



TOWN OF AURORA

Weekly Notice Board

Aurora Town Hall
100 John West Way • P.O. Box 1000 • Aurora • Ontario • L4G 6J1
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

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

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

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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

Summer Student, Customer Service
Application deadline is **Thursday, March 20**

Summer Student, Building Services
Application deadline is **Thursday, March 20**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Aurora Art Show and Sale

Calling all artists! The Town of Aurora is now accepting entries to its annual Juried Art Show and Sale.

Where:	Aurora Town Hall
When:	Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4
Ages:	All ages are welcome. Spaces are available in both adult and youth categories.
Price:	\$30 registration fee for adults \$15 registration fee for youth (ages 12 to 17)

The deadline for registration is **Monday, April 14**. For more information or to register, please visit www.aurora.ca/artshow

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

The Amazing Spider-man (Rated PG)

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: **Saturday, March 15**
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.



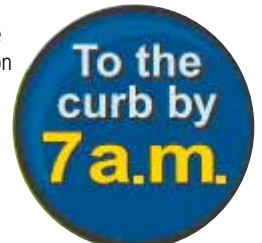
REMINDERS

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.



Winter Parking

A reminder that overnight parking of vehicles is prohibited on any street between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from now until **Tuesday, April 15**. Where possible, residents are asked to park cars off streets to assist with snow-clearing efforts.

For more information on this by-law, please call 905-726-4751 or visit www.aurora.ca

PUBLIC NOTICES

Wi-Fi in Aurora



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

Recreation Complex and the Aurora Community Centre.

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.

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.



The Aurora Public Library

March Break Events

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

Crime Writers of Canada: Author Event

Join us on **Monday, March 24** from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the APL for a night of thrills and chills. We are excited to host five authors from the Crime Writers of Canada organization. Call now to reserve your seat, 905-727-9494 ext. 275.

Physics Fun at the APL

The APL is excited to announce an informative presentation that local award-winning physics teacher, Dave Doucette, is hosting on **Tuesday, March 25** from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mr. Doucette will discuss his recent findings from his trip to CERN in Switzerland about the Hadron Collider and the Higgs Boson particle. To register, please call 905-727-9494 ext. 275.



Total Health Seminar Series

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

How Muscle Imbalance Impacts Performance and Injury

Do you know what muscle imbalance is? In this seminar, we will explain muscle imbalance and how to recognize it. You will also learn how to identify types of injury including overuse, sprain and strain. Finally, we will discuss how to correct imbalance with treatments and nutrition.

Date:	Wednesday, March 26
Time:	7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location:	Aurora Seniors' Centre 90 John West Way
Fee:	\$10
Registration code:	35085

Space is limited and registration is required. To register visit www.aurora.ca/e-PLAY and use registration code 35085.

To learn more, please call 905-726-4764 or visit www.aurora.ca/totalhealth



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

Proposed development near Yonge and Wellington spurs Council contention

By Brock Weir

It has stood empty for decades, but a vacant lot just south of the southeast corner of Yonge and Wellington could soon be filled in with a four storey apartment building and retail space.

Boasting 12 apartment units and retail on the ground level next door to the historic Aurora Post Office/Clock Tower building, the development was given tentative approval at the Committee level by Councillors last week, but Councillors were divided on whether this would be a help or a hindrance to Aurora's Downtown Core.

The plans call for the first three storeys of the building to be built directly in line with the Old Town Hall to the north of the site, and sticking out just past the north side of the post office building. The upper two stories are set back from the road and include patios and balconies.

Council was asked to give the green light to the building at General Committee last week and after clearing the hurdle, it comes forward next week for formal approval by Council.

"I think this is exactly the kind of development Downtown Aurora needs," said Councillor Paul Pirri. "We have a vacant property that is collecting next to no taxes and we would be infilling, which is what we're supposed to be doing from the Provincial standpoint. If you are looking to get people shopping in the downtown core, one of the easiest ways to do that is have them living in the downtown core."

Councillor Evelyn Buck, who said the proposed building was beautiful and in keeping with the surrounding architecture in the area – and it is a far side better than the "rotting old shack" which stood there decades ago, she said.

"The only way this block was going to see renewal was if we brought people back into the block and we have been doing that slowly, but steadily," said Councillor Buck. "I say 'we', but we have had very little to do with it. It has been private investment. We are seeing renovation and renewal in our downtown and it is not costing us a penny."

"It has nothing to do with patterned concrete sidewalks or trees planted in the concrete or sidewalk cafes," she added referring to design concepts as part of the Aurora Promenade plan. "It has to do with



An architectural rendering of how the new building might look at Yonge and Wellington.

somebody willing to risk his providence, our partners in the development of Aurora. We have always known if we're going to have this renewal, we were going to have to make compromises."

For some Councillors however, they wondered if this compromise was too much. Councillors Chris Ballard and Michael Thomson, for instance, said they were concerned this plan was coming to Council before it went to a Public Planning meeting for neighbours to have a say on the plan, as well as bypassing the Committee of Adjustment, at least for the moment, on a request to reduce the 26 parking spots normally required for a development like this to just 12.

According to Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, however, there was no need for a public notice because it is just a site plan application, it complies with zoning, and the land use is not changing. The parking issue, he added, would comply with new standards outlined in the Aurora Promenade Plan.

"We tried to incentivise redevelopment in this part of the Downtown Area and one of the challenges is our current zoning bylaw parking rate," said Mr. Ramunno, noting neighbouring property owners had been informed of the plan. "Our official plan has lowered the parking rate so the shortfall is really two spaces."

Councillor Ballard, however, was not satisfied.

"I think that when very limited parking [already there] become aware of this proposal...all hell is going to break loose," he said. "The parking has been a tinder keg from day one. Until that is sorted out, I will have great difficulty supporting a concept that wants to move from 26 to 12 parking spaces. This is something I really wish came before a meeting where adjacent owners could have come and spoken and we would be able to discuss [our concerns] with the owner." Added Councillor Thompson: "I don't want to solve one problem and add to another. We always hear from the downtown merchants the issue of parking over and over. I think it is important for us just to feel comfortable with what is being proposed and that it will not impact downtown merchants."

3.75% tax increase set for approval at next week's Council meeting

By Brock Weir

Aurora's proposed 3.75 per cent budget increase is due to be finalized at next Tuesday's Council meeting.

After beginning the process last fall, and hours of debates over such issues as salaries and new positions at Town Hall, a spike in insurance premiums carried by the municipality, and considerable debate over a \$70,000 grant to the Aurora Historical Society, \$20,000 more than their regular grant and \$10,000 over what they received last year, which also covered events relating to Aurora's Sesquicentennial, they settled on 3.75 which is just a fraction lower than what was originally projected.

If given final approval next week, Aurora residents can expect to pay an extra \$13.24 in property taxes in the year ahead, or an additional \$53.96 for the average Aurora property assessed at \$400,000.

Combined with a tax increase from the Region of York, as well as taxes for education, this will result in an overall 1.99 per cent impact on your tax bill.

Last year, the 2013 Budget was approved on consent with no comments around the table which caused some Councillors to cry foul despite not calling the item. That is not a scenario that is likely to repeat this year, however, as Councillors have indicated they still have a lot to say.

At last week's General Committee meeting, however, Councillors had an early say on next year's budget process. Although the 2015 Council will be steering that budget to fruition, contracts related to water main relining

See "Budget" on page 8

Briefly

IMPAIRED DRIVER ASKS POLICE FOR PLACE TO SPEND NIGHT, GETS ONE

An Aurora man was arrested Monday for impaired driving after he drove himself to a Vaughan police station demanding a place to sleep for the night. According to a statement from Constable Andy Pattenden of the York Regional Police, the man pulled into the visitor parking area, entered the police station and "became belligerent, demanding that officers provide him with a place to sleep for the night. During the rant, officers could smell alcohol coming from the man's breath. After providing a sample of his breath, which was two times the legal limit of .08, the man was provided with a place to sleep for the night." The driver, Vadym Gulenko, 30, is scheduled to appear in court April 3.

BUCK TRIAL RESUMES NEXT FRIDAY

Councillor Evelyn Buck's trial against two Councillors and three members of the previous Council will resume next Friday, March 21. In her lawsuit, Councillor Buck claims incumbent Councillors Wendy Gaertner and John Gallo, along with former mayor Phyllis Morris and councillors Stephen Granger, Evelina MacEachern and Al Wilson defamed her character in a statement published in local newspapers in 2009. The claims have not been proven in court. After a five week hearing last fall, the trial was put on hold after the Judge dismissed the six-member jury citing an improper submission made during closing arguments. The remainder of the trial – and the outcome – will be handled by the Judge himself.

WANT TO GET HITCHED AT THE STREET FESTIVAL?

If there is a wedding in your cards, Oakview Terrace Reception Centre wants to hear from you. Oakview is looking for a bride and groom willing to take the plunge and get married – or renew their wedding vows – right on Yonge Street during the annual Aurora Street Festival on June 1. If interested, email oakview@interlog.com. For more on the upcoming 2014 Street Festival itself, visit www.aurorahcamber.on.ca/street-festival-2014.

CHROMEBOOKS COME TO LIBRARY

Beginning this Monday, March 17, Aurora Public Library members will be able to browse the web on new Google Chromebooks. The beginning of a new pilot initiative, members can sign out the gadgets to use within the library for up to four hours.

SCHOOL BOARD LAUNCHES COMMUNITY SURVEY

The York Catholic District School Board is looking for your input in developing its new, multi-year strategic plan for setting priorities and direction. A 10 minute online survey is now available through April 14 at www.ycdsb.ca.

Get ready for **Spring** at
A & F Hair Elite
Barbershop & Hairstyling

\$65
Perm, Haircut & Style
Taxes Included

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Monday, March 17

IRISH BLESSING
*Sing a song of shamrocks. Dance an Irish jig
Pour yourself a hearty drink, And take a healthy swig
Tell a tale of leprechauns, Drape yourself in green
And have the best St. Paddy's Day, The world has ever seen!*

www.raffertyandrussell.com

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Marion B. Rafferty
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CALL FOR A FREE MARKET EVALUATION

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

— Advertorial —

If learning is a problem... we have a solution

Break free NOW from Learning Disabilities

At Learning Ability, we specialize in a proven and successful therapy for correcting learning disabilities in both adults and children. The breakthrough program enables participants to function in a regular classroom or office setting without external aids. Best of all, no one will even know that they are using the special tools taught in our sessions. Only the positive results will be visible. If you, your children or someone you know suffers from a learning disability, we can help with attainable solutions that get to the root of the problems.

We can help now with

- Dyslexia (reading)
- Dyscalculia (mathematics)
- Dysgraphia (writing)
- Dyspraxia (coordination)
- ADD (attention)
- ADHD (attention and hyperactivity)
- Autism spectrum

“Our son is taking control of his behaviour and working on ‘dialing down’ to focus and behave correctly. We have also seen major leaps with his reading.”

— J. & L. Owens, Queensville, Ontario

“Our son was diagnosed with learning disability in reading and writing at 6. He has completed the program and is now very successful. The confidence he now has is the best reward.”

— Ron & Wendy Jennings, Newmarket, Ontario

“The thought of completing high school was almost inconceivable. After a month or two at Learning Ability, we started talking about what college she will be attending.”

— Richard & Deb Pope, Newmarket, Ontario

For more information, to get a free no-obligation information package, or to book a free consultation, please contact Maureen O'Sullivan, BSc and Certified Davis Facilitator at

(905) 853-3363
maureen@learningability.org

www.learningability.org

NEW AURORAN POLL

If the Provincial election were held today, which of the four major parties would have your vote?

- A) Green Party
- B) Liberals
- C) New Democrats
- D) Progressive Conservatives

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

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

RESULTS March 4, 2013	A	B	C
	33%	62%	5%



Spring is just around the corner and the sap is ready to flow! Amy tucked into a stack of pancakes at Trinity Anglican Church's annual pancake supper last Tuesday. Meanwhile (inset), Aiden and Alex from the Third Aurora Boy Scouts, Cubs, and Beavers prepared to do the same at Aurora United Church.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



A Personal Support Worker’s Appeal for Seniors

On Monday, March 3, I took the issue of cuts to personal support services for seniors and people with disabilities to the floor of the Legislature.

That exchange between me and the Minister of Health can be viewed on my website. Two days later, I received the following email from a constituent who has given her permission to share it with you through this column:

“Mr. Klees, I would like to personally thank you for keeping the issue of our seniors losing their on-site care at the forefront. I was in the public gallery on Monday when you brought this issue up again. I could hardly contain myself from jumping up and applauding you. I just happen to be one of the PSWs (Personal Support Workers) providing care for the group of seniors you are advocating for.

“I am sickened by what our government is doing to our most vulnerable, at risk citizens. Over the years we have had many WWII veterans as clients. These men and women fought so that we could have the freedoms we enjoy in this country today. Now it is our turn to fight for them. We don’t only provide service to seniors. We are caring for disabled persons and for people with mental challenges as well.

“I don’t believe Ms. Matthews understands the difference between on-site care as opposed to off-site care.

“Our on-site care can provide immediate response to our clients in an emergency situation. The CHATS off-site care claims to be able to respond to an emergency within fifteen minutes. Try doing that during a winter like we



FRANKLY SPEAKING

Frank Klees
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

have had this year! What about during the night when only two staff are on duty and they will be travelling together? Only one call will be responded to at a time.

“If they happen to be responding to a call at the edge of the 3km radius and a call comes in from the opposite edge of the 3 km radius it will be physically impossible for them to respond to that second call within fifteen minutes. In fact, I’m not even sure they could respond to any calls within 15 minutes. Now, what if a third call comes in at the same time?

“I am also being told that the CHATS staff will not have keys to get into the buildings. They expect the person with an emergency to buzz them in. Might be hard to do that from the floor! Or what if they have lost consciousness while waiting? We don’t even know if they will have keys to get into the apartments if they do get into the building. A lot of precious time, which could mean the difference between life and death, will be wasted.

“The current on-site ACL staff who can respond in a moment, do have keys to get into clients’ apartments. We also have clients who don’t understand how to use a paging system properly, so we have taught them to just press their life-line button. The current ACL staff are listed as the first contact for life-lines. The CHATS staff will not be listed as the first

contact for a life-line call. We also have medical info on the clients if EMS does have to be called. And if nothing else, we are there to comfort them while waiting for EMS to arrive.

“And what about the clients who cannot get into their bathtubs? We have walk-in showers in the Client Centres where we bring these clients for their showers. Do they never get a proper shower again?

“What about clients on oxygen? In the event of a power outage we know every client who is on a continuous oxygen supply machine which is run by electricity. We head directly to these clients and get them set up on their portable tanks of oxygen immediately.

“Please, let Ms. Matthews know that those people that she so proudly claims returned to their homes to make that all important decision about long term care, probably ended up returning, two or three days later, by ambulance, to the emergency room because they shouldn’t have been discharged from the hospital in the first place!

“There has been a petition started to try to fight this. This change in service is supposed to happen March 31, 2014. We need ALL of the opposition to join in to fight for our seniors! At this point even getting this date delayed until further investigation can take place would feel like a win. Yours sincerely, Donna Bellinger.”

Donna has said it well. Join the fight for our seniors and people with disabilities. A copy of the petition is available from my office or on my website at www.frankklees.com.



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Failure to Consult

I attended last week’s Council meeting and arrived to find the usually near-empty chamber almost full. A room full of people who have trudged out on a freezing cold night to hear – voluntarily - politicians blather on means something serious must be afoot.

And indeed it was. Folks were furious about the proposed Heritage District. After months of work, the consultant was tabling his report on the proposed creation of the South East Aurora Heritage District. Unfortunately, it seemed rather obvious from the sheer numbers present and the vehemence of their opposition, that the proposed South East Aurora Heritage district is dead in the water.

It will, in all likelihood, not proceed.

Not because it is or isn’t a good idea. Not because the study was or wasn’t thorough. It is not going to go forward because the folks affected were not consulted. It’s that simple.

I am not criticizing Town Staff. Nor am I criticizing the consultant. They all did their jobs as described and they did them well. Unfortunately, it is the process itself that is flawed. I have seen this occur time and time again, where large initiatives that have community-wide implications often either die before they get off the ground or they take years – and many millions of dollars – to move forward.

Inevitably, the issue comes down to public consultation or lack thereof. There are always large groups of people who come forward mid-to-late in a process outraged that they have not been consulted.

How can that be? I can tell you how. Because the public consultation process is driven by legislation, not common sense. Common sense will tell you that you must ensure that everyone affected is consulted. Thus, at a minimum, every single home and business should get a hand delivered letter from the Town informing them of the initiative and asking for feedback – multiple times if necessary.

That is not what happens.

The process, as it stands now, defines who, in what “area”, should be consulted, right down to how many homes within how many metres, must be “notified”. As a consequence, often only small groups of folks get directly informed or “consulted” about a proposed undertaking. Aside from poor results, this process also leads to serious conflicts – often pitting neighbour against neighbour.

Under the legislated process, broader public consultation seems to consist solely of advisory committee meetings, notices in the paper, and notices on the town website. All standard practice. And all standards for failure.

The legislated process is predicated on a shaky assumption about the level of engagement of the public in town affairs. It assumes everyone is engaged.

How many people actually check the town website for updates on new initiatives? You check the website to find out how to enroll your kids in swimming, not whether your neighbourhood is being fundamentally altered.

Similarly, how many people check town advisory committee meeting agendas to find out what’s happening in their community? I’d be shocked if it’s more than 10 people. Clearly, merely meeting legislative requirements is not enough to say one has consulted the public.

There are always proponents and opponents of any community undertaking. You will never have unanimity of views, unanimity of support. Nothing will ever get built or designed if you want everyone to agree.

However, public consultation is not about gaining unanimity of support, it is about ensuring fair and equal voice for those affected.

For a public consultation process to be successful, two fundamental questions must be addressed: Who is the public? And, what constitutes support?

How can you say you have consulted with the public when you haven’t defined who or what that public is? How can you say there is support for, or opposition to, an initiative when you haven’t defined what support or opposition looks like? What proportion of that public must agree with the initiative before it goes forward?

These are questions that should be addressed before any community initiative is developed.

Failure to answer these questions is why these types of initiatives cause such acrimony. It is also why they fail.

It isn’t further consultation that is needed, it is meaningful consultations. Before you go out to the “public” again, I respectfully suggest that you decide who you are consulting, how and why – otherwise the only “public” you will hear are those with the loudest voices.

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

Do Not Pass Go ...



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

The Town of Aurora is in the midst of a giant game of Monopoly.

You remember playing that board game as a kid, don’t you? Moving your piece around, purchasing and trading properties, using strategy to consolidate your holdings, and hoping for that bit of luck that you – or someone else – would land on a space that would bring you good fortune.

Well, that’s kind of what’s going on in town lately. Not literally, mind you. There are no giant Fleury Plough or cenotaph-shaped pieces being moved around by unseen hands. But a similar sort of game seems to be going on with the focus on municipal real estate these days.

Look at the decision to purchase the three properties of Hillary House, Readman House and Horton Place. There’s a sense the developed Heritage Park could be amazing, but right now there’s no clear goal in mind or apparently any actual urgency to move ahead.

But the town’s virtual playing piece has landed on it, so it is strongly being considered. After all, as in the game, it’s hard to pass up on the opportunity to purchase a matched set of properties, whether you’re ready to, or not.

Potential funding for this move could come from the proceeds of Aurora Hydro, which the town sold off years ago because, apparently just like in Monopoly, no one wants to own the utilities.

The Heritage Park situation seems similar to what happened with Petch House. The town somehow needed to do something with it right away, perhaps for fear that the logs that had lasted 100 plus years might suddenly turn to dust.

The result is that we have a lot of money invested in a restored building, but one without a purpose. Truly the local version of Monopoly’s unappreciated Mediterranean Avenue. At least, for now.

On the opposite side, just like in the board game, there are some properties that apparently the town does not want at all.

Curiously, this includes the Hydro Building, which has a long term tenant in the form of the Queen’s York Rangers. Not only do they have a lease that will keep them there almost 15 years, but a regimental history spanning hundreds of years that suggests they’re likely to be around for a while after that.

Then there are the spots on the playing board that have been under

consideration for ages, such as the former Seniors’ Centre and Library. The town lands on these occasionally and puts a token amount of thought into whether they will be part of Aurora’s long term plan, and if so, in what form.

Then the town moves on without any firm commitment, until it chances to land on them again the next time around, and the pondering recommences.

Another spot in the Library Square area is Free Parking, but good luck landing on it. You’re likely to circle the board endlessly before you find a space.

A place you’re guaranteed to land on at least once a year in Aurora is Luxury Tax, which this year has gone up 3.75%.

The latest property to take centre stage on our municipal Monopoly Board is the Joint Operations Centre. Based on its increasing price tag, it’s truly the town’s equivalent of the most expensive site in the game; Boardwalk.

Part of the strategy for winning at Monopoly is to be organized, concentrate on certain locations, prioritize, plan, time things well, and don’t try to do everything at once.

I’m not sure exactly how the town is playing the municipal version of this game, but as taxpayers, I just hope we end up on the winning side.

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

Heritage Conservation District’s future lies in Public Planning meeting

By Brock Weir

Whether for it or against it, Aurora residents will have a further opportunity to speak out on the proposed Southeast Aurora Heritage District next month at a public planning meeting.

Councillors were due to advance to the second phase of the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) study at the Committee level last week, but these plans were nixed after residents took to the podium unanimous in their arguments against the plan.

A second phase will codify the fine details of the HCD, including finalized boundary lines, which are currently in flux, along with details of just what will and will not be permitted to be done with properties within the district, should it gain final approval.

Councillors delayed making a final decision to move onto Phase 2, pending further public input after delegations raised more questions than there were answers.

Looking within the report before Councillors last week, Councillor Michael Thompson underscored the view contained in it that a successful HCD is one where all property owners “understand and agree” with the plan’s goals and intents.

“I don’t see a majority of the property owners agreeing with what is before us,” said Councillor Thompson. “What this needs, before anything else, is more community consultation if we’re going to move forward with the second phase. Some consideration needs to be given to expanding how we get the information out to residents and the manner in which we have done it.”

Previous efforts, as it related to the existing HCD in the northeast quadrant of Yonge and Wellington were “exhaustive”, he said and response has been significantly

more cohesive.

“There might be some misinformation out there and this is an opportunity correct some of it, but those issues need to be addressed. The only way to do it is through a much more elaborate community consultation process as was done in the past because obviously it seemed to work well. The majority of residents within that district were supportive.”

Further public consultation and engagement was also supported by such councillors as John Gallo and Wendy Gaertner, who questioned how they could “reconcile” moving ahead to the next steps of spending money on further background study when residents appeared to be vehemently opposed to the plan.

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, the community was anything but disengaged from the process. They were there in the audience, they were vocal, and they knew where they stood.

“The community is fully engaged in this question,” she argued. “They are completely engaged in the question of whether the HCD is acceptable. They have come here with solid arguments on why it isn’t and they have been greeted by comments that [with] more communication you will understand better, so we’ll take care of your concerns. These people have done their research. They have looked into every aspect of the impact on their properties and they want no part of it.”

At this point, audience members applauded Councillor Buck, who added the idea for a HCD was the brainchild of a particular property owner concerned “monster homes” could start dotting the southeast landscape if a plan was not put in place.

“There are properties that maybe aren’t

too wide, but certainly have the depth that would lend itself to redevelopment in the modern age. Certainly the marketplace for those properties would reflect the potential for that redevelopment. Certainly when people bought these properties, they paid a price for that potential and they have been paying for it ever since. [Property owners] have every right to have their houses designated. I don’t believe they have the right to impose their desires on everybody else in the neighbourhood.”

As Chair of Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee, Councillor John Abel has been a vocal proponent of the HCD, but said given last week’s delegations he was reluctant to move forward until all these concerns could be addressed. He stressed, however, that HCD plans are only at the beginning and future talks will determine where final boundaries lie, who wants to be a part of it and what will or will not work.

“We’re not saying we’re going

to impose this on you,” he said. “We’re basically saying we’re going to invite you into this proposal. What I saw four years ago indicated the whole area was for it, but a lot has happened since then. [Maybe after further talks] we can get a feeling of where this goes and how we can get it resolved.”

Information meeting sparked positive feedback

From page 1

loss of certain “ownership rights” on their properties.

“Listing gives authority to the Heritage Planner to require an architect or specialist contractor to be employed if any renovations need to be done to properties,” said Ms. Russo. “Our concern is those restrictions prohibit us from using our own contractors, especially if we had a certain budget we want to abide by.

“Our neighbourhood is very vibrant. We have long-term owners who have been there and easily adopted to modern changes in the community and have not seen any loss in character of the downtown area, all of which have been provided through private funds. The designation is intended to freeze the neighbourhood in time with no prospect for future growth. We do not consider the prospect of a heritage designation to benefit property owners at all. We wish to be excluded from the Heritage Designation as it is our view we will lose any value moving forward, especially with long-term growth.”

Realtor Lynn Knowles expressed a similar view. In her profession, she said, heritage preservation can be viewed as a public good, but it can directly affect property and real estate activity. Large blocks set aside for heritage designation, she added, could result in “property owners being deprived of their natural rights”, when any wishes to alter their own properties would need to be cleared by bodies such as Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee and, ultimately Council. Such groups would also be able to accept or deny any demolition permits, changes to the land itself, or even expropriate properties, she argued.

“Along with other inherent restrictions, buyers may well re-think their decision to buy or at least pay top dollar to a seller in the district,” she said. “As a realtor, I am obliged on both my listing forms and my agreement of purchase and sale to disclose in writing the pertinent facts. New district designation bylaws are now registered on

title. There is an inherent risk in buying or selling properties in the southeast quadrant that still need renovating, repair or demolition.

“This is not a walk in the Town Park.” These delegates, as well as local orthodontist Don Stubbs, were clear they wanted, at the very least, properties on Wellington Street East to be excluded from the heritage area. These views, Dr. Stubbs added, were supported by other neighbours not in attendance who were concerned such a move would essentially make the Town co-owners of their properties.

Outside of the Council chamber, meetings held earlier in the evening represented a more diverse opinion on the heritage district. The Heritage Advisory Committee, along with Mr. Bray, hosted a public information session for neighbours and the community as a whole to learn more about the proposed area. The well-attended meeting attracted the curious and supporters of the plan.

Resident Nancee Webb, for instance, lives in a newer home within the wider proposed Heritage District. She said she was concerned what would happen to newer homes if the entire area came under the district plans. She said she was somewhat reassured it would have little impact on the property, but was still cautious about future plans.

“I am waiting to hear what comes out of Council,” she said. “I am still not 100 per cent comfortable because they are very smooth talking and I am just not quite comfortable yet.”

Resident Krista Jackson, however, was more enthusiastic.

“I have an interest in maintaining a sense of culture in the area, something that is relevant and tangible for our children to know where we’ve been and where we are going, so I am in favour of the plan,” she said. “I am more curious as to why people are so opposed to moving forward with it.

“When you are living in a cookie-cutter subdivision, how can you learn to take pride in the community if you don’t have anything unique?”



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(L) Councillor Chris Ballard is pictured with his wife, Audrey, at his campaign launch at Theatre Aurora last fall. (R) Newmarket Councillor Jane Twinney greeted supporter Pat Carabine at a recent campaign event at Chinook restaurant. Local candidates for the New Democratic Party and Green Party of Ontario have yet to be determined. Dorian Baxter will stand as a candidate for the Canadians' Choice Party.

Auroran photos
by Brock Weir and Diane Buchanan

Ballard and Twinney to be acclaimed as Liberal, PC candidates next week

By Brock Weir

Ontarians still don't know when they will be going to the polls just yet, but the upcoming Provincial Election race will be solidified next week.

Ontario Liberal candidate – and Aurora Councillor – Chris Ballard is slated to be formally nominated and acclaimed as Newmarket-Aurora's provincial Liberal candidate next Wednesday, March 19, at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

The following evening, at The Mansion on Industrial Parkway South, Progressive Conservative Candidate – and Newmarket Councillor – Jane Twinney will also be acclaimed to carry her party's banner.

Although Councillor Ballard has been unchallenged in the Liberal race, the same cannot be said for Councillor Twinney.

Progressive Conservative members jostled to fill the impending vacancy to be left by incumbent MPP Frank Klees, after he surprised many of the community with his announcement he would not be seeking re-election. Joining Councillor Twinney in the race were Auroran columnist Stephen Somerville and Newmarket Councillor Maddie di Muccio.

Councillor di Muccio's candidacy, however, courted controversy after her nomination was nixed at the party level. The next twist in the local Progressive Conservative race happened February 19 when Mr. Somerville withdrew his name from the race after receiving "threats" against himself and his family.

Following his departure, Councillor Twinney remained unchallenged.

Speaking to supporters shortly after announcing his candidacy last fall, Councillor Ballard hailed his local roots.

"Aurora and Newmarket have been like second homes to me," he said, joined by his wife Audrey, his brothers Michael and Ed, and their families. "My children are all products of the public school system here in Aurora and they have found Aurora to be a very special place, as have I. It is the same sort of thing we hear from those who grew up in

Newmarket."

Jumping into the provincial arena, he said, was not a step he took lightly and before making the leap, he took "many months" talking with friends and family on his next steps, asking what they think an MPP should do for them.

If elected MPP, Councillor Ballard says among the issues he will fight for are making Aurora a "sustainable community", working with citizens, business, labour groups, and municipal governments to anticipate the issues to come, rather than simply reacting to them, health care, education, transportation, the Oak Ridges Moraine, and making sure citizens can "access" their government, something he said he "learned from the master" in former mayor Phyllis Morris.

At the end of the day, he said, Premier Kathleen Wynne made supporting the Liberal party an easy choice.

"She is a phenomenal woman," he said. I have met a lot of leaders in my career and not many of them have a very contagious enthusiasm she brings to the table."

As the nomination window closed for PC nominations last week, Mr. Klees said Newmarket-Aurora would be well-served by Councillor Twinney.

"She has conducted herself with grace and dignity," said Mr. Klees. "She has demonstrated she is a hard worker. I have observed her advocacy on behalf of constituents. She is not afraid to take a stand, but she does so with civility and I believe she has the respect of all of her colleagues, which is one thing I think is going to be a significant advantage for her."

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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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Special Council meeting planned to consider referendum on ward system

By Brock Weir

A special Council meeting is slated for next Monday, March 24 to consider the future of a ward system in Aurora.

Following Council’s decision last fall to ask residents on this October’s Municipal Election ballot whether they would like to see a ward system implemented in Aurora, and whether Council should be reduced from the current complement of eight Councillors to six, plus the Mayor, next week’s meeting is intended to fine tune and formalize just what you, the Aurora voters, will be asked.

Once the wording is confirmed at this meeting, a public notification will then be followed and the question will be formalized by a bylaw at Council on April 22.

In discussing the Special Council Meeting at

the Committee level last week, Councillors said they were concerned that Aurora residents are given the full implications of the pros and cons of a ward system, where Aurora would be divided up into either eight or six wards represented by an individual Councillor, versus the current “at large” system where the Mayor and eight Councillors are elected to represent the interests of the town as a whole.

“If we’re going to ask the public to make a decision on any question [they] need to be well-informed about the implications of both sides of the question,” said Councillor Michael Thompson.

Although Monday’s meeting is simply to discuss what the questions will be, Councillor Wendy Gaertner said she was concerned there wasn’t enough time for public notification. “

“I don’t really think the public understands this well,” she said. “I don’t know how the rest of

Council feels, but I have concern with that date.”

Once the questions are decided, it will then be up to municipal staff to devise a plan on how to best communicate with residents on a non-partisan basis, to outline the ins and outs of a ward system versus the current “at large” model.

“The election team would have to discuss it with communications and work out a plan to distribute information in a non-partisan fashion about the fact there may be two questions on the ballot,” said Town Solicitor Warren Mar, in his capacity as acting Town Clerk. “It would depend on what Council approves as a question, if it were to move forward, and that is something we would have to investigate further.”

During last week’s meeting, Councillor John Abel questioned the formality of such a meeting, asking whether Council could simply pass a resolution to implement a ward system. Theoretically Council could do just that, said Mr. Mar, but the Municipal Act requires at least one public meeting dedicated to discussing such a change.

“Council, under the Act, could divide the municipality into wards if it so chose at [their] discretion by a bylaw, but this meeting is to discuss [a motion by Councillor Paul Pirri] to put a question on the ballot to find out whether residents want to move forward with it,” said Mr. Mar.

“[Reversing the vote of the public] would depend on the turnout. We would need 50 per cent of the electorate and 50 per cent would have to vote either yea or nay for it to be somewhat binding. If it is nay, it is a four year waiting period before anything else could be done. If it is yea, Council is obligated under the act to take action as soon as possible to make the changes requested. If we don’t get 50 per cent of the voter turnout and 50 per cent of voting one way or another, it is not a binding referendum under the act.”

For Councillor Paul Pirri, the Councillor who got the ball rolling on this in this particular term of Council, these discussions were venturing away from the topic at hand, which was simply setting a date for a discussion.

“I agree with Councillor Gaertner that [the timing] is not ideal, but I think it is important that we move in this direction right now to make sure that the time is allowed to make sure we can have this as a referendum question. We can have this meeting now and, later on, we can have more educational sessions done. There are other ways we can make this work as well.”

Kerry’s Place should serve as a template: Senator

From page 1

been put into dark places. There is a sunshine at Kerry’s Place, and that sunshine comes in attitude.”

Arriving back in Aurora after touring a group home in East Gwillimbury – where they dropped a not inconsiderable amount of money on art created by Kerry’s Place clients – they were welcomed by staff and volunteers at their Berczy Street headquarters to properly begin the celebrations, including a cake cutting.

They were also welcomed by Councillor John Abel, who paid tribute to Kerry’s Place’s 40th anniversary on behalf of Council and the Town.



Kerry’s Place CEO Sally Ginter, Board Chair Jeff Holmes, Senator Jim and Ginette Munson, and Councillor John Abel celebrate the organization’s 40th anniversary.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

He told the assembled crowd one of the things that motivated them to become involved in child advocacy was the untimely death of their infant son who lived with Down syndrome. Since that life-altering event, they have watched as awareness has grown for people living with mental health challenges as governments and organizations have stepped up to the plate to lend a hand.

He was also inspired by his days as a journalist, covering an orphanage for kids with physical and intellectual challenges in Cambodia. Appointed to the Senate by Jean Chretien after serving as his press secretary, he said he made it his mandate to be “The Children’s Senator” and has worked to be an advocate for kids with autism, including getting recognition for April 2 as World Autism Day.

Seeing the artwork created by Kerry’s Place clients, he said, created a “magical moment” of seeing the capabilities of their clients in action.

“We have travelled this country and seen so many good works done by many groups involved in the autistic community, but today has been the best,” he said. “Kerry’s Place should be a template for others in terms of life-long

care, which I think has gotten lost in the debate. There is a crisis in this country, we all know it, and that crisis has to do with those adolescents and adults who have no place to go like they have in Kerry’s Place.”

Celebrations for Kerry’s Place 40th Anniversary will continue throughout the year. Beginning in April, they will be highlighting a new story and achievement each week for 40 weeks, including clients, staff and volunteers. This summer, they also promise their annual Volunteer Recognition Day, will be bigger and better than ever. Events will conclude in November with a special gala. For more information, visit kerrysplace.org.

Budget approval lags behind other Regional counterparts

From page 3

sparked the debate that Aurora might be better served if these budget deliberations begin as early as possible.

The debate stemmed from a proposal for nearly \$640,000 worth of water main relining along MacDonald Drive and Haida Drive. This project has been over a year in the making and when tenders were issued last May for the project, two bids to complete the work came back for \$946,616 and \$1,092,851. The Town cancelled this project, which originally had a \$700,000 budget, added \$350,000 to the 2014 Capital Budget at the end of last year, and re-tendered in January.

The result was a very different picture – with the winning bid coming in at \$635,600.

Looking at the nearly \$300,000 discrepancy, Councillors wanted information on how this came in so significantly under the new budget.

“The rationale is there is a substantial cost savings compared to prices received in 2013 and the reason is likely due to the late issuance of the bid,” said Councillor John Gallo. “If that is the case, maybe we should start the budget in January...because I can’t imagine that big of a variance because we put out a tender. Perhaps we didn’t know that when we put it out again that it would be that much lower because if we did know, why would we request an increase of \$350,000 to the budget? It just doesn’t add up to me.”

According to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora’s Director of Infrastructure, when tenders are issued in May, contractors often already have their workloads in place for the year to meet their annual targets and adding more, late in the game, can result in increased prices.

“Lo and behold, they have an early tender and being first on the street, they are looking for work and we are very fortunate to get pricing that we actually expected in 2013,” said Mr.

Simanovskis. “It is a good news story and I think Council’s comment being that the sooner we get the documents on the street, the better pricing we seem to get overall.”

Added Town Solicitor Warren Mar: “Timing is key and there could be market conditions that we were not always aware of from this year to last year and I think it just shows how important timing is to the issuing of tenders.”

Nevertheless, some Councillors agreed that when it comes to the budget, getting things done earlier should be considered.

“We should gear our budgets so we have a cut-off that we know we’re talking about hundreds of thousands of dollars if we wait a month or two,” said Councillor Gallo.

Councillor John Abel said he agreed that it is better to get things done sooner, and things would have been done sooner this year if final approval hadn’t been deferred at the request of other councillors.

“A lot of municipalities have their whole budget done in January whereas we go to March and we haven’t even finalized ours, but at least we move forward the capital to take advantage of getting our bids in early because if we were still at that stage now, who knows what that cost would play to the taxpayers by not doing so?” he said.

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House League

106 Timbits - San Jose Teal: 8
 Benjamin Licata 2G, Easton Bailey 3G 1A, Jonathan Sandras 1G 2A, Leo Lagasse 1A, Owen Cauley 1A, William English 1A, Brennan Mangat 2G 2A,
104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 2
 Nolan Whittaker 1G, Andrew Vaughan 1G 1A,

103 Timbits - New York White: 4
 Aiden Miller 2G, Kyle Cordingley 1G, Isaac Oldenhof 1G 1A, Jaiden Gunanathan 2A, Jayden Dosanjh SO,
107 Timbits - Minnesota Dark Green: 0

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 6
602 Laurion Law Office: 0

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 8
602 Laurion Law Office: 5

608 Inaria: 6
607 Caruso & Company: 0

607 Caruso & Company: 1
602 Laurion Law Office: 5

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 5
 Luke Pignatelli 1G, Kyle Macfarland 1A, Giancarlo DeAppollonia 1A, Andrew Pignatelli 3G 1A, Christopher McGee 1A, Wolfgang Gross 1A, Daniel Bhoi 1A, Tyler Regan-Avila 1G 1A, Hunter Edwards 1A,
606 Mastermind Toys: 3
 Michael Parkin 1A, Joshua Turriff 1G, Devon Bourrie 1A, Aaron Preiano 1G, Gregory Gatzopoulos 1G 1A,

811: 1
 Beckham Georgio 1G, Ryan Ruskanen 1A,
804 Investors Group: 5
 Anthony Liva 2G, Patrick Facca 2G, Ben Godber 1G, Josh Hookey 1A,

810 Peirce McNeely Assoc. Lawyers: 4
 Kyle Wulle 2G, Andrew Sutherland 2G, James Samson 1A, James Kypreos 1A,
801 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 1
 Will Morin 1G, Jack Dion 1A, Alexandre Meunier-Geoffroy 1A,

805 York Region Auto: 1
809 Manhattan Trophies: 3

811: 2
803 Optimist Club of Aurora: 8

809 Manhattan Trophies: 3
801 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 9

807 Sundance Signs: 4
811: 1

909 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 5
 Mike Walsh 1G 1A, Ross Benn



AMHA RESULTS

2A, Adam Ashraf 2G, Ian Rucker 1G 1A, Chris Grossi 1G,
908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 2
 Brendan Ruuskanen 1G, Jack Bishenden 1G, Alex Carter 1A,
907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 4
 Harrison Ghazouli 1G, Cameron Screech 1G 1A, Matthew Bellerby 1G 1A, Jordan Screech 2A, James Power 1G, Ryan Batten 1A, Ethan Mills 1A, Zak Keller 1A, Joel Robinson 1A,
905 VEGFRESH: 3
 Joey Stipeć 2G, Troy Foster 1G, Patrick Bourrie 1A,

908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 7
 Alex Carter 1G, Derek Keun 4A, Riley Weller 1G, Jiyan Yilmaser 1G, Greg Rutherford 1A, Micheal Montesanti 1G, Domenic Fiorini 1A, Mathew Iezza 1A, Jack Bishenden 1G, Jacob Hatton 1A, Geoffrey Siow 1G 1A, Stewart Reid 1G,
904 Orr & Associates: 1
 Michael Boorn 1G, Matthew Hall 1A, Devon Hope 1A,

902 Mayfair Systems: 5
901 Pizzaville Aurora: 8

908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 10
 Greg Rutherford 4G, Brendan Ruuskanen 2A, Mathew Iezza 1G 2A, Jack Bishenden 1G 1A, Jacob Hatton 1A, Riley Weller 3G 1A, Stewart Reid 1A, Brett Diamond 1A, Micheal Montesanti 1G, Domenic Fiorini 1A,
906 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company: 2
 Jacob Hagias 1G, Liam Gray 1A, Zachary Machell 1A, Hunter Jones 1G, Nick Stangolis 1A, Lockhart McMann 1A,

Rep League

Tyke - Select A: 5
Georgina: 2
 Marcus Gingl 1G 1A, Jacob Belisle 1G 2A, Luc Warner 1G, Lucas Reid 1A, Erik Guilbert 1A, Nicholas Ferrante 1A, Nate Brentnell 1G, Jared McNeil 1G,

Novice A - Orillia: 9
Aurora Tigers: 0

Novice AA - Aurora Tigers: 4
Newmarket: 3
 Wilhelm, Lucas 1G, Mc Namara, Owen 1G 1A, Windle, Nathan 1G, Kristof, Norbert 1G, Dimoulas, Thomas 2A, Barber, Charlie 1A, Rayner, Noah 1A, Yorke, Daniel 1A,

Novice AA - Richmond Hill: 3
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 3
Markham: 1

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 10

Georgina: 0
 Ryan Blakley 3G 1A, Kevin Wasserman 2G 3A, Malcolm Parkinson 1G 4A, josh mcleod 1G, Ethan Powell 1A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1A, Yi Wang 1G, Sam Belman 2G 1A, Sam Spong 1A, Nolan Chiarelli 1A, Julian Martin SO,

Minor Atom AA - Innisfil: 6
Aurora Tigers: 3

Minor Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 4
Markham: 3

Minor Atom AE - Markham: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1
 Ryan Blakley 1G, Kevin Wasserman 1A, Malcolm Parkinson 1A,

Minor Atom A - East Gwillimbury: 9
Aurora Tigers: 5

Minor Atom AE - Markham: 4
Aurora Tigers: 2
 Josh Mcleod 1G, Matthew Keizer 1G 1A, Ethan Powell 1A,

Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 2
Barrie: 0

Ryan Catania 1G, Tommy Hollett 1A, Owen Hollett 1G, Jacob Hoffrogge 1A, Anthony Russo SO,

Atom A - Nobleking: 5
Aurora Tigers: 3
 Michael Crowe 1G, Dylan Andersen 1G, Jonah Spataro 1G, Todd Cook 1A, Jack Sutherland 1A, Max Reeves 1A, Michael More 1A, Ethan Solilo 1A,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 2
Clarington: 1
 George Rappos Jr. 1G, Tyler Cox 1G, Nicholas Petinarelis 1A, Ryan Weeks 1A,

Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 4
Nobleking: 0
 Charlie Huxley 1G, Dylan Andersen 1G 1A, Ayden Whilby 2G, Ethan Solilo 1A, Jonah Spataro 1A, Jack Sutherland 2A, Noah Ruscica 1A, Jack McFarland SO,

Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket: 1
 Owen Hollett 2G, Jacob Hoffrogge 1A, Ryan Catania 1A, Anton Sopov 1A,

Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 3
Barrie: 0
 Jonah Spataro 1G 1A, Ayden Whilby 1G, Todd Cook 1G 1A, Dylan Andersen 1A, Noah Ruscica 1A, Jack McFarland SO,

Minor Peewee A - Aurora Tigers: 4
Newmarket: 2

Minor Peewee AE - Aurora Tigers: 7
Peterborough: 1

Peewee AE - Stouffville: 5
Aurora Tigers: 3
 Noah Johnson 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Owen Romano 1G, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1A, Rony Wahab 1A, Noah Dempsey 1G, Cooper Judson 1A, Cooper Judson 1A,

Peewee A - Newmarket: 5
Aurora Tigers: 2
 Tyler Sawyer 1G, Harris Goan 1A, Anthony DiPietro 1G, Myles Vasilevski 1A,

Peewee AA - Georgina: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1

Peewee AE - Newmarket: 2
Aurora Tigers: 1
 Luke Catania 1G, Carson Williams 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A,

Peewee AE - Stouffville: 6
Aurora Tigers: 1
 Luke Catania 1G, Jack Patterson 1A, Jason Gage 1A,

Minor Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 6
Nobleking: 0
 Mathew Hastings 2G, Jamie Stewart 1G 1A, Ben Spittle 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1G 1A, Peter Chimienti 1G, Fin Reeves 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1A, Andreas Imperio SO,

Minor Bantam A - Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3
 Ben Spittle 2G, Fraser Ciocca 1A, Jamie Stewart 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1A,

Bantam AE - Stouffville: 3
Aurora Tigers: 2

Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 5
Markham: 2

Bantam AA - Aurora Tigers: 3
Georgina: 1

Bantam AE - East Gwillimbury: 4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Bantam AA - Georgina: 7
Aurora Tigers: 5

Bantam AA - Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 1

Bantam A - Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3

Midget AE - Pickering: 5
Aurora Tigers: 2

Midget AE - Ajax #2: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1

Williams’
volleyball
champs
celebrate
winning
season

By Jeff Doner

The students of G.W. Williams high school were treated to an afternoon of fun heading into the March Break, when their York Region championship junior boys volleyball team faced off against a team of staff members for a friendly match.

The school also unveiled their new Wildcats mascot at the event, who the school is hoping will help grow school spirit among students.

G.W. Williams staff member Lynn Weller said the event was more about showcasing the young squad that was able to clinch the championship in November.

“I was so proud of the boys that they won the York Region Championship and I just don’t think that they were acknowledged well enough,” she said. “So I wanted to put something on where the other kids could see these great guys play, but then I wanted it to be fun, so I had to ask the teachers if they wanted to play and they all stepped up and had a great time. It was also a nice way to kick off the March Break.”

With hundreds of students on hand to watch the fun, Weller said the hope is to create a buzz around sports teams at the high school.

It was a long season for the young squad, but they were visibly proud to be able to show off their trophy and championship banner to their peers.

“It was an overwhelming feeling,” said Grade 10 player Ben Kissack. “We lost to the same team that we beat a week before, but we destroyed them in the final. It was ridiculous and we only have a handful of rep guys, so it was pretty good. It was fun and a great season.”

The team they needed to beat was Pierre Elliot Trudeau High School from Markham.

“Commitment put us over the top,” Kissack explained. “Out of the 12 guys, everyone came to practice every morning and after school the whole season. I’m hoping our setter, who is in grade nine, will play up next year and

Continued on page 14





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FREE Week of March 13, 2014



Tigers rookie Tyler Boston celebrates his game-tying goal in the third period of game four against the Newmarket Hurricanes on Tuesday night. It was his first of two big third period goals that helped the tigers come back to win game four and sweep the Hurricanes out of the playoffs.
Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

Tigers trounce Hurricanes in first round, before moving on to Cobourg

By Jeff Doner

After winning the first three games of their series against the Newmarket Hurricanes, the Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey club dealt the final blow to their Yonge Street rivals with a come-from-behind 6-2 win in game four last Tuesday.

Early on, however, it wasn't all that pretty due to a sluggish start for the Tigers, which had them down 2-0 midway through the second period.

Kory Kennedy scored to make it 2-1 before the period was over, but head coach James Richmond said his team needed to give their heads a shake heading into the final 20 minutes.

"There's not much paint left on the wall in there," he said after the game. "The effort and urgency wasn't there, we weren't playing with much desperation and in the third period we had a lucky goal...I think when we got our first one at the end of the second, I told the guys, 'they are on their heels, if you want it, take it' and we did by really taking to them in the third."

The message was clearly sent and received, as the Tigers came out in the third period looking to regain some momentum.

Tigers' rookie Tyler Boston was the one who would provide some heroics when he buried the tying goal with about 12 minutes left. It was also Boston's first career OJHL playoff goal.

Minutes later, Dylan Sikura put on a great display of patience when he found the puck in front of the net, held on to it, dangled his opponents and then roofed it over Newmarket goalie Bo Bessette to give the Tigers their first lead of the game.

And they didn't let up there as Boston tipped in his second goal of the game just a minute later.

"The first one was a lucky bounce and the second one was a tip, but it felt good, obviously, to get my first two career OJHL playoff goals," Boston said, who admitted his team needed a wakeup call early on.

"It was about coming out and playing with desperation. They were hanging by a thread and we wanted to cut that thread for them and win all the battles. We knew that if we worked hard and did that the chances would come our way and they did."

Now with a two-goal lead in hand, the Tigers didn't stop there. At 14:59, crafty defenceman Eric Williams carried the puck in on the Newmarket goal and though his first shot failed, he made no mistake on

the rebound, scoring on the power play to make it 5-2.

Michael Laidley added another for the Tigers after tipping a shot from Kennedy over Bessette to make it a 6-2 final.

"It feels great and the boys really deserved it," said scrappy forward Adam DiBrina. "We played a good, hard four games and we were the better team coming into the series, so it just feels good to finally put that away and focus on the next series now."

As one of the team's veterans, DiBrina has been solid for the Tigers this post-season and was confident his team was going to wake up after a listless first period.

"We just talked about that if we wanted to win this game it was all about staying in control and that's been a big thing for us coming into the playoffs," he said of the conversation during intermission. "We kept cool heads, stayed confident and we really just outworked them. That's what it really was. We outworked them in the corners, put pucks on net and focused on that and sure enough came out with the wins."

He also said the series may have been a little closer than meets the eye.

"The last two games were close and they gave it a great fight for sure. In this league you just can't walk into a series and expect to blow out every team on any night. We knew that coming in and they fought hard."

All in all, the Tigers outscored the Hurricanes 17-6 in four games and were supported by consistent outings by two-time OJHL goalie of the month Kevin Entmaa, who boasts a 1.50 goals against average and .944 save percentage thus far in the playoffs.

Richmond said the series sweep was a full team effort, but mentioned a few key performances stood out in game four:

"It was nice to see [Boston] score and he made some nice plays that didn't go in the net as well," he said. "But the whole team played well and I think Entmaa was the difference in the whole series and that's what he's going to have to be."

The Tigers have since been off for a week to rest, nurse their wounds and work on getting ready for their northeast semifinal series with the Cobourg Cougars.

"Whoever we play is going to be tough," Richmond said of the Tigers' next opponent. "We'll just keep rolling and attacking with 20 guys."

Game 2 of the series against Cobourg is this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at ACC.

Richards is Keeper of the "Fame"

By Brock Weir

Although she spent last weekend ice fishing when the weather became a little bit more hospitable, Catherine Richards, Manager/Curator of the Aurora Historical Society, wasn't necessarily a sports buff.

That is, until just a few short years ago when she was appointed with the task of curating the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

Ms. Richards first became involved when the Aurora Historical Society was asked to join the organizing committee of the inaugural Aurora Sport Hall of Fame, and, from there, they helped organize and establish the Hall of Fame's Foundational Committee, and steer it towards the sold-out gala event which inaugurated the Hall of Fame in grand style last fall.

"I had very little knowledge about sport history as it related to Aurora," she says of those early days. "What was great was last year working with inductees to create exhibitions that were held in November in the Skylight Gallery at Town Hall, it was fabulous being able to connect with the inductees, learn more about their accomplishments, and get a sense of how rich Aurora is in terms of its sports history."

"It is just a new dimension of knowledge I am learning and adding to. I like to learn new things all the time, so this is a great project because not only is it historical in nature but with the people involved it is also very contemporary. These are people who have accomplished so much and honouring them today is a contemporary way of highlighting history."

For the moment, artefacts that

peppered last year's exhibitions are now back in the careful hands of their owners, but in the future, as the future of the Aurora Collection is firmly established and the Aurora Historical Society learns whether or not their bid to curate the collection for the future was successful, Ms. Richards says she then hopes to focus on creating a proper repository of Aurora's Sports history.

"There were some fabulous things lent to the Hall of Fame last year for the exhibition that hopefully, once the Aurora Collection is up and running, we will be able to return to them and ask if they would be willing to donate them. We hope the Hall of Fame can really be a mechanism to support the Aurora Collection and the Sports Collection component."

The deadline to nominate 2014 inductees is March 31. Forms are available through Sport Aurora at www.sportaurora.ca or by calling 905-727-4776.

"Last year there was quite a good selection of nominations and they pared it down to seven," says Ms. Richards of nominees. "I imagine they will have a great intake again this year and I look forward to working with whomever that committee decides to put forward. We're fortunate to have such strengths in that area. Whomever is included, I look forward to learning more about them and learning about their sports experiences."



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THE AURORAN Arts & Culture



(Clockwise from top left) Artist Adubi Akino painted portraits of music greats with remarkable speed as the Blues Bash continued on Thursday night. Singer Jerome Godboo brings down the house at Theatre Aurora as the first performer on the final night. Councillor John Abel, representing the "Council Critters" was joined on stage by Mark "Bird" Stafford. Young musicians had their moments in the spotlight as well, including this group sponsored by The Arts Music Store, who played during Thursday's Blues Bash. Daddy Long Legs, a Waterloo-based garage blues band featuring Chris "Junior" Malleck on harmonica and Mike Elliott on guitar and vocals, played Theatre Aurora on Friday. Thursday's Blues Bash also provided an opportunity to highlight two charities benefiting from the Blues Bash including Blue Door Shelters and CHATS.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Music fans pack Theatre Aurora, Cultural Centre and restaurants

From page 1

many people we have in the lower half of our socioeconomic ladder here that wind up homeless.

"Since I started, we opened up a family shelter and a youth shelter and I am sorry to say the problem hasn't gone away. Unfortunately, it has gotten a lot worse. [Our beds] are full to overflowing every night of the year and sadly we have to turn away well into the hundreds on a weekly basis. People who have grown up and live in York Region, one of the most affluent Regions in the country, don't have a place to stay. That to this day still shocks me."

Homeless people, he added, often think the world has forgotten them. By the time they knock on their blue door, they have usually exhausted their own support networks and run out of places to go and they end up on the streets thinking nobody cares. Events such as the Blues Bash, he said, lay this myth to rest.

"Events like this remind clients there are people in their community who are doing things to show they care about them. We remind them they are not forgotten and I can't tell you how far that goes

to help the people we work with just to know that people still care."

People often forget about the needs of seniors in the community as well, added CHATS CEO Christina Bisanz.

"People have given so much to their community and country over the years, but quite frankly, they have come to a point where living on their own, or with increasingly more complex medical conditions makes it difficult for them to remain in their own homes and live independently with dignity," she said, underscoring the importance of CHATS transportation program, which provides over 76,000 rides annually to 4,000 seniors throughout York Region.

"There are challenges that come with aging and challenges for people with parents who are aging so you have your own lives and families to care for, but what happens if mum falls and breaks a hip? What happens if dad starts to show signs of dementia and can't cope as well and suddenly your life becomes uprooted and challenged to? That is where CHATS can come in. [Programs ensure] no elderly person in our community is left behind without the kind of care they need."

The Great Reunion series ends next week with the "sounds of Hoagy" and Hazelton

By Brock Weir

A singer, actress, and artist, Terra Hazelton had a meeting of the minds when she first met the multi-talented John Sheard.

Mr. Sheard is the musical director of CBC's Vinyl Café with Stuart MacLean and Ms. Hazelton hit the road with the show in 2007. Travelling around doing a month of shows with MacLean and Sheard, she had so much fun that she wanted it to continue. When pondering what was to become her sophomore album, "Give Me What You Got", she looked no further than Sheard for her producer.

The duo brings their chemistry to Aurora next Friday, March 21 at the Aurora Cultural Centre for the final event in Mr. Sheard's concert series "The Great Revue", which launched in January.

"John and I are starting to bounce around some ideas and specific things we want to do and we meet up this week to go over things," Ms. Hazelton tells The Auroran. "Together, we will massage the show and put it together. I have a new trio record out, so I want to do songs from that, but we also have a lot of music from the album John and I made together. There is nobody I trust more in terms of helping me put together the set list."

Ms. Hazelton says she knew almost from the outset that she wanted to be an artist in some way. She began singing when she was five, and dancing when not much older. By the time she was in her early teens, she was already an old hand at improv, practicing her craft at a comedy theatre.

"I just knew in my heart of hearts I had a desire to be a performer. I knew I loved singing and I knew I loved to make people laugh, so I decided early on it would never be just one, and all throughout my life I would do my best to continually do it all. I have this incredibly strong need to express myself artistically and it is what keeps me sane"


Lately, she says, her music has tended to drift away from what she describes as the "raunchy blues", but maintaining a strong connection to the audience – and herself.

This is what she says she hopes to convey when she takes to the stage next week at the Cultural Centre.

"For me, it is more important the audience goes away remembering they had a great time," she says. "It is important they remember songs and moments, but my job as a performer is just to give them such a well-rounded night that has so many moments, sad moments, happy moments, moments where they are laughing that at the end of the day they don't come home and write down set lists, but feel they have experienced one of the greatest times they have had in a long time."


Tickets for The Great Reunion are on sale now for \$25 in advance, or \$30 on the day of the concert. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. for the 8 p.m. show. For more information, call the Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818.


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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

The Aurora Cultural Centre (22 Church Street) offers a free Out of this World Youth Creative Writing Workshop for ages 10+. Learn 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 as places are limited. To register, drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818 or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Join the European Club tonight where folkdance, history, handcraft 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 Topouzov 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

FRIDAY, 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

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Eating Disorders of York Region’s Riverwalk Wellness Centre hosts its second annual “Songs to Recovery” this afternoon from 2 – 4.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Join EDOYR for a celebration of spring, hope and recovery! Live music and art show. Admission by donation at the door. Suggested donation of \$5 to \$10. EDOYR’s Riverwalk Wellness Centre is a registered non-profit agency providing hope and support for individuals and families affected by eating disorders. For more information on this concert and to find out about other support programs, visit www.edoyr.com, email info@edoyr.com, or call 905-886-6632.

* * * *

One Parent Families of York Region will host a dance tonight starting at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North). A light buffet will begin at 10.30 and the dance will feature a great DJ for the over-40s. Sponsored by the One Parent Families Association. Tickets are \$18, and \$15 for members of York Singles.

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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

The God Particle – Join local award-winning physics teacher Dave Doucette at Aurora Public Library for an informative presentation on recent findings in Cern, Switzerland about the Hadron Collider and the Higgs Boson. Learn about particle physics, a field filled with physicists dedicated to reducing our complicated universe to its most basic building blocks. 7 – 8.30 p.m. Reserve your seat by calling 905-727-9494 x275.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Garden Aurora! The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society invites you to get away from your hectic schedule and enjoy your garden once the sun goes down. Award-winning designer Wolfgang Bonham will guide us through “The Evening Garden: Garden Design After Dark”. Join the Society at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) at 8 p.m. for refreshments and the opportunity to become a member. For more information, visit www.gardenaurora.com or call 905-713-6660.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

The Toronto Watercolour Society will hold a reception for its Spring Aquavision Show tonight from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Juror Ernestine Tahedi, has selected the best water media paintings entered for this show by members. Selected wards of merit will be presented at the Reception. Refreshments will be served. The reception is open to the public.

* * * *

Also at the Aurora Cultural Centre, a reception for internationally-acclaimed fine art photographer Arline Malakian presents her show “The Gaze” in the Great Hall Gallery. All are welcome. Light refreshments. Fully accessible building; elevator entrance at the north doors. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents a free Bark Carving Demonstration with wood carver Marlene Ash. Enjoy the process as Marlene creates a whimsical house out of cottonwood bark. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Blue Gallery. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

The Aurora Community Arboretum will hold its annual “Meet and Greet” meeting at Aurora Town Hall tonight beginning at 7.30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and hear what progress has been made in the arboretum and what plans are for 2014. A brief Annual General Meeting forms part of the evening and new members and volunteers may sign up. For more information, call 905-727-6474.

* * * *

Tickets go on sale today for the Aurora Seniors Centre’s Black Tie Gala, which will be held May 9. This is a formal event to enjoy an elegant evening of dinner and dancing with dessert, tea and coffee. An appetizer table will be available before dinner. A cash bar will also be available, along with prizes to be won. Doors open at 5.30 p.m. with dinner at 6.30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Tickets will be available until May 2.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

The Probus Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Come out and enjoy the company of other retired and semi-retired men and women in a social atmosphere as they listen to this month’s guest speaker, Eric Conroy. Eric will make a presentation on the restoration of the ship S.S. Keewatin which is now a floating museum docked at Port McNicoll. For more information on our speaker, call Program Chair Cliff White at 905-841-2421. New members are welcome! To learn more about the club, contact Membership Chair Gary Gilbert at 905-885-2849 or join at the meeting.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School will host a Spin-A-Thon today. Students will donate 80 per cent of all money taken in to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation. The other 20 per cent will go towards extracurriculars such as sports teams and clubs.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents The Banjo Special with guest artists Arnie Naiman, Chris Coole, Chris Quinn, and Brian Taheny. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of the concert. For more information, call 905-713-1818 or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

APRIL 25 – APRIL 26

The Aurora United Church Spring Rummage Sale will once again be held Friday at Saturday at the Yonge and Mosley Church. Friday, April 25 from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m., individual prices. Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., bag sale. Sale items include clothes, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. For more information, call 905-727-1935.

FRIDAY, MAY 9

The Aurora Seniors’ Centre hosts its Black Tie Gala this evening from 5.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. This informal event of dinner and dancing will be catered with a buffet dinner with dessert, tea and coffee. An appetizer table will be available before dinner. A cash bar will be available as well as prizes to be won. Dinner is served at 6.30. Non-members and singles are encouraged and welcome. Tickets are \$25 each and \$30 for non-members. Tickets will be available from the Centre through May 2.

ELECTION 2014

Council considers restricting open forum, broadcasts in election year

By Brock Weir

Broadcasts of Council and General Committee meetings, as well as Open Forum, could be shut down early this year as the 2014 Municipal Election approaches.

Councillors are considering a recommendation from municipal staff to cease bi-weekly broadcasts of Aurora’s Council meetings on Rogers-TV and alternate weeks of live streaming online General Committee meetings at the end of June to “avoid any inappropriate use of the Town’s resources for campaign-related purposes”. Additional recommendations include terminating Open Forum, the time at the beginning of each Council meeting for residents to come and speak their mind on a variety of issues, also at the end of June.

“[This would keep Open Forum] from being misused for electioneering, which would put the Chair of the Council meeting in the awkward situation of having to interrupt members of the public from speaking out and dismissing them from the podium,” said Town Solicitor Warren Mar in his report to Council.

His recommendations were discussed at last week’s General Committee meeting. Although a final decision has been delayed until next week, Councillors were reluctant to act on anything which might limit its interaction with the public, particularly when it came to broadcasting and live streaming.

“Council meetings are not televised for the benefit and convenience of Council,” argued Councillor Evelyn Buck. “They are televised for the benefit of the people at home who want to pay attention to what we are doing and, more importantly, they want to pay attention immediately before an election [more] than any other time.”

These were concerns shared by the majority of Council, including Councillor Michael Thompson who said Councillors have the “inherent responsibility” to keep the public informed and a balance had to be struck between “open and transparent government” versus potential “misuse” of the forum.

“My preference is to continue broadcasting,” he said. “If Rogers chooses not to broadcast it, then so be it, but that will be their decision. As long as we are conducting Town business, it is important that the Town be able to be engaged and informed.”

According to Mr. Mar, municipalities such as King and Markham do not broadcast their Council meetings by live video, although Markham provides an audio feed, which they will continue throughout the election period. Newmarket does not stop broadcasting their meetings due to the impending election, but Rogers will cut their feed at their final Council meeting of September to allow for the campaign. Status quo will remain throughout the election period for Richmond Hill and Vaughan.

Councillors, however, were more divided when it came to Open Forum. Speaking in favour of cutting off the microphone by the end of June, Councillor Thompson said it was in line with recommendations coming from other municipalities that follow a similar pattern where people can come up to the podium during an election campaign, make “outlandish statements” and Council, under proper procedure, has no way to formally respond to their statements.

“People could come in and make accusations rightly or wrongly and there is no opportunity to rebut those,” he said. “There may be greater potential in the run-up to an election for somebody to come in and make outlandish statements and there is nothing we could do. As a delegation [Council] would be able to respond.”

These were sentiments shared by Councillor Paul Pirri, but others, such as Councillor Buck, said Open Forum should remain open to all until, in the words of Councillor Chris Ballard, “the bitter end.”

“I think Open Forum is one of the better things we have done,” he said. “I love the spontaneity that at 6.55 on a Tuesday someone can be upset and passionate and be able to talk to us about it. If someone is saying something at the podium they perhaps shouldn’t be saying, we have the opportunity to cut off their microphone and tell them to cease.

“If someone is being slandered, I guess there are always options for them. It is all part of the process. I would hate to see it ended



School unveiled new mascot at match

From page 10

hopefully we can go to OFSAA next year. That’s the goal.”

Mitchell Law-Heese was another player who had a big role in winning the championship and said the game against the teachers was the perfect way to celebrate their success.

“It was a fun game and a relief that we won,” he said with a grin. “There was a lot of people here and we got to show off a bit in warm up. It was a lot of fun.”

The boys team ended up winning the friendly against the school staff, but the two sets were a lot closer than they expected.

Weller said the event itself was just another positive the players can add to their list of achievements looking ahead.

“I feel like we have a mini-dynasty when it comes to volleyball,” she said.

Auroran photos by Jeff Doner

because I think it is a fantastic way for people to come forward without having to do a lot of prep and tell us what they are feeling.”

Mr. Mar’s recommendations would also limit campaigning at Town-operated events such as Ribfest in September, or the summer Concerts in the Park series. Councillor John Gallo, however, said he didn’t agree with that recommendation and questioned the harm if someone wanted to “walk around with a t-shirt and hand out flyers”. Although Mr. Mar said that those events are there to “foster a sense of community” and not for electioneering, he said it is just being fair. Councillor Gallo, nevertheless, pressed on.

“What better opportunity for the Town to facilitate these events than having the residents in the Town have a better understanding of who they could potentially be voting for?” he said.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, however, said she disagreed.

“I agree when people come to our events they are coming to enjoy themselves and I don’t think it is right that we campaign there,” she said. “I think we can wear buttons and t-shirts, but I don’t think we [should] actively campaign.”

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Aurora students face off in trial of drug dealer murder – but all in good fun

By Brock Weir

It’s not every day that Aurora’s Natalie Ganzhorn’s fate was in the hands of the courts – and herself.

That is just what happened, however, taking the stand last week as a “suspect” in a murder trial.

Given the facts of this case, a description of the night in question, and possible motives, it was up to her to face down the prosecution and convince them why she should not face first degree murder charges for throwing a known drug dealer off an apartment balcony.

For the aspiring lawyer, however, it was all in good fun as students from across York Region participated in a mock trial tournament at the Newmarket Courthouse.

Natalie was one of several York Region students singled out for their prowess in the courtrooms after the mock trials concluded last Monday. She was awarded “Best Witness” when all was said and done and her convincing testimony brought her character’s First Degree Murder charge down to manslaughter.

A lucky break, but a reassurance her public speaking and debating training at Country Day School has served her well.

“You are given the basic information like age, occupation, and an outline of the night in question,” says Natalie. “There is a lot of room for you to think on the spot and you have to develop the story as you go. It requires a lot of impromptu thinking and it is up to the witness to answer any questions however they want when they are put on the stand.”

As an aspiring actress as well, who will be appearing in a life imitating art portrayal of a high school student looking to become a lawyer in Andrea Martin’s new sitcom “Working The Engels”, which premieres this week on Global TV, she had no trouble portraying “Wally” who was accused of the murder.

“I allegedly went over to a drug dealer’s house and pushed them over the balcony of their apartment,” she



Among the winners in last week’s Mock Trial, which brought together dozens of students from across York Region, were (left) Natalie Ganzhorn and (right) Grant Kavanagh, both of Aurora. Auroran photos by Brock Weir and Jeff Doner



explains. “My character was drunk at the time and the motive behind Wally going over to this man’s house was my character’s brother had been charged with dealing drugs, but the drugs my brother had been dealing had actually belonged to the man I was accused of murdering.”

It was really “cool” as a learning experience, she says, to be able to watch lawyers for both sides jostle and seek out an advantage in the process, but although she wants to be a lawyer herself, being on the other side was enlightening and provided a different perspective.

“I probably would have tried to talk more about how I went to the apartment unarmed,” she says with a chuckle. “Since I was initially charged with first degree murder, you have to show a plan prior to the night in question. I probably also would have better tried to hide the fact my character was drunk!”

Poking holes in stories from the other side of the table was fellow Aurora student Grant Kavanagh who studies at Pickering College. Grant too received an award last Monday night as part of an eight-member team of lawyers receiving the “All Star”.

Grant also took on “Wally” and other witnesses to try to discredit what they had said. His team was also given the same information to work with, but Grant went a step further in putting his own dad through the paces, having

him memorize the witness statements and then face a barrage of questions from his son.

“He wasn’t very good – but the witness was a lot better on the stand!” says Grant.

“The main thing we learned was the importance of preparation because when you are going against all the different schools, all the schools are operating on a different level of intensity and the pressure they put on their teams and how much success they have had in the past. Every single lawyer is so well-versed in what they are going to say. They have different options, so when somebody throws a curveball, they are ready for all that stuff.”

Curveballs were almost his own undoing this time around, he adds.

Tourney is chance to show off “greatness of community”

From page 12

Dr. Gannage says he has been waiting years for the opportunity to bring this tournament to the Aurora and Newmarket communities and has secured ice space at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex in Aurora as well as the Magna Centre in Newmarket. The tournament has grown steadily over the years and while a comparative lack of hotels in the area was one stumbling block to overcome, the doctors agreed they would have no trouble filling up available hotels across York Region and making the 15 minute trek from wherever they land.

“I have always wanted to bring this to our community because I always wanted to give back,” he says. “It is such a great cause and a lot of fun. After enjoying it for so many years, I thought it was our opportunity to contribute. Docs locally in Newmarket and Aurora have played every Wednesday for 20 years. We do it to blow off steam and hang out together.

Organizing this is a lot of work, but we just felt the call to help out.

“For me, this is an opportunity to share in the greatness of our community – both the hospital community, but more so the community we live in. Doctors work hard and we are devoted to the procession, but we don’t often take time out for self. There is more than enough work to be done and your work week can just take over unless you try and take control over it yourself. Playing hockey is an example of trying to create that element of balance in our lives and this tournament is another example of trying to create that element of balance. It is something that is inked in and honoured every year and the guys look forward to it. It is all about charity, camaraderie and sportsmanship.”

For more information on this year’s Docs On Ice tournament, the CMHA, and volunteer opportunities, visit docsnice.ca.

Marching into Spring



**SENIOR
SCAPE**

Charles Sequeira

The Aurora Seniors’ Centre will host our annual Spring Sale on April 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors’ Centre. Please join us, there is something for everyone: White elephant room, huge book sale, BBQ, vendors with many treasures, crafts, and much more! Items for the white elephant room can be dropped off between April 21 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Centre.

CHATS’ Virtual “Walk for Wellness” program

Our Seniors Centre had two teams that participated in this program from February 1 – 7. Each participant was asked to walk at least 50,000 steps during this week. Our seniors had two teams: the Aurora Seniors Walkers and Aurora Seniors Board Bunch.

All funds raised will go to CHATS to support seniors’ programs and services in our communities. We thank all our Supporters for their donations during this campaign.

Funds raised by the two ASA teams, \$1, 500, go directly to CHATS’ services for seniors.

2014 Community Recognition and Citizen of the Year Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2014 CRAs and Citizen of the Year awards (they are being combined into one program this year). Do you know a person or organization that is making Aurora a better place to live because of their volunteer efforts? Make sure they get the recognition they deserve by nominating them for a community recognition award.

From now until March 13, we will be promoting nominations through as many channels as possible. For further details please refer to the poster on our bulletin board or our LED display in the seniors centre reception lobby or go to www.aurora.ca/2014 awards.

The 5th Annual Choral Extravaganza...

...was held at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on January 26. Our Evergreen Choir was fortunate to share the stage with eight other choirs. This mass choir of approximately 250 singers was comprised of a school choir; a French choir; two male choirs, seniors, church, and community choirs, and one we had the privilege of meeting for the first time, the Sri Lanka-Toronto Choir.

Each Choir performed a selection of songs and then the finale was the mass choir performing three pieces. It was an excellent show from start to finish and was thoroughly enjoyed by both the participants and the audience. It takes a lot of hard work on everyone’s part to pull off a successful concert such as this. Congratulations to our Evergreen Choir for their excellent performance, and for representing Aurora and the Seniors Association so well.

2014 Community Service Grant Program

On behalf of the Suncor Energy Foundation and Jim Abram (Company retiree & ASA member), ASA is very pleased and thankful to be awarded with a Volunteering Grant for \$750 in support of Jim’s volunteer work with Aurora Seniors’ Association.

Suncor is proud to support Jim and the organization he serves in our community. This program recognizes volunteerism as an integral part of strengthening communities and allows us to show our support for those of you who take the time to get involved and help out where there is a need.

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

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Offer includes delivery, destination, fees and **\$5,000 IN CASH SAVINGS**. Offer based on 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E) with a purchase price of **\$23,993**. Excludes HST.



2014 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK



Optima SX AT shown*

THE NEW 2014
OPTIMA

hwy / city 100km*
5.7L/8.9L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS
~~\$147~~

\$107[≠] **\$0 DOWN.**
BI-WEEKLY for the first
15 MONTHS.

6-SPEED AUTOMATIC

0%
financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. \$107 bi-weekly payments include \$1,280 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Optima LX AT (OP742E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to \$147. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.*



"BEST ECONOMY CAR"
MOTORING
2014



Forte SX shown*

THE ALL-NEW 2014
FORTE

hwy / city 100km*
5.3L/8.0L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS
~~\$98~~

\$78[≠] **\$0 DOWN.**
BI-WEEKLY for the first
15 MONTHS.

6-SPEED MANUAL

0%
financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. \$78 bi-weekly payments include \$640 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E), financing for 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to \$98. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount.*



(SiriusXM)

SATELLITE
RADIO



STEERING WHEEL
AUDIO CONTROLS



AUX & USB
INPUT PORTS



Rio4 SX with Navigation shown*

THE NEW 2014
RIO

hwy / city 100km*
5.3L/7.5L

THROWBACK PRICING

WAS
~~\$91~~

\$68[≠] **\$0 DOWN.**
BI-WEEKLY for the first
15 MONTHS.

6-SPEED MANUAL

0.99%
financing

Includes Variable Throwback Pricing Incentive. \$68 bi-weekly payments include \$736 Throwback Pricing Incentive. Payments are based on 2014 Rio LX MT (R0541E), 60-month financing amortized over 84 months. After 15 months, bi-weekly payments increase to \$91. Principal balance of \$4,660 due after 60 months. Throwback Pricing Incentive may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce financed amount.*



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YOU COVERED**
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OFFER ENDS MARCH 31ST



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The Power to Surprise



Offer(s) available on select new 2013/2014 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery by March 31, 2014. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to \$1,665, \$34 DMV fee, environmental fee, variable dealer administration fees (up to \$399) and \$500 A/C charge (where applicable) and excludes licensing, registration, insurance, other taxes and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. *Offer available on the retail purchase/lease of any 2014 Rondo from participating retailers between March 1-31, 2014, upon proof of current ownership/lease of a competitive cross-over vehicle. Competitive models include specific VW, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Honda, GM, Ford and Chrysler vehicles. Some conditions apply, ask your retailer or go to kia.ca for complete details. *Cash purchase price for the new 2014 Rondo LX MT (RN551E) is \$23,993 and includes a cash savings of \$5,000 which is deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease and finance offers. Retailer may sell for less. *Throwback Pricing available O.A.C. on financing offers on new 2013/2014 models. Financing for 84 months example: 2014 Optima LX AT (OP742E)/2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E) with a purchase price of \$26,755/\$27,915 (including \$1,485 freight/PDI and \$299 administration fee) financed at 0% for 84-month period with \$0 down payment equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of \$107/\$78 followed by 150 bi-weekly payments of \$147/\$98. Throwback Pricing Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing Incentive for the 2014 Optima LX AT (OP742E)/2014 Forte LX MT (F0541E) shown is \$1,280/\$640 (a \$40/\$20 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. See retailer for complete details. Throwback Pricing is a trademark of Kia Canada Inc. 60/84 Amortization Financing example: 2014 Rio LX MT (R0541E) with a purchase price of \$15,915 (including \$1,485 freight/PDI and \$299 administration fee) financed at 0.99% for 60 months amortized over an 84-month period with \$0 down payment equals 32 reduced bi-weekly payments of \$68 followed by 98 bi-weekly payments of \$91 with a principal balance of \$4,660 plus applicable taxes due after 60 months. Cost of borrowing is \$33.61 and total obligation is \$16,427. Throwback Pricing Incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. The Throwback Pricing Incentive for the 2014 Rio LX MT (R0541E) shown is \$736 (a \$23 reduction in 32 bi-weekly payments). Limited time offer. Offer excludes HST and other applicable taxes. See retailer for complete details. *0% purchase financing is available on select new 2013/2014 Kia models O.A.C. Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for complete details. *Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2014 Forte SX (F0748E)/2014 Optima SX AT (OP748E)/2014 Rondo EX Luxury (RN756E) is \$26,395/\$33,095/\$20,095/\$22,295. *Highway/City fuel consumption is based on the 2014 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl (M/T)/2014 Optima 2.4L GDI (A/T)/2014 Rio 1.8L GDI 4-cyl (M/T)/2014 Rondo 2.0L GDI 4-cyl (M/T). These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the *EnergyGuide/Fuel Consumption Guide*. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. Sirius, XM and all related marks and logos are trademarks of Sirius XM Radio Inc. and its subsidiaries. 2014 Top Safety Pick - U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) for model year 2014. U.S. model tested. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.



New**Roads**.ca
Automotive Group

NEWROADS GIRLS NIGHT OUT 2014

A HUGE SUCCESS



NEWROADS INSPIRES CHANGE

It was just four years ago that International Women's Day celebrated their 100th anniversary, the inspiration behind the NewRoads Automotive Group first Girls Night Out.

This year we were very lucky to be inspired by Rhonda and Gabby Daleman. Rhonda is a Newmarket resident of 16 years and mother of two world champion figure skaters - daughter Gabby and son Zack. We also celebrated Gabby's success as the youngest Canadian athlete named to Team Canada to compete in the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.

NewRoads Girls Night Out 2014 raised \$5000 (\$9500 over the last four years) for the Women's Centre of York Region, a very valuable resource, inspiring change for women.

NewRoads sends a special thank you to all employees, volunteers, local businesses, firefighters, and attendees who continue to make the evening tremendous success. Community matters to all of us at NewRoads. For event information, photos and video visit us at newroadsigno.com.

Kelly Broome-Plumley
Customer Relations Manager, NewRoads Automotive Group



New**Roads**
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NewRoads Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC • Kia of Newmarket • Richmond Hill Subaru
NewRoads Financial • New Roads National Leasing

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Kia of Newmarket

AWARDED
CANADIAN
DealerRater
DEALER OF
THE YEAR



We congratulate NewRoads Kia of Newmarket for achieving this distinction for customer satisfaction amongst Kia dealers across Canada," said Chip Grueter, president of DealerRater.

Kia would like to express their sincere appreciation to the many customers who visited the DealerRater website and submitted reviews.

I wear it for
my mother.

Buy a daffodil pin.
Support Canadians
living with cancer.



Canadian
Cancer
Society

cancer.ca



Dorthe, daughter
of a uterine cancer
survivor.

NewRoads is proud to support the Canadian Cancer Society. Donations can be made and pins can be picked up at our dealer locations during the month of April.



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