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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

CMCA AUDITED

Vol. 14 No. 20 905-727-3300 | theauroran.com | FREE Week of March 20, 2014

Aurora is top place to live in York Region: ranking

By Brock Weir

Aurora is the best place to live in York Region, and among the best in Canada – so says MoneySense Magazine in their annual ranking of Canadian communities.

The magazine ranked Aurora as 24th best place to live in Canada in their Top 25 ranking, one place higher than North Vancouver, British Columbia, offering the "best overall quality of life in Canada."

"This little town outside of Toronto is growing quickly," said the magazine in its findings. "Average incomes here are sixth-highest in the country, coming in at more than $133,400. They'll need the money too. Average house prices here top $560,300."

Aurora was the only York Region municipality to make the Top 25. Topping the list overall was St. Albert, Alberta, a suburb of Edmonton. MoneySense singled out the community for its low unemployment rate of approximately 4 per cent, falling crime rates and high incomes.

While large cities like Calgary still made the grade, the majority of communities in the Top 25 were medium cities of 100,000 to 400,000 people like Burlington, Ontario and smaller communities like Aurora.

Following the announcement of the survey on Wednesday, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe welcomed the news and said it pointed to a "thriving community" with a bright future.

He also said there are opportunities to be taken away from the results.

"I think this is great for a town of some 60,000-odd people," he said. "We have lots of green space with access to Canada's largest city and all the amenities it provides while still having a small-town feel. I think it is the combination of all of that together. We have great facilities, we have great resources in

Continued on page 3

Outdoor rinks, such as the one at Town Park, above, were cited as prime amenities by Mayor Dawe following the release of this year's ranking. Auroran photo by David Falconer

(From Left) Loren Freid, Executive Director of the Alzheimer Society of York Region, Christina Bisanz, CEO of CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors), Kent Milford, president of the Cartwright Group, and Marie Lauzier, Executive Director of York Support Services Network, are currently hard at work turning the former home of Canada Law Book into a new kind of community hub.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Cartwright Building set for new life as community health care hub

By Brock Weir

For decades, the Cartwright Building near Yonge Street and Edward Street was home to the venerable company Canada Law Book. Now, four years after the sale of the company, the building is on the cusp of becoming a community health hub.

"I think we got used to being the only child, but now the siblings are moving in," says Christina Bisanz, CEO of CHATS (Community and Home Assistance for Seniors).

After nearly two years of CHATS having plenty of elbow room in the 102,000 square foot office and warehouse space, they will soon be welcoming the Alzheimer Society of York Region and York Support Services Network, as they move the majority of their operations into this building to create a new model of a healthcare campus.

Following the sale of Canada Law Book from Ian Cartwright to Thompson-Reuters in 2010, his Cartwright Group explored various options for their expansive Aurora headquarters, according to Cartwright Group president Kent Milford. Mr. Cartwright, a retired Ontario Provincial Court Judge and philanthropist, has always had the interests of the community at heart, says Mr. Milford, and this presented a unique opportunity.

"We came to the conclusion that what would be the best for all concerned was to attempt to divide

Continued on page 8

Cardinal Carter plans reunion party to mark 25th anniversary

By Brock Weir

When Cardinal Carter Catholic Secondary School first opened its doors 25 years ago this year, they started with just 189 students, mostly in Grade 9, and a skeleton staff of just 14.

Largely serving the students and families of Aurora, King, and Oak Ridges, these students in close quarters were primed for leadership positions within the school, and watching this all unfold was Helen Lacroix, head of the English department.

Over a quarter century later, Ms. Lacroix is still the department head and has been able to watch the school grow, scale back and find new life again – and now she's sitting on the committee spearheading a spring party to celebrate how far the school and its alums have come.

"We starting talking about this last May and we just thought this was the time to celebrate," says Ms. Lacroix. "We decided the best day would be in June when all the more recent alums are home from university."

Celebrations will start on Saturday, June 14 at 10 a.m. with registration, followed by a mass in the school led by Father Joe Gorman of Aurora's Our Lady of Grace Catholic Parish. After that, 25 years of the school's principals will gather to reminisce with students.

Reunion attendees will have the chance to sign a large banner which will subsequently be displayed in a prominent location in the school for years to come, and a chance to break out into groups in classrooms celebrating the years of each graduating class – and it is here that organizers hope graduates and former students really hop on the bandwagon.

"We have about 300 likes on Facebook, but we would like more alumni to come forward and grab memories," says Ms. Lacroix. "Each graduating class will have a classroom and we are hoping they will take the reins, gather memorabilia and photos to really put on a display

Continued on page 19

Helen Lacroix has been with Cardinal Carter since its inception, and is helping steer their 25th anniversary celebrations this June.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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
Monday, March 24	7 p.m.	Special Council**
Wednesday, March 26	7 p.m.	Public Planning*
Tuesday, April 1	10:30 a.m.	Joint Council Committee
Tuesday, April 1	6 p.m.	Special General Committee – Audit Committee
Tuesday, April 1	7 p.m.	General Committee
Wednesday, April 2	7 p.m.	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, April 3	7 p.m.	Environmental Advisory Committee

Meetings are open to the public and held at Aurora Town Hall. Council meetings can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit **www.aurora.ca/calendar**

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

** Pending Council approval on Tuesday, March 18

2014 AURORA VOTES

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Wi-Fi in Aurora

Wi-Fi Hotspot

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

Doors Open Aurora

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

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 the murder & mayhem genre to Aurora Public Library on **Monday, March 21** from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call to reserve your seat. 905-727-9494 ext. 275.

Higgs Boson

Join local award-winning physics teacher Dave Doucette on **Tuesday, March 25** at the 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 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call to reserve your seat. 905-727-9494 ext. 275.

YRT/Viva Public Information Session

YRT/Viva invites residents to attend an upcoming Public Information Centre (PIC). Visit the Aurora Public Library on **Tuesday, March 25** between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to offer your input on YRT/Viva services surrounding the 2015 Annual Service Plan. Your feedback helps shape public transit in York Region. Please visit www.yrt.ca for more information about this session and others scheduled throughout York Region.

Outdoor Skating Rinks

Residents are advised that the four outdoor ice rinks located at Machell Park, Aurora Town Park, Ada Johnson Park and Confederation Park will no longer be maintained. Thank you for a terrific season!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

Mechanic
Application deadline is **Friday, March 28**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Aurora Art Show and Sale

Calling all young 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:	12 to 17 year olds
Price:	$15 registration fee

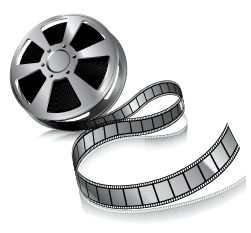
The deadline to register is **Monday, April 14**. For more information or to register, please visit www.aurora.ca/artshow

Aurora Community Arboretum AGM

The Aurora Community Arboretum is hosting its annual meeting at Aurora Town Hall on **Monday, March 31** at 7:30 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend to hear the progress that has been made thus far in the arboretum and plans for 2014. New members and volunteers are welcome to sign-up at this time.

For more information, please contact Nancee Webb, Director of the Aurora Community Arboretum, at 905-727-6474.

Dinner and a Movie



Toy Story 3 (Rated G)

Where:	Aurora Public Library
When:	**Saturday, March 22** 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

To the curb by 7 a.m.

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.

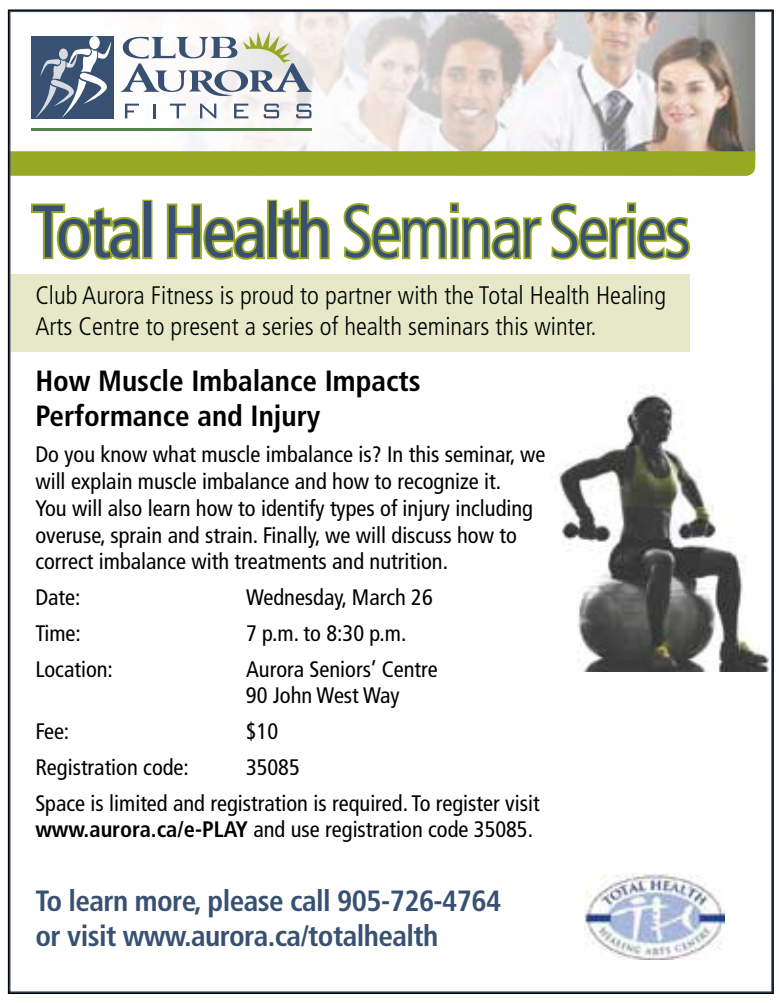
Please be aware that the time of collection in your area may change at any time, without notice. If items are set out late, collection vehicles will **not** return to pick-up these items.

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-wate.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



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

Aurora chef named one of Canada's Top 30 Under 30 by hospitality industry

By Brock Weir

The long-awaited spring officially arrives on Friday and for Aurora executive chef Andrew Evans, it is the time of year when the creative juices really start to flow.

As co-founder of Cookery Catering, the local company which tailors menus for events big and small, and has become a popular mainstay of the Aurora Farmers' Market, he is waiting for the warm weather to kick in to welcome fresh harvests of asparagus and fiddleheads.

While he has been waiting for the arrival of the fiddleheads, he has not been whiling away the winter twiddling his thumbs; Mr. Evans was named this month one of the Ontario Hostelry Institute's Top 30 Under 30 for 2014. The program recognizes young entrepreneurs and trail blazers who are seen as the "rising stars" of the hospitality industry.

"It is a big accomplishment," he says. "I was proud to be one of the ones selected – and even nominated – at the beginning of this process. I like the way this program acknowledges all sorts of different jobs within the hospitality industry, so it is not narrowed down to just chefs or restaurateurs.

"This is definitely good for our brand and our name."

Mr. Evans co-founded Cookery Catering with Mat Orr. They take their work seriously and this acknowledgement, he said, really helps to make a mark on their business.

On the road to becoming an executive chef, Mr. Evans says he had a "good upbringing of good food." His parents and grandparents were very kitchen savvy, and he grew up watching them, and particularly his grandmother, cook. He would pitch in and lend a hand cooking dinner and it was a time not only to learn on a hands-on basis, but also absorb stories of the family restaurant as they worked over the stove and countertop.

"I thought it would be nice to find a local restaurant to work in," says Evans. "From there, I just discovered my true love and passion for what I do. That turned into going to culinary school and I completed my program at Niagara College. From there, I did an apprenticeship at Magna Golf Club in Aurora and did some travel through Asia and Europe."

Cookery Catering co-founder Andrew Evans, right, and Mat Orr, centre, with chef Ryan Neal, at the Aurora Farmers' Market. Mr. Evans believes his recognition will lead to great things for their company. Auroran photo by David Falconer

In practice, Evans says he defines his cooking style, and that of Cookery Catering, as "local and seasonal."

"I really love everything out of the garden," he says. "Being a chef, I think it is important to have a good involvement in knowing where your food comes from, how it is produced and being able to watch it grow," he says, noting that he takes part in a community garden in Snowball where they are involved in the whole growth process, harvesting the finished product after the requisite weeks or months.

"It is nice to get out of the winter months and have something to look forward to during the spring and summer. Then, during the fall, you have all of the root vegetables you are able to produce. It's not only the garden, but it is also to support local farmers and other local businesses and use their products because there are a lot of fantastic products out there you can use from Niagara to way up in Northern Ontario. [You can also use] a lot of Canadian products like seafood, beef, or poultry. There are so many different aspects of food we have in our industry and we are so lucky to have it right at our fingertips in Canada."

The approaching spring, he says, excites every chef because everyone is getting out of the cold, long winter, the ground warms up, and then the magic happens. After the asparagus and the fiddleheads make their way to the table, then there will be mushrooms, and in the late spring, the first of the berries.

"There is lots to look forward to," he says. "This is my passion and I love it every day. I wake up and there are always new heights to climb."

Leaders sense an opportunity after MoneySense ranking places Aurora in top 25 of Canadian places to live

From page 1

Town, including our outdoors. There are a lot of things to do, and it is a great place to raise a family."

In their ranking, MoneySense used a picture of the Aurora Cultural Centre as something emblematic of the community, and this is a facility Mayor Dawe says is a huge draw. Amenities like the Cultural Centre and the Aurora Public Library next door, he says, attract a lot of people, as do great restaurants.

"There are fewer reasons people need to leave Town for entertainment," he said. "I think we have to use this as a stepping stone. We haven't had a problem selling houses. Brookfield opened a couple of weeks ago and they had 650 people register for 50 lots. So, while I don't think selling houses is a problem, I think we can use this as part of our marketing strategy for businesses.

"Why would you want to locate here? Because it is a great place for people to live. People want to live here and I am sure people would much rather live closer to where they work."

Judy Marshall, CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, says she also sees the MoneySense ranking as an opportunity for the business community. Access to public transportation, Aurora's central location within the Region, and access to almost anywhere in Ontario is a hallmark of the town, she says.

"It is also the community itself and how the community seems to work together to make business better, make social interaction better and very positive. People do look at stats, and they do look at how your town is reviewed when they want to move a business here, or be a resident here, and they will see all the positives."

When asked whether the ranking indicates anything that should be prioritized or bolstered from the Town Hall perspective, Mayor Dawe added the message is to "keep on doing what we're doing."

"We need to focus on providing the amenities that people have come to expect, and doing that in a cost-effective manner is obviously always the challenging part," he says, noting Aurora just barely cracked the top 50 the last time around. "I think there is a better sense of calm about the Town. There is a better sense of working towards a sustainable future. We're building our piggybank up. We're moving in the right direction to provide not only for now, but in the future, and we're working ahead."

Briefly

TAX INCREASE EXPECTED THIS WEEK

Aurora Council is set to formally approve the 2014 Budget this week. As The Auroran went to press, Councillors were due to meet to sign off on a 3.75 per cent increase on the municipal portion of your residential tax bill. Combined with a tax hike from the Regional level, as well as school taxes, it will result in an overall hit of 1.99 per cent. For the average Aurora home marked with $550,000 in assessment value, this will result in an increase of $109.44. Commercial properties are expected to face a 1.13 per cent combined tax increase this year as well. For a commercial property also assessed at $550,000, this translates into an increase of $122.51 on your tax bill. For updates on Council's decision, check back at www.theauroran.com and watch for full coverage in the March 27 edition of The Auroran.

COULD HALLMARK LAND BECOME A RECREATION SITE?

Aurora Councillors are due to enter into closed discussions this week to consider "a potential land purchase" of the Hallmark Cards building at 100 Vandorf Sideroad, near Industrial Parkway South. Although Councillors remained tight lipped on what would be discussed due to closed session confidentiality, Mayor Dawe would not rule out to The Auroran that the land was being eyed for possible future recreation use, such as a soccer field, something he said was needed in the south end of Town. "That would certainly be a possibility," he said. "There is a 200,000 square foot building and there is a big piece of property, part of the whole package is a pretty substantial field."

"GIVE BACK" AWARD DEADLINES APPROACHING

When John Crowell looks over applications each year for the annual Give Back Awards, he wonders just what he did with his high school years. But, for the Manager of Social Responsibility for Magna International, it is an eye-opener to the breadth of unique and wonderful things students are doing within their school and their community as a whole to make a difference and, yes, give back. Applications are now being accepted through March 28 for the 20 awards of $500 cash for 20 students attending school in Aurora, Newmarket, and Georgina who have made a positive contribution to their fellow students and citizens, visit newspapers-online.com/auroran/?p=5834.

YORK REGION TRANSIT WANTS YOUR INPUT

York Region Transit (YRT) and VIVA want your input next week on their 2015 YRT and VIVA annual service plan, to help shape transit in York Region. Public information sessions began this week in King, and make their way to Aurora this Tuesday, March 25, at the Aurora Public Library from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. To review the proposed 2015 plan, visit yrt.c/en/aboutus/serviceplanning.asp.

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"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
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Letters to the editor

Councillor has "no confidence" in Joint Ops decision

The joint works and parks facility was contemplated five years ago at the time of the last Development Charges calculation.

The period for using those charges has ended.

It is questionable the charge can be made again in the circumstance.

Because the new facility is required because of age and inadequacy, only a minor change can be attributed to growth and derived from development charges. The larger share must be borne by the current population through property taxes.

Parks were making good and productive use of the Hydro property. The office section was being used for storage of town archives. The yard stored heritage salvage but, for the most part, awaited its purpose.

A lease to The Department of National Defence was not contemplated.

Last year's estimate for the facility was $14 million. Council approved going to the next phase.

The next report was due in October 2013.

It was ready, but not brought forward.

New estimates were said to be closer to $24 million.

November came and went. Still no report.

Finally released in December, new estimates were just shy of $19 million.

Items had been removed from the previous plans to bring the cost down.

Council, as a whole, was not privy to the changes.

It was clear as clear could be, when the report was finally presented, the Mayor and followers had made a decision. Arguments were synchronized. Votes were in hand. It didn't matter a hill of beans what might come forward in a public debate.

A plea to step back and review the history fell on deaf ears.

A final figure for the project will not be known until contractors submit their prices.

Information about financing can neither be accurate nor complete.

An expenditure of that magnitude with inaccurate and incomplete information cannot be seen to be in the municipality's best interest

With half of Council opposed, there can be no confidence the decision is acceptable to the community.

Councillor Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Resident taken aback at "fear mongering" over Heritage District plan

(Re: Politics as Usual & Brock's Banter, March 13, 2014)

I read with interest Alison Collins Mrakas' column and both agree and disagree with her comments.

I agree the consultation process was lacking, particularly in advising the residents in the area under discussion as to the advantages of heritage designation.

I disagree, however, that "the proposed south east Aurora heritage district is dead in the water" or that "it will in all likelihood not proceed." I feel once the benefits of designation are properly explained the majority will embrace the concept.

I also attended Council on March 4, 2014 and was quite surprised and taken aback by the amount of misinformation, fear mongering and, to put it politely, the outright untruths put forward by the delegates in opposition of the plan.

I agree with Brock in his Brock's Banter column that these delegates "did not reflect a full picture of feelings in the area." I too could not understand why proponents of the plan "decided to sit on their hands and not express their views", or why Council did not request the consultant Carl Bray to address some of the misinformation.

I am pleased that Council has not decided, as yet, to shelve this project but to have a further public information meeting.

This will hopefully address some of the erroneous information that is circulating and give the residents the facts regarding designation so that they can make an informed decision as to whether this is what they want for their neighborhood.

Graham Wride
Aurora

Community's ranking shows Aurora is on the "right path"

The April 2014 issue of MoneySense magazine has identified Aurora as one of the best places in Canada to live; specifically, 24th best place in Canada to live, sixth in Ontario and first in York Region!

In 2012 Aurora was 48th and in 2009 Aurora wasn't even ranked.

It is clear evidence that we are on the right path as we build our community and attract new businesses.

It is clear evidence that the "Aura" has been put back in "Aurora".

Keep up the good work, Mayor Dawe!

Nancy Black
Aurora

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The People's Choice

BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

Perhaps I have become jaded, but there are few things in the world anymore which truly mystify me – but that has not always been the case.

In hindsight, it seems like small potatoes now, but when I was a tween and into my early teens, one of the things that mystified me was a single part of Hollywood's so-called "awards season", which kicks into high gear in January.

The season often gets started by what are seen by many to be some of the less "prestigious" awards, like the People's Choice Awards. This was the one that had me baffled. After all, I thought to myself, who in their right mind would choose the Adam Sandler film "Big Daddy" as their favourite comedy in 1999?

Alas, nobody came a-knockin' to ask what I thought – calling into question the entire idea of the "people's choice", of course.

Perhaps that sowed some seeds of resentment, so I began looking closer to polls around me. All too often I found myself on the opposite side when pollsters told me what "Canadians want, think, or believe." A cursory check of my birth certificate indicated this was not necessarily the case.

In any event, I wanted to make my voice heard and, after the age of 18, marking a simple X on a ballot went a long way to do that, but there was still something missing.

I wanted to be one of these Canadians that could, with a simple tap on their touchtone phone, become one of these vaunted decision-makers, included in the mix to keep the country's collective fingers on the pulse of the nation.

I waited. And waited. But finally the phone rang! It was Ekos research – and these survey makers may have very well got their most excited response in company history… until it turned out to be a consumer survey on Canada's favourite brand of paper towels and sanitary products.

It was a disappointing start, but a start nonetheless and it turned out to be a watershed moment. Within a few months, calls for surveys were coming in fast and furious, but no one seemed to understand my enthusiasm for giving them the time of day. Such subjects covered in these phone conversations included environmental issues, the past three federal and provincial elections, the performances of Stephen Harper, Stephane Dion, Michael Ignatieff, Dalton McGuinty, Kathleen Wynne, Tim Hudak, and, hitting closer to home, Frank Klees.

Most recently, an Ipsos computer dialled me up to ask me how likely I was to vote for Justin Trudeau in the next Federal election, in the impossible scenario that a Federal election would be held in the next month. The touchpad gave options ranging from "Highly Likely" to "Not at All Likely". I would be lying if I said my response did not reflect my frustration with the Conservative Party's continual sophomoric attack ads on Trudeau which, at the end of the day, merely mock the work he has done for charity.

Nevertheless, it felt good that the vote was counted – but I should have enjoyed it while it lasted. In the last three calls I have received from various pollsters, there is a curious trend emerging this year. After a few preliminary questions, along comes this one, "Do you, or a member of your family or household, work in television or print media?"

It seems nowadays that an answer in the affirmative shuts down the entire conversation and they allow you to go back to eating your dinner, which seems to be the time most polling companies are in the most urgent need of an answer.

So, I am back to square one – back in the Siberia that is cut off from polls. I want to reply, "journalists are people too!", but now that the People's Choice Awards have moved online, I will have to content myself with that.

With this in mind, in my four-and-a-half years of covering Aurora politics, it has always astounded me that not everyone is as eager to have their voices heard, whether it is attending a meeting, responding to a survey, or even writing a letter on what is on their minds.

As Alison Collins-Mrakas noted last week, there might be a communication at Town Hall, but there also seems to be an environment of people having no desire to become engaged in the process until a decision made by a committee, Council, or Legislature ultimately affects them directly.

The most recent case in point, as was noted last week, is the hullaballoo over the proposed Heritage Conservation District. After it had been discussed countless times by Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee, and hit the Council table for further discussion at least a handful of times, it had to take Council's potential vote on moving forward with the second phase of the plan for residents opposing the plan to come together at the eleventh hour to state their case.

SIT NOW, COMPLAIN LATER

It is, however, a ritual Aurora goes through with a re-assuring degree of regularity and that time of year is upon us. This week, Council is due to formally approve a 3.75 per cent increase to Aurora's portion of your tax bill which, combined with increases from the Region of York as well as what you pay into the education system, translates into an overall impact of 1.99 per cent for the year on your tax bill.

The tax bill covers a myriad of things ranging from cost of living increases to keeping things humming along at Town Hall to the necessities of the Central York Fire Services. Some people will consider it to be a modest increase, while others will be upset that their tax rate is going up by anything but zero.

The curious trend is to sit back and watch it all unfold – or letting it unfold while putting on a blindfold – with the intention to simply complain about it later after you really had a chance to make a difference.

This year, I attended, I believe, all but two public Council and Committee meetings related to the budget and, by my count, only three Aurora residents came forward to express their concerns or ideas of what should be included in the 2014 budget, or what should come out to help ease the burden on their fellow taxpayers.

Out of the entire Town of Aurora – just three, and of these three, one of them was a registered member of Council.

Inevitably, however, if Council signs off on the Budget this week there will eventually, particularly in this, an election year, be complaints over how this could have happened. These complaints will take the form of letters, blog posts, comments on said blogs and, in some cases, at the ballot box in October.

But, before you fire up your computer, pick up your pen, or plan out some strategic voting in your heads, take a moment to ask yourself where you were in the process and if you had solid ideas to put forward on where you could make a difference? They could have been helpful, they might not have been, but throwing them out there when you had the chance could have had an impact.

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!

RESULTS March 18, 2013	Green	Liberal	NDP	PC
	10%	61%	5%	24%

Christina, a bartender at the newly-opened DNA Night Club on Yonge Street near Orchard Heights, gets into the St. Patrick's Day Spirit. Several local bars, pubs, and restaurants got their Irish on early on, busting out the green beer and shamrocks as early as Friday.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Ottawa Report

LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA)

This landmark agreement constitutes Canada's first free trade agreement in the Asia-Pacific region and will provide new access for Canadian businesses and workers to the world's 15th-largest economy and the fourth-largest in Asia.

The CKFTA is projected to create thousands of jobs for hardworking Canadians by boosting Canada's economy by $1.7 billion and increasing exports to South Korea by 32 percent.

South Korea is not only a major economic player in its own right and a key market for Canada; it also serves as a gateway for Canadian businesses and workers into the dynamic Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

CKFTA will have a net positive benefit on Canada's auto industry. The protective effect of Canada's 6.1% tariff on auto imports from South Korea has been diminishing dramatically, as it is expected that soon 50% of South Korean-brand vehicles sold in Canada will enter Canada tariff-free from the US under NAFTA.

It is untenable for Canadian exporters' to face such a financial disadvantage compared to the US and EU by having to pay South Korea's 8% import tariff.

Since signing free trade agreements with South Korea, auto exports from the U.S. to South Korea have more than doubled (from $340 million in 2011 to over $800 million in 2013) and auto exports from the EU have doubled (from $2 billion in 2010 to $4 billion in 2013). Canadian exporters have been at a competitive disadvantage relative to their US and EU counterparts and the CKFTA will level the playing field.

The Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement will create jobs and open the door to the lucrative Asia-Pacific market for Newmarket-Aurora businesses.

D-Day Commemoration Funding for Veterans

This year marks the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. These historic events are one of Canada's most significant and successful military engagements and have become an enormous source of national pride.

D-Day and the campaign that followed in Normandy would help signal the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

To commemorate the occasion, Prime Minister Stephen Harper will be leading a Canadian delegation to France to participate in special events to be held June 5-8. Accompanying him will be D-Day Veterans, representatives of Veterans' organizations and more than a thousand Canadian youth and cadets.

Veterans Affairs Canada is making available $2,000 in financial assistance for any veteran of these two historic events wishing to attend the anniversary festivities in France.

Anyone wishing to apply should do so right away by contacting 1-866-522-2122, visiting veterans.gc.ca or emailing Normandy-normandie@vac-acc.gc.ca.

We owe a great deal to all our Veterans and they deserve our respect for the tremendous service and sacrifices they have made. This important commemoration is one way that we can show our appreciation.

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Summit 2014

I was pleased to announce last week in Ottawa, along with Christian Paradis, Minister of International Development, on behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, that Canada will host a high-level Summit on maternal, newborn and child health from May 28-30, 2014, in Toronto.

The Summit, which builds on Canada's leadership in maternal, newborn and child health – will bring together Canadian stakeholders and experts, as well as global leaders from developed and developing countries, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and foundations to take stock of the progress made to date and discuss the way forward.

Saving the lives of mothers and children is not only a moral imperative; it is also the foundation for building prosperous communities for this generation and the next. Canadian efforts have drawn global attention to the challenges of maternal, newborn and child health. With Canadian leadership, we can ensure that all women, newborns and children can live healthy and productive lives.

Lowering the flag on Afghanistan

The Canadian Flag was lowered at NATO's International Security Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul for the last time on March 12.

Since 2001, Canada has deployed to the region its largest military contingent in generations, and now our mission in Afghanistan has come to a close. Over 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members fought to defeat the threat of terrorism and to ensure the freedom of others and to build a stronger, safer world. In the course of this fight, many paid the ultimate price. We owe a great deal to these brave men and women for the sacrifices they made. I know all of Newmarket-Aurora joins me in saying that we will forever be grateful, and we will never forget.

If you would like to contact me on any issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.

Beware the Ides of March

POLITICS AS USUAL
Alison Collins-Mrakas

I read with interest about the current situation in Alberta; specifically the sturm und drang surrounding Premier Redford's rather ill-advised luxurious trip to South Africa with her daughter and her daughter's friends in tow.

The bill to the taxpayers for the trip was a whopping $45,000. This, when other politicians on the same trip spent a few thousand at most. Clearly, an outrageous extravagance that smacks of old time political entitlement mentality.

What I found odd, though, about the furor was that the fury was focused on the money and not on the trip itself. Let's not forget that the purpose of the trip was to attend the funeral of Nelson Mandela. It was not a holiday. Many politicians seemed to lose sight of that fact during Mandela's memorial and funeral – Obama's disgraceful smiling "selfie" springs to mind.

One does not generally drag one's children to a state funeral. It's hardly a fun for the whole family type of activity. The Premier showed a remarkable lack of judgement for her actions.

Regardless of why the taxpayers are outraged – or why they should be outraged – the taxpayers of Alberta are outraged. Her fellow Conservatives are outraged. Her riding association is outraged. They've demanded she resign. And even one of her own MLAs quit the party in protest and now sits as an independent.

That's a lot of people outraged. Pretty devastating stuff for a politician. Her approval rating sits at a mere 20% and falling – if the pollsters are to be believed.

It's one thing to be seen as, or pass some sort of legislation that's seen as "unfavourable", and another entirely to be actively disliked.

And Premier Redford is, apparently, disliked. And "disliked" is the more polite way of describing it. MLA Webber, the now independent member of parliament, said that Ms. Redford was, "…not a nice lady."

Well, of course she's not. She's a politician.

Find me a politician that is "nice" and I will find you one that sits on the back bench – if she or he gets elected at all.

And I'm not sure what being a "lady" has to do with the matter.

Unless she's the Earl of Whatever's wife, I don't think she's Lady anything.

Frankly, it's a bit anachronistic to be describing women as anything but women. Being called a "lady" or worse, not a lady, is pejorative. And it's a throwback to a time when one's class mattered more than one's achievements. The aristocracy of the past has given way to the meritocracy of the present. Let's stay here, shall we?

Regardless of what she's called, the knives are out for the Premier.

Leaked media stories about her revolving door of staff, her "bullying" (the new favourite buzz word. Everyone's being bullied nowadays.). Her haughtiness. Her terrorizing of the little people. And on and on. It's pretty standard stuff. Over the weekend, Premier Redford was called on the carpet by the directors of her party to answer, as the CBC reported, "hard hitting questions…that were at times, brutal." The party is in damage control, trying to stent the bleeding caused by the scandal.

Premier Redford exited the meeting rather serenely, head held high. Smile on her face. She is quoted by CBC as saying she'd received, "Lots of perspectives on how I can continue to do my job as leader of the party. That's fine. I learn every day."

Notice how she frames the discussion? She's happy to learn from others' perspectives on her leadership. It was a rather deft verbal smack-down.

She may not be a "nice lady" but she sure is a tough lady.

On the local scene, the new bloodsport of riding nominations is well underway. The Newmarket/Aurora PC provincial riding has seen some rather intense political in-fighting with a number of casualties already littering the field. It's unclear if there are more to come.

Premier Redford has survived her Ides of March, let's see how well our local politicians – and political wannabes alike – fare with theirs. Will it be a case of "Et tu Brute?" or "Hail Caesar"? Only time will tell.

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

Letter to the editor

Ward system would bring "accountability", town into 21st century

I am proud resident of Aurora for the past 20 years. I have been a vocal proponent of the Aurora ward system for the past 10 years. I am one who will bear the heat of change to benefit the greater interest of all Aurorans.

Recently, the Mayor, in a news article, said that the ward system is "Parochial." I like the good Mayor as a person, however, I do not agree with some of his views.

In particular, I took exception to that belittling "Parochial" statement. To me, the number one function of a Mayor should be to inspire and to uplift citizens, not to be the voice of negativity or doom and gloom. I respectfully suggest, that the only thing "parochial" in Aurora is the "parochial" thinking of the past.

It amazed me to think how a Mayor could make such an outrageous comment that not only insults the intelligence of Aurorans as a whole, but certainly, by association, it insults municipalities to the south, east, west and north of us who do have a ward system in place.

Do our neighbours and others who disagree with our Mayor know something he does not?

Mr. Mayor, you must embrace, welcome and acknowledge change for the greater benefit of all Aurora. Aurora is not the sleepy "parochial" "ol' boys club" Town it once was. The new Aurora is a rich, diverse international Town, filled with innovation and genius.

Newmarket had an "at large" voting system about eight years ago. The people of Newmarket were not being properly served with that outdated system. Council had the same predicament as Aurora has with red tape in realizing the ward system. They faced (as we do) the almost unattainable resident voter approval of 51% to vote in a ward system. But, historically, we can't even get 30% of the voters to come out and vote in a regular municipal election. We are in a Catch 22.

The Newmarket Mayor and a savvy Council simply cut through the political red tape (as allowed by government regulations in all Municipalities) and voted the ward system in.

I am skeptical of our current "at large" voting system. I do not trust that it represents the greater interest and direct proportional representation of the residents. The at large system is an outdated ploy to benefit the few. The old system was perhaps useful when Aurora was a still an open space of farmland with neighbours living far apart. Today, Aurora is a bustling, thriving, enlightened community chock packed with new neighbourhoods, businesses and people from all parts of the world.

And as such, we need a proper ward system to reflect the immense diversity of Aurora, where a Councillor can represent, concentrate and be solely accountable to the particular needs of a particular ward in Town, not the "at large" vast open farmlands of the past.

The direct election of Councillors by wards ensures that local government has a neigbour's face, not an "at large" long distance face. Ward Councillors who have been chosen by the majority of voters in the ward are directly accountable to the ward voters, not to the Mayor's slate or "ol boys "club.

The ward Councilor lives, breaths, attends, solely to his/her ward's needs. The ward Councillor serves solely at the behest and pleasure of the ward voters. That's real proportional and democratic representation – not the wool over your eyes at large system.

If that ward Councillor does not address people's genuine concerns, or does not serve with respect and integrity, or does not reflect the needs of the ward properly, then these Councillors will be voted out at the next election. The magic word here is accountability. That word is non-existent in the at large system.

Fellow Aurorans, you are the real power in Aurora, not the Mayor, not Council.

Tell Council you demand accountability from them, and that you want a ward system with proportional representation – not optical illusions.

Tell Council that you are part of the new International Aurora – not part of a "parochial" Aurora.

Anthony Pullano
Aurora

(Editor's note: Mr. Pullano is a registered Council candidate for this fall's municipal election)

Water plans could challenge to Tamarac Trail residents: Councillor

By Brock Weir

Aurora's drinking water system may have weathered the storm during this particularly harsh winter, but underground elements might cause undue challenges for one particular Aurora street, argue some Councillors.

Councillors were responding this month to a review of Aurora's Drinking Water Quality Management System, which was compiled at the end of January. In a town-wide review of how Aurora's drinking water system was performing, results were generally favourable.

Out of 895 water samples taken over the course of 2013, for instance, only two samples, both taken in July on Earl Stewart Drive, came back negative before they were deemed positive following a system flush and re-test.

This station at 201 Earl Stewart Drive has often posed challenges to the keepers of Aurora's water, and it is something on which Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services, says his department will keep a close eye.

Responding to questions from Councillor Wendy Gaertner on how the system fared during the December ice storm, Mr. Simanovskis said it passed with flying colours.

"From a system performance aspect, we actually performed well," he said. "We had backup power at our main stations, so we didn't have any issue with our power supply. The challenge we have with any backup system is ensuring power and that is the only thing we had to take action on in this ice storm."

Looking ahead, future tasks moving forward to ensure the quality of Aurora's water include continued monitoring of the Earl Stewart Station, a repainting of Aurora's fire hydrants from yellow to red, coupled with reflective markers, and continued water replacements, but one task which raised the ire of some Councillors is the relining of water mains on Tamarac Trail, near Henderson Drive, in 2015.

Last year, the street experienced three water main breaks and Councillor Michael Thompson questioned why rectifying the problem is at least a year-and-a-half away.

"There seems to be a history of breaks every year, yet we're not going to address it this year," he said. "We're going to wait until 2015, so it almost seems to me that we are setting ourselves up for another break this year and we're not going to do anything."

Funding for the project, said Mr. Simanovskis, was at issue. Money earmarked for construction work on the water system has already been allocated for 2015, but should the funds become available this year, his department would be more than willing to do the work.

"I believe we had three failures in that section, so it is a problematic area," agreed Mr. Simanovskis. "It is something we will be addressing as soon as we get funding for it."

From Councillor Thompson's perspective, however, that time for review is now.

"It is almost saying to the residents who live [on Tamarac] that we know you're going to have a water main break this year, we know there is going to be inconvenience, but we have decided to wait a year," he said. "It almost seems like history will repeat itself and because we don't want to make that decision, we're letting it go and I don't think that is fair to the residents of Tamarac Trail."

Water loss from water main breaks and other pipe leaks have also been of interest to Councillor Evelyn Buck. When the drinking water quality report came up for review by committee earlier this month, before it is due to be formally accepted by Council this week, she suggested the onus should be put on the developers of subdivisions to come up with better solutions to these problems.

"If these pipes are not adequate to do the job, and we have to go in and spend close to $1 million every year to inset something [to reline them] and make them adequate, are we requiring developers to put in different water mains when they put in new subdivision? Tamarac is not an old street."

Report shows employment growth across York Region

By David Pietrangelo

A new report shows York Region has shown exponential employment growth from 2012 to 2013.

The York Region Employment and Industry Growth 2013 report was presented to Regional Council last week.

Some of the main goals of the survey were to help build forecasts of employment growth, inform infrastructure requirements, and help identify economic trends in emerging sectors.

The survey takes data collected between May and August of 2013 to help provide useful information for the present and future of York Region.

The report was able to show numerous positive growths during the time the survey was conducted. Employment growth from 2012 to 2013 outpaced national and provincial labour force growth, posting a gain of 4.3 per cent or 22,800 jobs. This is in comparison to the Stats Canada Labour Force Survey that showed national growth to be at 1.3 per cent and provincial growth at 1.9 per cent.

Year over year, York Region employment growth in all four major industry groups outpaced comparable growth for Canada and Ontario. These groups include manufacturing, retail, business services and institutional.

The institutional industry recorded the highest growth with a massive jump of 7.1 per cent, or 5,027 jobs in 2013.

The Region's total employment numbers also showed significant positive signs. There were an estimated 547,480 jobs in mid-year 2013, resulting in an estimated increase of 22,800 jobs from 2012.

Regional Councillors agreed that the positive numbers show that the Region is very close to its goal of a 2:1 ratio of population to jobs. All four major industries showed excellent growth and the survey helped demonstrate the importance of certain businesses as well.

Out of all the businesses in York Region, 84 per cent of them are small firms with less than 20 employees. That is the largest share of the Region's businesses, confirming the belief that these smaller groups of workers are very important to the growth of the Region.

Business and job growth are fundamental to economic vitality and the numbers show that the economy continues to diversify, as all sectors grew with substantial numbers year over year.

Paul Bottomley, Manager of Growth Management for the Region says that future reports will provide further detail and insights into key sectors and labour force activity, especially in the farming sector.

The 2014 survey will attempt to apply farms and their employees to the study and will continue later this year between May and August. The report summarizes by stating that, "moving forward, the Region will continue to implement sound growth management and economic strategies to attract and keep high quality, good paying jobs across a broad range of sectors."

For more information and a copy of the report visit the Council and Committee section of the York Region website or contact the offices at (905)-895-1231.

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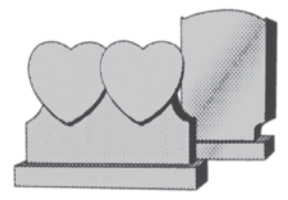
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Accessible playground endorsed for Diamond Jubilee Park, but committee wants more info

By Brock Weir

Accessibility means different things to different people, and that is what people helping steer the latest development of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park are finding.

Members of Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee formally endorsed the concept of an accessibility playground for Diamond Jubilee Park this month, after a contentious meeting of neighbours in January to discuss changes to what was formerly Civic Square Park on John West Way.

Currently home to a small soccer pitch, the Park was renamed in honour of the Queen's 60th anniversary as Canada's Head of State, several months after the formal celebrations of the milestone were celebrated in 2012.

Going further than a simple name change, Aurora Council voted to do something "special" with the park and following a Notice of Motion from Councillor Paul Pirri, agreed in a split vote of 6 – 3 to install a fully accessible playground in the park, which would be just the second such playground in Aurora.

While some Councillors balked at the price tag, clocking in at just under $150,000, the complete set of bells and whistles which could be included in the playground have yet to be determined.

"The Parks Department had an Open House public consultation in January to solicit public feedback from residents and there were also invitations from the Parks Department and other community groups as well so they could provide comment," said Chris Catania, Accessibility Advisor for the Town of Aurora.

This month's meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee sought comments, suggestions and ideas from its members on what components should be included in a design, selected from a veritable laundry list of options presented by clients.

Although most members of the Committee were on board with the idea, Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who opposed the addition of the accessibility playground at the Council table, reiterated her position.

"I honestly don't know where the Accessibility component came from," she said. "I don't think it is in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. My issue with the park is it is too small to be an integrated, accessible playground. We were thinking [an accessible playground] would be over at the [Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex] where there is a big space."

The park is approximately one acre in size, with approximately a quarter of it falling within the hydro corridor.

It is surrounded by multiple townhouse developments with families as well as three adult residences, including two adult lifestyle condominium complexes and one assisted living residence. Speaking against the park, Councillor Gaertner said that one of the reasons she is opposed to it is because the park is already well-used by kids – including members of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club – and neighbours are upset.

Taking the opposite position was Tyler Barker, a long-time accessibility advocate and vice-chair of the committee. Mr. Barker attended the January meeting and said he was "taken aback" by some of the comments made at the meeting.

"There are a lot of attitudinal barriers," he said, noting it could be indicative of somewhat of a generation gap. "One of them asked 'What does accessibility even mean? We didn't have these types of things in the 1950s.' They questioned the noise, but there is noise now.

"I said it is just about getting out and enjoying the atmosphere for some people with their caregivers like those at Kerry's Place Autism Services and Community Living. [The park could be a destination] for even something as simple as having a picnic with the whole group, having an outing, getting them excited, getting sun, and that is as valuable as physical play. I am totally in favour of this and I think it is a great idea in principle, but I am just one individual."

At the end of the day, however, moving forward with an accessibility playground might be a good step forward in the name of practicality, noted Mr. Catania. As of January 1, 2016 municipalities will be required by the Province to make sure accessible elements are incorporated into any new park or redevelopment of a park. It is up to interpretation, he said, on how to define "accessible elements", but it is something that cannot be avoided.

Possible pieces of accessible playground equipment include adapted swing sets, see-saws with back and foot supports, playhouses, water features, raised sandboxes accessible to those in wheelchairs, rock gardens, and other features to stimulate the senses.

In addition to the accessible playground, the Jubilee will also be commemorated with new signage bearing both the Canadian and British Diamond Jubilee emblems, as well as a commemorative plaque listing the names of all Aurora residents who received the Government of Canada's Diamond Jubilee Medal for their public service.

ASK THE DESIGNER

JEAN BISNAIRE

Fearless Mixing with Colours & Patterns

"I see so many beautiful patterns in home decor stores – how do I mix them to look as flawless as they do in magazines?"

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

Today's decor trends are all about mixing patterns, colours and stepping away from being "matchy-matchy".

You can see the same inspiration in fashion trends – colours and mixed patterns in clothing, purses, shoes, jewellery, etc. It may seem daunting when you feel like your patterns aren't jiving but there's a simple trick you can follow to give your space the professional designer look: create themes. This can be achieved with patterns, colours or textures.

I like to caution people against putting bold patterns on sofas or other large investment pieces. Keep those neutral so you can use the toss pillows, throws, art and accessories to introduce the blend you're looking to achieve. Here are some ideas for themes to get you started in your fearless mixing:

Colour: Repetition through colour is always the best way to unify a space. Consider using various patterns that all have the same colour as a uniting factor. Giving patterns this common ground creates a visual story that flows better. When looking to mix colours within your space, consider using complementary colours, blues and yellows for example, for a dynamic and visually pleasing combination as they play up each other's intensities.

Why not take the colour theme and create a black and white story? Mix patterns of varying scales that are all black and white and you will have an instantly dramatic look. Take it the extra step by throwing one pop of accent colour in there whether it's with a throw, accessory or even fresh flowers.

Have a particularly bold painting with a loud pop of colour? Carry the same drama into your accessories by pulling the varying colours in complementary patterns that will create a splash.

Repetition & Scale: Repetition through patterns is another way to create an eclectic combination in your space. Varying scales and styles of a particular pattern such as a geometric, damask or floral can have a very interesting visual effect. They also work to give the space a certain feel – think of the romance linked to florals or the bold, yet timeless feel of geometrics. Want to bring in a touch of classic? Consider using paisleys, but keep them tonal for a more transitional look.

Keeping the colour pallet consistent but varying the scale of prints will give you a balanced look. For example, using the same colour, mix a large chevron print with a small animal print and watch them come together flawlessly.

Looking for a unique style or pattern? Try using rug remnants. Old Kilim rugs are being used to create interesting and colourful pillow covers, floor cushions and ottomans. With colour as the common denominator, these fun patterns work well with one another and can be great for pulling a room together.

All of the suggestions above can be applied to various elements in a room – whether it's drapery, toss pillows, rugs, art, accessories, wallpaper or upholstery fabric. When dealing with a mixture of patterns, I would suggest starting slow and creating the space one layer at a time so that you see how it's all going to flow together.

Apply this mixing of patterns and colours to various rooms throughout your house. You can fearlessly play with patterns in any space from your living room, kitchen, bedrooms, and even your washrooms through your shower curtain, towels, art, etc. Have fun with it and use colours and patterns that you like best – this way you can be assured that you'll love the end result!

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Mayor Geoffrey Dawe cut the ceremonial ribbon opening at DNA Night Club, which takes over the old Aw, Shucks! location at Yonge and Aurora Heights. Owners Rose and Fred Eskander, who had cupcakes on hand to welcome the crowd of people 25 and up, take pride in this being a unique venue and addition to Aurora. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Advertorial

Breakthrough Treatment Now Available in Richmond Hill

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Eastman says that "The secret to the Pro-Adjuster lies in its advanced piezoelictric sensor that is able to detect the slightest amount of restriction in a joint and then deliver an extremely precise adjustment." He says that "Even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to this new technique because of how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially in the neck. Many people love getting adjusted with traditional manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are a large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way," says Dr. Eastman. Now, there is no longer a reason to be leary. The ProAdjuster is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn't yet made that decision. Dr. Eastman wants everyone to be able to experience these same benefits and if you have any of the following conditions, the ProAdjuster may be the answer you've been looking for...

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This technological marvel can help you return to a healthier lifestyle. You may no longer have to live with a persistent, painful condition. Call us today at **905-773-2225**.

Four Aurora families to benefit from donation to Alzheimer Society

By Brock Weir

Sylvia Hussey has been down this road before.

When her elderly mother began losing her memory, the Aurora resident was left as her primary caregiver.

Working through her struggles, Ms. Hussey found a welcome respite in the D.A.Y. Program offered by the Alzheimer Society of York Region. It was a great program, one which offered care, friendship, and fun programs to exercise the mind.

Years after her mother died at the grand age of 96, however, Ms. Hussey is once again turning to the program as her husband now battles dementia at a comparatively early age.

"My husband has been going there for about two years now and really enjoys it," she says. "They have coffee, exercises, do great activities, have lunch, and many of the [staff] have been there for years."

Ms. Hussey's husband typically attends the programs on Mondays and Thursdays, but just before The Auroran spoke to her, they had worked in an extra day to help care for him as she tended to another commitment which could not be avoided.

"It is great because it is hard to be here with them all the time," she says. "You can do things like go shopping, but when I had to go to a funeral, I just called up the girls and asked if it would be okay and it was."

The D.A.Y. Program, which stands for "Day Centre for Alzheimer's in York Region", got a very welcome boost on Friday morning, receiving a cheque of $5,000 as part of the proceeds raised in last year's Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament.

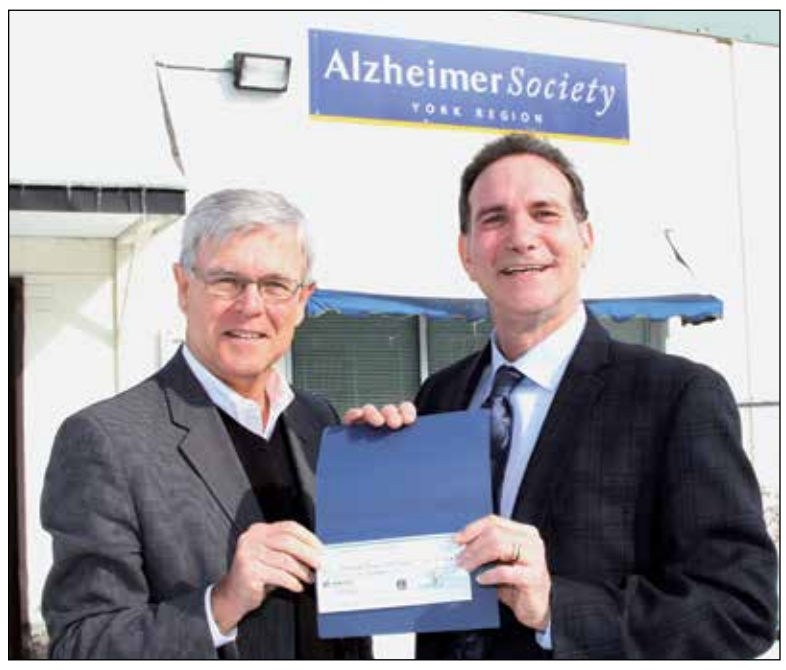
The money will be used to help offset the cost for four families in Aurora grappling with Alzheimer's disease to take part in the programs. According to statistics released by the Alzheimer Society of York Region, nearly 300,000 Ontarians over the age of 65, or one in ten, are now living with the disease, a marked increase of 16 per cent over the past four years. In York Region alone, over 2,000 families are supported by the Society.

The funds will be used to help support low-income residents of Aurora who need access to the service to do so without the impact of the cost," says Loren Freid, Executive Director of the Alzheimer Society of York Region. "There is a cost for clients to use our day programs, $20 a day, but it is on a sliding scale, so the cost isn't necessarily an impediment to our service. If someone needs to come in and can't afford to pay the $20 a day, the funds from this golf tournament are used to provide a subsidy.

"It provides a service to the caregiver, providing them with the respite, to give the caregiver the opportunity to go out and shop and other necessary services that the caregiver would not be able to do. The D.A.Y. program is also a benefit to the person with dementia because it provides physical and mental stimulation. It is a great social environment for the person with the disease, helps keep them vibrant and active in the community, and it is believed that activities such as this go a long way in helping mitigate the progression of the disease process. It is a great place for people to go."

Ms. Hussey is in agreement with this assessment.

"There is a benefit just being with other people, and not just being cooped up in a condo," she says. "I think being with other people just helps them a lot. People are talking about [dementia] more because there is a lot more of it around and being able to talk about it is a good thing."



A $4,000 cheque given to Alzheimer Society of York Region executive director Loren Freid by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe on Friday from proceeds of the annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament, will go directly to helping four local families.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Groups hope new Centre is ready by the end of June

From page 1

and lease the building, but do it with a slant," he says. "We thought this space would be well-suited to not-for-profit organizations. CHATS was the first on the scene and they definitely reinforced the concept that we had."

The decision to make the building available targeted specifically towards non-profit groups came at a very opportune time for CHATS. After 13 years in their Wellington Street West headquarters, they had simply outgrown their space and their lease was coming up.

According to Ms. Bisanz, the group has to have administrative space, space for adult day programs, service coordinators, their call centres, as well as space for clients to come and utilize their services.

"We really despaired of finding anything that matched our space requirements, our accessibility requirements and our cost requirements," says Ms. Bisanz. "We had almost given up and were considering renewing when the sign went up on the lawn."

"As soon as we posted it for lease, Christina was there like a dirty shirt!" adds Mr. Milford with a laugh.

Bisanz' situation was not unique. York Support Services Network (YSSN), which provides crisis response for those dealing with serious mental illness and developmental disability, was also outgrowing its current space. Executive Director Marie Lauzier says she had been interested in exploring sharing space with other non-profits eight years ago with four other partners, but could never find the just the right space which wouldn't need millions of dollars in renovations.

"I finally moved in to where I was when we realised it wasn't going to happen," she says. "We were never going to find a building that was big enough. We were never going to find the money for renovations. I just thought rather than renew our lease and still struggle with [our staff and clients] in different places, we just started looking. The price was amazing, the space was great, the building was accessible, and many of the folks that use our services can come to us by transit half a block away."

Current leases held by the Alzheimer Society of York Region in Newmarket expire this year. The organization, which provides day programs, respite programs, and education for individuals and families living with dementia had also outgrown their current digs and challenged their real estate agent to "think outside the box" when it came to finding a solution.

Due to some cross-over in both services and clients with CHATS, they became aware of the Cartwright opportunity through Ms. Bisanz and with this connection, they can now expand their services.

"It allows us to do three things with our programming," says Loren Freid, Executive Director of the Alzheimer Society of York Region. "We can upgrade, expand and diversify our programming by just being here. It provides some greater comforts for staff being here and there is a great opportunity for us in being here and working with like-minded organizations with this health care campus."

Now, Aurora will be the nerve centre for the Alzheimer Society, CHATS, and most of the YSSN.

Extensive work still needs to be done within the building to make way for the organizations, but all partners hope their doors will be open by the end of June with a community celebration which will show off and showcase all the companies which will call the redubbed "Cartwright Centre" home.

In the meantime, however, CHATS still has the run of the place. Since they moved in, they now have space for training programs for volunteers and drivers, who provide much-needed travel opportunities for seniors to and from appointments.

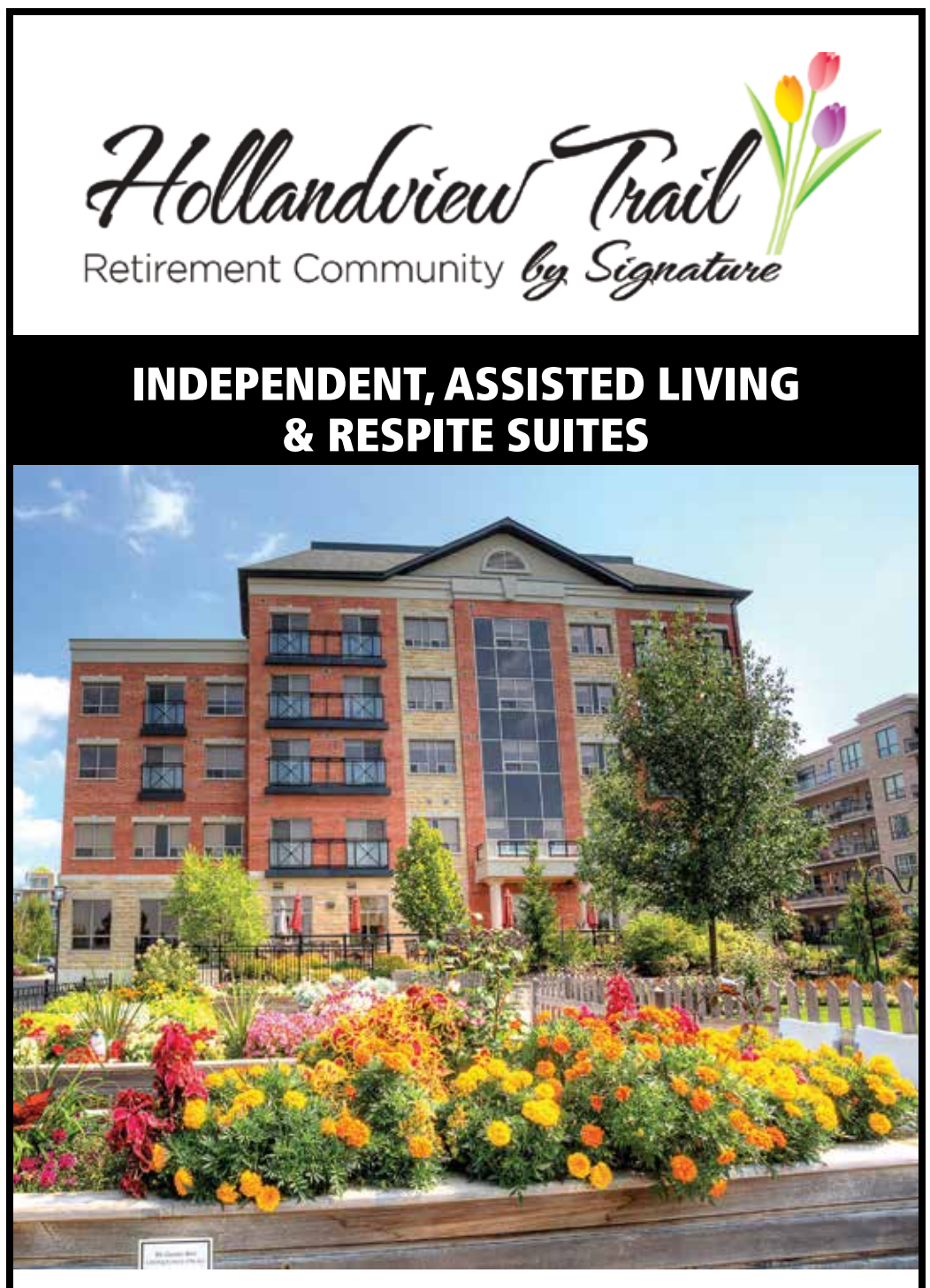
The new building will provide the Alzheimer Society with the ability to provide services to a much larger group of clients in their cognitively impaired day programs by at least 15 per cent at the outset, with room to grow, says Mr. Freid. Programming will also be diversified in the creation of a sensory room to provide much needed stimulation to clients, as well as an outdoor sensory garden which will give clients a place to "use their senses to a greater degree and another place where clients can go to address anxiety issues."

A therapeutic garden is also in the works for CHATS' side of the building, using a federal New Horizons grant to integrate gardening into their therapy programs, fostering an overall program of health and wellness and, of course, to enjoy the sun.

As work continues in the building to make everything ready for summer occupancy, Mr. Milford says that while they wanted to fill the building with non-profits, they also had an eye on business in wanting a return on their investment.

"We definitely wanted to give something back to the community, but the concept was we felt we needed one tenant that was for profit," he says. "We found a fourth tenant in Hunter Engineering, which is new to Aurora. They are very happy as well to be associated with this type of venture. They wish to be a part of the community, they want Aurora to know they are here and supporting Aurora and they are pleased their needs mesh with ours."

Adds Ms. Bisanz: "Moving in here as the first tenant was not necessarily the easiest thing because there were a lot of unknowns. [When we moved in] we found ourselves in this zoning issue and we didn't know whether we would be able to stay here. We have just had tremendous support to enable us to move in. Now that the siblings are moving in, we have to share, but I think the sharing is what we all look forward to doing."



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Heritage Conservation District plan in spotlight as consultant responds to community outcry

By Brock Weir

After a raucous meeting last week, during which residents in the southeast quadrant of Aurora overwhelmingly opposed their neighbourhood being turned into a Heritage Conservation District, those behind the plan are starting to address the concerns head on.

Heritage Advisory Committee member Erina Kelly, who is chair of the Committee's sub-group planning the Southeast Aurora Heritage Conservation District, roughly bordered by the north side of Wellington Street East in the north, the GO railway tracks at its most easterly point, Rotary Park at its most southerly point, and the eastern side of Victoria Street at its western edge, is slated to appear before Council this week to voice her support of Council's moving forward with the plan.

Meanwhile, Heritage Consultant Carl Bray has been in communication with residents and property owners in the area to address some of the concerns levelled at the podium earlier this month, including property rights and improvements.

Topping his list was the argument put forward by multiple delegates that making this neighbourhood a Heritage Conservation District (HCD) would, in some way, make the Town of Aurora a co-owner of the properties.

"The municipality is not co-owner of your property under designation," noted Mr. Bray.

At the meeting, property owners such as Gavin Newell and realtor Lynn Knowles also voiced their concerns over insurance costs and mortgage premiums that could be affected by the institution of an HCD. Property owners, for instance, would have to have their properties professionally appraised and updated every three years for insurance purposes, which would likely result in increased deductibles, he argued.

In his letter, Mr. Bray countered that designation in and of itself is not what will cause a hit in insurance, but the standard risks of owning an older property ranging from old wiring to outmoded heating systems.

"Designation shouldn't affect [mortgage] eligibility," he said. "Since property values generally are stabilized or increase following designation, eligibility should be easier to obtain because of the reduced risk of mortgaging a property in an area where damage is more closely managed.

"District designation allows the Town to regulate damage that could adversely affect the identified heritage character of the district. Significant changes require a heritage permit, but they would also usually require a building permit or even amendments to the zoning or Official Plan. For the majority of changes occurring in a district, the degree of so-called 'interference' is minor and no more than would be expected in the normal land use planning process."

Normal maintenance of properties, he cautioned, would not be affected by a heritage district designation, and would be applicable to guidelines handed down from the Province of Ontario. Alterations, however, could be a different story.

"Significant alterations, new construction or demolition require a permit and may also entail scrutiny by the [Heritage Advisory Committee] (HAC) and Council approval," he said. "Minor alterations normally do not require a permit. Again, the focus on the HCD is on the general appearance of the streetscape to ensure that the heritage character of the area is conserved and enhanced. For individual properties, the Plan affects what can be seen from the public street, which means that changes can occur to the rear and, in some cases, to the sides of the buildings without affecting the area's heritage character and without requiring a heritage permit."

To the all-important question of property values, Mr. Bray says potential sale price of properties will stay the same or increase, despite a delegation to the contrary by Ms. Knowles.

"Studies in Ontario by the University of Waterloo and in the US by the Brookings Institute show conclusively that property values either stay the same or increase in HCDs, relative to comparable properties in areas not designated."

At the end of the day, however, Mr. Bray notes it is technically possible for property owners to "opt out" of a district by rejigging boundaries, but said this could result in a "Swiss cheese effect" which could raise issues between a non-designated property and its owner over their next door neighbour whose property could be within the limits.

"After designation, and practically speaking, the designation is binding," said Mr. Bray. "However, the municipality always has the option of reviewing the District designation periodically and can amend the designating bylaw to alter the District boundary after that review."

Julian, a Grade 1 student at Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School, ponders his next move at the recent Optimist Chess Tournament. Hosted by the Optimist Club of Aurora at the Royal Canadian Legion each year, the event brings together hundreds of Aurora and Newmarket students.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Conferences come at a cost as Thompson tops Council expense list

By Brock Weir

The numbers are in and Councillor Michael Thompson is Aurora's most expensive Councillor, as far as expenses are concerned.

Numbers released on Friday crunch the expenses of the Mayor and Council and indicate just what they have spent their money on.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe was paid $57,549.45 last year as his base salary, plus a further $16,058.88 in benefits as Aurora's Mayor. He received a vehicle allowance of $8,085.60. In addition to this, a further $580 was claimed as additional expenses, including $409.05 on out of town parking and mileage, and $170.98 for hospitality.

All eight councillors received a base salary of $27,567.05 for the calendar year, with a further $1,695.70 for a vehicle and travel allowance.

Under other expenses, however, Councillor Michael Thompson has claimed the most at $2,922.74. According to a report before Council this week from Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, this figure is attributed to his attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Vancouver this year, plus the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in Ottawa.

Next up was Councillor John Abel with a claim of $2,219.05 for his attendance at both conferences as well. Councillor Paul Pirri followed with a claim of $1,807.92, Councillor Evelyn Buck at $1,398.35, Councillor Sandra Humfryes with $1,325.46, and Councillor John Gallo at 1,120.27, all of whom attended the Vancouver conference.

Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Chris Ballard were at the bottom of the list, claiming $43.26 and zero respectively.

It was initially reported last week that Aurora paid a $6.50 bill for alcohol on behalf of Mayor Dawe, but a revised report is coming this week, according to Mr. Elliott, which clarifies a mistake made in his department – the "alcohol" in question was actually a bottle of San Pellegrino sparkling mineral water.

As for advisory committees, standard remuneration, as is always the case, was provided to members of Aurora's Committee of Adjustment, ranging from $1,265 for chair Hank Gosar, and $1,100 for the three members serving the whole year.

Although positions on other advisory committees are strictly voluntary, members can claim expenses. Environmental Advisory Committee member – and Council candidate – Svetla Topouzova claimed $130.63 over the course of her duties, while $140 was claimed by Heritage Advisory Committee member Bob McRoberts. Lindsay McGuire, a member of Aurora's Sesquicentennial Ad-Hoc Committee was reimbursed $254.25, while Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee member Greg Smith claimed $1,404.87 in expenses.

This high amount for Mr. Smith, said Mr. Elliott, is reimbursement for ads placed on social media such as Facebook to promote Town events for which Mr. Smith had to pay out of pocket at the time of purchase.

"All remuneration, allowances and expenses were properly documented and authorized, and were within approved budgets of the accounts to which they were charged," noted Mr. Elliott in his report. "Expenses reimbursed were properly documented, reviewed and approved in accordance with Town policies."

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Marlene Clark and the Irish Experience had King Richard's English Pub jumping on Monday night as St. Patrick's Day celebrations kicked into full swing.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

Wicked winter wanes. What now?

It's been a long, bitter winter, hasn't it? Are you glad it's coming to a close? How did you spend your time? Have you watched everything that television has to offer, including the ads? Have you read the entire Internet? Then you definitely need a lifestyle boost.

Has winter turned you into a claustrophobic or an agoraphobic? Whichever it is, it's time to get out of the house.

Claustrophobia

This is a common condition experienced by people who are stuck indoors for extended periods of time. What happens initially is they become anxious and restless. They feel suffocated. Over time, this can morph into agoraphobia.

Fear of open spaces

Being housebound might not necessarily be because of the weather. For some seniors, it can be either because of mobility restrictions, health issues or a case of agoraphobia. This debilitating condition affects people of all ages. When staying home overrides all other options, it can trigger depression and varying degrees of anxiety at the mere thought of going out. For them, staying in is less painful than the alternative, but far from ideal.

Senior health is directly affected by a person's lifestyle, apart from the many problems that can occur from lack of exercise. Without human contact, communication skills can suffer. Self esteem diminishes. Low self confidence paralyses the individual. Going out becomes a fearful experience that cannot easily be overcome.

The strange thing about agoraphobia is that it can creep up on you. If you find yourself preferring to staying home more, and reluctant to get out, then you could be headed in that direction. Even if you enjoy your own company, you still should get out and mingle.

Solutions

If mobility is an issue, there are services to help. CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors) offers a transportation program to help seniors with shopping, personal errands and social outings. Driver assistance includes support in and out of the vehicle, with groceries and some mobility equipment. While there is a flat fee per trip, it is one option for you. Call them at 905-713-6596 for more information.

You might want to make the Aurora Seniors' Centre your first outing, where you will find a welcoming group who are more than happy to help you find a good activity for you. Once you get to the Seniors' Centre, you might find someone who lives near you who would be glad to give you a lift to and from the Center. Before long, you will feel comfortable there and will look forward to your next visit.

If you would like to see a movie, you can do that at the Centre. Do you like eating out? You can do that, too. How about dancing? They have that as well. You can play bingo, Scrabble, cards, carpet bowling, badminton, or pickle ball, just for starters.

Do you like walking, but don't want to go alone? Join the Walkers' Club. The members take weekly walks through local parks and wild areas, as long as weather and trail conditions permit. What a great way to make a few acquaintances, have lively and stimulating chats and experience the peace and serenity of the forests while getting valuable exercise and fresh air.

Established members

Are you stuck in a rut? How about trying something else for a change? You can still participate in your regular activities, but why not toss in a few alternatives? You'll add some spice to your day which, in turn, will trigger different emotions and stimulate your brain to think in a new direction. That's something we all should do on a regular basis. Otherwise, our brains become stagnant which can lead to brain dysfunction on varying levels.

It's important to our overall health to get out from behind our own four walls. A visit to the library offers a great experience because it's serene, you become aware of other people without having to mingle, and there is a wealth of excitement and entertainment in those books. The library at the Seniors' Centre offers a similar experience. Drop in anytime.

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

Williams students speed into Top 3 in International Auto Show competition

By Brock Weir

Ethan Chan and Lachlan Cooper had a game plan when confronted with a broken-down car.

They knew there were multiple things wrong with it, but when tackling it their first goal was just to get the car to turn on and then to fix the rest of the problems later. That was the key to their success last month as they came home with third prize in the 15th annual Toronto Automotive Technology Competition, hosted by Centennial College and held at the Canadian International Auto Show.

The competition brings together duos of students from across Ontario to diagnose and repair collective problems in cars, not just to beat the clock, but also to get the job done right.

Last year, Ethan and Lachlan placed 12th, but they went into this year's competition determined to bring home a cup.

"We just knew what we messed up on last year and knew what to do this year," says Ethan, noting they were going to have to work their magic finding out what was wrong with a Volkswagen Passat. "We went to Pfaff Volkswagen [in Newmarket] and brushed up on the diagram."

Adds Lachlan: "There were a lot of electrical problems and things disconnected, fuses blown and things like that, and we want to walk through the procedures. We had two hours on a car and 20 minutes to solve each issue. You just have to know how to do it!"

Students taking part in the competition are put through their paces in two practice sessions at Centennial College where they take a closer look at subjects they could encounter in the heat of the competition. Keeping all these lessons in mind, however, students need keen focus in the arena.

Students Ethan Chan and Lachlan Cooper display their trophy with teacher Tom Walch. For more on the Toronto International Auto Show, please see our Motoring section.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

"You have to keep focused on what you're doing," says Lachlan.

Adds Ethan: "You don't want to pay attention to other people --- that is how you lose track of yourself."

With each problem they fixed, the students had to properly document and record exactly how they solved the issue. They were each given a guide, but it did not say what specifically needed to be done to get the car up and running again.

"Getting it to start was probably the hardest part," says Ethan.

"We weren't sure where to start," interjected Lachlan.

"A quarter of the way through we just knew something was wrong with our computer but we couldn't figure out why," Ethan continued. "It's a bit different than in the workplace because you don't have to deal with so many electrical components, but this competition at least gives you an idea of what you need to do to get down to it. If I have a customer coming in, I should be able to follow through like this instead of just trying to play genie."

Throughout the year in the Dr. G.W. Williams auto-shop, and at last month's competition, the students are supervised by teacher Tom Walch. Ethan and Lachlan said their strategy of just getting the car running first was a good one, noting they did the things they knew how to fix right off the bat before tackling the harder components.

Coming home from Toronto, they brought with them their winnings of hundreds of dollars-worth of tools and books, a battery charger, and are awaiting the ultimate prize of a new GM vehicle to be used as a learning aid in the shop.

"These [auto-shop programs in schools] are invaluable to students," says Mr. Walch. "We have had so many kids go through here using what they learned in these programs and have applied them to their next career. We have had design students who have built fantastic pieces.

"In this shop, success to me is when kids can go out and get a job. A number of them have gone on to work at Toyota, GM or Ford. Co-op experiences at this school are fantastic and have supported our students in more ways than we believed possible and for the boys here sometimes it is tough for them to sit down and do something academic. It is a lot easier if it is something hands-on and learning by doing."

THE AURORAN
SPORTS

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Tigers hold 2 – 1 series lead over scrappy Cougars

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Tigers knew they were up against a formidable opponent in the Cobourg Cougars for the OJHL north east semi-final round, but after three games the Tigers have shown their stripes by earning a 2 – 1 series lead.

After blowing out the Cougars 7 – 2 in Game One on Friday night, things have evened out, with Cobourg biting back with a 3-1 win in game two, and then the Tigers edging out a 3 – 2 win on the road on Monday night.

Things stayed relatively close during the first 20 minutes in Game One, with Dylan Sikura scoring the only goal of the period to give the Tigers a 1 – 0 lead.

But the Tigers really opened things up in the second, and it started with Junior B call-up Johnny Curran scoring his first OJHL goal to put the Tigers up by two.

The play started with a shot that circled around the back of the net with Curran picking it up on the other side and then putting it in the back of the net.

"It felt good," he said after the game about his big goal. "It's not pressure, but something good to get off my back. It was good to get that out of the way instead of having it come further down the road."

The Tigers then took advantage of numerous power play opportunities to really stick it to the Cougars.

While on a five-on-three advantage, Sikura received a cross-ice pass at the point and blasted the puck past the Cobourg netminder to make it 3 – 0.

Three minutes later, Calvin Higley scored a power play marker of his own.

After a further three minutes, the Tigers found themselves up 5 – 0 after Sikura scored a nice breakaway goal, sniping a shot over Nathan Perry's glove.

The goal capped an impressive hat trick for Sikura on the evening.

Cobourg broke Aurora's shutout with two straight goals to start the third, but Curtis Warren and Robert Angiolella would get them back to end the game with a 7 – 2 final.

Sikura said his trick was definitely a good way to break in the series.

"I think [Cobourg] came in here pretty confident," he said. "They swept us in the regular season, so it was good that we got a good start and got the lead." he said.

Sikura added it probably lit a fire under Cobourg, and that is just what happened in Game Two.

Curtis Warren, who has had a strong playoffs thus far, scored in the first for an early Tigers' lead, but three unanswered Cobourg goals tied up the series.

"I think we actually played well," said head coach James Richmond. "I think it was a game where either team could have won. We had the majority of the play, we outchanced them and Perry played really well in net for them and Entmaa played really well in net for us."

The series then took to the road for game three in Cobourg.

Things were close in the first period until the Cougars scored the go-ahead goal in the dying seconds of the period and it stayed that way until the Tigers pulled off a gutsy third.

Three straight goals by Higley, DiBrina and Liam Neuman suddenly had the Tigers up 3 – 1 with 11 minutes left to play.

Cobourg added a power play goal shortly after Neuman's marker, but then failed to tie, giving the Tigers a 3 – 2 come-from-behind win.

Curran added another playoff assist on DiBrina's goal and Richmond said he likes what the youngster has brought to the table thus far.

"He played well and has fit in nicely," he said. "He has been a go-to guy when he came from in Junior B [Niagara Falls] and when you can get a player like that, you want to see how he is. He looked good when we watched him and that's why we've put him in and I think he has really helped us. He'll stay in. He's a good right shot forward with good hands."

Curran added the team has made it easy for him to step in and be a part of the team.

"I walked in pretty quiet and looking to learn. These guys know how to win and obviously I want to learn how to win, so I'm just going to take everything in like a sponge and then hopefully I can help out."

After a stint in Cobourg, the series comes back to the ACC on Thursday night at 7.30 p.m.

Tigers forward Dylan Sikura celebrates a hat trick in Game One of their semi-final series against the Cobourg Cougars on Friday night. Sikura's three goals paced the Tigers to a 7 – 2 win. After three games, the Tigers find themselves up two games to one in the best of seven series. Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

James Richmond named OJHL Coach of the Year

Also making news for the Tigers this week is Head Coach James Richmond, who has been named the OJHL coach of the year.

In four seasons with the club, Richmond has led the Tigers to two consecutive first place finishes in the North division.

Richmond also won the award while coaching Georgetown back when the award was given out to a coach in each division.

On top of his roles with the Tigers this season, Richmond has also worked as a skating development coach with the Los Angeles Kings.

"It's quite an honour and obviously I'm excited about it, but it's more of a staff award," he said. "These other guys don't get their names on the award, but they've done a great job – Tom Milne, Mike Doyle and John Ceci with the goalies. It's a tremendous honour and I'm thankful for it."

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Coaching should recognize differences between men and women: expert

By Jeff Doner

Coaching men and women in sport has its similarities, but differences need to be recognized and addressed.

That's the message Dr. Vicki Harber delivered to a packed room of many of Aurora's coaches.

Dr. Harber, a professor of physical education and recreation at the University of Alberta, is a former Canadian Olympic rower and women's soccer coach. She has done extensive research on metabolic and hormonal responses to physical activity and dietary intake in women and has been spreading her knowledge and experience to coaches and athletes all over Canada.

"There are huge benefits to girls and women being involved in sport," she said.

Speaking to a crowd of mostly male coaches, Dr. Harber went over details about how coaching female athletes can be different in terms of physical injuries, socially, and also in controlling the training environment.

"As a coach, know what you know and what you don't know. Don't pretend you know," she said, adding coaches have to be able to understand what girls and women might be going through.

"Your training atmosphere and climate is yours to be managed by you. I want to be able to instill some confidence in you that it can be done."

A main area of discussion with coaching females was how to avoid cliques and rejection among teammates.

Sarah Gray, who coaches boys and girls archery, stopped by to hear whether her coaching strategies were appropriate for these very types of situations.

"For the girls' team, we have a magical wall of silence, as we like to call it," she said. "They're allowed to talk on one side of the line on the floor and as soon as they cross it, they're quiet and they're focused on their performance.

"Instead of singling people out for talking too much, we just sort of say, 'go over there, that's the appropriate area for you guys to gossip and chatter'. There is that sort of thing that goes on and we found that if you try to cut it out all together, it's just a nightmare."

But Gray also said it's more about learning how to coach different personalities than anything.

"I think everybody should be able to coach everybody," she explained. "I don't agree with this separate idea, because I think we're all individuals and there are certain men who will be able to work better with females and vice versa.

"I think it's just…looking at the athlete from the individual perspective."

Dr. Harber explained there are key things coaches can do to help create a positive atmosphere for the athletes. Her key points were for coaches to develop social connections, acceptance, skill acquisition and act as role models.

The majority of female athletes are coached by men, which Dr. Harber said makes it even more important for the coach to be in tune with issues and, at times, show signs of empathy.

"If they feel acceptance, you are going to get their best effort," she said.

Brent Purdy, who coaches with Aurora Soccer Club, said he was eager to see what Dr. Harber had to say and pick up a few tips.

"I like some of the things she said in terms of the social cohesion," he said. "I think that's really important for chemistry."

Purdy also coaches school teams and said learning how to coach female athletes has been a big learning curve. He added, however, that it's important for coaches to understand the differences in coaching women.

Aside from the social aspects, Dr. Harber also said it was important for team physicians to understand gender specific implications of health issues.

She said girls and women are more susceptible to certain musculoskeletal injuries and various medical problems like ACL tears.

A large part of her research has been to highlight ways to prevent injuries with appropriate training and nutritional intake.

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Mar. 9 -2014
Mar. 16 -2014
House League

105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 8
109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 1

108 Timbits - LA Purple: 1
Rylie Kiratzis 1G, Matteo Ciciretto 1A,
107 Timbits - Minnesota Dark Green: 16
Griffin Carriere 6G 1A, Matyas Djordjevic 3G 1A, Jacob Kirchmair 2G 1A, Tyler Vasilevski 1G 1A, Liam MacMillan 1G 1A, Tristan Skupien 1G, Riley MacMillan 1G, Grayson Butler 1G, Joshua Wang 1A,

104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 8
Angelo Ventrella 2G 3A, Isaac Pearl 1G 4A, Nolan Whittaker 2G 2A, Mateo Graham 2G 1A, Cohen Bugeja 1G,
102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 7
Kane Poland 3G, Noah Savage 2G 2A, Anthony Pugliese 2G, Caleb Lane 1A, Will McCorquodale 1A,

110 Timbits - Philly Orange: 2
Elijah Forde 1G, Lucas Rossi 1G 1A,
103 Timbits - New York White: 7
Matthew Cogswell 3G 1A, Adam Soliman 1G, Aiden Miller 2G 1A, Marcus DaSilva 1G, Jacob Collura 1A, Reid Vincent 1A, Lucas Mochizuk 1A, Ronan Greening 2A,

101 Timbits - Montreal Red: 9
Jack Procyk 2G 1A, Jacob Warecki 3G, Daniel Kostoff 1G 1A, Connor Mifsud 1G, Dylan Watt 1G, Drew Schnekenburger 1G, Ryan Kelly 1A, Mitchell Harding 1A, Carter Sarabun 1A, Noah Mcloed 1A,
105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 2
Owen Marsella 2G, Shawn Rame 1A, Jamie McDonald 1A,

106 Timbits - San Jose Teal: 7
Hayden Thorne 2A, Easton Bailey 3G 1A, Andrew Mariani 2G 2A, Leo Lagasse 2A, Owen Cauley 1G, Stephen Pauselli 1G,
109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 2
Gavin Toor 2G, Ryan Torisawa 1A,

204 Caravan Kids - Edmonton Blue: 3
Jonathan Robertson 1G, Andrew Mettel 2G,
201 Caravan Kids - Montreal Red: 3
Adam Campagna 1G, Joseph Richards 1G, Jacob Anselmo 1G,

201 Caravan Kids - Montreal Red: 11
205 Caravan Kids - Chicago Black: 4

204 Caravan Kids - Edmonton Blue: 1
202 Caravan Kids - Nashville Yellow: 5

404 McDonald's - Tampa Bay Blue: 5
Cayden Visser 3G, Brian Constandes 1G, Liam Parris 1G,
402 McDonald's - Boston Gold: 3
Dylan Thompson 2G, Jacob Pozin 1G, Rylan Kirchmair 1A, Ryan Cariou 1A, Jake Heritage 1A,

401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red: 8
Parker Jalbert 4G 1A, Alex Mascioli 2G, Nathan Cobb 2G, Macisaac Eveleigh 1A, Liam Morassutti 2A, Jacob Madore 1A,
405 McDonald's - Chicago Black: 3
Ben Cordingley 1G, Andrew Flores 2G, Joshua Davidson 1A, Tyler Day 1A,

410 McDonald's - Philly Orange: 0
403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 6
Matteo Rossi 3G, Braedan Fraser 1G, Dylan Thompson 1G 1A, Stefano Basso 1G, Caspar Timothy SO,

406 McDonald's - San Jose Teal: 9
Luca Pugliese 3G, Quinn Holtby 1G 2A, David Iacovetta 3G 1A, Brett Watson 2G 1A, Matthew Buckley 1A, Hussien Wahab 1A,
409 McDonald's - Pittsburgh Powder Blue: 2
Aidan Quinn 1G, Anthony Carbone 1G, Joshua Lyon 1A, Alessandro Warwar 1A,

408 McDonald's - LA Purple: 1
Noah Bobrow 1G, Nicholas Zambri 1A,
407 McDonald's - Minnesota Green: 2
Nolan Rush 1G, Mark Moscone 1G, Cyril Martynov 1A,

607 Caruso & Company: 3
610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 8

601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 2
Evan Robertson 1G, Samuel Morin 1G, Giuliano Iervasi 1A, Shawn Kemp 2PM,
609 Thom Partners Sports Marketing: 5
Brendan Sanford 3G, Ryan McCartney 1G, Joshua Turriff 1G 1A, Tommy Collins 1A,

605 Omar's Shoes: 4
Cristian Franze 3G, Jack Gauthier 1G, Michael Pantalone 1A,
602 Laurion Law Office: 1
Daniel Babcock 1G,

603 McAlpine Ford: 12
Alexander Ko 2G 1A, Nathan Smith 2A, Andrew Fiorini 1G 3A, Owen Bell 1G 1A, Will Sherman 1A, Aiden O'Toole 1A, Andrew Schaus 1G, John Luca Racanelli 2A, Liam Graham 1G 1A, Jack Viney 3G 1A, Andrew Turriff 3G 3A, Sandrine Meunier-Geoffroy 1A,
602 Laurion Law Office: 1
Cody Fisher 1G, Jacob Crocker 1A, Joshua Anselmo 1A,

605 Omar's Shoes: 3
Ethan Joiner 1G, Cristian Franze 1G, Jake Byrne 1G, Michela Venosa 1A, Jack Gauthier 2A,
609 Thom Partners Sports Marketing: 0

608 Inaria: 6
Eric Flicker 3G 1A, Anthony Iacovetta 2G 2A, Luke Parris 1A, Quinn Bruckner 1G 1A, Evan Winter 1A,

606 Mastermind Toys: 5
Joshua Turriff 1G, Gregory Gatzopoulos 3G, Jackson Galbraith 1G 2A, Brendan Dilworth 1A, Daniel Rheeder 1A, Aaron Preiano 1A, Robert Kniss 1A,

607 Caruso & Company: 1
610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 5

808 Inaria: 4
Troy Lane 1G, Stephen Silverio 1A, Keaton Thompson 3G,
801 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 3
Adam Miziguchi 2G, Alex Mueller 1G, Justin Miller 1A, Peter Leonitis 1A,

810 Peirce McNeely Assoc. Lawyers: 10
Andrew Sutherland 5G 4A, Kyle Wulle 3G 2A, Matt LeClair 1G, James Kypreos 1G, Barrett Scott 1A, Pranav Rendalkar 1A,
807 Sundance Signs: 4
Nathan Sherrard 1G, Nicholas Keizer 1G, Cameron Lang 1G, Matthew Nitsopoulos 1G, Ethan Brooks 1A,

803 Optimist Club of Aurora: 6
Jacob Leblanc 3G, Carter Francis 2G 1A, Tyler Thomas 1A, Sean Lindsay 1G, Cameron Dyer 1A, James Freel 1A,
809 Manhattan Trophies: 1
Shawn Mason 1G, Christian Loria 1A,

901 Pizzaville Aurora: 3
904 Orr & Associates: 2

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 6
1006 Jonathan's: 3

1007: 4
1002 ATS Healthcare: 2

1001 : 3
1005 ADC Aluminium: 3

1007: 2
1001 : 2

1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 4
1006 Jonathan's: 2

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 3
1008 Winchurch Environmental Inc.: 2

1005 ADC Aluminium: 3
1002 ATS Healthcare: 1

Rep League

Tyke -
Select A: 2
Georgina: 2
Lucas Reid 2G, Erik Guilbert 1A,

Tyke -
Select A: 3
Georgina: 2
Jacob Belisle 1G, Nate Brentnell 1G, Luc Warner 1G, Nicholas Ferrante 2A, Max Bruce 1A, Erik Guilbert 1A,

Tyke -
Select A: 6
Georgina; 4
Lucas Reid 2G, Nate Brentnell 2G 1A, Erik Guilbert 1G 1A, Nicholas Ferrante 1G, Ayden Burt 1A, Jared McNeil 3A, Luc Warner 2A, Jacob Belisle 1A,

Minor Atom A -
East Gwillimbury: 3
Aurora Tigers: 2

Minor Atom A -
East Gwillimbury: 7
Aurora Tigers: 2

Minor Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Markham: 2
Nolan Chiarelli 1G 1A, Jeremy Thompson 1A, Sam Belman 1A, Matthew Keizer 2G, Malcolm Parkinson 1G 2A, Kevin Wasserman 2A, Yi Wang 1G, Sam Spong 1A, Ryan Blakley 1G 1A,

Minor Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Markham: 2
Kevin Wasserman 1G 1A, Ryan Blakley 3A, Malcolm Parkinson 2G 1A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1G,

Minor Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 2
Markham: 1
Ethan Powell 1G, Malcolm Parkinson 1G, Sam Spong 1A, Ryan Clutterbuck 1A, Kevin Wasserman 1A,

Atom RS -
Uxbridge: 4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Atom RS -
Barrie: 9
Aurora Tigers: 0

Atom A -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Barrie: 0
Michael Crowe 1G, Ethan Solilo 1G, Charlie Huxley 1G, Max Reeves 1A, Chris Koulouras 1A, Liam Hadcock 1A, Liam Hadcock SO,

Atom AA -
Newmarket: 3
Aurora Tigers: 2
Ryan Catania 1G 1A, Owen Hollett 1G,

Atom AA -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Newmarket: 0
Jacob Hoffrogge 1G, Owen Hollett 2A, Anton Sopov 1A, Luca Capraro 2G, Ryan Catania 1A, Parker Holmes SO,

Atom A -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Barrie: 2
Max Reeves 1G, Jack Sutherland 1A, Gavin Loria 1A, Ayden Whilby 1G, Dylan Andersen 1A, Jonah Spataro 1G, Michael Crowe 1A, Matt Reid 1A,

Atom AE -
Halton Hills: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3
Lucas De Palma 2G, Riley Pearl 1G, Ryan Dunbar 1A, George Rappos Jr. 1A, Nicholas Petinarelis 1A, Rory Callaghan 1A,

Atom AA -
Aurora Tigers: 1
Newmarket: 1
Owen Hollett 1G, Tommy Hollett 1A, Ryan Catania 1A,

Atom AA -
Aurora Tigers: 1
Newmarket: 1
Owen Papulkas 1G,

Atom AE -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Halton Hills: 0
Riley Pearl 1G 1A, George Rappos Jr. 1G, Ryan Weeks 1G 1A, Jordan Dimatulac 1G 1A, Kurtis Gipp 1G, Lucas De Palma 1G, Tyler Cox 1A, Luka Rodrigues 1A, Ben Charette SO,

Minor Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 7
Peterborough: 0
Jake Iwai 2G 1A, Carson Tidd 1G, Geoffrey Wilson 1G 1A, James Sproul 2G 1A, Ian Hilgendorff 1G 1A, Cole Nip 1A, Andrew Scott 1A, Logan Kidder 1A, Daniel McKay 2A, Carson Klein 1A, Justin Just 1A, Ethan Ritchie 1A,

Minor Peewee A -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Orillia: 2

Minor Peewee A -
Aurora Tigers: 5
Orillia: 1

Minor Peewee A -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Orillia: 2

Minor Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Ancaster: 2
Ethan Ritchie 1G, James Sproul 1G 1A, Sam MacLeod 1G, Carson Tidd 1A, Cole Nip 1A, Mitchell Weatherall 1A, Justin Just 2A,

Minor Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Ancaster: 0
Mitchell Weatherall 1G, Carson Tidd 2G, Geoffrey Wilson 1A, James Sproul 1A, Sam MacLeod 1A, Logan Kidder 1A, Joey Livia SO,

Peewee AA -
Aurora Tigers: 5
TNT: 4

Peewee AA -
Aurora Tigers: 1
TNT: 0

Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Stayner Clycones: 3
Ryan Funston-Clarke 1G 1A, Sebastian Negulescu 1A, Russell Tanaka 1A, Noah Johnson 1G, Luke Catania 1G 2A, Jack Patterson 2G 1A, Owen Romano 1A, Noah Dempsey 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Cory Read 1A,

Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 6
Harford North Stars: 0
Cory Read 2A, Owen Romano 1G, Rony Wahab 3A, Ryan Funston-Clarke 3G 1A, Cooper Judson 1G, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Jay Sieber SO,

Peewee AA -
Aurora Tigers: 5
TNT: 3

Peewee AE -
Prince Edward County Kings: 4
Aurora Tigers: 0

Peewee AE -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Newcastle Stars: 2
Rony Wahab 3G, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1A, Cory Read 1G, Luke Catania 2A, Jason Gage 1A,

Minor Bantam A -
Barrie: 5
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Bantam A -
Barrie: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1
Fin Reeves 1G, Andrew Jorgensen 1A,

Bantam AA -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Barrie: 0
Thomas Kostoff 2G, Kyle Rice 1G, Brady Sarazin SO,

Bantam A -
Barrie: 5
Aurora Tigers: 3
Thomas Wilson 1G, Alexander Simardone 1G, Jack Camplin 1G, Devlin Kauffeldt 1A, Andrew Warner 1A,

Bantam AA -
Barrie: 3
Aurora Tigers; 0

Bantam AA -
Aurora Tigers: 4
Barrie: 2

Bantam A -
Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 5
Alexander Simardone 2G, Jack Camplin 2G, Jack Liotta 1G 1A, Thomas Wilson 1A, Reid Carpenter 2A,

Bantam AA -
Aurora Tigers: 3
Barrie: 2
Brady Futterer 1G, Connor May 1G, Eric Pears 1G,

Bantam A -
Aurora Tigers: 5
Barrie: 4
Thomas Wilson 3G, Jack Camplin 2G, Alexander Simardone 2A, Andrew Warner 1A, Max Goldman 1A,

Bantam A -
Barrie: 5
Aurora Tigers: 2

Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2014/2015 REGISTRATION

On-Line Registration begins: April 1, 2014

In office registration: April 2, 9, 16, 22, 23, 24, 2014 (6 pm – 9 pm)

REGISTRATION fees for the 2014/2015 season are:

$555.00 Players born 1994 through 2008*
$ 50.00 Late fee effective June 1 – 30, 2014*
$100.00 Late fee effective July 1, 2014*
$ 50.00 Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

*First time registrants in Tyke born in 2007 and 2008 must register in person and submit a copy of a birth certificate and proof of residency. It is recommended that 2008 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO ANY TRYOUTS FOR AAA OR ANY AMHA REP/SELECT TEAM. AMHA REP TRYOUTS WILL COMMENCE APRIL 27, 2014.

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.
*Late fees do not apply to new registrants.

Refunds (less $25 administration fee) will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2014.

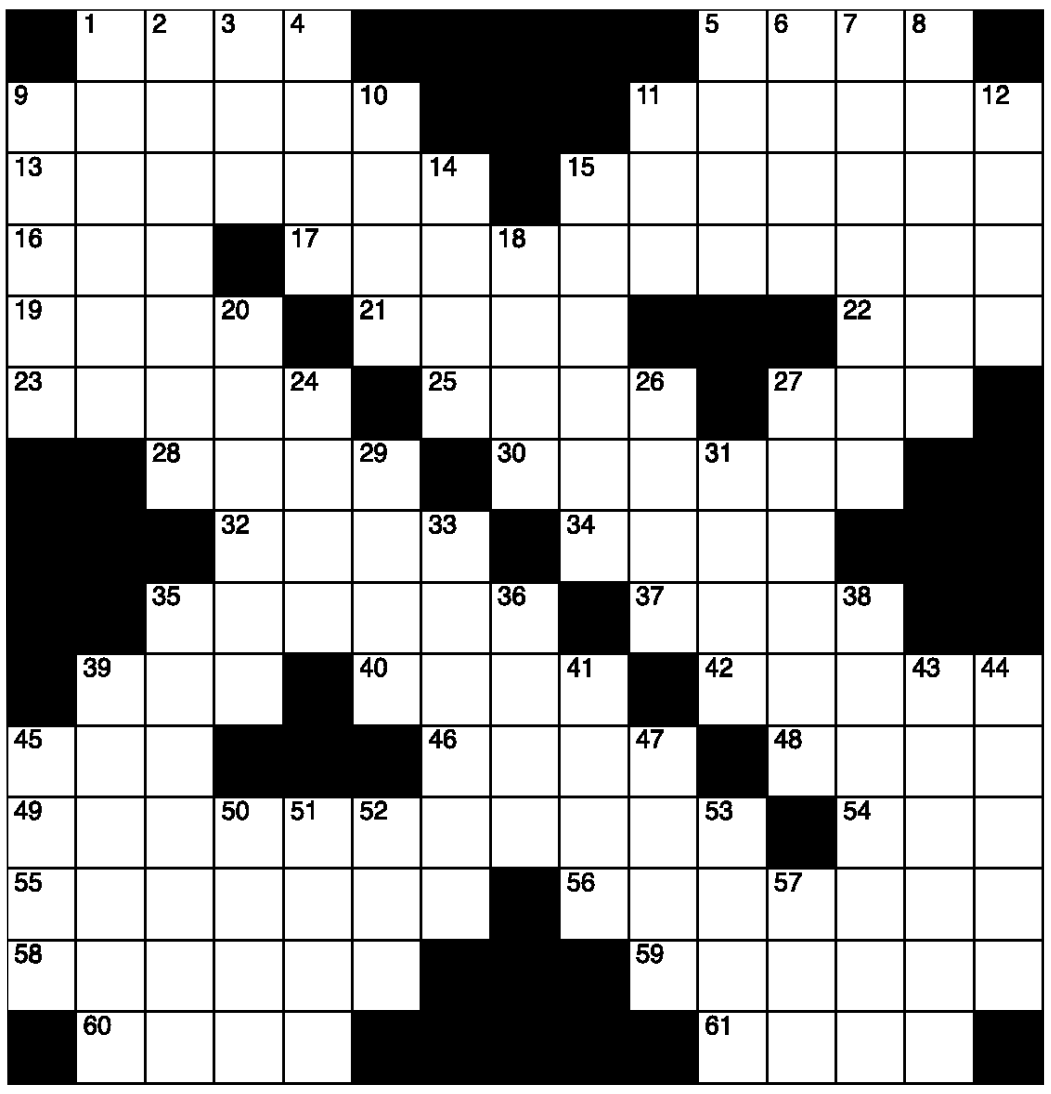
NEW REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS
https://omhahockeyparent.respectgroupinc.com/secure/

The Ontario Minor Hockey Association has mandated that one parent per family must complete the online "Respect In Sport" – Parent Program in order for their child to be rostered to an AMHA team this season.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

Guaranteed spots are available ONLY to players registered on or before June 30, 2014.
We will not add teams in September to accommodate late registrants.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Former ruler of Iran
5. Tax or levy
9. St. Vitus dance
11. A bog
13. Mushroom rib structure
15. One-sided
16. Before
17. Extemporaneously
19. About aviation
21. Macaws
22. Refuge room
23. Court case
25. Conical kiln
27. Media mogul Turner
28. Cancer sign
30. Fit into
32. Somali supermodel
34. Expires
35. Trapped
37. Stabilizes
39. Plea urgently
40. Leg joint
42. Nothing (Latin)
45. Bleat
46. Poi plant
48. Loudness unit
49. Deep blue color
54. Fiddler crab
55. About retina
56. Nail protein
58. Replace ammo
59. Most sensible
60. Brooklyn team
61. Father

CLUES DOWN

1. Someone who takes part
2. Relating to Homer
3. They __
4. Helicopter
5. Coagulated milk
6. This (Spanish)
7. Moved on a log track
8. Closed hermetically
9. Nautical rope fastener
10. __ Romeo, car
11. All peoples of the Earth
12. "Three Weeks" author Elinor
14. Hairstyle
15. Moved along
18. UCB Business School
20. Paddling
24. Tibetian Buddist monk
26. E. Timor cloth
27. Latin for witness
29. Dog sound
31. 13-19
33. Involving the mind
35. Washington city
36. Beloved
38. One who yells
39. Whalebone
41. The Phantom of the Opera
43. Cut
44. Bent away from vertical
45. He killed A. Hamilton
47. Digits
50. Public violence
51. Freshwater duck genus
52. Angry
53. Amounts of time
57. Cuckoo

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

R	O	O	T				M	E	M		M	E	M	S
O	C	T	A	L			A	M	A		A	Q	U	A
M	A	I	L	E	D		R	E	D		D	U	R	N
E	S	C	A	P	E		N	N	E		R	A	R	E
				R	E	D	E	D	I	C	A	T	E	
C	H	I	M	E	R	A		E	R	O	S	E		
R	E	D	U	C	E	D		D	A	R				
T	R	O	T	H						N	A	C	R	E
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		E	L	U	D	E		P	A	L	A	T	A	L
	P	I	A	N	I	S	S	I	M	O				
M	A	G	S		O	S	H		A	W	A	K	E	N
E	D	H	S		T	E	E		S	E	R	E	N	E
L	U	T	E		I	R	E			R	A	N	I	S
D	A	H	S		C	T	N				B	O	D	S

ELECTION 2014

22-year-old Alice Lalas wants to make a dent in youth apathy in this fall's municipal election. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Engagement is key for 22-year-old Council candidate

By Brock Weir

As a student at Queen's University, one of the many things that struck Aurora's Alice Lalas was the motivation driving each student as they took on jobs around campus.

Off campus, she says she experienced something quite different and now she wants to do something about it.

At 22, Ms. Lalas is currently the youngest candidate in the race to be one of Aurora's next councillors. It is a unique position, one she doesn't want to define her campaign, but says it could be a springboard to make a difference.

"I don't want my platform to be just getting youth involved, but it is a huge part of it because of the apathy that reins over youth," she says. "This is not going to lead them to a higher class of living, but keep them in the mentality of, 'I'm special, but I am not going to do anything about it.'"

A first generation Canadian and a daughter of Polish parents, Ms. Lalas specialized in international affairs at Queen's, partly inspired by her family's journey, but also intrigued by countries in the former USSR which shrugged off communism when she was a young child, as well as youth movements reshaping Europe and the Middle East.

She watches today's crisis in Ukraine anxiously from this perspective.

"If we can get more people involved in issues, maybe we can make a difference with the young people," she says. "I went to school looking at an English degree [but moved into] politics because I want to do something that changes policy and changes lives."

Spurring her in this decision, she says, was learning more about Canada's Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin, a trailblazer to be sure, but someone who has occasionally made decisions which conflict with Ms. Lalas' own Conservative views.

"I find the trend with youth often turns towards Liberalism because it seems to serve them better," she says. "As they get older, a lot of the partisanship turns towards Conservatives because it benefits them more. [From a provincial perspective], everything has to be in this big public arena where social welfare is just given out to anyone. [The current government] is not really looking at the consequences of what it is doing to citizens. For me, I would just prefer everything to be in the private sector and treat it like the business it is."

Having graduated last June, Ms. Lalas says she has been looking for her next step after spending the last several months working in local restaurants to help pay down her student debts. Her brother was the first to suggest throwing her hat into the political arena to put to good use both her drive to make a difference and her passion for politics.

She also found inspiration in Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees, who she holds as a role model in engaging people. In researching the current Council climate, she also says she has been impressed with the engagement of Councillor John Gallo through his blog posts, dissecting the political process.

"I think one of the most important things we can do [in politics] is to put it into a medium younger voters might actually embrace," she says. "Social media is huge right now, but I don't think a lot of Councillors are broadcasting in the appropriate way. I want to engage youth more often and get them into that group that considers themselves voters because what we do as a Council will directly affect them.

"It is going to be hard, but I think if anyone can get their attention, it is going to be someone who is in that 18 – 25 year old demographic. They might not want to listen to someone they think has been jaded by politics, looking out for their own interests, the older taxpayer or older people. They might want to listen to someone with a fresh perspective who is in tune with social trends."

Ms. Lalas is in the midst of seeking a place at Osgoode Hall to pursue her law degree, a venue chosen not only for its reputation, but its proximity to Aurora to continue to serve on Council should she be elected.

ASK TOM

Tom Mrakas

Home Show Season

Hello again! I have been away for a bit, combination of a trip to Las Vegas (Super Bowl weekend!) and lots of work to catch up on.

Aside from a good time, there was also a work-related event in Vegas while I was there - the International Builders' Show. As with everything in Vegas, it was a home show on a massive scale.

I am sure it was a great event (I was too busy enjoying other – ahem – fun things to do). Personally, I prefer a more accessible show – like Aurora's!

It is that time of the year again when home shows start. First off is the Toronto Home Show, running March 13 – 22. The following month, we have our very own Aurora Home Show set for April 11 – 13.

The reason I bring this up is because they are an excellent place to get ideas for upcoming projects. A home show is also a great place to see brand new products that sometimes blow you away.

One of the new products I have seen at recent shows – and that are becoming more affordable - are the keyless entry mechanisms for your house. Some of the models work off smartphones and basically transform your phone into a key fob. While some actually have a key fob that you would attach to your keys, most of them also incorporate the keypad.

I love these products for two reasons: First, when you are carrying things, you don't need to figure out how to dig for your keys while trying to juggle the groceries at the same time.

The other reason is it's great for those members of the family who just keep forgetting to carry – or lose – their keys or have lost their keys. This is where the keypad comes in handy.

Most people have the keypad and they have been around for a while, as has the key fob, but generally only in commercial or industrial settings. The new keyless entry (with multiple interfaces with handheld devices) is worth taking a look at. It isn't difficult to replace a key lock for your door.

There are many products and new innovations and new tools that anyone that is into DIY projects can see as you walk around at these shows. If you're not into doing it yourself, you could just as well meet a company or person that you could hire to do the work you want done.

Enjoy Home Show season, and hopefully you'll get out to as many as you can. I know I will – and maybe we will bump into each other!

In the meantime, remember a good job is a job well done! Also, if you have any questions or topic suggestions you can reach me at www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign or on twitter, @ADesign_build and email, of course, at Anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca.

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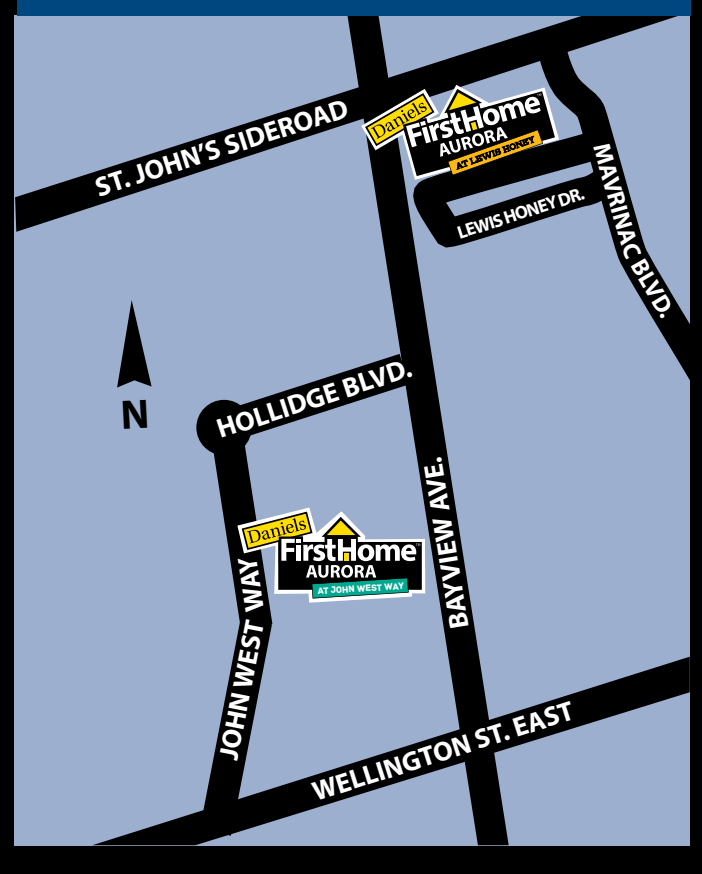

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By FERNANDO CASA-NOVA, GRADE 12, ATTENDS PICKERING COLLEGE IN NEWMARKET. HE IS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FROM MEXICO.

The False Lock-in Effect

Harder, better, faster, stronger! Once again; the exponential changes occurring during the technology era we live in appear to be taking its toll on one of the world's corporate giants. The victim is now the globalized American franchise of electronics, RadioShack. The mood of consumerism today now dictates a trend of innovation; things businesses need to keep up with if they wish to conserve their market share.

In 2008 the Texan-founded enterprise reported revenues of US$4.81 billion, but now,in 2013, the same enterprise faces the closure of 1100 of its stores; nearly 20 per cent of their overall branches in the United States. Things are not looking so hot for the old serial port, 2GB USB key and wireless mouse provider. In fact, the firm reported a net loss of US$400.2 million for the year 2013. With a near 80 per cent decrease in the value of its stock this year, RSH, and an appalling further near 19 per cent decrease in the NYSE, trading your RSH stock will now only get you about two bars of a Kit Kat. It seems consumers will soon be going elsewhere to get their electronic accessories upgraded.

Consumption changes affecting big business like this appear to be occurring much more constantly today than ever before. It was only two years ago that the perpetual Blockbuster was bought by Dish for a surprisingly high $320 million. Now, with only 50 stores remaining, it is safe to say, the end is near. The reputable and reliable BlackBerry Ltd. is also facing hardships; first, there is the fast developing competition brought by Apple Inc. The company noticed a $6.5 million drop in sales from 2012 to 2013; recording its lowest sales since 2009. Their market shareis now at stake.

As a consumer and a participant of discussion, one might argue that the problem arises as a result of a lack of renewal, renewal that consumers demand more now than ever before; market systems of technology are changing; touch pads are no longer mind blowing. Online shopping websites, Facebook, and Twitter pages of businesses are now expected. A desire for things to become faster, much more efficient and practical is also largely demanded. Things of which these companies listed have partly or chiefly failed to comply with.

Consumerism today dictates a trend of innovation. Approaches in marketing, management and production now need to be constantly renewed if they intend to thrive in our ever more competitive and reforming markets. RadioShack is no longer an essential store to the shopping centers of North America. Another one of the old childhood corporate giants is now susceptible to its dismissal. This raises the question; who will be the next victim of the technology era?

ALEX SAULT and the Never Never Band

By Chris McGowan

MUSIC TOUCHES MOST PEOPLE'S LIVES in some shape or form; it brings back memories, relieves stress and is one of the few activities that involve using our entire brain. It has surprising benefits to both physical and mental health and music has touched the life of Alex Sault in so many ways.

Sault is a grade nine student at Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School in Aurora and he is currently studying music at The Arts located in Aurora as well. "My Mom got me involved with piano when I was little and it went from there" said Sault. His interest in music grew and he started playing guitar at age 10, which was followed by the saxophone by grade seven. He is quite an accomplished musician for a 14 year old.

The Arts School encourages musicians to challenge themselves and encourages students to keep learning. Between the Aurora and Newmarket locations, the Arts have over 1200 students and 50+ music teachers. They provide an atmosphere through the Summer Ultimate Rock Band Camp where inspiring musicians meet other musicians and form a band if they desire and that is exactly what Sault has done.

The band Never Never was formed as a result of the rock band camp experience which includes Sault who plays guitar and is the lead vocalist. Other members of the band are; Gunnar Schulz, Jack Farrel, Daniel Vucko, and Tommy Bengert.

The band has had some notoriety with gigs close to home and most recently, Saturday March 8th they played as a warm-up band for the Aurora Winter Blues festival at King Richard's in Aurora. King Richard's was packed that night and the youthful band members played both cover songs and original music written by Sault. The band members naturally fit into the stage area of the pub and started to play and despite their youth they were comfortable when the music got started, naturally folding into the rhythm of the songs. The crowd at the pub was both pleased and surprised with the bands efforts, giving them a roaring applause after every song.

"I want to stick with the band and see where it goes, I take my music seriously" said Sault and when asked how often he practices he said, "Music is my main focus, I practice all the time." When Sault was asked if he plans a career with music, he said "I have other goals, it is a good way to get out and do stuff right now."

Aside from the light-hearted attitude that Sault displays, he admits that a CD for Never Never is currently being mixed.

Young musicians are not out of the norm, as other well known bands that are etched in our musical memory started at the tender age like Never Never. For now, Never Never is enjoying their time of playing in front of audiences, learning and creating new music and perhaps we will be enjoying their music again soon.

Aurora High Student initiates an Alliance

By Chris McGowan

Aurora High School student Sarah Shields has made a difference at Aurora High. She has taken the initiative to organize a group called the GSA (Gay Straight Alliance). The group was assembled in the fall of 2013 and works closely with the Equity Council which has been in place at Aurora High for approximately 8 years.

The Equity council has had fundraising events in the school to raise money for transgender awareness. It is only through education that all students will understand the need to treat everyone with respect.

Aurora High's GSA is made of about 10 members and when asked what the GSA was all about, Shields gladly said "the purpose of it is to build alliance between queer and straight students to make people feel safe from a social perspective". The group meets regularly and has an open door policy with no publicity to their attendance. The Day of Pink at Aurora High has posters supporting the LGBTQ students and the GSA group, and tech hallway has a "rainbow wall" painted with students' handprints.

Two Aurora High teachers that have provided a great deal of support to the GSA group with admin work, and providing escalation for specific issues are, Miss Charney, and Mr. Nicolai.

GSA has been in Canada for a while, but in 2012, it was made mandatory to permit students to form GSA groups if they wanted to. As the groups are relatively new to Canadian schools, there is little research so far to determine the impact, however American schools have been permitting such groups for a longer period of time and research states that GSA groups have brought a positive impact to schools regarding bullying and safety issues.

Shields, is in her final year at Aurora High, is Gay herself, but feels the need to have a place in the school where people can speak their mind openly. She came out in grade 8 through Facebook, but not everyone who is Gay feels that comfortable with themselves at such a young age. She always did have strong support from family and friends, but some students are not that lucky.

She is a spokesperson for Get Real, a student driven initiative aimed at eliminating homophobia in a positive way. Shields states "Get Real has taught us how to relate to others by teaching us how to be politically correct in language so no one is offended".

Shields is also attending a "Speak Out Conference" at the York Region District School Board, where five students from every school in York Region are asked to attend. "It's a unity thing" said Shields, "mostly to do with Gay issues, where everyone is learning how to grow up in this society".

New leaders have been assigned to the GSA and Equity Council at Aurora High for next year, and they will undoubtedly carry on as Shields moves to University, but many will remember that she had the motivation to start the program, not just for herself, but for everyone.

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THE AURORAN Arts & Culture

It was the writers, in the Library. Candlesticks optional.

By Brock Weir

Crime writers from across the GTA will bring a splash of mystery to the Aurora Public Library this Monday in A Shot In The Dark, bringing together five writers, and three former Aurora residents, from Crime Writers of Canada.

Sharon Crawford says she grew up on a steady diet of Agatha Christie and Perry Mason, so it was only natural that she turned to the darker side of life when she began her career as a writer. This former Aurora resident will be joined in Monday's seminar by Cynthia St. Pierre, Rob Brunet, Alexander Galant, and Rosemary McCracken.

Ms. Crawford is the author of Beyond The Tripping Point, a collection of mysterious short stories featuring her own brand of characters which she describes as "quirky and edgy."

"We're not going to be murdering anybody – that we know of, anyway," says Ms. Crawford when asked what they are conspiring to have in store for attendees. "We're a diverse group of people and we all write different things."

St. Pierre, an Aurora native, is the co-author of A Purse to Die For, and has branched beyond crime to write about business. Brunet, a former resident of both Aurora and King, ran a digital media business in King before penning his debut novel Stinking Rich, due out this summer.

Galant's award-winning Depth of Deception is a murder mystery set aboard the Titanic, while financial journalist Rosemary McCracken published her first mystery novel Safe Harbour in 2012, which was short listed for a number of awards, including the Debut Dagger Award in the United Kingdom.

"Beyond Agatha Christie and Raymond Burr, that got me reading the genre," says Ms. Crawford. "They say, write what you know. I don't know how to murder someone, but I knew that was an area I liked! This is just something I really like doing. I like the puzzle, the quirky characters, and I like reading other people's novels where the characters are, to put it politely, eccentric.

"I have a very strong sense of justice and I find in the world the bad guy doesn't always get his just desserts, but you can do that kind of thing in a novel or a short story. It balances all the injustice in the world and you have some kind of control over what is going on in your world."

In the lead-up to Monday's talk, the authors have been honing what they want audiences to take away from their readings. Bringing entertainment into the forum is a top priority, but they also want to share their experiences of writing, ask people questions and, in turn, field questions about their own works, Crime Writers of Canada, and just have a good time.

Reader be warned, however, that Ms. Crawford says some of her co-authors do like to get into character when they are reading.

"We are only five writers, but there are a large number of mystery writers who are published in Canada," she says. "You don't have to necessarily get the English books or ones from the States. We have a lot of fun. We want the public to see that we are having fun and they can enjoy it too."

For more information about "A Shot In The Dark", contact librarian Kate Gibson at 905-727-9494 x235.

Tom Vandenberg and "Tom's Amazing Cats" enthralled youngsters, like Brie, at the Aurora Public Library over March Break, part of a full roster of March Break programs put on by places such as the Library and Aurora Cultural Centre. Auroran photo by David Falconer

Christmas Stories are ripe ground for Chicken Soup author – especially after this last holiday

By Brock Weir

In the aftermath of the pre-Christmas ice storm, Janet Matthews was one of the luckier Aurora residents who only had to spend about 48 hours in the dark.

Whiling away the hours with a friend from Oak Ridges who was ultimately without power for eight days, she took out a copy of her latest book, Chicken Soup for the Soul's O Canada: The Wonders of Winter, to read Tanya Amrbose's take of surviving an ice storm of her own.

For Ms. Matthews, the book's editor, it was inspirational to read her story, put everything in context and even pick up a helpful hint.

These are the kinds of stories Ms. Matthews is looking to collect for her latest Chicken Soup for the Soul book "Christmas in Canada."

Janet Matthews

Ms. Matthews got the word from her American publishers on February 18 that another Canadian book was in the works and she was only too happy to accept their offer of reading the book for publication for October. And she knew just where to start.

"The Christmas of 2013 was unlike anything we have ever seen before because a lot of people were in the dark," she says. "A lot of people were challenged to follow through on their Christmas plans, and I know it was just a hard, hard time. But, there are going to be stories out there of people who overcame it in some way, and created a fabulous Christmas despite the challenges.

"I would like to find some of those stories of what did you do? Did you cook your turkey over the fire? How did you pull your family together and find a Christmas anyway? This is ripe ground for these kinds of stories. We can take some of these experiences that other people have and be inspired, and hopeful."

Ms. Matthews first became affiliated with the Chicken Soup for the Soul book series as the co-author of their first Canadian installment, "Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul" in 2002. Since then, she has often been their go-to person for seeking out and honing truly Canadian stories to inspire and invigorate people across the country.

While the first installment focused on Canada as a whole, and the second on the winter wonderland that is Canada, this book's Christmas theme can encompass everything in the holiday season from family festivities, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or simple holiday decorating, following the Chicken Soup pillars of overcoming obstacles, facing adversity, realising or living a dream, any kind of love, family, community, kindness, and making a difference in the world.

"It has to be a story that will touch the heart of the reader, open them to hope, and inspire them to overcome obstacles in their own life, or face something they didn't want to face," she says. "Each story has a gift for the reader. Christmas books do extremely well and distributors are always looking for a new Christmas book.

"From my own childhood memories of Christmas holidays, whether it was when I went out ice skating with my friends, tobogganing, or whatever it was we did during that holiday season, the season is the art of magic. I know there is lots of drama in many different directions around Christmastime and sometimes things get healed at Christmas."

If you think you have a story that might fit the bill, submissions can be made online to Ms. Matthews at www.candiansoul.com by May 30. If you are an experienced writer, or someone who might be setting pen to paper for the first time to tell a personal story, all entries are welcome and, if you have a story but are not sure how to tell it, Ms. Matthews will also provide coaching and mentorship to bring a story to life.

Cultural Centre should release numbers on gallery partnership: Councillor

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Cultural Centre last month announced a major new partnership with Meridian Credit Union, which included the naming rights on the former Red Gallery – but now one Councillor wants answers.

Councillors are due to consider a notice of motion from Councillor Evelyn Buck this week wanting more information on who gave the Cultural Centre authority to sell naming rights to rooms within a Town-owned building.

The motion, she says, is not opposing the name change from the Red Gallery to the Meridian Gallery, but is intended to get more information on how these changes can be made.

At last month's unveiling of the new gallery, Aurora Cultural Centre Board president Frank Pulumbarit said naming rights would also be available for the adjacent Bluew Gallery as well as the Great Hall Gallery on the second floor, but pointedly did not include Brevik Hall in the list of rooms up for grabs.

Brevik Hall was named after the late Margaret Brevik, a long-time supporter of the Aurora Historical Society, who left a considerable legacy used for the extensive renovations of the Church Street School landmark before it re-opened as the Aurora Cultural Centre in 2010.

"I would be deeply concerned if this organization thought they had the authority to change that name in particular," said Councillor Buck. "In the Seniors' Centre, there have been donations made and rooms had been [allocated] in the names of the people who made the donations, but that was all under the Town's umbrella and that is the thing that concerns me.

"We purchase a service from the [Cultural Centre]. We don't charge them rent and they don't have to realise funds from selling the names of the rooms in order to pay their overhead. A nominal fee is there to make it a legal agreement, but it is not a fee that gives them the right to sell of the naming off their rooms."

When asked how this potential revenue generator, however, would equate to her

Continued on page 19

THE AURORAN CLASSIFIEDS

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

IN MEMORIAM

PATTERSON, James Joseph

Former employee of General Motors.

James passed away peacefully on Friday, March 14, 2014 at Southlake Regional Health Centre in his 85th year. Beloved husband of Patricia for 60 years. Loving father of Nancy Lee Clements and her husband John and Mark Andrew Patterson and his wife Deanna. Loving papa of Morgan Vicki Clements and Caitlin Ashleigh Oomen. Great papa of Lilith Grace and Lachlan George. James will be sadly missed by his nieces, nephews and friends. Visitation was held at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, on Tuesday, March 18 from 2-4 and 6-8pm. Funeral service took place Wednesday, March 19 at 1pm in the chapel. Donations to Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation would be appreciated. Online condolences may be made at www.thompsonfh-aurora.com.

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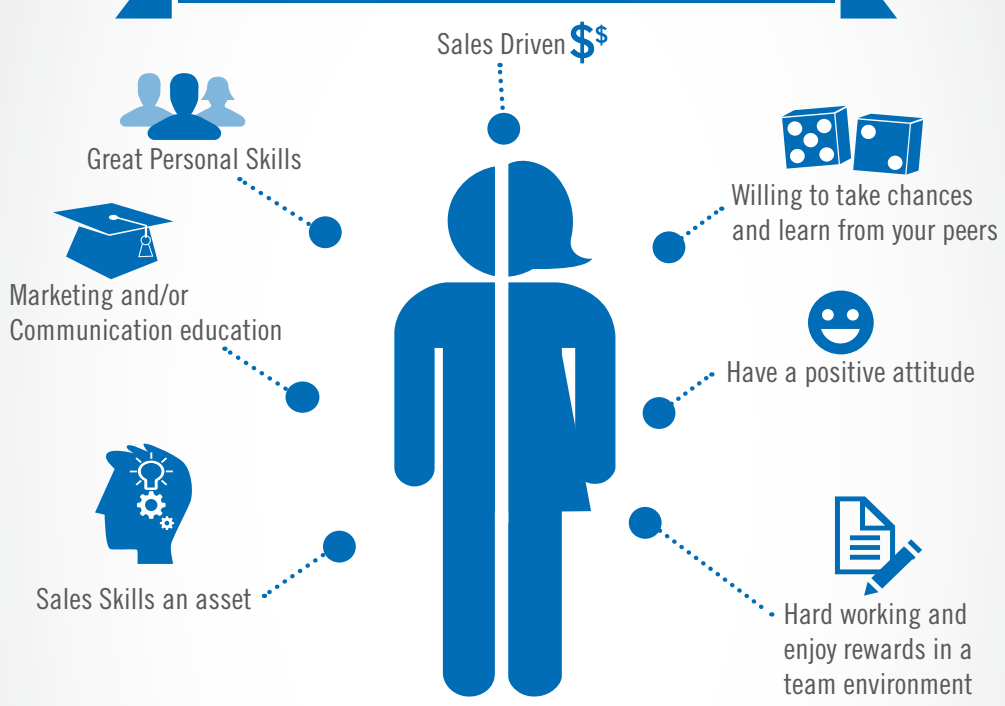

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COMING EVENTS

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.

* * * *

The Tapestry Chamber Choir and York Chamber Ensemble present an Afternoon of Mozart today at 3 p.m. at the Marylake Shrine at Bloomington Road and Keele Street in King City. No need to go to Roy Thompson Hall for excellent classical music in a beautiful acoustic setting. Tapestry and the York Chamber will be performing with the Trinity Festival Chorus under the direction of Tony Browning. Proceeds will go to Marylake. Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for seniors. For more information, visit www.yorkchamberensemble.ca or www.tapestrychoir.ca.

* * * *

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.

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 Wolfegang 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 Tahedl, 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.

* * * *

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host a pub night beginning this afternoon at 5.30 p.m. until 7.30 p.m. at Sgt. Peppers Pub and Grill (115 First Commerce Place, Aurora). This casual night of networking is free for Aurora Chamber members.

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 an 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.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Park Place Retirement Residence hosts a Spring Fashion Show today from 2.15 – 3.15 p.m., featuring the 2014 spring fashions from Alia and TanJay. RSVP at 905-727-2952.

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 you 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 905-895-2849 or join at the meeting.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Amnesty International writes letters on current human rights issues tonight at 7.30 p.m. at The Rectory, Trinity Anglican Church. 79 Victoria Street. All are welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

APRIL 11 – APRIL 13

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host the 2014 Aurora Chamber Home Show this weekend at the Aurora Community Centre. Doors open Friday from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.

To submit your upcoming event to The Auroran, send your information in 100 words or less to letters@auroran.com with the subject line "Coming Event".

Anniversary comes as Cardinal Carter CHS experiences rebirth

From page 1

to meet fellow grads."

Following the in-school celebrations which will last through mid-afternoon, the party will kick into high gear around 6 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre for a pub night in ACC2. Attendees will be able to get a taste of the area through a barbeque by Aurora's Big Grill Catering, a hospitality company focused on catering events large and small with locally sourced food.

Classic rock will be provided by Delayne Drive, a local group founded by Dan Kaniuk and Bob Gross, and other musicians who currently live, or once lived, as the name suggests, on Delayne Drive near Aurora Heights. They will be joined by a band made up of Cardinal Carter alumni that is currently being assembled by the school's music department.

"One slight fly in the ointment is we found out it was the same day as Italy v. England in the World Cup," says Ms. Lecroix. "That is scheduled from 6 – 8 p.m., but we have decided to turn our liability into a plus and we're going to make that a part of our celebrations with a live screening of the game."

Cardinal Carter Catholic Elementary School has its earliest roots in Oak Ridges' Our Lady of the Annunciation Elementary School. From those early days, the 189 students to 14 staff created an environment where close bonds were hard to avoid. Many of these first students and staff still keep in close touch with their school.

"It was a great bonding time for all of us," says Ms. Lacroix, noting, however, it was still a school in flux.

After they moved into their current home on Bloomington Road, just west of Yonge Street, they soon surpassed their 1,650 capacity building with over 2,000 students. After bursting at the seams, however, these numbers took a significant hit first when Ecole Secondaire Catholique Renaissance opened at the corner of Bloomington and Bathurst Street, taking on many of Cardinal Carter's French Immersion students.

Numbers decreased once again with the opening of St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Secondary School six years ago, taking over many of Cardinal Carter's feeder schools leaving them with a student body of about 800. From there, Cardinal Carter became, for a time, a school largely serving King and Oak Ridges with some students from south Aurora but, according to Ms. Lacroix, numbers are now on the upswing again.

Next year, Cardinal Carter expects regrowth to reach 1,250, a growth she attributes largely to their fledgling International Baccalaureate program, which attracts students not only from across York Region, but also as far away as Saudi Arabia.

"It has been a real shot in the arm for us and we have been able to offer a full array of programs again," she says, noting philanthropic efforts of students to build schools in India, wells in Ecuador and Nicaragua, and fundraising to purchase laptops for Aboriginal students.

"Students want to be the change they want to see in the world. One of the ways to follow Christ is to be aware of our fellow humans and do as much as we can to alleviate the suffering in nations less advanced than our own, and within our own as well."

To register for Cardinal Carter's Reunion 25, find more information on programs and local hotels with special rates for the Reunion, visit cch.ycdsb.ca/Reunion25.

Gallery was renamed last month

From page 17

view that the Aurora Cultural Centre should be self-sufficient, Councillor Buck said she was not convinced they were yet on that road.

"The purpose of the initial funding was seed money," says Councillor Buck. "It was never intended to be an annual funding program, it was to get a private corporation off the ground and their responsibility was to ensure that whatever activities were going on in this facility would pay for themselves or be subsidised by whatever donations they would be able to raise in the community.

"They have been very careful to avoid the information about what they did raise in relation to the naming of a room. I think the community has the right to know the details."

At February's unveiling, Mr. Pulumbarit said the amount raised by selling the naming rights could not be disclosed under the sponsorship agreement with Meridian.

The Auroran was unable to reach him by press time.

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