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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 14 No. 38 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of July 24, 2014



COMING SOON TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU...

Aurora's Amanda Pereira devotes her time to striking the right balance between helping others and pursuing her acting dreams – and, with your help, she could soon be a part of your regular movie-going experience. For more, please see Page 20.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

18 candidates set to vie for Council vacancy next Tuesday

By Brock Weir

The nomination period is over and next Tuesday up to 18 Aurora residents will come before Council to say why they should be the Town's next Councillor.

18 residents signed up for the vacancy left by Chris Ballard, now MPP for Newmarket-Aurora, right up until the wire on Friday afternoon. The call for nominations brought together a variety of candidates including three former Aurora councillors: Don Constable, Grace Marsh and Bob McRoberts, three candidates who have already put their names forward for the October 27 municipal election,

including James Hoyes, Harold Kim, and Svetla Topouzova, and 12 new faces to the list.

The additional candidates, in order of their registration, are Srinivas Rao, Marilee Harris, Mark Etwell, Michele Boyer, Fred Rankel, Linda Stephens, Martin McIntaggart, Shumaila Waqas, Gerald Miller, George Tremtsidis, Jane Howarth, and Eric Belisle.

At least two candidates have said they will not be on hand for a special Council meeting to be held on July 29. There, Mayor and Council will ultimately decide who joins them at the table. Candidates will be invited to approach the podium and make a pitch

on why they are the right person for the job, in a speech lasting up to three minutes.

Council will, in turn, then have a chance to ask each candidate two questions to help make their decision easier. It will then be up to a member to put forward a name for Council's consideration and the candidate receiving a majority vote will be sworn in that evening. The newest member will then be invited to take their seat for the regular Council meeting, previously scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Jane Howarth comes by her interest in civic affairs honestly. Having

Continued on page 17

Glass Tiger and Platinum Blonde to headline September's Ribfest

By Brock Weir

Aurora's 2014 Ribfest will have an extra dose of star power this September with headliners Glass Tiger and Platinum Blonde.

The homegrown Glass Tigers will hit the stage on Friday, September 5, starting at 9 p.m. Platinum Blonde will perform the following evening, also at 9 p.m.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe announced the headliners before a packed crowd at Town Park on Wednesday night for Concert in the Park, featuring the Celtic rock group The Tartan Terrors to enthusiastic cheers.

He spoke of the excitement of bringing two classic rock groups to Aurora – but also of the excitement of Aurora's

Continued on page 3

Peewee Jay overcomes brain surgery to get back on the field

By Jake Courtepatte

12-year-old Connor Elbaum and his father Mark collect baseballs from MLB players during batting practice.

"Our record is eight," said Connor. "And we once got three in forty-two seconds."

Baseball was ingrained in Connor from an early age. Mark has spent the past fifty years around the game, and now coaches his son on the Aurora Jays Peewee team.

At a record of 49-1, the Jays sit fifth in league standings. However, the team goes beyond what happens on the field. In 2013, the players and parents raised \$22,000 for a team trip to Cooperstown, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. At the Toronto Blue Jays 2013 home opener, the team was on the field in uniform during the national

Continued on page 8

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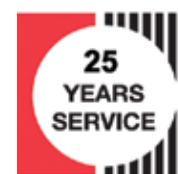
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Email info@aurora.ca • Website www.aurora.ca

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, July 29	3 p.m.	Special Council*
Tuesday, July 29	7 p.m.	Council
Monday, August 11	7 p.m.	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 12	6 p.m.	Special General Committee – Audit Committee
Tuesday, August 12	7 p.m.	Council
Thursday, August 14	7 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment

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

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Seasonal Weekend GO Train Service

GO Train service along the Barrie GO line will continue until **Monday, September 1**. The schedule includes four daily round trips on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. For more information, please visit www.gotransit.com



Aurora Public Library

Dogs: Paintings by Kim Steffen

Visit the Colleen Abbott Gallery until **Saturday, August 9** to experience this fun and funky art show in the pop art tradition. With vibrant colours and adorable dogs, it is sure to be a hit with the entire family!

Aurora Seniors' Centre Trip to Agawa Canyon

Sign up now for The Aurora Seniors' Centre trip to Agawa Canyon from **Sunday, September 21** to **Thursday, September 25**. This five-day tour includes travel by DeNure coach, accommodations, meals and sightseeing tours. For additional information or to sign up, please contact Andrew Bailey at 905-727-3123 ext. 3611.

Summer Youth Drop-In Activities

Tuesday, July 15 to Friday, August 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Youth ages 12 to 16 are invited to Aurora Senior Public School, located at 125 Wellington Street West, for exciting drop-in activities including basketball, badminton, arts and crafts, scrapbooking and movies. Cost is \$3 per activity or purchase a Youth Drop-In Pass. For more information, please call 905-726-4770 ext. 3121.



Town of Aurora Summer Camp



It's not too late to enrol your child in a Town of Aurora Summer Camp! Our camps are well-planned, creative and an enthusiastic place for your child to spend their summer days. The Town of Aurora's qualified staff are committed to preparing safe and enjoyable programs to ensure all children have a summer filled with friends, fun and laughter!

With more than 30 camps to choose from, your child can spend the summer exploring their interests and developing their talents. There is a camp for every child! Call 905-841-PLAY (7529) or visit www.aurora.ca for more information.

Splash Pads

Cool-off this summer at one of the Town's two splash pads, located at Aurora Town Park and Ada Johnson Park. Weather-permitting, the splash pads are open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

REMINDERS

Debris on Roads

Homeowners constructing pools or undertaking other building projects are reminded to keep roads, sidewalks and rights-of-way (the Town-owned section of property bordering the road) free of construction debris. Keeping these areas free from bricks, timber, soil and other materials is essential to pedestrian and traffic safety. Construction permits do not allow storage of these materials anywhere except your property.

Outdoor Water Use Bylaw

The Town of Aurora enforces a municipal bylaw related to outdoor water use. It is important that all residents and businesses observe the regulations, as they have been put into place to ensure a continued abundant water supply. Even/odd watering restrictions are in effect.

Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw

The Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw is in effect. All residents should be cleaning up debris on their property and keeping grass no longer than eight inches. Let's keep Aurora looking beautiful!

For more information on these and other Town bylaws, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240 or visit www.aurora.ca/bylaws

PUBLIC NOTICES

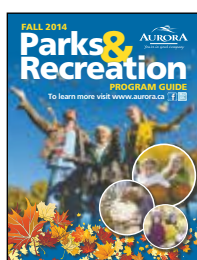
Highway 404 Closure Notice

Please be advised that the southbound lanes of Highway 404 from Aurora Road to Green Lane will be closed for construction from **Wednesday, July 23** to **Friday, July 25** during the following times:

- July 23 to July 24 from 10:30 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- July 25 from 10:30 p.m. to 7 a.m.

2014 Fall Parks and Recreation Guide

Look for your copy of the 2014 Fall Parks and Recreation Guide that was delivered in *The Banner* newspaper on July 20. Copies are also available for pick-up at various Town facilities, and online at www.aurora.ca



Election Day Employment

The Town of Aurora is recruiting for a variety of customer-service-focused, temporary election workers to assist with the **October 27** Municipal Election.



Applicant requirements include:

- 18 years of age or older;
- Legally entitled to work in Canada;
- Applicants cannot be a candidate or the spouse, sibling, parent or child, or grandparent or grandchild of a candidate running in the **October 27** election;
- Customer service and/or election official experience preferred;
- Fluent in English (knowledge of other languages an asset);
- Access to reliable transportation;
- Ability to work well both independently and as a team; and
- Available to attend a 2-hour mandatory training session, up to two weeks prior to the election.

To apply, please complete the online application form available at www.aurora.ca/electionemployment or at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way. The application deadline **Tuesday, August 5** at 9 a.m.



CONCERTS in the park

7 P.M. TO 9 P.M. | AURORA TOWN PARK (WELLS STREET AND MOSLEY STREET)

CONCERT LINE-UP

ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE!

July 9
SONSHINE & BROCCOLI
This fun-filled action-packed interactive concert gets children (and parents) on their feet and singing along.

July 16
TARTAN TERRORS
Bringing traditional celtic music, mixed with rock 'n roll and blended with their own unique Scottish comedy. A night not to be missed!

July 23
TRIBUTE TO ELTON JOHN BENNY AND THE JETS
Tribute artist Jeff Scott has the voice, the performance & the costumes! Enjoy hits like "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," & many more.

July 30
EH440
This a cappella group is unforgettable with their combination of beatboxing, sassy harmonies and fresh R&B.

August 6
THE SATTALITES
This Toronto-based Juno Award-winning reggae group will deliver great music for a hot summer night.

August 13
THE JERSEY BOYS TRIBUTE
Join us for a memorable Jersey Boys tribute performed by Pauly and the Goodfellas.

August 20
LES SMITH - FRESH HORSES
Join us for the ultimate tribute performance to Garth Brooks! Don't miss this evening of high-energy country music.

August 27
GREEN RIVER CCR
The best loved music of Creedence Clearwater Revival – a fun night of country rock and all their greatest hits.

CHARITABLE BBQ* BY M&M MEAT SHOPS ON SITE!

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS AND BLANKETS!



ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORS



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.AURORA.CA/SUMMERCONCERTS OR CALL 905-726-4762

*A nominal fee applies. Concerts are weather-permitting. We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities

MOVIES in the park

ALL MOVIES BEGIN AT DUSK

FOUR GREAT NIGHTS!

RETRO REPLAY WEEKEND

THIS WEEKEND IS SPONSORED BY **State Farm**



Saturday, August 2
RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (PG 13)
Aurora Town Park
(Wells Street and Mosley Street)



Sunday, August 3
FOOTLOOSE (PG 13)
Aurora Town Park
(Wells Street and Mosley Street)

CHARITABLE BBQ* BY M&M MEAT SHOPS & MORE!

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS AND BLANKETS!

FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED

END OF SUMMER SUPERHERO PARTY



Tuesday, August 26
MAN OF STEEL (PG 13)
Hickson Park
(Borealis Avenue and Conover Avenue)



Thursday, August 28
SPIDER-MAN (PG 13)
Norm Weller Park
(McClellan Way)

Enjoy activities including a bouncy castle, craft making and a few surprises! Come dressed as your favourite superhero for the chance to win a prize!
6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.AURORA.CA/MOVIESINTHEPARK OR CALL 905-726-4762

*A nominal fee applies. Movies are weather-permitting. We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities



Members of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club pose for a group photo with Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis, Rev. Ian Martin of Trinity Anglican Church, and MPP Chris Ballard following celebrations Sunday to mark the club’s 100th anniversary. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club looks forward to the next century

By Brock Weir

Sunday rains may have made the green extra challenging, but there was nothing to deter the members of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club from their passion as they gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their club.

Based at the corner of Fleury Street and Maple Street, the club has its earliest beginnings at Trinity Anglican Church. But, it was at their well-maintained “new” facility that the venerable club welcomed over 60 members and a host of dignitaries for an afternoon of celebration and gameplay.

“This is a great sport, it has a great tradition, and I am extremely proud to be a part of it,” said Allan Dean, president of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club, who has double duty as president of the Ontario Lawn Bowls Association.

As a 50-year member of the club, he said he was proud to be part of its storied history which, although versions of the game have existed back into antiquity, has its modern roots in Scotland.

These roots were heralded by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in a special message which was read out to the crowd by Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis, on behalf of Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown.

“Like curling, with which it shares similarities, lawn bowling has its origins in Scotland and was brought to Canada by British garrison officers before Confederation,” read the Prime Minister’s message. “Its popularity in Canada has grown in recent decades because of some notable international achievements

at the Commonwealth Games and the World Championships. The enthusiasm that your founding members showed for bowls a century ago has been passed down through the years to the current members who continue to meet as friends in the spirit of fair play and with respect for the game’s traditions.”

Representing these early days of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club was Rev. Ian Martin, who was on hand to provide a few words for the century ahead, as well as Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard.

Joking that the club “didn’t look a day over 98,” Mayor Dawe paid tribute to the people that have allowed the club to flourish for a century.

“We really appreciate the opportunity you folks afford by organizing the club and volunteering to do all the work that you do,” said Mayor Dawe. “Volunteers are really part of what makes Aurora such a great place to live. I am very pleased the Town could have a small part in terms of helping you with this facility and it has been spruced up quite nicely.”

Upon arriving at the green, Mr. Ballard was asked if he had ever tried his hand at a few bowls. In fact, he had, as a summer student working at Eastman Kodak, he recalled.

“Some of the more senior employees would challenge the summer interns to a game or two and we thought it was a pretty genteel sport,” he said. “They seemed to be having lots of fun – but they had particular fun in cleaning our clocks every time. I learned early on that this game is a lot more difficult than one would think and I have a lot of respect for people who play it well!”

Classic bands bring sense of nostalgia

From page 1

Special Events Coordinator Shelley Ware in making everything come together.

“We’re all very excited for this,” says Ms. Ware. “We’re excited to have these events in the community. What we can offer by having these classic rock headliner bands is we’re actually giving the community a chance to rekindle their memories. When you look at events like Movies in the Park and Concerts in the Park, you’re making current memories. This is a classic way of looking back to the past and sharing it with your neighbour.”

With Glass Tiger, their local roots in Newmarket was an obvious draw from the Town’s perspective, and a draw for members of the public as well, which quickly became evident to Ms. Ware.

“I am constantly being told stories of when Glass Tiger visited their schools and for a lot of people their very first concert was Glass Tiger. That, in itself, is a neat experience because as these classic rock bands become classic, the chances to play live become rarer, which makes the actual experience more special.”

Ribfest runs at Machell Park on Aurora Heights Drive, just west of Yonge Street, Friday September 5, and Saturday, September 6 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and finishes up on Sunday, September 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Age of majority for Ribfest activities is required after 8 p.m.

Additional activities planned for Ribfest include Top 20 performances for the Hoedown Showdown, a kids’ activity zone, the Glenn Marais Band, and a beer garden hosted by the Aurora Rotary Club.

In his remarks last week, Mayor Dawe paid

tribute to the support Ribfest receives each year from the Aurora Rotary Club, which will once again host their beer garden. Additional sponsors and partners, in addition to Ontario Central Counties Tourism, include Aurora Chrysler, L.H. Lind Realty, Motion in Life Chiropractic, the Investors Group, and Northern Karate Schools.

“There are a number of events over the weekend I would highlight,” added Mayor Dawe. “There is the Hoedown Showdown on Saturday afternoon, which is the prelude to them being picked to perform at Hoedown a week later. There is also the Ribfest judging contest, which is on Sunday afternoon.”

A new addition to the Ribfest family this year is Billy Mountain’s Travelling Chainsaws, a troupe of 10 guys taking “massive logs” and turning them into art over just a few days.

“On Friday, you might have an idea what they are making,” says Ms. Ware. “Come Saturday, you might have a better idea, but come Sunday you are going to have an outstanding finished product. In carving wood, and carving art out of wood, it really is a sincere talent and to see it live and done before you, I think that, again, is going to be a really unique experience and this is the first time it will be done at Ribfest.”



Glass Tiger, seen above performing at I Run and Rock in Newmarket this spring, will headline Aurora’s 2014 Ribfest. Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

Briefly

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN BACK ON AT ST. JOSEPH CES

Full day kindergarten will be back on at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School this fall after all, following a decision made Monday by the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB). The Board of Trustees approved the move following an outcry from local parents. According to a statement released by the YCDSB, the full-day kindergarten program will be back on track in time for the first day of school, scheduled for September 2, but how long it will be in place remains to be seen. “[Full Day Kindergarten] will be in place until St. Joseph offers Single Track French Immersion only,” said the Board in a statement. “Parents with children born in 2009 and 2010 are welcome to register for Full-Day Kindergarten with priority being given to siblings of students currently registered at St. Joseph.” Registration is ongoing, with applications being accepted at the YCDSB (320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora) through August 21.

RINK TO BE DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF JUDY SHERIN

She kept close tabs – and kept an eye out for – numerous community groups and athletes booking Aurora’s sports and recreation facilities for over 25 years, and now the legacy of the late Judy Sherin will continue at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (ALFC). Council will dedicate the ice pad at the ALFC in Ms. Sherin’s memory later this year. “I think it is a most fitting tribute,” said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. “Judy was known for being able to book 25 hours out of 24 hours of ice time, so she was extremely good at balancing the needs and desires of the various teams and groups.” Ms. Sherin died on June 21 after a brief illness. She was 64. Her husband, Terry, summed up the honour in two words, one of which is printable: “Amazing!”



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- Autism spectrum
- Dyspraxia (coordination)



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– M. N.
Newmarket, Ontario

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– Ron & Wendy Jennings,
Newmarket, Ontario

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

– Richard & Deb Pope
Newmarket, Ontario

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

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maureen@learningability.org



www.learningability.org

AURORAN POLL

Aurora will have a new Councillor on July 29.
What factors do you think Council should keep in mind when making their appointment?

- a) Experience
- b) Fresh blood
- c) Vision
- d) Other

(send your suggestions to letters@auroran.com)

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS JULY 15, 2014	A	B	C	C
	57%	11%	32%	0%



The Auroran is proud to be represented in AUC: Alive, a new exhibition currently underway at the Aurora Cultural Centre, showing artefacts and other mementos salvaged from the April 11 fire which destroyed Aurora United Church. The exhibition, part of the Centre’s “Community as Curator” program, combines these artefacts with a dazzling photo exhibition of the fire’s aftermath put together by Claire d’Aurore. For more on the show, visit www.the-auroran.com.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Down To Business

One of the great joys of being an elected official is the invitations I receive to events in Aurora and Newmarket. This past weekend I attended two very different events.

On Saturday, Audrey and I attended the Black Tie Kick Off for the Newmarket Jazz+ Festival.

George St. Kitts, a key figure in organizing the event and, himself, an internationally acclaimed entertainer par excellence, was on hand to give us a small sampling of what’s to come in Newmarket August 1, 2, 3, and 4. The festival gains new support and grows bigger every year. Congratulations to everyone involved.

On Sunday, I was delighted to bring greetings on behalf of the Premier of Ontario and the Legislature to members of the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club. The club celebrates its 100th birthday this year.

Started by men at Trinity Anglican Church in 1912, the club moved to its current location in McMahon Park in 1930. Today, the group boasts a meticulously maintained bowling green and a clubhouse. The area recently underwent an upgrade and looks spectacular. New members are always welcome.

It never fails to impress me at how important groups like the Jazz Festival and the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club are to our communities. There are literally dozens of organizations in our two towns that are run by volunteers, ask very little of government and provide great service for residents.

They make our communities great places to live and work.

I look forward to meeting many more groups in the years ahead and encourage any organization celebrating an important anniversary or event to contact my office. Contact information can be found at the end of this column.

Since the 41st parliament began sitting July 2 there have been a number of bills introduced to the house. I want to highlight a few of those I consider particularly important.

Bill 1: An Act to perpetuate an ancient parliamentary right.

If you know me, you know I’m fascinated by the traditions of our parliament. It’s the “glue” that helps hold things together. Bill 1 is traditionally introduced by the Premier at the first sitting of each new parliament. Its roots go back to 1558 and the bill is introduced before consideration of the throne speech to perpetuate the right of Parliament to sit and act without permission from the Crown.

It passed unanimously.

The Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act proposes a new 10-year, \$2.5 billion fund as part of the government’s plan for creating jobs and growing the economy. The fund will help Ontario compete to attract new business and form partnerships to secure investments that will result in economic growth, innovation and jobs.

The MPP Accountability and Transparency Act strengthens



VIEW FROM QUEEN’S PARK
Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

political accountability by enhancing oversight, increasing transparency in the government and the broader public sector. Among its important provisions, it will give government the power to control compensation of senior executives in the broader public sector; post expense information for all MPPs and make the province a leader in expense reporting for politicians; and expand the scope of the Ombudsman role to include municipalities, school boards and publicly-assisted universities.

The End Coal for Clean Air Act follows on the government’s move to close the sole remaining coal-fired generating plant in Ontario at Nanticoke Generating Station this year. The bill will ensure that electricity in Ontario cannot be made by burning coal.

As an aside, the Columbia Law School’s Center for Climate Change Law reported this past January that when financial, health, and environment costs of burning coal are calculated, “estimated savings from no longer burning coal approach \$4.4 billion per year” in Ontario.

The 2014 Budget lays out a plan for a strong Ontario, with more jobs, more opportunity and a more secure future.

The plan will invest in people, build modern infrastructure, and support a dynamic and innovative business climate.

The deficit for 2013–14 is now estimated to be \$11.3 billion – a \$0.4 billion improvement compared with the 2013 Budget forecast. This marks the fifth year in a row that the Province is reporting a projected deficit lower than forecast. The government remains committed to balancing the budget by 2017–18.

One final note from the budget – the people of Ontario are asking for fairness from the Federal Government.

Let me explain: every year, the share of federal revenue raised in Ontario is higher than the share of federal spending in Ontario. This results in an \$11 billion gap between what Ontarians pay, versus what they receive from the federal government.

The Ontario government calls on the federal government to:

- Treat Ontarians the same way it treats residents of other provinces.
- Protect Ontario from the \$641 million decline in major transfers in 2014-15, as it has done with other provinces in the past.
- Significantly increase funding for infrastructure, including matching Ontario’s \$1 billion commitment to infrastructure development for the Ring of Fire.

Contact me at my Community Office: 905-750-0019, or by email: cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. The office is located in Suite 201, 14845 Yonge St., Aurora L4G 6H8. Office hours are 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m., Monday to Friday.

Customer Service in Aurora – Round VII

Back in March 2012, I again wrote about a subject that had been of increasing concern to me – the lack of adequate customer service in our society.

That column certainly struck a chord with a number of readers judging by the amount of e-mails and letters that I received.

Although it has been over two years since I last wrote about this topic, recent international and local experiences have compelled me to do so again.

Corporate loyalty programs are proudly trumpeted by organizations as a great way to recognize and financially reward long term customers.

You might ask, “What does this actually have to do with customer service?”

I include loyalty programs as part of the entire “buying experience” which includes how I am treated in the store, what happens when I have a problem with the product or service and what will draw me back to potentially purchase that good or service again.

In my view, there are some organizations that, based on the dollar value size of the purchase by customers, should have some type of loyalty program in place.

A good example is Disney.

At certain times of the year they do offer Free Dining Plans for those who come and stay at one of their resorts at either DisneyWorld in Florida or at Disneyland in California.

However, these programs are offered to any one time purchaser.

Disney also offers a Vacation Club Program that allows people to purchase time that can be used at a number of their resorts.

I am thinking about a program for those people, like my family, who travel to their resorts a few times. Disney should be offering some discount or other incentive based on the number of times and the amount of money that has been spent over the last few years.

As they are a very well run and highly profitable company, I am surprised that Disney does not have any such loyalty program. Maybe their research has shown that they do not need it.



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

I now present two local companies – one with a façade of a loyalty program and one with a real and straight forward program.

A certain retailer in town of golf equipment has what is known as a “Leaders Board”. Every time that I purchase something in the store the cashier asks for my phone number to input this information into their system and also asks if I am a member of this club.

I faithfully say “yes” that I am a member of the “Leaders Board” and provide my phone number.

I don’t get any discounts off my purchases but I do receive – via e-mail – their flyer showing new sales.

The last couple of times in the store when I have been purchasing something I have asked that cashier to pass on some information to their management.

I tell her that my family and I have purchased a lot in the store over the last couple of years – clubs and bags for all of us – and you continually ask us for our phone number but we have not received any discount for being members of this club.

On the opposite side of the coin is Omar’s Shoes in the south part of Aurora. We have been purchasing shoes for our son here for years as we really like their selection and their customer service.

Their loyalty program is a simple one. You have a card and every time you buy something they sign it. On your tenth purchase you receive a “free” pair of shoes. (They take the average price of your previous nine purchases, so you will most likely not get the shoes for free, but the cost will be, in most cases, very minimal.)

Julie and I very much appreciate this program.

What would be even better is if they had this information stored on their system and when we came in for our tenth purchase, they would be the ones to tell us that the shoes were “free”!

Please remember, a happy customer means a customer that will be coming back.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

A very public vote...

As of 4.30 p.m. Friday, we officially have 18 candidates for the Council vacancy; citizens of sound mind and body, willing and eager to assume the mantle of governance on our behalf. God help them!

There are some familiar names on the list – former councillors, local business owners and volunteers, and some new names too. There are even a few municipal election candidates thrown in for good measure.

Of those eligible citizens that have stepped forward, each has submitted their nomination form and will be expected to attend the council meeting of July 29 and, in three minutes or less, explain to Council why he or she should be selected as the appointee to fill the vacant Council seat.

Councillors are allowed to ask two questions, then will deliberate, and make their decision.

The voting process will function ostensibly like a leadership convention run-off with multiple ballots and names being dropped off along the way until the ultimate “winner” is announced. If no candidate gets the requisite majority and Council is deadlocked in a tie for the last two candidates standing, then the appointee will be drawn by lot. So, in other words, if all else fails, flip a coin.

And all of this will be public. Very, very public.

Councillors will be expected to state their choice of candidate – verbally – while all the other candidates and their families and friends must sit there and listen. It will be awkward at best, humiliating at worst, like some adult version of a schoolyard stick ball team selection.

I don’t envy the candidates or the councillors. How awful for them all.

I understand that there is a need to be seen to be “open” and “transparent.” However, this is one of those times that the pendulum has swung too far to the right in the accountability spectrum.

Other municipalities have used this very same process – most recently Richmond Hill in 2013. However, I was not aware of the particulars – or implications of the particulars of the voting process, and I very much doubt the candidates are aware either.

I do not mean to criticize here as I understand the intention and staff’s reasoning, but I have to say that I think the proposed voting methodology and argument in support of same is seriously flawed.

By virtue of the Municipal Act, all Council decisions must be public. The Act does not – however – require all Council *deliberations* to be public. That’s what closed sessions are for: business deals, legal matters and issues concerning publicly identifiable people.

It seems to me that selection of a publicly identified candidate for Council appointment would qualify as meeting the criteria for closed session deliberations.

When council makes appointments to advisory committees, the deliberations are in closed session, and the vote to ratify the decision is public. For example, Council recently went into closed session to deliberate appointments to the Joint Compliance Audit Committee. The reasons for closed session deliberations of appointments are obvious: to save people embarrassment.

Who would subject themselves to public vetting just to hold municipal office (yes, yes, elections are a very public vetting. But it is a collective vetting, by secret ballot, not a public vetting by individuals declaring “yay” or “nay” in a metaphorical coliseum).

So, I ask you – if appointments to an advisory committee are deliberated in closed session and decisions ratified publicly, why are Council appointments treated any differently?

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

Preservation in Aurora’s southeast quadrant gets second wind

By Brock Weir

It might be a neighbourhood characterised by old homes, but preservation of Aurora’s downtown Southeast Quadrant got a second wind at Council last week.

Although Council earlier, following significant complaints from area residents, rejected going any further with a Heritage Conservation District in the area, Council signed off on a motion from Councillor Wendy Gaertner asking Town Staff to prepare an arsenal of options – ranging from zoning options to clauses under Aurora’s official plan – to protect the “character” of the neighbourhood when evaluating any future development within the area.

“We had a lot of people in this Chamber with respect to designating this area as a heritage district,” said Councillor Gaertner. “More people felt it was not appropriate to designate the area because it might impose onerous restrictions on home owners, but I don’t think anyone in the Chamber at that time didn’t want to protect the valuable heritage in this area and I think, as a Council, because we know many residents [throughout Aurora] value that area [historically and culturally] it would be a very good idea for us, as a Council, to find out what we do have available for us to protect the area.”

Councillor Gaertner’s motion found support first from Councillor Sandra Humfries, who sits on Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee. She said it would be valuable to have staff pull together resources to “articulate and deliver” options in a way which won’t cause any strife between neighbours.

“I am sorry how the [HCD} turned out for neighbours, but I think this will allow the delivery of the intention of that study, without causing any title issues or concerns in that area,” she said.”

Some, however, weren’t so positive about whether the motion would achieve objectives. Although he was initially in favour of an HCD this year, Councillor Paul Pirri said the objections of area residents ultimately took precedence over his views, but he wanted to see what could be done to provide a level of protection.

In response, Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning, told Council there might be opportunities out there, such as site plan control, and design control measures, but options might be limited.

“I am not overly optimistic of what we can do, but I hope there is more than what I am

feeling there is,” said Councillor Pirri.

More optimistic, however, was Councillor John Abel, who said the Official Plan and zoning bylaws would go a long way to help maintain “the character of a conservation.”

“This is just addressing concerns that may exist because the Conservation District was not allowed, that we want to ensure there are ways to conserve,” he said. “To me, it is just a matter of a report coming from the department so that we all understand and we are all on equal footing and can relate to our residents what is going on and what is available.”

In making sure the residents are able to find out everything that is available to help preserve the character of their neighbourhood, however, was not through a report to Council from staff, but rather through public engagement, according to Councillor Michael Thompson.

“I think a better way to satisfy the needs of the residents is why not present it to them as an information session, a little more informal, so we can present to the residents and talk to them about what is in place today to help them preserve the neighbourhood and the character of it. In that informal setting, they can ask questions.”

In Councillor Evelyn Buck’s view, those residents’ questions had already been long-addressed in the contentious debates and exchanges that occurred between Councillors, and residents coming up to the podium in the lead-up to Council’s decision to kill the project. Bringing these options back for another review would muddy the waters and further residents’ concerns, she said.

“[Residents] thought it was settled, they thought their interest was protected, and now we’re looking for something else that will have the same impact as the neighbourhood designation,” said Councillor Buck. “This is a time for tying up loose ends. This is not a time for starting new directions. The people who fought so hard for us to change our minds relaxed when they thought they had – and they worked hard – and now they are starting to be concerned again that there is an element on Council who didn’t mean what we did.”

The motion was ultimately approved 6 – 2, with Councillors Buck and Thompson as the dissenting votes.

“This motion is not looking for anything that would put any onerous restrictions on this neighbourhood,” concluded Councillor Gaertner. “If the intent is to find a way for us to protect the character of this neighbourhood as well as we can, and it is not only for the people

who are living in the neighbourhood at the moment. We need to have some way to make it clear for those people who will be moving into the neighbourhood what is and is not permitted.”

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JEAN BISNAIRE

Clutter Vs. Keeper: De-cluttering Your Home

“Now that the kids are at camp for the summer I’d really like to do some de-cluttering but I don’t know where to start. There’s just so much stuff. Any advice?”

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

Now is a great time to de-clutter and get organized. The holidays are far away and the kids are away, so the house is quiet. But what makes clutter, clutter? Where do you draw the line between a beautiful collection of pieces and an overwhelming mess?

The first thing you’ll need to do is decide where you fall on the clutter spectrum. How much clutter are you comfortable with? Do you have the soul of an artist? Do you love bold colours, layered art, beautiful textiles and groupings of objects? If this sounds like you, you don’t want to try and clear away all of the items in your space. These items inspire you and create an exciting energy in your home. The challenge is editing your possessions.

Do you have the soul of an architect? Are you more interested in the structure of things? Clean lines are more your thing, and you appreciate white or neutral spaces more than saturated colours. If this sounds more like you, everything in your home should be there for a reason- by being both useful and well designed.

Whether you’re a minimalist or a maximalist, what gets defined as clutter has a lot to do with what is most useful to you. I tend to ask my clients the following questions to help them discover why they’ve been holding on to some items for so long, and whether or not they deserve a place in your home:

Does it get in your way? If you’re constantly finding yourself annoyed with something, chances are, it’s clutter. Pillows that you have to toss off the sofa in order to get comfortable, knick knacks that make cleaning tricky, and all of that stuff in your closet that poses a threat to your safety every time you open the door- these are your major problem areas. Start with them first!

Does it echo your sense of style? Your home is a place where you’re free to decide how you want things to look and feel. It should be full of items that are there because they speak to you, not because you needed to fill a spot on an empty shelf. They should be a representation of who you are and what you love.







Is it sentimental? Family photos, heirlooms and your children’s artwork can bring a smile to your face just by knowing that they’re in

your home. On the flipside, objects that bring up negative emotions qualify as clutter of the worst kind. An example of this may be a keepsake that reminds you of a difficult time in your life. If actually getting rid of them seems too tough, store them away somewhere where they’re out of sight and out of mind. You’ll feel better in your space instantly. If you feel like your mementos may be getting out of hand ask yourself if you still really appreciate these items day to day. When you have too many items competing for your attention they can start to lose some of their charm so try to edit things down every now and again.

Are you inspired by it? We have inspiration boards all around our showroom and offices filled with things that inspire us at that moment. There may be things in your home that at first glance look like clutter- stacks of books or shelves full of pottery. Once you recognize that these things are sources of inspiration for you you can find a way to display them neatly so that others don’t label them as ‘clutter’ or ‘mess’. The colours, patterns and textures we surround ourselves with can affect the way we feel dramatically. Take note of how you respond to colours in your home. It is just as important to play down the colours that make you feel low as it is to play up the tones you love.

This may be a daunting task when thinking of your whole home but take a room or two at a time and you’ll flow through the process beautifully. Remember, my biggest advice is to always surround yourself with things that you love and that inspire you. We all have stress in our day to day lives so your home should be your haven and a place of relaxation.

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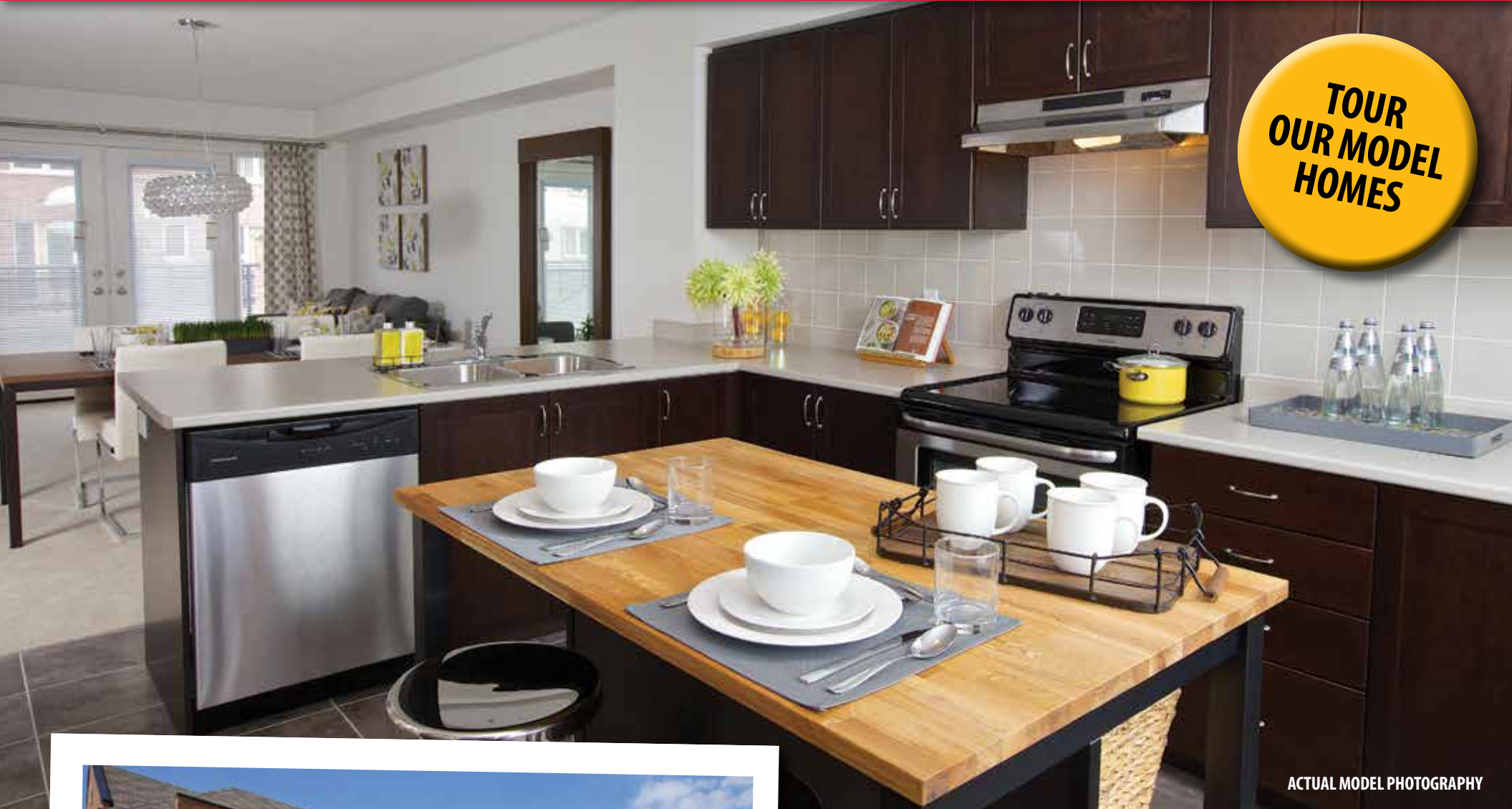
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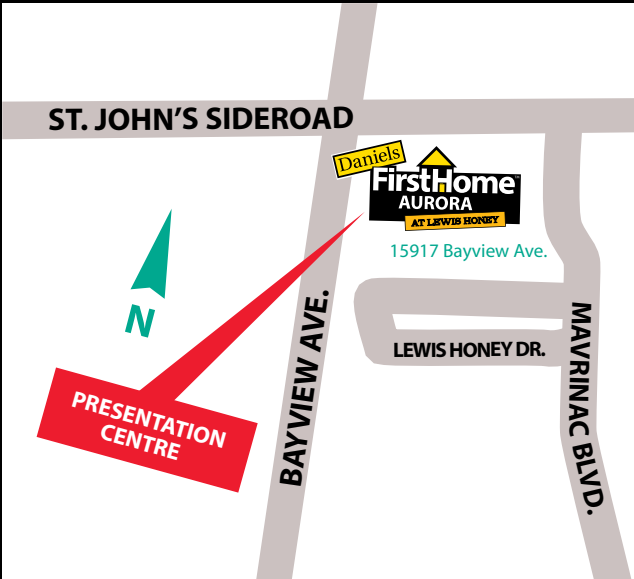
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MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

We have just experienced another lovely day at the Farmers' Market where we were lucky that the rain held off until after the Market closed.

It didn't seem to be quite as busy as the previous few weeks, but there was a steady stream of shoppers.

Once again the farmers' tables were piled high with local Ontario produce. Along with the huge variety of leafy greens available, there was broccoli and cauliflower and very early corn from the Simcoe area. For some growers, the strawberries are finished, but others have everbearing varieties that will continue to produce for some time.

There were lots of beautiful raspberries and also some delicious wild blueberries. In terms of the stone fruit, I noticed Brooks Farm had some early yellow plums and other varieties should be appearing soon. There isn't much Ontario produce that isn't now available, except the squashes, apples and the stone fruit like peaches, plums and apricots.

So, be sure to include a trip to the Market on Saturday mornings so you can select from this bounty for your family meals.

The next vendor I'd like to introduce is Marnie Parkin (and husband Gord) from Aurora. They own The Bear's Den, which is the home of warm socks and more created on an antique circular knitting machine. The business came into being when they were living in Oakville and came upon the machine in the late 1980's.

That first machine was a 1924 Canadian Autoknitter manufactured in Toronto. They now have a new reproduced Erlbacher Gearhart Knitting Machine, the first in Canada, manufactured in 2011 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

The business grew from making long tubes of knit fabric in the beginning. They travelled to Rochester, NY to meet someone they found on the internet to learn the intricacies of the machine. They attended conferences across the United States to learn more techniques and skills.

They went from not knowing anyone else in Ontario who had one of these machines to organizing an annual convention in September with attendees from across Canada and the United States. The family all received hand cranked socks and when they moved to Aurora, they decided to widen their circle to include the Farmers' Market.

They joined us initially at the Indoor Market and have now become a part of the Outdoor Market, too. They also do lectures and demos for guilds, historical societies and other interested groups.

Their socks are made from high quality yarns of alpaca, merino, superwash wool, etc. They also have wool-free yarn such as bamboo and cotton for those who cannot wear wool. They offer socks of various styles and designs.

A pair of lace patterned socks may take up to 35 hours to complete and an eye for detail and patience is required.

Their inventory has grown from socks to include mitts, scarves and hats with more items being added from time to time.

Marnie and Gord's motto is "the Bear's Den is keeping your feet warm and cozy". They have enjoyed being part of the Market and have met many new friends there. They invite you to come by their booth to see the wonderful machine and ask any questions.

They would like to thank their customers for their continued support. The Bear's Den will next be at the Market on August 9 to be followed by visits on August 23, September 13 and October 11, our final day this year.

The next Special Event at the Farmers' Market takes place on August 2, when we celebrate Seniors' Day. The Aurora Seniors' Association will have 11 entertainers alternately singing, dancing or telling stories and jokes at the band shell from 10 – 11.30 a.m.

From 12 noon to 1 p.m., Robert Davis will sing for us and there will be a display and demonstration of wood carving by the Woodcarvers of Ontario. They will have a totem pole and there will be bark carving as well. We will also have crafts for children, a scavenger hunt and a raffle draw for a Market bag. The draw will take place at 12 noon.

This year the Seniors won't be selling any items, but will be inviting people to sit down for a game of chess. There will be a lot of activity and it should be a great day.

See you at the Market!

Learn more about the History of Aurora at Doors Open Aurora 2014

By Bob McRoberts
Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee

Hartman's Corners School (118 Wellington St. E.)

The Hartman's Corners Schoolhouse has strong historical significance as the oldest surviving schoolhouse in Aurora and York Region. Built ca. 1838, it is likely the third or fourth oldest remaining schoolhouse in Ontario.

It was originally located in the community of Hartman's Corners at the corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East. One of the first teachers in this one-room schoolhouse was Joseph Hartman. Joseph, born in 1821, was the son of Quaker immigrants from Pennsylvania, and went on to become one of Aurora's most prominent citizens.

In addition to teaching and farming, he was a temperance advocate, radical reformer, a leader in the Methodist Congregation, first Reeve of Whitchurch Township (1850-1859), County Warden, and a Member of Provincial Parliament for York County.

When a new brick schoolhouse was built in 1885 (now demolished), the Hartman's Corners Schoolhouse was sold to George W. Graham, for \$45.

George moved the one-storey frame building to its present location at 118 Wellington Street East in Aurora, on the north

side near the railroad. The building was used as a private residence for over 120 years. Most schoolhouses of this era were torn down, so it is definitely a rarity. Several years ago, the building was completely restored and converted for commercial use.

The architectural significance of the Hartman's Corners Schoolhouse is its vertical plank construction. This early form of construction was used in communities in Ontario and Quebec. The Hartman's Corners Schoolhouse is the only known surviving schoolhouse built using this technique.

The building has been altered over the years, yet a number of its original features remain intact. Although hidden under aluminum siding, these include the clapboard siding, original fenestration, and trim. This simple rectangular structure has a low-pitched gable roof, positioned with the gable end facing the street. Come by the schoolhouse on August 16 for a brief "lesson" in local history.

Absalom Blaker House (86 Wellington St. E.)

The first train arrived in Machell's Corners 1853. The railroad's coming here led to the expansion of both population and business in the village. The following year, Charles Doan, the postmaster, suggested "Aurora" as a better name for

Continued on page 16



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FREE Week of July 24, 2014

Aurora Jays end week at top of NDBL standings

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Jays baseball club saw a three-place swing in the North Dufferin Baseball League standings this week, now sitting in the top spot after facing two of the top teams in the Ivy Leafs and Bolton Brewers.

The team entered the week sitting in third place, three points back of the first place Brewers.

Things kicked off with a game at home against the Leafs on Tuesday. The home side never faltered, as the Jays' bats were on fire all evening, winning the game handily 9-1.

The Jays picked up thirteen hits on the night, including three runs by Ian Rettie on a 3-for-4 night.

Andrew Bukovec had a solid performance on the mound, going 5.2 innings, allowing only three hits and one run, striking out four.

The team then traveled to Bolton on Thursday to face their next toughest opponent in the Brewers. After Tuesday's win, the Jays sat one point up on Bolton for first place in the standings.

Having outscored the opponent 22 – 1 over the last two games, the Jays bats were silenced by an excellent outing on the mound by Brewers pitcher Zack Ridell.

After taking an early 1 – 0 lead in the top of the first off a Ted Beadle RBI, the Jays could not produce in the second inning. Ridell struck out the side.

Down 2-1 after two innings, the Jays defensive play looked to spark some life into the team when right-fielder Jake Pinnegar made a stretched-out grab on a deep fly ball to rob the Brewers of an extra run.

The Jays then tied the game in the third inning, when a one-out single brought in Chris Bloom who had hit a hard line drive double to get in scoring position. They would take the lead 3 – 2 in the top of the fifth when Ian Rettie would cash in his second run of the game.

However, the Jays ran into trouble in the bottom of the inning when starting pitcher Chris Rettie walked the Bolton batter to load the bases with only one out. Rettie then gave up singles to the next two batters, putting the Jays behind for good, 4 – 3.

The Jays' frustration was evident in the top of the sixth, when Dan Lehmkuhl hit a hard line drive to third base. Brewer third-baseman Travis Rummey made a diving stab to block the ball, and Lehmkuhl was called out after a hard throw to first base. The Jays dugout was irate, but understanding of the nature of making close calls.

"It was disappointing," said Lehmkuhl. "It would have been nice to continue, we would have been back to the top of the order. But sometimes that's just how it goes."

Lehmkuhl said although the loss knocked the Jays out of first place in the NDBL, the team has to focus on the future.

"It's a tough loss, but we tried our best like we always do. We've just got to look at getting to the top."

The Jays were able to bounce back, as a win against the Lisle Astros Friday evening put Aurora back at the top of the standings. As of Monday, the Jays sit one point up on the Brewers and Leafs with four games to play.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.ndbl.ca.



The Jays have a one point lead over the Ivy Leafs and Bolton Brewers for first place in the NDBL.

**Auroran photo
by Jake
Courtepatte**

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This Week's Golf Tip

Golf: It isn't your Father's game anymore

Chris McNair, PGA of Canada

Head Professional Meadowbrook G&CC

We've heard the same adage for other sports as they have progressed well into the 21st century, and golf is no different. At least some clubs are catching on and enjoying the resurgence.

There has been much talk of how to attract more people to the game with ideas that include shorter rounds, faster play, bigger holes on the greens, and relaxed atmospheres. Some of these are interesting, however, they may be missing the point. Baseball diamonds are the same size and the game is still nine innings. Hockey nets haven't changed, nor has the rink size increased. The NFL still has 4 downs and NBA nets are the same height. The integrity of these great games is still intact, as is Golf's. One element that I mentioned earlier was changing the atmosphere surrounding the game. These other sports have done a very nice job of doing this for the fans and the popularity of said sports is increasing. Golf clubs can do the same, which will get the players excited to come out and play or enjoy a special event.



and to try and put on a good show for the attendees. Your basic 18-hole golf event with 3 winners is nice, but you can do so much more. Playing an 18-hole team event with 3 formats changing every six holes is a blast and keeps you interested all day. Play some music at the driving range to get people in the mood and ready to have fun. Have some on-course competitions like the Big Break to shake things up a bit. Playing a thirty-six-hole event with daily prizes and different formats is outstanding as well. Run a hole-by-hole elimination shootout once a month in the late afternoon for something completely different, and completely fun.

There are many purists playing the game and that is fine too. The other sports mentioned have the same fans. It's important to keep the nature of all of the sports we love intact. Once golfers begin to get involved in these fun events, they can't get enough. Then the length of the round, size of the hole or difficulty of the game becomes a non-issue. It puts the 'play' back in playing golf, and that is exactly what we need.

Chris McNair, PGA of Canada
Head Professional - 905.887.5361
Chris@meadowbrookgolf.net

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Home Owners helping **Homeowners**
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The image features the New Roads Automotive Group logo on the left, which consists of a stylized camera shutter icon in black, red, and teal. To the right of the logo, the text "PROUDLY SUPPORTING LOCAL SPORTS" is written in a small, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the company name "New Roads" is displayed in a large, bold, black font, with "Automotive Group™" in a smaller, grey font underneath. On the right side of the image, two young children, a girl and a boy, are smiling. They are wearing dark blue soccer jerseys with the New Roads logo on the front. The girl is holding a black and white soccer ball. The background is a bright blue sky with light clouds.

Barbarians U18 club splits double-header with English squad

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Barbarians U18 men's team played host to some special visitors Tuesday night from across the pond.

The double-header took place at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS, as the Barbarians welcomed Gravesend Grammar School from England.

Gravesend certainly had the advantage in experience, as the grammar school had a long rugby history spanning over a century. As for the Barbs, this season marked the first to have enough players registered to field both an 'A' team and 'B' team. However, Gravesend coach Emlyn said his team would not take the Canadians lightly.

"It's really interesting to play in a country where rugby's up-and-coming and just starting to grow," said Emlyn. "So I think the boys find it really interesting to play people who are different sizes, who come from different backgrounds, and especially from different sports."

The first match saw the Barbs 'B' squad match up against Gravesend's U17. Barbarian Aidan Brown said that while team strategy remained similar against their experienced overseas opponent, they had to take advantage of their opportunities.

"Watch what their mistakes are," said Brown. "And if they keep repeating them, we have to pounce on them."

Brown had three tries in what would be a 35-14 victory for the Barbarians.

"We see how they play, having played together for years," said Brown. "These

guys are so far ahead of Canada in rugby, and for us to win against a team like this shows we're improving."

The Barbarian 'A' squad took on the Gravesend U18 team in the second match of the evening. Although the Barbs dropped the match 5-42, head coach Sandy Townsend said he sees value in the experience his players had.

"We want to provide our players with the highest opportunity we can to challenge them," said Townsend. "We want to present them with a chance to show what they can do against some of the best, whether in Ontario or overseas."

As much of the U18 team graduated at the end of last season, Townsend called this a "reloading year."

"I would say that next year looks really good," said Townsend. "Not that I'm writing off this year. We've had two U16 teams for the last two years, so it's nice to see those kids graduate and stay with us."

The trip was Gravesend Grammar School's third to Canada, having also visited South Africa twice and both Los Angeles and New Zealand once since 1999.

So what makes Canada and Aurora worth three visits? The answer should not come as a surprise.

"The hospitality," said Emlyn. "The people we've met along the way have been fantastic. The welcoming we receive, the people that we meet, the rugby that we play, has always been in good spirits. It just keeps us coming back for more."

For more information on the Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club, visit aurorabarbarians.com.



The Barbarians battled to split the series 1 - 1 against Gravesend Grammar School last Tuesday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte



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Barbarians avoid their Waterloo, taking must-win game

By John Reich

The Aurora Barbarians senior men travelled to the Rogers Sport Complex in Cambridge to take on Waterloo County for two matches on Saturday.

In what had been seen as a "must win" game for the Barbarians, the York Region rugby squad escaped from the basement of the Ontario Marshall Premiership defeating County and pulling ahead of the winless Pirates by two points in the standings.

Head Coach Ian McLeod had to juggle his line-up before the kickoff when Ontario standout Jon West was unable to start. In addition, McLeod chose to insert rookie second row Zack Watson and replace injured Stephan Seccareccia with second year Mike Griffiths in the back row.

The two youngsters proved their mettle and each turned in an outstanding game against a very determined Waterloo side.

The Barbarians came out of the gate at full throttle with flank forward Eric Charest

Continued on page 19



Summer Smiles

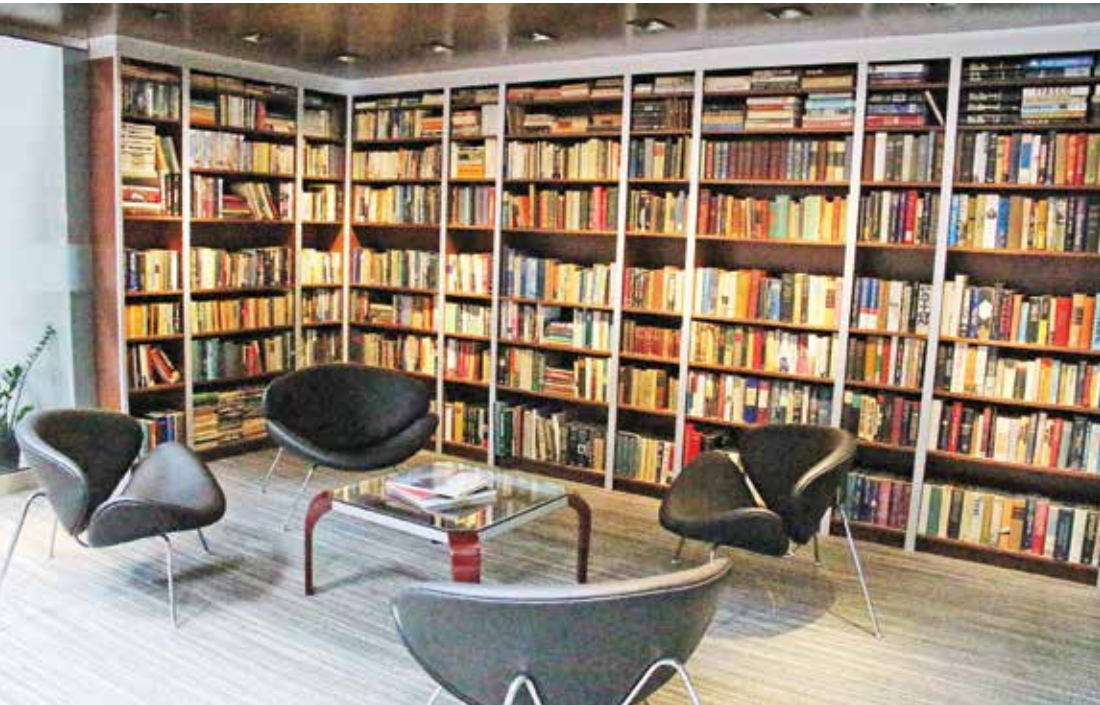
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2014 HAS BEEN A **BIG YEAR** for this local small business

The On Credit Group provides financial services for Automotive Dealers across Canada. Originating their first loan in 2007, this powerhouse of a company has continued to pave the way for private lenders in the industry.

The company hit a milestone in the second quarter of the year by achieving a portfolio size of over \$25 million. In November of 2013, Cars on Credit the Automotive Retail arm of the company successfully raised \$45 million in securitized funding to grow the portfolio to well over \$50 million over the next three years. Strategic growth is the company's forte. Investing in the industry's best people, accompanied by the support of leading edge technology, has positioned this company for enormous growth and profitability in the years to come.

Focused in the sub prime sector of the industry, the On Credit Group added an additional arm to their business. Inventory On Credit supports wholesale financing for Independent dealers across Canada. Helping car dealers increase their inventory to ultimately sell more cars that they can in turn re-sell throughout the retail arm adds superior

The company hit a milestone in the second quarter of the year by achieving a portfolio size of over \$25 million.

strength to their foundation.

The company has spent a lot of time designing their culture. The business practices and new building they purchased, renovated and designed with meticulous detail says everything about them. From a high end commercial kitchen and cafeteria to an extensive library, unique boardroom and training offices, executive suites and fully equipped gymnasium with shower areas and changing rooms, the On Credit Group supports work life balance in ways that ensure their employees love where they work.

We have captured images above that support the businesses commitment to excellence. Expect to hear a lot more about this local small business as they continue to achieve many milestones in their future plan.



One Book One Aurora campaign heads into the final stretch

By Brock Weir

If you haven't picked up a copy of Marina Nemat's harrowing memoir "Prisoner of Tehran", there is still time to join in on the community-wide discussion centring on the book.

Spearheaded by the Aurora Public Library (APL), the book is the centrepiece of the One Book One Aurora campaign, focusing on the bestselling book written by Ms. Nemat, an Aurora resident, about her ordeal being imprisoned and tortured in Iran aged just 16.

The book was chosen by APL to get the community talking on wide-ranging local and international issues. You may have seen the books at small portable libraries set up in community hubs, free to take and pass along to the next reader, but although supplies in these boxes are running low, copies are still on hand at the Aurora Public Library – and making the rounds amongst local bookworms – just waiting for the next reader.

The campaign kicked off on April 1 and, since then, One Book One Aurora has hosted a number of community events including a writers' workshop with Ms. Nemat and a Human Rights Panel bringing together advocates from different fields across York Region. According to Jill Foster, CEO of the Aurora Public Library, the best is yet to come.

"Imagine your 16-year-old self, sitting at home, a typical teenager," said Ms. Foster. "You have got friends, you go to school, you have lots of activities on the go, and one night a revolutionary guard knocks on your door, hauls you out of your house, and takes you to a notorious prison for political prisoners. Your family has no recourse. You can't be freed from this prison. You are tortured, sentenced to death, and left to basically languish in a terrible situation.

"Marina Nemat was 16 in 1982 in Iran when this happened to her. She was held as a political prisoner for over two years. She was tortured and sentenced to death. It was only by a strange fluke – and if you have read the book, you know what I am referring to – that her life was saved, but she was to be executed. Prisoner of Tehran is an unflinching memoir of life in prison. From Marina's brutal torture during her night of arrest

to the squalid living conditions in the prison and her near execution, that is just the beginning of her amazing story of courage and survival."

For the past 20 years, Ms. Nemat has been a resident of Aurora. She published her memoir in 2008 and it subsequently became an international best seller, published in nearly 30 countries, and garnered many awards for its author, including the Geneva Human Rights prize last year.

While the One Book One Aurora program is now in the home stretch, the campaign's Grand Finale will take place on September 27 as part of Aurora Culture Days with a series of events throughout Aurora. First, the Aurora Cultural Centre will host an afternoon of Persian dance and music from 12 noon to 2 p.m. This will be followed with a special presentation at the Aurora Public Library lead by Ms. Nemat herself, and a performance of an excerpt from "Prisoner of Tehran" performed by Theatre Aurora.

With "Prisoner of Tehran" forming the basis of the inaugural One Book One Aurora program, Ms. Foster says that judging by the amount of books doing the rounds and the number of people who have participated in the program so far, it has been a success.

"Few books have been returned but the main part is the books went and we are hoping they have been passed from hand to hand," she says. "We really have no way of knowing, but it is not that kind of project and we're not too worried about the numbers. We just want everyone to be engaged.

"This was our first attempt at a community-wide reading project and I think it has been successful. We chose this project because we thought it would be a valuable way of providing some cultural cohesion within the community and because it addresses the key goals of our strategic plan, which is engaging our community, mobilizing knowledge, and collaborating and partnering, and we managed to meet all three goals with this project.

"We have been able to deliver a shared experience to the Citizens of Aurora."

To join in the discussion, visit www.onebookoneaurora.com.



Local author Marina Nemat's memoir, "Prisoner of Tehran" has been the showpiece of the ongoing One Book One Aurora campaign. Aurora photo by David Falconer



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A6398	2014 [EX-RENTAL]	A4	Tiptronic	Brilliant Black	25,537	\$38,999
A6397	2014 [EX-RENTAL]	A4	Tiptronic	Monsoon Grey	23,535	\$38,999
A6431	2014 [EX-RENTAL]	Q5	Tiptronic	Monsoon Grey	13,746	\$42,999
16509	2012	A7	Tiptronic	Ice Silver	63,242	\$58,999
51383	2011	A4	Tiptronic	Deep Sea Blue	74,590	\$26,995
51427	2010	A4	Tiptronic	Brilliant Black	47,510	\$29,995
51360	2012	A5	Tiptronic	Monsoon Grey	71,110	\$32,995
51440	2011	S4	Manual	Quartz Grey	78,114	\$41,995
51429	2013	TT	Manual	Panther Black	3,771	\$64,995
51420	2011	Q5	Tiptronic	Deep Sea Blue	67,610	\$36,995
51436	2011	Q7	Tiptronic	Lava Grey	52,535	\$47,999
51434	2013	Q7 TDI	Tiptronic	Daytona Grey	36,564	\$69,995

*All prices are subject to HST and Licensing.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE														
1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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56					57				58					
59					60					61				
62					63						64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Paper mulberry
5. Fringe-toed lizard genus
8. Peel a corn cob
12. A love affair
14. Tandoor bread
15. Elliptical shape
16. A small village
18. Refers to a person
19. Hybrid equine
20. ____ Scholar
21. Consume
22. Away from wind
23. Br. tube phrase
26. With three uneven sides
30. First king of Egypt
31. Award recipient
32. Coach Parsegian
33. Uncle Sam artist James
34. Flathead mullet genus
39. Wedding declaration
42. Complete musical pause
44. More of sound mind
46. Relieved
47. Am. poet Henry W.
49. Fine cut tobacco
50. Honorable title (Turkish)
51. Nun garments
56. A block of soap
57. Driver compartment
58. Saudi peninsula
59. Consumer
60. East northeast
61. Hostile foe
62. Fathers
63. Pain unit
64. Former wives

CLUES DOWN

1. Himalayan goat
2. Far East housemaid
3. Indigenous of California
4. ____ lang syne, good old days
5. Unmarried
6. Gandhi epithet
7. Not the same as him
8. Show of respect
9. Soft palate flaps
10. Dried orchid tubers
11. “Fish Magic” painter Paul
13. Coming out of again
17. Banteng
24. Born of
25. Cloisonne
26. 3 to 30 gigahertz (abbr.)
27. Gap in a ridge
28. Tennis player Ivanovic
29. Felled tree trunk
35. Suits & Psych network
36. Steadying rope
37. Anger
38. A male child
40. Marred the surface of
41. Marjoram
42. UC Berkeley
43. Hawaiian greeting
44. Saturated
45. Historic Anjou capital
47. ____ Apso: tibetan dog
48. Attach a brand tag
49. Run before a gale
52. Nemesis
53. Wild goat
54. A clock tells it
55. States

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

JULY 5 – SEPTEMBER 6
The Pine Tree Potters Guild hosts “Earth to Fire”, a new exhibition of fine art ceramics by members of the guild, to showcase works that move beyond the functional. Featuring 46 pieces selected by ceramics expert Bruce Cochrane, he has gone a step further and singled out seven exceptional pieces as award winners. Guild members were encouraged to stretch their artistic vision and create their own statement pieces, and the results will be spread over two galleries at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Additional features include a ceramic “patchwork quilt.”

THURSDAY, JULY 24
DISCOVERY DAY FOR KIDS: Learn and play at Hillary House. Participate in fun activities that are free with admission to the site (\$3 general and \$2 for seniors and youth) on Thursdays and Saturdays through August. A rotating roster of activities include Nature Detectives, a Dig It! archaeology program, a historic Scavenger Hunt, and gardening activities. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991.

FRIDAY, JULY 25
It’s Christmas in July at the Royal Canadian Legion today as they serve up a traditional Christmas dinner between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. The meal features a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, including roasted turkey, savoury sage dressing, creamy rich gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered vegetables, freshly baked rolls, and dessert. \$12/person. Bring the gang from work, your neighbours, family, friends, or even your in-laws. Tickets are available at the Bar (105 Industrial Parkway North) and reservations can be made for tables of six or more. For more information, call 905-727-9932.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with Eh440. This a cappella group that produces an unforgettable combination of crazy beatboxing, sassy killer harmonies and fresh, urban R&B influenced compositions,

creating a wonderful night of music! Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
Today is Seniors’ Day at Town Park, in association with the Aurora Farmers’ Market. From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., try your hand at a chess game with a member of the Aurora Seniors Association (ASA) from 10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. Members of the ASA will be entertaining the audience at the band shell with a variety show featuring singers, guitarists, piano players, comedy, line and ballroom dancing. Also join us on stage for some karaoke singing!

MOVIES IN THE PARK –
Take a step back in time for an outdoor family screening of “Raiders of the Lost Ark” tonight! The fun begins at 6 p.m. at Town Park, with the screening getting underway at dusk. Although the event is free, donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are welcome.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3
EVERYBODY CUT LOOSE!
Movies in the Park continues tonight with a screening of “Footloose”. The fun begins at 7 p.m. at Town Park, with the screening getting underway at dusk. Although the event is free, donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6
Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with The Sattalites. This Toronto-based Juno Award-winning reggae group delivers a great evening of music for a hot summer night. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13
The Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosts a pub night this evening at Crabby Joe’s Tap & Grill (125 Pederson Drive) from 5.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. for Chamber members, as well as non-members. Cash bar.

Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with The Jersey Boys Tribute, featuring songs like “Sherrie”, “Big Girls Don’t Cry” and “Dawn (Go Away)” will create “Oh What a

Night” for the whole family. Join us for a memorable Jersey Boys tribute created by Pauly and the Goodfellas. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20
Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with Les Smith – Fresh Horses. Join us for the ultimate tribute performance to Garth Brooks, the #1 selling musical artist in US history. Don’t miss this evening of high-energy country music. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27
Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series concludes tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park for Green River CCR – the best loved music of Credence Clearwater Revival! This fun night of country rock includes “Proud Mary”, “Suzie Q”, “Who’ll Stop the Rain” and all their great hits. Concert runs from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
End of Summer ART BLAST – Take a break from technology. Join artists from Sherman J. Studio and Local Colour Aurora as they show off their latest paintings. Styles range from traditional to quirky and everything in between. Come and meet the artists and explore their visual language of shape and colour. This Fine Art Show and Sale takes place at 89 Temperance Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All ages are welcome and admission is free.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
The Aurora Seniors Association welcomes you to the annual Country & Western Dance from 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors’ Centre (90 John West Way). Come and dance to the sounds of the Dustaleros Big Band for only \$10 a ticket. All ages welcome. Refreshments will be available and there will be a cash bar. Tickets will be sold at the Seniors’ Centre starting August 4. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

To submit your event send details in 100 words or less to letters@auroran.com with the subject line “Coming Events”.

Get ready to plan your Doors Open route

From page 11

the emerging new community. Part of this growth was the construction of subdivisions along Wellington Street East between Yonge Street and the railway station.

Absalom Blaker built this charming Gothic revival, known as the “Ontario House” ca. 1865. Absalom Blaker was born in Pennsylvania in 1808 and came to Canada in 1821. He initially worked in the post office, later in the Fleury foundry, and later still, he farmed in the Snowball area. He subsequently purchased this lot in 1859 for \$160, built this house, and sold the property at the end of 1870.

From 1920 to 1963, the family of John James Hill owned the house. John James worked at the Sisman shoe factory.

Visitors will learn about the house’s long history throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, and see historical documentation and photographs of recent renovation projects.

Brome House (71 Centre St.)

This modest 1890s Georgian cottage-style house is named after Walter and Annie Brome, owners from 1941-62. Originally used partially for commercial purposes, it was converted to a residence in 1910. According to the Aurora Banner of November 29, 1951, this was the last house in Aurora to be electrified (“last week”). Today, the house is fully restored and serves as a small elegant residence in the Northeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District.

To help plan your route, be sure to check out www.doorsopenontario.on.ca to see a full list of participating sites for the Doors Open Aurora event as well as other Doors Open events across Ontario.

Note: Bob McRoberts pieced this article together and would like to thank Jacqueline Stuart for her energy in doing most of the research for it. Also, during Doors Open, there will be a continuous presentation at the Aurora Cultural Centre of Bob’s postcard collection of old Aurora.

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With only one seat up for grabs, Council’s choice will hit ground running

From page 1

immigrated to York Region from England as a child in the 1950s, her family settled in, with her parents devoting their lives to education and healthcare.

JANE HOWARTH

It is this vision Ms. Howarth hopes to bring to the Council table if she is selected on July 29. As a Regulated Health Care Professional, her interests lie in the “effective delivery of healthcare services across the entire continuum of health care.” With rapid changes in her field, she says her voice would provide a new and unique perspective to municipal decisions when it comes to health and the environment.

“I thought, why not?” she says of why she put her name forward. “Why not start with something in the community? When I chose to live somewhere, I chose to live in Aurora and I feel now I have a vested interest in trying to help shape the future in some of these decisions. I hope to add my voice to the development of the Town and I will do my best to serve the community well, and try to help facilitate balanced decisions and incorporate other dynamics or perspectives based on my background. Council is going to be reflective of the sum of its parts. Council has different perspectives and different backgrounds and hopefully, together, it will represent the interest of the community.”

If selected, she would like to focus on “family friendly” opportunities within the town for everyone, as well as creating additional green spaces “in areas that are accessible and usable to the whole community.”

“I think I can contribute to environmental and toxicological assessments and bring a different angle to what the Council is considering sponsoring, funding, building and developing,” she says.

MARTIN MCINTAGGART

Working for a public agency dealing with health and safety, Martin McIntaggart is no stranger to dealing with bureaucracy. A resident of Aurora since 1999, he says he and his family love living – and investing – in the Town. Although there was not one individual issue which piqued his interest in joining the race for July 29, he says after 15 years he would like to have more input to how the Town moves forward with parks and recreation issues.

Mr. McIntaggart has served on several committees in his day job related to Provincial legislation, workers, health and safety. With a background in construction, he says his work in bringing forward a “safer Ontario” would be a valuable voice to have around the table.

“I am big on parks, recreation, hiking on trails, and I want to see that kind of stuff preserved not just for my family, but for generations to come as well,” he says. “We have some great trails already, we have [facilities and events] and I would like to see those things continue. If there are some things at the table that could possibly enhance what we already have, I would certainly love to participate in that kind of thing.”

SRINVAS RAO

Mr. Rao has always had an interest in getting involved at the Civic level, but this was his first opportunity to put this desire into action. Having moved to Canada with his family from India in 2002, the mechanical engineer says he arrived with the sole purpose of providing a better education for his son. After several stops and starts in fulfilling that dream in other communities, they eventually found Aurora was the right place which allowed him to flourish.

It is with this in mind that Mr. Rao says that, if selected, he would

like to focus not only on providing opportunities for Aurora’s youth, but giving them a voice in the decision-making process.

“Aurora’s 2031 Plan is great for the economy, community and the environment, but I don’t see anything for teenage kids,” he says. “There are many activities, many volunteer organizations, but how much involvement is there? Youth are an asset and people should pay attention to that. [I want to see] how we can involve youth in development work. If you don’t give ownership to youth [in something like a Youth Centre] and they don’t feel ownership, it is not going to work. It will not provide the results you intended.”

Asking bigger questions taking a 360-degree approach needs to be the order of the day around the Council table and there should be a checklist on hand to evaluate how each decision is going to impact – measurably – kids, youth, parents, and seniors.

FRED RANKEL

If selected next week, Aurora businessman Fred Rankel says he will bring an extensive knowledge base in facilities planning, construction, real estate, and finance to the table. A quantities surveyor by trade, he has taken that skill to develop extensive construction companies. He has taken an interest in the Town, he says, since moving here in 1987, quickly becoming involved with many feasibility studies on projects that have been undertaken in Aurora.

“My background is in facilities planning and if you go back to the essence of what a Town is, it is a corporation,” he says. “I graduated from Ryerson in 1973 and have been in the business, every aspect of it, for 41 years. Who better than a guy who can give [Council] free advice?”

At this point in time, work commitments prevent him from looking at serving on Council for anything beyond this fixed window, but he does not discount the commitment it takes to do the job.

“Politics should always be a step down rather than a step up” he says. “It shouldn’t be a step up to help yourself. It shouldn’t be a ‘what’s in it for me?’ attitude. It should be, as I have learned a lot in my life, wanting to bring something to the table, not to go there as a training session to learn, but to bring your expertise.

“Aurora is right in the middle of the universe, as far as I am concerned. It has got everything you want – close proximity to the GTA, great community, and great facilities.”

LINDA STEPHENS

Ms. Stephens, a Realtor with Main Street Realty, might be in a different business these days, but is no stranger to Town Hall. Having worked at the Town of Aurora in various positions over the years, including in the Clerk’s Department and the Department of Public Works, she is a life-long Aurora resident who has often spoken out at Council about the issues close to her heart.

If selected for the position next Tuesday, she sees herself as being a non-partisan voice at the table, and one which can bring “calm and peace” to the decision-making process.

“I am not coming with any sort of personal agenda,” she says. “Something that has troubled many past Councils is a lot of drama, a lot of discord with people around the table, and I have cordial relations [with Mayor Dawe and Councillors]. I think I could be a very calming, soothing neutral person to see the term through.

“There will be a certain amount of business to wrap up. When people are declaring themselves as candidates for

the next election, their thoughts are maybe turned elsewhere. I can be a voice between the community and the government in that I am not intending to stand for election, and I could be an extra pair of hands on deck that is still able to carry on with Town business. I have a reasonableness to be able to hear any concerns. I have a strong 17 year career in Law, so I can be very neutral and that is one of the things.”

GEORGE TREMTSIDIS

If you ask Mr. Tremtsidis his thoughts about this vacancy process, he describes it as a “waste of time”, a “waste of money”, and “I think it is a joke we have to fill a vacancy.”

“What are you going to do in two months?” he asks. “I am putting my hand up because it is available. Maybe it will give me some insight into how politics works in the Town of Aurora.”

It is a question he says he has been considering some time, even mulling a run for the October 27 election, in response to how Aurora has changed since he moved here five years ago. Council, he says, needs “fresh ideas

and fresh breath” around the table, and someone there to hold Council “accountable.”

“We’re putting all these houses up and I think we destroyed Leslie Street and St. John’s Sideroad,” he says. “I respect [development] but are we getting good bang for our buck? I have never been approached by a Councillor, they have never knocked at my door; I have asked [Town Hall] for assistance and no Town Councillor has ever called me back.

“If we can’t hold people accountable for what they say and what they do, then you have anarchy.”

Working in a multinational organization, he says he would be a person who could build relationships at the table, provide accountability with things like cost overruns, and building a consensus.

“We talk a lot, we bitch and complain a lot, but a lot of the people I talk to in Town don’t take any action. You can’t complain unless you complain to the right people and hold them accountable for the decisions they make.”

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Aurora student surpasses goal, going right to the top of the class

By Brock Weir

“You’re doing too much homework,” is not something one would normally expect a parent to say – but then again, not many students are like Aurora’s Felix Kan.

Felix, who recently graduated from St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School this summer, was a man on a mission. With a goal of securing himself a place in the University of Toronto’s sciences program this summer, he buckled down and got to work – and was named St. Max’s top scholar in the process.

By the end of the school year he achieved a remarkable average of 97.5 per cent – safely overshooting his goal of a 90 per cent average.

“I just wanted to meet the cut off to get into my program, which was between 87 and 90,” he says. “I just decided to put more effort into my studies in Grade 11 and in Grade 11 I developed some habits I carried with me into Grade 12. I had a schedule every day when I got home, so I always took that, ate something, and then did homework. Then I would spend four or five hours [doing homework] on the weekend. I also had a job at McDonalds which helped me time manage.”

Through it all, he would do the homework his teacher assigned the class and, if time allowed, he would go ahead and start work on the next chapter of his textbook.

“My parents have always supported me, but sometimes they would actually tell me to do less

homework!” he says. “I just really wanted to achieve my goal.”

Felix was born in Canada, but aged just 1, his family moved to Hong Kong for job opportunities. After studying at an international school in Hong Kong through Grade 3, the family them moved back to Canada. Settling in Aurora, he finished Grade 8 at Hartman Public School before doing his entire high school run at St. Max.

He wasn’t always as dedicated to his studies. Before he set his goal, he counted gym class as his favourite subject because it got him out of the classroom. Throughout high school, however, he kept this love alive playing on the high school basketball team through Grade 11, and staying involved on various local Rep teams.

During high school, he developed an affinity for the sciences, particularly chemistry. Although he initially wanted to be a doctor, he thought chemical engineering could open up new doors while keeping the door to med school still open a crack.

“I found with chemistry, it wasn’t like studying English – I actually liked it and actually wanted to read more and learn more,” he says. “I actually enjoyed the homework and I did well in it. Ultimately I want to become an engineer and, if my marks are high enough, I see that I have the opportunity to still get into med school.

“[To achieve these marks] you have to be really goal-oriented and hard work really pays off. If you want to achieve something, anything is possible.”



Felix Kan, pictured at home with some of his achievements, has earned a place at the University of Toronto this fall. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Ukrainians horrified by downing of airliner

By Anna-Sofia Lesiv

“This can’t be true,” says Yuliya, a young girl in Western Ukraine with her eyes glued to her iPhone as she reads the news. To her, as for many others in Ukraine, this has become ritual since the anti-terrorist operation began in Donetsk and Luhansk.

They’re going on with their daily lives, while simultaneously frantically checking their Twitter feeds to find out if Russia has invaded yet. July 17 was different. Usually, she would only find updates of civilian losses or cities taken back by the Ukrainian army from the Russian-backed separatists in Eastern Ukraine, now recognized as official terrorist organizations by the Ukrainian government. This time, a passenger jet was shot down.

Flight MH17 was flying over separatist-held territory, and effectively a war zone. At 33,000 feet, it was flying just 1,000 feet above a declared no-fly zone, says Eurocontrol.

On July 14 and 17, the separatists had shot down two An-26 Ukrainian military transport planes. It was here that the 298 innocent passengers, 80 of them children, on flight MH17 became victims of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

The Ukrainian media and government immediately pointed fingers at the separatists, claiming that this was similar to their previous activity in the region, and later revealing they had intercepted phone calls of separatists speaking with overseers in the Kremlin, admitting their responsibility. They believed the separatists thought the airliner was another Ukrainian military plane.

Russian news agencies insisted the Ukrainian army was responsible, accidentally hitting MH17 believing it to be Vladimir Putin’s plane, traveling back to Moscow. The Russian government then asked why Ukrainian dispatchers even allowed a passenger plane into dangerous airspace in the first place.

While the bickering went on, horrified Ukrainians placed flowers and candles before the Dutch embassy in Kyiv, expressing condolences to the 193 Dutch citizens that senselessly

became the targets of a fabricated conflict in the East.

Without a thorough investigation, no government, other than Ukraine’s, has officially placed the guilt of this tragedy onto the Russian-backed separatists. However, EU leaders as well as President Obama have begun using much harsher language in regards to President Putin after the tragedy, stating that if his aggressive actions towards Ukraine continue, he will inevitably make Russia a pariah state, as harsher sanctions are applied.

As Ukrainian President Poroshenko said, the crash of the passenger plane has turned this regional conflict into an international one.

Worried Ukrainians like Yuliya are now wondering if an international tragedy like this will force Vladimir Putin to once and for all distance himself from the separatists he supports with weapons and funds, at the risk of harsher sanctions destroying his nation’s economy. According to Bloomberg, the current imposed sanctions have resulted in the 19 richest Russians losing \$14.5 billion in net worth.

Now, the mission of nations involved is to get the separatists to fully co-operate and let OSCE members onto the scene of the crash to investigate and collect evidence. Until now, the separatists have blocked OSCE access, “as investigators approached, they fired their weapons into the air,” said President Obama at briefing on July 21. Having initially removed evidence from the crash site, including MH17’s black boxes or flight recorders, now transferring parts of it to Malaysian authorities in Ukraine, it is unknown whether the evidence has been tampered with or altered.

However, progress has been made in recovering 272 bodies of the 298 passengers, as bodies removed unceremoniously from the crash site by the separatists are now under the care of authorities, and will soon be sent from Kharkiv to the Netherlands for further investigation.

Anna-Sofia is from Nobleton and was the recipient of the OCNA Junior Citizen of the Year Award.



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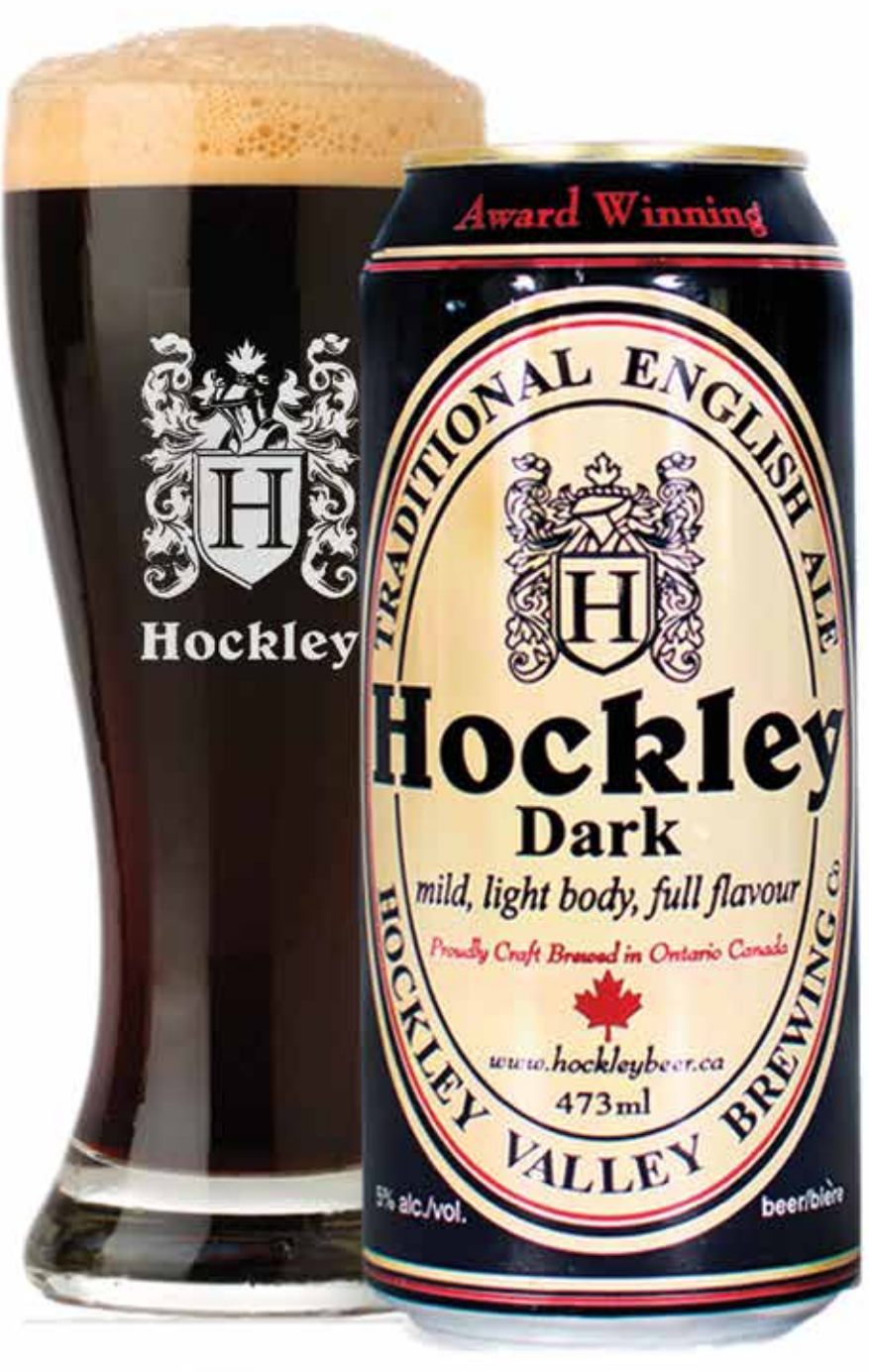
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Lasting legacy created with two years of hard work – and a pair of scissors

By Brock Weir

It took two years of dedicated hair care, but just a few seconds of scissor snips paved the way for potentially years of smiles at Regency Acres Public School last month.

Dozens of students filled the school's gymnasium on Wednesday, June 25, to watch as their fellow students lined the stage to have their waist-length hair cut up to their shoulders all in the name of donating their hair to create wigs for cancer patients.

The ceremony is a long-standing tradition at Regency Acres, having been started by student Alice Sandiford when she was just starting out in the school. Now, having graduated last week to prepare for her high school career, she said she was pleased they were joined up on stage my some first-timers to carry on the tradition.

"I hope they continue to do it and realise all of this is going to grow back," said Alice. "It is just continuous."

One such first-timer was nine-year-old Bailey Chahley, who wanted to give it a try as soon as she heard about the hair drive starting out at Regency Acres.

"I just want to make a little kid really happy," said Bailey. "It feels really cool!"

This was the second haircut for Natalia Butylkian, who is heading to Aurora High School in September. Her hair grows particularly quickly, she said, but many people are not so lucky.

"After I got it done the first time, I felt really good that I was helping someone I probably would never know, that someone is going to be happy to have my hair," said Natalia. "To donate only eight inches of your hair shows support to them and shows

that you care, and you can make it through and that you support them."

Also on hand to lend her support to the students was Erin Davis of CHFI. Heavily involved in causes related to cancer, including emceeing Relay for Life Aurora last month, Ms. Davis said it was important to cheer students on whenever they take on projects like this.

"Kids learn by example and somehow, somewhere these children were taught that giving was more important than anything and if you can come out and support them in doing this, they might do it again, other children might see it and be inspired to remember there are so many things more important than ourselves.

"It's the old saying that when you are given so much, much is expected of you. York Region has always felt like home to me. You can't say no [to supporting something] when people have such good causes as this."

Alice came into her final haircut at Regency Acres less than 48 hours after her class's graduation ceremony, where Principal Cathy Martino-Porretta awarded Alice with the Principal's Award for her efforts.

"She has contributed so much to our school and has shown kids here that it is important to make a difference not only within our walls, but outside our walls too," said Martino-Porretta. "I hope [this event] will have momentum and I certainly want it to continue. It is part of what we do here, build really good character. We want to continue building these traits in our students to continue focusing on academics as well as the health and well-being of students, giving back, and teaching kids what it means to give back."

Aurora needs to review what makes a heritage property a heritage property: Councillor

By Brock Weir

While Town Staff go back to the drawing board to draft out a list of options available to Council to protect the character of existing neighbourhoods, one Councillor believes it is time for Aurora to do a clean sweep.

According to Councillor Evelyn Buck, it is time for Aurora to take a good look at the hundreds of properties around town deemed "significant", historically or culturally, find out how they got on the list and whether they still fit the bill.

"We learned a great deal from the [Heritage Conservation District] process and I think we learned most of it from the property owners themselves, but we also learned we have over 900 homes listed of being of interest and [the Director of Planning] will tell you he has no idea

why some of the houses are on that list," said Councillor Buck. "I think staff need to review that list and take off properties that have no business being there. If I own a property and want to do something that is going to make it better, I don't want some person on some esoteric notion or hers or his telling me I can't do it because they don't want me to do it.

"I think this Town needs to start afresh with this whole business of protecting the heritage neighbourhoods in this Town. I think the property owners [in] these neighbourhoods have done an amazing job. If you lived here 50 years ago, you would hardly believe the improvements that have been made in the old areas, with no need for a Heritage Act, and no restrictions, and nobody telling you [that] you can't do it because they don't like it."

Barbarians live to fight another day

From page 14

picking his way through for a try a scant seven minutes in.

Mark Denton, playing at fullback, was dead-on for the conversion and added a penalty kick five minutes later to improve the lead to 10 – 0. However, the County Club, who have had an unlucky season, fought back and showed great skill in ball retention and hard nose rugby forcing errors and clawing their way to three tries before the half was over to lead 17 – 10 at the break.

With the wind in their face and a light rain setting in the Barbarians played unevenly in the first twenty minutes of the second half, picking up a penalty kick by Denton, but yielding a try to trail 22 – 13. However, the slick ball proved to be a challenge for the Waterloo side and after having a player sent to the "sin bin" for ten minutes, a mishandled kick lead to a run-in try for Denton and with his conversion the

score was to 22-20.

Just after the referee announced "one minute to play", the Barbarians had a line out just inside Waterloo's 22 meter line. Despite a knock down by Waterloo, the Barbarians recovered the ball and started a frantic drive toward the Waterloo goal.

While the drive bogged down, the ball remained in play until Aurora was able to feed it wide to centre Sean Sinel who used speed and a side step to touch down for a winning try, ending the game at 25 – 22.

In the second team match-up, the Barbarians' Development Side dominated the first half to lead 20 – 5 at the break, but could not hold the advantage against the wind when the teams switched ends, coming out on the losing side of a 23 – 20 final score.

Scoring tries for Aurora was Brad Legere and Matt Riggs. Kicker James Hulbert added two conversions and two penalty kicks.



(Top) Alice Sandiford, L, shows the results of two years hair growth with CHFI personality Erin Davis, and Regency Acres Principal Caterina Martino-Porretta. (Above) Participating in the hair cutting were Bailey Chahley, Naomi Ing, Sarah Glidden, Emma Pearson, Natalia Butylkin, Carley Blaser, and Alice Sandiford. Auroran photos by David Falconer



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TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF THE PASSING OF A ZONING BY-LAW BY THE TOWN OF AURORA

TAKE NOTICE that The Town of Aurora passed By-law No. 5632-14 on July 15, 2014 under section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended.

An explanation of the purpose and effect of the bylaw is described below. The bylaw applies to the entire Town. The complete bylaw is available in the Clerk's office during regular office hours.

FILE NAME:	Municipal Servicing By-law
FILE NUMBER:	D14-05-14
PURPOSE:	The Town's previous Servicing By-law Number 4721-05.D, which amended the Zoning By-law, prohibits the use of land or the erection or use of buildings or structures unless municipal services are available. Amending By-law 5632-14 includes the 2C Secondary Plan Area within the Town's serviced area.

Additional information may be obtained from Glen Letman of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4346. Requests for information may also be obtained from the Planning & Development Services department at the address below, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca. Please quote the file name and number.

If you have objections to the bylaw, you may appeal the bylaw to the Ontario Municipal Board for consideration. Your appeal, together with the reasons for the appeal and the \$125 fee (per application) as required by the Ontario Municipal Board, can be made payable to the Minister of Finance in the form of a certified cheque or money order. An (A1) "Appellant Form" provided by the Board is available from their website at www.omb.gov.on.ca and must be filed with the Town Clerk at 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1 on or before Monday, August 18, 2014. Please note, an additional fee per application, payable to The Town of Aurora is required with respect to Ontario Municipal Board appeal submissions. Please refer to the Fee By-law for the Ontario Municipal Board Fees, found on the Town's website under Planning & Development Services.

In accordance with the Planning Act:

I. Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a bylaw to the Ontario Municipal Board. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

II. No person of public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the bylaw was passed, the person or public body made oral submission at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Municipal Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the persons or public body as a party.

Marco Ramunno, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning & Development Services
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Does your routine include a visit to the Centre to play your game of choice every week, month after month, year after year? If so, you're probably in a rut. Ok, perhaps you really do enjoy playing Bridge or Pickle Ball that much, but wouldn't you enjoy a change?

Personally, I need a regular dose of change, regardless of how much I enjoy Scrabble or Badminton. Guaranteed, within a year or less I have to try something new or different. If I don't move on within two years, I'll go dormant both physically and mentally. It's not good to adhere so rigidly to a routine. For me, change always triggers a sense of revitalization and excitement. Life offers so much and I don't want to miss it by limiting my involvement.

Since I joined the Centre almost two years ago, I've played table tennis, badminton (although my bad knees at the time cut this activity short), pool, Mahjong, Scrabble, Rummi-kub, and I worked on a few projects in the work room and the sewing room. I volunteered on the Special Events Committee and chaired the Victorian Tea, plus I've been writing this column. Having tried almost everything that interests me, I still have to try Bocce Ball and maybe Carpet

Bowling. Plus, I'd like to give badminton another try.

What activities have you enjoyed since you joined the Centre?

It's highly likely you haven't tried Rummi-Kub. This is one of those little-known activities that tends to remain hidden in one of those small rooms off the main hub of activity. Certainly, there is a lot more action around the lounge which sits next to the Bingo room and the gymnasium. Cards are often played in the large room off the lobby, which is also where the Knotty Knitters, Let's Create and Sew Much Fun groups meet.

Rummi-Kub, which enjoys several spelling variations, is played in the room down the hall between the work shop and the computer room.

What is Rummi-Kub?

Rummi-Kub is played with small tiles similar to Mahjong tiles. Tiles make up four suits of 13 tiles each, similar to cards. In fact, Rummy is a card game from which this game was probably derived.

The goal is to get rid of all your tiles to



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Sylvia Dickens

Divert your rut

win the game. You do that by forming a minimum of 3-tile sets in either a run or same color numbers. You need 30 to start so you'll like to see the high numbers come up when you select your tiles. It's a nightmare when people pick only small numbers and can't start until the game's almost over. This doesn't mean you're sure to lose. Some people have dropped all their tiles quickly once they did start and won the game.

The official game involves keeping track of each player's score, but this group is less formal. They are always hoping more people will join them as there's room for eight players and there are frequently empty seats.

Why not join them now and then? They play Fridays at 1 p.m. I might even see you there.

Fitness and Fun Programs

A few issues back, we talked about exercise and the programs available at the Centre. Here is more specific data. First of all, registration has just

opened so you'll want to sign up quickly before the seats are taken. There are 21 programs to appeal to all interest levels.

If you want to get and stay fit, the programs offered this fall include: Aquafitness 55+, Basic Cardio, Body Control Pilates, Chair Fitness, Chair Stretch, and a new program, Gentle Pilates for those just starting out. Stretch and Tone, Tai Chi, pFIT, Zumba Gold and Qi-Gong are also offered again this season. For the more energetic among you, there is the Fitness Challenge.

If you'd like to try your hand at Acrylic Painting or Painting and Sketching, they come in both beginner and intermediate levels. You might like to try Drawing Fundamentals which is a great way to try your hand at art as a pastime.

Seniors' Centre members can register for any of these and other programs in person at the Centre starting July 28. Some programs begin in early September.

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

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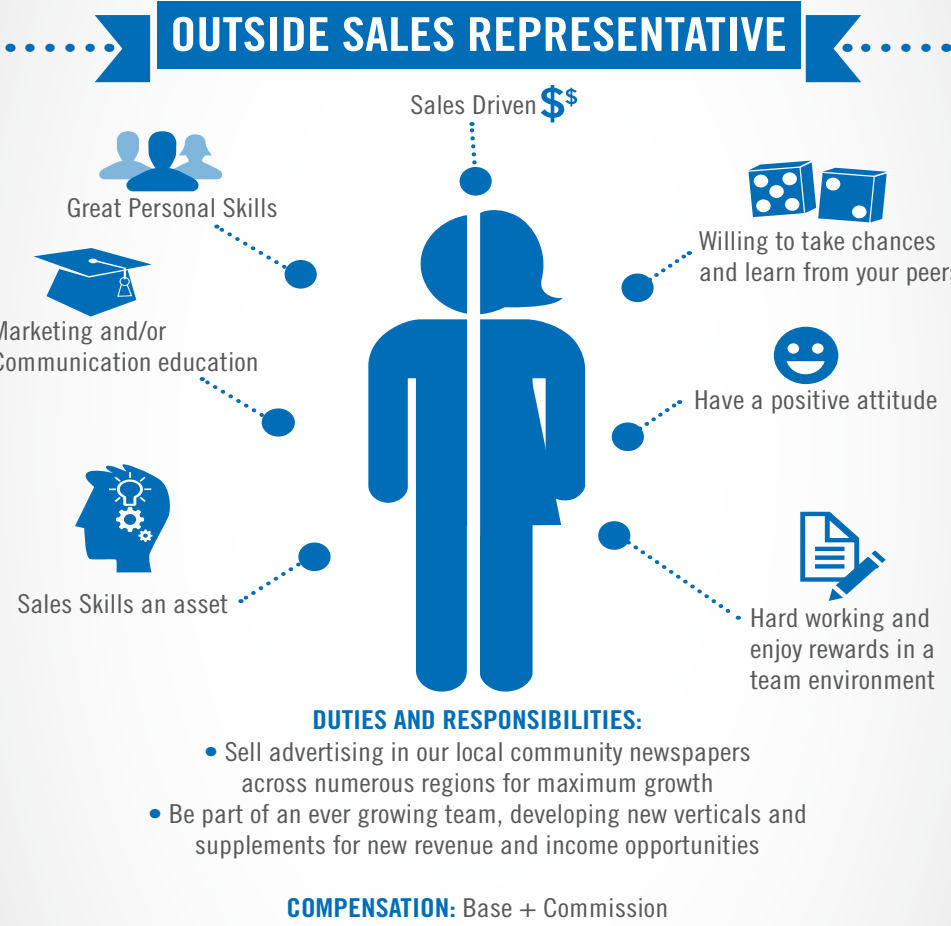
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Want the complete movie experience? Vote for Aurora's own, says Pereira

By Brock Weir

A love for the movies came to Aurora's Amanda Pereira from an early age – and now she wants to share the movie experience with people from across Canada.

The York University Graduate is one of eight finalists in the nation-wide contest hosted by Cineplex Odeon to find three new hosts for their pre-show entertainment. It was an opportunity the aspiring actress just couldn't pass up when she heard about the contest through a Facebook group on casting calls.

While the opportunity to get out her video equipment and put her editing skills to the test for the first in what turned out to be a series of video auditions appealed to her creative side, there was more attracting her to the gig than a simple acting opportunity.

"The idea of being part of somebody's experience going to the movies was a huge appeal to me," she says. "I thought it would be such an awesome, unique opportunity. It is a whole experience when you go to the movies with your friends, you go with your significant other, your family, or what have you. The thought that I could be a part of that is really, really cool."

Pitching her degree in psychology as being an ideal asset if given the opportunity to interview some of her favourite stars like Lena Dunham or Mindy Kaling, she evidently had that certain something when judges whittled entries from across Canada down to the final eight.

"When I found out I had made the finals, I freaked out," says Pereira with a laugh. "First I wondered how many people made it, because I didn't want to get too excited yet, and honestly, I was really excited to make another video!"

Unlike the first video where contestants were encouraged to take free creative rein on their project, the second installment was more structured. They were each given a script to perform before the camera. Amanda was given the challenge of reading a script recalling interviews with stars like Jennifer Lawrence, and mining for nuggets of wisdom in celebrity Twitter feeds, such as the feed of Dwayne Johnson.

"The first video showed Cineplex why we would be good for this in our own world, but now they wanted to see what we would be like in their world," she says. "That was really cool because clearly they saw something in me they were more interested in and it was another opportunity for me to show them I know I could do this and I want to do this."

"One of my goals was to make sure I was still showing myself, but also being host-appropriate. I wanted to make all my videos show my personality and who I am. Strangers will be watching it who don't know me."

While preparing her video, she learned that one of the pitfalls of being a host is, unusually enough,

not to sound too "hosty or predictable." She agonized about whether she wanted to memorize the script, use a teleprompter app on her iPhone, and various other ways to get the job done. After reading the script over 100 times, she said she found she was able to strike that right balance between showing her professionalism and her personality.

It is hard to imagine this personality would not shine through in the end, as she has put it to good use in her daily life. While acting is a passion for Amanda Pereira, the York University graduate has put her psychology degree to good use, running York University's Psycho-Social Oncology Breast Cancer Support Study.

It is a service that helps young couples who have been diagnosed with breast cancer from across Canada.

She graduated from York in 2012 and while there she took every acting opportunity – and every non-major acting class – she could get her hands on. The result was numerous student and independent films, and a few TV appearances along the way.

"I was coexisting in two worlds," she explains. "Working with York, I had that amazing opportunity when I was graduating with the study and I was absolutely thrilled to do it, and it allows me to also go on auditions and maintain the unpredictable schedule an actor has."

Looking back, Amanda thinks she was truly bitten by the acting bug when she was a young child. "Friends" was her first obsession, watching episodes every morning and memorizing the dialogue. ("I was kind of a nerd," she says.) Perhaps not surprisingly, she counts Lisa Kudrow's film "Romy & Michelle's High School Reunion" as among her all-time favourites.

"I fell in love with acting, but it took me a long, long time to actually say out loud this is what I want to do," she says. "I didn't have the confidence and I was very nervous. It took me a long time to build up the guts to say, 'I am actually going to go for this, failure is not an option' and I was going forward."

Her ultimate goal is to be able to write, produce, and star in her own film or TV show, not unlike her inspirations Dunham with HBO's "Girls" and Kaling with "The Office" and "The Mindy Project."

"I would love not to need a second job," she says. "[Dunham, Kaling] and Amy Poehler are absolutely fearless and they don't pride themselves on being women in comedy. They are just in comedy and I love that. They are fearless, strong, funny as hell, and they have their own voice and do what they want. I aspire to be that."

To view Amanda's video and to cast your vote for her as Cineplex's next pre-show entertainment host, visit www.facebook.com/Cineplex and click on "Casting Call" on the left side of the page. The three winners will be announced August 1.



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