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A graphic for Lifestyle Oasis Windows Inc. The top section has a white background with the company name 'Lifestyle Oasis' in a large, elegant script font. Between the words is a logo consisting of a stylized window icon. Below the name, 'WINDOWS INC.' is written in small, bold, sans-serif capital letters, and 'HOME PRODUCTS' is written in a similar font to the right. A horizontal line separates this header from the main content area. The main content area has a light green background with a faint image of trees. It features a list of services: '✓ Windows', '✓ Doors', and '✓ Enclosures', each preceded by a large red checkmark. Below this list, the text 'WHAT'S NEXT?' is written in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, a dark red banner contains the address '240 Industrial Parkway, Aurora' and the phone number '905.726.4349' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol.14 No.18 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of March 6, 2014

Aurora signs off on next phase of \$26m Joint Ops Centre

By Brock Weir

Aurora's new Joint Operations Centre will proceed, following a lengthy Council debate last week.

Councillors gave the green light to go forward with the next phase of the \$26 million facility, which will combine the Town's Parks and Recreation Department, along with the Works Yard, in a new, larger, and more environmentally friendly building at the top of Industrial Parkway North.

Councillors initially debated the plan at the committee level in the first meeting of the New Year, but delayed giving a final decision until last week.

Their approval also endorses a plan to debt finance the building. The plan, devised by Town Treasurer Dan Elliott will use a combination of land sales, including the sale of the current works yard on Scanlon Court and industrial lands on Leslie Street, and development charges which will be leveraged through some internal financing.

The project was approved 5 - 4, with Councillors Chris Ballard, Evelyn Buck, Wendy Gaertner, and John Gallo voting against. When the project came up for review at last week's meeting, the nays were the first to take the floor.

Speaking against the motion, Councillor John Gallo was first out of the gate to criticize what he described as the “exploding” budget, which ballooned from approximately \$14 million at the start to what is now in the neighbourhood of just under \$26 million.

"I am not confident I fully understand how we got from \$15 million to \$26 million and I have read every single report," said Councillor Gallo, questioning the use of Development Charges, the amount of money paid by developers to build in Aurora.

A review of Aurora's Development Charges Bylaw is still in the works and Councillor Gallo questioned whether the "development community" would support \$12 million in development charges for this project. Whichever way it came down, these costs would ultimately be borne by the taxpayer, he argued, as development charges are paid for by new property owners to developers.

“You can be sure that if we increase development charges to new homes, the developers are not going to absorb those costs,” said Councillor Gallo. “The concept of taxpayers not paying into this is ridiculous to me. I believe we need to press the reset button and have a much better understanding about how these costs [are] to the tune of \$10 million over the original budget. At the end of the day, perhaps that is exactly what it will cost to build this structure.”

Continued on page 6



Aw, Shucks! general manger Taylor Dinner, Mardi Gras Prince Jakob Gatt and Showgirl Desiree had a great time at Saturday's Bourbon Street Ball held at the restaurant for the first time. Dinner and Gatt have a shared experience as patients at Southlake's Pediatric Oncology unit and were all too happy to be on hand to support an event benefiting the hospital. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Reborn Mardi Gras ball raises over \$10,000 for young Southlake patients

By Brock Weir

Mardi Gras for Southlake is one of the more popular events on the Aurora social calendar – and although it has been a mainstay in the community for well over a decade, Saturday's 14th annual event marked the beginning of a new chapter.

Taking place for the first time at the recently opened Aw, Shucks!, the Bourbon Street Ball had an air of familiarity in its new location, benefiting Southlake's Pediatric Oncology unit.

This year's event, however, almost didn't happen. After expanding the Ball to include a series of events, including the Creole Casino and Poker

Night, as well as the Bite of the Big Easy, bringing together many Aurora restaurants, the Mardi Gras North foundation decided to sit this year out and begin building a new model.

They wanted to focus on building their sponsorship base before a re-launch in 2015, but a chance approach to Aw, Shucks! conjured up a new opportunity when the restaurant heard this year's event might not happen. Through conversations with owners Larry Smith and Ross Jones, restaurant General Manager Taylor Dinner, 25, entered the picture.

Continued on page 15

Local survivor's memoir will get all of Aurora on the same page

By Brock Weir



Residents are invited to particulate in a community-wide read of “Prisoner of Tehran”, by Aurora author Marina Nemat (above). Auroran photo by David Falconer

At the age of 16, Iranian student Marina Nemat found herself in jail, sentenced to death, and living in fear that each morning would be her last.

Ms. Nemat, now a resident of Aurora, was arrested for her political writings as a high school student, criticising the post-revolutionary regime and she was forced to watch as her contemporaries meet their fate behind bars.

Ultimately, however, a different fate awaited her and after a harrowing journey to the West with her family, it is a story she has not shied away from sharing.

Now, the Aurora Public Library wants all of Aurora to share the journey with her and quite literally get on the same page through “One Book, One Aurora.”

One Book, One Aurora is based on programs like Canada Reads which celebrates books and writing and, according to the Library, “builds a sense of community through the shared experience of reading [and encourages] Aurorans to read the same book, discuss

it” and take part in a shared experience.

By the official launch on March 28, keep your eye out for portable “lending libraries”, crafted in the woodshop of the Aurora Seniors’ Centre, which will be set up around Town at locations like the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex and Aurora Community Centre to pick up your copy of Ms. Nemat’s debut memoir, “Prisoner of Tehran”, to enjoy, initial, and pass along to the next reader free of charge.

“We thought to get our community engaged and excited, what better way to do it than a book by an Aurora resident,” said Cindy Shaver of the Aurora Public Library. “We are fortunate enough to have Marina Nemat choosing Aurora as her home and she just happens to have a riveting story to tell. We thought this could be the perfect basis to spearhead a whole bunch of community dialogues around human rights.”

Continued on page 8



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Weekly Notice Board

Aurora Town Hall
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Phone 905-727-1375 • Fax 905-726-4732
Email info@aurora.ca • Website www.aurora.ca

Accessible formats
905-727-3123 ext. 4212
accessibility@aurora.ca

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thursday, March 6	5 p.m.	Environmental Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 6	6:30 p.m.	Environmental Advisory Committee Regional Forum
Thursday, March 6	7 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment
Monday, March 17	7 p.m.	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 18	7 p.m.	Council
Wednesday, March 19	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library Board
Thursday, March 20	7 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 20	7 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Friday, March 21	10 a.m.	Trails and Active Transportation Committee
Wednesday, March 26	7 p.m.	Public Planning*

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

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@Town_of_Aurora

REMINDERS

Waste and Recycling Collection

Residents are reminded that all waste materials must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled collection day, but not earlier than 4 p.m. the night before.

Please be aware that the time of collection in your area may change at any time, without notice. If items are set out late, collection vehicles will not return to pick-up these items.

For more information please consult the 2014 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar available for pick-up at Aurora Town Hall or download at www.aurora.ca/wastecollectioncalendar Residents can also access The Town of Aurora's garbage collection schedule by downloading the my-waste™ app at www.my-waste.mobi/aurora/ onto your smartphone or tablet.

To the curb by
7 a.m.



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!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Recreation Supervisor, Community Programs
Application deadline is **Friday, March 7**

Senior Students, Engineering Services
Application deadline is **Thursday, March 13**

Building Inspector/Plans Examiner
Application deadline is **Friday, March 14**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Skylight Gallery Artist of the Month

In March, the Skylight Gallery will feature the artwork of **Amanda Mason**.



Amanda is a local artist who works mainly with pastels, charcoal and watercolours. With every piece, she aims to define her unique interpretation of beauty. Please join Amanda at her reception on **Friday, March 7** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to learn more about her artwork.

Regular viewing hours are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the third floor of Aurora Town Hall.

March Break Public Skating

Lace-up your skates and join us at the Stonach Aurora Recreation Complex every day from **Monday, March 10** to **Friday, March 14** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$2.50 per person, per visit.

March Break Programs

Register today for one of the following recreation programs:

Home Alone – Do you have a 10 to 12 year old that wants to stay home alone? Our Home Alone program will prepare your child for this new responsibility. This program is being offered on **Friday, March 7**.

Red Cross Babysitters Training – Gain hands-on experience and participate in fun activities by registering for the Babysitters Training program on **Friday, March 7**. It will focus on five main areas: child caregiving, first aid, injury prevention, leadership and business skills. This program is for youth older than 11 years.

CPR and First Aid – The Life Saving Society is offering First Aid and CPR "C" courses on **Saturday, March 29** and **Sunday, March 30**.

To register for one of these programs, please call 905-726-4770. For more information on March Break adventures and activities, please visit www.aurora.ca/programguide

Youth Drop-in Activities

Check out one of the many drop-in activities around Aurora for youth ages 11 to 19 years old. There are a variety of fun activities available such as movie nights, dodgeball, basketball and volleyball. The cost is \$3 per visit. For more information, please call 905-726-4770 or visit www.aurora.ca/youthprograms

Dinner and a Movie

Men In Black (Rated PG)

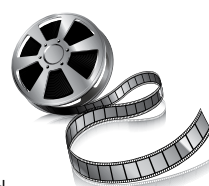
Where: Aurora Public Library

When: **Saturday, March 8**
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ages: 11 to 14 year-olds

Price: Entry is \$3 per person and pizza will be served.

For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 3121.



March Mania Camp

Looking for something fun to do during March Break? Join us for the Town's March Mania Camp!

Where: Aurora Community Centre

When: **Monday, March 10** to **Friday, March 14**
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (extended care available)

Ages: Four to 11 year-olds

Price: \$150 (for five days)

For more information or to register, please call 905-726-4770.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Show Your Canadian Pride!

Show your Aurora spirit and Canadian pride by registering for The Town of Aurora's Canada Day Parade! Marching bands, floats and walking groups are just some of the entries that will celebrate Canada's birthday on **Tuesday, July 1**.



Application forms can be picked up at the Stonach Aurora Recreation Complex, Aurora Town Hall or online at www.aurora.ca/canadaday Application deadline is **Friday, June 13**.

Wi-Fi in Aurora



The Town of Aurora is now offering free high-speed wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) to visitors at Town

Hall and the Stonach Aurora Recreation Complex, following a successful three-week trial of the new service in December and early January.

Visitors to these locations can access the wireless "hotspot" by clicking the "Town of Aurora Wi-Fi" connection which appears under the list of available networks on your computer or hand-held device. Detailed instructions are available at the front desk of both facilities.



The Aurora Public Library

Free Movie and TV Show Streaming

The APL is excited to announce a new pilot project with Hoopla Digital. APL members 14 years of age and older can stream and download movies and TV shows to their smartphone, tablet, laptop and smart TV for free! Please visit www.library.aurora.on.ca to get started!

March Break Events

Spend March Break at the APL! There are a number of free events scheduled for the week of **Monday, March 10** including Mad Science, Mystic Drumz, animal shows and more! Tickets are now available in the library at the Children's Information Desk.

Participate in Doors Open Aurora 2014

The Town of Aurora and the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee are hosting the 2014 Doors Open Aurora event on **Saturday, August 16**. Doors Open Aurora is part of Doors Open Ontario, an event that has attracted thousands of visitors each year since its start in 2002.

Our 2013 event was a great success with more than 3,800 visits to 16 participating sites.

In 2014, the Doors Open Aurora Organizing Committee hopes to recruit approximately 16 sites of architectural, historical or natural significance.

If you would like to apply to take part in the Doors Open Aurora 2014 event, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4226 or email planning@aurora.ca to learn more and to obtain an application form.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR **AWARDS**

The Town of Aurora believes in recognizing citizens who have made a positive impact in our community. We are once again calling for nominations for the **2014 Community Recognition Awards**. The awards honour individuals, groups and businesses that have actively supported the Town's development and enhanced the overall community.

This year, the Town of Aurora's Citizen of the Year Award will be incorporated into the Community Recognition Awards program. The Citizen of the Year Award is an annual event recognizing the exceptional contributions made by a local citizen to our community.

Download a nomination form at
www.aurora.ca/2014awards

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL
Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 2 p.m.

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



Purchase tickets at www.awbf.ca



Friday, March 7 at 7pm
"RAW ELECTRIC BLUES"

Daddy Long Legs ■ Bill Durst ■ JW-Jones

Saturday, March 8 at 7pm
"HARMONICA KNIGHTS"

Jerome Godboo ■ Paul Reddick ■ Mark "Bird" Stafford

PLUS... MUSIC WORKSHOP AT 1 PM

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Aurora students Mandy Coleman, Eric Cumiskey, Kevin Spiering and Isaac Hambrock will depart for Ghana this Wednesday, spending their March break helping to build a school near the country’s western coast. Not pictured: Andrew Kaszuba.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Aurora students to spend March Break building in Ghana

By Brock Weir

As students keep one eye on the clock counting down to the beginning of March Break, some Aurora students got out a little bit early this week. Mandy Coleman, Eric Cumiskey, Isaac Hambrock, Andrew Jaszuba and Kevin Speiring, all Aurora residents, are flying to Ghana this week as part of a 19 person team of fellow Pickering College students, due to help build a school on the western coast of Ghana.

As The Auroran went to press this week, the students were due to leave Wednesday for their 17-day philanthropic adventure planned in conjunction with the Me to We Foundation, an offshoot of Free the Children.

After arriving in Accra, they are set to settle in to the Ahanta West District where they will have hands-on experiences hauling rock and brick, laying foundations, and even building a garden to provide a place for their fellow students to live and play.

“There will be different aspects of building, depending on which stage they are at in the construction,” said Isaac on Monday as the students made preparations for their trip, packed, and embarked on Day 1 of their anti-malaria treatment. “It could be building the foundations and anything from brick laying, construction and even gardening around the site. There are different aspects we are going to be working on throughout our 17-day trip.”

With 20 places available on the trip, students had to apply and prove themselves to win a spot on the team. Once they had secured a place on “Team Ghana”, there was lengthy preparation to ensure they were ready to take on the challenge.

For Eric, this preparation included not only his travel shots and anti-malaria pills, but also sourcing out tough, durable clothes that would withstand the hard work to come. They were also immersed by facilitators from Me to We in the cultural norms of Ghana, everything from being conscious of a more conservative way of dress to

camera etiquette.

“I am really looking forward to getting to know the village people there, working, and helping them out by building the school,” said Eric. “I feel like I am most anticipating a change in my day-to-day life, seeing how people live, how they have to do a water walk and carry all those massive jugs. I think I am going to be more conservative in my showering and my day-to-day use of food and resources they value so much over there but take for granted here.”

Added Mandy: “This is all about being open to a different culture versus ours back here in Canada. I have heard so much about these trips from people who have gone in the past and it is life-changing for so many of them and that is something I want.” This will be the third trip Pickering College students have taken with the Foundation, but after two trips to Kenya, this will be their first in Ghana. Teacher Tom Lewis, who will be travelling with the students, said the group anticipates breaking ground on a new school building while finishing off one already in the works. But while school building is their ultimate objective, they will also have the chance to learn more about the Ghanaian history and culture including a forest canopy walk and even a trip to landmarks left over from the slave trade. At the end of the day, however, it is all about leaving their mark.

“This is something you might never have the chance to do again in your life,” says Isaac. “It is going to be an experience I think we will all be able to build off of and hopefully learn things about ourselves. It is one thing to donate money to charities, and many people do that, but it is another to know you did something hands-on that is going to be able to help people who you might meet and get to know. We know it is going to help the community and will be really valuable.”

Williams, Renaissance most improved in Secondary School ranking

By Brock Weir

Aurora High School (AHS) is Aurora’s highest ranking school in the Fraser Institute’s ranking of the secondary schools across Ontario.

AHS ranked in a seven-way tie in 80th place, alongside schools ranging from Amherstberg to Toronto.

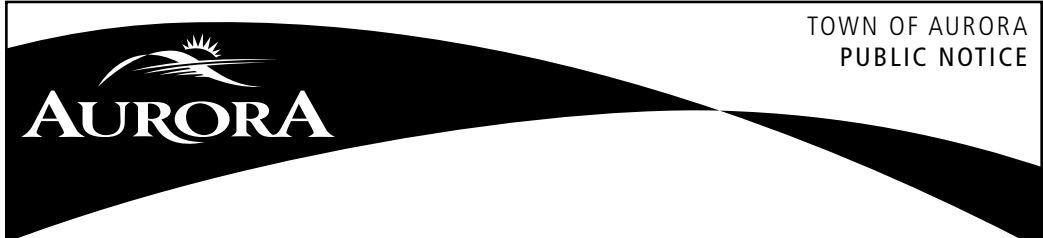
Next on the list was Ecole Secondaire Catholique Renaissance, which placed in the 122nd position, St. Maximilian

Kolbe CHS in 133rd, Cardinal Carter C.H.S. and Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School both in 145th position.

Aside from a ranking within a race of nearly 800 secondary schools across the province, each school was also given an overall rating out of 10. This ranking, according to the Fraser Institute, is supposed to answer how schools are faring academically overall.

The ranking examines results of

Continued on page 14



TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF AURORA DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

The Town of Aurora is hosting a public meeting regarding proposed changes to development charge rates and policies, pursuant to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m.
WHERE: Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, first floor, 100 John West Way

Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend. Written submissions or requests to address Council at this meeting must be arranged through the Office of the Town Clerk:

Warren Mar, Clerk (Acting)
Email: councilsecretariat@aurora.ca
Fax: 905-726-4732

DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: Friday, March 21 at 5 p.m.
DEADLINE FOR SPEAKING REQUESTS: Tuesday, March 25 at 5 p.m.

All written submissions received by the deadline and comments received at the public consultation will be considered by Aurora Town Council in a Development Charges By-law on Wednesday, March 26. The By-law is anticipated to be enacted on Tuesday, April 8.

Development Charges are levied against development, and are a primary source of funding growth-related capital expenditures. The Town of Aurora’s capital services include water, wastewater, transportation, roads, parks and recreation, library, fire, public works and general government.

The *Development Charges Act, 1997*, requires the Town to hold a meeting to allow the public the opportunity to review and provide comment on the 2014 Town of Aurora Development Charge Study, related staff reports and the proposed Development Charges By-law.

Copies of the Development Charges Background Study, related staff reports and the proposed Development Charges By-law will be available at www.aurora.ca by end of day Wednesday, March 12.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-1375

Briefly

MORE CHARGES IN OFFICE FRAUD

York Regional Police have laid additional charges in an office fraud investigation involving an Aurora resident. Resident Inayat (Jay) Kassam was charged with multiple fraud counts, forgery, and uttering false documents last month. Police say Mr. Kassam defrauded a Richmond Hill business, and began operating a law office without a license to practice law. An additional fraud charge was laid last week against Rahim Mavji, 42, of Markham. “Further investigation revealed Mr. Kassam had been working with an associate who had also been misrepresenting himself and collecting fees in exchange for professional services that were never rendered,” said Constable Andy Pattenden in a statement.

SPORT HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS


Do you know someone who has made a difference in the Aurora sport community? Nomination deadlines are fast approaching. “Do you know an athlete who deserves special recognition?” said Ron Weese, Chair of the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame. “How about a coach? Someone who has made an inspiring contribution to the sporting community of our Town? An induction nomination is a tremendous honour to bestow upon such an individual.” Nomination forms are available at www.sportaurora.ca. Nomination deadlines are set for 12 noon on Monday, March 31.

MARCH BREAK

March Break is just around the corner. For a listing of upcoming events and programs to keep kids busy throughout the week, please see our Coming Events calendar on Page 15.

SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time begins in the wee hours of Sunday, March 9. Don’t forget to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday!



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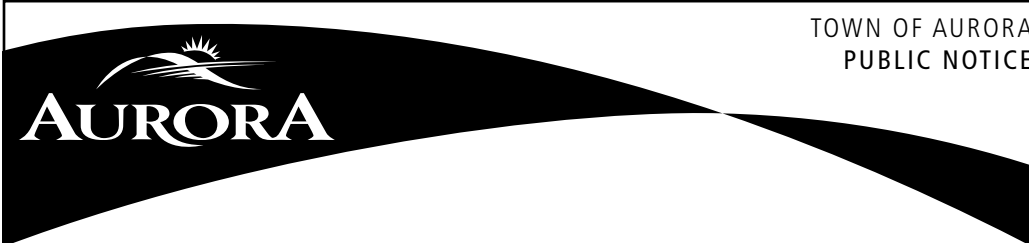


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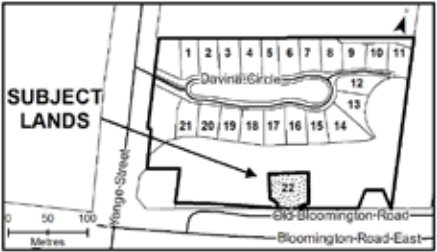
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TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers to receive input on the following planning application.

APPLICATION:	The Owner has submitted an application to Amend the Zoning By-law to allow six condominium townhouse units on the subject lands. The subject lands were previously approved for one large single-detached lot as part of the original Zoning By-law Amendment (File Number: D14-13-06) and Plan of Condominium (File Number: D07-02-06A) applications that were previously filed with The Town of Aurora on the subject lands.
PROPERTY:	74 Old Bloomington Road 
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:	Unit 22, York Region Vacant Land Condominium Plan No. 1159
APPLICANT:	Stirling Cook Aurora Inc.
FILE NUMBER:	D14-04-13
CONTACT:	Additional information may be obtained from Drew MacMartin of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4347. 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 file name and number.

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 enable it to make informed decisions on the 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 and 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.

Zoning By-law (O. Reg. 545/06)

If a person or a public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora before the bylaw is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of The Town of Aurora to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora before the bylaw is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of The Town of Aurora in respect to the Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to The Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning & Development Services.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-1375

AURORAN POLL

Do you think initiatives like the Aurora Promenade Plan and Community Improvement Plan will be successful in helping revitalize the Downtown Core?

a) Yes b) No c) Undecided

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS March 4, 2013	A	B	C
	37%	61%	3%



Students donned pink this week for Pink Shirt Day, the annual anti-bullying campaign.

Grant Kavanah, a Pickering College student in charge of organizing their school's day said, "The focus this year is to encourage the student body to send positive messages to one another through social media."

During the presentation, a group of middle school girls did a demonstration of positive Tweets to one another, which was met with a raucous round of applause. Clearly the message was being heard.

And, the slam dunk to the presentation was when teacher Ryan Corkum gave a speech about his personal experience



of being bullied as a child due to his cleft pallet. His delivery was a mixture of realism and forgiveness, as he has had time to grow as a person and understand how he needed to change his attitude to not let strangers control his life. "I became a teacher because I wanted people to know what it was like to be bullied" said Corkum.

Pictured in the photo above left are Highview Public School students Stefan Karunaratne, Tyler McLean, Andrew Yeoman, Kyler Hogg, and Victor Lopez Ortiz. Right, from Pickering College, are Aurora students Josh Snow, Ben Hagias, Grant Kavanagh, Ami Kavanagh and Dorothy Han.

– Chris McGowan

Ottawa Report

Winter Paralympic Games

Following Canada's success at the Olympic Games in Sochi last month, Canada is looking forward to the Paralympic Games, taking place from March 7 to 16. Canada's team is estimated at 125, including 55 athletes competing in five Paralympic sports; alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice sledge hockey and wheelchair curling.

Our Paralympians have a goal of finishing in the top-3 in the gold medal count. Canada's athletes are high performance heroes and an enormous source of pride for all of us, as well as outstanding role models for our youth. I know all Newmarket-Aurora will join me in cheering on our para athletes in Sochi as they take on the world while proudly wearing the Maple Leaf.

The Play Exchange, Canada's Active Living Challenge

Preventing chronic illnesses, like type 2 diabetes and heart disease, is one of the public health challenges of our times. Statistics show that three in five Canadians over the age of 20 have at least one chronic disease, such as cancer, diabetes or heart disease.

How do we get more Canadians active? What can we do to encourage children and youth to spend less time on the couch? Many chronic diseases are entirely preventable through regular physical activity and healthy eating, as part of a healthy lifestyle. When it comes to encouraging physical activity, we're all in this together.

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, Minister Ambrose and partners launched, The Play Exchange, a first of its kind partnership that asks Canadians to submit their ideas on how we can lead active, healthier lifestyles. Finalists will share their plans to a panel of judges and the



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

winner will be announced during a CBC special program in January 2015. Canadians will have the chance to vote for what they think is the best idea. Up to \$1 million will support the implementation of the winning project.

The Play Exchange is the Public Health Agency of Canada's flagship healthy living and chronic disease prevention initiative. This is one of many partnerships made under the Government of Canada's multi-sectoral partnership approach to healthy living and chronic disease prevention, which invests \$20 million per year in projects that focus on addressing common risk factors, such as unhealthy eating, physical inactivity and smoking, to prevent chronic disease.

The Play Exchange will accept applications until June 18, 2014. Please visit www.playexchange.ca for more information and updates.

More Choice for Wireless Consumers

Consumers are the big winners following the conclusion of the recent 700 MHz spectrum auction. Industry Minister James Moore announced that 97 licences have been awarded to 8 Canadian companies. A fourth wireless provider obtained spectrum in every region of the country, delivering on our government's commitment to encourage more competition in Canada's wireless industry.

The total revenue generated from

the 700 MHz auction is \$5.27 billion, the highest return ever for a wireless auction in Canada.

Through this auction, our government sought to make spectrum available in a way that would result in more competition for Canadian consumers. The auction results achieved this goal. Companies that obtained licences for these high-quality wireless airwaves will be able to start deploying in mid-April to provide better service to their customers on the latest technologies.

Beware of Fraudulent CRA Communications

The CRA is warning Canadians that fraudulent emails purporting to be from the Agency are currently circulating. If you receive either by telephone, mail, or email, a communication that claims to be from the Canada Revenue Agency that asks for personal information, such as a social insurance, credit card, bank account or passport number - it is NOT from CRA. These are fraudulent communications. Invariably, the communication argues that this personal information is needed so that the taxpayer can receive a refund or benefit payment. Another common scam refers the person to a website resembling the CRA's website where the person is asked to verify their identity by entering personal information. To better equip yourself to identify a fraudulent communication, remember that the CRA does not do the following: request personal information by email; divulge taxpayer information to another person unless formally authorized; leave any personal information on an answering machine.

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.



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Water, Water Everywhere

Chances are, if your day has been like mine, you have used water multiple times.

You turned a tap and water came out in abundance.

You pushed a button and cascading water rushed in to wash your clothes or your dishes. The water arrives in and leaves your home easily, with little thought or consideration. It's doubtful that any of us think about water at all except perhaps when we get our bill – a bill that seems to increase substantially every time we look around.

Indeed, water rates have risen substantially over the past five years.

There are concerns that the average citizen can't afford to continue to pay these ever increasing utility bills. Local politicians promise to "do something" about these sky-rocketing costs. What that "something" is, remains somewhat murky.

Our bills do indeed continue to rise. Businesses and homeowners alike are faced with serious cost implications of rising water prices. It does represent a hardship.

It is a hardship that is sure to increase – perhaps exponentially – within the next decade. Why? Truth be told we do not pay the true cost of our water. As a consequence, we will need to come to terms with the reality of what our water truly costs.

While water may not be, in the strictest sense, a finite resource, it is a scare resource and it is that scarcity of supply that is the cause for concern.

Many parts of the globe are currently experiencing a prolonged period of severe droughts and severely limited access to potable water. The human misery that results from this scarcity is unimaginable.

Major media report that California is in the midst of the worst drought it has ever seen. A number of other states – especially those that rely on the fast depleting Ogallala Aquifer – are in similarly dire straits. Over two million people rely on that aquifer for water – with concerns that less than two decades' worth of water is left.

Here in Canada, some parts of BC and Alberta have had multiple years of water woes with consequent impacts to their economies. Even in York Region we have had multiple years of phase II water bans.

Impacts of droughts reach far beyond national borders. Prime agricultural lands are rendered bone-dry unable to support even meagre crop growth.

The decline in agricultural output in drought affected countries has severe implications for global food prices – and fuel if one includes grain-based ethanol production.

Canadians enjoy an apparent abundance of fresh water. I submit to you that this apparent abundance is a mirage. Water levels in the Great Lakes have been declining for years. Anyone who has a cottage, or engages in a water sport, can tell you that. But it isn't just dropping levels that are a concern. There are real threats to our continued access to and sovereignty of the water that is already there.

The water sucking colossus to the south of us – our American neighbours and free trade partners – are thirsty. They want our water. There's even a plan afoot to build a pipeline from the Great Lakes that will divert water to the agricultural fields of the US. Thus, the time will come, and come soon, where there will be fights over access to our

Who would I be for a week?



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

One of my favourite pasttimes is golf. I love playing the sport and also watching it, either in person at the Canadian Open or on television.

Some of you may think viewing golf on television is akin to watching paint dry, but hey, I also like watching CPAC and the provincial political channel. Yes, I don't get out much!

Other than watching the Masters tournament in early April and the U.S. Open in June, my other favourite golfing event is the Sony Open, played in Hawaii in early January.

The weather up here is usually rotten; cold, lots of snow and the sun goes down around five p.m. every day.

This is in stark contrast to the scenery that unfolds on your television; lush palm trees, beautiful mountains, deep blue oceans and green fairways.

Last year I wrote about who I would want to have in my dream foursome.

The column was a result of a discussion in the dressing room with my "Old Timer" hockey teammates.

The other day in the change room before going out on the ice someone casually asked, if I could be any person for a short time, who would it be?

Great question, I thought.

Although I am perfectly happy with my life today, there are some potential folks who I would like to have been for a week.

I would have loved to have been Neil Armstrong during late July 1969 when he and Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon.

Reading about the complexity of that touchdown and about Neil and Buzz racing against an almost empty fuel tank to find the right place to land is truly fascinating.

I would also have loved to have been golfer Lee Trevino competing against Jack Nicklaus in one of their memorable encounters – maybe the 1971 U.S. Open at the Merion County Club in Philadelphia. Trevino defeated Nicklaus in an 18-hole playoff.

But if I had to pick one person to be for a week, it would be Walt Disney.

The reason is simple. His creations made children happy and allowed for them and their parents to have fun together, whether it was at a movie or one of his Theme parks.

Mr. Disney was an entrepreneur, a great salesman, and a true visionary. He had all the talents and abilities that, sadly, I lack.

He is also responsible for one of my fondest memories.

We were with our family-in-law at the Magic Kingdom back in 2007. My son Ryan was three at the time and my nephews were seven and ten years old, respectively.

We were in the Fantasy Land area and walking through this long hall when we turned the corner and guess who we saw? It was Mickey Mouse. I stared at my son, for what seemed an eternity, but was in reality probably a second, in order to judge his reaction.

As I looked at Ryan it was as though I could see his mind working its way through what he was seeing, but was having trouble believing.

The thought progression he was going through seemed to be something like this: I think I have seen this creature before. Naw, it can't be him. Well, maybe it is him. Holy cow, it is him – it's Mickey Mouse! Oh My God!

The look on Ryan's face was priceless. Ryan let out a primordial scream and ran and jumped into Mickey's arms, as did my nephews.

I was able to get a great photo of the three of them with Mickey; it is one of my favourite pictures and every time I see it in my house, I smile.

Through Walt Disney's gift to children and families, this type of memory is repeated over and over, every day.

I wish that I had met Mr. Disney; he passed away in December 1966 from lung cancer. I would like to talk to him about Disney World and whether he is happy or not, with the direction of the company today.

Who would you like to be?

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com.

Lack of alternative ideas brought to the table: Councillors

From page 1
a strong advocate for using the former Aurora Hydro building, now home to the Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe Armory, as home for the Parks Department, she said the topographically-challenged sloping land purchased for the new Joint Ops Centre (JOC) and making it suitable for the purpose has inflated the costs.

“I am not satisfied that the site chosen is the right place for a public works yard for this joint facility,” she said. “[The Plan] has a beautiful picture showing a beautiful architect-designed building sitting on a nice, level walk. That is not the reality. The reality is something quite different and I have serious concerns about what we have there [but] I do not argue against the need for a new facility.”

Councillor Chris Ballard also said he was in favour of a new facility, particularly one like this that will be built to high environmental standards, but the price tag is simply too high.

“At no time did we say we had to cap this at \$18 million,” he said. “We have never capped this and said we have \$18 million to spend – can we get enough of a Centre to move us out of this decrepit facility and get us a new start? That is what I have been looking for and I think [this] is a very expensive long-term solution.”

Added Councillor Gaertner: “We need a new Operations Centre, but we do not need it at this financial cost. I think [the cost] is too great for our taxpayers. The fact is we’re using taxpayers’ money and it insults me to say that we are not.”

Voting in favour of the project, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillors John Abel, Sandra Humfries, Paul Pirri and Michael Thompson expressed a degree of frustration that the Councillors voting against the plan were highlighting what they believe to be problems with the plan but offering up no “real solutions.”

Aurora looks at selling surplus lands, new armoury to finance JOC

By Brock Weir

In looking for a way to finance new and upcoming projects, Aurora could consider selling its surplus land.

The recommendation to have a review of properties tucked in and around Town which could be sold was passed by Council last week amid a debate on the future of the former Aurora Hydro building.

The large building on Industrial Parkway South near Sheppard’s Bush Conservation Area has, in recent months, been a political hot potato once again.

Now home to the Queen’s York Rangers through a lease with the Department of National Defence (DND), and re-dubbed the Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe Armoury, some Councillors have consistently expressed dissatisfaction with the lease agreement, but those voices have become louder as Council proceeds with the Joint Operations Centre (JOC).

Saying anything in the future would be contingent on the DND and the Rangers to continue their presence at the building, Councillor Michael Thompson moved a motion to task staff to report on the possibility of selling the Hydro Building and using the proceeds to help fund the JOC.

“The intent of the old Hydro building was to use it for the expansion of the Parks Department and take some of that pressure off Scanlon Court and then, along the way, the decision was made to change the plan and the building was leased out,” said Councillor Thompson. “At that point, it really became surplus to our needs. We don’t need it for the JOC. If we approve [that] plan and move forward with the other property, yes, we have a tenant there but it is surplus to our needs.

“We don’t need to be a landlord, we choose to be a landlord. It is good just to get a report back from staff and find out what our other possibilities are, the appraisal price and other considerations [and] I would very much like to approach the DND and see if there is any interest in them buying it and securing the future.”

With the JOC funded two-thirds from development charges, other options need to be explored, he concluded, noting he has no intention of disrupting the QYR and their value to Aurora.

Councillors agreed it would be a “worthwhile investigation” to see all the potential options

“It is unfortunate that no one who thinks we should approach it differently does not come up with solutions,” said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. “That is the unfortunate part. We have heard time and again that this is a good idea [but] if it is a good idea, how about bringing forward some of those concerns if it will address the ‘but’. We have decided that this is not good, but no one is coming up with what is good.

“This is something we need in order to provide the services that our residents have come to expect as we go forward. I think we have expressed enough concern to [Infrastructure Director Ilmar] Simanovskis that he is going to be watching the pennies carefully. We need to respect wherever the costs come from, how we spend those dollars, and I believe we will be doing exactly that as we move forward with this project.”

Others, such as Councillor John Abel, said it is understandable how some Councillors “don’t have a good grasp” of the financials as the four left the January meeting before they discussed the Debt Financing plan.

“We’re moving in a responsible way and we’re planning for the future of our growth,” said Councillor Abel. “I don’t think it is fair that if you leave the meeting, [you] then come back and call it spin. I think it is misleading and it is borne out in report after report. It has been a precedent before in this town for major facilities and we have to address the future of our municipality and part of that is providing service and operational costs.”

Councillor Thompson expressed a similar view. “We haven’t been able to find a way forward. It has not really been a collaborative process and there are comments flying left, right and centre that this is unfortunate because everybody agrees we need it and it is in the best interests of the Town. Yet, perhaps because it is an election year, it’s political, who knows, but it is so difficult to

which could be on the table and voted unanimously for the report.

“I love the fact that the Queen’s York Rangers are there and it is a good home for them, but there might be opportunities,” agreed Councillor Sandra Humfries. “I think it will help us understand the scenarios and a perspective on which way we should be going.”

For some around the table, however, looking specifically at the Hydro Building did not go far enough. According to Councillor John Abel, every property around Aurora currently owned by the municipality, large and small, should be reviewed with the potential sale of which to go towards offsetting the cost of the JOC.

“Give us a list of all the properties we own in Town and see which ones would be viable to help sell for the JOC,” he said. “I have been told there are small properties we own and I think we should be exploring segments here and there and recoup the value of them and help defray the costs of [the JOC].”

According to Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, the current lease with the DND for the Rangers is something that needs to be given due consideration as they have a 10-year lease which began in 2011, renewable with a five year term “which cannot be broken.”

The last Council negotiated the contract, elaborated Town Solicitor Warren Mar, with no termination clause.

“There is no termination clause provided for in the agreement as discussed between the DND and the Town,” said Mr. Mar. “The only way the Town can get out of that agreement is to negotiate the termination with the DND.”

work towards a common goal. The need has been obvious and then we get comments about no financial plan, no grasp. It is just unfortunate we can’t find a way to collaborate or work forward to address some of these issues which, for some, there is no interested in working.”

Added Councillor Humfries: “I haven’t heard any better ideas. I hear it is too much money [but] no great ideas of [how] to do this.”

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ASK THE DESIGNER

JEAN BISNAIRE

Refresh Your Space for Spring!

What small things can I do around my house to freshen it up for Spring?

Feel free to send me your comments or questions to askjean@nichedecor.ca

With this winter being so long and drab, it's a great idea to freshen your home décor with minor changes around your house. I'll give you the same tips I give many of my clients that won't break the bank, but will also do wonders in lifting your spirit as your home décor is freshened up.

A few quick options would be to infuse colour through accessories and lamps. Put an orange lamp into your family room décor and watch the space take on a completely new element.

White accessories are my favourite as they work well in any space and give a clean, crisp look. In my mind, spring brings back into our lives green and warmth – so why not include green accessories to bring the outdoors in?

This can also be done with toss pillows, area rugs and throws. Lighten your décor and accessories up and you'll see an instant change in the space.

Want a larger change with your accessories? Change up your art work. Seasonal art work change is a subtle but very effective way to create a new look and feel in a room. For spring, a put out something of colour and keep it light. This will pop against dark walls and will add a fresh tone to the space.

If you're looking to bring a new accent colour into a neutral space- artwork is the best way to introduce it and through repetition of the colour in your pillows and accessories it will tie the space together.

I had a client who took my advice on the changing of accessories, but her place still felt dull. After a visit, I realized she needed a coat of paint in a white tone to freshen up her space and to make her existing furniture stand out.

Not only did it breathe new life into the room, but it also made the space look larger and more airy. Darker tones for wall colours are dramatic and perfect for certain rooms, but if you're looking to have an open and inviting space, it's always best to keep it light and neutral.

A n o t h e r

recommendation I like to make is to create an accent wall. This can be done to add texture, depth or drama to a space. It can be very inexpensively done with paint or wallpaper. With the vast amount of wallpaper selection these days, it's easy to find something that works with your existing décor, but also adds colour or textural pop!







One of my absolute favourite elements for spring is fresh flowers. My preference is to keep them white, but many use this as a way of adding colour to their décor. Whether it's for a centerpiece, a front entry table or a small arrangement for your coffee table – fresh plants are the best way to uplift a space. They add the perfect natural element as well as the scent of spring in the air.

If you're in the mood for a spring project – maybe consider refinishing a piece of furniture in a funky paint colour to add that pop of colour in your space. This can be a side table or an antique piece you have laying around collecting dust – why not repurpose it and use it as a spring pick-me-up? The same can be done with an accent chair.

Do you have a chair that can be reupholstered in a fabric that would lighten your décor or maybe infuse colour? I had a client who had a stunning neutral bedroom but it was missing colour – I brought out the blue hue in the paint colour by getting her a velvet navy chair. This made the room come to life – it wasn't a bright colour, but it was perfect for the overall look the client was going for.

There are tons of things you can do to freshen your space without completely changing your décor. Go out and buy yourself some tulips today and let's start putting this drab winter behind us!

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Downtown to benefit as Council approves Community Improvement Plan

By Brock Weir

A potential \$220,000 investment will soon be made in Aurora's Downtown Core following last week's Council meeting.

Council voted 8-1 to implement Aurora's Community Improvement Plan (CIP), a series of programs which will provide financial incentives, financial support programs, and tax breaks intended to revitalize Downtown Aurora both aesthetically on existing heritage buildings, and to intensify and redevelop targeted areas.

Initiatives include a façade and signage improvement program to increase the visibility and attractiveness of area businesses, and tax and development charge deferrals for developers coming in to intensify current developments.

It also includes tax breaks for building owners renovating heritage buildings for commercial use.

For Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and the majority of Council, the program was a long-time coming in providing a boost for the Town's business community.

"We have to create an atmosphere for businesses to come and locate and in the last year there has probably been over \$10 million in direct investment in Downtown Aurora within a two minute walk from the corner of Yonge and Wellington," said Mayor Dawe. "This shows we are willing to work with those folks to make it the best place we can possibly make it."

Added Councillor Wendy Gaertner: "I support this; the Town has been trying to do something about revitalizing the downtown core for more years than I remember."

The Community Improvement Plan will be just one plan in motion to help revitalize the area, going hand-in-hand with such initiatives as the Aurora Promenade Plan. For Councillor Michael Thompson, this was just one "puzzle piece" that had shown success elsewhere and he said he was looking forward to seeing the results of this "seed funding" a year on.

Business and property owners have been "excited" about the plan, said Councillor Sandra Humfries in support of the CIP, and she too said she was looking forward to seeing the impacts.

"Having this as a first step in the right direction is really encouraging," she said, noting the collaboration between private property owners and the Town to make this a success. "There is going to be skin in the game from both and I am very excited by this opportunity."

A particularly vocal proponent of the Aurora Promenade Plan, Councillor Chris Ballard echoed comments from Councillor Gaertner, citing the many years it has taken for a clear downtown plan, saying Aurora's "decaying downtown" has been eyed for nearly four decades.

"This plan is designed to support the Promenade Plan," he said, noting his support. "I have some concerns in trying to figure out on behalf of taxpayers exactly how much this is going to cost over five years, but I think given there are two points where we can keep an eye on spending – at budget and when applications come to Council – I am comfortable we have those checks in place."

He suggested tweaking the plan just slightly to allow in addition a Council member, ensuring the Mayor is on the Committee overseeing the CIP as he is Aurora's representative at the Regional Council table and would be

able to leverage that in securing Regional support for CIP initiatives.

Citing Councillor Ballard's description of Downtown Aurora as "decaying", Councillor Evelyn Buck said she wondered if they were seeing the same Town. She was the lone voice in her opposition to the plan. Businesses like Caruso & Company have thrived and just want Council to "get out of their way."

"We see beautiful businesses sprucing up premises and putting great stock into their stores and waiting for customers to come," said Councillor Buck. "Sometimes they last six months. Sometimes they don't last that long if they haven't got enough backing. I am not worried about the (Yonge and Wellington) block because everything that is happening north of the block and south of the block – there are beautiful things happening there – and they didn't need any funding from the Town to make it happen. I have seen nothing that has happened in Aurora over the last 40 years that encourages me to think there is anybody at this Town Hall that has a better idea on how to help businesses prosper than the people out there who are in business and just want us to get out of their way and let them get on with it."

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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



Dr. Eastman uses the Proadjuster to analyze a patient's spine and pin-point areas of nerve impingement syndrome causing mal-function and pain.

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...

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Clear Bag launch could be delayed pending further talks

By Brock Weir

A “soft launch” date for Aurora’s “clear bag” garbage program could be delayed further into this summer.

Council delayed a final decision on whether to implement a program to get Aurora residents to use clear garbage bags rather than the traditional black and green, pending further information from Aurora’s Economic Advisory Committee and Town Staff.

The new program, if endorsed, will encourage residents this summer to make the switch to clear bags this summer before a switch becomes mandatory with the start of 2015. Municipal staff say the purpose of the switch is to essentially provide a window into what is going into the system and to better manage waste diversion by making sure waste that is not supposed to be in the garbage system is funnelled into the proper channels, such as batteries and paint cans.

Residents concerned about privacy can use opaque bags, such as grocery bags and kitchen catchers within the clear bags, which was a concern of Councillors when this program was first floated, but questions remain. Among these, is just what type of

“policing” will be done curbside.

According to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora’s Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services, “policing” would be done on an “as-identified” basis by current contractors and there is no intention of having bylaw officers on patrol to check what is in these bags.

“Enforcement would only be if there was clearly non-compliant material within the bags or dangerous goods that would be of harm to collectors,” he said.

This did not satisfy Councillor Paul Pirri who questioned the entire point of implementing the program if it is not going to be policed.

“If we are going to be doing this for the environmental benefits, that is something we can talk about,” said Councillor Pirri. “There are a couple of studies I would have liked to see beforehand, maybe look at the composition of the garbage bags within a municipality right now to see if it would be of a benefit. It isn’t my intent to call this a token gesture, but I have a hard time seeing what else it would be.

“I don’t disagree with the intent, but this just doesn’t sit well with me.”

This was a point several Councillors said they wanted further information

on. Councillor Michael Thompson said he was still waiting for a further report to come back on issues previously identified with the program from Council rather than word the Environmental Advisory Committee signed off on the plan in mid-February.

“If we’re going to implement a project like this, we have to understand the rationale behind it and what the true benefit to the community is,” he said. “There is all this unanswered.”

Councillor Sandra Humfries said she agreed, citing additional concerns,

particularly whether retailers were ready for the switch in having stock on hand, challenges experienced by the City of Markham in its early days of implementing the program, and what they did to clear those hurdles and make it successful.

“If we want to launch this program, that has good intentions behind it [but] let’s do it properly,” she said. “Let’s have a good implementation plan. We may miss our July 1 target date, but I think going through the process will avoid substantial issues.”



The Aurora Public Library’s Cindy Shaver stops in at the Aurora Seniors’ Centre woodshop to check progress on five new “lending libraries” you will soon see popping up around town with copies of Ms. Nemat’s book. The cases were built by Ron Coe.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

One Book, One Aurora officially launches March 28

From page 1

throughout the five “lending library” locations, and they have also bolstered their ready stock of the book at the Library itself.

“People can grab a book, read it, pass it along and bring it back to the Libraries,” says Ms. Shaver. “This will, hopefully, allow people to have much more access than purchasing the book on their own.”

With their desire to get a “community dialogue” going, online discussions will be held on the One Book, One Aurora website on human rights and international issues and, in addition, a series of community events are planned throughout the spring and summer to keep the conversation going.

First up is a screening of the documentary Hatsumi, following the experiences of families during Canada’s Japanese internment during the Second World War, as well as a Write for Rights campaign in conjunction with Amnesty International, a Youth Poetry Contest, a Human Rights Panel in May, and a writers’ workshop in June

hosted by Ms. Nemat herself.

The program culminates in a special event with Ms. Nemat for Culture Days on September 27.

“I hope people take away a better understanding of the types of channels they have to address human rights in our community and just to get people out there on a global level,” said Ms. Shaver. “There are real, tangible ways we can make differences.”

For more on One Book, One Aurora, including events, discussions, and where you can borrow your book, visit www.onebookoneaurora.com. For more on Ms. Nemat’s story, visit newspapers-online.com/auroran/?p=5042.



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TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

The Town of Aurora has received the following application under the Planning Act:

APPLICATION:	The Owner has submitted an application to Amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law 2213-78 to allow a 4 storey, 14 unit condominium apartment building.
PROPERTY:	29 George Street
LEGAL DESCRIPTION:	Part of Lot 27, Plan 246
APPLICANT:	L.S. Consulting Inc.
CONTACT:	Additional information may be obtained from Marty Rokos of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4350. 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.

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 enable it to make informed decisions on the 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 and 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.

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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Vol. 14 No. 18 905-727-3300

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FREE Week of March 6, 2014

Battle of Yonge Street comes down to the wire after Tigers battle Caines

By Jeff Doner

Heading into the playoffs for a round with the rival Newmarket Hurricanes, the Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey club knew exactly what it would take to win, and, so far, have executed the game plan well.

After one week of play, the Tigers find themselves up 3 – 0 in the OJHL playoff series, forcing the Hurricanes into a do-or-die situation for game four on Tuesday night.

“Obviously we want to win four straight and want to win them all right away and maybe get a little bit of a break and then get ready for the next series, but it’s going to be a tough game four,” said Tigers’ Captain Robert Angiolella. “We know they’re going to come out and battle us hard. It’s do or die for them now and we want to come out with the win.”

After getting acquainted in the first two games of the series, game three was a better game all around, despite the fact that all the scoring came within a four minute span in the first period.

The Tigers got things going at the eight minute mark when Calvin Higley scored his first of the playoffs to put his team up 1 – 0. Dylan Sikura and Taylor McCloy received assists on the goal.

A mere three minutes later, the Hurricanes would capitalize on some sloppy defensive zone play by the Tigers to tie the game.

However, it was Higley that would once again provide the heroics by netting his second of the game for a 2 – 1 Tigers lead.

“It felt pretty good,” Higley said of his two goals. “It’s always good to score against your old team, but it feels better winning.”

From then on the game was a stalemate on the score sheet, but Kevin Entmaa made some big saves in the final 40 minutes to keep the Tigers ahead.

At one point in the third period, the Hurricanes had Entmaa beat, but the post bailed him out and the Tigers finished with the 2 – 1 win.

Since their game one blowout, the series seems to have evened out a bit, which Higley said was to be expected.

“Playing in the playoffs with them last year we went really far and I kind of got used to playing in close games,” he said. “You’ve got to win games 2 – 1 and 1 – 0 in the playoffs. You’re not going to win 4 – 1, you’ve got to be comfortable playing in a 2 – 1 game at all times.”

Head coach James Richmond said it wasn’t the cleanest win, but was nonetheless happy his team came out

on top.

“The best thing about that game was the buzzer at the end,” he said. “We came out pretty good and we had a good period and a half and then I thought we got a little tight and started watching pucks a little bit.

“Their top guys, Petersen, Francisco and Farrell, played a heck of a game and put us on our heels a little bit, but even still we had a few more chances down low that bounced over sticks and Kevin Entmaa was really great in net.”

Richmond also said he was happy to see one of his scorers break out in the win.

“It’s good for him,” he said of Higley. “He didn’t have a very good game in game two and he and I talked and he said he was going to be better tonight and he was. He was moving his feet, taking away lanes and the puck was coming to him. He can score, he’s got great hands.”

Earlier in the week, the Tigers got the series off to a good start by clobbering the Hurricanes 6 – 1 in game one at the ACC on Wednesday night.

The Tigers top scorers were largely responsible for the offensive outburst, with Robert Angiolella netting two goals and an assist and Michael Laidley with a goal and three points.

Austin Rigney, Dylan Sikura and Curtis Warren each added goals of their own, with goalie Kevin Entmaa making 24 saves for the win.

Game two the next night was less one-sided, but the Tigers strong defensive game along with some timely offence insured the win.

Kory Kennedy scored the only goal of the first period on the power play to get the Tigers off to a good start.

Newmarket tied it up in the second and took a 2 – 1 lead to start the third, but Laidley’s two third period goals secured a 3-2 win for the Tigers.

Hoping to finish off the Hurricanes in game four, Richmond said he wants his team to stick to the game plan and not get complacent.

“I don’t think we change much,” he said. “Tonight we changed up the forechecking system a bit, but I don’t think we’ll change much for game four. We’ll just come out and go to work the same as we have all year.”

Added Higley: “I think they’re still going to come hard. You can never count anyone out. It’s a seven game series, you’ve got to win four games and we’ve won three in a row, but a team can come back from 3 – 0. We’ve just got to stay composed and win that fourth game.”



Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



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SARC staff receive thanks after reviving collapsed skater



On Friday, Edwin Jackson was able to give thanks in person to staff at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) for saving his life after collapsing at the centre on February 21.

According to the Town, Mr. Jackson collapsed at around 3.10 that afternoon while playing hockey at the rink.

“Teammates trained in CPR went to Mr. Jackson’s assistance, started compressions and retrieved the Automated External Defibrillator (AED),” said Michael Kemp, Manager of Corporate Communications for the Town of Aurora. “Town staff also came to Mr. Jackson’s assistance and took over doing CPR using the AED.

“Minutes after administering CPR and the AED, Mr. Jackson regained consciousness and was breathing.

Paramedics arrived shortly afterward and transported Mr. Jackson to Southlake.”

He was well enough to return to the SARC on Friday afternoon to thank those who had played a crucial role in saving his life, including aquatic programmer Greg Peri, deck supervisor Oliver Koh, acting youth coordinator Franco DeMarco, and lifeguard Andrew Racine.

The defibrillator was donated to the SARC by the Mikey Network.

Pictured above, left to right, are Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey, Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, Oliver Koh, Edwin Jackson, Greg Peri, Councillor Michael Thompson, Andrew Racine, and Franco DeMarco.

Submitted photo

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House League

108 Timbits - LA Purple: 1
109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 6

103 Timbits - New York White: 11
Matthew Cogswell 3G, Isaac Oldenhof 1G 3A, Jayden Dosanjh 4G 1A, Alexander Mann 1G, Lucas Mochizuki 1G 1A, Adam Soliman 1G 1A, Kyle Cordigley 3A, Reid Vincent 3A, Austin Neveu 2A, Ronan Greening 2A, Aiden Miller 1A,
102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 10
Caleb Lane 1A, Kane Poland 6G 1A, Anthony Pugliese 4G 3A, Daniel Leyderman 4A, Ryo Van Schoonhaven 4A, Ryan Ko 2A, Drew Spampinato 2A,

103 Timbits - New York White: 4
Adam Soliman 1G, Matthew Cogswell 1G, Isaac Oldenhof 1G 1A, Cam Millar 1A, Lucas Mochizuki 1G,
101 Timbits - Montreal Red: 3
Rylan Wilson 1G, Dylan Watt 1A, Daniel Kostoff 1A, Drew Schnekenburger 1G, Jacob Warecki 1G,

108 Timbits - LA Purple: 7
Rylie Kiratzis 2G 1A, Ben Irvine 2G 1A, Derek Chen 1G 1A, Evan Murphy 1G, Matteo Vetere 1G, Nathaniel Hannen 1A, Nathaniel Diamond 1A, Callum Heath 1A,
105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 1
Aidan Archibald 1G, Ryan Day 1A, Cade Irvine 1A,

105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 2
Owen Marsella 2G, Aidan Archibald 1A, Mackenzie Turpin 1A,
110 Timbits - Philly Orange: 8
Nick Fryer 2G, Everett Smith 3G, Gavin Ellerby 2G, Lukas Skanga 1G, Jack Reeves 1A, Nicolas Saavedra 1A, Daniel Patterson 1A,

101 Timbits - Montreal Red: 6
Daniel Kostoff 3G 1A, Connor Mifsud 1G, Mitchell Harding 1G, Carter Sarabun 1G 1A, Jack Procyk 1A, George Kitagawa 1A, Noah Mcloed 1A,
109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 3
Carson MacLean 1G, Ryan Torisawa 2G 1A, Adam Matar 1A, Owen Mikula 1A, Joseph Megilo 1A,

102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 10
Kane Poland 3G, Noah Savage 4G, Chris Trifon 1G, Daniel Leyderman 1G, Caleb Lane 1G, Spencer Savage 1A, Matteo Quercia 1A, Connor O'Toole 1A,
108 Timbits - LA Purple: 3
Nathaniel Diamond 1G 2A, Matteo Vetere 1G 1A, Patrick Glidden 1G,

205 Caravan Kids - Chicago Black: 3
William Pare 1G, Alex Weir 2G,
204 Caravan Kids - Edmonton Blue: 9
Andrew Mettel 5G, Daniel Nozdrachez 2G, Diego Livia 1G, Jonathan Robertson 1G,

202 Caravan Kids - Nashville Yellow: 3
203 Caravan Kids - New York White: 6

202 Caravan Kids - Nashville Yellow: 5
Andrew Aikins 3G, Joseph Travato 1G, Bryce Lamontagne 1G,
205 Caravan Kids - Chicago Black: 3
Carter Gillies 3G,

402 McDonald's - Boston Gold: 1
Daniel Romas 1G,
408 McDonald's - LA Purple: 3
Nicholas Zambri 2G, Michael Valenti 1G, Bardia Ershadi 1A,



401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red: 5
Oscar Clavijo 1G 1A, Jacob Madore 1G 1A, Mark Gennaro 1G, Parker Jalbert 1G, Jordan Sieber 1G 1A, Macisaac Eveleigh 1A, James Hall 1A, James Madore 1A, Liam Morassutti 1A,
409 McDonald's - Pittsburgh Powder Blue: 8
Anthony Carbone 2G, Luca Decristofaro 3G 2A, Cristian Troubitsin 1G 1A, Aidan Quinn 2G 1A, Benjamin Cowan 2A, Ian Gage 2A, Joshua Lyon 1A, Aiden Peel 1A, Liam Sullivan 1A, Connor Sun 1A,

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 6
Matteo Rossi 4G, Cameron Moir 1G, Dylan Klein 1G, Stefano Basso 1A, Luke Bucciol 1A, Brandon Devellis 1A,
407 McDonald's - Minnesota Green: 1
Cameron Mills 1G, Mark Moscone 1A,

406 McDonald's - San Jose Teal: 3
David Iacovetta 3G, Marcus Jenko 2A, Brett Watson 1A, Matthew Buckley 1A, Tyler Moore 1A, Quinn Holtby 1A,
404 McDonald's - Tampa Bay Blue: 3
Jacob Roach 1G, Liam Parris 1G, Cayden Visser 1G 1A, Mason Scanga 1A, Matthew Ross 1A,

605 Omar's Shoes: 1
Christian Fermo 1G, Jack Gauthier 1A, Michela Venosa 1A,
607 Caruso & Company: 0

608 Inaria: 1
Andrew Pearce 1G, Riley Harris 1A,
604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 8
Brian Turner 2G 1A, Cooper Paterson 1G, Victor Stanica 1G 1A, Matthew Pelan 1A, Anthony Miranda 1G 1A, Kyle Trumper 3G,

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 5
606 Mastermind Toys: 3

607 Caruso & Company: 0
605 Omar's Shoes: 1
Leo Douvinos 1G, Michael Pantalone 1A, Jake Byrne 1A,

809 Manhattan Trophies: 3
Jacob fulford 1G, Christian Loria 1G, Christian Loria 1G, Matthew Glionna 1G, Nick Robinson 1A,
811: 4
Callum Gorrell 4G,

811: 2
806 Benson Kearley IFG: 4

806 Benson Kearley IFG: 4
Roy Tadros 2G, Niklaus Seidel 1G 1A, Adam Wochenmarkt 1G, Noah Murphy-Sealy 2A, Scott Wilson-Smith 1A, Jonathan Gianforcaro SO,
810 Peirce McNeely Assoc. Lawyers: 0

803 Optimist Club of Aurora: 4
Dillon Varon 1G, Jacob Leblanc 1A, Claudio Basso 1G, Cameron Dyer 2G,
810 Peirce McNeely Assoc. Lawyers: 4
Kyle Wulle 1G 2A, James Samson 1G, Andrew Sutherland 1G, Barrett Scott 1G, Riley Jackson 1A,

805 York Region Auto: 2
Josh Fallovalitta 1G, Raffaele Parente 1G, Matthew Vassos 1A,
802 Dr. Weaver's Drillers: 5
Louie Simonin 2G, Sean Mackrell 1G, Colin Boorn 1G, Ryan Mascarenhas 1G,

903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 3
Eric Shenhan 1G, Justin Laird 1G, Collin Dyer 1A, Liam Joiner 1G, Darren Tree 4PM, Liam Joiner 2PM,
908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 4
Mathew Iezza 1A, Alex Carter 2G, Riley Weller 1G, Jiyan Yilmaser 1G, Anthony Loduca 1A

901 Pizzaville Aurora: 3
907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 5

909 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 3

Adam Ashraf 2G, Ross Benn 1G 1A, Jeff Stobo 2A, Mike Walsh 2A,
907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 4
Harrison Lambrinos 1G, Cameron Screech 1G, Jordan Screech 1G, Ryan Batten 1G, Matthew Bellerby 2A, Joel Robinson 1A, Ethan Mills 1A,

902 Mayfair Systems: 5
905 VEGFRESH: 5

1006 Jonathan's: 5
1008 Winchurch Environmental Inc.: 2

1005 ADC Aluminium: 5
1007: 1

1002 ATS Healthcare: 1
1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 4

1001 : 0
1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 0

1005 ADC Aluminium: 5
1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 3

1007: 1
1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 1

1002 ATS Healthcare: 2
1006 Jonathan's: 7

1001 : 4
1008 Winchurch Environmental Inc.: 2

Rep League

Tyke -
Select A: 2
Barrie: 1
Jared McNeil 1G, Nicholas Ferrante 1G, Luc Warner 1A, Marcus Gingl 1A, Lucas Reid 1A,

Tyke -
Barrie: 4
Select A : 3
Nate Brentnell 1G 1A, Luc Warner 1A, Nicholas Ferrante 1G, Jacob Belisle 1G, Erik Guilbert 1A, Marcus Gingl 1A,

Novice A -
Orillia: 4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Novice AA -
Newmarket: 6
Aurora Tigers: 1
Mc Namara, Owen 1G, Wilhelm, Lucas 1A,

Novice AA -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Aurora Tigers: 4
Richmond Hill: 2
Dimoulas, Thomas 3G, Mc Namara, Owen 1G, Yorke, Daniel 1A, Dang, Lucas 1A, Ciaravella, Michael 1A, Windle, Nathan 1A,

Novice A -
Orillia: 5
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 5
Richmond Hill: 1
Ryan Clutterbuck 1G 1A, Malcolm Parkinson 1G, Nolan Chiarelli 1G 1A, Yi Wang 1G 1A, Sam Spong 1G, Vince Russo 1A, Kevin Wasserman 1A,

Minor Atom AA -
Innisfil: 6
Aurora Tigers: 5

Minor Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 8
Georgina: 0
Malcolm Parkinson 3G 1A, Ryan Blakley 2A, Kevin Wasserman 1G 4A, Sam Spong 2A, Vince Russo 1A, Josh Mcloed 2G 1A, Ethan Powell 1G 1A, Matthew Keizer 2A, Jeremy Thompson 1A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1G, Alex Nechadim SO,

Minor Atom A -
Aurora Tigers: 5
Markham: 1

Minor Atom AA -
Innisfil: 4

Aurora Tigers: 1

Minor Atom AE -
Richmond Hill: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1
Ryan Blakley 1G,
Atom RS -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Oakville: 4
Luca DeCristofaro 3G, Cayden Visser 2G, Anthony Carbone 1G 1A, Aidan Quinn 2A, Andrew Flores 2A,

Atom RS -
Aurora Tigers: 9
Stoney Creek Bruins: 0
Cayden Visser 2G, Anthony Carbone 1G, Aidan Quinn 2G 1A, David Iacovetta 1G, Jack Boyd 2G, Matteo Rossi 1G, Parker Jalbert 1A, Andrew Flores 2A, Nathan Cobb 2A, Connor Sykes SO,

Atom A -
Nobleking: 1
Aurora Tigers: 0

Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Clarington: 1
Lucas De Palma 1G, Ryan Weeks 1A, Ryan Dunbar 1G,

Atom A -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Nobleking: 1
Jack Sutherland 1G, Matt Reid 1A, Ethan Solilo 1G, Charlie Huxley 1G, Gavin Loria 1A, Michael Crowe 1G, Todd Cook 1A,

Atom AA -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Barrie: 1
Owen Papulkas 1A, Jacob Hoffrogge 1A, Anton Sopov 1G, Owen Hollett 1A, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Ethan Belisle 1G,

Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Clarington: 1
Riley Pearl 1G, Ryan Weeks 1G, Lucas De Palma 1A,

Atom AE -
Clarington: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1
Nicholas Petinarelis 1G,

Atom AA -
Barrie: 1
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Peewee A -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket: 2

Minor Peewee A -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket: 1

Minor Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Peterborough: 0
Ethan Ritchie 1G, Ian Hilgendorff 1G, Justin Just 1A, Cole Nip 1A, Geoffrey Wilson 1A, Joey Livia SO,

Minor Peewee A -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Newmarket: 1

Minor Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Peterborough: 2
Andrew Scott 1G, Ian Hilgendorff 1G, James Sproul 1G, Logan Kidder 2A,

Peewee A -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket: 1
Anthony DiPietro 2G, Luke O'Keefe 2A, Cooper Judson 1A,

Peewee AA -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Georgina: 2

Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket: 1
Carson Williams 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Noah Johnson 1A, Rony Wahab 1G,

Peewee AA -
Aurora Tigers: 2

Newmarket: 1

Peewee A -
Newmarket: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1
Matthew McConnell 1G, Tyler Sawyer 1A, Anthony DiPietro 1A,

Minor Bantam A -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Nobleking: 1
Fin Reeves 2G, Nicholas Rountes 1A, Mathew Hastings 1G,

Minor Bantam AE -
TNT: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1
Anthony Capraro 1G, Nicholas Vamvakaris 1A,

Minor Bantam AA -
East Gwillimbury: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1

Minor Bantam A -
Nobleking: 4
Aurora Tigers: 1
Fin Reeves 1G, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1A,

Minor Bantam AA -
East Gwillimbury: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3

Minor Bantam A -
Nobleking: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1
Peter Chimienti 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1A,

Bantam AE -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Stouffville: 2

Bantam A -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Markham: 3
Curtis Romanchych 2G, Jack Camplin 2G, Alexander Simardone 1G 1A, Lucas Dane 1G, Colin McGoldrick 1A,

Bantam AA -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Stouffville: 2
Tony Greco 3G, Ben Langlois 1G, Eric Pears 1G, Kyle Rice 1G,

Bantam A -
Markham: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3

Bantam AE -
East Gwillimbury: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1

Bantam AA -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Stouffville: 2
Ariz Bhimani 1G, Greg Hoogers 1G, Brady Futterer 1G, Eric Pears 1G,

Bantam A -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Markham: 2

Minor Midget A -
Barrie: 7
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Midget AA -
Whitby: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1
Connor Irving 1G, Jack Pecora 1A, Deven Deguara 1A,

Minor Midget AA -
Whitby: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1
Tristan Kuchar 1G, Bryan Manweiler 1A,

Minor Midget AA -
Whitby: 6
Aurora Tigers: 1
Tristan Kuchar 1G,

Minor Midget A -
Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Midget AE -
Ajax: 7
Aurora Tigers: 1

Midget AE -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Pickering: 3



Lester B. students have Olympic closing of their own

By Jeff Doner

Still energized by the buzz of Canada ending the Olympics with flurry of gold medals in the final few days, students at Lester B. Pearson PS were treated to a special closing ceremony of their own last week.

Students put on performances, watched highlights from Canada's athletes and also received a few words of encouragement from local Olympians Paul Savage and Horst Bulau.

Savage, a Canadian curling great, won a silver medal at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan and spoke to students about the importance of school and sport.

"My training for the Olympics started when I was in school, because the only way to get to the Olympics was to practice every day," he said. "We didn't have an official training program then, we just practiced as hard as we could and hoped we would make it to the Olympics."

He also told a few fond stories of his days wearing the Canadian maple leaf at international competitions.

"The Olympic Village was a fabulous experience throughout, with hockey players, skiers, snowboarders, figure skaters and we all got to be together at the Olympic Village – it was great," he said. "It was a journey I'll never forget."

Then came Bulau, Canada's most decorated male ski jumper ever, wearing his flashy Canada parade jacket from the 1998 Calgary Winter Games that drew cheers from the

crowd.

"The best Olympics for me was in Calgary and being able to compete at an Olympic Games in our home country...as a Canadian it was really great to compete in an Olympic Games in your own country and I was very proud to be Canadian," he said.

"The Olympic experience was certainly amazing. My first Olympics was in 1980, that was a lot of time ago, so I'm not sure a lot of you can't remember that, but maybe some of your teachers can," he joked. "I had a wonderful experience at Lake Placid and I had the opportunity to see the 'Miracle on Ice' when the US won the hockey gold medal."

Bulau competed in an incredible four Olympics for Canada – 1980, 1984, 1988 and 1992.

He boasts an impressive resume of national and international titles and also spoke to students about training, school and staying focused.

"It was a lot of work and it all began right here in school, so that is one thing you need to focus on. It was something that was embedded in me, having to put as much focus on my studies as I could along with my training. If you are mentally sharp in school, that would help you stay mentally sharp in sports," he said.

"My training took part for hours and hours each day. We spent a lot of time on the ski hills in the morning and the afternoon and evenings and we spent some time working out in the gym and making sure that we were physically fit. This was all very important."



Teacher Steven Sevel, grade 8 student Abby McGregor, Olympian Paul Savage, Kiefer Bulau and teacher Jordan Appelberg at the Lester B. Pearson PS Olympic closing ceremonies last week.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



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Rick Hansen PS inaugurates first Cultural Day with wheelchair basketball

By Jeff Doner

Rick Hansen Public School held their first ever Cultural Day last week with great fanfare.

The school had 323 respondents and over 100 families sign up to stop by the event on Thursday night.

"It was an absolutely amazing event. As a newer school, we're continuing to build up parental and community involvement and this was one of those culminating evenings. It was amazing," said principal Steve Gardner.

"I was speaking to a number of parents who commented on all the flags that were created to represent the cultures and for a school of our size the ability to see the number of nationalities was amazing. That was a big talking point among parents."

The event had eight different workshops that you could sign up for and the grade eight's put on displays each representing a country. In all, the class had 20 countries represented out of 24 students.

There was also a wheelchair basketball demonstration where students could sign up to learn about the sport and also give it a try.

"I think everybody thinks Aurora is

not a diverse community, but it is really becoming that and I think what we have to do is start to build awareness in all of us that different things go on in different people's houses and we need to appreciate that, understand it and celebrate it," said music teacher and organizer Ingrid Legros. "That is what this was about tonight."

As the night came to an end, Legros said she was amazed by how many people came out to the first event of this kind.

"Everybody that was leaving said they couldn't wait until the next one. They had so much fun, they thought it was great and learned a ton."

Along with the workshops, participants had a 'passport' to take along with them on events, where they got to experience different cultures, food, activities and more.

Principal Gardner said the event proved itself to be a great learning experience for the students and a good way for families to meet and bond.

"I think the students will be taking just a whole notion of strength through diversity, in terms of seeing similarities in our differences," he said. "I think the other part is just bringing family into the school and being part of the school."

(Top) The Grade 8 class, along with their teacher Robin Foster, worked hard to put on displays of 20 countries for the Rick Hansen Public School Cultural Day event Thursday night while (right) students showed off their skills in a wheelchair basketball competition.

Auroran photos by Jeff Doner



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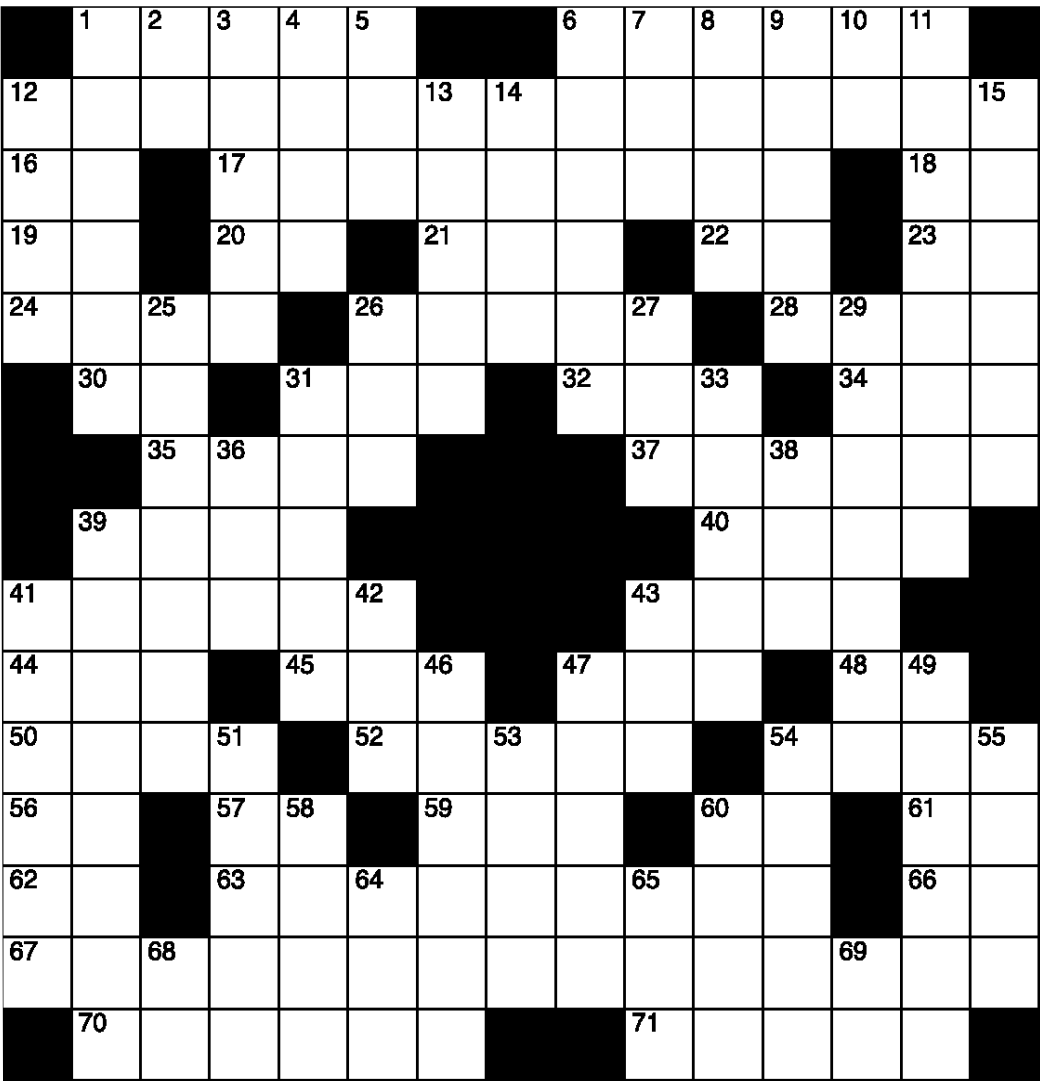
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Plural of eyrir

6. Concord

12. Photographer

16. Atomic #18

17. Tobacco cylinder

18. Of I

19. 1/10 meter (abbr.)

20. In the year of Our Lord

21. Belittle

22. 1/2 of an em

23. Equally

24. Cornmeal mush (British)

26. Desires

28. Of sound mind

30. 1st moon man’s initials

31. Public broadcasting

32. Bodily cavity

34. Insecticide

35. County in China

37. Platforms

39. Frost
40. Crucifix

41. Bodily faculties

43. Seladang

44. Denotes three

45. Imbibe slowly

47. What’s left

48. Liberal degree

50. Competition

52. Confederate

54. 7th Hindu month

56. Senator Frankin

57. “Crying” singer’s initials

59. Taro root dish

60. Bahrain dinar

61. Sun god

62. 39th state

63. In a harmful way

66. Immunoglobulin (abbr.)

67. Differences

70. Moves slowly

71. Snarl, growl (var. sp.)

CLUES DOWN

1. Aviator

2. Boutros’ group

3. Go over

4. Be among

5. Cloth scrap

6. Clerks

7. Vacuum tube

8. Actress Blanchett

9. Removes the lid

10. Atomic #45

11. Peremptorily

12. Dishonorable men

13. Spanish appetizers

14. Algerian gulf & port

15. Sets again

25. About Freemason

26. One point N of due W

27. Not happy

29. Accumulates on the surface

31. Peels an apple
33. Diamond weight unit

36. Possesses

38. Note

39. About heraldry

41. Hair filament

42. Title of respect

43. Hair product

46. Colas

47. Capital of Huila, Colombia

49. More diaphanous

51. Eliminate

53. Change to a vapor

54. Ancient temple sanctums

55. Pesters

58. Off-Broadway award

60. Light Russian pancake

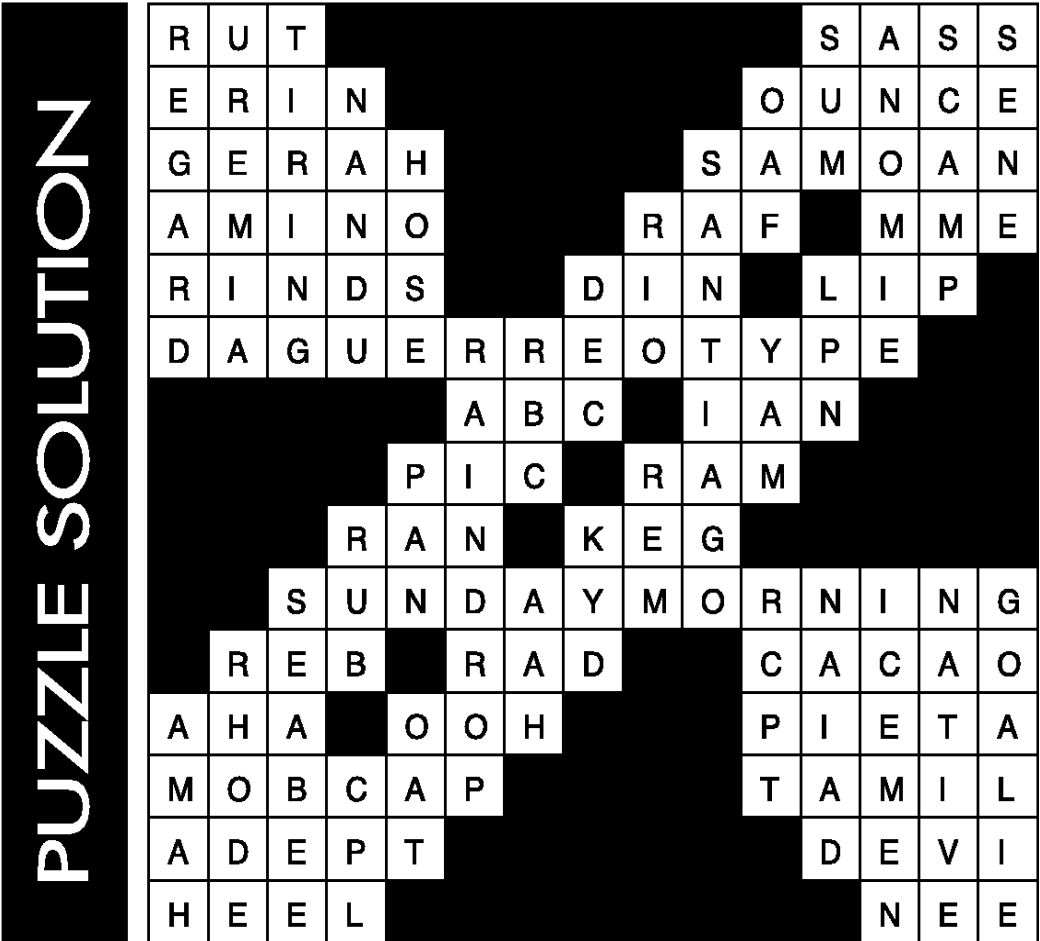
64. Baseball official

65. Work unit

68. Jr.’s father

69. Atomic #77

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution



ELECTION 2014



Arshad Desai formally registered for the 2014 Council race on Monday morning.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Desai will focus on business, youth and seniors as latest Council candidate

By Brock Weir

After only living in Aurora for a few short months, Arshad Desai has decided the best way to become involved in his community is to be a part of the change we would like to see become a reality.

Having moved to Aurora in September, Mr. Desai, who turned 30 on Sunday, says he wants to be truly engaged in a community where his young daughter will be growing up and help grow Aurora from the ground up.

“I see Aurora as a growing community,” says Mr. Desai, who jumped into the Council race on Monday morning, as the latest Council candidate following Wednesday’s registration of 2010 candidate Jim Abram. “I think Council right now is doing a great job, but at the same token, I think there is a lot of stuff I can bring to the table to assist Aurora as it goes forward, such as taking off the disclaimer of it being a bedroom community, ensuring youth have somewhere to come after they graduate in terms of Aurora being an ideal place to work, and we need to make sure [all people] have a voice in the community.”

Mr. Arshad comes by the desire to become involved in the political sphere honestly. Born in South Africa, he is the son of parents who were very active in the anti-Apartheid movement. Watching his parents in action, “making a significant difference”, he said, gave him a burning desire to become involved as well.

“I always thought one day I am going to take that step,” he said. “As I got older, I thought there are a lot of things I would like to do and see happen in the political sphere. You need to be actively involved and a good way is to get actively involved at the local level and help the people you see in the neighbourhood.”

Paramount among his goals is to create a better climate for local business. An active member in the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, he says he would like to see programs and supports for young local entrepreneurs, as well as a drive at Town Hall to persuade large scale businesses to set up shop in Aurora.

“I went to university at Laurier and one of the biggest things we had in Waterloo was RIM and that was the huge attraction,” he says. “As RIM falls apart, you can watch the Town simply fall apart as well in terms of people having nowhere to work. My desire is to get those big organizations here.

“I don’t think many of them have looked this far north. They know about Magna, but I don’t know if they have had a commitment to actually look here.”

He notes it is also important to look at places like Markham and Newmarket to learn from their successes.

If elected, one of his top priorities will be to work towards a ward system. Although it is a question which will be on this October’s Municipal ballot, Mr. Desai says he believes a ward system would better representation by population and ensuring residents know who they can turn to as their advocate at the table.

With the ward question will also come the matter of reducing Aurora from an eight Councillor system to six. Of this, Mr. Desai says he is less convinced that the community would be better served.

“There needs to be more of a focus on Council of working together,” says Mr. Desai, who works as an insurance broker in Newmarket. “I have nothing to say negatively about any Councillor or debate that happens, but [last week’s Council meeting] went until almost midnight and at that point I don’t think people were listening to each other.

“That is what we need to get back to. I want people to know I will be here to represent them. That is a cliché, but I am passionate about representing the Aurora community and, moving forward, I think I have a lot to bring to the table.”

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Shake off the winter blahs with Winter Blues this week

By Brock Weir

This has been the coldest, snowiest, and generally most unpleasant winter many Aurorans can remember – but if you’re looking for a way to shake off the winter blues, this is your week.

Blues will be on the lips – and in the ears – of people across town this week as the third annual Aurora Winter Blues Festival kicks into high gear.

Organizers were on hand last week at the Aurora GO Station, saxophones in hand, and fedoras on head, to spread the good word that for Aurorans – and music lovers everywhere – the best way to shake the Blues off is to let the Blues in.

The sax reeds barely had time to dry before they were put back in action on Friday. Just a few days earlier, organizers got an otherwise staid Council meeting clapping and the blood pumping as Aurora Winter Blues Festival co-founder Jamie Macdonald, made his jazzy pitch.

“I know it’s budget time right now, but are the winter blues getting’ you down?” he asked. “Are you starting to get that hurtin’ feeling? I think we’ve got something that will soothe your soul. There’s nothing better than that good ole’ Devil’s Music to drive away that winter blues and bring warmth into the soul right down to your dancin’ toes.”

Festivities get underway with a special Blues Bash this Thursday, March 6 at the Aurora Cultural Centre beginning at 6.30 p.m. Featuring live performances from “Big” Bob Hammond and the Dundas Blues Band, featuring The BluesBros, the kick-off is a proper salute to the two charities which will benefit from proceeds raised through the Aurora Winter Blues Fest – Blue Door Shelters and CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors).

The Blues Bash will also feature a performance from participants in the Festival’s “Youth in Music” program, live

painting of music legends “to the beat” by artist Adubi Akinola, the “Council Critters” featuring Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel, live and silent auctions, door prizes, and good food.

“It’s all about the music, but it is about the cause as well,” said Mr. Macdonald. “We really want everyone to have fun, but recognize the causes as well. It will really be intermingled with live music and we want to get people up on the dance floor as well.

“Part of our mandate for youth music is to provide more venues to showcase youth bands and youth talent as well. Working with The Arts [Music Store] youth will partake in the evening, and we’re recognising local music as well.”

The music and fun continues in earnest on Friday and Saturday with the official Aurora Winter Blues Festival at Theatre Aurora. Running on Friday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Henderson Avenue will be rocking to the “old school, raw electric blues” of Daddy Long Legs, Bill Durst, and J-W Jones. The party continues on Saturday night, also from 7 – 11 p.m. with “Harmonica Knights” along with Jerome Godboo, Paul Reddick, and Mark “Bird” Stafford, who will come together for “Harp Blowoff.”

If Theatre Aurora isn’t your thing, you will also be able to find the Aurora Winter Blues Festival elsewhere through the end of the week with young blues musicians taking over Jonathan’s Restaurant and King Richard’s English Pub on Friday and Saturday, and workshops held at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Saturday, including a free ukulele and voice workshop, and a harmonica workshop with Stafford and Darren Pool.

Tickets for Thursday’s Blues Bash are \$40, and Friday and Saturday’s Festival Nights are \$42 a ticket each night. Tickets and further information can be found at www.awbf.com.

Aurora Winter Blues Fest founders Helen Gushue and Jamie MacDonald, seen here with Karen Mason of Blue Door Shelters and Tim Jones of CHATS will be on hand this week at the Aurora Cultural Centre and Theatre Aurora for three evenings of fun.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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AURORA FAMILY LEISURE COMPLEX Project Update #4

Last November, The Town of Aurora closed the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) for reconstruction for approximately one year. The closure was approved by Town Council in order to re-build and enhance existing facilities as well as create a new community space for youth. Many of the services that were offered at the AFLC have been moved to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex during reconstruction. However, residents are advised that:

- Squash courts are operational with limited access to registered members only
- The arena is open for rentals
- Public skating is available at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, located at 1400 Wellington Street East

February construction update in brief

- ✓ Concrete floors have been poured on the lower level
- ✓ Plumbing has been completed in the change rooms
- ✓ Half of the track has been moved
- ✓ Excavation for the new arena door has begun
- ✓ Elevator shaft floor has been excavated and is scheduled to be poured by the end of the week

Photos of construction progress are shown below.



Stay tuned here for monthly project progress updates.

Call 905-727-1375 or visit our website www.aurora.ca/NewAFLC for additional information.



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POLITICS AS USUAL

From page 5

freshwater.

To me, bulk water exports are the most significant concern. In public submissions concerning Bill 99 (about protecting the health of Lake Simcoe), a number of delegates – myself included – raised the issue that the lake was not sufficiently protected from water extraction and bulk water exports.

We asked for strengthened language that would guard against large scale water extraction activities on Lake Simcoe.

As we approach this year of elections, the electorate has the opportunity to ask eager candidates what they’re going to do about our water. It’s not enough to promise bringing down your water rates. Any drop in rates will be temporary. It’s political hucksterism to suggest otherwise.

Press them on the more important question: “What are you going to do to *protect* our water?” Let’s hope the new crop of candidates have an answer.

Until next week, stay informed stay involved because this

AHS ranks highest among local schools

From page 3

standardized tests in language and math, including the Grade 9 standardized math exams, examines any possible gender gaps in results, and the results examined closely and weighted.

Here, the rankings provide more detail.

Aurora High School scored a 7.9/10 overall this year, down from 8.1 in last year’s ranking. This accounts to a .01 hit in scores for Grade 9 math tests, a slight increase in tests that were below standard (12.5 per cent), but an overall improvement in the number of completed tests and an even gender split.

ESC Renaissance scored 7.6/10, up from 6.9/10 last year with improvements in language testing but a slight dip in math.

St. Max was given an overall score of 7.5/10, up from 7.0 in the last ranking. This can be attributed to higher performances in math testing, and a reduction in the number of tests found to be below standard.

Cardinal Carter was next with 7.4/10, down from 7.8 last year. Slight dips in math scoring but increases in language were factors, as well as slight bump in the number of tests not written.

Williams also placed with 7.4/10, a significant increase over the 5.6 last year with improvements in testing across the board.

Council takes first steps in securing Aurora Sports Dome

By Brock Weir

Council has taken the first steps in “exploring” a future purchase of the Aurora Sports Dome.

Council voted 7 – 2 in favour of looking at the feasibility and all possible options relating to a recommendation made in late February to purchase the Aurora Sports Dome from owner Terry Redvers for just over \$1 million and turning the operations over to the Aurora Youth Soccer Club.

According to Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation, the next steps will include preparing the terms and conditions of any possible agreement with the Aurora Youth Soccer Club.

Although Councillors were in favour overall of putting the wheels in motion, many said they did not have enough information before them to do any more than that.

“Four pages wasn’t enough,” said Councillor Michael Thompson “I still have questions about a town-owned and operated facility as opposed to an organization running it. I think we need all of that information to have a fulsome discussion.”

Additional information requested by Councillors included a full cost analysis from Councillor John Gallo on the financial benefits of terminating the existing contract with the operators and not having to pay those taxes, versus sticking with the agreement as is. Continuing in a similar vein, Councillor Chris Ballard said he was also interested in costs, but also in the benefits and “recreational impacts” on “the Town, the Soccer Club, and the 4,000 children” belonging to the club.

Voting against going forward with these tentative steps were Councillors Evelyn Buck and Paul Pirri. Councillor Buck said it was a simple question to consider because paying taxes for the dome has been a “thorn in her side” for years. From her perspective, the simplest solution would be to just terminate the agreement and have the owner/operator come back to Council with an offer to pay the taxes or to change course.

In memory of LYNDA FRANCES PARKER



Lynda Frances Parker passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at Sunnybrook Hospital at the age of 61. Beloved wife to Alan, sister to Douglas, loving mother to Stephen and Matthew, grandmother to Jack, and aunt to Danielle. She will always be remembered and be in the hearts of her close friends and “sisters”; Marla, Marty and Sandy. Lynda had a long and distinguished career in nursing, and spent her final years as a Professor in Nursing at Seneca College. In her memory, donations can be made to Seneca College under “The Lynda Parker Nursing Scholarship”. Arrangements entrusted to the Low & Low Funeral Home, Uxbridge (905) 852-3073. For online condolences, please visit www.lowandlow.ca.

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Students Welcome



From Left: Michelle and Brandon were on hand to keep things moving at the bar, while Justine and Cara served up popular “Hurricane” drinks. A juggler kept up the carnival atmosphere on his unicycle while Mardi Gras co-founder Carolyn Hamill, with Natalie, relaxed as they surveyed the scene.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Organizers hope this will be the first of many celebrations across York Region restaurants

From page 1

oncology unit in his early 20s when he was diagnosed with lymphoma, knew all too well the benefits of fundraising for such an organization and, through further talks, secured the restaurant, donated the food and staff, with the only provision being the Mardi Gras Committee would run it.

“I am glad everyone is having a great time,” said Mr. Dinner, surveying the scene as everyone tucked into their Carnival King Cake, which capped a meal of creole favourites such as jambalaya, duck, catfish, and seafood. “Leading up to this, the planning, and having the meetings every week, this was something

that was weighing on me, but now seeing the setting and everyone having a great time, it is a relief.”

In addition to providing the space and the food, Mr. Dinner also had a starring role, along with young “Mardi Gras Prince” Jakob Gatt, in a new video promoting the unit. He said it was special to share the evening with someone like Jakob, who has travelled a similar path.

“I think it touched a lot of people tonight,” said Mr. Dinner of the video. “The point of this event is to get that across and we’re hoping it affects people as much as it has affected us. [Putting this together] was the least I could do, and when I was approached I was on board

right away and it was a no brainer. To get everyone rallied around this cause was a great feeling for me and I loved every bit of tonight. I hope it will be a success moving forward.”

Saturday’s festivities were the first in which Mardi Gras organizers hope will be a new future for the annual fundraiser and serve as a template to other restaurants throughout northern York Region and southern Simcoe County to hold a series of interconnected Mardi Gras events all on the same evening.

Event co-founder Carolyn Hamill said she believes this first foray into the format will do just that, and tentative talks with other restaurants hint at future success.

“I like seeing that we can do small and make it big,” said Ms. Hamill of the new venue. I would like to see other restaurants bring their own interpretation of Mardi Gras there. Obviously there are consistent elements that need to be there like the beads, games, and colours, but there are so many different renditions that you can have.”

Organizers set a goal this year of raising \$10,000 and while numbers are still being crunched, Ms. Hamill says they have exceeded all expectations.

As the traditional Mardi Gras dates next year conflict with Valentine’s Day, mark your calendars for the 2015 Bourbon Street Ball on February 7.

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

The Aurora Winter Blues Festival (AWBF) will host their Blues Bash Kickoff and Fundraising Evening tonight from 6.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The event features live performances from “BIG” Bob Hammond and the Dundas Blues Band, featuring the BlusBros, the AWBF “Youth in Music” Performance, the “Council Critters” featuring Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel, live painting “to the beat” by local artist Adubi Akinola, food, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are \$40 and proceeds will benefit Blue Door Shelters and CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors). For more information, visit www.aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca.

NewRoads Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC will host their annual Girls Night Out fundraiser this evening at 7 p.m. 100 per cent of all proceeds raised will benefit the Women’s Centre of York Region. NewRoads is located at 18100 Yonge Street in Newmarket. For more information, visit newroadsngo.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

The Aurora Winter Blues Festival will hold their second of two nights this evening

at Theatre Aurora from 7 – 11 p.m. Tonight features the “old school and raw electric blues” of Daddy Long Legs, Bill Durst, and JW-Jones. Tickets are \$42 and available at www.aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca.

Christ Lutheran Church will host this year’s World Day of Prayer tonight at 7.30 p.m. The Women of Egypt invite you to join with them in this celebration, praying under the theme “Streams in the Desert.”

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

A free Youth Electric & Bass Guitar Workshop will be presented today from 1 – 3.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre, hosted by the Aurora Winter Blues Festival and The ARTS Music Store. Registration can be made through The ARTS by visiting www.theartsmusicstore.com or by calling 905-868-7164. An additional harmonica workshop with Mark “Bird” Stafford and Darren Pool, sponsored by Wilson Music Services, is also available for \$25.

The second night of the Aurora Winter Blues Festival gets underway this evening from 7 – 11 p.m. at Theatre Aurora. The show features “Harmonica Knights” with Jerome Godboo, Paul Reddick, Mark “Bird” Stafford, plus “Harp

Blowoff” with Jerome, Paul, and Mark. Tickets are \$42 and available at www.aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

The Aurora Cultural Centre offers two free Inuit stencil painting workshops for children today with artist Linda Lang, who has spent years travelling and teaching in Canada’s Arctic. Create your own painting and discover beautiful art and artefact. Free workshop; limited enrollment, with advance registration required. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for children ages 6 – 8. 1 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. for kids 9 – 12. To register, call 905-713-1818.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

The Aurora Cultural Centre offers March Break Mixed Media Mania Morning for children ages 7 – 12! Come on in and get artsy with paint, collage, doodling and photo transfer – with your own photos! Explore fun techniques and use painting skills to create some gorgeous works of art. \$10 registration fee; workshop runs 9 – 11 a.m. To register, call 905-713-1818.

The Cultural Centre offers a free Out of this World Youth Creative Writing Workshop for kids 10+. Earn to give your words the power to create characters, scenery and action in a world only you can

imagine. Free activity from 1 – 3.30 p.m. Register in advance for limited space by dropping by the Centre (22 Church Street) or by calling 905-713-1818.

CHATS – Community and Home Assistance to Seniors’ – Caregiver and Support Education presents a free workshop from 7 – 8.30 p.m. tonight where you can learn about taxation of pensions and other sources of income, about tax credits available to you and your loved ones, and receive general tips for filing your taxes. The seminar will be held at CHATS’ Aurora office at 240 Edward Street, Suite 1. Space is limited. Register

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Join the European Club tonight where folkdance, history, handicraft and food are coming together. Share the European tradition, style and culture with us. The meeting will take place this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Leksand Room at Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way). For further information, contact George and Svetla Topouzovi at gtopouzov@gmail.com or call 905-727-3924.

MARCH 19 – APRIL 26

The Toronto Watercolour Society will hold their Spring Aquavision Show at the

Aurora Cultural Centre. The show will feature a new venue and new rules of submission after 29 years of its history. The society brings together 275 accomplished painters exhibiting throughout local and national areas. Biennial exhibitions provide unique venues throughout the GTA. For more information, visit www.torontowatercoloursociety.com

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street presents John Sheard, piano, with “The Great Reunion Concert” with jazz/blues chanteuse Terra Hazelton, for a memorable night of Hoagy, Ella and so much more. Joined by Dennis Pendrith on the upright bass. 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

MONDAY, MARCH 24

The Aurora Public Library hosts the author event: A Shot in the Dark. Whether you like cozies or thrillers, true crime or stranger than true crime, we will have it all when the Crime Writers of Canada bring murder and mayhem to the Aurora Public Library. 7 – 8.30 p.m. Call to reserve your seat at 905-727-9494 x275.

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Women, Wine & Chocolate event organizer and Fit Your Style founder Jennifer Ettinger (L) samples a cupcake at Thursday’s event at Cardinal Golf Club.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Women offer community support over wine and chocolate

By Kelly Reid

Aurora’s Jennifer Ettinger offered her “ultimate cheat day” Thursday night, hosting the fifth annual “Women, Wine & Chocolate” fundraiser at Cardinal Golf and Country Club.

Ettinger, a personal trainer and founder of Fit Your Style Inc., created the event in 2010 in order to raise money for the Women’s Centre of York Region.

“Tonight is for women and men to come together and indulge,” said Ettinger, “It’s the ultimate cheat day. But what they’re really doing by participating is changing a woman’s life in our community. The Women’s Centre of York Region is a smaller non-profit organization, and they need the support. They’re really out there making it happen.”

Kirsten Eastwood, Executive Director of the Centre, said, “We help women connect to employment so they can get back on their feet. We really want women to build the skills they need to be sustainable.”

The proceeds from Thursday’s event will be directed at the Centre’s Enterprising Women program, which focuses on entrepreneurial and workplace skills. The funding for that particular initiative is coming to an end this month, and so it has the greatest need of outside support.

The Centre provides services to more than sixteen hundred women every year, with many programs on waiting lists. Their operating costs are about \$800,000 a year, not including any expansion to their programming. Community fundraising accounts for more than 20 percent of their funding.

“We are getting about a 12-to-1 social return on investment,” Eastwood explained. “What that means is that for every one dollar of investment in the Centre, we can return a value of twelve dollars to the women and to the community. That means that fewer women will be dependent on social assistance. That’s going to mean fewer hospital visits, fewer police calls.”

The event included a fashion show from Lemon Drop clothiers, raffles, “swag bags,” a wine garden, astrological readings, glamour photos, as well as an auction of a custom-made Mark Lash diamond pendant. One of Ettinger’s surprises during the course of the evening’s festivities included a speakerphone call to her own mom, during which the entire audience gave her mom a round of rousing applause.

“Tonight is about my mom,” Ettinger said, “because when I was younger, my mom could have used the Centre. My mom is so strong.”

The final fundraising numbers from vendor donations as well as ticket sales are still being tallied, as Ettinger jetsetted to L.A. immediately after the event in order to cover the Academy Awards red carpet with The Insider.

Last year’s event, though, raised a total of \$31,911.

Ettinger hopes that Thursday’s proceeds will exceed that number. “Thank God today, women have somewhere to go where they can get empowered and make change,” she said. “To me, that’s profound.”

To make a donation, or to learn more about the Women’s Centre of York Region, visit www.womenscentreyorkregion.com.

2008 Citizen of the Year Walmer reflects on “encore” as 2014 nominations approach

By Brock Weir

Aurora environmentalist Susan Walmer is comfortable in what she describes as the “encore phase” of her life.

For her, it was a matter of wanting to do something to make a difference in her own lifetime and for generations to come. A certified management accountant by training, Ms. Walmer found the tools to make her “encore” matter in the world around her while raising her son and daughter.

“[Raising my children] I started to notice the environment around me more and I wanted to make sure there was good future space for my children and future generations,” she says.

Concerned that land, such as the Ann Bartley Smith lands were not as protected as they should have been, she says she decided to do something about it.

Starting off as a volunteer, she became a board member of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. Now, several years later, she has moved off the board and into the chair of the organization’s Executive Director.

In recognition of her environmental work, Ms. Walmer was named Aurora’s Citizen of the Year in 2008.

The honour, however, may have been an affirmation that she took the right path in her encore.

“It is a totally different realm, but what is so wonderful about it, and the reason I think, in part, why the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has grown so rapidly is I looked at it from a management perspective rather than just a charitable perspective.

“How could we move from a wonderful volunteer board and bring in lots of new energy, new people and new ideas to move us up to a different level? To me, that was the exciting part.”

In the role of Executive Director, Ms. Walmer says she found building relationships with people as one of the most rewarding aspects of the day-to-day work. They are protecting land

forever, she says, building relationships with the land, and also relationships with landowners and land donors. She likes to be able to sit down for coffee with someone to hear their “dreams” in protecting their properties which can remain in families for generations to come.

“It is really rewarding to be able to help those people make their dreams come true.”

In the job, however, she has learned people often have misconceptions about the Oak Ridges Moraine, specifically in the myth that the Moraine, in its entirety, is protected. Next year, there

will be a review of the existing Oak Ridges Moraine legislation and, she says, there will be an opportunity to make “positive change” on the plan and move the many pieces of Ontario’s environmental legislative puzzle into “better synchronicity.”

Between now and then, she adds, they are focusing on their Million Dollar Stewardship program, which

received a significant boost last year from former Lieutenant-Governor Hal Jackman, to make inroads into Toronto based organizations, corporations, and foundations which are the key, she says, for many charities. She expects a significant announcement will be made on the Stewardship Program later this year.

“Passion is wonderful, purpose is fantastic, but you have to be able to have the funds to support it,” she says of the land trust. “We all need to find our passion and purpose in life. I am blessed I have been able to do that with relative ease and I am keen to see what’s next. I think everyone can do that in their life.”

To make your own nominations for Aurora’s 2014 Citizen of the Year, or to make nominations for a variety of Community Recognition Awards, visit www.aurora.ca/aurora/2014awards, or call 905-727-3123 x.4232. Nominations close Thursday, March 13.



Susan Walmer, first right, receives a \$100,000 donation from Hal Jackman, second left, last year.



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