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THE AURORAN

Please see page 5

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 14 No. 39 905-727-3300 **theauroran.com** FREE Week of July 31, 2014



Don Constable, pictured here at Town Hall after being selected by Council as its newest member on Tuesday afternoon, was elected to the table after two rounds of voting by Mayor and Council. Inset: Councillor Constable takes the Oath of Office while his wife, Cathy, and fellow candidate Gerald Miller, look on.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Don Constable selected to fill Council vacancy

By Brock Weir

Aurora Council selected Don Constable to join them at the table Tuesday afternoon, taking over the seat left vacant by MPP Chris Ballard last month.

The newly re-minted Councillor Constable served as a member of Aurora Council from 1991 – 1993.

He was selected after two rounds of voting.

In all, 18 Aurora residents applied to fill the spot. 14 of these candidates came forward to make their pitch at a Special Council meeting on July 29 on why they were the best person for the job.

In the first round of voting, Constable received three votes from Councillors Paul Pirri, John Abel, and Sandra Humfries. Former councillor Bob McRoberts came in second with two votes from Councillors Evelyn Buck and Michael Thompson, while candidates lawyer Gerald Miller and realtor Linda

Stephens picked up a vote apiece from Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor Wendy Gaertner, respectfully.

Councillor John Gallo was not at the meeting.

Constable clinched it on the second round of voting, receiving a fourth vote from Mayor Dawe.

In his pitch to Council, Constable highlighted his roots in the community, which go back 34 years. He cited his business credentials in the environmental and green technology sector, as well as his work as a volunteer, fundraiser and member of numerous community organizations, such as the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Heart and Stroke Foundation, as well as being a founding member of Magna's Wild Wild West Hoedown.

"I am aware of all the community issues, good and bad, and in the knowledge of how the Town works, how Council works, how

Continued on page 6

Breaking bread brought an oasis of calm between local faiths

By Brock Weir

With tensions boiling over between Israel and Hamas in recent weeks, Aurora was an oasis of calm last week as people from across York Region, representing many faiths that add to the richness of local culture, came together for an evening of dialogue.

Christians and Jews alike were welcomed to the Aurora Cultural Centre last Wednesday, where the Centre partnered with the York Region Children's Aid Society and the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of Greater Toronto, for a fast-breaking meal to mark Ramadan, one of the most important observances in the Muslim faith.

Stressing the importance of communications between faiths, the dialogue was only interrupted after sundown when individuals dressed in the clothes of their faith intermingled with the business casual of the western world, and even a uniform or two, lined up to break bread.

This is the second Iftar dinner hosted in York Region by the Interfaith Dialogue Institute, and the first for Aurora. Partnering with York CAS, they stressed that the cornerstone to peace and

Continued on page 7

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Phone 905-727-1375 • Fax 905-726-4732
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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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 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



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

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

This year, the Town will also ask residents to vote on the following two questions on the ballot:

1. "Are you in favour of electing all Aurora councillors, other than the Mayor, by ward vote instead of general Town-wide vote?"
2. "Are you in favour of reducing the number of Aurora councillors, other than the Mayor, from eight (8) councillors to six (6) councillors?"

Are you registered to vote on October 27?
Go to www.voterlookup.ca The deadline to register is **Thursday, July 31**.



PUBLIC NOTICES

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 two-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 **Monday, August 18** at 9 a.m.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Co-op Student – Human Resources	Application deadline is Monday, August 4
Part-Time Pre-School Instructor	Application deadline is Thursday, August 7
Part-Time Facility Receptionist/Registration Clerk	Application deadline is Tuesday, August 12
Administrator, Facility Booking	Application deadline is Tuesday, August 12

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

MOVIES in the park

ALL MOVIES BEGIN AT DUSK

FOUR GREAT NIGHTS!

RETRO REPLAY WEEKEND

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

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



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

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FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

END OF SUMMER SUPERHERO PARTY

THIS MOVIE IS SPONSORED BY



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

THIS MOVIE IS SPONSORED BY



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Aurora Public Library

Drop-In LEGO Day

Children ages five years and older are invited to drop-in and enjoy free creative building fun at the APL on **Tuesday, August 5** from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet new friends and work together to make amazing LEGO creations.

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!

TD Summer Reading club continues

It's not too late to sign-up for this year's TD Summer Reading club at the APL! Read books, win prizes and use your imagination. Read 12 books by the end of summer and be entered into a draw for the grand reading prize. This is for children under the age of 12, including pre-schoolers.

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.

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.



Youth Engagement Committee Call for Members

Are you an Aurora resident between the ages of 12 and 17 interested in making a difference in your community? Become a member of the Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) today! Roles and responsibilities include engaging other youth within the community, serving as a liaison between Aurora youth and Town staff, exploring potential sponsorship opportunities and assisting with the development of programs and special events.

The committee will meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. from September 2014 to June 2014.

For more information, please contact Franco DeMarco, Youth Co-ordinator, Town of Aurora, 905-727-3123 ext. 3121 or fdemarco@aurora.ca or visit www.aurora.ca/yec

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

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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

Holiday Service Schedule
Civic Holiday – Monday, August 4

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way) will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, August 4** for the Civic Holiday. Regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on **Tuesday, August 5**.

If you would like to pay a water or tax bill, payments can be placed in the drop-off box 24 hours a day outside of Town Hall. Please do not place cash payments in the boxes and remember to include your payment stub along with your payment. Alternatively, you may pay your bills through your ATM or through your bank's online banking service. Parking tickets can be paid online at www.paytickets.ca



LIBRARY

The Aurora Public Library will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, August 4**.

For more information, please visit www.library.aurora.on.ca or call 905-727-9494.



WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection is **NOT AFFECTED** by the Civic Holiday.

For more information, please consult your 2014 Recycling and Waste Collection Calendar.



RECREATION CENTRE

Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, 1400 Wellington Street East

Saturday, August 2 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, August 3 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, August 4 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For swimming, skating and Club Aurora fitness schedules, please visit www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4770.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

As always, the Town will continue to provide essential and emergency services.

For Town-related emergency situations, please call 905-727-1375 or 905-727-3123 and follow the voice prompts.

FOR ALL OTHER EMERGENCIES, CALL 9-1-1



“Rising Star” doesn’t let setback take her eye off singing stardom

By Brock Weir

Amanda MacDonald is not one to rest idle when faced with a setback.

An Irish Dancer at heart, Ms. MacDonald is counting down the days until she can get back into fine form after two stress fractures in her ankles forced her to scuttle her dreams of taking part in the Canadian Championships last year, but she has used her downtime to keep on top of her other passion – singing.

Having served as Aurora’s Teen Idol in 2011, fun-loving Aurorans will soon have another chance to see her in action, this time in Toronto, as one of the “Rising Stars” of the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE).

Amanda is set to show off her vocal chops this August on the CNE’s Variety Stage as part of the annual summer festival. She is no stranger to the competition, having put herself forward twice previously, but she is coming in this year well prepared.

“I get a lot of constructive criticism from judges out of these competitions,” she explains. “The more experience, the better. It is just about getting my name out there, meeting other musicians, making connections to collaborate, and, of course, knowing people in the industry is always great. It is a win-win for everybody.

“We have to go to a seminar beforehand to prepare as much as possible so that you are 100 per cent on the day giving it everything you’ve got. It is really engaging the audience and learning to share with them. It is not just being on the stage, but being part of something for everybody to enjoy and participate in. Engaging the judges and the audience is always fun – taking them on a story, if it is not a fun song – and just going for it.”

Holding back is not a watchword in the MacDonald house. Her father, for instance, is a member of the “Fab Four” Beatles tribute band, which recently wowed the crowds at Aurora’s Canada Day Celebrations. Her mother was also an actress, a profession which has also caught Amanda’s eye. It almost goes without saying that she has grown up in a house full of classic rock, and that is where her first love lies.



Although two broken ankles have forced Amanda MacDonald to put her Irish Dancing dreams on the backburner for now, she has channeled her energy into her other passion – singing – which she will demonstrate at this year’s CNE.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Singing “I Want To Hold Your Hand” at a family wedding several years ago is when she first had the inkling her passion was on the stage. But, she says, she is still finding her own way, developing a love for what she describes as the “jazz pop” sounds of people like Nikki Yanovski and Michael Buble.

“It is just a matter of finding a way to combine it all,” she says, noting her temporary physical setback has given her a chance to reflect.

“I had made it into a professional Irish Dance show that was going to be in Germany and Switzerland. I graduated high school last year and took the year off to go into the Irish Dancing professional world. Since my ankles broke, I started from scratch and reworked my plan.”

So far, that plan includes going to college or university to study jazz, while looking for just about any singing competition she can find to gain experience, and even securing a job for herself as a singer on a cruise ship.

“I am just doing what I can and building a plan from there,” she says. “It is important to have short-term and long-term goals for myself. [In the long term], it is hard to know because everyone has a path they go on, so it is hard to pinpoint exactly where they will be. I definitely want to be performing [in 10 years], recording some songs, and I am learning how to write songs and play guitar. My dream is just performing wherever I can.”

But, in the “now”, her eyes are firmly set on the CNE’s Variety Stage where she is preparing to wow the judges. She hasn’t quite decided

which song will knock them out of the park, but she’ll know it when it clicks.

“The most fulfilling part of it is the moment I am on stage and everything is clicking,” she says. “It might sound cheesy, but when I feel at home on the stage, I am just completely happy and I realise it is exactly where I should be and what I want to do. It’s the little moments while performing that make it make sense and make it worth all the hard work, lessons, and the trial and error process.”

For more information on the Rising Star competition, visit tinyurl.com/risingstar-CNE.

First museum display could be ready by spring

From page 1

“The needs of the Aurora Collection are immediate and should be addressed as soon as possible,” says Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation, in his report to Council this week, noting that the salary in future years would be part of his department’s operating budget. “The full-time position will ensure that this process commences immediately and that the exhibition of the collection can be realised in 2015, while working on many other initiatives to help preserve, store, and provide educational opportunities on the history of Aurora.

“As reported by Cultural Asset Management Group (CAM), the Collection requires attention to storage and evaluation, as well as accessioning and de-accessioning of the Collection. This position will also be required to respond to numerous outstanding requests for archival information. Attention will also be focused on the preparation for display of the Collection. Staff anticipates our first display in the spring of 2015.”

This past spring, staff presented a recommendation to Council to take on CAM as the curator of the Aurora Collection. This move took many sitting around the table by surprise, they said, with some questioning whether a more “local outfit” such as the Historical Society or Cultural Centre might have been a better choice.

This was a view CAM took exception to, citing their own ties to the local community, as well as their extensive work evaluating and appraising the collection, as well as curating an exhibition of collection items to mark Aurora’s Sesquicentennial.

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Briefly

LOCAL TALENT IN FOCUS FOR JAZZ FESTIVAL

Aurora singer Stacey Kaniuk is among the local talent who will be taking the stage this holiday weekend for 2014 Newmarket jazz+ Festival. The Jazz Fest gets underway at Newmarket’s Riverwalk Commons this Friday afternoon at 5.30 p.m., running through Civic Holiday Monday. Kaniuk is scheduled to take the stage on Saturday evening beginning at 7.15 p.m., leading into that night’s performance by Justin Hines, another local favourite. Sunday’s highlights include the Glenn Marais Band and George Olliver. Additional activities range from music workshops to art shows and demonstrations, as well as activities for the kids. For more information, visit www.newmarketjazzfestival.com.

PROJECT READY

York Regional Police are reminding residents to be “alert and aware” of any suspicious or criminal activity as global tensions rise, through Project Ready. Project Ready is a co-ordinated response by the YRP responding to community concerns as they relate to events unfolding in the world. It includes increased police visibility in affected neighbourhoods and a sensitive approach in addressing calls relating to global tensions. “Our Hate Crime Unit continues to monitor the impact of global events locally, with teams of specially-trained hate crime investigators assigned in each of our five police districts,” says Sergeant Clint Whitney.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FOR THE KIDS?

The Aurora Historical Society wraps up its first month of their Discovery Days for Kids series this Thursday, July 31, with “Dig It”, an opportunity for local kids to get their hands dirty and learn about archeology for the day. The fun, however, continues with a new series of events in August, which will take place every Thursday and Saturday. The “Dig It” program returns on August 2 (and again on August 30), with “Nature Detectives” running August 7 and 9, “Scavenger Hunt” on August 14 and 16, and “Little Gardeners” on August 21 and 23. For more information visit www.aurorahistoricalociety.ca.



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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

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– 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



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NEW AURORAN POLL

Do you support further government sanctions against Russia?

A) Yes B) No

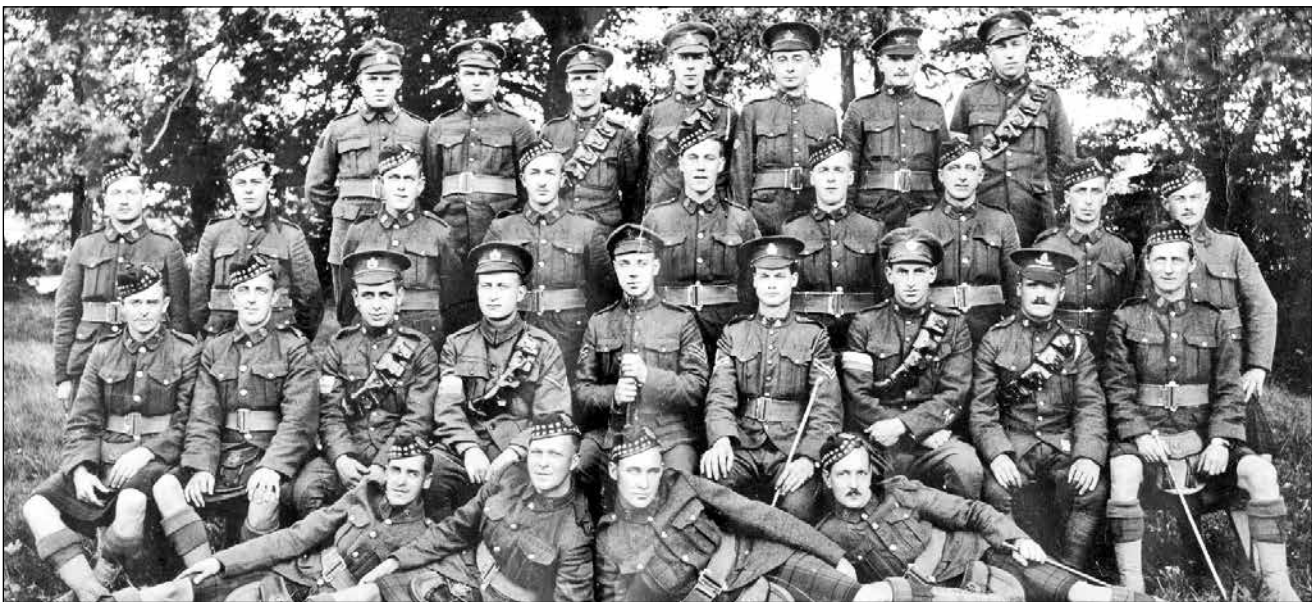
Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

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

a) Experience b) Fresh blood c) Vision d) other

RESULTS JULY 29, 2014	A	B	C	C
	68%	7%	24%	0%



The faces you see on our front page this week, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War, were taken from this photo originally provided to The Auroran by Lt. Col. Len Whines of the “The Aurora Boys”, part of the 5th Canadian Division. It was taken in October 1917, with the boys “taking a breather” at the height of the war. (Top Row) H.R. Baber, G.E. Richardson, W.L. Hicks, C.A. Adair, W.L. Stevens, G.A. Gregory, E.C. Crake. (Second Row) R. Gould, M.H. Southwood, E.S. Learoyd, H.G. Learoyd, H.R. Bond, J.R. Treend, N.F. Johnson, G. Osmond, F.E. Griffiths. (Third Row) C.H. Walker, C.C.G. Bond, W.S.. Stiles, D.S. Scott, N.W. Lloyd, E. Rose, H. Eveleigh, L.D. Robinson, P. Meyer. (Front) E.A. Day, A.L. Folliott, J.H. Sutton, and H. Dawson. Baber and Stiles are remembered today on the Aurora Cenotaph.

Ottawa Report

Federal Funding for Aurora

The Harper Government has announced the renewal of the Gas Tax Fund to provide predictable, stable funding for public infrastructure. As a result, Aurora will receive more than \$8 million in federal funding over the next five years for local infrastructure projects and improvements.

The federal Gas Tax Fund provides municipalities with the flexibility to choose and plan infrastructure projects based on their specific priorities. The fund is a permanent source of funding for municipalities. It is predictable, long-term and stable, and is helping municipal governments address their infrastructure needs while improving environmental sustainability and creating jobs and economic growth.

Since 2006, our government has extended, doubled, indexed and made permanent, the Gas Tax Fund.

Public Consultations on Labelling

Canada’s Health Minister, Rona Ambrose, is seeking input into the proposed changes to the way nutrition information is presented on labels.

The proposed changes are to the format of the Nutrition Facts table, the list of ingredients, the list of nutrients that must appear in the table, and to the Daily Values. It also includes changing how ingredients are listed, including grouping sugars together, so parents and consumers have a clearer picture of how much sugar is added to the food and the label is easier to read.

The overall goal is to provide Canadians with the nutrition information they need to make informed decisions about the foods they buy and prepare for themselves and their families. The results of this current series of consultations will help inform the decisions about changes to nutrition labelling. Canada is a world leader in the field of nutrition labelling and was one of the first countries to require mandatory nutrition labelling on pre-packaged foods.

I invite you to provide your feedback online at www.hc-sc.gc.ca. The consultations will run until September 11, 2014.

Paper Bill Fees

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has announced an upcoming meeting with telecommunications and broadcasting distribution companies to discuss the practice of charging additional fees to customers who wish to receive paper bills. The CRTC has also released the results of its fact-finding exercise on these practices in response to our government’s request to look into this issue.

CRTC has found a wide variation in how companies approach paper bill fees. Certain companies provide exemptions to these fees, such as for customers who do not have Internet access, but there is no consistent practice across the industry. The CRTC is concerned that the approach taken by the industry in the transition from paper to electronic



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

bills may not have taken into account the specific circumstances of some Canadians.

The meeting will be led by the CRTC’s Vice-Chairs of Broadcasting and Telecommunications. Participants will be expected to come up with a clear and predictable approach to paper bill fees, if any, as well as exemptions for any such fees. This will ensure that you have the information you need to make informed decisions.

Honey Bee Research

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz has announced an investment of \$1 million to initiate a four-year nation-wide surveillance project to document the health profile of honey bee colonies in Canada.

The aim of the project is to record the nature, extent and prevalence of diseases, pest organisms and chemical residues in Canadian apiaries. To date, surveillance of this nature has been done at the regional level, and the sector is seeking to expand coordination and identify commonalities nationally on the health of bees. This baseline information is essential in regional colony health management practices and will identify exotic organisms before they establish themselves within Canadian bee populations.

Lowering Wireless Prices

The 2014 Wall report on wireless prices has been released. It confirms that wireless prices continue their downward trend in an environment of increased competition; falling 22 percent since 2008 when the Harper government first announced its goal to lower wireless prices for consumers. Actions to achieve this goal include:

- announcing the AWS-3 spectrum auction and its plan to set aside spectrum for operating new entrants;
- recently passing legislation to cap wholesale roaming rates on Canadian networks to prevent wireless providers from impeding competition;
- concluding the 700 MHz spectrum auction, which increased competition and generated \$5.27 billion in revenue;
- strengthening rules requiring carriers to share cell towers to facilitate competition;
- enforcing a “use it or lose it” policy for spectrum use to ensure that wireless companies use their spectrum licences for the benefit of consumers;
- enabling access to spectrum for new entrants in spectrum auctions;
- committing to introduce enforcement measures to increase consumer protection.

We will continue to stand up for consumer choice and competition in Canada’s wireless sector.

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

Burning Questions 2014

Once again it’s time to ask those questions about Aurora for which there seem to be no obvious answers, such as:

Every now and then you’ll see pictures from around the world showing how cell towers have been creatively disguised as trees, flags, art installations, or other visually interesting features, so why hasn’t that happened here in Aurora?

Why are there so few Concerts in the Park featuring classical music?

How many people will need to move into all the new condos proposed for Yonge and Wellington before businesses are encouraged to move back in and occupy all the vacant properties at this intersection?

When was the last time anyone saw a hot air balloon drifting over Aurora, and is this a sign that every square inch of land south of town has been developed?

Why are there three pyramids on the Town’s crest?

And if there is a link between Aurora and Egypt, why is our twin city located in Sweden?

Based on reading in Senior Scape about all the diverse activities being held at the Seniors’ Centre, does it not seem that our seniors are having a lot more fun than the rest of us?

When construction on all of the 2C lands is completed and there is no more available green space to develop on in Town, will the current restrictions on building heights be relaxed to allow for taller buildings to accommodate growth in Aurora?

For a short term paying job that required no special talent or experience, and for which everyone was guaranteed an “interview”, isn’t it curious that only 18 people applied for the council seat to replace Chris Ballard?

What’s the plan for the dedicated Viva bus lanes that are being installed down the centre of Yonge Street when they reach our downtown, where there are no options for widening the road?

Having spent the past year as members of private clubs and pursuing other recreational activities, what percentage of Club Aurora fitness centre members will renew their memberships when the Leisure Complex re-opens this fall?



INSIDE AURORA
Scott Johnston

Many years ago, why did the name of our hockey team change from the “Bears”, a local Canadian animal, to the “Tigers”, an exotic species that has no connection to this part of the world?

Is the median strip along Wellington between John West Way and Bayview considered an odd or even address when it comes to Town staff watering the plants during the summer water ban?

Was Aurora even considered for any of the various Pan Am Games events to be held across the GTA next year?

Is anyone at Town Hall even bothering to think about where ward system boundaries might be in Aurora, or is it not worth it, as it’s so wildly unlikely that 50% of eligible voters will cast their ballots in the October election?

Why aren’t there more large trees landscaped into the parking lots of the big box stores to provide shade on sunny days?

Based on how many are seen around Town, has this year been an especially prolific year for rabbits in Aurora?

When will the technology and political will be available to allow us to vote from our homes in municipal, provincial and federal elections?

And if we did have the option of voting this way, isn’t it obvious this would have a hugely positive effect on voter turnout?

Why aren’t the signs on Wellington and elsewhere directing people to the Farmers’ Market taken down during the 7 months of the year when it is not open?

Why doesn’t anyone seem to be thinking positively, and suggesting that the 2015 Home Show might be even bigger and better next year at its new venue at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex?

With the GO parking garage already reaching capacity every day, where will people park as the province moves towards all-day train service on this line?

Just asking.

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



POLITICS AS USUAL
Alison Collins-Mrakas

The Appointment

Since my column has to be submitted no later than noon on a Monday to make it to print by Wednesday (lest I induce a state of apoplexy in our time crunched editor!), timing does not permit me to comment on how the Council appointment process actually unfolded.

I am optimistic that the proceedings were at least somewhat dignified. Well, one can only hope.

In any event, perhaps recognizing that the previously described process was vague? Problematic? Chaotic?, the Clerk issued a change to the agenda with a proposed amendment to the voting process.

(Assuming they vote to change the process), Councillors will now be handed a voting sheet, with their own name at the top and a line upon which they will write the name of the candidate the Councillor selects for the vacancy.

The clerk will then read out each sheet submitted: “Councillor X votes for candidate X” and so on and so on until we have a tally.

If each Council member votes for a different candidate, then the list of candidates will be winnowed down from 18 to 8 after the first round. Council will do the whole thing over again, until at least five out of the eight agree on one candidate.

Scratch that. It will require a vote of at least four out of six as there will be - apparently - some absences at this meeting to address a council vacancy.

As of Friday, two members of Council (Gallo and Gaertner), sent “regrets” thus indicating that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

That is unfortunate. It’s bad enough that eight people rather than 30,000 get to choose who sits at that table; to have only six out of the eight casting a vote makes it that much worse.

If an appointment has to happen, and unfortunately Provincial legislation dictates that it must, then that appointment should be made by Council as a whole, not just a part of it.

In light of that, I really do hope the two Councillors were able to make the meeting.

Getting back to my point, the proposed revised process is certainly better than the previous, unseemly free-for-all approach to the selection process, but still does not address the fundamental issue I have with how this whole thing is rolling out.

The whole process as described should not be public. It should be done in closed session. Once they’ve completed the winnowing and gotten to the final name, Council can then vote on that name publicly.

If there are concerns about “what goes on behind closed doors”, be assured that a closed session meeting is still a meeting of Council. Members must adhere to the procedural by-law and strictures of the Act.

The voting sheets would stay part of the record of closed session. Thus there would be a record – albeit confidential - of who voted for whom at every stage of the process.

If members do not support the final candidate chosen by the majority, they can vote against it. That’s how other appointment processes work. I am unclear why this one cannot work in the same way.

You cannot convince me that this is what “openness” and “transparency” means in this context. You cannot convince me that this undignified exercise is required under the Act.

There should not be a public deliberation of the candidates. Period.

So endeth the rant.

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

To reach me, please email me at: acollinsmrakas@gmail.com. All comments, questions or concerns welcome. Contact me anytime!

(Editor’s Note: Councillor Gaertner attended the meeting in question.)

Aurora 150 finance motion would have negative impact on volunteers: Council

By Brock Weir

If you're going to focus on one citizen committee, you should focus on them all.

That was the argument made by many members of Council this month as they rejected a bid from Councillor Wendy Gaertner 6 – 2 to have a new staff report detailing all expenses incurred in the planning of Aurora's 150th anniversary celebration last year.

In her motion, Councillor Wendy Gaertner called on a further staff report to compile all the numbers previously reported to Council in the form of a ledger, in the interest of "transparency and accountability."

"We have had the Committee come forward at the podium and give us some excellent and quite detailed updates, but we haven't had a staff report and I believe we need a staff report," she said. "I think that is being transparent with the public funds. I am not sure that any committee of Council has ever worked harder than the 150th Committee, and they did an excellent job. There is no intent to disparage them at all."

Although she added a report crunching the numbers would be easier for the public to understand, and said a resident came to her citing some difficulty in obtaining the numbers himself, some Councillors did not buy the argument the motion did not "disparage" the committee.

When the motion was first discussed at the final Council meeting in June, several members spoke out against the motion suggesting it implied "transparency and accountability" was not there. This was a continued

theme when they took a second kick at the motion this month.

"It may not be your intent to cast any aspersions on the Committee that did this work, but it certainly is the effect of it," argued Councillor Evelyn Buck, noting she found the process where the Town Treasurer and the Director of Parks and Recreation signing off on each budget item "completely open and transparent."

A similar view was put forward by Councillor Sandra Humfries who said she had no problems producing the numbers for a resident when they asked for them. Going a step further, she said if one Committee was the subject of a motion like that it might make residents "wary" of joining a citizen committee.

"I think it was one of the best committees that gave so much," said Councillor Humfries. "I can't even fathom the return on investment Aurora received for having those amount of hours and output without having to pay [for] those resources. They did a great job, I know Councillor Gaertner recognizes that as well, but the intent of this motion, for me, is not necessary. We have the information."

Councillor Paul Pirri, on the other hand, went a step further. As the information Councillor Gaertner was requesting was already in the public realm, he said couldn't see the motion as "anything but an attack" on the Committee. This view was backed up by Councillor Michael Thompson who questioned the timing of the motion since the Aurora 150 celebrations were wrapped up last fall.

"I do think it casts a disparaging light on those people who have their

time and their effort to put this forward, and it also sheds an unfortunate light on a wonderful project that helped create and build up some civic pride within Aurora."

From the perspective of Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, the Aurora 150 Committee was one of the most "open committees" he had seen, meetings which were always open to the public. If Councillor Gaertner had "taken advantage of the meetings" she would have a "better sense of how this Committee was run, how the process occurred, how the money was spent, the amount of discussion around the table as to how they were going to spend that money, and if they were getting value for the money."

"If we want this kind of report from the Committee, we should want it from every committee and every dollar that is spent through Town," he said. "If you want to bring that forward, that way we can offend every member of the Committee and not just the 150 group."

Near the end of the discussion, although she did not support the motion, Councillor Buck proved to be an unlikely ally of Councillor Gaertner, becoming frustrated that other Councillors might have been piling on. It was a motion duly

seconded by a Councillor, argued Councillor Buck, and Councillor Gaertner did "not deserve to be criticized for putting forward a resolution. If we don't agree with it, we should turn it down, otherwise we should stop throwing bricks at a Councillor."

In turn, Councillor Gaertner said she "took offence" at some of the comments around the table, continuing the argument it was all about accountability.

"This has nothing to do with other committees, or historical stuff, this was something special and we decided we would spend a special amount of money to celebrate and that money belongs to the public," she concluded. "If one member of the public had trouble...getting the information, I just don't think that makes sense. That is public information."

She was supported in her motion by Councillor John Gallo.

New Councillor surprised but prepared after vote

From page 1

committees, work, and [I certainly have] a good idea of the structure and operations of the community," he said. "I have committed to an opportunity to sit and fill a vacancy for the next three months. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get started. Hopefully I have the opportunity to give back to Aurora again."

When asked whether he was surprised with how the vote went, Constable said "very much so."

"I thought for sure it would have been Bob [McRoberts]," he said. "Bob is certainly seasoned. Bob is a great guy, and I was actually impressed by the amount of people I didn't know who spoke today. They all bring a lot to Council and I hope they go and try to get elected because I think they would do a great job."

Constable said he had been considering a run in the October 27 election, but after making the decision not to, this "opportunity to give back" came up. His experience, he said, will "help over the next few months."

It was the sense of "rolling up his sleeves to get things done" that impressed Councillor Humfries in casting her vote. Although she was not as familiar with Constable as some of the others who put their names forward, she said she was also impressed by his résumé of giving back.

"It really hits close to home, having someone who is really close to the community," she said.

Councillor Abel expressed a similar sentiment, adding Constable's contributions to Hoedown stood out for him.

"I had narrowed it down to about four, and I just thought I would like to see Don Constable in the mix," he said. "I was convinced he would get the majority, so I am very pleased to welcome him. He wasn't going to run, he had served before [and I considered] his community involvement and volunteering."

Although he ultimately turned his support to Constable, Mayor Dawe said there were statements made by candidates which helped make his decision.

"What I was really looking for were people who were making statements like: 'I want to listen, I want to make an informed opinion, I want to listen to others, see what they say, form my opinions, and then I want to make my decision,'" he said. "I was looking

for that independent aspect."

Following the second round of votes, however, Councillors Buck and Thompson were firm in their support for McRoberts.

For them, his continued engagement at Town Hall after he left office was a factor to consider.

"I always stated I wanted someone who was experienced and we saw Bob many times in these Council Chambers throughout the term," said Councillor Thompson. "He has been engaged, he has participated, and I know he follows closely so we can hit the ground running on any of the issues we have left in the end of the term. When we started this process, I prefaced it by saying I was looking for someone who had the experience because we all know it is a steep learning curve on Council, and so it be Don, be it Bob, be it Grace [Marsh], they all had those qualities I was looking for."

Added Councillor Buck: "The last time [McRoberts] was a candidate, which, in my mind, is still current, he got such great support from the community."

Stephens had the support from Councillor

Gaertner in both rounds. Ms. Stephens is a former member of Town Staff who worked in various departments, as well serving as a volunteer coach with the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and with other organizations. She saw herself as being able to provide a "seamless transition" at the table and Councillor Gaertner said she agreed.

"I voted for the person I thought was the best [and] would really contribute something to Council," she said. "She has been very involved [in the Town] and her father has been very involved. I think she has her feet on the ground. I liked her experience having worked at the Town and thought she would really understand the workings of Council."



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You need to understand to be understood: Faiths

From page 1

harmony in this world is “first to be understood.”

“The key to being understood is first to understand,” said Patrick Lake, Executive Director of York CAS. “In the times we are in today, when we see around the world so much controversy and so much misunderstanding, so much violence, and so much breaking down of relationships between people, to be able to focus our energies and be part of taking a step together to break down those barriers and better understand is something we are very proud of – particularly in a community like York which is changing at an absolute breakneck speed.

“We now as a community have about half of our population who were born somewhere other than Canada. It is that change that is really changing the fabric of our community. The CAS has responsibility for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children in York Region and one of the important lessons we have learned, as an organization, is the importance family, culture and community play in making things better for kids in providing that safety, continuity and support to families that allow them to deal with changes that they face.”

It is also important, he added, for the organization to “build connections” and share in celebrations throughout the community. Their greatest strength is addressing both the needs of the individual, as well as the needs of the community, to move ahead.

For Azim Shamshiev, Vice President of Intercultural Dialogue for the Institute, Ramadan is unique to Islam, but the principle of fasting is not. It can be in different forms, but one thing that is shared across the board is that in the grand scheme of things, it is not really about abstaining from food and drink, but of something greater.

“It is about spiritual purification and renewing our commitments to our values, moral purification,” he said. “There is also a strong social and community aspect to fasting and that is to bring people of different faiths and cultures together. For Muslims around the world, this is a special

occasion to invite their friends, relatives, colleagues, neighbours, around the same table to break bread together. This is very crucial in why we are organizing these dinners.”

Speaking near the start of the evening, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said he was reminded of a story he had recently heard on the radio where the subject of the Ramadan fast came up in conversation between two carpooling coworkers, one Muslim and the other Christian. As the Muslim explained this core tenant of faith, the Christian decided to join him for the month of fasting. In turn, the Muslim eventually joined the Christian in taking part in Lent, fostering a cross-cultural exchange. It reminded him of a business meeting he had in Quebec near the height of the tensions experienced in the last Referendum, he said.

“Our conversation was very basic, but what it ultimately came down to was he was interested in exactly what I was interested in: You have to make the mortgage payment, you want to have a good life, you want to provide for your wife and make sure your children are taken care of,” said Mayor Dawe. “It really said to me that we are really all the same and that you have to seek to understand and then to be understood.”

“The onus is on us to understand.”

Reminding people of the true ties that bind is also an important principle in art, added Bonnie Kraft, president of the Aurora Cultural Centre’s Board of Directors. As an artist, she said she has found art, in all its forms, as the “universal language” with “no borders or barriers”, celebrating “uniqueness, individual life experiences, and different perspectives.”

“The essence of artistic expression, whether it be visual, arts, or music has the capacity to speak to each one of us and touch in us our commonality,” she said. “We at the Cultural Centre are committed to bringing people together; to share in diverse cultural experiences through our programs, events and community engagement. As we express ourselves through art, and in our response to art, we are reminded that we are much more similar than we are different.”



People of all faiths take part in a fast-breaking dinner at the Aurora Cultural Centre last week to mark Ramadan. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Salaries for Mayor and Council to stay as-is...for now

By Brock Weir

PeggingsalariesfortheMayorofAuroraandCouncillors on a more predictable scale is likely to be an issue tackled by the class of 2018, following a Council decision this month.

Earlier in July, a report before Council said the salaries currently earned by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Council were below their counterparts across York Region and the GTA. Municipal staff put forward a number of options to get Aurora’s lawmakers up to snuff, as far as their colleagues were concerned, including using the same grading method used by Town Hall in setting salaries for Town employees.

“In keeping with the Corporate staff compensation policy of paying at the 50th percentile of the marketplace and eliminating the high and low, the mean annual salaries for the survey data set for Mayor and Councillor are \$80,737 and \$33,614 respectively,” said Aurora CEO Neil Garbe in his report to Council.

Currently, Mayor Dawe earns a salary of \$57,719 annually outside of what he earns as Aurora’s representative at Regional Council. Councillors take in \$27,522 annually. Beginning in the next term of Council, the Mayor’s salary will increase to \$66,719, following Council’s approval of a \$9,000

pay increase last year.

For many members of Council, however, it was simply too late in the term to consider grading the salaries of Aurora’s elected body.

“I think we would all recognize around the table we’re paid fairly low for what we do and looking at an increase for the next term is probably warranted,” said Councillor Paul Pirri. “With that said, in my view, I don’t believe it is appropriate at this point in time to be doing that. I look at the environment we’re in economically and it is not one that I am overly optimistic about in the near future. I have a more bearish view on this from an economic standpoint.

“If Council had looked at this in 2007, they would have thought this would be something great we should move forward on. If you wanted a year with this in 2008, people would recognize the timing just wasn’t appropriate to do that. My preference is to leave things as they are.”

According to Mayor Dawe, the genesis of the options before Council stemmed

Continued on page 14

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

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New homeowners could help the hungry when they move into the 2C development

By Brock Weir

Summer is usually a slow time of year for the Aurora Food Pantry.

People are often at the cottage soaking up the sun, away on vacation, or gearing up for the busy fall ahead. While Thanksgiving and Christmas are usually times of plenty, this season presents a particular challenge for them. This month, however, they got a welcome infusion of \$2,000 to their group, courtesy of Opus Homes, and the contributions of local photographer Anna Lozyk Romeo.

As Opus, one of a number of builders joining forces in the new Aurora Trails community, was preparing their showroom for an onslaught of new customers, they were looking at ways to give prospective homeowners a true flavour of the community they were thinking about joining.

After a chance meeting, they met Anna, who spearheads the Living in Aurora blog, which documents the goings on in Aurora through photography.

“While we were starting to do some research on building in Aurora, we made contact with Anna,” explains Opus president Andrea DeGasperis-Ronco. “When we read her blog, we saw what a cornerstone to Aurora she really is. [Her work] represents to people who do not live in Aurora what Aurora is and stands for.”

Brainstorming ways to incorporate Anna’s photos into the work they were doing, they settled upon a series of photos that line the walls, as well as a video combining the shots with original music by local musician Glenn Marais. Their collective vision was to give a sampling of what “living in Aurora” is all about, from local concerts, to area facilities, street scenes, and just residents at large. It provides residents, says Ms. DeGasperis-Ronco, “an insight into what it is to live in Aurora.”

“This woman is spectacular,” she says of Anna. “We are a little company that tries to give back and she is a self-made woman who wants to give back to the community she lives in.”

When they came to a matter of settling the fee, Ms. DeGasperis-Ronco says she was “blown away” when Anna asked they cut a cheque for the Food Pantry instead. After agreeing to a cheque for \$1,500, Opus upped the ante by a further \$500.

“This ensures we are able to buy the milk and the fresh meat and eggs that we buy every week,” says Nancy Jean Rummenie of the Aurora Food Pantry. “It is good to have a good cushion and run a food bank without worrying about having to meet rent and those things. We buy a lot of the stuff we don’t get donated and we can get a good stock when we get good financial donations.”

“Our donations are really down in the summertime. Concerts in the Park do a little bit, but other than that, there is not a lot of big food drives, so we really do see a lack of donations and we buy a lot during the summer. Around Thanksgiving and Christmas, everyone is in the giving mood.”

The Aurora Food Pantry can expect additional help in the years ahead from this particular developer.

When Andrea started the company with her husband four years ago, they looked for ways they could give back to the communities in which they built. A lot of people have “negative feelings about buying from a big builder” but they set out to establish more of a “family and personalized approach” to home building.

While some builders give new homeowners some token as a “thank you” when they move in, Opus provides them with a pizza voucher to take the worry out of feeding the family on moving day and, once they are all settled, new homeowners are then presented with a list of local organizations to which the builder will donate in their honour.

“It has been well received by our purchasers and it makes us feel like we are donating back to the communities we are building in,” she says.

For Anna, it is a winning combination.

“Aurora seems, for many, a bedroom community and for many years we didn’t work in Aurora,” says Ms. Lozyk Romeo. “We didn’t know Town Park, we didn’t know the Aurora Cultural Centre, and all that stuff. I think it is a great idea to give an imprint [of the community] when people come in and first look. They might not do it right away, but they may have [these photos] in the backs of their minds. It opens up a way to explore Aurora.”



Andrea DeGasperis-Ronco of Opus Homes, centre, presents a \$2,000 cheque to Monica and Nancy Jean of the Aurora Food Pantry, right. They are accompanied by photographer and blogger Anna Lozyk Romeo, along with her family, who requested a donation to the charity in lieu of fees for her work.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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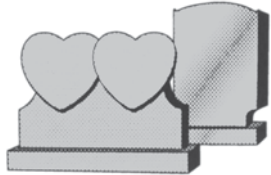
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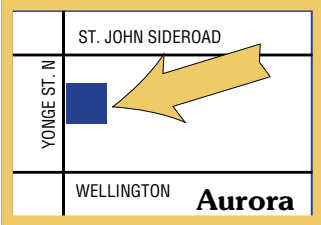
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Lt. Col. Len Whines and Karen Thornton were among Santa’s helpers as the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion got into the festive spirit a little bit early last week. It was “Christmas In July”, and volunteers and staff served up a turkey dinner with all the trimmings, along with a dessert, and a silent auction before a packed house. If only it inspired those in attendance to get an early jump on their holiday shopping, too!
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Leo (July 22 – August 22)
 August brings a time for adventure, Leo! It is your time to shine in a way that best suits your soul. Express yourself, get something creative done, and share the fruits of your labour. Remember that you don’t have to go out of doors to reach your quest.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)
 It is safe to move forward, Virgo. August will be a busy month, and you will feel a boost of cosmic energy guiding you along. It is good for you to know that you are supported! Creative pursuits and finishing up projects are encouraged at this time.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)
 Keep a sense of humor this month, Libra. Don’t take things too seriously, and everything will work out fine. Be a bit selfish, which is outside of your comfort zone normally. Others may not like it, but it is exactly what you need right now.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)
 Don’t push so hard, Scorpio! You just don’t need to. Life is conspiring to work with you now, so relax a bit. Set the goal, put some energy into it, and then let it ride. Things are coming to fruition for you. The cosmos are on your side.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)
 Act on the opportunities before you Sagittarius, and commit without faltering. You will feel incredibly creative this month, so just go for it. All the fire power of the Universe is with you now. Grasp onto what is in your heart, and let it out.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)
 Speak your truth courageously this month. Remember to use compassion and respect in your words too. Stand up for what you believe in, as it will most definitely be worthwhile and integral to your happiness. The future is bright, Capricorn!

Aquarius (January 20-Feb. 18)
 Relax a bit in August, Aquarius. While



NORTHERN LIGHTS
 Jodie Cara Lindley
August Horoscopes

you still may have to fight the good fight, don’t burn yourself out. You are in touch with the truth in all situations so let that guide your decisions and actions. You will always do what is best for everyone.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)
 Stand tall this month, Pisces. Don’t shy away and hide like you normally prefer. Others will respect you more if you express your incredible gifts with dignity and confidence. Now is that time. In pleasing yourself, you will please others too.

Aries (March 21 –April 19)
 You can get a great deal done this month if you put your mind to it, Aries. However, maybe you need to shift your attitude a bit? Practice the art of shapeshifting, and give to any situation exactly what it needs. Hanker down and commit.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)
 Is something in your life out of balance, Taurus? Use the month of August to correct whatever that may be. It will require change, readjustment and commitment on your part, but in the end, it will be worthwhile. You will have the energy you need.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)
 You are moving into a much lighter time now, Gemini. Optimism, direction, creativity and power are yours for the taking. You will receive many opportunities to solidify your dreams. Just remember to acknowledge exactly what they are first!

Cancer (June 21 – July 21)
 Are you focusing too much on your material concerns, Cancer? If so, make some time for intuition, creativity and inspiration. Bringing balance back into your life is key for you now. Don’t let the weight of the world get you down.

For more information about Jodie and astrology, visit www.EarthSkyJourneys.org.

Aurora Barbarians continue struggle on the Rugby field

By John Reich

Despite near perfect conditions for rugby, it was a less than pleasant day for the Aurora Barbarians Senior Men’s team on Saturday as they hosted clubs from the Niagara Region and Toronto for three matches at Fletcher’s Fields.

In the Premiership match versus Stoney Creek Camels, the Barbarians started the game in good form, picking up where they left off from their victory a week earlier in Waterloo, showing creative movement of the ball and crashing the line with authority.

The Barbarians were unlucky not to score several times early in the game with untimely knock-ons and kicks that missed the mark.

Stoney Creek

fielded a large and physical team that displayed excellent defence and, as the first half wore on, they organized their offence with punishing runs and superior force at every breakdown.

Stoney Creek broke through for two tries before the half ended and led at the interval 12-0.

The second half saw the Aurora side fatigue early and the mistakes mounted

Continued on page 11

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FREE Week of July 31, 2014

Aurora Jays wrap up League season heading to playoffs

By Jake Courtepatte

Despite a mediocre final week performance, the Aurora Jays are heading into the postseason at the top of the North Dufferin Baseball League (NDBL) standings.

The Jays battled the Bolton Brewers and Ivy Leafs for league supremacy all season, and the standings would come down to the wire. The Jays entered the week one point up on both Bolton and Ivy.

After a 17-3 whipping of the visiting New Lowell Knights on Monday, the bats stayed hot the next evening in a 10-6 win over the Creemore Braves that saw a five-run first inning. Aurora picked up an amazing 32 hits between the wins.

The week only got better for the Jays on Wednesday when the Brewers finished their season by splitting a doubleheader with the Barrie Angels. The loss clinched first place for the Jays, having won three straight games.

With two games left on the schedule and the standings in the books, the Jays were already preparing for the playoffs.

"We've got a couple of sore bodies that we're trying to give some time," said coach Rob Wilson. "A couple 'maybes' too that we're giving some rest."

The Jays had only nine players for Friday's final home game against the

Midland Indians, a game that was delayed until almost 9 p.m due to heavy traffic.

The undermanned Jays fell to the fifth-place Indians 6 – 1, giving up three home runs in the process. With the team in recovery mode, Andrew Bukovec said the Jays “just weren’t that into it.”

The final game of the season came Sunday on the road in Orangeville to face the Giants. Despite more than doubling the Giants in run production throughout the season, the Jays had trouble scoring after a Chris Bloom run in the top of the first put the team up early.

Team 2 – 1 in the sixth, Bloom gave the team another lift when he would take second base on a wild pitch, then stealing third. He would score the tying run, tagging up on a deep fly ball.

Holding on to their playoff hopes by a thread, the Giants came out in the seventh looking for the win. After relief pitcher Ted Beadle sat down the first batter he faced, he gave up a bunt single to Giant Dave Humphrey. Humphrey quickly stole second base, putting the winning run in scoring position. With two outs, Kevin Buck would hit a deep fly ball to the gap to bring Humphrey in for the walk-off 3 – 2 win.

Despite the final two losses, Wilson said the Jays' season was a "resounding success."

“The last couple of games weren’t

the results we were looking for, but we're still on track for our goals. Regardless of the results, these games are definitely something we can learn and build on."

The Jays end an incredible season with a record of 21-4-1, off a league-high 197 runs. They will meet the Barrie Angels in the first round of the Strother Cup playoffs, a team the Jays went undefeated against in the regular season.

Looking ahead, Wilson said he's confident in his team's abilities, regardless of who they face.

"Our regular season record shows that we're not scared of anybody," he said. "I'm going to be so bold as to say I think we're the team to beat this year. We've had a lot of success in the season, and we're not scoreboard watching. We'll be ready to play."

The five-game series kicks off next week, pending a league meeting to determine schedules.

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



The Jays gave up nine runs in their final two regular season games, while only cashing in three.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte



Local archer heads to Ontario Summer Games

Aurora's Hayden Edwards is heading to Windsor, ON next Thursday, August 7, to take on archers from across Ontario in the Ontario Summer Games.

Edwards, who has been an archer since 2012, will participate as one of 16 on the Central Zone Archery Team, which boasts teammates both male and female ranging in age from 14 – 20.

He shoots with Toronto's Bullseye Buccaneers Archery Club. This is his first year competing outdoors. For more on Hayden, and his results, check back with The Auran. Submitted photo

Barbs back on the field August 9

From page 10

with missed passes, dropped balls and unfinished tackles. Stoney Creek was up 33-0 before replacement player James Hulbert was able cross the line for the Barbarians to avoid the goose egg, but the Camels scored again to make the final count 38-5.

After the match, head coach Ian McLeod consoled his players, pointing out that if they had been able to score with the opportunities they had early in the game, the match would have been more competitive. He expected the return of some injured players for the next match and praised the team for playing bravely through to the final whistle.

In the second team game, the Barbarians were again outsize by Stoney Creek's development side and, despite solid play for 60 minutes, Aurora gave up a 26-16 lead to lose 47-26. Scoring

for Aurora was Nick Manoukas, James Hulbert, Brandon Olivera and Nick Szabino each scoring try's. Hulbert added three conversions.

In the third team match, the Barbarians took on Etobicoke Invictus, a junior club in just its third year in Toronto Division 5.

The Aurora side was an interesting blend of high school aged youngsters and grizzled veterans and entertained the fans with a display of old school rugby before succumbing to Etobicoke 22-20.

Scoring for Aurora was Luke Travell, Brad Legere and Ty Brochu each with a try. James Hulbert added a penalty kick and Nick Daniels a convert.

Ontario rugby shuts down for the Civic Holiday Weekend and play resumes on August 9 with the Barbarians visiting Brantford Harlequins for two matches.

The image features the New Roads Automotive Group logo on the left, which consists of a stylized camera shutter icon in teal and grey. 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 sans-serif font, with "Automotive Group™" in a smaller, grey sans-serif 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 white and black soccer ball. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds.

Lady Redbirds aim to put local lacrosse on the map with Aurora first

By Jake Courtepatte

The Newmarket Lady Redbirds are looking to put Aurora and Newmarket on the map for Canada’s national sport.

Girls as young as seven are learning how to play lacrosse on Newmarket’s under-11, under-13, and under-15 rep teams.

Now in its second year, the program was born when Carey Fisher saw the interest in girl’s field lacrosse in the United States while at one of her son’s tournaments.

Fisher is now the head coach of the U11 team, and the assistant for the U13 team.

Still a very young organization, the Redbirds are taking on established Ontario programs from lacrosse towns like Oshawa and Orangeville. While these programs have the opportunity to draw from a pool of hundreds, the Redbirds organization has approximately 40 players in total.

However, the young Redbirds are taking to the game at a rapid pace.

Fisher took the U13 Redbirds to the Provincial Championships last

weekend, where the team brought home third place. The accomplishment made the Redbirds what Fisher calls “the talk of the tournament.”

“You very rarely get a second year doing that well, or even competing. We don’t get to choose from the best of the best, we’re just trying to turn anyone interested into a lacrosse player.”

Fisher said promoting the game to a young female audience is difficult for a travelling team.

“We don’t have a house league program,” said Fisher. “So it’s not like soccer where you’re driving around your hometown and seeing girls playing.”

Lacrosse also often gets a bad rap as a violent, overly-physical sport. For parents, this often steers them to encourage their daughters into lighter

sports like soccer.

“Everybody seems to associate lacrosse with boys,” said Fisher. “When some parents think of lacrosse, they just say ‘I don’t have any sons, so I’m out’. They associate it with being a rough and violent game, but it’s not like that at all.”

However, Fisher says the Redbirds’ parents are very understanding of the game and the team.

“Our parents all know that their kids are just learning, and not to expect certain things. And as a coaching staff, we really focus on that. We’ve really had no negative experiences in that sense.”

As for generating interest in young girls, Fisher believes the future is bright.

“If we can get through one more season, I think it looks really good,”



The Redbirds’ U11 team, pictured with their Orillia challengers, whom they will be facing off against at St. Max this week. Submitted photo

she said. “It’s something that in five or six years we’ll be quite strong. It’s like any sport that you’re trying to grow, it takes a few years to catch on.”

With what Fisher calls a “strong core of athletes” that started the program, the Redbirds are looking to make a name for themselves in the lacrosse community – and most importantly, are having fun doing so.

“They’re all proud to wear their Redbirds clothing. They’re telling their friends to play it.”

Fisher wishes to give credit to the volunteers that make the program possible, crediting them with providing the players with the best experience they can.

At press time, the U11 Redbirds were due to host a doubleheader against Orillia on Wednesday night at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS. The event marks a special moment for both the Redbirds and the community, as they will be the first girl’s lacrosse games held in Aurora.

For more information on the Redbirds, visit www.redbirdslacrosse.com.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Mimics
5. Ed Murrow’s home
8. Semitic gods
10. Print errors
13. Shared
15. Intestinal inflammation
16. Word element meaning ear
17. English romantic poet
19. Proofreading symbol
21. Marten pelt
22. Brew
23. Liquid body substances
25. Born of
26. Large primate
27. Aba ____ Honeymoon
29. Indian solder
32. NYSE regulator
33. Be incorrect
34. Badger groups
36. Gangster pistols
38. Hearing receptor
39. Gone by
42. “Heir of Fire” author Sarah
44. Short-term memory
45. Egg-shaped nut palms
47. Invests in little enterprises
49. “____ Daniel Webster”
53. Busy, honey or quilting
54. Supplies with air
55. Repository
57. Verbal approvals
58. Make joyful
59. 1/100 yen
60. Lam____: 12th hebrew letter (pl)

CLUES DOWN

1. Diminishes
2. Set free
3. Consume
4. Salem-Leckrone Airport
5. Rowing team
6. Gusto (Italian)
7. Territory ruled by a Satrap
9. Disseminates
10. Other
11. Appellation
12. Arthur ____ Stadium (USTA)
13. Seed container
14. Paradoxical Zen question
15. Runs disconnected
18. Rainbow Effect (abbr.)
20. Chalk remover
24. Assist in some wrongdoing
26. Main arterial vessels
28. Unreturned serve
30. Brain wave instrument
31. Baby carriage
34. Image recorders
35. Indian frocks
37. Jewish day of rest
38. Earliest anesthetic
40. Hair product
41. So. Am. wood sorrels
43. Blockades
44. Pierce
45. The class of birds
46. Stake
48. After B
50. Comedian Letterman
51. British School
52. 1996 presidential candidate
56. Radioactivity unit

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

T	A	P	A			U	M	A		H	U	S	K
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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 31

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.

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. A charitable barbeque and treats will be offered by M&M Meats and Beavertails. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

SUNDAY, 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. A charitable barbeque and treats will be offered by M&M Meats and Beavertails. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

This evening, the Aurora Community Centre is the scene of the Aurora-Newmarket Ladies’ Ball Hockey Championships. The fun runs from 7 – 11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Hollandview Trail Retirement Community will host their annual Mad Hatter’s Summer Garden Party. Held in their Victory Garden & Patio, the afternoon’s festivities will include a performance by Fit As A Fiddle. For more information, visit www.hollandviewtrail.com.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Aurora’s Sobey’s Extra will host an evening of education, discussing what GMO foods really are, how they are impacting the population, and how you can reduce your intake of Genetically Modified Organisms. The class is free, but registration is required. For more information, call 905-726-2530.

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”

COMING EVENTS

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 with 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”.

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—THE AURORAN— Arts & Culture

Potters shine a light on the world around them through From Earth to Fire show

By Brock Weir

Artists sometimes lose sight of what they actually lose in the creative process, but potter Heather Smit is no ordinary artist.

A member of Aurora's Pine Tree Potters Guild, she has always had a creative eye for material that can be found in the ground, but it wasn't always clay. Her father, she says, was an industrial sewer, and she grew up around oil cans and industrial machines.

As her interest in art grew, she was attracted to the shape and form of oil cans and, really, "anything metal." She studied metal at school, with a minor in clay, but eventually clay worked its way into the studio, and metal worked its way into her clay.

Her collection of ceramic oil cans with mysterious numbers etched into them attracted many a curious eye when "From Earth to Fire", a new show hosted by the Pine Tree Potters Guild at the Aurora Cultural Centre opened earlier this month.

With many stopping to get a closer look, and an equal group questioning the two sets of numbers on each individual oil can, her work was recognized as "Most Imaginative" by noted ceramic artist Bruce Cochrane, who served as juror for the exhibition.

Oddly enough, however, the first person who might dispute the "imaginative" moniker is the artist herself.

"For me, the oil cans are something that I do in my regular work," she says of From Earth to Fire. "The number on the top is the weight of the piece as raw clay. That is the earth. Then the number on the bottom is the weight of the completely finished, fired product. This is all about what you lose in the firing."

"To me, it is a pretty straightforward idea. I wanted to work with objects I am comfortable with. I don't really see it as imaginative, but maybe. I think you often overlook what you lose in the process and, for me, my work is all about the process. I show the seams, I show the lines, and I show how the pieces are made."

Ms. Smit's theme of what one loses in the process was not represented solely with her oil cans. Many pieces gathered by the Guild members also had a wider message to get art aficionados thinking of the world around them. One piece created by Guild president Sara Stevens spoke to the protection of animals in a representation of an elephant breaking free of its chains.

Another showed anonymous faces obscured by a crimson

representation of cloth, symbolising human rights abuses in the developing world.

While a further piece, an eye-catching work by Teresa Dunlop, shows former Senator Lieutenant-General Romeo Dallaire represented in a terracotta portrait vessel, a tradition of Peru's Moche culture, a craft which flourished between the fifth and the ninth centuries.

"The vessels are really a remarkable collection of work," says Ms. Dunlop. "They are all men and they were all ritual warriors in their society. They know now that for any one man there would be a series of vessels made throughout his life... and were probably given as tribute to neighbouring cultures in the Moche area."

"The reason I chose to have Romeo Dallaire is because of his role as a hero within our culture, as the vessels would depict heroes in their culture, and in particular for his work in Rwanda and in his work as a peacekeeper. Tied in with this piece, I have another piece in the show of a child soldier. One of his big pushes is to help reintegrate child soldiers into society, and that is why I thought it would be appropriate to bring the two pieces together for this exhibition."



(Above) Artist Teresa Dunlop with her rendering of Romeo Dallaire in the form of a Moche portrait vessel. (Right) Heather Smit's series of ceramic gas cans caught the eye of many in attendance and was awarded "Most Imaginative" by the jury.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



Doors Open 2014 features sites in Southeast Old Aurora

By John McIntyre

The part of town we now think of as Southeast Old Aurora was first divided into building lots by John Mosley in 1854, including the area from Wellington Street south to Metcalfe and from Yonge Street east to Berczy.

Mosley believed the arrival of the railway in 1853 meant that new residents, businesses and industries would soon want to buy land in the village then called Machell's Corners.

"Aurora," symbolizing the dawn, became the village's new name in 1854 as John Mosley and others realized that they were at the dawn of a new age, an age of railways and the Industrial Revolution as the pioneer era receded into memory.

Near the centre of John Mosley's plan was a large lot labelled "Town Hall and Market Block."

This was the northeast corner of what came to be known as Town Park after the local Council purchased the entire area bounded by Mosley, Wells, Larmont and Metcalfe Streets in 1867.

It seems appropriate that today's Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair is located in the same area that was designated for this use 160 years ago. The lot at the northeast corner of Town Park came to be the site of Aurora's Drill Shed or Armoury, built in 1872.

This building is still associated with the Queen's York Rangers and, until very recently, was the oldest armoury in Canada still in military use.

Mosley's 1854 plan also contained a site for an "Academy" to be located on the east side of Wells Street, half way between Wellington and Mosley streets. Ultimately, a different site was chosen on Wells Street, directly overlooking Town Park itself. That is where the Aurora High School was erected in 1892.

This building was rebuilt in 1923 in the Classical Revival style and stands today as the Wells Street Schoolhouse Lofts.

Next door, at the corner of Wells and Mosley streets, stands the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge.

Like the Farmers' Market, this is an essential stop on Doors Open again this year. The Lodge has been located here since 1885, although the building itself dates to 1877 when it was built as the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Its elaborately painted interior, filled with colourful Masonic symbolism, is remarkably well preserved.

As the home of Aurora's Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair, surrounded by buildings which recall Aurora's military, educational, religious and social history, Town Park is Aurora's equivalent to the Town Square or central piazza of much older communities.

About two blocks to the west, at the corner of Church and Victoria Streets, Aurora built a very grand elementary school which today is home to the Aurora Cultural Centre. This building was constructed in 1886, replacing an earlier school building on the same site.

From page 15

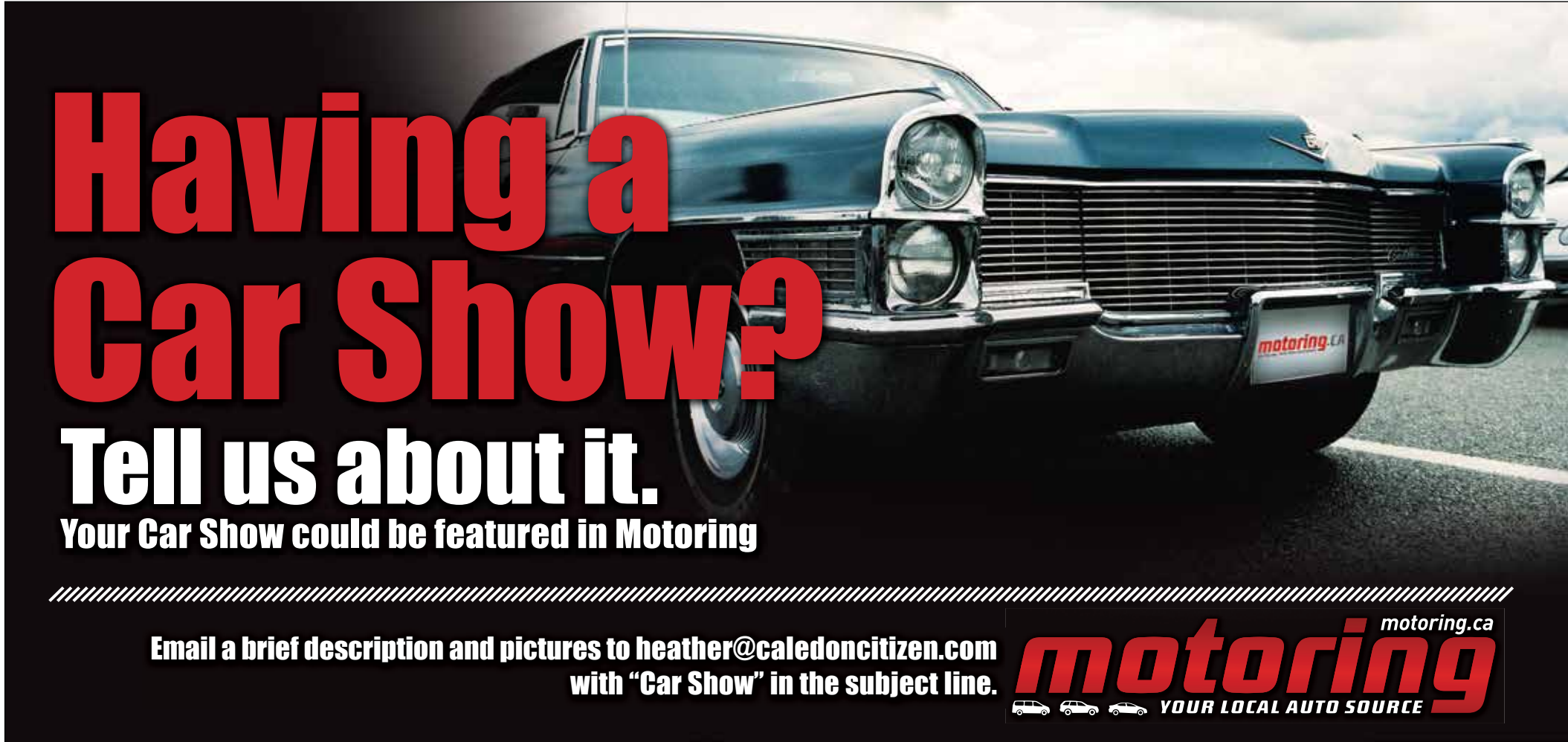




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We can switch from watching television to listening to music remotely. Dinner and coffee can be set to prepare itself. Lights come on when we move from room to room. We don't even need to move our arm up and down, back and forth to clean our teeth because of the electric toothbrush. Children spend more time in front of a computer or television than they do in any other activity.

No wonder so many of us are out of shape and it's getting worse. Obesity is becoming widespread at all ages.

Remember when you had to walk over to the television to turn it on, change stations, tune in a static-filled station, and turn it off? Remember the original remote? That cable running across the floor from your sofa to the set could be a hazard. That's where it all began.

Driving now incorporates remote actions. Click a remote to open and lock the doors or find your car in a huge parking lot. Set 'cruise' and you can sit back and relax without worrying about pushing the gas pedal. Use an inboard camera to back up your car. Cars today can even park themselves! How lazy is that when you can't even turn your head?

And let's not forget all those hundreds of television stations that run 24-7. It's virtually impossible not to find something to watch, but if you've already 'remoted' your way through almost all the retro cartoons and classic movies, it's time to move yourself. How many times can you watch the Roadrunner repeatedly outfox the coyote with his myriad of Acme products, or witness Bugs Bunny forever befuddle Elmer Fudd? Surely you've enjoyed enough battles between Daffy Duck and his co-stars or any of the Looney Tunes characters interacting.

All this new technology makes it even more crucial that we keep active in other ways. It also removes us from society which means we need to get away from our televisions and computers and spend time making new acquaintances, maintaining old ones and perhaps even making new friends with new topics of conversation. Conversation can be surprisingly uplifting, stimulating and motivating. When was the last time you enjoyed a lively chat with a group of people sharing their own alternate views?

You will find many programs at the Centre that exercise you physically and mentally. Fortunately, it's not all about the games, which are fun in themselves. There are plenty of opportunities to carry on conversations with others in the group.

If you've yet to make your way to the Centre, remember that it offers more than games to enjoy. You will also have many chances to socialize with the friendly members. By the way, rumor has it that the Aurora Seniors' Centre is one of the friendliest around.

Casino Trip August 21

Speaking of socializing, what better opportunity than on a road trip to

Salaries stay put but Council wants future change

From page 7

back to request from Council to look at Council compensation wholesale, with an attempt to remove compensation out of the political realm and put it on the administrative shoulders of Town Staff. Earlier in their term, the incumbent Council established a citizens committee to look at salaries for Mayor and Council, but their suggestions were largely rejected by Council, with the exception of the \$9,000 mayoral boost for the next term.

"[This was to...] put it on the administrative side to define what our salary rates are, what the position of a Councillor would represent and what the position of Mayor would represent," said Mayor Dawe. "This is more from a responsibility point of view, as opposed to a necessary function point of view. It provides an objective level as to what your range should be, as it is always a challenging question to sit here and debate your own raise, whether or not there should even be one."

The "difficulty" in separating "politics from policy" was one Councillor Michael Thompson said he recognized. At first blush, he said he believed the report provided a good methodology in setting these rates, but he wanted more information on the different financial levels available.

Voting upon a methodology was something he was prepared to do at that point, but he added further investigation was needed on just what the appropriate salary grade level would be.

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For more specifics, see the display at the Reception Desk. There, you can book your tickets which includes a \$10 slot voucher. This trip is easily affordable at \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Stratford Festival September 26

For those of you who enjoy a good



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Sylvia Dickens

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gems in this dynamic musical's dazzling score.

Note that you must register by August

theatre production, don't miss Stratford Festival Theatre's "Crazy for You". Banker Bobby Child is sent to Deadrock, Nevada to foreclose on a derelict theatre and ends up falling for the owner's daughter, Polly Baker. Can he reconcile the demands of duty and love, and his own dreams of dancing? "I Got Rhythm," "Nice Work If You Can Get It" and "Someone To Watch Over Me" are just some of the

26. The cost is \$135 for members, \$140 for non-members. The group departs on September 26 at 9 a.m. from the Aurora Community Centre. Get more details and register at the Centre's Reception Desk.

Seniors Day at Town Park

Saturday, August 2 has been designated as Seniors Day at the Town Park by the Farmers' Market Association. From 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., try your hand at a chess game with an ASA member at the Seniors Booth! From 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the band shell, members of the ASA will provide entertainment featuring singers, guitarists, piano players, comedy, line dancing and ballroom dancing. You'll also have a chance to join them on the stage for some karaoke singing!

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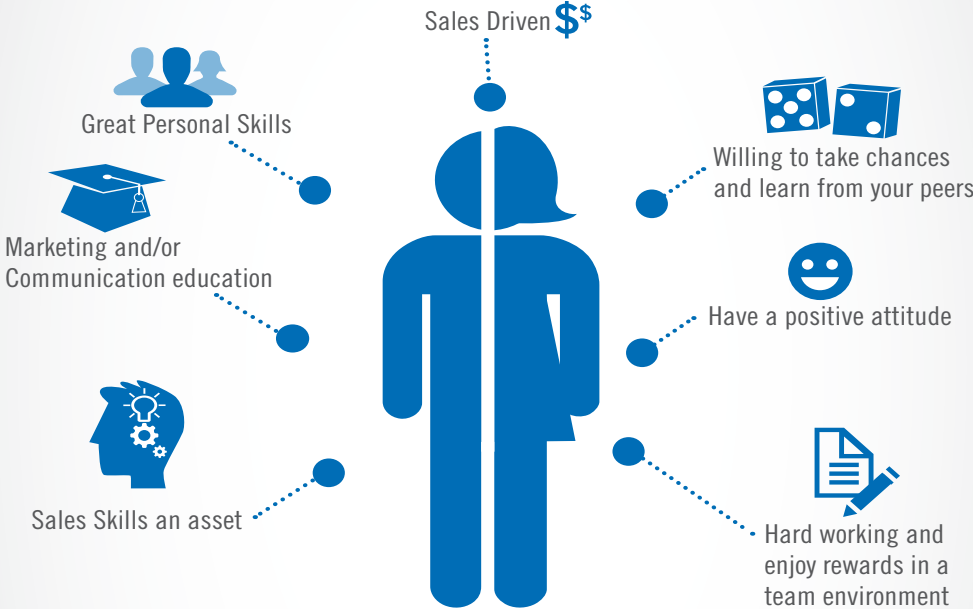
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Students Welcome

Listed home on Wellington Street might make way for medical offices

By Brock Weir

It has served as a residence in Aurora for nearly 140 years, but the recently sold house at 95 Wellington Street East could soon make way for a new medical office.

Council is set to approve removing the property from Aurora’s register of buildings deemed of “cultural heritage value or interest” this week, following a recommendation from the Town’s Heritage Advisory Committee.

A new medical office is the vision of Dr. Philip Kritzinger, an Aurora resident, who currently operates his York Vein & Laser Clinic out of Newmarket. It is a practice which originated in Aurora, but quickly outgrew its local premises. If his plans for a homecoming are borne to fruition, he plans a new building taking inspiration from its heritage surroundings, inspired by Rocco Picheca Salon on Yonge Street, near Aurora Heights Drive.

“I started my practice in Aurora, moved to Newmarket 12 years ago, and I would like to move back,” said Dr. Kritzinger. “I work out of a small house on Davis Drive and that house is now too small for me. The proposal is to remove the present dwelling and replace it with something that looks more like Rocco’s place. I would like to build something as gorgeous as that and respect the Aurora Promenade Plan, as well as the heritage look and feel.”

After putting a conditional offer in on the property, Dr. Kritzinger said he walked up and down Wellington Street looking for local architectural elements that would be worth incorporating and imitating into his proposed new development, but his chief inspiration came from that new building on Yonge, having no idea at the time it was actually a completely new structure.

“When I commute to work, I don’t go up Yonge



Soon to be seeing double? The recently sold home on Wellington Street East, right, could soon be knocked down and transformed into a new medical building, drawing on the heritage-inspired Rocco Picheca Salon on Yonge Street, left.



Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Street and when I first saw the building [a little while ago] I didn’t realise it was a brand new building,” he said. “It looks like it belongs there. They did a marvellous job and I want to do the same.

“[The present building] is pretty small, it is not sitting in quite the right location and the biggest problem is the rooms inside all access each other from each other; having to go through a room to get to another room. Most offices have a central hallway with rooms coming off the side. This building makes it very difficult to work with. The rooms are small, the upstairs is small, the basement is six feet high, damp, musty, and almost unusable.”

An additional challenge is the home is subdivided into apartments, with the main floor accessible only from the porch in the back and the second floor apartment only by the main door facing Wellington Street. A new building, he added, would rectify many issues.

“I want to] remove the old dwelling and put a brand-new, gorgeous dwelling up there so I can move my own medical practice there,” he said. “It is currently occupied by residents in the upstairs and downstairs, but it has been sitting there for a long time, undeveloped, and unappreciated. I would like to build something that would elevate the status of the entire street and join together with lawyers,

dentists, chiropractors, and finance people on the street already.”

While the property in question is listed as being of interest, it is not formally designated heritage. HAC last considered delisting the property in 2012, but they voted against it as there was no concrete vision provided on what would be built on the site.

Heritage Evaluations placed the property in “Group 3”, which means it is “moderately significant, worthy of documentation, and preservation” but if a building was to be demolished, photographic records, measured drawings and the salvaging of architectural elements “may be required.”

“It was not found to warrant significant cultural heritage value because of the evaluation and the owners provided a site visit with members of HAC to determine availability of items related to the salvage program,” said Vanessa Hicks, Manager of Heritage Planning for the Town of Aurora.

The recommendation passed HAC this month, with the main concern centering on traffic on Wellington Street.

“We have horrendous traffic issues on that block,” said Erina Kelly, who tendered her resignation as a member of HAC earlier this month, noting a business such as this would need access for people turning left and right.

Learn more about familiar landmarks during Dors Open Aurora

From page 11

Designed by Thomas Kennedy, its decorative façade and soaring bell tower suggest the faith villagers had in the power and importance of public education. Details of its belfry and decorative brickwork recall aspects of Indian design at a time when Queen Victoria was crowned Empress of India and the sun never set on the British Empire.

This provincially designated historic site is once again a Doors Open participant.

If you walk west on Church Street down to Yonge and look back, you will see an essential element of John Mosley’s 1854 village plan: the street is positioned so that Trinity Anglican Church stands exactly at its head, providing a pleasing vista up from Yonge Street.

At the north corner of Yonge and Church streets stands the Aurora Public Library, another participating site this year. This modern building is built of yellow brick which recalls the original colour of the nearby Cultural Centre and many other

nineteenth-century Aurora buildings.

These earlier buildings used bricks which came from the Tyler Street brickyard, once located only two blocks to the west. While the library building is new, the Aurora Public Library traces its history well over a century to the Aurora branch of the Mechanics’ Institute.

Mechanics’ Institutes, begun in England to advance the education of “mechanics,” as all those who worked with their hands were known, also provided classes, lectures, and special events, much as the Aurora Public Library continues to do today.

There is much to learn about the history of Aurora at Doors Open. We hope you will join us on Saturday August 16.

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.


McIntyre is a member of Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee, and serves as president of the Aurora Historical Society.

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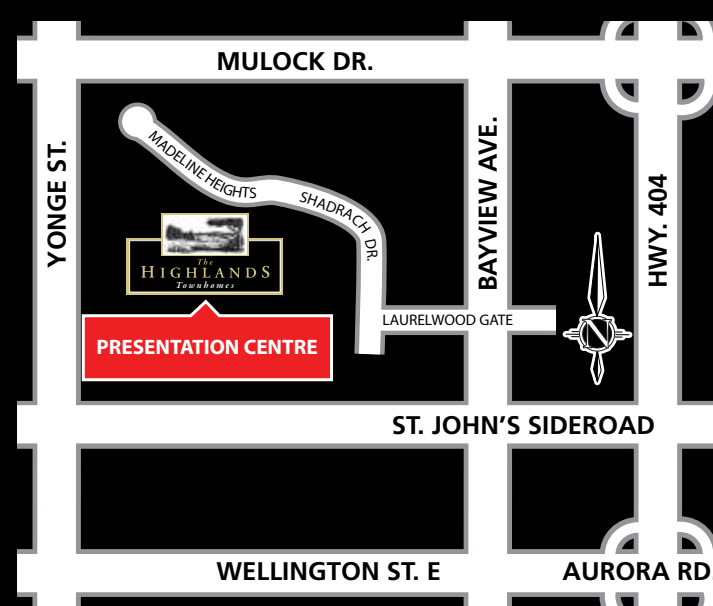
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