.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Charities will have something to sing about as Winter Blues Fest expands

By Brock Weir

Plans are underway for the annual Aurora Winter Blues Festival and this year, local charities and services will have more than a few things to sing about.

This year’s party will be bigger than ever, expanding into a three-day extravaganza. The Festival will take over Theatre Aurora beginning Friday, March 7 with performances from Daddy Long Legs, Bill Durst, and JW-Jones, and will continue through the next evening with Jerome Godboo, Paul Reddick, and Mark “Bird” Stafford.

Before the party officially starts, however, Blues Fest will host their first ever “Blues Bash” festival kickoff at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Thursday, March 6. Featuring a live performance from “The BluesBros”, a takeoff on the Blues Brothers, the Blues Bash was conceived to shine a light on the Blues Fest’s two partner organizations –

Blue Door Shelters and CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors).

“We really want to get people out and have a good time and get on the dance floor; which is really the origins of the Blues Festival,” said Jamie MacDonald, who founded the festival with his wife Helen Gushue. “It started at our house with a dance party, so this is a bit of a throwback for us.

“With the Blues Bash, we want to put a spotlight on the benefactors. With the single night, we only had 45 minutes at intermission where we could do so and it wasn’t giving back as much as I wanted. [This will show] why we’re here and the really pressing concerns of our community we’re coming together to recognize and support.”

The BluesFest first connected with Blue Door Shelters, the Newmarket-based group of shelters serving York Region’s Homeless, two years ago. The connection about

Continued on page 6

\$19 million Joint Operations Centre could take step forward this week

By Brock Weir

The future of Aurora’s proposed \$19 million new Joint Operations Centre could become clearer this week as Councillors prepare to approve a budget to make the building a reality.

The \$18,971,000 project comes before Council this week at a Special General Committee meeting, which, if approved, will be ratified later this month.

If given the green light, the Joint Operations Centre will combine Aurora’s Parks and Recreation Department under one roof with the Works yard,

currently housed on Scanlon Court. While that land has been conditionally sold, Aurora has purchased new land near the top of Industrial Parkway North for the new building.

According to a report before Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora’s Director of Parks and Recreation this week, detailed drawings for the site are now 70 per cent complete. So far, the project is expected to span 11.55 acres and include a three level main building which will house offices, workspaces, as well as storage for equipment, Aurora’s paper records, as well as artefacts currently in the Town’s Heritage

Continued on page 16



An artist’s rendering of what the complete Joint Operations Centre might look like on Industrial Parkway North.

HAVE YOUR SAY! TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 2014
7-9 P.M.

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION MEETING AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE
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Weekly Notice Board

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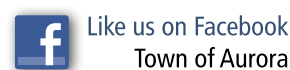
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accessibility@aurora.ca

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| Thursday, January 9 | 7 p.m. | Economic Development Advisory Committee |
| Thursday, January 9 | 7:30 p.m. | Committee of Adjustment – Rescheduled to January 16 |
| Saturday, January 11 | 9 a.m. | Special General Committee – Budget* |
| Monday, January 13 | 7 p.m. | Special General Committee – Budget* |
| Tuesday, January 14 | 7 p.m. | General Committee* |
| Wednesday, January 15 | 7 p.m. | Aurora Public Library Board |
| Thursday, January 16 | 7 p.m. | Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee |
| Thursday, January 16 | 7 p.m. | Committee of Adjustment |
| Friday, January 17 | 10 a.m. | Trails and Active Transportation 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

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream



Like us on Facebook
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The next municipal election in The Town of Aurora will be held on **Monday, October 27**. Nominations are now open and forms can be viewed and downloaded online at www.aurora.ca/vote2014

Residents are encouraged to educate themselves on the election process and the candidates running for office. Have your voice heard on election day and vote!

PUBLIC NOTICES

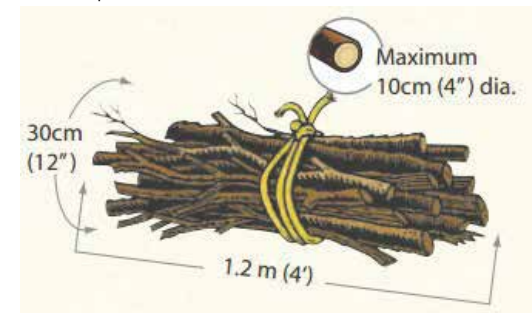
Special Yard Waste Pick-up

Please be advised that due to the recent ice storm, **The Town of Aurora has added a special yard waste pick-up for the week of January 27 to 31**.

As with regular yard waste collection, residents are asked to bundle branches and place them at the curb on their usual scheduled garbage pick-up day.

Bundling guidelines are available on page 17 of the Town's 2014 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar or at www.aurora.ca/yardwaste

The Town thanks residents for their patience and co-operation as clean-up from recent ice storms continues.



Aurora Public Library Drop-Box

Now it's even easier to return borrowed materials from the Aurora Public Library! For your convenience, there is a new drop-box available at the Aurora GO Train Station, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Notice of Public Meeting – Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park

Join us on **Wednesday, January 15** at 7 p.m. in the Holland Room at Aurora Town Hall for a public meeting to discuss the redevelopment of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park, formally Civic Square Park. The purpose of this meeting is to receive input about accessible and inclusive play equipment. Discussions will include park uses and its redevelopment.

If you would like to provide input but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Jim Tree, Parks Manager, at 905-727-3123 ext. 3222 or jtree@aurora.ca or Gary Greidanus, Landscape Architect, at ext. 3227 or ggreidanus@aurora.ca

2014 Budget

The Town of Aurora continues its 2014 Budget review sessions. Residents are invited and encouraged to have their voices heard by attending and speaking at an upcoming session:

Saturday, January 11 at 9 a.m.

Meetings will continue throughout January and February 2014.

All meetings will be held in Council Chambers, located at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way.

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. 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/2014budget and updated throughout the process. For more information about the 2014 Budget, please contact Dan Elliott, Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer at ourtownbudget@aurora.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Outdoor Skating Rinks



Residents are advised that the four outdoor ice rinks located at Machell Park, Aurora Town Park, Ada Johnson Park and Confederation Park are now all open!

All four rinks have lighting and will operate until 11 p.m. Duration of the rink availability is weather dependant.

For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3233.

Aurora Municipal Basketball League

The Aurora Municipal Basketball League (AMBL), in partnership with C-Rec and The Town of Aurora, is offering a league for all skill levels, ages seven to 17. Players will practice one night per week and have a game against another team every Saturday. Emphasis will be placed on learning basic basketball skills, teamwork and having fun in an encouraging environment.

The AMBL is always looking for coaches or assistant coaches. For more information please contact Jason at 289-879-2732.

For more information on the league, please contact Franco DeMarco, Community Programmer, at 905-726-4770 ext.3121 or fdemarco@aurora.ca

Help us Shape Aurora's Culture

The Town of Aurora joins leading municipalities across Ontario in developing its first Cultural Master Plan. The Plan will establish a cultural vision for the Town as well as identify strategies and actions to support cultural and broader economic development goals.

Input from the community on directions and priorities is critical to the success of the Cultural Master Plan. We invite all residents to complete a **short survey** that will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please visit www.auroraculture.ca for more information and to access the confidential survey.

Christmas Tree Collection

Residents are advised that Christmas tree collection is on **Monday, January 13 ONLY**. Please remove all decorations, tree stands and plastic tree bags. Please note that collection crews will not dig out or climb snow banks to retrieve a tree.

For more information, please call Amanda Newman, Co-ordinator of Waste/Recycling at 905-727-3123 ext. 3447 or email anewman@aurora.ca



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for the following position:

Manager of Facilities, Property and Fleet
Application deadline is **Friday, January 24**

For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/employment

REMINDERS

Winter Parking Restrictions in effect between 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Snow and ice are here. Please make it safe for everyone and ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the street. It is also important to not park 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 on this by-law, please call 905-726-4751 or visit www.aurora.ca

AURORA
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A new, exciting event by The Town of Aurora

GEOCACHING

FREE for the whole family to enjoy!

Check out the following locations for your opportunity to try Geocaching within The Town of Aurora!

RANGER BASE
Cache Location: N 43° 56.672 W 079° 27.175
Difficulty: Easy, 1.5 out of 5
Terrain: 1.5 out of 5

GRANDAD'S BELLY BUTTON
Cache Location: N 44° 00.564 W 079° 28.143
Difficulty: Easy, 2 out of 5
Terrain: 1.5 out of 5

FINDING NEMO - CRUSH
Cache Location: N 43° 58.477 W 079° 29.
Difficulty: Hard, 3 out of 5
Terrain: 2.5 out of 5

When you have found the geocache, email sware@aurora.ca to claim your "treasure"!

Remember. Geocaching is enjoyed by people of all age groups. No experience necessary!

For the latest event details and additional information, please call 905-726-4762 or visit www.aurora.ca

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

AURORA
You're in Good Company

ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Saturday, January 18
Bring all your unwanted or obsolete electronic devices to
9 SCANLON COURT
(Just off of Industrial Parkway North, one block north of Wellington Street)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What's Included?
Computers and peripherals (cables and cords), laptops, monitors, keyboards, copiers, VCRs, copier/fax machines, cell phones/pagers, printers, scanners, hard drives, TV, stereo and video equipment, shredders, home theatre systems, radios, telephones and more!

What's NOT Included?
Household and kitchen appliances, refrigerators, stoves, ovens, microwaves, air conditioners, vacuums, toasters, blenders, etc.

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Aurora's Borealis

Don't miss Aurora's Borealis!
Come to Aurora Town Park every evening from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. until Monday, February 17, 2014 and enjoy skating under the lights on a giant outdoor ice rink.
WEATHER-PERMITTING

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca

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BABY NEW YEAR
– The first Aurora baby of 2014 born at Southlake Regional Health Centre arrived a bit later than usual last week. Easton Briggs was born at 8.43 a.m. on January 2 weighing 9lbs 12oz. He is pictured here with his big sister Sloan, 2, dad Thomas, and mom Claudia Velloci.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Residents should have the right to recall elected officials: Pirri

By Brock Weir

Residents across Ontario should have the right to turf their elected municipal officials if they lose the confidence of the public, according to Councillor Paul Pirri.

When elected officials such as mayors and councillors are charged with criminal offences – as has been recently experienced in London, Ontario and in Rockland, a suburb of Ottawa – there is very little residents can do about it, says Councillor Pirri. Coupling this with the scandal-plagued mayoralty of Rob Ford in Toronto, the Councillor argues it is high time for the Province to do something about it.

Councillor Pirri will introduce a notice of motion next week calling on Aurora to take the first steps in encouraging Premier Kathleen Wynne and the Ontario Government to “look hard at the institution of recall elections for municipal councillors.”

“There are currently two mayors who have been charged with crimes,” he says. “The individual out Ottawa-way has also been charged with two other councillors who breached public trust. With what is going on in the City of Toronto as well, I think there has to be some sort of mechanism in place to ensure that over a four-year term, citizens and people in the community’s rights and faith in government should be trusted.

“I think there is a perception that in a lot of cases, politicians aren’t doing it for the right reasons and I think there has to be some power to the residents in our communities to help ensure politicians are doing a good job.”

Looking ahead, however, Councillor Pirri says he does not endorse any particular mechanism and that should be left up to the Province. Determining something that works is very important, he says,

looking at other provinces and American states that have similar safeguards in place. In some jurisdictions, a petitioner needs approximately 50 per cent of eligible voters to sign before the wheels can move on a recall election.

“There would have to be a threshold made in the process that is high enough to inhibit a group of people from having it used as a political tool,” he says. “If 50 per cent of the population comes out to sign their names on a petition, I would think regardless of it being used for a political mean or not, I think it would be obvious that person has lost the confidence of the electorate. I think it should be a tenant of good democracy that you hold the confidence of the majority of the people you represent.”

At the end of the day however, this is about putting powers back into the hands of the people, he says.

“Over the last few months, there has been a lot of news made over politicians in the GTA who engage in certain behaviour without having any real repercussions,” says Councillor Pirri. “I think the legal system is one avenue [accountability] can take place, but if an individual in any municipality has lost the confidence in the residents in that community, the residents should have the right to speak up and to demand change.

“You hear it quite often that if you don’t do a good job in any job you can be fired. The only place you can’t do that, and the only time a politician can lose his job is at election time and I am not sure the residents are best-served by that.”

What do you think: Should Ontario pave the way to recall politicians? Send your thoughts to letters@auroran.com.

Investigation continues in Jamaica

From page 1

daughter of former York Regional Police officer Don Lewis, Sr., and predeceased by her mother Joyce, as well as Don Lewis, Jr., also of the York Regional Police.

In a Facebook tribute set up in her mother’s memory, daughter Jasmine said the entire situation was surreal.

“I feel like I could just call her and ask her what I should be doing,” Jasmine wrote. “Remembrance was very important to her. She would visit grandma’s grave and other family who reside in Aurora Cemetery at least once a week, planting new flowers, watering, even tending flowers of strangers that had been neglected.

“She was always amazed at the markers people had and I knew her favourites – the tree, the Empire State Building, the new child’s one by the back fence. She knew what was supposed to happen in these situations and she executed these arrangements in military precision. Mom, we’ll try to give you everything you would have wanted. You didn’t deserve any of what happened, but you deserve a beautiful place to rest. I promise to pick up where you left off.”

Added Shawn: “I was close to my mom and I talked to her every day multiple times.”

While Jamaican authorities continue their investigation, people here in Canada have reached out to help the family bring Ms. Lewis-McFarlane’s remains back home.

An online fund was established Saturday

in her memory to help the family bring her home and provide for her funeral. By press time, it had garnered \$395.

“[Her children] are all heartbroken and devastated,” said fundraiser founder Stephanie Dawber-Richards in a statement. “They are preparing for her to be flown back to Canada where they can properly say goodbye to their best friend and mother. This is going to be a long, hard road for them, both emotionally and financially. They are going to need all the help they can get.

“They are such a wonderful family, well-mannered and always had a smile on their faces; they learned this from their warm-hearted, open-armed mother who would do anything for anyone, even give the shirt off her back, even if she needed it. She raised her children to do just that.

“Now it is time that we need to give back to this family, in this time of great need. I would like them to be able to mourn their mother and not have to worry about losing hours at work. I want them to be able to fly their mother home and have a beautiful funeral for her; to have their closure.”

To support the fund, visit www.gofundme.com/61oyeo.

Anyone with information related to the case are asked to call the St. Ann’s Bay Crime Office at 876-972-2209 or the Discovery Bay Police at 876973-2233. No country code is required. Information can also be submitted online at www.crimestop.org.

Briefly

FOOD CARDS NOW AVAILABLE TO YORK REGION

Starting this week, a limited number of food cards will be available to residents affected by December’s ice storm. Cards became available Tuesday for eligible residents in the Region to replace food lost in power outages. According to the Region of York, “residents must have been without power for more than 48 hours and face financial difficulty in replacing spoiled food. A very limited number of grocery cards are available and will be distributed by mail only.” To see whether you meet the requirements of the grocery card program, residents are asked to contact Access York at 1-888-256-1112.

CLEANUP CONTINUES AFTER ICE STORM

Cleanups continue this week following the pre-Christmas ice storm. According to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora’s Director of Infrastructure, the Town fared well getting fallen trees and limbs off of the road, but further damage cleanup still needs to be done. Waste pickup dates have been scheduled between January 27 and January 30 to collect fallen trees, branches, and other waste damaged during the storm on private properties. Materials, he said, must be bundled up and placed in accordance with standard yard waste guidelines. “In the meantime, residents are asked to keep material off the boulevard to avoid it being buried in the snow.

FOOTBALL PAYS OFF FOR LOTTO WINNER

Football answered a nearly \$64,000 question for Bianca Cardelli as the Aurora resident walked away with \$63,837.40 in the OLG’s Pro Picks Pool. “For the past year, I have just been playing Pro Picks Pools,” said Ms. Cardelli in a statement. “I watched all the games and when the last game was finished, I knew I had won! When I found out later what the winning amount was, I went crazy and started dancing!” With her winnings, she plans on buying a new car and taking a vacation. The ticket was purchased at the Wellington and Leslie Esso station.

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Aurora Cultural Master Plan Visioning Session

January 22, 2014 | 6:30 pm

Brevik Hall, Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, Aurora

The Town of Aurora is preparing a Cultural Master Plan to shape cultural priorities for the next 10 years. Please join us for the Visioning Session during which you will be invited to help us examine emerging directions and define concrete actions for moving culture ahead in Aurora.

The Visioning Session will begin with a brief presentation, followed by table group discussions that will help us prepare the Cultural Master Plan.

www.auroraculture.ca

Share your experiences, ideas, and vision for culture in Aurora.

For more information, please contact Jim Kyle, Project Manager, at jkyle@aurora.ca or (905) 727-3123 x4345

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Letters to the editor

A lack of resilience

(Re: Back to the Ice Age, January 2, 2014)

I am not sure why so many people who live in houses, apartments with balconies or have cars with trunks, had food spoil during this power outage.

We experienced a loss of hydro for approximately 48 hours but did not lose any groceries in our fridge.

We placed all freezer food after the initial 24 hour period outside on our porch in containers where it naturally was kept frozen. The remaining food in the fridge was put in containers in our garage near the door to the house to keep cold but not freeze.

We used flashlights and candles to carry with us around the house for light. We used a radio that winds up charging its battery so we could listen to the news reports. Extra blankets were put on beds at night and we were able to sleep fairly comfortably.

I actually did paper work from home sitting next to windows during the day and taping a flashlight to a lamp in the evening.

There appears to be a lack of resilience in our society when people would rather complain about their situation instead of problem solving and rising to the challenge.

Shelley Wister
Aurora

Aurora needs a ward system, agrees reader

(Re: Aurora Needs a Ward System, December 18)

I believe Mr. Greenhough has put forward some very good points on the need for a Ward system.

I would like to add a couple more.

Firstly and most importantly it would raise the level of accountability within the Council and secondly it would allow us to actually get to know our Councillor, so instead of trying to make one’s way through a myriad of bureaucracy it will be much simpler to connect with our elected Councillor to express concerns.

Parochial! – It’s about being concerned for the individual and building a healthy community for all.

Matthew Marosszeky
Aurora

From the Diaries of Dr. Hillary

The Hillary House collection contains many items that provide insight into the professional and personal lives of the local physician and his family.

One of the most unique archival pieces is the collection of Dr. Robert Michael Hillary’s daily journals from the 1920s through to the early 1930s. Through these journals we can better understand the details of daily life in Aurora almost a century ago and place these lives into the larger context of national and global issues.

In 2014, personal items like these journals, family photo albums and more will form the basis of a new exhibit at Hillary House. The following is an excerpt from one of these journals. (NB: Each (?) means that AHS has not been able to decipher the handwriting.)

September 2 1923
75 fair
Church with Edith & Nora Horace & Norman, remained for 1 hr
Eleanor and Mr. Bach arrived about 3
Dot, Bea, Guy, Eleanor and Mr. Bach
to Summit 4 to 8pm – 9 holes 60
Tea on return
E. & Mr. Bach left at 9:30
The Lorne family came in after church
Mrs. Lorne left for (?) last
night. Col. (?) very ill –
neuritis, high B.P. etc.
Severe earthquake in Japan

The earthquake that is mentioned briefly by Dr. Hillary at the end of this entry struck Yokohama and Tokyo on September 1st 1923, with a magnitude of 7.9. It is known as the Great Kanto Earthquake and is the deadliest earthquake in Japanese history with a death toll of over 140,000.

Diary courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society

THE AURORAN

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

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Machell's Corners

THIS ARTICLE NOTES THE CONFLICTING INFORMATION... CONFUSION... RESIDENTS FEELING LIKE IT WILL NEVER END...

ICE STORM BLACKOUTS?

UPCOMING MUNIPAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN

© SCOTT JOHNSTON



To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com.
Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Cry me a Cryoseisma

Last week, I wrote about lessons learned over the past calendar year.

As I noted, I was writing it during the ice storm, a phenomenon which is likely to become a part of our folklore for many years to come. Since then, the lessons have continued to pile up.

Consider the aftermath of the storm for a moment. Its effects made for a very messy holiday season. As others have noted, many lost power and, as a result, many lost full stocks of holiday cheer due to their warmed-up refrigerators and freezers, and were either unexpectedly housebound or forced to make alternative holiday plans.

Although we did not lose power where I live – my home is directly on the west side of Bayview Avenue between St. John’s Sideroad and Wellington Street – our holiday plans turned out to be somewhat out of the norm, but we dealt with it.

BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

After what turned out to be an unusually quiet Christmas Eve, I stayed up pretty late before joining most other Aurorans getting snug in their beds in either a kerchief or cap. Like many of you, however, the sugarplums dancing in my head were shaken and thrown into the orchestra with the first in a series of loud booms.

Avoiding any mentions of arising clatter, once awake, I’m sure it was a common feeling of thinking to one’s self, “What the hell was that?!” before drifting off once again, only to have the cobwebs blown off the windmills of your mind by one further blood curdling explosion. It was around 3.45 on Christmas Day morning and if you weren’t awake with that, you had either taken a sleep aid, a few too many cups of egg nog... or both.

Staggering into our clothes, out our front doors and onto the icy driveways, it was nice to have a Christmas morning tete-a-tete with the neighbours as we did a quick survey of the area to determine just what shook our walls. There were no trees fully down in our area, just the odd branch or two, but my real concern was the PowerStream station just on the other side of my bedroom wall.

It has been a mild cause of concern ever since I first observed a small sink hole starting to form in their gravel about two years ago, a hole which is fed a regular diet of sand and limestone to keep everything above ground and above board.

With no exterior damage, it was the general consensus that something was going on in the power station, but with no smoke emerging from the two silvery buildings, we decided it would just be one more thing on the power supplier’s ever-growing to-do list and went back to bed.

After getting up on Christmas Morning, opening presents, and watching the Queen deliver her annual Christmas Message on the CBC, I fired up my computer to see if there was any resolution on the overnight boom.

There wasn’t, but what emerged on Facebook and Twitter the morning of were equal parts panic (in posts with an earlier time stamp) and dismay. Some took an academic approach to the matter, while others clearly took inspiration from Chicken Little. Either way, I was somewhat glad we weren’t alone and a meltdown on the other side of my bedroom wall probably wasn’t imminent.

That night, however, the unlikely source of the

boom was trumpeted loud and clear.

Let’s be honest – until the Christmas Eve boom, how many of us here were fully up to speed on a “Frost Quake” or, to give the phenomenon its full, grand title, “cryoseisms”? (Or is it “cryoseisma”?)

It was certainly a phenomena new to me and judging by general reaction on Facebook, Twitter and in other online commentary, a phenomena new to most of the general population. In my 28 years as a Canadian winter enthusiast, and in those years there have certainly been days more bitterly cold than what we have experienced over the past few weeks, this is the first time I have ever heard them. Since they have been “outed”, however, they are occurring at surprising regularity.

To recap, here is an excerpt from an article from CityNews, which was the first to cross my desk.

“A cryoseism, also known as a frost quake, does happen frequently after ice storms but are quite uncommon in the GTA. A frost quake is caused when rain and ice seep down into the soil and then freezes when temperatures drop.”

Chimed in a New Year’s Eve blog post from CBC’s Your Community Blog entitled “Rare ‘frost quake’ phenomenon bewilders Greater Toronto Area residents”: “Water in the surrounding soil and rocks freezes. As water freezes, it expands, putting pressure on the dirt and rocks. When the pressure build-up is too much, the dirt or rocks will crack and you hear a loud boom. They tend to occur between midnight and dawn, the coldest time of night and are very localized, so residents a few blocks away may not have heard the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day booms.”

So, there you are. No matter how indoctrinated we are in the ins and outs of a Canadian winter, there is always something new and surprising to keep us on our toes. Now, my only concern is, what else are we now going to chalk up to a “Frost Quake” in the middle of the night which might actually be a cause for alarm?

GO AHEAD, THE WATER IS WARM

So, someone had to go first and environmentalist Svetla Topouzova is the first person to declare their candidacy for Council in this year’s municipal election. Had I not cut one of my 2013 columns down due to space, I might have made \$10 or so, had anyone taken me up on my wager that she would be among those in the running this year. My prediction was made purely on the observation on the sheer number of Council meetings she attended when she didn’t have to. Surely no one would sit through them purely for entertainment! There are a few others who have followed suit as observers over the past few months, so it will be interesting to see who among them will join her in the fray.

As I am writing this on Monday morning, nearly 20 people have lined up at Toronto City Hall to challenge Mayor Rob Ford to the City’s top job (that is, when the mayoralty is running on full power), but Ms. Topouzova is, so far, the only declared candidate for any of the multiple positions in Aurora up for bid. To all you stragglers, unless your objective is to build suspense or practice the element of surprise, come on in. The water is warm!

NEW AURORAN POLL

If Aurora residents vote in favour of a ward system this October, should Council be reduced from eight Councillors to six?

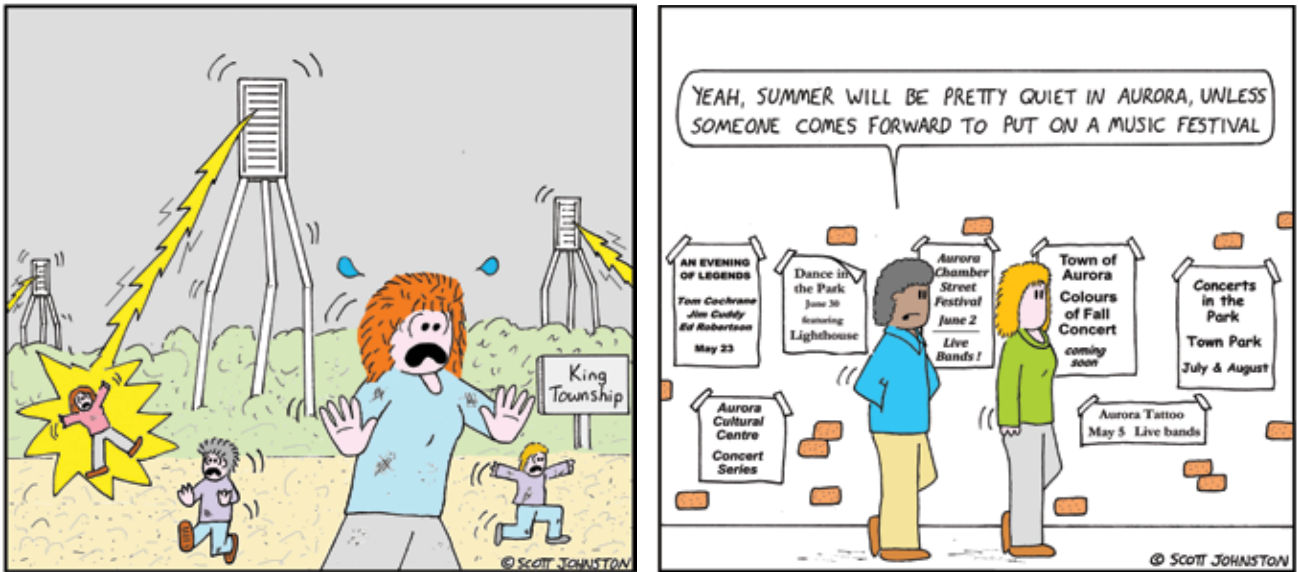
a) Yes

b) No

c) Undecided


Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

| Previous Poll Results | | | |
|--|----------|----------|---------|
| Should Aurora adopt a ward system for Council in time for the 2018 term? | | | |
| (A) Yes (B) No (C) Unsure | | | |
| RESULTS January 8, 2013 | A 48% | B 63% | C 1% |



In our second installment of the Aurora that was in 2013, cartoonist Scott Johnston recalls April when residents on Aurora’s west side put up a fight against a multi-storey cell phone tower they found looming over their neighbourhood from King Township on the other side of Bayview. The fight ultimately proved futile. Next month, the buzz around town was dominated by the future of a Civic Holiday Weekend music festival and a perceived lack of other musical options.

Ottawa Report



LOIS BROWN

MP Newmarket-Aurora

Health Care Transfers

I am often asked about our health care system. Where does one go when a problem arises? To answer this, you need to know what level of government has the legislative authority to make changes and improvements.

The administration and delivery of health care services is constitutionally the responsibility of each province or territory, guided by the provisions of the Canada Health Act, Canada’s federal legislation for publicly funded health care insurance. The provinces and territories fund these services with assistance in the form of fiscal transfers from the federal government.

Health care services include insured primary health care (such as the services of physicians and other health professionals) and care in hospitals, which account for the majority of health expenditures. The provinces and territories also provide some groups with supplementary health benefits not covered by the Act, such as prescription drug coverage. The level and scope of coverage for supplementary benefits varies between jurisdictions.

As announced in Budget 2007, and beginning in 2014-15, provincial and territorial health transfers will be allocated on an equal per capita cash basis. This change, which was also done for the Canada Social Transfer, will provide like treatment for all Canadians, regardless of where they live.

Total federal financial support for health, education and social services has increased over 55% since we formed government. Annual transfers are at a historic high of \$65 billion and will continue to grow. Legislatively, transfers will grow in the line with the economy – allowing the program to remain affordable and sustainable. This will ensure that the provinces and territories can provide the services families need.

Ontario will receive almost \$19.2B in federal transfers this year – and increase of 76% since we took office. This includes over \$12.3B through the Canada Health Transfer; over \$4.8B through the Canada Social Transfer and almost \$2B through Equalization.

Travelling? Plan Ahead

I encourage all travellers planning to cross the border into the U.S. to take advantage of the travel tips content offered by the Canada Border Services Agency. A little planning time ahead, can help ensure a smoother crossing at the border. Tips include:

Always make sure that you and your passengers are carrying proper identification at the border. A passport is the preferred document for crossing the border, as is a NEXUS card or an Enhanced Driver’s Licence;

Always declare purchases and items received while outside of Canada. If you are a Canadian resident, you may have a duty-free allowance, depending on how long you’ve been outside of Canada;

Be sure to check the CBSA’s border wait times web page for up-to-date wait times. Border wait times are also available on twitter at @CBSA_BWT.

The CBSA website also offers a border reminder checklist, travel tips videos and a duty and taxes estimator. Visit www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca for more information.

Newtooltohelplocatemissingchildren

An important new tool from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection to help locate missing and lost children has been developed. The Find Me ID app allows parents to store current photographs and contains automated prompts for reminding parents to

update information about their child that can be easily accessed on their smartphone and is password protected. During time sensitive situations, the Find Me ID app allows parents to take immediate action by having their child’s critical information right at their fingertips. Any parent who has ever been separated from their child in a store or shopping mall knows that every second counts. Over 5,300 downloads of the app have taken place to date. For more information on the app, visit the www.findmeID.ca website and follow @CdnChildProtect.


DART Mission Accomplished

The Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has completed its 40-day deployment to the Philippines to provide humanitarian assistance following Typhoon Haiyan. The DART’s more than 315 personnel were able to offer immediate assistance to Filipinos by providing 493,346 litres of purified water; treating 6,525 medical patients, delivering 230,485 pounds of food, delivering 59,536 pounds of humanitarian assistance goods, clearing 131 km of roads and flying 184 CH-146 Griffon sorties.

Their contribution illustrates Canada’s readiness to respond to international crises and Newmarket-Aurora is proud of the hard work our men and women in uniform have done in helping the people of the Philippines cope with this devastating disaster. I would also like to thank everyone who personally contributed to the Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund.

From supporting student bake sales to attending gala events, many of you responded to the call for help, and I am truly grateful for your generosity.

If you would like to contact me on any issue, please call 905.953.7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.



SENIOR SCAPE

Jim L. Abram

Hello. I’m Forrest, Forrest Gump

I have several favourite film and television actors.

I seem to like those actors that start out in comedic television roles or in stand-up comedy then add more dramatic film roles. Many such actors star in roles that resonate with seniors. A few that come to mind are Robin Williams whose repertoire spans everything from *Mork and Mindy* to more serious films like *Dead Poets Society* and *Awakenings*.

Jim Carrey is another such example who went from being Ace Ventura, a pet detective to more moving comedic-dramas like *The Truman Show* and the *Man in the Moon*, the story of the late stand-up comedian, Andy Kaufman. But by far, the actor I most enjoy is Tom Hanks.

Tom Hanks has acted in 71 movies, while also writing, directing and producing. Tom’s body of work is far too vast to do it justice in this short column but I do want to reference a small cross-section of his career accomplishments in the context of how his work relates to the tastes, interests and lives of seniors in Aurora.

One of Tom Hanks’ earliest films was *Big*. This is a story about the child that lives inside of all of us...of all ages. I’m sure we can all relate. This age-changing comedy reminds us of the youth we once had and reminds us that our youth is still there in body, mind and spirit.

Many seniors in Aurora are veterans of war. No actor has dedicated so much to the support of men and women who served and continue to serve than Tom Hanks. After his experience portraying a veteran in *Saving Private Ryan*, Hanks became active in the creation of a memorial to the men and women who fought during WWII.

Both he and Spielberg joined forces to produce *Band of Brothers*. Hanks also helped narrate The War, a stunning and comprehensive look at ordinary Americans fighting in World War II.


The actor vaulted into uncharted territory with his Oscar-winning performance in Philadelphia, playing a gay lawyer who is dying of AIDS while trying to win a discrimination suit after getting fired.

Despite the film being denounced by gay activists for being too soft on the issue, Hanks was nonetheless universally praised for a nuanced performance, in which he lost weight for the role. Most of us have watched loved ones pass away and can relate to this moving depiction of love, caring and support during such a difficult eventuality.

In *Castaway*, Hanks was alone and isolated on a deserted island with his only friend being “Wilson”, a Volleyball. Many seniors feel alone and friendless, but they need not feel like “castaways”. Let it be known you have many friends and supporters at the Aurora Seniors’ Centre and with organizations such as Chats, the Welcome Table, Victorian Order of Nurses and CCAC (Community Care Access Centre) to mention only a few. These groups, events and institutions, among others in Aurora and York Region, are there for you and are ready to reach out to any senior in need.

Forrest Gump is an epic romantic comedy-drama that depicts several decades in the life of Forrest Gump, a naïve and slow-witted yet athletically prodigious native of Alabama who witnesses, and in some cases influences, some of the defining events of the latter half of the 20th century in the United States; more specifically, the period between Forrest’s birth in 1944 and 1982, a most memorable period of history

Round Two with Ms. Park’s Grade 5 Class



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

For those loyal readers of this column, you may recall a couple of weeks back this writer accepted the invitation to come in and discuss government with my son Ryan’s Grade Five class at Devins Drive Public School.

I had a wonderful hour and a half with the children, chatting about everything from the size of Canada; the number of provinces and territories, to what representative government and British Parliamentary Democracy is all about.

I was amazed at both their knowledge and the types of questions they asked me.

As Ms. Park knows that I work in the energy business and the students were doing a series on the topic, she invited me in again.

I had an hour and twenty minutes to fill so rather than just do a question and answer session - and as I know a picture is worth a thousand words - I developed a power point presentation, augmented with four short videos from the Ontario Power Authority and showed some small generation models that I have.

We first discussed what energy and electricity is and the different types of energy – fossil and renewable energy.

We then discussed the different types of energy generation and how it goes from the power station across the transmission lines and then to the distribution lines before the electrons finally get into their homes or school.

The class got a big kick out of the

small scale wind turbine and working car engine model that I brought in.

I brought the car model to show how the combustion process works so I could then use this to explain generation from coal, biomass, natural gas and landfill gas.

One of the key messages that I had for the students is that Canada is fortunate - unlike a number of other nations - in that we have a wide diversity of energy supply.

We then looked at a chart that showed the different types of electricity across Canada and I asked the students a number of questions regarding the leading generation type in respective provinces.

We then turned our attention to Ontario’s current supply mix and how renewables and conservation are beginning to play a bigger part.

I also stressed that while electricity is so important to us that it can also be dangerous and that the students should never climb any power poles or if they see a power line down on the ground, to never ever approach it. This now seems rather prescient given the recent weather.

And I was only half kidding when I told the class that it was also alright to keep all the lights on in their homes as

this means more energy is required and that my firm then gets an opportunity to compete to build power plants which would, in turn, allow me to keep my son in the plethora of Lego and Nerf Guns that he has grown accustomed to!

As I have made many speeches or presentations over the years, I like to think that I know my audience and therefore adjust the material to make it pertinent to them.

I had spent a bunch of time on various websites in search of material for explaining complex topics like nuclear energy to children and these were somewhat helpful.

However, my talk was not as successful as the one I gave a month ago about government.

Part of it was that the novelty of having someone other than their teacher speak to them had started to wear off and also the complexity of the material.

But, my main problem is that I was a little too ambitious this time. If I had to do it over again, I would have narrowed the topic of my discussion to one area and explored that in some depth.

However, I still had a great time and I like to think that the students learned a little bit that afternoon.

My thanks again to Ms. Park and the entire Grade Five class for making me feel so welcome.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a very happy holiday season.

As it is now 2014, it is officially election time and the campaign for office has begun in earnest – though some would argue that certain folks, both elected and defeated have never stopped campaigning.

Given some rather inappropriate “tweets” put out by a couple of municipal council members over the holidays, I would have to agree. But, in any event, as of Friday January 3, we in Aurora have had our first candidate registered to run for Council.

I am sure we will see many more register over the next few weeks and months. I surmise, if past elections serve as any indication, we will see at least 18 to 20 people register to run for Council.

Unlike Toronto, we haven’t had any mayoral hopefuls sign their name on the dotted line, but it’s still early days for that. I suspect we won’t see any mayoral candidates registered for at least a month or two. Unless of course it is a newcomer, then he or she will likely register early so that they can begin collecting and spending campaign money.

Regardless, in light of the fact that election time is upon us, and as I will undoubtedly be involved in the campaign this term – either directly or indirectly – I will, dear readers, have to step back from my usual commentary and refrain from writing about Aurora politics for the next 10 months.

As you may know, I have rather strong opinions on a number of matters and it would not be fair to those at the table and those not at the table to single out members of council for their decisions during an election period.

So, though there are a number of very interesting things on the council agenda and I would love to comment on



POLITICS AS USUAL

Election Season

Alison Collins-Mrakas

them all, I will not be making any statements or proffering my opinions on same, lest I be accused of bias. Or worse, unfairly call attention to one or more of the incumbents – either in a positive or negative way.

And, though I know it may seem crazy to those who watch Council on a regular basis, it is more than likely that a fair number of the incumbents will actually run for office again (I know what you are thinking, I wish some would not!). Frankly, I think we will see all but one or two run again. Gluttons for punishment if you ask me.

Clearly, commenting on Council business during the election period will draw attention to those members of council that have chosen to run again.

In municipal politics, name recognition is everything so even if the commentary is negative, putting a Council member’s name out there in print isn’t fair to the newbies who have put their names forward. They deserve as equal an opportunity as possible to run for office as those that already occupy those seats.

So, in the interest of fairness, for the next 10 months, I will change my focus to other political realms – provincial, federal, perhaps another municipality or two when relevant. My goodness there’s no lack of topics for discussion in that regard (food voucher fiascos; calling in the army? I could go on...).

I am looking forward to this year. It will certainly be “interesting”.

If you have a topic you’d like me to talk about, just send me a quick email. I’d love to hear from you.

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

Options explore putting a price on architectural salvage collection

By Brock Weir

After nearly nine years since its establishment, artefacts in Aurora’s Architectural Salvage Program, a collection of bits and pieces rescued from demolished heritage homes and notable buildings, have been fully catalogued.

With a list in place, however, now the big question is what to do with the doors, windows, and other architectural features that have been collecting dust in storage. Members of Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee are now grappling with this issue.

Foundations for the Architectural Salvage Program were established in 2005 to earmark and take in pieces from significant buildings soon to meet the wrecking ball with an eye of incorporating them into new and restored building projects. These pieces include windows, interior and exterior doors, trims and baseboards, timbers, beams and floorboards, fences, shutters, bricks, and banisters, among others.

Over 130 items have since been catalogued, the majority of which are beams and doors.

Now that the items have been catalogued, Vanessa Hicks, Manager of Heritage Planning for the Town of Aurora, a revised plan will include a review of applications from individuals in the community who might want to purchase or acquire these items for building projects and, consequently, a review process.

“The objectives [are] to develop a process for salvaging the building materials and to find a way of implementing that in a way that [would] develop a program criteria for receiving and distributing materials and do it in such a way that is operational, sustainable, and available to the general public,” Ms. Hicks told the committee.

According to Marco Ramunno, Director of Planning, items are largely stored today in the old Public Library building on Victoria Street, but will be moved to Aurora’s planned new Joint Operations Centre on Industrial Parkway North, pending Council approval this year. When he came to the municipality in 2008, one of his personal objectives, he said, was to get the Architectural Salvage Program in order. Now, through Ms. Hicks and the assistance of local historians Jacqueline Stuart and John McIntyre, that job is done and now it is time to tackle the next step.

“The next phase is finally having the committee finalize the program and move forward with the approach that we know what items we have and we do want to make those available to our residents, or our development industry who may want to make use of those items and incorporating those into the renovation plans,” said Mr. Ramunno.

For members of the Heritage Advisory Committee, however, going forward with the plan, they will have to tread a fine line in terms of making these items available but steering clear of, in the words of committee member Irina Kelly, being seen being a “retail business.”

“It is kind of experimental,” she said. “It has to work on paper.”

As it stands now, those who want to incorporate a piece of Aurora’s building history into their projects have to contact Aurora’s planning department to get the ball rolling. They will review the catalogue

Continued on page 11



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PICKERING COLLEGE

Environmentalist has vision for “connected” community as first 2014 candidate

By Brock Weir

Aurora’s Svetla Topouzova had the papers with her for a long time and she spent her Christmas holidays making sure they were just right and then, come January 2, she was ready to go.

When Town Hall re-opened for 2014 on January 2, Ms. Topouzova was first out of the gate to file papers as a Council candidate in this year’s municipal election.

For Ms. Topouzova, a member of Aurora’s Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), this is the next natural step in her civic engagement.

“I do believe I am at a stage in life where I can give back to the community and contribute to the public domain based on my practical experience and strategic vision,” she says. “I certainly believe I can contribute to the Town of Aurora as a Councillor.”

Ms. Topouzova says she was very “eager” to proceed with her candidacy and over the past few years she has been actively involved in EAC, a regular attendee of Council meetings, and even stood as a candidate to replace Gord Kerr, who resigned as Aurora and King’s public school trustee midway through the 2010 – 2014 term.

In the meantime, she has also spearheaded efforts to protect trees throughout Aurora, particularly east of Bayview Avenue, and has been an increasingly vocal advocate for many environmental and green projects related to the Town’s remaining open spaces.

“Being European, it is almost our second nature to be involved with what is going on around us in the very close community where we live, and also the general country where we live,” says Ms. Topouzova, a native of Bulgaria, who came to Canada with her husband and two children in 1998.

“I am very glad I do have this opportunity to get involved directly with the community where we live and come to know the people, get to know the services provided, because that is what really matters. At the end of the day, this is what fulfils your life and that is the foundation of my motivation to move forward in this direction.”

Part of what attracted her and her family to Canada was the country’s social system, including government

supported health care, public education, and the interconnectivity of local communities. They first planted their Canadian roots in the Greek areas of the Danforth. From there, they were attracted to Aurora based not only on the new development but also how “green” the Town was. Here, they have become involved with their community, but also kept a strong attachment to their heritage forming a Bulgarian Bible Study Group, as well as a new, fledgling social group for Europeans in the Aurora area.

“When we first came here, we had the feeling we were breathing fresh air compared to Toronto,” she says. “This is a strong motivation for me to keep working on green initiatives and I will make my best efforts to work towards that.”

This experience is not the only motivation she has. Formerly involved in international banking at ScotiaBank in Toronto, her job history, she says, puts her in good stead for budget talks, as well as an eye for making sure projects come in on time and within budget. It is a philosophy she currently puts in practice as the financial agent of the Newmarket-Aurora Federal Liberal Association.

“Aurora should be a safe, clean and green community and I believe I have a strategic vision and operational capacity to support a statement like that,” she says. “I am following closely the Town’s Strategic Plan and I am a big supporter of the revitalization of the Downtown area. I think it is a great step to make. I also believe that every opportunity made to expand on the environmental bylaws in the community [should be followed through].”

As such, she has been pushing at the EAC level for a Citizen’s Environmental Plan to provide resources and the blueprints for residents at large to augment environmental initiatives already underway at the municipal level. That, she says, would be an important part of engaging citizens in the community.

Engagement, she says, is also important for Aurora east of Bayview Avenue, an area in which she lives.

“I personally believe it is beneficial for this east part of Aurora to have a strong Councillor representation,” she says, noting it is going to be a very important area in Town over the 2014-2018 term of



Svetla Topouzova is the first candidate to put her name forward in the 2014 Municipal Election. She says she believes residents living east of Bayview Avenue need a strong voice. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Council when construction begins in earnest in the 2C Development between Bayview and Leslie north of Wellington Street, bringing with it increased traffic, and other challenges.

“You need to create opportunities so

people can go out there and speak out on their opinions and also connect,” she says. “I would like to see a connected town and a connected community, even though it is a very diverse community today.”

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Breakthrough Treatment Now Available in Richmond Hill

Imagine thirty to forty years ago if you were told that lasers would replace scalpels in surgery or that robotic instruments would build cars; you may not have believed it. By the same token, would you believe that chiropractic treatments could be performed using a special hand-held instrument developed by NASA scientists, all while you were sitting in an upright position without any turning or twisting movements?

Advances in computers and engineering technologies have been able to uniquely blend with chiropractic in order to both analyze and treat the human body in such a way that was never before realized.

According to Dr. Sean Eastman, “This new form of computerized treatment is so gentle and effective, that it amazes even the most skeptical patients. It’s called the ProAdjuster and is the latest, state-of-the-art technology in existence today, and the only one in the north Richmond Hill area.

The ProAdjuster can safely and gently analyze and treat the spine and other joints to remove the nerve impingement that is often the cause of pains in the lower back, neck, shoulder, and elsewhere in the body. It also works on a variety of muscular conditions to loosen tight muscles with ease and comfort. Many patients say that it’s like getting a mini-massage.

It can also help increase the amount of motion in almost any joint. Even patients with knee, hip, and foot problems such as plantar fasciitis are being helped. It is also covered by insurance companies since this is a chiropractic treatment and does not cost you anything additional.

Dr. Eastman says that “The secret to the Pro-Adjuster lies in its advanced piezoelectric sensor that is able to detect the slightest amount of restriction in a joint and then deliver an extremely precise adjustment.” He says that “Even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to this new technique because of how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially in the neck. Many people

love getting adjusted with traditional manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are a large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way,” says Dr. Eastman. Now, there is no longer a reason to be leary. The ProAdjuster is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn’t yet made that decision. Dr. Eastman wants everyone to be able to experience these same benefits and if you have any of the following conditions, the ProAdjuster may be the answer you’ve been looking for...

- Low Back discomfort
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- Sciatic nerve pain
- Plantar Fasciitis
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- Knee or hip pain
- TMJ dysfunction
- Scoliosis
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Arthritis
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Distinct ideas emerge as second Heritage District prepares for next phase

By Brock Weir

Homeowners in Yonge and Wellington’s southeast quadrant could come one step closer this month to living in a Heritage Conservation District.

Carl Bray, a heritage planner retained by the Town of Aurora to undertake an extensive study in the area, says he hopes to have a report before Council by the end of this month, the next step in going forward with a final plan to make Aurora’s second heritage district as reality.

This first phase in the plan has included a series of meetings, both with stakeholders and the public at large, on the nature of a heritage district. Distinct guidelines handed down by the Province provide a framework on whether certain areas would qualify for this special status.

“Here, you have the Yonge Street commercial strip on the west, Wellington Street and the Northeast Aurora District on the north, the rail corridor on the east and to the south you have the change in topography as you go down the slope to the creek at Rotary Park,” says Mr. Bray. “These are boundaries which you can visibly tell, but there are also, of course, historical and legislative boundaries.

“There a number of different layers of criteria that would give you a boundary. The area needs to have some historical distinction. In this case, it is one of the first neighbourhoods of Aurora. It was really developed as a result of the railway and it was subdivided almost immediately after the railway arrived and filled in gradually over the years.”

The second burst of activity in this area occurred when companies like Collis Leather began setting up shop in the early part of the 20th century and suddenly there was a need for more homes for workers in the factories.

Additional things that separate this area from other neighbourhoods in Aurora, he adds, are the presence of local “institutions” such as Town Park, the old Aurora Armoury, as well as the former Church Street School and Wells Street Public School, churches, and community halls.

While Mr. Bray says his phone has not exactly been “ringing off the hook” in regards to the potential of this becoming Aurora’s second Heritage District, public meetings have conjured up varying opinions from residents. There has been general support, he

says, although a “significant minority” have opposed the idea of designation in the belief it would “restrict the freedom of what they could do with their properties.”

“This is a fairly standard complaint in the early stages of any heritage conservation district study,” says Mr. Bray. “What was a little unusual in this case is several of the people who have owned property in this area for a long time were unaware there had even been a consideration of this area as a heritage conservation district. [It has been on the table] for nine years and counting.”


According to Councillor John Abel, chair of Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee, another curious trend that has emerged through these meetings is a sense of the different nature between this proposed heritage district, versus Aurora’s first on the north side of Wellington. Whereas the northern heritage district is defined by its architecture, residents on the south side appear to be more interested in a heritage conservation district based around those previously mentioned “institutions.”

“This is less on the architecture and a greater emphasis is leaning towards the atmosphere of the community itself,” says Councillor Abel. “I think it lends very well for our community. It is very unique and has a great history. It centres around Town Park and it always has. It was a working man’s neighbourhood as opposed to the bigger homes right on Wellington.

“We characterise this as a sandwich between the train and all its activities and the Town and all its activities. You had Sisman’s Shoes and everyone knew everyone. You could hear the milk wagon coming down and everybody knew what was going on. It was a very well-planned community and really unique.”

Mr. Bray says he agrees with this assessment in that aside from the houses directly on Wellington Street, the larger merchants’ homes on Victoria Street, the two schools and churches, things are comparatively modest in the southern quadrant.

“It’s more of a working class area and it really shines in terms of some of the interesting streetscapes and some of the vistas and the fact it is centred around the park,” says Mr. Bray. “The northeast is a little bit isolated from the downtown commercial area, a little bit isolated from the transition proper, so it has a different feel to it in terms of its history, its look and its culture.”





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FREE Week of January 9, 2014

Tigers come back strong after holiday break

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey club didn't show any rust from the holiday break, coming back to collect two wins over the Wellington Dukes and the Toronto Jr. Canadiens last week.

It started on Friday night when they headed to Wellington for a good, hard-fought match that ended up going right to a shootout.

"It was honestly a tough game and I think that's what playoffs is going to be like," said veteran forward Kory Kennedy. "It was a pretty good matchup. We were going back and forth and luckily we won it in the shootout."

The game looked fairly even across the board in shots, chances, penalties and all regulation scoring was done in the first period.

Wellington struck first at 5:43, but Kennedy replied less than five minutes later to tie it up. Taylor McCloy was credited with the only assist on the goal.

Things would go back and forth from there on out, with only three minor penalties called between both teams.

"The refs were pretty good and it actually wasn't a chippy game at all," Kennedy said. "I felt they came out strong and we were offset a little bit by it, but I thought we played strong for

the rest of the game and we really took it to them."

The game went undecided in the final two periods and in the five minute overtime, so it took a goal by Michael Laidley to win it in the shootout for the Tigers.

According to the shot clock, Kevin Entmaa made 39 saves for the victory.

On Sunday, the Tigers once again took to the road for a game against the Toronto Jr. Canadiens.

"The first period it was a little slow and we needed to get our legs under us, but other than that it was pretty good," said forward Drake Board.

"They came out flying at us for the first seven or eight minutes and it was pretty tight. Their goalie played really good in the first period and then we got that power play goal. We just took off and they couldn't keep up to us."

Defenceman Eric Williams scored the first goal of the game just 46 seconds into the second period on the power play. Dylan Sikura and Calvin Higley earned the assists.

The Tigers then proceeded to pad their lead in the third period, with three unanswered goals from Curtis Warren, Laidley and defenceman Callum Fryer to seal a 4 - 0 win. It was Fryer's first goal of the season.

"We played pretty well as a unit. I thought that all four of our lines contributed and that shows that our secondary scoring is working for us and our goalie is playing amazing too," added Kennedy.

Kennedy said the team has shook off the rust from the break and believes the group is stronger now than at any other point in the season.

"We're pretty deep and I think that goes unnoticed," he said. "Teams will try to match our top line, but our secondary scoring and our defence really comes through on the penalty kill and we don't really allow a lot of goals."

The Tigers will be back in action this weekend when they visit Pickering on Friday night and then on Saturday at home against Lindsay.

"I think they both give us a little bit of trouble, but as long as we come out as strong as we can and not take them for granted...we just have to play them like they're a top team and not sit back."

After those games, the Tigers will play their next six of seven at home. Something Kennedy and his teammates are looking forward to.

"Come the end of the season those home games will play a big part and we won't have to travel and worry about the long drive and I think those will help us out."



Kory Kennedy and Mihkel Poldma confer during a game last week.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



Athletes from the Spectrum North Baton Club ended 2013 with their annual Holiday Show last month. Held December 19, twirlers showed off their skills to family and friends at Lester B. Pearson Public School.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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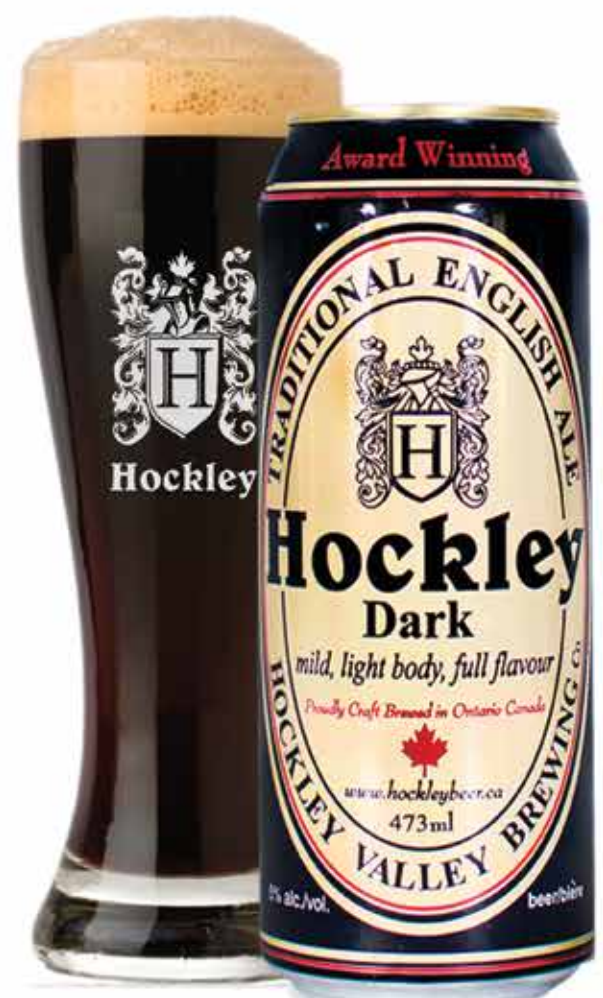
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League Results
Dec. 22 - Dec. 29th 2013
House League

102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 3
Noah Savage 2G, Anthony Pugliese 1G,
109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 3
Joseph Megilo 2G, Carson MacLean 1G,

110 Timbits - Philly Orange: 5
Gavin Ellerby 2G, Justin Gao 2G, Lucas Rossi 1G, Aidan Chouinard 1A,
101 Timbits - Montreal Red: 6
Graham Aikins 2G, Daniel Kostoff 2G, Dylan Watt 1G, Mitchell Harding 1G,

101 Timbits - Montreal Red: 6
Daniel Kostoff 3G, Mitchell Harding 2G, Connor Mifsud 1G,
107 Timbits - Minnesota Dark Green: 2
Griffin Carriere 1G, Matyas Djordjevic 1G,

109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 1
Ryan Torisawa 1G,
104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 8
Charlie Ritchie 3G, Massimo Pecci 2G, Cohen Bugeja 1G, Paolo Fusco 1G, Nolan Whittaker 1G,

108 Timbits - LA Purple: 6
Nathaniel Diamond 3G, Ben Irvine 2G, Rylie Kiratzis 1G,
102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 6
Noah Savage 2G, Daniel Leyderman 2G, Will McCorquodale 1G, Matteo Quercia 1G,

102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 9
Kane Poland 4G, Noah Savage 4G 1A, Drew Spampinato 1G,
104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 5
Angelo Ventrella 2G, Gabriel Pecci 1G, Nolan Whittaker 1G, Alessandro Rabito 1G,

109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 6
Ryan Torisawa 3G, JasonYuen 1G, Liam Tesolin 1G, Sam Ackerman 1G,
108 Timbits - LA Purple: 1
Cooper Frydman 1G, Evan Murphy 1A,

110 Timbits - Philly Orange: 9
Gavin Ellerby 3G, Shawn Belman 1G, Lukas Skanga 2G, Lucas Rossi 1G 1A, Nick Fryer 1G 1A, Elijah Forde 2A, Daniel Patterson 1A, Justin Gao 1G, Everett Smith 1A,
105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 4
Cameron Rose 2G, Shawn Rame 1G, Jamie McDonald 6G, Ryan Day 1A,

607 Caruso & Company: 6
Mason Barone 1G, Austin Martin 2G, Blake Burns 1G, Carter Beacom 1G 3A, Ben Fulford 1G 1A, Stephen Perry 1A,
606 Mastermind Toys: 3
Roland Kazinczi 1G 1A, Brendan Dilworth 1A, Gregory Gatzopoulos 1G, Joshua Turriff 1G,

603 McAlpine Ford: 1
Alexander Ko 1G, Andrew Schaus 1A,
601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 1
Evan Robertson 1G,

608 Inaria: 3
Anthony Iacovetta 1G, Quinn Bruckner 1G, Riley Harris 1G, Eric Flicker 2A, Emerson Parkinson 1A,
605 Omar's Shoes: 6
Jack Gauthier 2G 1A, Jake Byrne 2G, Ethan Joiner 1G 1A, Michael Pantalone 1G, Michael De Blasis 1A, Michela Venosa 6A,

601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 4
Nathan Mohabeer 1G, Jason Iaboni 1G, Matthew Cowl 1G, Steven Seitz 1G,
603 McAlpine Ford: 5
Jack Viney 3G, Will Sherman 1G, Aiden O'Toole 1G,

604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 0
Evan Hall SO,
605 Omar's Shoes: 0
Michael De Blasis SO,

603 McAlpine Ford: 7
Jack Viney 4G, Andrew Schaus 2G, Alexander Ko 1G,
604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 2
Kyle Trumper 1G, Jacob Peticca 1G,

607 Caruso & Company: 1
Dylan Shaban 1G,
609 Thom Partners Sports Marketing: 3
Cole Spragg 1G, Brendan Sanford 1G, Stetson

Carson Venneri 1G,

809 Manhattan Trophies: 0
804 Investors Group: 4
Ryan Cooper 2G, Owen Bourie 1G 1A, Stuart Gable 1G,

809 Manhattan Trophies: 4
Carson Venneri 2G 2A, Andrew Hoogers 1G, Brendan Dodd 1G, Matthew Glionna 1A, Mateo Florentino 1A,
805 York Region Auto: 1

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 4
James Power 1G 1A, Andre Cristillo 1G, Ryan Batten 1G, Randy Sutton 1G, Harrison Ghazouli 2A, Harrison Lambrinos 1A, Cameron Screech 1A, Luke Mitri 1A,
903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 1
Markus Hamann 1G, Ian Orr 1A, Darren Tree 1A,

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 4
Matthew Bellerby 1G 2A, Ryan Batten 1G, Harrison Lambrinos 1G, Zak Keller 1G 1A, Andre Cristillo 1A, Harrison Ghazouli 1A, Riley Callaghan 1A,
908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 3
Aleex Carter 1G 1A, Riley Weller 1G, Jacob Hatton 1G, Anthony Loduga 2A,

902 Mayfair Systems: 6
904 Orr & Associates: 1

Rep League

Tyke - Select A: 2
Georgina: 2
Nate Brentnell 1G, Jared McNeil 1G, Erik Guilbert 1A, Graham Chiarelli 1A,

Tyke - Select A: 2
Georgina: 1
Jared McNeil 1G, Nate Brentnell 1G, Erik Guilbert 1A,

Tyke - Select A: 5
Barrie2: 5
Nate Brentnell 1G, Jared McNeil 2G, Nicholas Ferrante 2G, Adam Wolanski 2A, Erik Guilbert 1A,

Tyke - Select A: 6
Stouffville Clippers: 4
Jared McNeil 2G 2A, Max Bruce 2G 2A, Nicholas Ferrante 1G 1A, Jacob Belisle 1G, Nate Brentnell 1A, Erik Guilbert 1A, Griffir Lamanna 1A,

Minor Atom AA - Innisfil: 5
Aurora Tigers: 3
William Haines 1G, Daniel Iwai 1G 1A, Emmett Ross 1A, Adam Rame 1G,

Minor Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 2
Orillia: 1

Minor Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 0
Richmond Hills Stars: 0

Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 3
Nobleking: 0
Matthew McConnell 1G, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Spencer Morrison 1G, Michael Orlandi 1G 1A, Connor Thomas 1A, Matteo Orlandi 1A, Matteo Orlandi SO,

Pee wee AE - Richmond Hill Stars: 3
Aurora Tigers: 2
Owen Romano 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Cooper Judson 1A, Rony Wahab 1G, Noah Johnson 1A,

Pee wee A - Richmond Hill Stars: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3
Michael Orlandi 1G, Andrew Park 1G 1A, Spencer Morrison 1G 2A, Craig Therkildsen 1A,

Pee wee AE - Stouffville: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1
Jason Gage 1G, Sebastian Negulescu 1A,

Midget AE - Aurora Tigers: 3
Newmarket: 2

31st MacPherson Tourney to take over
Community Centre this month

By Jeff Doner

Over the next few weeks, anticipation will build among St. Andrew’s College students and faculty as the 31st annual MacPherson Hockey Tournament from January 31 to February 2 approaches. This year the tournament will host clubs from Ontario, Quebec and as far as New York.

The SAC senior boys team will look to continue a successful season against some formidable competition and has made sure to stay sharp over the holidays.

“We went to Boston over the Christmas break to play in the St. Sebastian’s school tournament and we won that over the host school, and then just this past weekend we were in Marlboro, Massachusetts playing in a showcase there just before the school break starts,” said head coach David Manning.

The team currently boasts a 22 – 3 record this season, putting them first in both of the leagues they play in.

Manning said he is pleased with the way his team has come together this season and hopes his team stays focused for the stretch.

“I think at the end of the day the big characteristic of our team is our work ethic from our top scorers down to our checking forwards and our defenceman,” he said.

“Everyone is working well with their abilities and so because of that we’re able to push the pace of the game and continue to be right on top of our opponents from the opening whistle, right down to the final buzzer and that’s tough for teams to sustain against that pressure.”

Manning will be hoping to see some of that when the tournament rolls around later this month.

“It’s our home tournament and we obviously like to do well in front of our student body, teachers, parents and whatnot, so any time we perform at home we want to perform well.”

at home we want to perform well,” he said.

“We were lucky enough to come out on top last year against UCC in the championship game and obviously this is marked on the boys’ calendars as an exciting time, not only as a hockey tournament, but a huge school event in general, so we want to perform well for everybody for sure.”

The tournament is named after Mr. MacPherson, a former assistant headmaster at SAC from 1957 – 1982. It has held long standing traditions since it started in 1984, including an opening ceremony featuring pipes and drums and a ceremonial puck drop in front of the home crowd.

Coach Manning also sees the tournament as a good stepping stone into the playoffs.

“I think that we’re going to head into a stretch of games here that are very important because we have some more league games coming up and we’re going to travel up to Minnesota to play Shattuck, St. Mary’s in a couple weeks, but I think the biggest thing for us, like any group, is consistency,” he said.

The CIS local league playoffs start after Family Day weekend and then the American league playoffs will take place on the last weekend of February.

“You just want to find the effort, work ethic and execution to a point that we know each and every time we show up that we’re going to have a chance to win that game and be competitive,” Manning added.

“The big thing for us is to not believe in ourselves too much so that we don’t take our foot off the gas pedal. I think we have to push ourselves to push the bar even higher and even become a better team than what we are now.”

The tournament is open to spectators and entry is free. For more information visit the tournament page at kilbysac.on.ca/macpherson.



The St. Andrew’s Saints, pictured above at a recent tournament, will go into the 31st annual MacPherson Tournament later this month in a prime position.
Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



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Blues takes over Theatre Aurora in March

From page 1

more than simply connecting the blues with the colour of their doors, but recognizing a growing problem.

“Once I met with them and understood what they were all about, I thought this was just a natural fit for us,” says Mr. MacDonald. “They are doing such good work here not only for individual males and families, but it struck home to us that there are so many people who are losing their housing just with the economic times.”

The same difficulties can also apply to seniors, and looking to CHATS was a natural progression. Through organizing the Youth Music Extravaganza as part of last year’s Sesquicentennial Canada Day Weekend Festivities, Mr. MacDonald met up with Aurora 150 Committee member Tim Jones, who also works with CHATS. There was a “natural synergy.”

“This is very exciting,” says Christina Bisanz, Executive Director of CHATS. “It is also very unique because this is in a different time of year. A number of fundraising events do tend to happen in the summertime, so this is in the late winter or early spring. It is another time of year to be getting out the message of CHATS and what we do.”

Seeing the partnership with the Blues Fest as beneficial all the way around, Ms. Bisanz says funds raised through this partnership will go towards a number of initiatives CHATS currently has on the go now that they’re settling into their new digs on Edward Street, just east of Yonge Street.

These include new adult day programs, some programming enhancements to their new home, as well as the development of a therapeutic garden within their grounds so clients can get back to nature.

“At the same time, we also allocate subsidies to our clients who can’t afford our fees,” she says. “Our fees are pretty moderate for our services, but for some people even a moderate amount is unaffordable. We always try and make sure we don’t turn any client away because they can’t afford our fees.”

Karen Mason of Blue Door Shelters not only welcomes the opportunity to promote

the work they do, but also increase awareness of homelessness throughout York Region.

“There are so many misconceptions about homeless people and it is always a good opportunity for us to advocate for our clients and help them understand that there are homeless people in York Region,” says Ms. Mason. “I think that is not often understood. We serve 30,000 nights of service every year and we turn away 6,000 people. There is a huge, huge need in the Region and it is important that people are aware of that.”

As much as the Blues Bash goes to create awareness, however, a lot of fun can be had too, adds Mr. Macdonald.

“It is about the music, but it is about the causes as well,” he says. “We really want everyone to have fun, but recognize the causes as well. We came across the BluesBros at the Orangeville Blues Festival this past summer. They will be great for our evening.”

The Blues Bash will be their first collaboration with the Aurora Cultural Centre and throughout the lead up to this year’s festival, Mr. MacDonald and Ms. Gushue aim to throw the spotlight on local culture and local artists. Since the 2013 Festival wrapped, they have spread the word at art shows throughout York Region.

“We came across a fellow based in Newmarket who is going to do some live painting. That will take place during the Blues Bash night and he will be painting while the actual band is playing,” says Mr. MacDonald. “We will be auctioning off a couple of his painting that night, including ‘live’ portraits of blues legends like B.B. King, Muddy Waters, and others.

“We’re expanding our focus now so it is more than just the music perspective. We’re starting to look at local artists and how we can get them involved and give them some recognition as well.”

For more information on the Blues Bash, the subsequent Aurora Winter Blues Festival, including ticket information, as well as associated initiatives like the upcoming Battle of the Bands, visit www.aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca or call the Theatre Aurora Box Office at 905-727-3669.



Last year’s Blues Fest featured a host of musicians from across Canada, including the 24th Street Wailers, above, featuring Lindsay Beaver on drums and vocals and Michael Archer on guitar. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Salvaged items also in Aurora Collection

From page 6

with the applicant to identify the best materials for the project. Once the Town and the applicant have come up with a list of suitable items, it would be up to the Committee to determine whether their potential acquisition can go ahead.

If given the green light, the applicant will take on the responsibility for transportation and costs involved with moving and agree to the “reasonable care and conservation” of what they have once installed.

Considering their options, committee members looked for ways to both streamline the process and ensure the safety materials, all the while assuring Aurora wouldn’t be liable should anything go wrong with the salvaged materials.

“Could it be simple enough just [for staff] to say yes, rather than come to the committee,” asked member Bob McRoberts. “If someone needs a door and we don’t meet for a couple of months, they might get cold! I don’t know that I

need to have a say in everything someone wants to have unless it is a tricky issue.”

Added Ms. Kelly: “We have not discussed price or charging for this and I think this needs to be a part of the conversation. The project is costing a lot of money when you think about the hours you have put into cataloguing it.”

Councillor Abel was on the same wavelength.

“We should institute a framework,” he said. “We’re not giving it away for free. It is a revenue opportunity and that is what we are looking for.”

According to Ms. Stuart, at one time 95 per cent of the catalogue had been properly maintained. Before it was established, in the days when many “significant” buildings like Castle Doane were razed, Aurora and the Aurora Historical Society removed architectural elements and either incorporated them into other buildings such as the Church Street School, or stored them. Many of these salvaged items are still under the umbrella of the Aurora Collection rather than the Salvage Program.

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—THE AURORAN—

Students unleash their inner Nigella Lawson and Gordon Ramsay in Pots & Pins

By Brock Weir

It’s no secret that a lot of young guys are secretly whizzes in the kitchen, but how many of them would want to be “caught” in a family studies, or “home ec” course at school?

For Mary Becker, that just might be the key to the success of Pots and Pins.

Pots and Pins is a community-run program which aims to teach the basics of cooking and sewing to students across Aurora. Operated out of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church at Victoria and Mosley, the program was initially founded in the days of Wells Street Public School. When their home economics program was shut down to middle school children, Pots and Pins came together to fill the gap and provide a useful “life skill” to students.

“It appeals to kids because we get a lot of guys who want to learn how to cook,” says Ms. Becker, a coordinator of the program. “There are no programs out there for kids who want to see what being a chef would be like, culinary school, or anything like that until you get to high school now – and most guys are not going to want to take home ec!”

“When you are 10 or 11 and you take this after school program, it is outside the school system so it is a bit freer for kids from their point of view. I think when you get to high school [ideas of gender roles] becomes a big part of it. There is certainly a lot more gender segregation, but when you hit middle school it starts happening. Kids in Grades 7, 8 and 9 really start to define their roles much more clearly.”

Pots and Pins, however, seems to erase those lines. It is open to boys and girls in their middle school years. They run eight week sessions twice a year – the latest of which begins this month—where they have cooked eight separate three-course meals, all with an international flavour, and multiple sewing projects which they can take home.

“We have a lot of fun, they are having fun, and I am having fun by teaching them,” says Ms. Becker. “It is more of a hobby rather than a formal teaching situation because you are learning by doing. There is actually a lot of enjoyment and community spirit sitting down at a meal everyone has just made together. There is also the enjoyment I get seeing them go home and then [hear back from parents]

they have done the recipes again for their family.”

Students prepare entrees, side dishes and desserts. Cooking and baking skills are combined and often students put these skills into action baking goodies for Christmas baskets, or dusting off sewing machines at home and putting their lessons to good use by whipping up scads of coasters and quilts.

“They get a real satisfaction and true self esteem from having succeeded,” says Ms. Becker.

In the nearly 13 years since Pots & Pins’ inception, participation has waxed and waned throughout the years. There was a bit of a wane when Wells Street closed simply because it wasn’t just around the corner. Interest over the next couple of years greatly improved, attracting a wide cross-section of the community.

Aside from teaching the basics of a three course meal, they also focus on proper chopping and preparation techniques, safe use of ovens, stoves, microwaves, and kettles, as well as safe food preparation, particularly in handling and cooking raw meat. Students, she says, come out with a much better understanding of “what goes into an actual meal instead of pulling something out of a freezer pack.”

Pots aside, here come the pins. Sewing skills are taught primarily with sewing machines and from there students often take on quilting techniques.

“Quilting is actually a fairly popular hobby at the moment, so they are learning actual techniques and making actual things,” she says. “They have made tote bags, place mats, and even small quilts.”

Eight week sessions begin next week. Each session is \$40 per student, which goes towards the purchasing of materials and food. Students are signed up for the full eight week sessions to build upon the skills learned at each level.

“At the end of eight weeks, you will have sewn at least one complete, finished sewing product, and more likely two or three,” says Ms. Becker. “You would have cooked eight separate, three-course meals from all different cuisines like Mexican, Italian, Chinese and North America. Many of them come for more than one session and we hear about how they go home and want to practice doing stuff in the kitchen at home.”



Students from around Aurora have learned how to sew and cook through Pots & Pins. Submitted photos



Total Health Seminar Series

Club Aurora Fitness is proud to partner with the Total Health Healing Arts Centre to present a series of health seminars this winter.

All seminars are held at the Aurora Seniors’ Centre, located at 90 John West Way in Aurora.

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| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Presented by: | Dr. Nicole Daniels, ND |
| Date: | Wednesday, January 22 |
| Time: | 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. |
| Fee: | \$10 |
| Registration code: | 35083 |

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TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Aurora Promenade Community Improvement Plan

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to consider a proposed Community Improvement Plan pursuant to Section 28 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O 1990, c. P.13, as amended on **Wednesday, January 29** at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers.

The Town is currently undertaking a Community Improvement Planning exercise for the Yonge and Wellington Street Corridor and surrounding area known as “The Aurora Promenade.”

A Community Improvement Plan is a tool provided under the *Planning Act* that allows a municipality to offer numerous financial incentives to the private sector to stimulate (re)development.

The proposed Community Improvement Plan is intended to support the goals of the Town’s *Official Plan* and Strategic Plan through the promotion of downtown revitalization as well as business retention and expansion.

A proposed Community Improvement Plan has been drafted and will be presented at the above-noted public meeting. The proposed Community Improvement Plan boundary is illustrated on the map.

CONTACT

Additional information may be obtained from Fausto Filipetto of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4342. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the address noted below, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote “The Aurora Promenade Community Improvement Plan.”

Please note, The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees. The Town collects this information to make informed decisions on relevant issue(s). If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town’s website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address, postal code or email address, available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. By submitting a fax, email, presentation or other communication, you are authorizing the Town to collect and use the above-noted information for this purpose. The Town audio records Public Planning meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council and/or its Committees, the Town will be audio recording you and Town staff and may make these audio recordings available to the public. Please direct any questions about this collection to the Town Clerk at 905-727-3123, ext. 4771.

Any person may attend the public meeting to make written or verbal representation in support of or in opposition to the proposed Community Improvement Plan. If a person or body does not make verbal submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council of The Town of Aurora before the proposed Community Improvement Plan is adopted, the person or public body may not be entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of The Town of Aurora to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of The Town of Aurora in respect of the proposed Community Improvement Plan, you must make a written request to The Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning & Development Services.

Thursday, January 9, 2014



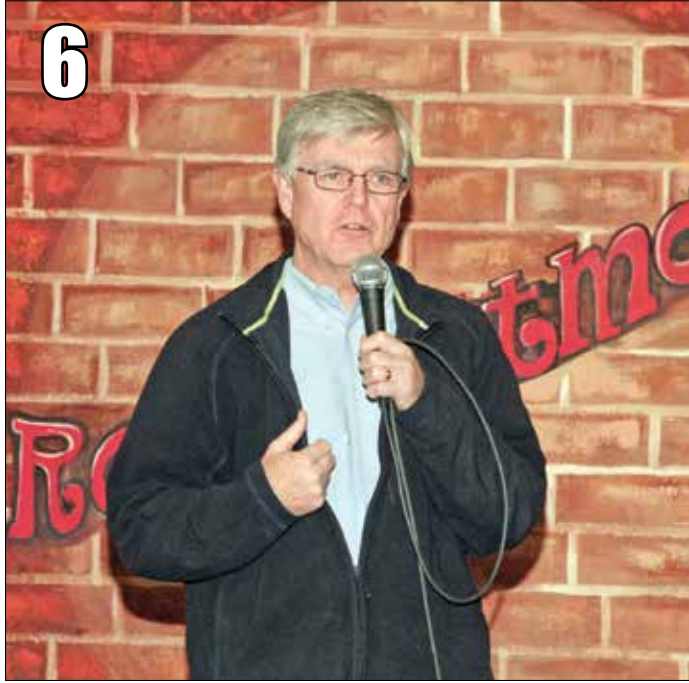
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www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123 ext. 4342

Ringing in the New Year at Family First Night



(1 & 2) Aurorans young and old laced up and hit the ice at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) to welcome 2014 on Family First Night. The traditional New Year's Eve celebrations were held at the SARC for the first time this year due to renovations at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. (3) Kids had fun with a variety of activities, including mini-putt. (4) Annie and Meghan served up hot chocolate from Tim Horton's, who co-sponsored the event with Home Hardware. (5) Volunteer Katelyn Forgione tried her hand at floor curling. (6) "A Mayor, two Councillors and a minister walked into an arena..." Despite this looking like a basement comedy club, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe welcomed everyone to the Festivities. (7) two-and-half-year-old Brynn and mom Lauren had an up close encounter with Nikki, the cockatoo, a mainstay of the annual celebrations). (8) Magicians entertained the crowds. (9) Mayor Dawe, Katelyn, and party-goers helped cut the New Year's Cake.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



Disucssions will focus on financing facility, design and future needs

From page 1

Salvage Program, with an additional salt dome and proposed greenhouses. The Joint Operations Centre is expected to set an example when it comes to “green buildings”. Council previously approved shooting for significant environmental certification, eventually aiming towards achieving a LEED Gold Standard, with such initiatives as “green roofs” to support plants, LED lighting, and rain water harvesting systems.

All of this, however, comes with that \$19 million price tag. To make the project a reality, municipal staff are proposing debt financing the construction of the building. Council deferred exploring options on going into debt for the new facility last month. There is not enough money readily available in municipal coffers to see the project through to completion, if one excludes Aurora’s \$34 million Hydro Reserve Funds, and this week’s discussions will look to close that gap.

“I was pleased to see this,” said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe ahead of last month’s deferral. “There has been some concern with regards to debt financing these potential projects, so I am happy to see [Town Treasurer Dan] Elliott come forward with some alternative methods of financing.

“It certainly does not impact our current reserves. I look forward to seeing as we move forward on various projects if we can still get even more creative.”

The “creativity” in Mr. Elliott’s report calls on Council to give the green light to establishing a construction financing line of credit with the province at the going interest rate with an upset limit fixed on the cost of the Joint Operations Centre. At the same time, they will also be talked with looking at further programs, grants, and rebates to help offset the cost. It will still be a little while yet, however, before the full cost of construction will be known.

That will become clear when the final tender for construction is approved by Council, said Mr. Elliott in his report, noting that although his department looked into internally financing the project, going external was the best way to go.

“The new Joint Operations Centre was required to update and modernize an old facility which had long passed its design capacity and was no longer able to support Aurora’s operational needs,” said Mr. Elliott in his report. “Renovation, expansion and reconfiguring had all been studied, however, the site was not of sufficient size for our current needs.

“Normally, replacement of Town Infrastructure is funded by tax-sourced reserve funds, while growth related infrastructure needs are funded by development charges. In the case of this project, the Town currently does not have sufficient replacement funding, nor does it have sufficient development charge

funding on hand to finance the project.”

Further funding, however, could come in the form of lands currently owned by the Town on Leslie Street. Earmarked for business development, they are currently on the market. The Town is also banking on the pending “conditional sale” on the current works yard on Scanlon Court, just north of Industrial Parkway North and Centre Street.

“These two sources of funding have been confirmed by Council as potential sources of funding for the Joint Operations Centre, as well as development charges from future development as expected as part of the 2C lands development,” said Mr. Elliott.

“Today, however, these funds are not in hand [and] accordingly, debt financing for this project is necessary.”

In his report, a number of options were considered from debentures through internally financing the projects from the remaining reserve funds, but going against that as it would tie up the funds for the long-term, going through Industry Canada and taking out a line of credit was deemed to be the best option – and the most effective.

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Ask the Designer with Jean Bisnaire How to Design Your Room to Match Your Lifestyle

'We've had an empty living room in our house for a couple of years now, and this year our goal is to give it life. I'd like to create a casual, yet elegant room to entertain in – What's your advice on starting this process?'

Being faced with an empty space can be daunting and overwhelming for many. You may have the perfect colour scheme in mind, but aren't sure how to incorporate it into your space. Many clients come to me at Niche Decor with similar challenges and the first question that comes to mind is always, *What exactly will you be using this room for?*

You already know you'll be using it for entertaining and that is a great start. Now I would ask, *Do you want a formal or casual look and feel?* Deciding on this will give you a sense of whether to create drama and contrast, or keep it soft and tranquil. Your lifestyle priorities will help create this room's new story. *Who will be using the space? How many at a time and how often?* Knowing the answer to these questions will help set the tone for how you're going to start the decorating process.

The next thing to consider is your "style." Many people know what they love, but can't identify a particular style because there are so many variables at play in every space we inhabit. *Do you lean toward the traditional or do you respond to more modern elements as you flip through magazines or enter a restaurant? What kind of music do you listen to? What style of food do you enjoy?*

Your interests in other areas can often determine your design style. My advice to those of you who don't have a clear idea of what they want is to create their own inspiration book. Start collecting images from magazines that appeal to you or use online sites such as Houzz.com or Pinterest to create albums. *What colours or style of furniture are you drawn to? Are the rooms casual or formal?*

By collecting your own inspirational images, you'll start to see a pattern and a repetition of styles, colours, and materials that pique your interest. Suddenly, you'll notice that your vision is beginning to take shape. Once that's out of the way, you'll want to think about the various pieces. *Is there something you would like to keep in the room or incorporate into the overall design? Is there an existing antique, a piece of art, or an area rug you want to build around? Is there a collection you have that you'd like to showcase?*

I once worked with a couple whose passion was art collection, but they were stumped as to how to incorporate it into their decor. They wanted to go more modern in their living room without having to replace the art which had traditional frames.

This gave me a snapshot of their needs and a greenlight to incorporate clean statement pieces that would unify the two styles. We had Bergere

chairs refinished and upholstered in modern fabric, paired with a modern chrome and glass coffee table. The result was a modern and clean environment without detracting from the traditional elements of what they already had.

If you don't have a starting point, you may want to consider picking a piece of art, area rug, fabric or wallpaper to help build your room around. Any one of these selections can easily give you elements that will set the tone for your new room. Pull colours from any of these pieces to build your story. You can create rhythm through repetition of colour and pattern: for example a soft painting can be complemented by soft textiles and curved, organic forms.

My most popular advice is to always play it safe and basic with the largest and most expensive pieces, usually the sofa and dining furniture. Choosing a simple, good quality fabric on a well built, comfortable sofa or set of chairs means you've invested in pieces that can withstand the test of time and endure refurbishing if and when the time comes. A good, classic sofa can be moved, recovered, and re-incorporated over the many phases of your living arrangements and is worth budgeting for.

As always, don't take this process too seriously. This should be a great experience that results in a room you absolutely love, not something patched together out of a catalogue or with items you found willy-nilly on

sale at various 'box' stores. With a little thought and planning, you'll create a space you can be proud of, one that suits you and your family's lifestyle.

It's your story – let the room showcase you, your interests, and your vision. Feel free to send me your comments or questions to askjean@nichedecor.ca.

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SENIOR SCAPE

From page 5
to most all seniors.

Like many seniors I have had the privilege to meet, Forrest has an endearing character and shows devotion to his loved ones and duties, character traits which, like each of us, bring him into many life-changing situations. Along the way, he encounters many historical figures and events throughout his life.

Do you remember where you were when John F. Kennedy was shot? I do. The movie *Forrest Gump* is an anthology of our lives. One of my favourite movies. Mrs. Gump (Sally field): You have to do the best with what God gave you.

Tom Hanks has the

qualities I like in a person. These qualities I see in seniors every day at our Aurora Seniors Centre and around town in Aurora. These qualities include having and sharing humour; intelligence, talent, wit, empathy, respect, shyness (and sort of a geek...), being responsible and, mostly, good. This is the short list.

Jimmy's last word: That's all I have to say about that. (Quote: *Forrest Gump*)

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

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ELECTION 2014

Public service is a “very worthwhile endeavour”, says Evelyn Buck

By Brock Weir

When Councillor Evelyn Buck looks back on her decades in public service, she says she feels people have come to “trust her.”

Serving in multiple capacities since her first successful election in Canada’s Centennial Year, including two stints as Aurora’s mayor, Councillor Buck says it is always gratifying when people come to her with the sense that she can get things done.

“I don’t make promises when I am a candidate for office,” she says. “All I ask is for people to trust me to do what I think is in their interest and whatever issue needs to be dealt with. I come forward with issues I think have a priority.”

As such, she says she believes her work is far from over and intends to once again seek re-election this year for the 2014-2018 term of Council.

“At my age, I always think of that George Burns line that ‘at my age, I don’t buy green bananas’,” she says with a laugh. “I take it day by day and that has been my habit, but by September 12, I believe my name will be on that candidates’ list.

“What makes me come back for more is I believe that people like to have me there and it means a lot to them. I recognize that I am very often a solitary voice, but I believe it means a lot to people in Aurora to have that voice. As long as I am able, I will do it because I enjoy doing it. Never mind about ‘like’ it. Like is a very trivial word. I think this is a very worthwhile endeavour.”

At the end of the day, Councillor Buck questions how some people discount the civic process and the freedom residents’ have to govern themselves. In her role as Councillor, she says she wants people to “understand how precious [the process] is.”

Looking back at the last three years or so of the incumbent Council, Councillor Buck expresses a degree of disappointment. There was much to achieve, she says, but it didn’t quite hit the mark. Considering the previous Council, there was, from her perspective, much to undo, and although they made some headway, too much was left undone. A particular issue, she says, is Council not flexing its collective muscle as strongly as she believes it should.

“I don’t think this Council understands, and I don’t think the last Council understood that they are the authority,” she says, noting she believes too much is being left in the hands of municipal staff. “They have repeatedly made themselves subject to the administration.”

Additional concerns she noted include the planned Joint Operations Centre on Industrial Parkway North, the location of which she says is a poor choice due to the traffic coming in and out of the building onto a busy traffic artery on a bend in the road, Aurora’s fledgling new Customer Service Strategy, and her ongoing opposition to the Aurora Cultural Centre’s operations, along with Council’s new role in sitting on the board.

The fact that the Aurora Cultural Board can still discuss things behind closed doors under their new agreement with the Town still rankles, but she counts the new agreement as one of the positives of this Council.

“[The agreement] is still not what it should be, but it is better than what it was,” she said. “That took a lot of effort on staff’s part to get it there. It is still a problem for me that they can make decisions behind closed doors.”

But, as the Centre is largely funded by tax dollars, she says she believes everything should be discussed out in the open. Were they funded privately or completely through their own fundraising, things would be different as far as she is concerned.

The new agreement between the Town and the Board also enshrines the use of the second floor Aurora Room as exhibit space for the Aurora Collection, another plus in her book.

As she looks ahead to the next 10 months of Council before the October 27 Municipal Election will determine just who will be sitting at that table, Councillor Buck says she looks forward to seeing that museum through.

“I am glad that we have a foot in the door with the museum and have established ownership of the collection,” she says, adding that there still needs to be more done in allocating resources to provide “stewardship” of the artefacts. “It is not quite the space that was envisaged, but we’re moving forward.”

At the end of the day, when she looks at the rest of her goals for the remainder of this term, it loops back to the issue of trust and underscoring the importance of civic engagement as well as ensuring tax payers get the best bang for their, if you pardon the expression, buck.

“Participation is a highly worthwhile endeavour and hopefully after this new election, we will have maybe a little bit more [engagement],” she says. “Maybe someone else of a similar mind to myself will be elected and there will be a little more support for my ideas. I continue to believe my ideas are on a solid base for good government in a small town like Aurora.”

Next week, *The Auroran* checks in with Councillors Sandra Humfries and Paul Pirri.

COMING EVENTS

ON NOW
DECEMBER 16 – FEBRUARY 17
Come to Town Park to take in Aurora’s Borealis. Coloured LED Christmas lights illuminate Town Park trees every night from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., allowing families to skate (weather permitting) under the lights on the giant outdoor ice rink.

JANUARY 7 – 16
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Aurora High School GRADS Show. A vibrant annual exhibition showcasing the work of the Grade 12 visual arts students; reception January 9 from 7 – 9 p.m. Free gallery admission: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fully accessible building; elevator entrance at north doors. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
The Aurora Public Library hosts a new drop-in knitting and crocheting program at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all abilities are welcome. Bring your new/current project and enjoy conversation with others in the living room area. 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. No registration required.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
Start the New Year off on the right note. The Aurora Community Band welcomes new members to enjoy the concert band experience. Rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. If you are a brass, woodwind or percussion player with some concert band experience, you can attend two complimentary rehearsals before the membership fee applies. Contact auroracommunityband@gmail.com for further information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
Winter arts classes and one-day workshops begin today at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. New offerings, including Stained Glass, Song writing, Creative Writing, Acrylic and Watercolour techniques – over 25 classes for all interests! Fully accessible venue; elevator at north entrance. Full program information available online at www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
The Town of Aurora will host an Electronic Waste Recycling Event today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 9 Scanlon Court (just off Industrial Parkway North, one block north of Wellington Street). Items accepted include cell phones, computers and monitors, copiers and fax machines, home theatre systems, radios, printers, telephones, televisions and more. Excluded are household and kitchen appliances, including fridges, stoves, ovens and microwaves, air conditioners and tires. Items will be accepted by ARTEX, which guarantees secure destruction of information. No e-waste is ever re-sold, or sent to landfills or developing nations.

JANUARY 22 & 29
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents two Society of York Region Artists Gallery Talks; 1 – 3 p.m. on each Wednesday. Join us to learn about the artists creative processes. Free gallery admission: Tuesday – Saturday,

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fully accessible building; elevator entrance at north doors. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents John Sheard with “The Great Reunion Concert” with legendary guitarist (and bon vivant) Wendell Ferguson. Joined by Dennis Pendrith on the bass. A memorable evening of music virtuosity, musings, and plenty of laughter. Tickets \$25 in advance, or \$30 day of concert. Doors open 7.30 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m., with general admission seating and a cash bar. Fully accessible venue; elevator at north entrance. To purchase drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
Start the New Year off on the right note – the Aurora Community Band welcomes new members to enjoy the concert band experience. Rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre (22 Church Street.) If you are a brass, woodwind, or percussion player with some concert band experience, you can attend two complimentary rehearsals before the membership fee applies. For more information, contact the Aurora Community Band at auroracommunityband@gmail.com.

JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 2
St. Andrew’s College hosts its 31st annual MacPherson Hockey Tournament. This year’s tourney features high school and senior teams from Ontario, Quebec, and New York. The first game starts at 9 a.m. at the Aurora Community Centre (ACC1). Opening ceremonies will also be held at 7 p.m. at ACC1 prior to the match between the St. Andrew’s Saints and Quebec City’s Cégep de Sainte-Foy. Entry is free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, is proud to present Valentine’s Day with The Judy Marshak Quartet. Transport yourself back to Manhattan, circa the 1950s, with the best in cabaret jazz repertoire from the award-winning actress/singer/songwriter, accompanied by piano, drums and upright bass. An affectionate tribute to some of the coolest popular music ever written. Doors open 7:30 pm; concert at 8 pm. Tickets \$25 in advance, or \$30 day of concert, with general admission seating and a cash bar. To purchase, drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
The Aurora Seniors’ Centre will hold a very special event tonight called “The Old Tyme Music Hall.” This is a variety show with singing, lots of music and comedy set in a pub atmosphere of England in the early 1900s. There will be a fish and chips dinner with dessert, tea or coffee. A cash bar will be available, as well as prizes to be won! Costumes of the period are encouraged and everyone is welcome. Ticket are \$10 each and will be available at the Seniors’ Centre after February 3. Doors open at 5.30 p.m. with dinner at 6.30 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m. Get your tickets early as this promises to be a great event!

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CLUES ACROSS

1. NOHOW

6. Record (abbr.)

9. Hair detangler

13. “1836 siege” of U.S.

14. Old name for Tokyo

15. Largest continent

16. Showed old movie

17. Clatter

18. Considered one by one

19. Chinese cinnamon spice tree

21. Frequently

22. 3 person 32 card game

23. Misaddressed mail (slang)

25. Expresses pleasure

26. Samba or basket rummy

31. Military leader (abbr.)

33. A citizen of Iran

34. Environmental Protection Agency

35. Carbon, radioactive or varve
36. Loss of electricity

41. Mass. Cape

43. Mediator

44. 1/1000 of a tala

45. Players at 1st, 2nd & 3rd

46. Covered Greek portico

49. Bring upon oneself

51. Leuciscus cephalus

52. Cold War foe U___

53. Bumpkins or hayseeds

59. Fleshy seed cover

60. Golf ball prop

61. Antipathetic

62. Wait or tarry

63. Weather map line ___bar

64. Civilian dress

65. Relaxing resorts

66. Box (abbr.)

67. Burning crime

CLUES DOWN

1. Informant (slang)

2. Olive tree genus

3. Armed conflicts

4. Am. Music Awards

5. Dance mix DJ Einhorn

6. Oxidation-reduction

7. Structure

8. Modern

9. Roman Conqueror

10. So. Honshu bay city

11. 8th C. BC minor Hebrew prophet

12. = to 100 satang

20. In active opposition

24. 007’s Flemming

26. 12th century Spanish hero El ___

27. Macaw genus

28. Slave rebellion’s Turner

29. Cuckoo
30. From a time

32. Applies with quick strokes

37. Fasten with string

38. Teller replacement

39. Command right

40. Sea eagle

42. Most closely set

43. ___ Dhabi, Arabian capital

44. Marten furs

46. Strike workers

47. Thysanopter

48. Louise de la Ramee’s pen name

50. King of Thebes

54. ___ mater, one’s school

55. Time unit

56. Klutzes

57. ___ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor

58. Front of the leg



Jennifer, Vicki-Lynn and Barb were just three CIBC staff members overseeing and providing entertainment at the branch’s 100th anniversary party. During the party, staff donated a cheque for \$10,000 to 360 Kids, formerly Pathways for Children Youth and Families of York Region experiencing homelessness.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Growing Together: Aurora & the CIBC

By Brock Weir

In our continuing series on Aurora’s longest-surviving businesses, The Auroran visits the CIBC, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in Aurora with a special party and open house just before Christmas.

As Christmas carols rang out live from one of the more talented tellers at the Yonge and Murray Drive CIBC, customers stopped to take in the sound.

Some had stopped in casually, just someone passing through to get a quick twenty from the ATM, while another gentleman stopped in to do some serious business, having been a regular customer at this location since 1967.

Aside from the carolling, the celebratory cake, and a significant donation to a youth charity, it was all in a day’s work for this arm of the Yonge and Wellington branch which has now served the community for now over 100 years.

The CIBC – or the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, to give its official title – has served Downtown Aurora for over a century, operating separately as the Imperial Bank of Canada at the southwest corner of the intersection, now home to a dental office, and as the Canadian Bank of Commerce near Yonge and Tyler.

The main branch is just across the street on the east side of Yonge and Wellington midblock and was opened in 1954 as the Imperial Bank. The two banks joined forces in 1961 as the CIBC.

For nearly 30 years, Barb Barker has served customers at this location. In her time there, she has seen not only changes in the building itself, but also the way people do banking.

“Once upon a time, customers would come in and you could only go to your branch,” says Ms. Barker. “You couldn’t take money out of any other branch but your home branch. They used to be able to come in and sit down to talk with the managers directly. If they wanted a mortgage, they went to the manager to talk about a mortgage. If they wanted a loan, they would usually go and talk to a manager and personal banker about loans. There was none of this technology and people then weren’t in such a hurry.

“Now, they want the fastest, most efficient way to do banking and that is mostly electronics. With technology, I don’t have to go into my own bank anymore. I can go anywhere in Canada and still get service on my accounts. They can turn around and do it through their mobiles, online, or through

telephone banking.”

Nevertheless, customers who have called on the Yonge and Wellington Branch for decades tend to want to continue this personal relationship with their banking institution. They still like to come in and talk to people, their tellers, personal bankers and financial advisors to get the full flavour of what they want, need, and all the options available to them. This loyalty is returned, says Ms. Barker, in wanting to go the extra mile for their customers and provide them with personalized help so they are “not in a financial crush.”

“We want to help them financially to better themselves to reach their goals of maybe buying that house or going on that trip today,” she says. “Clients today are savvy. A lot of them do know what they want and what they need and how to manage themselves, but there are still some that need that little bit of guidance and that is what we are here for.”

Although the main Aurora branch is located at Yonge and Wellington, their Centennial Celebrations were held at Yonge and Murray Drive, which was, in its early days, a satellite of the main branch. Its very existence is a result of the evolution of the banking business. Opened in the mid-1960s, its initial purpose was almost exclusively to serve the hundreds of employees at nearby Sterling Drugs.

Although Sterling Drugs has been closed for decades and has since been razed to make way for the Canadian Tire plaza, the two offices flourish under as two arms of one branch.

Today, the southern branch is where most of the action is due to the changing nature of Aurora’s Downtown Core. The “decline” of the main branch is a by-product of the general decline of the area, she says, but can be more attributed to changing technology overall.

“The clients who still come to visit us and to be serviced by us like coming in because the service we try to give them is to the best of our ability. We are efficient like any other branch, but we have also gotten to know our clients over the years and we know them by name. Some of the clients I look after are third generation. I have looked after their grandparents, their parents and now them.

“I think the clients like the fact that when you’re talking to someone, it is not a blank stare. It is someone who has already gone through it and can guide them to what they need to do and keep them on track so they can keep going on with their life.”

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Aurora



Waste Collection Notice

The Town of Aurora and Green for Life (GFL) thank residents for their patience as extreme weather has caused multiple delays in waste collection over the past few weeks.

Municipalities across Greater Toronto are struggling to maintain collection schedules, due to mechanical breakdowns on vehicles in extreme cold temperatures, as well as build-up of ice and snow.

To assist efforts to get back on schedule, GFL has added extra personnel to address the mechanical breakdowns and are working around the clock to catch-up with delayed waste collection.

To help homeowners who have fallen tree branches due to the recent ice storm, the Town has arranged for a **special yard-waste pick-up during the week of January 27 to 31**. Your regular pick-up day will be in-effect. Residents are asked to bundle yard waste and set it at the curb.

To assist with efforts at timely collection, the Town reminds residents:

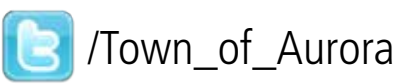
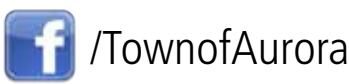
- Yard waste should be bundled with twine. Bundles should not exceed 22 kg (50 lbs) and should be restricted to branches that are 10 cm (4”) or less in diameter.
- Place garbage, recycling and composting in an easy-to-access area near the end of your driveway, relatively clear of ice and snow, to help prevent injuries to collection staff. Numerous slip-and-fall accidents have occurred over the past few weeks, in part, due to inaccessible waste placement.
- Place your waste at the curb by 7 a.m. on the day of collection.



Information about waste collection, including full guidelines for yard waste collection are available in the 2014 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar, which was distributed to households in December in The Banner newspaper and is available for viewing and downloading at www.aurora.ca/wastecollectioncalendar

Waste information is also available through the Town’s my-waste app for Apple and Android devices at www.aurora.ca/mywasteapp

Waste collection updates will continue to be posted on www.aurora.ca and our Facebook page and Twitter feed.



The Town of Aurora
100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1
905-727-1375
www.aurora.ca

