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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

Vol. 15 No. 36 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE

Week of July 2, 2015



**SOGGY – BUT SPIRITED – TORCH ARRIVAL:** Rain may have dampened Pan Am's parade as the torch relay arrived in Aurora, but the same can't be said of the collective spirit of those who turned out to cheer on the torchbearers. Community torchbearer Bruce Stafford of Storm Volleyball lights the ceremonial cauldron at Lambert Willson Park on Thursday afternoon as local dignitaries capture the moment. (Inset) Pachi, the Pan Am mascot, was a hit with the crowds. For more on the celebrations, please see Pages 8 and 9.

Auroran photos by David Falconer and Jake Courtepatte

## Residents speak out against Highland Gate development

By Angela Gismondi

Aurora residents still have a lot of concerns when it comes to the proposed Highland Gate residential development.

A special Council Public Planning meeting, the first of three, was held last Wednesday at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School. Hundreds of residents packed the school cafeteria and over 35 neighbours came forward to urge Council's opposition to the

development.

The proposal is to build new homes on the former Highland Gate Golf Club. The site has about 101 acres of land and is surrounded by existing single detached homes, a seniors' residence and two apartment buildings.

The developer, Geranium Corporation, in partnership with Clublink, is proposing to add a new high-density residential block consisting of 184 single detached dwellings, a 100-

unit condo building, parkettes, open space/vistas, trails and environmental protection. In order to allow for the plan of subdivision, the developer has submitted Official Plan Amendment and zoning bylaw amendment applications to the Town.

The meeting was held as a result of the large number of residents who attended the community open house meeting this past April. Planning

Continued on page 15

## Moyle named Aurora's interim CAO

By Brock Weir

Patrick Moyle will succeed former Aurora CAO Neil Garbe on an interim basis effective August 4.

Mr. Moyle, who has served previously as Chief Administrative Officer to the Region of Halton, and the Towns of Orangeville and Huntsville, was appointed to the position last week by Council for a position not to exceed six months.

In a statement, Mayor Geoff Dawe said Mr. Moyle brings a "wealth of municipal management experience to the role...[and] a proven record of

Continued on page 3

## Time to make a decision on Library Square, says Council

By Brock Weir

After twelve years, nearly 30 reports, and up to 10 invitations for the public to weigh in on the matter, now is the time to finally make a decision on the future of Library Square, according to Council.

Library Square, a large swath of land on Victoria Street currently occupied by the former homes of the Aurora Public Library and Aurora Seniors' Centre, has been a question mark in the community for well over a decade. To some members of the public they are buildings occupying land that should be used to alleviate downtown parking problems while

others believe they should be replaced with a new, modern facility. Public information suggestions have collected no shortage of ideas on what to do with the site, but now is the time to take action on these suggestions.

Council's decision to move forward on making a decision on the land, meetings which could take place as early as August, came on the heels of a motion from Councillor John Abel to establish an ad-hoc committee comprised of some members of staff, members of the public and other stakeholders, to spur some action. Such a committee, he said, would start engaging the community on

Continued on page 6

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## Weekly Notice Board

Aurora Town Hall  
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Phone 905-727-1375 • Fax 905-726-4732  
Email [info@aurora.ca](mailto:info@aurora.ca) • Website [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

Accessible formats  
905-727-3123 ext. 4212  
[accessibility@aurora.ca](mailto:accessibility@aurora.ca)

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Monday, July 13	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 14	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Tuesday, July 28	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
August 2015			
Tuesday, August 11	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Tuesday, August 25	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council

Council meetings are open to the public and can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)



The Town of Aurora proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Sport in Aurora. Please see the upcoming sport event below that supports the importance of healthy sport and activities in our community.

Event: Kickit2Winit  
Date: Saturday, October 3, 2015  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Location: Aurora Sports Dome

For more information, please visit [www.kickit2winit.com](http://www.kickit2winit.com) or call 647-234-3970.

## Homelessness Prevention Program

Do you need assistance with, or are you behind on rent, utilities, moving costs or mortgage payments? The Homelessness Prevention Program can help! If you do not receive assistance from the Ontario Disability Support Program or Ontario Works, you may be eligible for assistance through the Homelessness Prevention Program. The program is available to all eligible York Region residents. To learn more, visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)

## Celebrate the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games at Hillary House!

Exhibit: Tennis in Canada From Early Beginnings to Global Success

This exhibit invites you to explore the evolution of tennis from its origins to its establishment in Canadian society. The Hillary House collection includes a tennis racquet used by the family in 1905, which will be featured among many other tennis artifacts in the exhibit at Hillary House.



## Pan Am and Parapan Am Celebrations

## Saturday, July 18

Opening Ceremonies and a Taste of Wimbledon at Hillary House 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy traditional Wimbledon-style refreshments (think strawberries and cream, Pimm's, and sandwiches). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. BBQ and Tennis "Grudge Matches"! Register your singles/doubles 'Grudge Match' with a competitive friend, tennis rival, or your biggest competition for just \$20! Call AHS to reserve your spot.

## Sunday, July 19

Family Fun Day  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Head over to Hillary House for country fair style games such as bean bag toss, ring toss, croquet, and more! Also visit the Tennis in Canada exhibit. We'll serve BBQ, water, pop, coffee, and tea.

## Saturday, July 25

Domestic Sports with the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Presented in partnership with the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club, this event will feature tennis demonstrations in period costume at Hillary House, as well as lawn bowling and tennis demonstrations at McMahon Park. Beer, cider, wine, and BBQ will be served on the Hillary House grounds.

## Saturday, August 8

Closing Ceremonies and a Taste of Wimbledon at Hillary House  
Enjoy traditional Wimbledon-style refreshments (think strawberries and cream, Pimm's, and sandwiches) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission by donation.

Closing ceremonies will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed. Contact us to find out more. To find out more about the exhibit, the celebrations, or for media inquiries please contact Erika Mazanik at 905-727-8991 or [erika.mazanik@aurorahs.com](mailto:erika.mazanik@aurorahs.com)

All Pan Am and Parapan Am Celebrations are admission by donation!

## Corporate merchandise for sale

The Town of Aurora will be selling corporate merchandise to the public starting in July. Items range from The Town of Aurora flag to stationery.

A list of items and prices can be found on our website at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca). If you are interested in purchasing items from the list, please visit Access Aurora at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

## Aurora presents Theatre in the Park

The Town of Aurora and the Humber River Shakespeare Company invite you to attend Theatre in the Park at Aurora Town Park (Mosley and Wells Streets) for a showing of Shakespeare's Falstaff & The Merry Wives of Windsor on Friday, July 10, Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12.

New this year! An interactive pre-show workshop on Saturday, July 11 at 6:15 p.m. Experience a display led by Humber River Shakespeare cast member and teaching artist Paula Schultz. It's a perfect introduction to Shakespeare's language and themes.

The play starts at 7 p.m. Pack your blanket and lawn chairs and enjoy an outdoor theatre presentation of Shakespeare's rowdy and hilarious comedy of love, marriage and trickery. Food vendors will be on-site, with ready-to-serve barbecue-type foods available at 6 p.m.

This event is open to the public on a "pay-as-you-can" basis, with a suggested donation of \$20 to support this great initiative.

For more information about the 2015 Theatre in the Park event, please call the Special Events line at 905-726-4762, email [sware@aurora.ca](mailto:sware@aurora.ca) or visit [www.aurora.ca/specialevents](http://www.aurora.ca/specialevents).

For more information about the Humber River Shakespeare Company, please visit [www.humberrivershakespeare.ca](http://www.humberrivershakespeare.ca)

## Summer Ice for rent in Town arena

Summer ice is available for rent in Town arena's from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at \$125 per hour. For information on availability, rates or timing, please contact Kim Teixeira at [kteixeira@aurora.ca](mailto:kteixeira@aurora.ca)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

## Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw

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

## Notice of Pesticide Tree Injection for Control of Emerald Ash Borer

Town-owned ash trees located along the streets and parks listed below will be treated to help control Emerald Ash Borer. Treatment will take place between the dates of Wednesday, July 1 and Monday, August 31.

To Control: Emerald Ash Borer  
Pesticide Product: IMA-Jet  
PCP #: 31375, registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada)  
Pesticide Product Active Ingredient: Imidacloprid


For more information please contact: Trugreen at 1-800-565-5295 or Town of Aurora, Parks and Recreation department, at 905-727-3123 ext. 3222

Selected ash trees to be injected on the following streets:


Amberhill Way; Ardill Crescent; Ashford Court; Attridge Drive; Aurora Heights Drive; Benville Crescent; Corner Ridge Road; Cranberry Drive; Craiglee Court; Deerhorne Crescent; Defoe Court; Delayne Drive; Dinsmore Terrace; Evelyn Buck Lane; Gilbank Drive; Harmon Avenue; Heathersfield Lane; Hodgkinson Crescent; Hollandview Trail; Hollidge Boulevard; John West Way; Karindon Court; Kennedy Street West; Klaimen Court; Lacey Court; Langman Place; Lenarthur Court; Little Erica Way; Long Valley Road; Lougheed Court; Luxton Court; Marsh Harbour; McCleod Drive; McGee Crescent; Meadowood Drive; Monkman Court; Moorcrest Drive; Mugford Road; Murdock Avenue; Ochalski Road; Owls Foot Crescent; Pinnacle Trail; Raiford Street; Rush Road; Storrington Gate; Timberline Trail; Timpson Drive; Tribbling Crescent; Trillium Drive; Treegrove Circle; Twelve Oaks Drive; Wilkinson Place; Willow Farm Trail; Whispering Pine Trail.

Selected ash trees to be injected in the following parks:

Atkinson Park – Twelve Oaks Drive; Chapman Park – McMaster Drive; Copland Park – Aurora Heights Drive; Elizabeth Hader Park – Timpson Drive; William Kennedy Park – Kennedy Street West; Wilson Park – Moorcrest Drive



## STAY FIRE SMART CAMPAIGN 2015



Central York Fire Services encourages Newmarket and Aurora residents to **Stay Fire Smart** this summer. Fire crews will travel to scheduled neighbourhoods in Newmarket and Aurora as part of the annual **Stay Fire Smart** campaign, stressing the importance of developing and practising a home escape plan, having a 72-hour emergency kit and ensure working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are installed in their home.

Here are ways in which you can **Stay Fire Smart**:

- Develop and practise your home escape plan with every person in your home
- Be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for up to 72-hours with a 72-hour emergency kit
- Ensure smoke alarms are installed on every storey and outside all sleeping areas in the home and carbon monoxide alarms are installed outside all sleeping areas – it's the law

Smoke Alarm Students are also visiting homes upon request to check batteries, replace smoke alarms and answer questions for residents who may require assistance.

To arrange for a home inspection by a Smoke Alarm Student, please call Central York Fire Services at 905-895-9222 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to book an appointment. For more information, please visit [www.cyfs.ca](http://www.cyfs.ca)

Proudly protecting the communities of Aurora and Newmarket | [www.cyfs.ca](http://www.cyfs.ca) | 905-895-9222



## New steps towards a smoke-free Ontario

Starting **January 1, 2015**, it will be illegal to:

- smoke on bar and restaurant patios
- sell tobacco on college and university campuses
- smoke near children's playgrounds and public sports fields and surfaces.



ontario.ca/smokefree



## CONGRATULATORY GREETINGS

## Congratulations to the 2015 Town of Aurora Student Academic Achievement Award Winners

Each year The Town of Aurora awards two Grade 12 students from each high school in Aurora with the Town of Aurora Student Academic Achievement Award to honour their significant academic accomplishments.

Each high school selects the recipients based on high academic achievement (minimum 80 per cent). Recipients must also be a resident of Aurora.

Below are the names of the 2015 winners of The Town of Aurora Student Academic Achievement Award presented at the high school graduation ceremonies the week of June 22:

Aurora High School  
• Maddie Fayle and Isobel Sharpe

Cardinal Carter Catholic High School  
• Julia Avolio and Michael McLoughlin

Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School  
• Katy Lemaire and Eric Lee

École Secondaire catholique Renaissance  
• Justine Tanguay and David Findlay

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School  
• Brian Ho and Kelly Gary

Aurora Town Council extends our best wishes to all of the recipients!

Sincerely,

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and the Town of Aurora Council

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning starting in late June to early August 2015

Please be advised that Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning will occur on the following streets between late June and early August.

- Loraview Lane
- Zokol Drive
- McGee Crescent
- Heatherfield Lane
- Wilkinson Place
- Benville Crescent
- Long Valley Road
- Monkman Court
- Langman Place
- Tamarac Trail

If you have any questions regarding the block pruning, please contact the Parks department at 905-727-123 ext. 3233.

Reminder Notice: Grass clippings are **not** collected in Aurora's curbside yard waste program

Grass clippings are **not** collected in Aurora's curbside Yard Waste Program. You can compost your clippings by using a backyard composter. You can purchase a backyard composter for \$31 at the Operations Works Yard at 9 Scanlon Court.

If you do need to dispose of grass clippings, both the Georgina Waste Transfer Station and the Bloomington Yard Waste Depot accept grass clippings.

Also, please note the following items are not included in Aurora's curbside Yard Waste Program:

- Kitchen scraps
- Rocks
- Dirt
- Sod
- Tree stumps
- Flower pots/trays
- Treated wood
- Animal droppings

If you have any questions, please contact Access Aurora at 905-727-1375 or by email at [info@aurora.ca](mailto:info@aurora.ca)



## Vote Smart aims to be “one stop shop” for voters – new and seasoned

**By Brock Weir**

As a political science student, being engaged in the civic life around her is second nature for Aurora's Kelsea Walsh. But it was quickly brought home to her this spring that not everybody feels the same way.

Ms. Walsh, who will be entering the fourth year of her studies at the University of Ottawa this fall, was home this past March when her mother, a PhD, asked her for the lowdown on the political scene.

“You’re in political science, who do you think I should vote for?” Ms. Walsh recalls her mother asking, which took her slightly aback. “While I am studying political science, and maybe I have a little bit more insight and training on what to look for and priorities, I was a little bit alarmed, to be honest, because they are all seasoned voters, they are all really smart, very hardworking citizens, and they all contribute to society. For them not to feel connected enough to Federal politics to make their own confident decision on who to vote for, that really alarmed me because they are definitely not the only ones.”

As the Federal election campaign kicks into high gear this summer for an October election date, however, Ms. Walsh hopes to reduce the number of people disconnected from their political life significantly through her Vote Smart campaign.

Vote Smart will bring together the confirmed candidates for the ridings of Newmarket-Aurora and Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill this September 14 and 15, for potential voters in the community to find out more about the candidates, why they are running for their chosen parties, and their top priorities for the ridings. The meetings will take place at Aw Shucks.

*CAO appointment effective August 4*

**From page 1**

leadership” that will be beneficial to the Town.

"I look forward to working with Patrick over the next several months as he provides strategic direction to the corporation and advice to Council," said Mayor Dawe. "Patrick has an exemplary track record on organizational reviews, policy, administrative best practices and executive recruitment, which will be critical assets as we navigate a busy fall agenda and conduct a search for a permanent CAO."

In the meantime, until August 4, existing departmental directors at Town Hall will rotate in the position of acting CAO.

Last week's Council meeting not only provided for Mr. Moyle's appointment but also an opportunity for Mayor Dawe to pay tribute to Mr. Garbe, who takes up the Chief Administrative Officer's position in the Town of Richmond Hill this month.

“We wish him nothing but the best as he takes on some exciting new opportunities there,” said Mayor Dawe. “It is a larger town with different challenges. When I started here, Neil



Newmarket-Aurora Federal candidates Vanessa Long (Green Party), Kyle Peterson (Liberal) and Yvonne Kelly (NDP) helped Aurora student Kelsea Walsh launch her VoteSmart campaign at King Richard's English Pub last week. From left: Long, Walsh, Peterson and Kelly. **Auroran photo by David Falconer**

“The evening will start with presentations from candidates [introducing themselves and being asked questions] and they will each have 10 minutes to explain what Canada will look like in 10 years under their leadership,” says Ms. Walsh, noting the second half of each session will be getting into the details, including opportunities to take questions from the floor.

“I don’t think [this disengagement from the political process] is the fault of anybody – I don’t think it is the candidates’ fault for not spreading the message enough and I don’t think it is the voters’ fault for not trying to inform themselves, but I think generally there could be some aversion to really getting into the deep politics because it is not easy to understand,” she says. “There are a lot of priorities, there are a lot of different messages and sometimes the message just doesn’t cover everything you need to know about what a party has in mind when they come to power.

“Having said all that, the objective of the event is to give that channel

was a tremendous help for us newbies getting through those first few weeks where we were very much deer in the headlights. We are looking forward to some exciting opportunities for Aurora.”

Remarks were also returned by Mr. Garbe, who joined the Town in 2009, expressing his gratitude for his years at the helm.

"I did want to express my gratitude and thanks to this Council as well as the previous councils for the confidence you have shown in me and the encouragement," he said. "We have a tremendous staff that serves this community and serve this Council and I want to wish everyone the very best. You are in good hands with our staff and our community is well-served. It has been a tremendous pleasure to be a part of the community and a part of this team. I look forward to being your neighbour."

In addition to serving a five year term as Executive Director of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Mr. Moyle has also provided his services to the City of Burlington as Interim City Manager; where he also helped lead the search for a permanent Manager.

of information to help people inform themselves. It is to make the whole process a little bit easier on voters because it can be hard to follow the news all the time. What if you don't listen to the radio? What if you don't get the newspaper? How do you know what to look for when you're Googling news?"

Putting together an event like this will also be something of a learning experience for Ms. Walsh, not just in the event itself, but also getting to know the candidates each vying for a vote within Aurora. And, in the end, that is really all one can ask for, she says, to “make an informed decision and to find the channels to inform

*Briefly*

## CUDDY JOINS HOEDOWN LINEUP

The Jim Cuddy Band has joined the lineup of this year's Wild, Wild West Hoedown hosted by Magma International. The band will perform on Friday, September 18, the first day of the two-day Hoedown extravaganza in an evening which will also include the Wolf Creek Band and the finals of the Hoedown Showdown. The main headliner on the Saturday evening has not yet been announced. September 18 will be a busy day for the Hoedown as they welcome not only these entertainers, but also throw open the tent for a special Hoedown for special needs students from across York Region. Tickets are now on sale at [hoedown.ca](http://hoedown.ca). Proceeds from this year's event will benefit 15 local charities and non-profits.

## SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK RETURNS NEXT FRIDAY


Aurora's Town Park will once again be turned over to the Bard this month in a production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* led by the Humber River Shakespeare Company. Running at 7 p.m. from July 10 - 12, the play is now set in 1968 "where wealthy, jealous husbands, outrageous far-out local characters and the original Desperate Housewives" spin into a spiral of hilarious hijinks when Falstaff hatches up a crazy plan that can't possibly backfire: cuckold Windsor's wealthy husbands and get his paws on their money. Admission by donation.

## KEEP AN EYE ON CONSTRUCTION

Avoid a traffic snarl with a new Sumer Road Construction Interactive Web Map launched by the Town of Aurora. Overseen by the municipal engineers, the new application allows residents to keep track of road reconstruction projects throughout the summer. For more information, visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca).

yourself.”

“That is what this event is meant for,” she says. “It is an understanding that your voting duty does not go [stop at] knowing who the candidate is as a person. I think the main goal is to say it is not just about party priorities; it is a balance of who the candidate is: Do you like them as a person? Is there a strong component of what party do they stand for? What are the party priorities and do these party values match your values and your lifestyle? How do you make sure your voice is represented properly? That is why voting for the right party and informing yourself is so important.”



TOWN OF AURORA


PUBLIC NOTICE

# NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

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

**APPLICATION:** The Owner has submitted an Application for Zoning By-law Amendment to re-zone the subject lands from Rural (RU) Zone to a site specific Central Commercial (C2) Exception Zone. The purpose of the amendment is to allow the construction of two freestanding commercial buildings. Building 'A' is proposed to be a freestanding restaurant and Building 'B' is proposed to be a multi-tenant commercial building.

**PROPERTY:** 1452 Wellington Street East



**LEGAL DESC.:** Part of Lots 3 and 4, Registered Plan No. 525

**APPLICANT:** Leswell Investments Inc.

**FILE NUMBER:** ZBA-2015-04

**CONTACT:** Any inquiries should be directed to **Lawrence Kuk** of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 extension 4343. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to [planning@aurora.ca](mailto:planning@aurora.ca) prior to the meeting. Please quote the file name and number.

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees. The Town collects this information to enable it to make informed decisions on the relevant issue(s). If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. By submitting a fax, email, presentation or other communication, you are authorizing the Town to collect and use the above-noted information for this purpose. The Town audio records Public Planning meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council and/or its Committees, the Town will be audio recording you and Town staff and may make these audio recordings available to the public. Please direct any questions about this to the Town Clerk at 905-727-3123, ext. 4771.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | [www.aurora.ca/publicnotices](http://www.aurora.ca/publicnotices) | 905-727-3123, ext. 4343



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LETTERSTO THE EDITOR

Greenways provide “once in lifetime” opportunity for Highland Gate

Greenways are the key to repurposing Aurora’s Highland Gate Golf Course

People-oriented design of the infilling of the golf course’s open space corridors is best achieved if one wide and one slightly narrower greenway flank those corridors, with infill housing in-between, and narrow streets, laneways, for the motorized traffic.

Aurora’s Trails Master Plan already contains provisions for an entirely off-road east-west trails corridor; a planning policy provision that must not be ignored.

Such off-road trails should be incorporated in the 12 meter wide greenways, in every subsection of the golf course development.

Students who attend the two public and three high schools, which are mostly within 1.5km of the centre of the Highland Gate community, will be able to commute between home and school, via the very safe off-road trails, and north-south connectors between the greenways/trails/paths. That opportunity for healthy daily commuting does not exist now in the area centered on the Highland Gate community.

This is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to be able to create such a health and environment promoting community in downtown Aurora. And in tune with promoting the environment, the new homes could be built to LEED standards (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design).

Apart from the above, this golf course repurposing should be viewed in the context of the intended Downtown Revitalization. Such revitalization will depend on pedestrian and transit traffic.

Anyone who has to get into an automobile to go shopping is not likely to choose Yonge Street as a destination, under current transportation and shopping conditions. They drive to east Aurora at best, and perhaps to Newmarket, because of traffic conditions, and better shopping choices.

That needs to change if Downtown Revitalization is going to be successful. So, the opportunity to walk or cycle downtown has to be made so attractive and inviting that Aurora’s central west residents will want to leave their cars at home.

This is the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to achieve that end – to meaningfully contribute to Downtown Revitalization, to advance that revitalization a significant milestone.

This is also a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get students to walk and cycle to school, to introduce a walk and cycle centric culture to them, at a formative stage of their lives. Walking and cycling will then become a natural part of their fabric of life, and will stay with them for the rest of their lives. The more off-road and direct those walking and cycling opportunities are, and the more they offer play opportunities along the way, the more the students will appreciate their time away from cars, TVs, and computer screens.

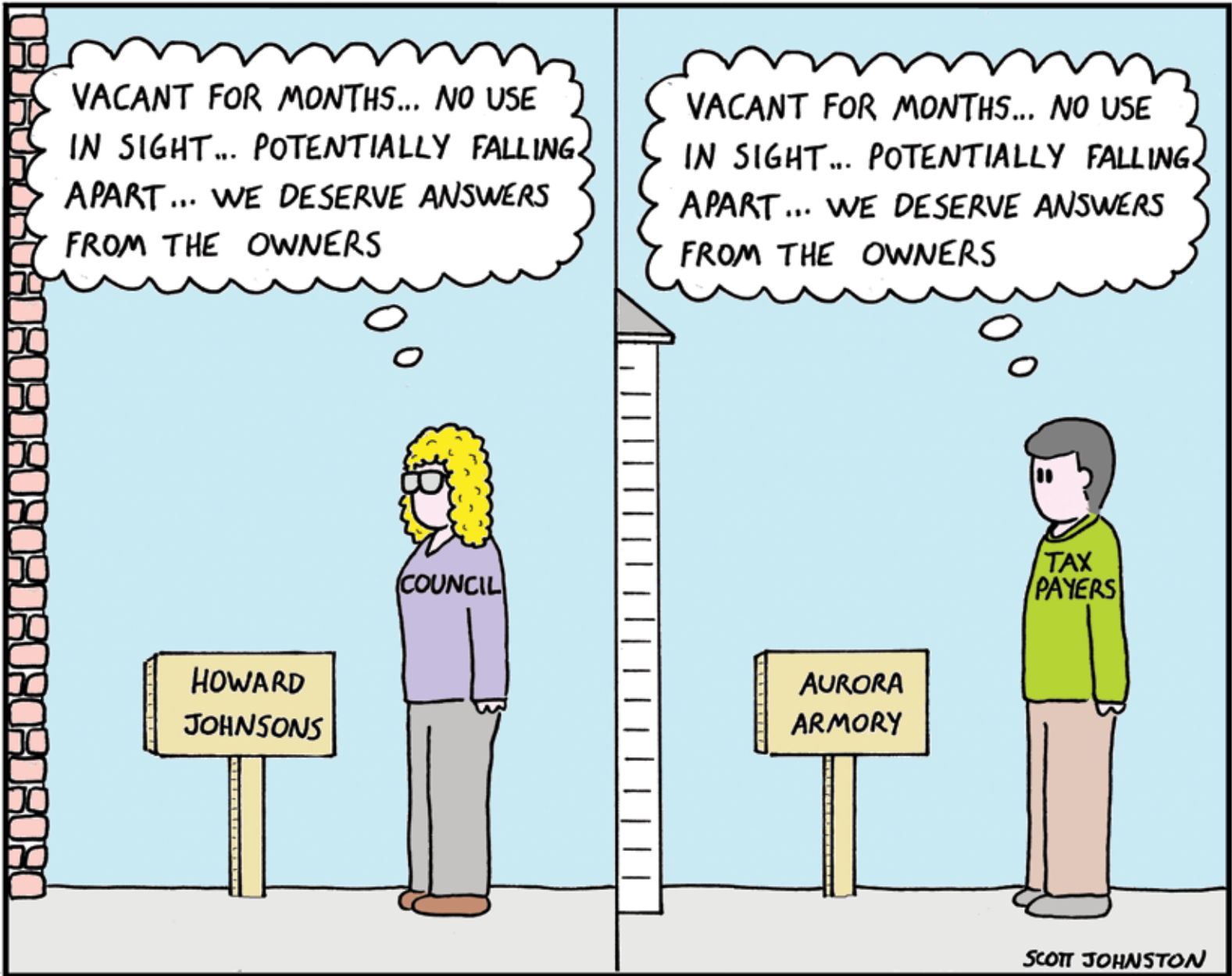
So, the repurposing of the golf course is an extraordinary opportunity for the people of Aurora that reaches well beyond the immediate backyard of affected golf course abutting residents. The repurposing offers many positive results that cannot be achieved under normal circumstances.

It is the incorporation of generous greenways that will be the key to the greatest benefits that can be gained from the repurposing of the Highland Gate Golf Course.

The greenway incorporation will be the key to retaining, literally and figuratively, a million dollar neighbourhood.

Klaus Wehrenberg  
Aurora

Machell’s Corners



Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth

Now that the Pan Am Torch has come and gone on its circuitous route back to Toronto, Aurora can carve another proud notch into its belt. Events like these really serve to bring the community together and, in this case, really tout the athletes – past, present and future – that really make this community great.

I hope those local residents who participated in the torch relay, whether they carried the torch themselves or took part in another capacity, were left with a memento or two from the day. An unlit torch kept under the bed for future generations would be a cherished heirloom, but ones left on display for the public at large would only serve to inspire the community. A streamlined trophy of sorts we can all be proud of.

Trophies are always curious objects. Admit it: we’ve all hankered after one at one point or another; a recognition of something we might think is deserved and/or hard-earned, a shiny reminder of an accomplishment that can look lovely on a mantle, or even a piece of victory booty – you might not want the thing, but you’ll take it in principle if it means victory over an old foe.

The problem can be, however, once you get it, what the hell are you going to do with it? It might look good on the aforementioned mantle, but sometimes a disproportioned sculpture of the Winged Victory just doesn’t go with your décor. Rather than stuffing it away in a closet, some invest in a trophy case which handily ups the taste factor when it comes to the ultimate combo of pride and kitsch.

When representatives from the local hospital and the event board came to Town Hall a couple of weeks ago to present the Town of Aurora with the Municipal Challenge Cup, their ultimate prize for being the top municipal fundraisers for the Run or Walk for Southlake 2015 amongst all the towns in Southlake’s catchment area, it was a particular point of pride for Councillor Michael Thompson, who had worked so hard to get the word out about Team Aurora and all the stops they could pull to snatch victory back from their friends in East Gwillimbury.

Thankfully, the Municipal Challenge Cup didn’t come with Winged Victories, silver crowned lions, or an unlikely phoenix rising from the ashes – but it lived up to its name of being a tastefully handled cup with a black base. After its presentation, many were looking forward to the Cup taking pride of place once again in the Town Hall trophy case



BROCK’S  
BANTER  
Brock Weir

just outside the main entrance, along with numerous other awards collected by the Town including two polar bears chilling on an ice flow, once the trophy of the Business Achievement Awards handed out by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce (kitsch factor: 11) and the framed certificate recognizing the Town’s win of the Prince of Wales’ Award for Heritage Conservation signed by Prince Charles himself.

As I walked into Town Hall for last week’s mammoth Council meeting, I was greeted by a good crowd of people in the foyer waiting for the show to get underway. Zigzagging around them to get by the main customer service desk, I noticed one of those two polar bears peaking around from the frosted glass by the men’s washrooms. Hmm... these poor polar bears were displaced from their homes, and global warming, for once, shouldn’t be to blame. A few steps later revealed a bounty of trophies, and the Prince of Wales prize lying on the counter behind them.

I just had to reverse my steps. Had the trophy case been knocked off the wall? Was there some kind of repair going on? Had the panel been replaced by a larger-than-life portrait of Citizen of the Year Diane Buchanan? Nope to all of the above. What had displaced Aurora’s prized awards? you might ask. Well, I’ll tell you.

A GIFT SHOP!

Yes, that’s right. The Town of Aurora now has a gift shop for all those occasions that scream for Town of Aurora memorabilia. Personally, and really, I can only speak for myself, I hadn’t realised how empty my nearly 30 Christmases have been without stocking stuffers emblazoned with the Town’s celebrated corporate logo.

While we wait for the full service online gift shop to launch, here’s what’s on the menu:

- Green Mug -- \$9
- Stainless Steel Travel Mug -- \$18

- Clear Tumblers -- \$7
- Padfolio -- \$29
- Cooler Bags -- \$35
- Town Flag -- \$88
- Stationary Package (mousepad, pen, scratch pad) -- \$10
- Tea Set (loose leaf tea, rock sugar, tea mug, strainer) -- \$49

Is there anything here that tickles your fancy? The green mugs, bearing the Town’s logo etched in white, are actually quite lovely (and popular; according to one member of staff, who seemed slightly flummoxed by the new emporium) but the rest is pretty standard fare. For a Town that so recently got worked up into a lather over a beer bill between \$50 and \$60, it is only fitting that Aurora should offer its own line of tumblers and cooler bags. If only they came with a gift certificate to fill ‘er up. And, of course, in this, the age of the laptop, who wouldn’t love an Aurora mousepad?

I have to admit the powers-that-be at Town Hall are a very clever bunch. When Council tasked the former CAO and his retinue of Directors to come up with ways to generate a couple of hundred thousand dollars in new revenue, the installation of a gift shop was not on the list of his suggestions for Council. In the end, it is a rather delightful surprise.

And who knew Councillor Thom’s efforts to resurrect the old Aurora flag from the 1980s would lead to such a brilliant revenue generating program. The flag can now be yours for just \$88!

But, with just eight items on the menu, there are so many more opportunities that shouldn’t be missed at Town Hall. The possibilities are truly endless: a 50% off fire sale for the stockpile of “old new flags” bearing the Town’s corporate logo (who wouldn’t pay \$44 for a piece of history?); autographed posters and albums from the Council Critters; salt shakers sculpted to resemble former councillor Evelyn Buck; chess sets carved from wood honed from the multitude of mature trees and heritage homes bulldozed every year; deeds to acreage in municipal parks (hey, I still covet my stocking stuffer entitling me to one acre of moon land); and prints of Council “class photos” through the years (2006 – 2010, and 2010 – 2014, of course, come in conveniently priced two-packs – and, for an extra surcharge, they can airbrush out the Council members of your choice from those contentious years).

Let’s go whole hog. Or, better yet, give our collective honours their proper due.

# THE AURORAN

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Founder  
Ron Wallace

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Rosemary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.  
email: [administration@auroran.com](mailto:administration@auroran.com)

**EDITOR**  
Brock Weir  
[brock@auroran.com](mailto:brock@auroran.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Diane Buchanan  
[diane@auroran.com](mailto:diane@auroran.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Zach Shoub  
[zach@auroran.com](mailto:zach@auroran.com)

**TODAYS NEW HOMES**  
Zach Shoub  
[zach@ipcmedia.ca](mailto:zach@ipcmedia.ca)

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Bob Ince  
[bob@auroran.com](mailto:bob@auroran.com)

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
905-727-3300 ex.102  
[cynthia@auroran.com](mailto:cynthia@auroran.com)

**MOTORING**  
Heather Erwin  
[heather@caledoncitizen.com](mailto:heather@caledoncitizen.com)

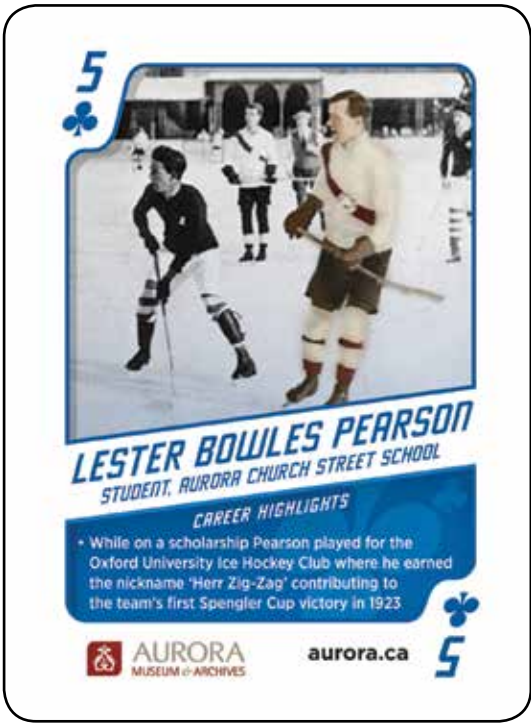
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Cynthia Proctor  
[cynthia@auroran.com](mailto:cynthia@auroran.com)

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
David Falconer  
[davidphoto10@gmail.com](mailto:davidphoto10@gmail.com)

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### GET IN THE GAME with 52 PICK ME UP

The Five of ClubsSponsored by  
The Aurora Museum & Archives

Prior to serving as Prime Minister of Canada from 1963 to 1968, Lester Pearson was a former player and coach for the University of Toronto Varsity Blues men's ice hockey team. Pearson also excelled in baseball and lacrosse as a youth and was a student at Church Street School. This card will be launched Canada Day at Lambert Willson Park during the Canada Day celebrations.

The Five of Diamonds  
Sponsored by  
The Aurora Museum & Archives

Dave McKigney earned the name Wildman from his appearance in the ring where he wrestled bears which he kept in his log home here in Aurora. McKigney was an athlete that gave everything he had to the sport, including, ultimately, his life. Pick Me Up July 8 at Town Park during Concert in the Park starting at 7 p.m.



## POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

### Two sides to the Bike Path

This week, I provide a bit of an addendum column.

It is in response to a wonderful letter I received from a reader. The reader handwrote a letter to me, rebuking me – gently, I might add - for my position on cyclists using our sidewalks.

For those who may not recall, I wrote a column a few weeks ago loudly chastising those folks who use our sidewalks as motorways with their bikes and e-bikes, etc. I indicated in none-too-polite terms that they should get the heck off the sidewalk.

Well, there are two sides to every story and this lovely reader elegantly presented the other side of the argument. The reader pointed out that often it simply isn't safe to ride a bike on the road. Many motorists pay little heed to the safety of cyclists who share the road with them and, as a result, some cyclists use sidewalks instead.

The reader has a very valid point.

I ride my bike downtown (Toronto) all the time. I need my bike to get to rowing practice; so I ride it from Union Station to our club near Cherry Beach and back, many times a week. I always feel completely safe. But, that's because I don't ride my bike on the road per se. I ride it on the lovely bike paths that have been installed on or beside the roads.

The bike paths in Toronto were created specifically to address the dangers expressed in my reader's letter – drivers that do not pay sufficient attention to other road users, such as cyclists (and pedestrians as is often the case) and cause accidents and mayhem as a result.

I have ridden on other roads that don't have bike paths and it is indeed a hair-raising experience.

A number of years back, I had my back wheel clipped by a TTC bus that decided I was taking too long to get moving and proceeded to change lanes with me still in it. I managed to stay upright and on my bike, but I think that had more to do with luck than any skill on my part. Pretty scary.

So, I agree with the reader's position that banning bikes all together from sidewalks and demanding they remain on the roads is not a viable option for many riders. However, the answer is not to allow them to ride on the sidewalk but rather to create space for bikes on the roads.

Bikes (and especially their motorized cousins) are vehicles.

They belong on the road.

But, as they clearly cannot compete with the one-tonne vehicles that also occupy our roads, we need to recognize that fact and create more bike paths on local roads. We have some bike paths – but not enough. For example: there is no bike lane on Yonge Street or on much of Wellington. These are main roads that are often jammed with cars.

We need to find ways for our bike-riding residents to safely navigate our roads. Where possible, it would be advantageous to have dedicated bike lanes so that residents can enjoy a sustainable mode of transportation without risking their health and safety when doing so.

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

Continued on page 16

## NEW AURORAN POLL

Are you looking forward to the  
Pan Am/Parapan Games?  
A) Yes B) No

Go to [www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com) to vote!

### Previous Poll Results

Are you planning on attending any part of  
Aurora's Canada Day celebrations next  
Tuesday and Wednesday?  
A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

RESULTS TO DATE	JUNE 30, 2015	A	B	UNSURE
		25%	75%	0%

## Pan Am and Parapan Am Games mean excitement and legacy

The Pan Am Games are the largest multi-sport games in Canadian history. Bigger than the Vancouver Olympics. Bigger than the Montreal Olympics.

By now you've been inundated with news stories and advertising about the games. I hope you've caught at least a little of the Pan Am/Parapan Am sports fervor. It is exciting.

Scheduled every four years — one year before the Summer Olympic Games — the Pan/Parapan American Games present high performance athletic competition, excitement and sportsmanship.

Let's look at the numbers: Close to 10,000 athletes and officials from across Latin America, South America, the Caribbean and North America will put their years of intense training, perseverance and sacrifice to the test in world-class competition in 36 Pan Am sports and 15 Parapan Am sports. All this will take place in an area spanning 5,300 square kilometers and 15 host municipalities.

Not only will the games showcase Ontario as a premier sporting destination, they will attract close to 250,000 visitors and are expected to create upwards of 26,000 jobs and pump an estimated \$3.7 billion into Ontario's GDP.

The Pan Am Games run July 10 to 26 and the Parapan Am games August 7 to 15 in venues in and around the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. You can find information at [toronto2015.org](http://toronto2015.org).

The Pan Am torch arrived in



## View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP  
Newmarket-Aurora

Aurora on Thursday. It was great to see the hundreds of people lining Yonge and Wellington Streets as the torch bearers – each carrying the flame about 200 metres – made their way to Lambert Willson Park for a celebration.

Our government is proud to be able to help support celebrations of the torch relay in Newmarket-Aurora and in more than 130 other communities across the province.

Last week's Auroran carried an excellent story about the three torch bearers my office was honoured to nominate. We looked for people who exemplify frontline service to our community.

Dan Phillion is a single father of three and an avid advocate and fundraiser for muscular dystrophy. He was a volunteer for 10 years at the annual Friendly Neighborhood Road Hockey Challenge. Dan also participated in York Region's social audit, [Behind the Masks](#), for the Region of York and the Ontario Governments; to help reduce the effects of poverty.

Being involved in the community has always been something close to Melissa Blair's heart. One of the first girls to join Scouting when it became co-ed, she has been a Cub leader for more than eight years. Melissa is a Corporal in the Canadian Armed Forces Reservists with the Queens York Rangers 1st American Regiment based in Aurora.

Arlene Lindsay is a mother, a grandmother – and an advocate for organ and tissue donation awareness. She is a very active member of the York Region Gift of Life Association. Arlene is also a member of the Canadian Transplant Association. Arlene's hope is to create awareness about organ tissue donation. She had a liver donation herself 23 years ago and remains active in sports. Arlene is also celebrating almost eight years as a volunteer for CHATS.

Thank you to our torch bearers – and thank you to everyone who gathered to honour our torch bearers – and the spirit of the Pan Am and Parapan Am games.

More interesting facts about the games: the cost to build the venues and run the games is estimated at \$1.4 billion. Of that, about \$500 million is being contributed by the province, with the rest coming from the federal government, municipalities and universities.

Like other host jurisdictions, the government is making additional significant investments that will serve the Games for a short time but

Continued on page 9

## Energy issues will heat up again in York Region

The issue of electricity has not been in the news lately, mostly due to the fact that Ontario is currently enjoying a rather healthy supply margin.

But local electricity planning issues will slowly bring electricity back into the public spotlight in York Region and Aurora.

Some background:

In 2004, many citizens of Aurora were furious about the possibility of upgrading the existing 115kV transmission line to a 230kV high voltage line that runs through Town from Markham to Newmarket. The redevelopment would have meant taller towers with wider bases, with the end result being that the towers and transmission lines would have been closer to homes.

Many ratepayer associations, led by the Aurora chapter of Stop Transmission Lines Over People (STOP), as well as by local Council, were against this project and wanted the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) to fully investigate all the alternatives.

Residents were concerned, from a health and safety perspective, about the link between electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) to childhood leukemia, and they were also worried about the value of their homes.

In the end, the transmission line was not upgraded. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision instructed that a transformer station, to reduce the high level voltage to a more manageable level, be constructed. The Holland Junction Transmission station in King Township was built.

However, by 2008, Northern York Region was continuing to grow beyond the level at which the existing infrastructure could meet the standards for reliability. If the main 230kV transmission line became disrupted, the load at the Armitage Transformer Station in Newmarket, which is greater



## FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

than 250MW, could not be restored so as to comply with the IESO's reliability criteria.

Restoration, therefore, could only be achieved in the required time-frame by either local peaking generation that can turn on and quickly ramp up to 350MW or a new 230kV transmission line from Markham to bring in the electricity from elsewhere in the province.

In the end, the Northern York Region Working Group collectively identified the construction of a peaking plant as the preferred solution over enhanced transmission and an approximately 370MW natural gas fired peaking (simple-cycle) generation was built in King in 2012.

Aurora had again sidestepped the political mine field of either having large scale generation built within its borders or a new transmission line running through town.

Fast forward to today and the Independent Electricity System Operator is developing a twenty year plan to look at ways of ensuring a reliable supply of electricity for York Region.

According to an advertisement that recently appeared in another local paper:

“An Integrated Regional Resource Plan is being further developed by the three electric utilities serving the Region – Newmarket-Tay Power Distribution Ltd., PowerStream Inc.

and Hydro One Networks Inc. – in conjunction with the IESO.

“A Local Advisory Committee is being established to provide advice on the development of the plan's longer-term options, including innovative solutions that will address the Region's electricity needs. They will also advise on how to best engage the broader community in the discussion.”

Nomination Deadline was June 25.

The Local Advisory Committee “comprises up to eighteen members, representing municipalities, First Nation and Metis communities, consumers and citizens, the business community, and environmental and conservation groups.”

I am very interested to see who is selected to serve as there are a number of complex issues to consider.

As everyone knows, York Region is one of the fastest growing regions in Canada, and along with this growth comes an appetite for power. The overriding issue is that we do in fact need new sources of power in York Region (at some point in time) to maintain our standard of living and way of life.

Communities cannot and should not grow unless energy needs are part of the equation. Just as we would not allow homes to be built without adequate provisions for water, sewage, schools and roads, nor should we allow development without a real plan for our power needs.

There is also the critical issue of balancing larger community interests vs. local interests – that is the provincial government mandate of ensuring that the lights stay on vs. local governments' right to say no to a particular power project. It is a delicate balancing act.

More about this in future columns.

Stephen can be contacted at  
[stephengsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:stephengsomerville@yahoo.com)



# Community groups could face ouster for internal Library expansion

By Brock Weir

Community groups such as the Pine Tree Potters Guild could find themselves looking for a new home, if recommendations before Council on

how to expand services at the Aurora Public Library are carried out.

A facilities needs study carried out by the Aurora Public Library Board and the Town of Aurora has nixed the possibility of expanding library services to a second location once eyed for Aurora’s northeast, in favour of an expansion inside its current walls by reconfiguring existing space and taking over rooms and facilities used by other bodies.

These spaces include two public meeting rooms – the Magna Room and the Lebovic Room – as well as a large portion of the basement space currently occupied by the local ceramics guild, the Pine Tree Potters.

“Built in 2001, the Library Sector is really starting to approach a lifetime and there is a need to re-look at that facility,” said Stephen Langois, a consultant retained to carry out the study. “It does have some limitations [including] a lack of dedicated library program rooms and a computer lab, which compromises the Library’s ability to offer in-demand programs, most notably programs for teens.”

Over the last several months, the consultants carried out extensive survey work throughout the community as well as hosting information sessions for Library stakeholders and the public alike.

They were encouraged by the fact 52 per cent of residents have used

the library over the past 12 months – a high percentage for a community of this size, as well as the fact those respondents spoke positively about the location, customer service, and collections at the facility.

But, if there is no desire to expand to a second base or a satellite location, more space needs to be made within its walls to provide for the needs of a growing community.

“Residents did place a priority on improvements to existing facilities over a new location,” said Mr. Langois. “We are a growing community and you have a small shortfall at present. The shortfall is going to be around 4,000 square feet.”

When asked by Councillor Harold Kim of the long-term ramifications if Council did not heed the recommendations in the report, Mr. Langois said communities that have done nothing “are those who have neglected their library system and I think it reflects poorly on the leadership of Councils of those communities.”

“It means their residents have insufficient access to the services the Library offers and those are many,” he said. “They go well beyond recreational reading and touch on support for schools’ curriculum. More importantly, as we’re seeing time and again, the social aspect of the library is a third place. It is not home, it is not work, it is a place where the community can gather, not unlike a community centre. There is a different feel and atmosphere to those places, but they are certainly a valuable contributor to the local population. There is an economic benefit to local libraries as well.”

With a voice in favour of the recommendations from Aurora Public Library CEO Jill Foster, the decision

is now in Council’s hands. At first blush at the last sitting of Council last week before the summer recess, however, the response was largely positive, but Council has requested further details on just what impacts these recommendations would have on the Town as a whole.

“What I am really encouraged about is our Library, for the short term, is actually quite suitable with some changes internally,” said Councillor Sandra Humfries. “Hopefully we can work all those things out and have a space that is even more accommodating to our residents. I am incredibly proud of our library and it is just great to see that the planning done years ago is able to hold up with the growth of our community.”

Councillor Paul Pirri also offered his support, suggesting the report be sent to staff for a further report on the cost implications of turning these spaces, which often generate income for the Town, over to the Library.

“There was a pretty big request made of Council here tonight,” he said. “I support the request, but I don’t think I have enough information as a Councillor to make a decision on the request. I would also like to know where the Potters Guild is expected to go and the impact of that. There are a lot of outstanding questions, but I think we need to move forward in this direction.”

A similar view was offered by Councillor Michael Thompson: “I look forward to getting a report back from staff on the impact and costs associated with it. If the Library is going to continue providing the service it does to our community, certainly we need to recognize there is a growing demand on it and we need more space.”

## Library Square talks penciled for “no later than August”

From page 1

what they would like to see.

“We need time and time at the beginning of the term is of the essence, in my mind, before we get to another budget and preoccupy ourselves for seven months,” said Councillor Abel.

In the view of other members of Council, more than enough consultation with the public has already taken place over the last 12 years, and it is Council’s job to take a serious look at their suggestions.

“I think we have had a lot of citizen input in all our reports previously, lots of studies and recommendations and I think for us to move forward with all the creative suggestions and ideas [we should do so] as an entire Council and perhaps set up some work sessions focusing on Library Square and what each of us feel would be an appropriate vision and come up with an alignment of that idea we can all be proud of,” said Councillor Sandra Humfries.

A similar view was offered by Councillors Michael Thompson and Wendy Gaertner, who said since 2013 public consultation has been done “over and over.” Responding to Councillor Abel’s comment that Library Square was a “major election issue” last fall, Councillor Thompson said he didn’t disagree, but a further committee to hash out these ideas is not the right way forward.

“If you look back on all the different reports, there were some 30 ideas of what could and could not be in Library Square,” said Councillor Thompson. “My preference is to call a special Council meeting, go through the reports, talk about the components that have to be in Library

Square to help with the revitalization of downtown to springboard the promenade plan, and then start moving forward to get a concept drawing before going out to the public with a vision.

“We have had so much engagement with the community [and] I honestly believe we don’t need another ad-hoc committee. We need action and decision-making on this issue so we can move forward now.”

Added Councillor Gaertner: “I made a submission to John West to have an ad-hoc committee about Library Square to try and make a youth component in that area. That was an extensive process under Mayor West and we are still nowhere. It is time for Council to step up.”

For Mayor Geoff Dawe, getting to the task at hand would be ideal for later this summer to allow some time for new Councillors to get up to speed on the issue and get a sense of how they can move forward together with all the information that has been collected so far.

“I remember being on the other side of the table when I was on the Library Board and there was a great consternation on this side when I suggested tearing down the old library and seniors’ centre because, strangely enough, parking was an issue back then as well,” said Mayor Dawe. “I think a lot of people have had input over a long time but we need to make sure as a Council [have enough time] to look at the reports which have been made over the last 12 – 15 years, have some discussions with [staff] and use this as an opportunity over July to do this [and discuss no later] than August.”

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# “Into the Woods” is better the second time around for Aurora actress



Centuries after her story was first conceived, Cinderella is still getting a rough ride from her stepsisters in Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine’s “Into The Woods”, which is being tackled by Aurora’s Wavestage Theatre Company next week. (Front) Gabby da Silva and Kyla Wethem bring Lucinda and Florinda to life, much to the chagrin of Cinderella (Lauren Lazar) behind them. **Supplied photo**

**By Brock Weir**

When Kyla Whetham first stepped onto the stage to be a part of Stephen Sondheim and James Lepine’s musical “Into the Woods”, she stepped into the shoes of one of the three little pigs – “the smart one,” she says, referring to the clever porker who built his house out of bricks.

However smart her porcine character was, this time around she’s ready to tread the boards even wiser.

The Aurora-based Wavestage Theatrical Company raises the curtain on their production of “Into The Woods” at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts next Thursday, July 9, running through July 12, with Ms. Whetham in the role of Florinda, one of Cinderella’s stepsisters.

Into The Woods centres on a baker and his wife, who journey into the – you guessed it – woods to remove a curse, encountering such characters as Rapunzel, Jack (of Beanstalk fame) and Little Red Riding Hood along the way.

“Now that I am older I understand the story a lot more, more so the concepts and the themes behind the show and the moral behind each story, which is consequences, in my opinion,” explains the Aurora actress. “I definitely have a better grasp of the character development not only of the stepsister, but generally of every character. As you get older and experience more things in your life, you appreciate the story more and understand what Sondheim and Lepine were trying to convey to audiences writing this. I also have a better grasp of doing the show itself and just feeling comfortable with it.”

This outing will be Kyla’s twelfth season with Wavestage, which started life as the Aurora Opera Company. She joined the company when she was just four years old, taking just one season

off to reflect and make sure acting was really what she wanted to do. Over the years, she says she has learned so much from company director Sarah Langford, lessons which will stand the test of the time.

“It sounds a bit cheesy because everyone says this, but I have always been doing things like singing around the house – which is why my mom signed me up – but I was never really confident with it,” says Kyla. “Through all my years with Wavestage, Sarah has really helped me grow into myself and helped me learn different techniques to be comfortable with what I do and what I have to offer not only musically, but through acting and dancing. I am not a dancer, but if you ask me to do musical theatre-style dancing, I am pretty confident now because she has taught me what I can do and has shown there is a lot more to me than what I originally knew.”

The Wavestage Company is currently in dress rehearsals in anticipation of next week’s opening, looking forward to when they will be able to take on their rolls in full hair and makeup. As they go, they are focusing on getting “every single possible meaning” out of the script and score, focusing on the characters themselves. As the musical itself unfolds, Ms. Whetham hopes these multiple meanings are picked up by audiences young and old.

“Kids will understand the fairy tale aspects and the stories it now incorporates of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, the Baker and his Wife, Rapunzel and her prince, but there is more comedically that older audiences will understand,” she says. “There are a lot of jokes in it that have underlying meanings that adults will understand versus kids. The message is kind of complex because consequences is such

a general theme, but the moral of the story is everything you get there is a price for it and your wish may not turn out the way it seems. While kids might understand that, older teens and adults

will really take that to heart because they have experienced those things in their own lives and can relate to it.”

For more on the show, visit [www.wavestagetheatre.com](http://www.wavestagetheatre.com).



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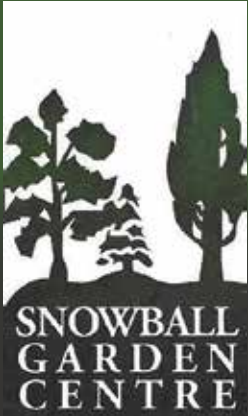
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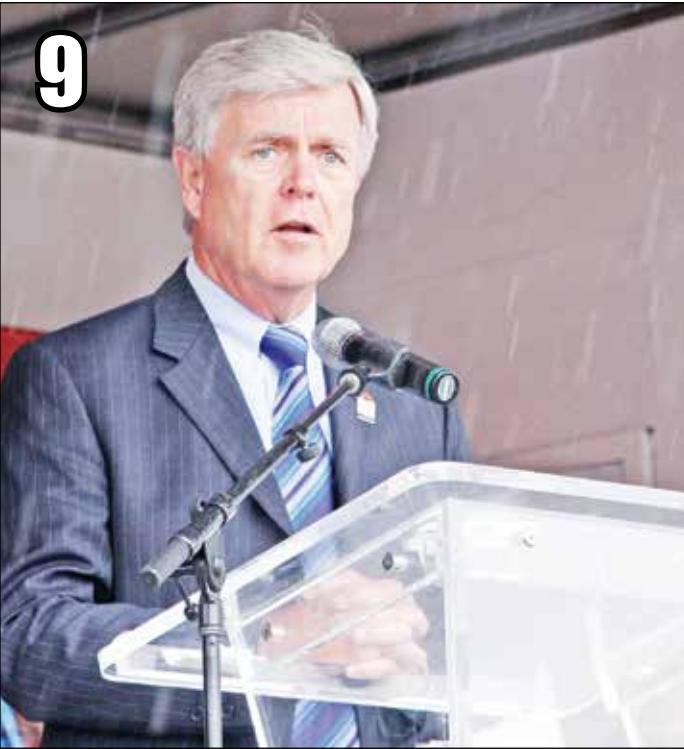
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# Pan Am Torch gets wet, but warm welcome

(1) Local dignitaries and sponsors cheer as the Pan Am Torch arrives (2) carried by Bruce Stafford. (3) MP Lois Brown and Mayor Geoff Dawe applaud – and MPP Chris Ballard takes a photo – after Mr. Stafford completed his task of igniting the community cauldron. (4) Members of the White Pine Dancers had the crowds enthralled by their performances and their messages of unity. (5) Pan Am athletes past and present, including Brian Herbinson and Jan Jones (both athletes in the 1959 Games), Dan Thompson (Swimming, 1979), and Yuriy Brozdnychenko (Badminton, 2015) , gathered for the ceremony. (6) Outgoing Aurora Teen Idol Sydney Nicholson led the crowd in the national anthem as Aaron Kornacki of Real Canadian Superstore and Councillor Tom Mrakas look on. (8) Local students descended on Lambert Willson Park, including this group from Northern Lights Public School. (9 – 11) Remarks and greetings were delivered by Mayor Dawe, MP Brown and MPP Ballard. (12) Pachi got the crowds up on their feet as the White Pine Dancers look on.



# Pan Am torch relay makes rainy stop in Aurora

By Jake Courtepatte

The heavy rainfall couldn't put a damper on the arrival of the Pan Am Games torch in Aurora last Thursday, making a stop in the community on Day 26 of its cross-Canada tour.

Winding its way along Yonge Street and Wellington Street through the hands of over a dozen participants, the flame was passed to Storm Volleyball's Bruce Stafford, chosen as the Community Torchbearer in Aurora.

At 1 p.m., Stafford and the relay team arrived at Lambert Willson Park, met by hundreds of supporters who braved the torrential downpour for a chance to witness the flame.

The Town of Aurora held quite a welcoming party in recognition of the largest multi-sport event ever in Canada. The excitement started to build around 12 noon, with a free barbecue, music, and inflatable games for the throngs of young supporters.

The White Pine Dancers, a First Nations group who brought their style of dance to the length of the route in Aurora, were deep into a traditional dance when the rain came down, sending most of the crowd scrambling for cover. But, when word came out that Stafford and the torch had reached the parking lot, the cheering crowd formed a human pathway to the stage.

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard said he was delighted by the sight.

"You people out here are the spirit of these games," he said. "You are truly dedicated to be standing here in this rainstorm...congratulations for all you are doing for the runners, you are the spirit of Aurora!"

MP Lois Brown urged the crowd to support the local athletes from across York Region that will be participating in the games, like Aurora's own trampolinist Sam Sendel.

"I trust that all of us here from Aurora will be there to cheer them on...I'm proud of our community,

**View from  
Queen's Park**  
From page 5

will serve Ontarians for decades.

This includes capital investments for provincial priority projects including the Athlete's Village which will revitalize the eastern Toronto Port Lands, the Hamilton Stadium and the Goldring Centre.

Not all sports are taking place in the GTA. I've purchased my tickets for two Pan Am events – shooting at the Toronto International Trap & Skeet Club in Innisfil and mountain biking at Hardwood Mountain Bike Park in Oro Station. They will be action-packed days.

If you are heading to a GTHA event, Ontario and its transit partners are making it easier to get to the games by supporting free, accessible public transit for event ticketholders. On the day of ticketed event, spectators can show their games competition or ceremonies ticket to get on any of the 14 public transit or specialized transit systems for people with disabilities in the Games region. In our area, that includes GO Transit, the Toronto Transit Commission and Wheel-Trans, and York Region Transit, VIVA and York's Mobility Plus.

Besides bringing top-notch athletes together for exciting events, the Pan Am/Parapan Am games will leave a legacy of housing and sporting facilities that will be used for years to come. A final bit of news – media reports earlier this month say the games will come in under budget by approximately \$54 million. Now there's something also worth celebrating.

If you would like to contact me on any issue, please call my community office at 905-750-0019, or visit my website at [www.ChrisBallardMPP.ca](http://www.ChrisBallardMPP.ca). I look forward to hearing from you.

and I know I'll be there to cheer," she said.

The rain didn't seem to bother Stafford, who was told by Relay staff to walk down the slope leading to the park for fear of a fall.

"For all those people to be there in the pouring rain, it showed me they wanted to be a part of it," he said. "It was truly amazing."

Among the crowd was his wife, his mother, and his sister, a minister from Hamilton whose last-minute decision to make the trip was a surprise to Stafford. He also was happy to see a number of faces from the Storm organization, both parents and kids, along the route as he watched from the shuttle bus before his moment.

And when that moment came, the lighting of the cauldron at the ceremony was met by raucous cheering from the poncho-donning crowd.

"It was everything I thought it would be, times ten," said Stafford, who high-fived the children on his way to the stage. "Seeing my family, friends, neighbours, everybody as I'm coming down, was really awesome. You can't describe what a feeling that is."

The past eight months have been quite a rollercoaster for Stafford, who was inducted into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame in November of last year. When asked which of these two momentous events was the bigger highlight of his career, he couldn't bring himself to choose.

"They're probably the number one and number two. I've had quite a few along the way...one of my early awards in Ontario Volleyball was a Volunteer of the Year...each

*It was everything  
I thought it would be,  
times ten.  
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You can't describe  
what a feeling that is.*

one seems to be higher and higher. The Hall of Fame knocked my socks off, the torch did the same. They're the highlights of anything I've accomplished."

The 26th day of the relay began in Richmond Hill, stopping in Aurora and King City before ending the

day in Newmarket. This week, the celebrations are wrapping up as the flame tours Eastern Ontario before landing back in Toronto, with the Games just over a week away.

For more information on the Pan Am Games, visit [www.toronto2015.org](http://www.toronto2015.org).



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## Special Events Centre Newsletter July 9/29

### 6/20 Ladies Afternoon Tea

Maria is starting an Afternoon Tea Party. This month features a recipe exchange! Bring your favourite recipe in and swap with others for delicious meal ideas! Light refreshments will be provided!  
Monday July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm AND Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>. FREE! (Sign up for one or both)

### 16 Smoothilicious!

What a great time of the year to learn how to make a variety of different smoothies that will tantalize your taste buds and cool you off in the summer heat. Our Wellbeing Counsellor will use a ton of healthy products that may be new to you! Don't miss out on sampling some sweet smoothies and take home the recipes! Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2-3pm. FREE.

### 16 Vega Sport Talk

Vega Educator and Holistic Nutritionist, Kelsey Reidl, will be chatting about fuelling your sport performance with whole foods and supplementation. She will cover nutrition basics, specifically related to pre, during and post-workout, that will help you perform your best! Athletes and non-athletes alike will enjoy this talk which includes nutrition + training plans, samples of Vega products, and a question and answer period with Kelsey.  
Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm. FREE.

**\*\*\*Please note: registration is required for classes & programs unless specified otherwise. Please visit the customer service desk or call 905-726-2530 for more details.**

### Summer Fun Sessions for your Kids

Summer is in full swing! Join Maria every Wednesday evening this July for dinner and a movie, complete with a themed craft or decorating some goodies. Sign up for one or all.  
**Summer Pizza Party & The Bee Movie**  
Wednesday July 8<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. Cost \$10 + hst.  
**Tasty Tacos & Beverly Hills Chihuahua**  
Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. Cost \$10 + hst.  
**Pasta Perfection & Cars 2**  
Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8pm. Cost \$10 + hst.  
**Breakfast for Dinner (in your PJ's) & Paddington Bear**  
Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. Cost \$10 + hst.

### 14 Read the Book... Now What Do I Do?

New books on nutrition are coming out all the time and with so much information, it can be confusing. Join our Dietitian to discuss a current nutrition book as we uncover what it means, and how it may or may not impact what you do. This month we'll discuss 'Got Milked' by Alissa Hamilton – read it ahead of time and come ready to talk about it.  
Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-3pm. FREE.

### Healthy Skin & Sunscreen – July 18<sup>th</sup> – 10am-2pm, Stop by the Pharmacy!

Have dry skin? Oily skin? Stop by the Pharmacy to speak with the Pharmacist who can help you pick out a sunscreen best for your skin type. Have healthy skin this summer!

### Tuesday is Seniors Day! Drop by our Community Room between 9:30am & 11:30am for a continental breakfast and coffee on us.

### 9/29 Beat the Heat


Join our Dietitian this summer as our Dietitian offers a 4-part series all about meal ideas that don't require you to heat up the house by turning on the oven. Each session will include samples to taste and recipes to take home. Sign up for one or all – it's up to you! Last 2 parts will be offered in August so stay tuned for dates and time!  
**Part 1: Mix it up Mocktails!**  
Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1-2pm. FREE  
**Part 2: Thrill of the Grill!**  
Wednesday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 11am-12pm. FREE

### 20 Taste & Learn: Pesto

Full of flavour pesto can enhance many dishes! Join our Dietitian for this class to learn how you can use pesto in cooking to provide flavour in a healthy way. Recipes to take home and samples provided.  
Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 7-8pm. FREE.

### 23 Make Your Own Baby Food

Join our Wellbeing Counsellor and Dietitian to learn how to make baby food to start your little one on solids. Refreshments provided – moms-to-be and babies most welcome to attend!  
Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11am-1pm. Cost \$10 + hst.

Are you interested in booking our Community Room for a birthday party, private function or community group? Please contact our Community Room Coordinator, Maria either by email, [sby743crc@sobeys.com](mailto:sby743crc@sobeys.com) or by 905-726-2530 to see how we can assist you! Don't forget to like us on  Facebook to stay in the loop with events happening in store!



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## Four Aurora Jays nominated for North Dufferin All-Star game

By Jake Courtepatte

A league-high four players and one manager from the Aurora Jays AA baseball team have been voted into the North Dufferin Baseball League All-Star game, which will take place this Saturday in Midland.

Brad Crosby, Chris Fafalios, Phil Hache, and Ian Rettie are in the lineup to represent the East Division All-Stars, managed by their team manager, Michael Keon.

Crosby has had a solid season both on the mound and at the plate for the Jays, giving up eleven runs through 13.2 innings of work this season. Offensively, he sits third on the team with a .435 batting average, one of two Jays to have twenty hits so far this season.

Fafalios has seen similar numbers in his thirteen games this season, cranking three home runs over that period.



Aurora's Chris Rettie connects on a pitch for a base hit. Rettie and the Jays defeated the Barrie Angels 9 - 5 last Tuesday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

While his power at the plate isn't as obvious as some of his teammates, Hache has been able to find his way on base and across home plate this season through strong base-running and a keen eye for the ball, boasting a .574 on-base-percentage heading into the All-Star break.

The most obvious choice as an All-Star is certainly Ian Rettie, who has dominated all aspects of this hitting game across the league all season. Described by coach Rob Wilson as "a monster", Rettie's .646 batting average

is no product of a low number of at-bats. In fact, he has the second most AB's in the Jays lineup, registering a run on almost half of them.

He leads the league in almost every statistical category - batting average, runs, hits, doubles, triples, home runs, and on-base percentage.

"He makes it look so easy," said Wilson earlier this season.

In regular season action, the Jays offensive prowess continues to bring them success week after week. Their only matchup last week was against the Barrie Angels, a 13-hit, 9 - 5 win highlighted by a monster three-run blast to dead centre by Fafalios. Rettie also went two-for-three in the contest, adding two doubles to his impressive season stat line.

The Jays, winners of five in a row, have climbed back into a position they are comfortable in at the top of the NDBL standings. They currently sit on a 12-3-0 record, good for second place behind the surging New Lowell Knights. Their 149 runs on the season greatly eclipses any of the competition.

They pick up again this week in Lisle on Friday, facing an Astros team that has won just one game all season. It's then a rematch with the Angels on Sunday, also on the road.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit [www.ndbl.ca](http://www.ndbl.ca).

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Meghan Jackson (green) is looking for some adrenaline-seekers to join her Quidditch squad in Aurora.

Supplied photo

## Quidditch fever hits Aurora

By Jake Courtepatte

Calling all Harry Potter fans - you now can have your own opportunity to follow in your favourite fictional character's footsteps and capture the golden snitch.

In J.K. Rowling's famous Harry Potter series, Quidditch is the chosen sport of the magical community - a high-octane, contact positional sport, played high in the air on broomsticks.

In recent years, the more outlandish rules have been swapped for a more realistic set, bringing the game of Quidditch to life for thousands of fans across the world.

Dubbed "Muggle Quidditch", after the term coined for non-magical people in the Harry Potter universe, the game began to take shape in Vermont in 2005. It has since grown to acquire its own governing body, the International Quidditch Association, which hosts the IQA World Cup each year.

Meghan Jackson of Aurora is looking to get in on the action, and needs a number of willing players to do so.

"I'm a pretty active person, I've always loved running and I'm a huge Harry Potter fan," said Jackson. "I was just thinking of something I could do for fun."

Inspired after watching a

documentary on the real-life version of Quidditch, she recently set about putting together a team, now running with a roster of about ten. Each team can have up to 21 players.

"Our team is looking for players who are athletic, or want to be, and are 18 - 35 years old," said Jackson. "If we get enough players we will make it a league, and hopefully get good enough to go for the Regionals, Nationals, and maybe the World Cup!"

The team has been getting together since early June, determining the logistics behind putting together a magical roster.

Despite its magical roots, the logistics of the game are actually simple enough - four different player positions each have highly-specific roles on the pitch, with one keeper, two beaters, three chasers, and a seeker per side. For those new to the game's rules, the object of the game is for the chasers to score goals on the other team's hoops using a slightly-deflated volleyball, while avoiding the beaters, who use dodgeballs to send the chaser back to touch their own hoop while dropping any ball they hold.

Alex Amodol, an experienced Quidditch beater, calls the game "a combination of rugby, handball, water

Continued on page 13



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# Shaolin monk brings philosophy and culture to Aurora martial arts

**By Jake Courtepatte**

Canada's Black Belt Martial Arts was the site of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in Aurora over the weekend, hosting a real Shaolin monk from the famous Shaolin Temple in China.

Master Shi Yuan Jiang, raised in the Temple since he was eight years old, has performed and taught around the world. He brought his skills to the centre in Aurora on Saturday to teach a group ranging from kids to adults the Shaolin practice.

Canada's Black Belt Master Instructor, Master Tim Wakefield, had the opportunity to visit the Shaolin Temple last year. Through training with the monks, he was given some valuable insight into the source of the 1600-year evolution.

It was there that he met Master Jiang, and after training extensively he encouraged him to visit Canada.

"Monks are encouraged to travel, to enhance their knowledge of martial arts," said Wakefield. "Build connections, see how the rest of the martial arts world is working, and spread the Shaolin way."

During the Cultural Revolution in China in the 1980s, the Shaolin practice was quashed by the government, sending the monks into secrecy and often only training at night. Since the early 1990's, Shaolin has once again emerged in popularity in the country, bringing back tourism and increased knowledge of the Shaolin way. Temples were rebuilt, and the monks were invited back in to practice, among them Master Jiang.

"We have one of the original ones here today," said Wakefield. "He's the real deal. We've had karate masters here, which are great and wonderful dedicated individuals, but this is taking it one step further in history."

Originally built in the year 496, the

Shaolin Temple became the epicentre of martial arts training, creating the base for which different forms of martial arts would branch out from.

"We wouldn't have karate, or taekwondo, or any of these other martial arts if it weren't for what the Shaolin did," said Wakefield. "They were the first."

Wakefield describes the Shaolin practice as a "combination of Zen Buddhism, Chinese Taoist philosophy, and a few other indigenous Chinese thought processes put together, and expressed through moving meditations that resemble fighting forms."

While the students at Saturday's seminar came from all different kinds of backgrounds in martial arts, the unique thing about the Shaolin philosophy is its acceptance of all different forms.

"Shaolin doesn't care what system you come from," said Wakefield. "They believe that, fundamentally, we're all Shaolin."

Focused strongly on meditation, Wakefield is quick to point out that the goal in Shaolin training is not to be fighters, or for fame or fortune, but rather a more simple approach.

"This is about being happy with your life. Using martial arts to influence it, and empower yourself to find that peaceful way. But also, if something comes our way, we're ready for it."

Master Wakefield began his training over thirty years ago, studying the Shaolin Kemp Karate system under Master Henry Choo Chong in Richmond Hill. He has been teaching his practice in Aurora and the GTA since 1994, receiving his Eighth Degree Black Belt in Kenpo Karate in 2013.



Shaolin Master Shi Yuan Jiang paid a visit to Canada's Black Belt Martial Arts in Aurora on Saturday, the first visit by a Shaolin Monk ever to the area.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

# Happy Canada Day!



## Chris Ballard, MPP

Newmarket-Aurora

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Lunchtime assistant immortalizes time at Aurora Senior P.S. in book

By Brock Weir

15 years ago, Aurora-based artist Deborah Campo was sitting at something of a crossroads.

Sitting alone one day in her living room, she thought, “God, if someone knocks on my door and offers me a job, I would take it.”

Lo and behold, two days later, her friend Linda did exactly that, asking her to become a lunchtime assistant at Aurora Senior Public School. Ms. Campo says she had no hesitation in “keeping her pact with God”, and it is a relationship which has endured ever since.

The end of the school year last week marked the end of Ms. Campo’s time at Aurora Senior Public School as such. When it re-opens in September, merged with George Street Public School under the new name Wellington Public School, she hopes to continue her journey with the new school community.

In the meantime, however, she has created a lasting testament to

the students, teachers and parents that have become part of the Aurora Senior tapestry in her new book “The Adventures of Miss Wally Wall.”

Titled after the nickname given to her by students, Ms. Campo charts the adventures and misadventures of herself and the students as they have gone through life together, including the mutual exchange of lasting life lessons and the development of friendships that have endured long after the Grade 8 graduation.

“I’ve worked through all kinds of weather, I have cared for all the students, some who stayed for a brief time, some with learning disabilities, some with gifted abilities, and a few students I knew from kindergarten through graduation at Grade 8,” Ms. Campo explains. “Each year, I shed a few tears when I realise Grade 8 students would soon begin a new journey in their educational lives and I wish them great success.

“On some occasions, I do run into them and they tell me what they are



Artist Deborah Campo is pictured with her new book.

**Auroran photo by David Falconer**  
doing in the world now. Most have gone onto colleges and universities, or are graduating from Grade 12 this year. Whatever happens, they were a part of my life and, I guess, each day at school I was part of theirs. My favourite moments were when those lost students who were struggling or, at times, behaving badly, found their way and crossed paths with me in the summer with excited thoughts to tell me on how well they are doing now in their lives. I feel a sense that I am there for them to listen to when they are having a sad day. I am there to share in the happiness of their goals and aspirations and we have a lot of fun.”  
“The Adventures of Miss Wally

Wall” shares a series of colourful anecdotes in the lives of the students, from “Wesley and the Dead Body Part” to “The Poo Finale”, involving a truth-or-dare session Ms. Campo became involved with which culminated in a daring effort to extricate a bag of... excrement from a nearby tree. We won’t spoil the results.

“Sometimes I go home and question if I have done as much as I possibly can, or look to see what I could have done better,” she says. “I share that responsibility for their wellbeing and safety, but I try and speak to them and give them the respect they deserve and, hopefully they, in turn, will do the same towards me. I think parents will find these stories delightful and humorous. A lot of them know me already and over the years I have met so many students. In my dedication I basically say you have all touched my life in so many ways I can’t thank you enough for inspiring me to become a better person and create this book based on so many cherished memories I have made with you all. This is a labour of love.”

*The Adventures of Miss Wally Wall can be found at online retailers such as Amazon. Meet Ms. Campo this Saturday at the Aurora Farmers’ Market, as Ms. Campo coordinates “Art in the Park” from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Town Park in conjunction with the Market and Kerry’s Place Autism Services.*



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Quebecois and Franco Ontarian heritage was the order of the day at the Aurora Cultural Centre last week as they partnered with l'Association des francophones de la region de York (L'AFRY) for a day-long celebration of all things French. In addition to the annual traditional Quebecois summer party, the occasion was also an opportunity to mark the 400th anniversary of the French presence in Ontario. (Top) Young Jackson had fun colouring in the Franco-Ontarian flag while (bottom) the bash culminated in a concert featuring Nicolas Pellerin et les Grands Hurlleurs.  
**Auroran photos by David Falconer**

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The month of June brought many beginnings and pauses for the Aurora Seniors' Association and Centre. First we would like to acknowledge that Charles Sequeira (past president) has decided to step down from writing his Seniorscape column.

Now, the fact that Charles has been replaced by two people, Marie Leone and Sylvia Gilchrist should tell you what a good job he has done over the years. Charles, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and hope that you enjoy your new programs at the Centre.

Budget Bistro lunches have paused until September, being replaced by a weekly Wednesday BBQ. Every Wednesday about noon, you will find Paul Pandolfi, our volunteer chef and his assistant, out on the back deck cooking up hamburgers, hotdogs, sausage and chicken on a bun. At the same time in the kitchen another volunteer crew is chopping, dicing and slicing the salads and accoutrements for your lunch. This \$5 weekly BBQ comes complete with salads, coffee/tea, and dessert.

The Evergreen Choir will be taking a well-earned break in July and August; however, in June they have been out in the community singing at Hadley Grange, The Kingsway Arms, Hollandview Trail, and Park Place Manor. After their summer rest, they will be looking forward to rehearsing again in September and will be looking for new members. So, if you enjoy singing, think about joining the choir in September.

Bocce is in full swing, with members playing every Tuesday & Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon, and if you are interested in trying, come out on Wednesdays between 2-4 p.m. for instruction. The bocce courts are open all the time and can be made available on request.

## Catch the snitch with new local club

From page 10

polo, with a bit of dodgeball mixed in for fun.”

The seeker, the enviable position of the series' title character, spends the game attempting to catch the golden snitch. In the series, the snitch is a small, sentient, winged ball that evades both team's seekers at all costs. Catching the snitch is an automatic win for the

The Computer Club is taking a well-deserved summer off, coming back for classes, and drop-in sessions in September. However, members needing personal computer assistance can make an appointment for help when volunteers are available.

Friday night dances that are usually held on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month are suspended until September. However, don't put your dancing shoes away but keep your eyes open for a bulletin because the Dance Committee usually finds an excuse to dance somewhere between now and September.

In case you are thinking that the Aurora Seniors' Centre is not open because of all these summer breaks you are wrong. We continue to sing, dance, play cards, board games, Ping-Pong, pickle ball, snooker and the list goes on and on.

We should never print a Senior Scape without acknowledging the back bone of the Aurora Seniors Association/Centre, the volunteers. Not many are aware of the fact that the Aurora Seniors Association recorded almost 17,000 volunteer work hours in 2014. Can you imagine how much money that would total, even at minimum wage? Don't forget that the ASA members (all seniors) before retirement had careers and skills that they are now sharing with the Association/Town. They are definitely worth more than minimum wage!

If you are interested in becoming a member, we are located at 90 John West Way across from the Aurora Town Hall. Come for a visit or a tour or give us a call at 905-726-4767. We are always willing to show you around or brag about the great benefits of the Aurora Seniors Association.

successful seeker's team.

In Muggle Quidditch, the snitch is a tennis ball in a sock attached to a neutral snitch runner's shorts.

“The snitch runner can cause all types of mayhem, and doesn't have to ride a broom either,” said Jackson.

You can contact Meghan for more information at meghan.jackson76@gmail.com.

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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	48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55						56					57			58
59						60					61			
62						63						64		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Swedish rock group
- Founder of Babism
- 2 stripe Army rank (abbr.)
- Of Salian Franks
- Indicates near
- Swiss river
- Golden pothos
- Runs PCs
- E. Tunisian seaport
- Cyprinid fishes
- Genus Ulmus
- Stitched garment border
- Takes in as a part
- Pierre is the capital
- Brush upward
- Moby's author's initials
- Belgian franc
- Mongolian capital Ulan \_\_\_\_
- Computer code for letters & numbers
- Initials of Watson's detective
- Spanish be
- Jauntier
- Cormoran Strike's 2nd novel
- Wasted material
- Bleat sound
- Excess body weight
- Oral polio vaccine
- Rigs
- Drawstring
- Baltic flat-bottomed boat (alt. sp)
- Double curve
- Point midway between NE and I
- Mackerel shark genus
- Used to be United \_\_\_\_
- Animal nest
- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician

### CLUES DOWN

- Signing
- Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan
- Worthless drivell
- Aboriginal race of Japan
- Adorn
- Greek god of light
- Atomic #83
- Eating houses
- Baby buggy
- Supervillain Luthor
- Hansom
- Tennis champion Arthur
- Flank
- Sleep
- Richly patterned weave
- Hoagies
- Moonfish
- University of Santo Tomas
- Duo indicates
- Regarding this point
- Stand for coffin
- Not yielding
- Point midway between S and SW
- Data executive
- Changed gears
- \_\_\_\_ Sauer: Weapons co.
- Brews
- \_\_\_\_ May, actress
- Shiny cotton textile
- Cavalry-sword
- Bullfighting maneuver
- Shopping containers
- “Puppy Bowl” network listing
- Hillside
- Metrical foot
- Dog in Peter Pan
- Romaine lettuce
- Irish Sea Isle

## Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	O	L	S		M	A	R	S	H		B	A	B	A
C	R	O	C		P	R	A	I	A		E	N	O	L
A	C	E	R		H	A	N	D	S		F	O	R	A
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# Celebration and reflection reigns at revamped Relay for Life

By Brock Weir

They were all there for the same reason, but as each person took a lap around the track last month, they all had a different person in the back of their minds.

Hundreds of residents of Aurora, Newmarket and beyond laced up last month for the 2015 Relay for Life, the annual fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society. Held at Newmarket's Pickering College, this was a year of firsts for the annual event which is billed as a time to celebrate and

remember.

For the first time this year, the Aurora and Newmarket Relays were combined into one event, with the actual relay time shortened from the traditional twelve hours, to a comparatively short jaunt from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Their combined efforts this year have raised close to \$100,000 – and counting – for cancer research and care within York Region.

This local care is vitally important for area cancer patients, as Michelle Clayton Wood knows all too well. Back in 1998, Ms. Clayton Wood was



Relay for Life 2015 began with the traditional Survivors' Lap which crossed generational borders with this grandfather-granddaughter team.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

diagnosed with cancer. At the time, the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre was still a dream. Patients like her often had to make the arduous trek to Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital for their chemotherapy and other treatments and, of course, endure the return journey.

"It seems like another lifetime," said Ms. Clayton Wood, this year's Honourary Survivor, of the fall of 1998. "I had just left the bank I had worked for to help my family with some health issues. I had been quite tired myself and rundown, thinking it was normal with all I was doing, and raising two children, three and six.

"Spring came with some more bad news: my husband had just lost his job due to a management change at his company and I went to the doctor who was quite worried because I had a suspicious growth. I was operated on at Southlake and I will never forget my doctor telling me it was a cancerous tumour. I was referred to Sunnybrook as the Regional Cancer Centre had not yet been built."

There, her oncologist recommended the removal of her lymph nodes, radiation and chemo, along with extensive surgery. Opting out of the extensive surgery, she followed the rest of the course, which included three weeks of chemo and 40 radiation treatments.

"I went the whole route being driven down to Sunnybrook by the Canadian Cancer Society Holland River Unit and was picked up every

night so I could be with my kids in the evening," she recalled. "My husband and I wondered what we had done to have such a horrible situation happen. However, with the help of the Canadian Cancer Society, the Newmarket-Aurora communities and Southlake Hospital, we managed to take it one day at a time.

I got stronger and volunteered at my kids' school, my husband got another job, so I am happy to be here and give back to my community, to the Canadian Cancer Society, and to volunteer in the community."

Before luminaries were lit to remember those who were not so fortunate in their battle against the disease, it was time to celebrate those working so hard to make a difference. Renee Thibodeaux, a Newmarket resident, was recognized with the Infinite Hope Award, which was founded in memory of Ken Truman who lost his battle at the age of 32. It was his hope, said organizers, there would "be a better tomorrow for everyone" and Renee was recognized as the top Relay for Life Youth Fundraiser in Ontario, raising \$8,000 on her own and, with her team, clocking in a total of \$20,000 since 2012.

Locally, dancer Amanda Little accepted a further reward on behalf of her team, Dancing for Life, which sprang from the Oak Ridges-based Somerville Dance Academy. Part of the Relay for Life for the past 11 years, Dancing For Life has now raised over \$100,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society since the team's inception.

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JIM CUDDY

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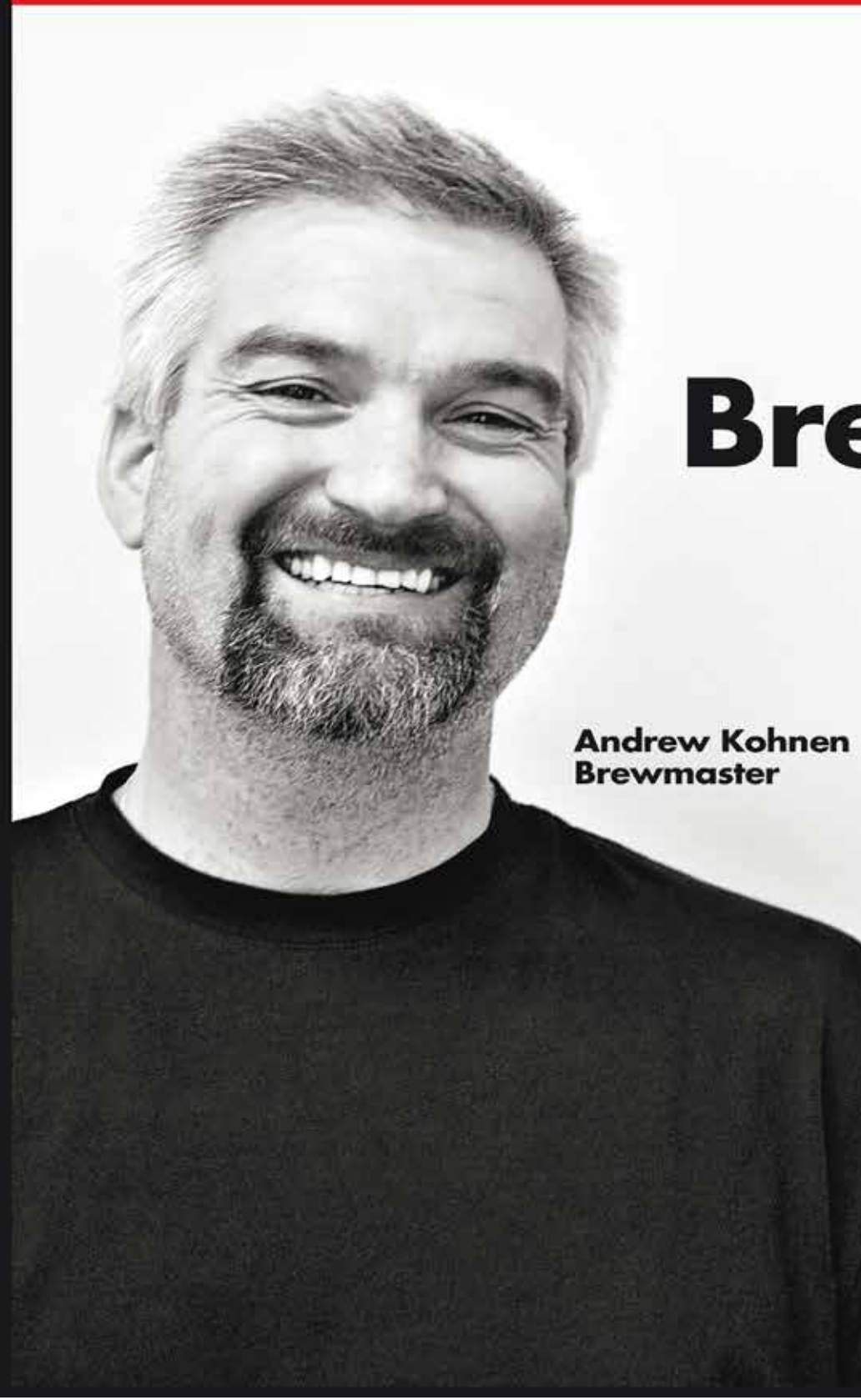
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# Nearly 40 residents speak up at Council’s first crack at Highland proposal

**From page 1**  
Staff recommended to Council two additional public planning meetings be held beyond the statutory Planning Act requirement and that the meetings be held outside of the Council Chamber in order to accommodate the anticipated large volume of residents.

Additional meetings will be held on the matter in September and October.

Residents expressed many of the same concerns they did at the open house. The primary concern was the proposed density and streets running through the backyards of the existing homes and how increased traffic would affect their quality of life, property values and their ability to enjoy their property.

They were also concerned about open space, the preservation of trees and vegetation, watercourses and watersheds and natural heritage, compatibility and urban design, engineering matters specifically dealing with water capacity and drainage and the possibility of damage to existing homes as a result of construction.

“We did do an analysis of the density,” said Don Given of Malone Given Parsons, representing the applicant at the meeting. “Our density is in keeping with the density in this neighbourhood. It’s not out of character.”

He said the traffic will not be a “significant imposition” as it is expected to increase by 15 cars a day. He added the Town will get approximately 40 acres of the entire site in greenspace – a portion in the form of parkland and a portion gratis, with no cost to the municipality.

Dave Newton, president of the Highland Gate Rate Payers Association, was the first deputant to come forward at the meeting. The mission of the group,

which is made up of 560 community-minded individuals, is to ensure any development that takes place within the Highland Gate community is compatible with the existing neighbourhood. He said the Town has strong planning tools which allow them to turn down applications that do not follow proper planning principles.

“The majority of our members are opposed to this developer’s plans to run roads down every fairway, obliterating the green space and creating huge increases to traffic in the neighbourhood,” said Newton, who received a standing ovation following his comments. “Building roads directly behind the backyards of a finished, established neighbourhood is not only unreasonable, but not good planning. This development brings no benefit to the homeowners that have lived in this community and paid taxes here for decades. Why not try to create a legacy for all Aurora residents to enjoy for generations to come?”

Bob Callow urged Council to consider their vision for the lands and how the development would look 20 or 30 years down the road.

“Having a green space this large in the community, this is an opportunity, a responsibility you have to take advantage of,” said Callow.

Many of the residents echoed the sentiment, asking council to consider preserving the green space or turn it into parkland and create a New York City-type Central Park in Aurora instead of approving the development.

Bruce Corbett, a member of the Oak Ridges Trail Association in Aurora, said he wanted to make a case for creating a continuous, off-road, multi-purpose trail

from Bathurst Street to Yonge Street.

“The trail would be a real asset to south Aurora residents and would preserve a unique ribbon of lovely space,” he noted. “We are very close to making this long term dream a reality.”

Lorraine Coens asked that Council preserve Aurora’s section of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

“When you walk the golf course property, it is idyllic,” she said, adding the property may be too small for a golf course but it is not big enough for a development. “You can indulge in the beauty of the mature trees and hear the stream gurgling. We have a paradise right here in Aurora. This is New York City, just on a smaller scale.”

Graham Batchelor had a simple question for council and staff.

“My question is why – why are we bothering with this, why is this development being proposed and why is council considering it,” asked Batchelor. “Why do we sacrifice a park, greenspace that everybody loves for unneeded urban development?”

Jean Fraser said it is important for residents to ban together to make sure the project does not move forward. Even if the developer appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board, she believes the Town has a strong case.

“We have the resources, we have the will, we have the way and we have so much expertise in this room,” she said. “We can do it.”

No decisions were made at the meeting. The comments were received and referred back to staff, who will continue to review the applications.

“Our staff has not finished analyzing all the reports,” said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe to the crowd at the end of the meeting, adding a peer review is also underway. “They will be analyzed over the summer. Planning staff will take the points raised tonight and answer as many questions as they can. We will be taking all of your comments and concerns into consideration as we move forward in this process.

The next public planning meeting will be held September 30 at St. Max.

## Southwest homes could find chain-link fencing where their property meets the Town’s

By Brock Weir

Residents backing onto Case Woodlot in southwest Aurora could soon find chain link fencing just beyond their backyards where their property meets the Town’s, following a Council decision last week.

Approximately 23 homes on Spence Drive and Tamarac Trail currently backing onto Case Woodlot, which is roughly bordered by Henderson Drive and Bathurst Street, may find the existing – although dilapidated – post and rail fencing replaced with a 1.2 metre high chain link fence.

Council gave conditional approval to replace the fence as part of this year’s budget, but in a report before Council last week from Al Downey, Aurora’s Director of Parks and Recreation, recreating the current style fencing would be outside of the modern norm in Aurora after the fence in question was installed nearly 30 years ago.

“Staff are recommending that the new replacement fencing be 1.2 metre municipal standard chain link fencing as it was proven to be more effective in maintaining the property boundary over a longer period of time,” said Mr. Downey in his report before Council last week. “All boundary fencing separating municipal open space and private property is installed on the municipal side of the property line unlike fences that were installed through the 1980s and 1990s where the fence was installed on the common boundary.

“It became evident that fences installed on common boundaries were difficult to control in terms of unauthorized gates being installed and issues associated with dumping of yard waste and encroachments were very common. Since the Town now owns all fencing installed entirely on municipal property, we have complete control over the fence, including the installation of private gates and non-authorized access to municipal lands. The Town no longer permits private gates to be installed in our fences.”

Compounding the issue, added Mr. Downey, is several properties in this area have installed swimming pools and if they do so now the properties in question would have to erect chain link anyway. And, of the 23 properties, many have already installed these fences.

The recommendation to proceed

with chain link raised concerns from Councillor Jeff Thom, who said when it comes to marking out municipal boundaries, post and rail fencing does the job nicely.

“It still delineates the line and clearly marks where the municipal boundary is or isn’t,” he said. “With respect to the security issues, these are municipal forests. The whole idea is you want to get people enjoying the forest. [If you restrict access points] to me that seems like keeping people out of the forest when we’re trying to [encourage] people to go out and enjoy nature. To me, it sounds like overkill.”

If there is a concern about people dumping yard waste onto municipal property over their back fence, a chain link fence with a height of 1.2 metres is not going to stop them, he added.

Councillor Thom’s concerns were not shared by the majority of Council, particularly Mayor Geoff Dawe and Councillor Paul Pirri, who stressed the importance of maintaining municipal boundary lines.

“We have to look at it from the point of view that it is our obligation to ensure we’re managing our property rights,” said Mayor Dawe, noting this could be done with chain link. “It certainly doesn’t look as nice as a split rail fence, but a split rail fence doesn’t really do much to establish what the property line would be like.”

For Councillor Paul Pirri, saying taxpayers own Town-owned lands and should be able to access them “however they wished” is a “slippery slope argument.”

“We have ice rinks that are ultimately owned by the tax residents and that doesn’t allow me to step onto the ice when the Tigers are playing, not just because of skill level, but that is definitely part of it,” he said. “We lock our buildings at night even though our residents own those buildings to ensure they don’t go into [them] at a certain point. We set up those regulations on how things should be done to preserve them in the long run.

“If we were to allow them to access these trails from their gates does that alter the trails themselves or the natural environment by creating footpaths and things of that nature? On the whole, there are ways to enter this woodlot. We’re just setting up rules and regulations on how people access this parcel of land.”





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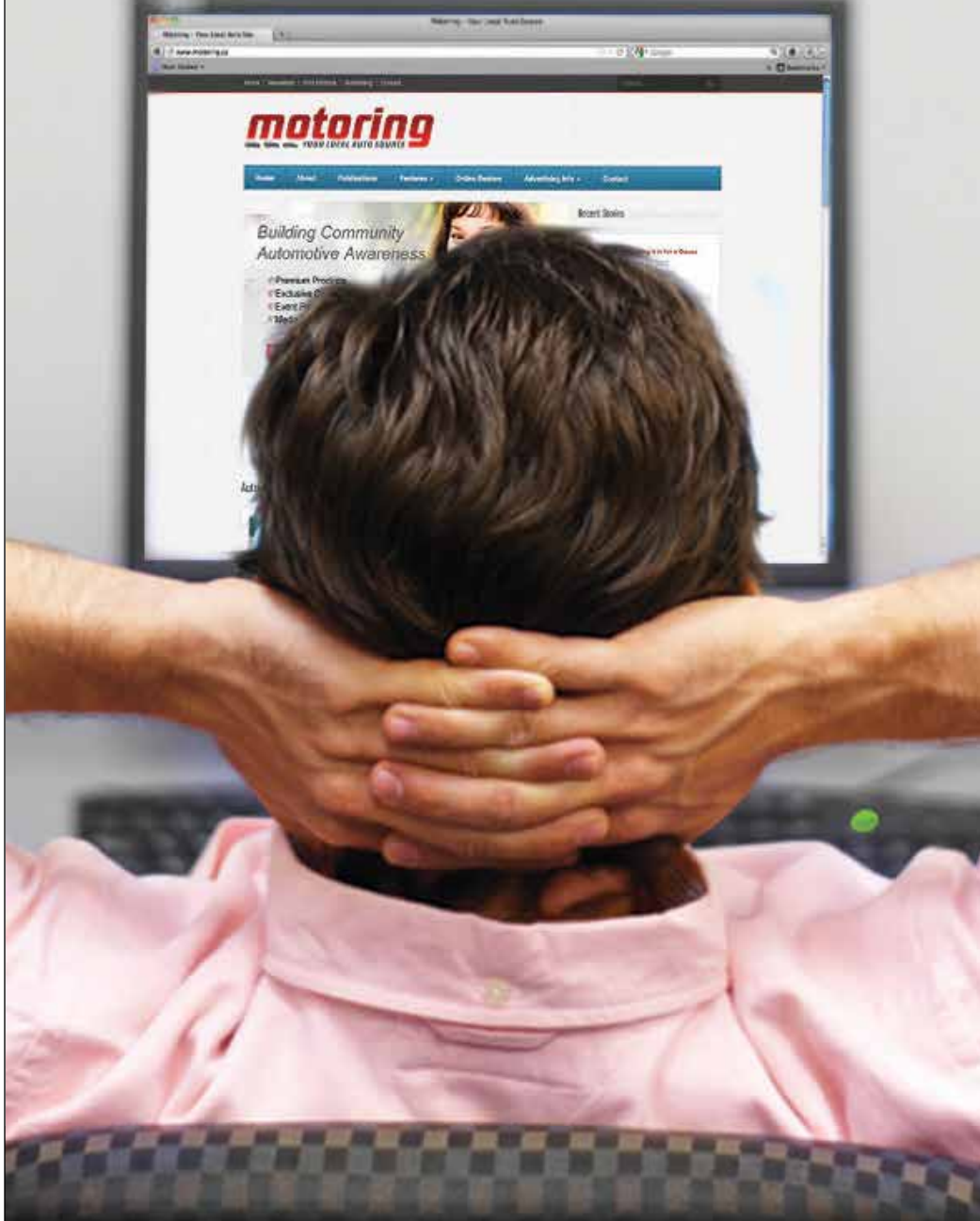
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COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Calling All Artists! Art In The Park, a Festival of Artisans, will take over Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with the Aurora Farmers' Market and Kerry's Place Autism Services.

MONDAY, JULY 6

Turtles take over the Aurora Public Library today. Turtles of Ontario is created by fibre artist Rosemary Oliver, this display features replicas of the eight turtles of Ontario. The shells are made of papier-mâché, the wired and stuffed limbs are made of fabric, with paint

and hand embroidery completing the anatomical details. Accompanying the turtles is information about the Metro Toronto Zoo's Turtle Tally Program that encourages people to report any sightings of turtles. On exhibit in the Living Room Display Case from July 6th – 31st.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Aurora's Concerts in the Park Series launches today at Aurora Town Park with a children's concert featuring Susie Sunshine. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal costs and donations

of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

Join the Aurora Public Library's Summer Science Lab today as we transform our program room into a fully functional science lab. Together we will explore scientific principles like force, mass and energy by doing exciting experiments. Some will be messy, some will be loud, but they will all be fun and interesting! 2.00 – 3.00 p.m., Optimist Room, Ages: 6-9. Drop In.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

The Royal Canadian Legion will host a night of dinner, games and prizes today from 4.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Banquet burgers and assorted salads will be served at \$10 per person followed by a dance with DJ Doug Anderson ending at midnight. Cost for the dance is \$5 per person. Members are free.

JULY 10 – 12

Escape the chaos of Pan-Am and travel to your local park this summer for Shakespeare in the Park with The Merry Wives of Windsor. Welcome to 1968, where wealthy jealous husbands, outrageous “far out” local characters, and the original “desperate housewives,” spin into a spiral of hilarious hijinks when Falstaff comes to town. Hard up for cash, the unscrupulous Falstaff hatches up a crazy plan that can't possibly backfire – to cuckold Windsor's wealthy husbands and get his greedy paws on their money. However, the merry wives have a real gas devising a scheme of their own to teach him a well-deserved lesson in Wooing 101. Featuring puppets, music, and just six actors playing over 15 characters, this hilariously magnificent treat of artful deceit is not to be missed.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

PARTAGEZ LE FRANÇAIS: York Region's French Language Conversation Group expands to Aurora with a session at Country Style (14980 Yonge Street) from 6.30 – 8 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from beginners to francophones) looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, email Partagez.York@yahoo.ca.

\* \* \* \*

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight with A Tribute to Gordon Lightfoot, featuring John Stinson's tribute to Canada's greatest songwriter and international folk-rock legend. You will feel like you're at a Gordon Lightfoot concert. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal costs and donations of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

FRIDAY, JULY 17

The Town of Aurora's Movies in the Park celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Tonight, enjoy Ferris Bueller's Day Off under the stars at Lambert Willson Park (135 Industrial Parkway North). Arrive early to enjoy the pre-movie surprises! All movies begin at dusk.

\* \* \* \*

The Royal Canadian Legion will host a night of dinner, games and prizes today from 4.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Schnitzel and assorted sides will be served at \$10 per person followed by an all-request dance with DJ Rob Martine ending at midnight. Cost for the dance is \$5 per person. Members are free.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight with The Megacity Big Band. Enjoy an exciting evening of live big band favourites of jazz and swing from the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal costs and donations of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

The Royal Canadian Legion will host their annual Christmas In July luncheon today from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. featuring a traditional Christmas Dinner with turkey and all the trimmings, followed by decadent desserts. \$15 per person. Tickets are available at the Legion and reservations will be taken for tables of six or more.

SATURDAY, JULY 25

The Town of Aurora's Movies in the Park celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Tonight, enjoy Mockingjay under the stars at Machell Park (2 Aurora Heights Drive). Arrive early to enjoy the pre-movie surprises! All movies begin at dusk.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at Town Park with The Wheat Kings. The ultimate tribute to “The Tragically Hip”, the Wheat Kings deliver the same energy, style and sounds as the Hip themselves, giving audiences exactly what they came to feel and hear. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal cost and donations of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

The Town of Aurora's Movies in the Park celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Tonight, enjoy Annie under the stars at Ada Johnson Park (60 Hartwell Way). Arrive early to enjoy the pre-movie surprises! All movies begin at dusk.

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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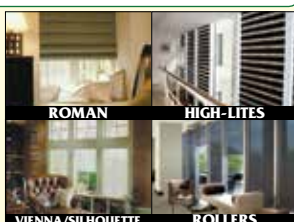


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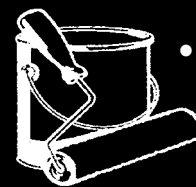
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