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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 15 No. 41 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE

Week of August 6, 2015



SOWING THE SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE – McMahon Park area neighbours Ollie, Jane, Klaus, Allison, Catherine, Kim and Kaitie are pictured at the ready in the downtown Aurora park on Monday. The residents, particularly Klaus Wehrenberg and Catherine Cook, are campaigning for a new community garden in the park, just northeast of Yonge and Wellington, which they hope will serve as a template in parks across Town to encourage people to get their hands dirty and grow their own food. For more, please see Page 8.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Candidates hit the road for long-haul Federal campaign

By Brock Weir

They're at the post and our local Federal candidates have hit the pavement for the longest Canadian election campaign in nearly 150 years.

After meeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper at Rideau Hall on Sunday morning, Governor General David Johnston dissolved Parliament, triggering an 11-week Federal campaign. Speculation over the

potential early election call kicked into high gear in the middle of the week, and candidates across parties were ready to answer the call.

Opinion polls currently have the NDP, Conservatives and Liberals in a very tight race, but with all possibilities open, one thing is certain on the local landscape: the October 19 election will bring significant changes to Aurora.

This time around, Aurora will be divided into two Federal electoral

ridings, with residents on the north side of Wellington Street voting in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora and residents on the south side of Wellington will cast their ballots in the newly-created riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

Vying for votes in Newmarket-Aurora are incumbent Conservative Lois Brown, Yvonne Kelly for the NDP, Vanessa Long for the Green Party, and Kyle Peterson for the Liberal Party.

Continued on page 6

Chilliwack and The Spoons to headline Ribfest

By Brock Weir

Aurora residents may feel a wave of nostalgia when they take in the Town's 2015 Ribfest.

Canadian rock bands Chilliwack and The Spoons were announced Wednesday as the headliners for this year's event, which takes place at Machell Park September 11 – 13.

Chilliwack released twelve albums over a 15 year period producing numerous Canadian and international hits. All this work led to 15 gold and platinum certificates, a host of awards, high profile TV

Continued on page 8

Welcome Table provides "Food for the Soul"

By Brock Weir

Reaching out to the community, particularly those who needed a hand-up, has always been a way of life for Julie Cruickshank. So, when the Aurora resident – and parishioner of Trinity Anglican Church – took a package from her corporate job, she knew right off the bat what she wanted to do with her time.

Ms. Cruickshank is now coordinator for The Welcome Table, the weekly, year-round meal organized at Trinity's Binions Hall, providing food and fellowship for people and need, and, perhaps, people in the

community just looking for someone to talk to.

"I have been involved for about three years now and when I wanted to become more involved in the community, I thought, why not start in my own parish?" says Ms. Cruickshank. "They were looking for a coordinator for the Welcome Table program and I thought it was a perfect fit."

However perfect the fit, however, it turned out to be a lot bigger than what she had anticipated.

"I just thought it was a little meal they put on every Wednesday night,"

Continued on page 7

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Weekly Notice Board

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Phone 905-727-1375 • Fax 905-726-4732
Email info@aurora.ca • Website www.aurora.ca

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Tuesday, August 11	5:30 p.m.	Leksand Room	Finance Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 11	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Thursday, August 13	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
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



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
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Aurora Sports Dome

For more information, please visit www.kickit2winit.com or call 647-234-3970.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for the following positions: Part-Time Skate Patroller.

Application deadline is **Friday, August 14**. For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/employment

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Participate in Aurora's Memorial Tree and Park Bench Dedication Program

Would you like to establish "Lasting Roots" in your community? Are you looking for a unique gift idea for that special person or occasion? Perhaps you feel like making an investment in greening your community? If so, we encourage you to contact the Parks & Recreation department to find out more about the memorial tree planting and park bench dedication program. Please call 905-727-3123 ext. 3233 or email cwright@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora's Parks & Recreation Fall Program Guide is now available!

It's never too early to start thinking about your plans for September! The Town of Aurora's Parks & Recreation Fall Program Guide is now available. From art to cooking, from science to sports, there is something for everyone. Programs and workshops are available for preschool, children, youth and adults. For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/recguide

Don't miss Concerts in the Park in August!

TD presents Aurora's Concert in the Park Series this summer. Don't miss out on a great series of live music at Aurora Town Park on Wednesday evenings in August from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Visit www.aurora.ca/summerconcerts for the entertainment line-up or call 905-726-4762.

Sign-up for Town of Aurora Summer Camps today!

Time is running out and space is limited for Town of Aurora Summer Day Camps. Your little camper will be thrilled to finish their summer off with fun memories and new friends. For more information, please refer to our Parks & Recreation Spring and Summer Program Guide or visit www.aurora.ca/summercamps

Looking for another camp program in August? Spots are still available in our Summer Aquatic Sports & Fitness Camp which runs from **Monday, August 17 to Friday, August 21** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

Youth Adventure a Day Summer Program

Calling all youth! Join us for our exciting "Adventure a Day" summer day trip program running from **Monday, August 17 to Friday, August 21**. This summer we will be visiting Tree Top Trekking, Big Top School of Circus Arts, Cold Creek Conservation Area and more! Babysitter and First Aid Training is also available. Learn more by visiting www.aurora.ca or call 905-841-7529 for details.

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

Exhibit: Tennis in Canada From Early Beginnings to Global Success

Pan Am and Parapan Am Celebrations

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Pesticide Tree Injection for Control of Emerald Ash Borer in The Town of Aurora

Town-owned ash trees located on the streets and parks listed below will be injected for control of Emerald Ash Borer. Treatment will take place between the dates of **Saturday, August 1** and **Wednesday, September 30**, weather-permitting.

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 contact: Trugreen 1-800-565-5296 or Town of Aurora, Parks and Recreation Department, at 905-727-3123 ext. 3222

Selected ash trees to be injected on the following streets:

Abbott Avenue; Alberly Court; Allaura Boulevard; Allenvale Drive; April Gardens; Ardill Crescent; Aspen Leaf Court; Autumn Way; Baldwin Road; Barr Crescent; Batson Drive; Baywell Crescent; Baywell Crescent Park Boulevard; Beatty Crescent; Billbrough Street; Billingham Heights; Birkshire Drive; Blaydon Lane; Bonny Meadows Drive; Borealis Avenue; Bowler Street; Briardale Place; Bridgenorth Drive; Brookview Drive; Buttonwood Trail; Calmar Crescent; Carlyle Crescent; Carriage Walk; Casemount Street; Cashel Court; Catherine Avenue; Chapman Court; Charing Crescent; Chippingwood Manor; Chiswick Crescent; Cliff Road; Closs Square; Clubine Court; Collis Drive; Connaught Avenue; Conover Avenue; Copland Drive; Covent Crescent; Crawford Rose Drive; Dawlish Avenue; Deerglen Terrace; Delattaye Avenue; Devins Drive; Devlin Place; Downey Circle; Dunton Wood Crescent; Earl Stewart Drive; Fleury Street; Gateway Drive; Gilbank Drive; Gleave Court; Golf Links Drive; Gowan Lane; Gurnett Street; Hartwell Way; Haskell Crescent; Haverhill Terrace; Heathwood Heights Drive; Hill Drive; Hillary Place; Hogaboom Avenue; Hollandview Trail; Hollidge Boulevard; Jasper Drive; Kemano Drive; Kennedy Street West; Kidd Circle; Kirkvalley Crescent; Lanewood Drive; Laurentide Avenue; Loriview Lane; Mahogany Court; McClellan Way; McClenny Drive; Meadowood Drive; Millcliff Circle; Milloy Place; Mahogany Court; Morland Crescent; October Lane; Old Yonge Street; Orchard Heights Drive; Ostick Street; Parkland Court; Pederson Drive; Perivale Crescent; Petch Drive; Petermann Street; Pineneedle Drive; Reuben Street; River Ridge Boulevard; Sandfield Crescent; Sandfield Court; Sandfield Drive; Seaton Drive; Simmons Crescent; Sisman Avenue; Sommerton Court; Spence Drive; Spring Farm Road; Spruce Street; Starr Crescent; Steckley Street; Stemmler Drive; Stoddart Drive; Stone Road; Tamarac Trail; Tannery Creek Crescent; Tecumseh Drive; Temperance Street; Tilston Grove; Timbertrail Crescent; Timpson Drive; Tonner Crescent; Tradewind Terrace; Trent Street; Turnbridge Road; Tyler Street; Underhill Crescent; Valemount Way; Valley Crescent; Wardle Gate; Watkins Glen Crescent; Watts Meadow; Wells Street; Weslock Crescent; Wilkinson Place; Williamson Terrace; Willis Drive; Windham Trail; Woodland Hills Boulevard; Zokol Drive.

Selected ash trees to be injected in the following parks:

Ada Johnson Park - Hartwell Way; Aurora Community Arboretum; Chapman Park - McMaster Drive; Harmon Park - Aurora Heights Drive; Jack Woods Park - Dunning Avenue; Lambert Willson Park - Industrial Parkway; Lions Park - Rueben Street; McMahon Park - Cedar Crescent; Norm Weller Park - McClellan Way; Optimist Park - Birkshire Drive; Rotary Park - Kennedy Street East; Seston Park - Tradewind Terrace; Summit Park - Orchard Heights Boulevard; Tamarac Green Park - Henderson Drive; Timbers Park - Milcliff Circle; Toms Park - Lanewood Drive; Town Park - Wells Street; William Kennedy Park - Kennedy Street West; Wilson Park - Moorcrest Drive.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Seeking members for the Youth Engagement Committee (Y.E.C.)

Join the Youth Engagement Committee (Y.E.C.) today and start making a difference in your community!

Role and Responsibilities

- Engage youth within the community
- Encourage active participation at Youth Centre
- Serve as a liaison between youth in the community and Town staff
- Pursue local sponsorship opportunities
- Assist in developing programs, services and special events for youth
- Meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month during the school year, from September to June at 4:30 p.m.

Please fill out the Youth Engagement Application for 2015/2016 Recruitment form at www.aurora.ca and return it by **Monday, August 31** at 4:30 p.m.

For more information please contact the Youth and Community Development

Co-ordinator at:
Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, P.O. Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
T. 905-726-4760 F. 905-726-4734
dridsdale@aurora.ca

Saturday, August 15

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This FREE community event organized by The Town of Aurora offers a rare opportunity to explore hidden treasures, many of which are not normally open to the public.

Participants are able to tour buildings, take guided walking tours and view special exhibits and displays.

To view a list of sites and to learn more information, please visit www.aurora.ca

Celebrating Aurora's 10th Anniversary of

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Movies in the Park

Movies are FREE

- A food donation for the local food pantry is appreciated.
- Food vendors serving delicious food!*
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*A nominal fee applies

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Friday, August 14

Annie (PG)

Ada Johnson Park
(60 Hartwell Way)

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Inclement Weather?
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Please note, we reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

For more information, visit [#AuroraMovies](http://www.aurora.ca/moviesinthepark)

Norm Weller remembered as “big man, who left big impression”

By Brock Weir

Norm Weller Park near Aurora’s southwest corner might bear his name, but his impact can be seen just about wherever you are in Town.

Mr. Weller, Aurora’s former Parks Director, and a former Councillor, died Saturday at Southlake Regional Health Centre at the age of 84, after a brief illness. In the days following his death, Mr. Weller is being remembered as a man with a clear passion for Aurora, a passion which led to the creation of Aurora’s parks and trails system as we know it today.

“Initially we only had Town Park, and the subdivisions were built and parks were created, but they weren’t really created – they were just areas designated for parks,” recalls former mayor Evelyn Buck. “It was his idea the Town needed to hire someone to take care of the parks and over the next 12 to 14 years, Norm built all the parks in Aurora.”

He brought the department up from nothing and was very conscious of spending. He was always used to doing more with less and did everything with his heart and soul. He was as grassroots a person as you could ever imagine. He was always in touch with the people who paid the bills

Ms. Buck says she first met Norm Weller in a chance meeting when both were novice local politicians. They just happened to be standing in line next to each other to renew their drivers’ licenses at Elwood Davis’ gas station near Yonge and Wellington and they soon got to talking.

“It was like the Post Office when you went to pick up your mail – you soon

got into a conversation,” she says. “He was one of a kind in the energy and passion he has for everything. It didn’t matter what you turned to, Norm had an opinion and Norm had a passion.”

Neither of them got elected during their first crack at municipal politics, but eventually voters invested their confidence in both of them and both continued their service to the community.

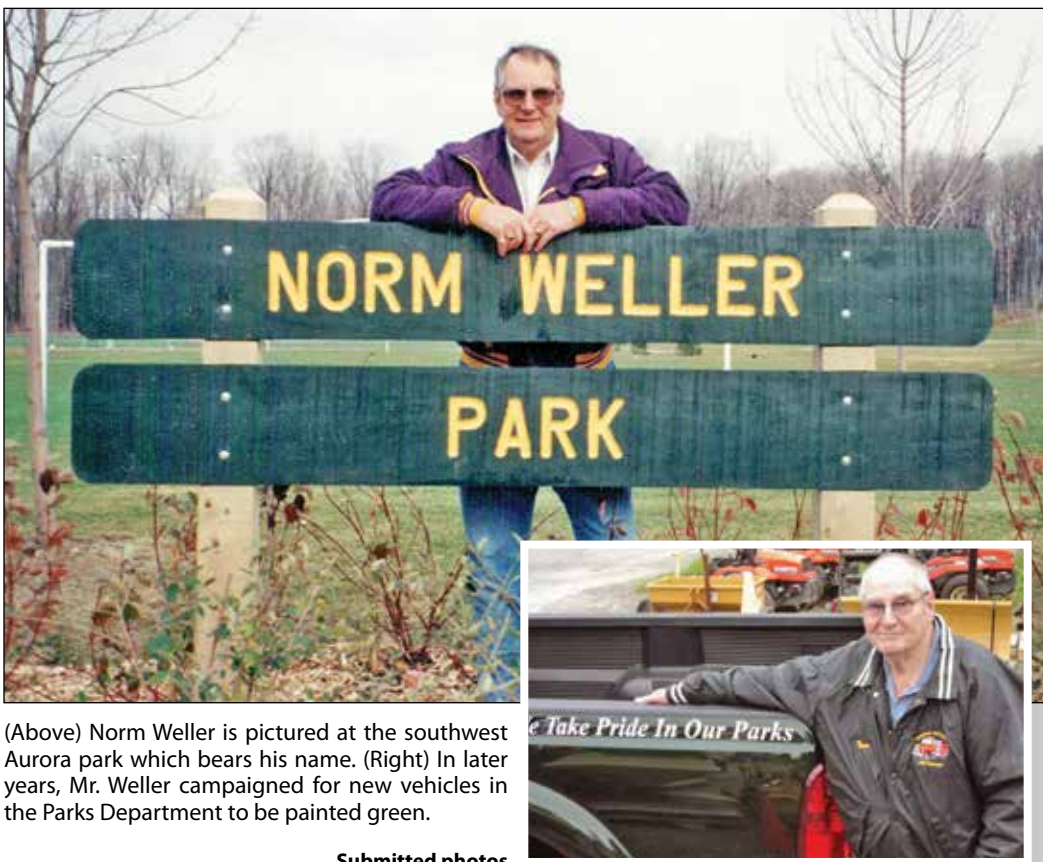
“My experience with Norm has been a great and successful working relationship, full of enthusiasm,” she says. “He had a great relationship with everybody, including landowners and farmers. He was a tremendous help putting the Aurora Home Show together and working with farmers, if he hadn’t been there, there wouldn’t be a Santa Claus Parade because he got all of them to make their flatbeds and equipment available for the Parade. He just put his heart and soul into everything, well beyond any hours of work. There were no hours of work, as far as Norm was concerned. He just worked all the time and just loved the Town.”

This is a sentiment that is shared by former mayor Tim Jones.

“You could always count on Norm for telling it like he thought it was. Whatever he told you, you always knew it was coming from the heart. He didn’t mince words and he said it as he saw it. Norm had his own style, not unlike John West. The two of them were kind of like bulls in a china shop sometimes, but it was in a good way. You knew their sentiment was definitely for the Town.

“Ours are not just thrown-together parks. They are well thought out. He wasn’t elaborate, but [everything he created] was basic and good. We have already benefited and people will tell you Aurora has some of the best parks going.”

Both former mayors agree an integral part of Mr. Weller’s legacy is the hiring of Jim Tree, then aged just 19, who serves as Aurora’s Parks Manager today. He spotted the young man’s potential right out of high school and the latter “learned a hell of a lot from him.”



(Above) Norm Weller is pictured at the southwest Aurora park which bears his name. (Right) In later years, Mr. Weller campaigned for new vehicles in the Parks Department to be painted green.

Submitted photos

“He was a very principle-oriented man,” Mr. Tree recalls. “He worked with very little funds when he started, and that was the pre-development era when there were no development charges and funds were tough to get. He brought the department up from nothing and was very conscious of spending. He was always used to doing more with less and did everything with his heart and soul. He was as grassroots a person as you could ever imagine. He was always in touch with the people who paid the bills.

“That was the best advice he gave me – giving value to taxpayers’ dollars. To do that, he was all about doing work in house and doing a lot of work and managing projects himself, getting deeply involved so he could track costs and minimize waste. That sticks with me to this day.”

Norm Weller is survived by his wife, Shirley, children Clayton, Lynn and Brenda and their spouses, grandchildren Rebecca, Rachel, Lydia, Stacey, Darren and Travis, and great-grandchildren Aaron, James, Natalie, Carter, Hudson and Teighan.

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CELEBRATIONS AT THE MARKET
– Town Park is the place to be on Saturday morning as the community flocks to the Aurora Farmers’ Market. (Left) Market mainstay – and Market Musings columnist – Jan Freedman recently celebrated a milestone birthday at the market, cutting a special cake with co-worker Sally Falk, which was shared with the crowds. (Right) Youngsters got up close and personal with animals at their Family Day celebrations, including a venerable tortoise.

Auroran photos by David Falconer and Brock Weir



Sun Shines on Seniors Day



MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

What a gloriously hot and sunny day we had at the market last Saturday for our annual Seniors’ Day.

Entertainment by the talented group of seniors began quite early in the morning with songs by Cliff Davies and Alex Nugent, followed by the line dancers and then the singing group. I was delighted to see so many people in the Town Park enjoying and supporting the seniors from the Aurora Seniors’ Association.

There was also a group playing Mahjong so interested people (like me) could see how it is played, and some knowledgeable seniors at a table with information about the activities of the Seniors’ Centre. Thank you to all the performers and participants.

Our farmers have now expanded their booths to their full lengths because they have such a large variety of produce available. There is very little that is not now available at the market, except the fall items. We have leafy greens, beets, summer squash, the hearty greens like kale, Ontario corn, broccoli and a great variety of berries. Now is a great time to visit the market because there is so much variety available at this time of year.

The next vendor I’d like you to meet is Katalin Malatinszky, the creator of Enchanted Limited Editions of Ladies Garments, a line of women’s apparel under MK Design. She was born in Europe where she was educated in fashion and custom tailoring. She

continued her education in Canada in interior design.

She is passionate about creating a personal relationship with her clients to connect on a deep level. For a long time she has had a passion for studying and supporting earth causes and concerns for animal and human rights. Her aim was to integrate important aspects of her earth philosophies with her design services. She combines 25 years of experience in fashion and interior design to bring her tailor made products to Southern York Region.

Her studio is in Holland Landing and operates by appointment only. All the garments are individually hand crafted, carefully made with both the customer and the earth in mind. Due to the high demand, she is continuously developing the Enchanted Line of ladies’ garments.

She is proud to provide clothing for all shapes, sizes and tastes. She is dedicated to also provide clothing for plus sized ladies (our goddesses) in apparel that is functional, sensual and fashion forward. She makes inspirational clothing for everyone, regardless of age, body type or taste.

This inclusiveness is part of what makes Enchanted special. Her philosophy is to treat each customer relationship like the valued partnership that it is. When dealing with the Enchanted Line, a customer is not interacting with a faceless corporation but with a soulful, earth

conscious and caring person who listens attentively to a client’s needs to create a vision and final product together.

The Enchanted Line is created for all women, especially plus sized women, who are under-represented in the marketplace. The clothing is meant to express the inner qualities in each woman. Katalin is proud that her garments are locally crafted, practical, easy to care for, cost conscious and made with fabrics inspired by nature. The garments are for every occasion from beach wear, destination wear, work, home, formal evening dresses and even wedding attire. Please visit Katalin’s booth, MK Designs, in the park to see her designs and, perhaps, to work with her on a garment made just for you.

The Farmers’ Market and Artisan Fair’s next Special Event is our Community Corn Roast on August 22. I will tell you what we have planned for that day in my next column, but there will be lots of delicious fresh, locally grown corn for everyone to enjoy.

Before I go, I’d like to thank all the vendors and customers of the market who combined to celebrate my big birthday with me on July 25. It had been a very difficult week for my family and your well wishes, cards and gifts from the market made me feel very cared for indeed. Thank you all so much.

See you at the Market!

Air Waves



INSIDE AURORA
Scott Johnston

“Good morning and welcome to Aurora’s new radio station, CHRA, 101.5 on your FM dial, coming to you live from a small interior room the Town couldn’t find another use for in the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

“While we appreciate the support of the Town, a reminder that its budget only covered the cost of the room itself and a couple of electrical outlets, so if any listeners out there have some spare furniture, lamps, or extension cords they can donate, we’d love to have them.

“Now, on to our programming. Here’s what we have lined up for you today.

“First up we have an interview with one of Aurora’s oldest residents. In fact, he’s lived in Town so long, he can actually remember a time when Aurora’s portion of the annual tax increase was kept below the level of inflation.

“Following that we’ll turn to the political arena, and look at our new Federal and Provincial riding boundaries. We’ll ask a candidate who has chosen to run in the Newmarket-Aurora riding what they have against Aurora residents south of Wellington. Then we’ll check in with a representative running in Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, and see

why they don’t care about townspeople north of Wellington.

“Then at noon we’ll have our regular panel discussion. Today we pose the question; would Canada Post be receiving more complaints about eliminating door-to-door delivery if anyone still received paper-based mail?

“At 2 p.m., join us for ‘Community Corner’, where each day we showcase one the Town’s smaller, lesser known interest groups. Today we speak with the president and lone member of CTRANAC, the Cell Tower in Residential Aurora Neighbourhoods Appreciation Society.

“Later in the day, we’ll look at the annual summer water ban. If having an intake pipe connected directly to the Great Lakes currently does not provide enough water to prevent restrictions in a town of 55,000 people, what are our options? And just what are people using all this water for?

“Because we have a full schedule, we’ll need to reduce our usual number of local traffic reports throughout the day, so just assume you’ll be delayed near the station when the GO trains arrive in the afternoon, and that you’ll be held up pretty much any time at the

intersection of Yonge and Wellington. That’s all you really need to know.

“A reminder that in the event of a power outage, be sure to tune in here for any local emergency updates. Unless, of course, the power outage affects your house, and you’re sitting in the dark without electricity, in which case you can hear all about them when everyone’s power comes back on.

“And finally, for all you Council fanatics out there, we’ll have our usual overnight show, where we read out council meeting minutes from previous decades. Tonight, we bring you the meeting from February 18, 1997.

“I can assure you that it will feel even longer than the 6 hours it actually ran, so not only will this provide insight into our Town’s past, but for those not interested in local politics, it’s guaranteed to cure your insomnia.

“Well, that’s our line-up for today. But before we introduce our first guest, just a reminder that we are a public station, so if you would like to share your views here on Aurora radio, just give us a call. We’d be delighted to welcome you to the studio.

“But please bring your own chair.”

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



SENIOR SCAPE
MARIE LEONE

Travelling News

One of the great things about being part of the Aurora Seniors’ Centre is that not only do they have many things to do, but they also do some great trips.

No, it is not a travel agency, but thanks to the Town of Aurora staff and the volunteer Travel Committee we have places to go. Many members want to travel, but circumstances sometimes make it difficult. Maybe you don’t have a partner, or a travelling buddy, or maybe you just don’t like to drive yourself, or can’t drive at all, but you still want to go!

There is always one trip or another to be considered every month. Maybe just a day trip, a theatre and dinner outing, or even overnight trips and it’s mostly with people you know and in your own age range.

Here are some of the trips that are happening at the Seniors Centre over the next couple of months.

We have two day trips in August: one to Fallsview Casino, and the other to the Niagara Peach Festival. Both are day trips on a deluxe coach and The Peach Festival trip will also include a visit to Magnotta Winery, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Picard Peanuts, and Chocolate F/X.

In September, we go to Casino Rama, and on a Toronto Harbour Cruise and Casa Loma.

The cruise and Casa Loma trip includes lunch at the Hot House Café. After lunch experience the elegance and splendour of the Edwardian era at Toronto’s majestic Casa Loma.

Both trips are day trips via deluxe coach.

Also in September, we are tripping off to Atlantic Canada for 12 days in the fantastic Maritimes. This comprehensive tour takes in all of the major highlights of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia via deluxe coach.

For more information and pricing contact Andrew at 905-727-3123 ext. 2610. Non-members are welcome to join our trips, however there is a price advantage by being a member.

Smoke Alarms

Just as a reminder the Central York Fire Services wants everyone to have properly placed and operating smoke alarm. If you wish to have your smoke alarms/batteries checked free of charge, please contact Central York Fire Services for an appointment at 905-895-9222.

If you are interested in becoming a member or a volunteer of the Aurora Seniors Association, 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.



Members of the Aurora Seniors’ Association entertained the crowds at the Aurora Farmers’ Market this past weekend.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

AURORAN POLL

Now that Aurora has purchased the Mavrinac lands, what do you think the Town should do with it?

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE August 4, 2015	A	B	C
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Complaints over election timing “speaks volumes”, says Menegakis

From page 1

While the NDP and Greens had not yet confirmed their respective candidates in Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill at press time, the Liberal banner is being carried by Leona Alleslev while the Conservatives are represented by Costas Menegakis, who currently serves as MP for the riding of Richmond Hill.

But, while all candidates say they are ready to hit the ground running, some

have voiced concerns about the impacts of an early election call.

“I believe Harper’s decision to have a 78 day election, more than double the typical 37 day period, shows a flagrant disregard for the sacred trust Canadians have placed in him to treat taxpayers’ money with great respect,” says Ms. Alleslev. “Estimates say that this longer election period will cost taxpayers over \$125 million more than the standard 37 day period. At a time

when our economy is in a recession, and the Parliamentary Budget Officer confirmed that we are [on] track to run a \$1 billion deficit this year, it is both unnecessary and unconscionable that he would choose to spend money that our Federal government just doesn’t have in this way.”

Costs of a longer-election period are shared cross the board by candidates looking to unseat their Conservative rivals, including Ms. Kelly, who calls 11-week campaign unnecessary.

“[Some say] this is a better situation for Mr. Harper’s Conservatives to be in because they obviously have a lot more money to spend than anyone else,” she says. “If I felt like it was a decision made for everyone’s best interests, I would probably say this is a good idea, but I don’t think it really was made for everyone’s best interests. It does cost the taxpayer an incredible amount of money. I am not in agreement with them calling it early but, having said that, it will engage people from an earlier point of time. You roll with the punches.”

Added Mr. Peterson: “Mr. Harper thinks it will be an advantage to his party. Every decision he makes seems to be made through that prism. Unfortunately, it is going to cost Canadian taxpayers \$100 million to have an early election, which is the unfortunate part of it. I also think Mr. Harper is somewhat concerned about third-party advertising and we’ve started to see some of those ads run in the later part of July. By calling an early election those aren’t allowed to run anymore. Third parties are limited to what they can spend, so I think that was the biggest driving force.”

Ms. Long, on the other hand, has a slightly different point of view. While she says she shares the belief the Conservatives “having the biggest chest of money” was a factor, there are some plusses

“They have the largest donor base and by effectively doubling what is allowed

to be used during the election gives them an advantage and takes us much closer to the U.S. style politics, which they have been modelling all along,” she says. “Because of the fixed date election, people have been campaigning for months anyway, so it actually kind of makes sense because at least we’re now under election campaign financing rules and before it was all loopy-goopy.”

Local Conservative candidates, however, say the early election call levels the playing field considerably for all candidates.

“It is the prerogative of the Prime Minister to call the election,” says Ms. Brown. “We have known since June 2011 there was going to be an election on October 19, 2015. So, all of us who were planning to run again, the parties have had equal time to prepare and get messages out to voters. This early call focuses people a little bit more and gives Canadians the opportunity to take a look at the clear choice they have in front of them.”

Mr. Menegakis agrees: “Calling the election gives us the opportunity, of course, to level the playing field and that way all parties are working under the same rules and regulations. I think it is important with the extra time we have left to get the message out of what the party stands for and what we, as candidates, have to offer to our constituencies.

“[Opposition parties] have the exact same opportunities to spend money, to put ads out, and the field is level for everyone. Everyone has the exact same opportunities to do everything. It doesn’t give one party an advantage over another. If our party happens to be better organized, better funded and more ready, that speaks to their parties and some of the inadequacies in their administrations. By pointing out they feel they are at a disadvantage by playing on a level playing field speaks volumes.”



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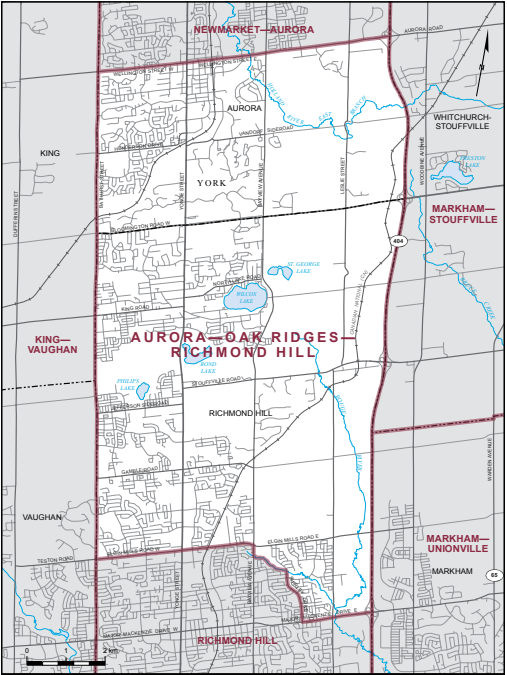
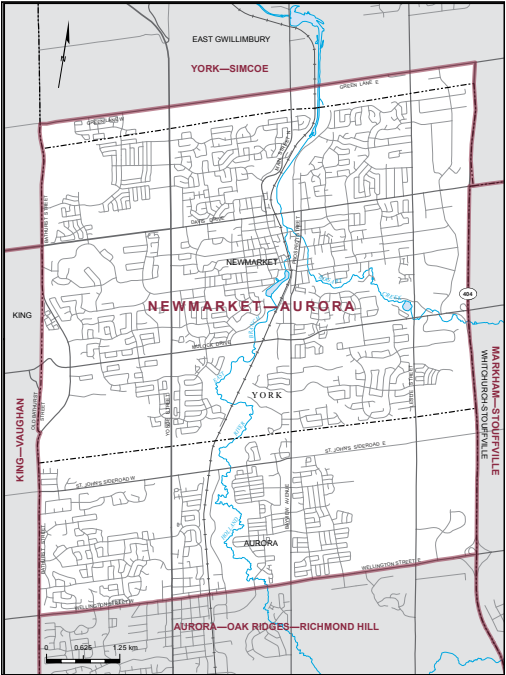
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Changing face of Aurora’s electoral boundaries

This election signals the beginning of an Aurora split as far as Federal representation is concerned. This time around, residents of Aurora living north of Wellington Street will remain voters in the re-configured existing riding of Newmarket-Aurora, while residents living on the south side of Wellington will vote in the newly-created riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

The changes were approved last year by the Federal

Boundary Commission, which redrew the electoral map to account for population growth across the country.

Earlier this year, the Province of Ontario announced they too will redraw the map to conform with Federal ridings, meaning Aurora will also be served by two MPPs following the next Provincial election expected in 2018.

-Brock Weir

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Welcome Table has big plans for the future – and you can help

From page 1

but the first time I came I was a blown away by the numbers,” she says. “It is different every week and never boring.”

Under Ms. Cruickshank’s leadership, there are certainly no boring times ahead as she looks to expand the reach of Welcome Table. Recently, Ms. Cruickshank became the first Executive Director of Welcome Table’s sister charity, Welcoming Arms, an outreach program bringing together six local churches under one roof to provide help, assistance, and guidance to struggling individuals and families.

Over the next few years, Ms. Cruickshank would like to see the two charities come under the same umbrella to have a much wider impact on the community.

“I want to expand the programming so [Welcome Table] is not just feeding people but together we can teach them how to cook, teach people how to shop properly on a limited budget and then, coming into our kitchens, learning how to cook and take food away with them.”

In her new position, she says she has found there is “a lot” of confusion between The Welcome Table, Welcome Arms, and the very specific mandates each group follows. Coming together under a separate entity and separate identity independent of the host churches could open up many more funding opportunities as an incorporated, charitable organization.

The community at large recently had an opportunity to get a flavour of this new vision at “Food For The Soul,” an event hosted by Welcome Table at Trinity, inviting members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce to come in and sample their weekly meals.

Prepared in their kitchens by chefs from Magna International, in conjunction with a team of energetic volunteers who turn out each week, guests were treated to Chicken Cordon Bleu, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. Organizers were not putting their best foot forward for local business leaders – this was the kind of meal regular Welcome Table patrons can expect on the average week – hot and nourishing.

The “Food for the Soul” event was, in part, the brainchild of

Mary Georgiopolous, former owner of Jonathan’s Restaurant. Ms. Georgiopolous became very familiar with the work of Welcome Table through the restaurant and their annual Christmas Dinners for needy families.

At the time, she says she didn’t realise there was such a need at the community and was surprised by the uptake, but once she became involved there was no turning back.

“Throughout that time we had the privilege of meeting a lot of great people through our involvement,” she says. “[Food for the Soul] encompasses the fact this is more about lifting people’s spirits. You could be financially down-and-out, you could be lonely, you could be looking for conversation or just to be around people. It is about bringing people together no matter what the need is. It is about nourishing the soul. Just like other people I have introduced to Welcome Table, I was also surprised at the need we have in our community and it tugs at my heartstrings. I think it is a good way to give back to the community that really gave so much to myself and my family. I think it sets a good example for my family, and it sets a good example for my children, but honestly, it is just a pleasure to work with people and constantly meeting new people that are likeminded.”

Welcome Table was founded in 2003. At their first dinner, chefs and volunteers served approximately seven people, but that number has steadily increased. Five years ago, the average meal served under 100, but this year they regularly serve up to 120 – the capacity of Binions Hall. It is not unusual, says Ms. Cruickshank, to ask some people who turn up for the weekly meals to leave with takeout because there is just no room for them.

Despite this high demand, Ms. Cruickshank says Welcome Table remains Aurora’s “best kept secret.” Food is always an immediate need for the group and donations of grocery gift cards and cash are ideal. Volunteer chefs are also being welcomed with open arms and anyone interested in learning how to cook for large amounts of people are ideal candidates. For more information on how to contribute to Welcome Table, email thewelcometable764@gmail.com.



Volunteers prepare a meal at Trinity Anglican Church at a recent dinner, dubbed “Food for the Soul”, which opened Welcome Table’s doors to members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of their mission and mandate.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Briefly

SIMPLE STEPS CAN REDUCE WEST NILE RISK
York Region’s Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Karim Kurji, is urging residents to follow a few simple steps to reduce the incidence of West Nile virus after two mosquito pools in Markham and Newmarket tested positive for the virus. “Residents can take simple steps to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus and exposure to mosquitoes,” said Dr. Kurji. “Cover up when heading outside, especially during dusk and dawn, and eliminate standing water around your property to reduce mosquito breeding.” Standing water can often be found in bird baths, flower pots, swimming pool covers, clogged gutters and eavestroughs. Additional steps include making sure your window screens are in good repair, wearing protective clothing outdoors, including long-sleeve shirts and socks, wearing lighter colours, and using insect repellent.

COMMUNITY LEGAL AID CLINIC RECEIVES PROVINCIAL BOOST
Legal Aid Ontario has provided a nearly \$400,000 boost to the Community Legal Aid clinic of York Region. The York Region Clinic serves the largest low income population base in Ontario. Even with the just announced new funding, York Region’s nearly 200,000 low income residents will still only be able to access less than half of the range of legal services from their community legal clinic compared to the average Ontarian.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES
On September 9 of this year, Queen Elizabeth II is expected to overtake Queen Victoria’s record as our longest reigning monarch since confederation. To aid in an upcoming community project to mark the occasion, we are collecting your memories of the Head of State. If you have had any royal encounters, remember where you were when the Queen ascended the throne following the death of George VI, have special memories of watching the Coronation, or any other thoughts to share, please email brock@auroran.com.

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Community garden “template” proposed for Aurora

By Brock Weir

Projects to provide a place for people to meet their neighbours, get fresh air and exercise, and feel a sense of accomplishment can only be a plus – but if it can also provide a place for people to grow their own food, so much the better, according to advocates proposing a new

community garden in Aurora. Aurora’s Environmental Advisory Committee is calling on Council this month to explore the costs and feasibility of ploughing under a portion of McMahon Park to create a new community garden, and begin a public consultation process within the surrounding community. Aurora currently has one community

garden near the foot of Industrial Parkway South, run in conjunction with the York Region Food Network. According to advocates, McMahon Park, located just northeast of Yonge and Wellington, has been targeted to develop a second location – one which could serve as a template for community gardens in other local parks down the road – through discussions with local residents. Such gardens, they say, are “important tools towards reducing our carbon footprint by allowing those who choose to live in urban areas the opportunity to spend time working with nature by growing food and being able to walk or cycle to the garden.”

In the plan presented to the Committee (EAC), the McMahon Garden would start off with approximately 12 shared garden plots, and could include programs demonstrating gardening techniques and irrigation, with some services provided to members for a fee.

The existing community garden has a hefty waiting list, they argued, and uptake in a new garden – should one be permitted for McMahon Park – would be swift.

“It will be designed to meet the increasing need for garden space and offer the neighbourhood a place for community members to gather; a sustainable food source, gardening space, mentoring and educational opportunities, prospect of community partnerships, joint stewardship of public spaces, while contributing to healthy and active lifestyles,” say advocates. “McMahon Park is a large public space with areas of high sun exposure and acceptable soil. The project also intends to maintain the integrity of this public space by respecting the current layout of the land and developing the community garden in an underutilized portion of the park, where it will not disrupt current park users.”

McMahon Park is currently used predominantly by the Aurora Community Tennis Club.

The proposal was brought to EAC by local naturalist Klaus Wehrenberg and Catherine Cook, a former administrator for the existing community garden.

“The community garden we do have

is quite a bit out of the way,” said Mr. Wehrenberg. “I am not a member of the Aurora garden partly because it was already filled up. There must be a certain demand that is not being filled because many people who might want to become a member put their name on the list. If we have community gardens in more parks we would have gardens you would be able to walk and cycle to and be able to meet your neighbours. That is the big thing – getting families and kids to be a part of it.

“This is now at the stage where we need community input. This first park would establish a prototype. If you wanted to have more parks and community gardens right off the back, you would have to have some people in that area who are interested in this who are going to be helpful in establishing it.”

As the one-time coordinator of the York Region Food Network for nine years, Ms. Cook said waiting lists of between 10 and 15 families looking for a chance to dig into the dirt and grow their own food is not unusual.

“Just word of this getting out into our neighbourhood, these people on those waiting lists...it would be word of mouth that would get the people to our new community garden,” said Ms. Cook.

Should Council sign off on investigating the costs of turning a segment of McMahon Park into a community garden at this month’s Council meeting slated for August 11, Mr. Wehrenberg and Ms. Cook say they hope public open houses on the subject will soon be in the works and the garden in place by the spring of 2016.

An inevitability, they said, was initial interest might come from neighbourhoods surrounding the park, but it would be a draw for others living elsewhere as well. If it comes to pass this ultimately turns out to be a template for other community gardens in several other parks, “this would sort itself out naturally,” said Mr. Wehrenberg.

HAVE YOUR SAY – Should Aurora set aside space in larger area parks to create community gardens? Send your thoughts to letters@auroran.com.

Wristband policy in place for Ribfest

From page 1

appearances and coliseum concert tours.

The Spoons are a Canadian new wave synthpop formed in 1979 in Burlington. They recorded several Canadian chart hits between 1982 and 1989, and in 1983 they won Group of the Year at the U-Know awards. Early in the band’s career, they opened for The Police, Joan Jett and toured with Culture Club.

“Despite Chilliwack having 12 albums and 19 platinum awards, they are, in my opinion, a timeless classic,” says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. “All ages are still huge fans of them. In fact, booking them was a challenge because of how much they are currently in demand. I think this is going to be a really good experience, especially for the residents of Aurora.

“The Spoons actually launched their 30th anniversary tour this year. With a lot of people I was speaking to in testing

out audience appeal, The Spoons played a lot of high schools in Aurora many years ago and so I am really hoping to be able to provide a treat to those who saw them and give them a nostalgic feel. I am pretty confident The Spoons are going to impress the community. Their performance level right now is extremely strong, extremely well-scripted. I think if you’re not a Spoons fan, you will be by the end of the concert.”

Chilliwack will perform the evening of Friday, September 11, and The Spoons will perform the following evening at 9 p.m. After 8 p.m. on the Friday and Saturday Ribfest is only open to those 18 years of age and older who have purchased – and are wearing – a valid wristband.

Wristbands cost \$5 each and are sold at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, as well as on-site at Machell Park.



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Aurora's "Diefenbunker" featured in Doors Open Aurora

Featured in Doors Open Aurora is one of the most interesting of the sites of the tour, known as the Aurora Readiness Centre or Aurora's "Diefenbunker".

Outwardly, its appearance is of a 19th century brick farmhouse. The only indicator that something different lies within is the concrete upper section of an exit shaft in the side garden. It leads below to a remarkable time capsule of Canada's response to the threat of nuclear war in the early 1960s.

Popularly known as "Aurora's Diefenbunker", the site was the Metropolitan Toronto Emergency Preparedness Centre and Police Readiness Centre, which was intended to be used at a time of National Crisis.

The late 1950s and early 1960s was the height of the Cold War. With the bombing of the Second World War political tensions and the threat of a nuclear attack seemed very real. Following the successful implementation of an underground shelter by the British government, the Canadian government built an underground shelter at Carp, near Ottawa in 1959, to house the Prime Minister and up-to 300 top officials of the Federal government and the military for 30 days in the event of a nuclear war.

The Ontario Provincial Government of the day created a similar structure located at Camp Borden.

In 1962, the Metro Toronto government decided to create a nuclear control centre just north of Toronto, in Aurora, at the time of the the Cuban Missile Crisis. Aurora was chosen primarily for its location at a safe distance from the projected epicentre of any nuclear bomb in Toronto as well as its proximity above the Oak Ridges Moraine.

One theory is that perhaps the blast from a nuclear attack on Toronto would be deflected away from Aurora by the natural feature, which would spare the community from the worst effects of

atomic weapons.

Another primary reason for selection of this particular location was that the main evacuation area for Toronto residents was also in the north, and a primary route to the north was Yonge Street. Aurora, with Yonge Street running through the centre of Town, was perfectly situated to be the coordination centre for any such evacuation effort.

A site was purchased for \$31,000 at the north end of Old Yonge Street containing a century old farmhouse. The vendor incidentally was Jack Caplan, father-in-law of Elinor Caplan (MP and MPP) and grandfather of David Caplan (MPP).

Unlike those at Carp and Borden, the Metro Toronto Shelter was not intended to house people for long periods; it was to serve as a Control Centre where Metro politicians and emergency services staff would gather to coordinate the municipal response to the crisis. It was understood that accommodation for the officials would be provided at nearby St. Andrew's College.

In an early example of Adaptive Reuse, the control Centre complete with concrete bomb shelter was built beneath the existing 100-year old farmhouse and extending under the side garden. The focal point was the operations room (10.6 x 18.3 metres in area), which was installed with illuminated maps and charts documenting the status of the crisis. Alongside the huge map of the Toronto area, hand drawn by Capt. Letson, Sgt. Grigsby and Sgt. Freeland, in January 1962, are ominous charts where lists of "Casualties - Dead, Rescuable and Wounded" were to be recorded for each sector of the region. Another chart identifies Radiation data and estimated "dose rates."

Elsewhere in the shelter is the telephone call centre from which commands would be sent out to those still alive in the city, if indeed there still was a city to control.



There is an Emergency Water Supply, and numerous other charts documenting equipment, police and fire station, food, and water supplies to be used in bringing order back to a devastated Toronto. Evidence found near the water supply area, suggests that Metropolitan Toronto secured American assistance and expertise when constructing the shelter. Scratched into wet concrete are the names "G. Van Beek B. Hilary, USMC, Jan 10, 1963."

Other than use as a training centre by the Toronto Emergency Task force and a secure Police Readiness centre, the site was fortunately never used for its primary intended purpose.

By 1977 as cold-war tensions eased and the power of modern day weapons made the shelter increasingly obsolete, Metro-politicians began to wonder why they were still paying \$25,000 to maintain the Aurora property and

Continued on page 19

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—THE AURORAN—Arts & Culture

Blues and Cruise to help breathe new life into old musical friends

By Brock Weir

Giving young and emerging musicians a venue and an all-important audience has been a long-time mandate of the Aurora Winter Blues Festival, but this summer organizers are focusing on being with these young musicians from the ground floor.

As the Aurora Winter Blues Festival (AWBF) takes on the summer with this September’s inaugural Blues and Cruise, the Festival is joining forces with the Optimist Club of Aurora and The Arts music store in collecting used musical instruments for local students who can only dream of holding a musical instrument of their own.

“A lot of music programs don’t exist in grade schools anymore,” says Jamie Macdonald, co-founder of the AWBF. “In high school, students basically have to bring their own musical instruments if they want to participate in the band programs and that was a bit of an eye-opener for us. Our son was heavily involved in the music program at Aurora High School and we started doing various fundraisers to help offset the cost not only of the trips, but to

purchase some of the instruments as well. They are fairly expensive and through The Arts and other music shops, they have rentals, but anyone who has a financial hardship, it is a tough decision for a family to make.” Enter the Optimists.

This year’s Blues and Cruise will include a donation drive where any and all attendees will be able to drop off their old musical instruments, regardless of condition, to pay it forward. Kimberley Kerr, president of the Aurora Optimists, contacted the AWBF and said they wanted to put an additional focus on music complimenting their existing youth programs.

The seeds were planted this past winter and AWBF organizers saw a perfect fit.

“We have had a long-standing relationship with Patty Keele, owner of The Arts, and she has wanted to make greater inroads to local schools as well,” says Mr. Macdonald. “It is a joint collaboration bringing in Patty and The Arts, and Kimberley Kerr. Jointly, we’re going to be putting more focus on how we can help local schools and one effort is our drive here. We can put



Friends and supporters of the Blues and Cruise turned out at Town Park’s Bandshell for the event’s official launch. From left, Katelyn Dupuis of Highland, Blues Fest supporter Stewart Maclaren, Councillor John Abel, festival supporter Greg Smith, Councillor Tom Mrakas, and Highland’s Jennifer Copley.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

these musical instruments back into schools. To augment our existing Youth in Music programs with instruments is great.

“The Arts does repairs and we’re looking at instruments that might need some light refurbishing that Patty would help out with as well.”

Blues and Cruise takes over Aurora’s Town Park on September 2. Headlining the event will be award-winning blues guitarist Jack de Keyzer. The Cruise will be handled by the Aurora Car Club, who will be filling the park’s ball diamond with their collective fleet of classic cars.

“We are extremely excited about this,” said Mr. Macdonald. “Jack is probably one of the foremost award-winning blues artists in Canada and just a real road warrior. He does about 200+ gigs a year and we’re quite excited to have him come in. Our mandate is to showcase local youth bands, so we have Graham Young leading us in on that night and during the intermission The Arts will have a younger band coming in, so we’re quite excited about that as well.

“There is a little bit of everything for everybody that night.”

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

The Aurora Historical Society hosts their Closing Ceremonies and A Taste of Wimbledon today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy traditional Wimbledon-style refreshments (think strawberries and cream, Pimm’s, and sandwiches). Closing ceremonies will be held at 3:30pm.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the free theatrical show Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. Based on the beloved book by Judith Viorst, this family-friendly play follows Alexander through his terrible day – complete with singing, dancing and tons of audience interaction! Presented by To Be Determined Theatre Co. Two performances: 11:15 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each performance lasts approximately 45 minutes, with an audience talk back after the show. Suitable for ages 0 and up! A free family event, generously sponsored by Meridian Aurora. Please pick up your free tickets in person in advance; last year the show sold out! Sorry, no phone orders. For information visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.

Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series continues tonight with Tom Leadbeater: Spirit of Nova Scotia. A Canadian tenor from the musically rich island of Cape Breton, Leadbeater and his Celtic band will fill our summer’s eve with beautiful songs and the spirit of Nova Scotia. 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 10th 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.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, celebrates Doors Open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Drop by to enjoy live painting demonstrations by the group Local Colour Aurora, a Postcards of Old Aurora heritage display by Bob McRoberts, live music by local pianists in Brevik Hall, and a community art project that invites your participation! Free entry – all welcome. For info, call 905 713-1818, or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series continues tonight with the Dixie Chicklets. This tribute to the Dixie Chicks, the highest-selling female group

in any genre, will be a night about Wide Open Spaces and their other great hits. 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.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

The Town of Aurora’s Movies in the Park celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Tonight, enjoy a classic, The Mighty Ducks, under the stars at Town Park (49 Wells Street). Arrive early to enjoy the pre-movie surprises! All movies begin at dusk.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Just Fears Art Performance as part of the Passage Between Two Worlds Gallery Exhibition. This interactive performance will be the reimagining of the public’s fears collected from the start of the exhibition. 1 p.m.; all welcome. For information, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.

Aurora’s Concerts in the Park series concludes tonight with Absolute Journey – a fun night of rock and pop by one of the world’s best-selling bands: Journey. Don’t Stop Believin’ we’re going to have a great party dancing to this band’s greatest hits. 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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

The Town of Aurora’s Movies in the Park celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Tonight, enjoy Frozen under the stars at Hickson Park (155 Conover Avenue). Arrive early to enjoy the pre-movie surprises! All movies begin at dusk.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

The Town of Aurora’s Movies in the Park’s 10th Anniversary Season concludes this evening. Tonight, enjoy The Lego Movie under the stars at Norm Weller Park (250 McClellan Way). Arrive early to enjoy the pre-movie surprises! All movies begin at dusk.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Join the Aurora Seniors’ Association to celebrate their 10th anniversary at the Aurora Seniors’ Centre. See how far we’ve come! 1 – 4 p.m. 90 John West Way. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 905-726-4767.

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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Education program could address swimming pool discharge

By Brock Weir

Despite stormy weather, many Aurorans spent this past Civic Holiday weekend basking in the sun around the pool – but what happens when the pool has to be cleaned? That is a question the Town might ask you to give serious consideration.

This month, Council will consider a recommendation from Aurora’s Environmental Advisory Committee calling on a public education campaign and strategy to “instruct” residents on the proper discharge of water from private swimming pools and hot tubs.

In their recommendations, the committee (EAC) underscored the importance of getting this education campaign up and running well before the fall, ahead of local pool owners preparing to close their pools for the winter season.

The issue of pool discharge, and its potential impacts on the environment, is an issue which was brought to the fore by local environmentalist Peter Piersol, a former member of EAC, who said he began to question the impacts on the local watershed whiling away a summer evening a few years ago in a friend’s back yard.

Their property, he said, backed onto a creek, and all of a sudden significant noise rose nearby and from the flow in the creek it was clear a neighbour was discharging water into the creek.

From that point, Mr. Piersol set out to determine just how many pools in Aurora backed onto creeks, waterbodies and the Oak Ridges

Moraine.

“We could see the adverse impacts,” he said. “Aurora is on the Oak Ridges Moraine and also at the headwaters of the Lake Simcoe Watershed. Here are creeks that are very important and flowing into very important watersheds. [Through Google Earth] I found 140 pools backing onto creeks and streams. There are many that don’t. There is an issue here.”

Compounding that issue is other municipalities such as Toronto, Brantford and Mississauga have certain guidelines on the books to govern the issue of pool maintenance and the environment, but Aurora falls short. Getting Aurora up to par with the others would require a bylaw – either new, or a revision of an existing bylaw – which would then be incorporated into the Town’s stormwater management plan.

“We need initiatives so we can protect our creeks, rivers and the moraine,” he concluded.

Changing the stormwater management plan could be a lengthy process, but committee members agreed education could happen “almost immediately.”

“Without that, we won’t get anywhere,” said member Melville James. “Guidelines will just get tossed away and little handouts just get tossed away. We have to look at this from a public awareness approach.”

While the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority has mechanisms in place to monitor the flow into local waterways, the Town

would see the value in an education program, said Christina Nagy-Oh, Program Manager for Environmental Initiatives at Town Hall.

“I am all for public education because I think when you use common sense you can actually prevent a lot of damage and I think it is actually a lot easier and more effective than having bylaw officers go out and neighbours snitching on neighbours and that kind of negativity,” she said, responding to concerns voiced by committee member Nancee Webb, who said she would like to see fines for people who break rules surrounding pool discharge.

“I think there are better ways. I think everyone should consider the ramifications of all that. As for the water quality, both solid and liquid chlorine added to pool water turns into gaseous vapour and evaporates into the air. It will dissipate from the stormwater sewer before it goes into the creek.”

While an education component on discharge from pools and hot tubs into the local environment, including storm sewers, could be the order of the day with Council’s approval, other issues should also be on the radar, cautioned Ms. Nagy-Oh. These include coating and sealing of driveways which she said was a “massive issue” and significant source for hydrocarbons getting into run-off water.

“We have a lot of issues we need to contend with and I want to make sure that if we’re putting effort into this we’re also doing other important

things [to target] other major pollutants.”



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Future of Aurora’s Canada Post bylaw remains “elephant in room”

By Brock Weir

Earlier this year, Aurora followed in the footsteps of the City of Hamilton in trying to regulate where Canada Post places new community mailboxes as they phase out door-to-door mail delivery service.

While Hamilton’s bylaw was ultimately thrown out by a judge after Canada Post took the municipality to the Federal Courts, Aurora’s bylaw still remains on the books.

The bylaw in question, which was passed by Council this past spring on a 7 – 2 vote, was first floated by Councillor Tom Mrakas. Its intent was to require Canada Post to apply for permits with the municipality in the same way other companies like Rogers and Bell do on the placement of their street hardware.

Its effectiveness and its future, however, were called into question when representatives from Canada Post appeared before Council last month to answer community concerns over mail services and their community mailbox installation plans.

They said they brought forward mailbox agreements hammered out at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to Aurora’s attention when they found out the agreement had not already been shared with the local municipality and also as the wheels began to advance Aurora’s own bylaw. They said they hoped the agreement might facilitate “an agreement going forward without going forward with that bylaw.”

“As you can appreciate, every municipality in Canada [is moving towards the phasing-out of] door-

to-door delivery,” said Canada Post representative Andrew Walasek. “Having to work with individual bylaws really isn’t feasible. That is why we do have this umbrella agreement we use. Unfortunately, this didn’t get into the hands of the proper people back when this process started.”

Councillor Mrakas, on the other hand, highlighted the agreement in question acknowledges the municipality has jurisdiction of the roadways and rights of way impacted by the placement of these boxes and questioned why the issue of applying for a permit for their placement isn’t feasible.

“It comes down to an issue where this is being [rolled out] across the country over the next five years,” said Mr. Walasek. “I can certainly appreciate municipal jurisdiction and that is why we try to speak with municipalities. We try to work with municipalities to find the best sites that are possible. We have had a lot of success across the country working in places that have already been converted and our hope certainly today is we will have that in Aurora as well.

Despite the delegation, Councillor Mrakas said he remained glad Aurora enacted its own bylaw because, in its absence, the “meaningful consultation” now underway would not have been happening. For Councillor Michael Thompson, however, whether or not Canada Post intended to “adhere” to Aurora’s bylaw remained “the elephant in the room”.

“This is a discussion we will certainly have to follow up,” said Mr. Walasek. “Perhaps this forum isn’t the ideal one to have it at the moment,

but there will certainly need to be discussions with the municipality.”

Added Councillor Thompson: “Certainly from our perspective, that would ensure that there is meaningful consultation because it provides us with that meaningful opportunity as opposed to some of the discussions earlier where the driver was meeting deadlines.”

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James Richmond, pictured centre behind the bench, is leaving the Tigers for the OHL in Mississauga.
Auroran file photo by Jeff Doner

Tigers' Richmond makes move to the OHL

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Tigers' bench boss has been called up to the junior big leagues. James Richmond, affectionately known as "JR" in hockey circles, will be joining the OHL's Mississauga Steelheads' staff for the 2015-16 season, taking the position as assistant coach.

"It's a wonderful opportunity," said Richmond. "It's a team with a lot of promise."

With training camp set to start in just over a month, Richmond was one of three new additions to the Steelheads' staff, along with Jan Egert as assistant general manager and Ryan Daniels as video coach.

JR leaves behind him an extremely successful tenure as head coach in Aurora, twice named OJHL Coach of the Year in 2013 and 2014. Although the Tigers bowed out of the playoffs unexpectedly early last season, Richmond led them to first-place in regular season standings with players taking home a handful of hardware. Eric Williams was named the recipient of the Top Defenceman award while

Cameron Morrison earned the award for top rookie.

Richmond joined the Tigers in 2010, improving their season record each year and bringing the team to the third-ranked position in minor junior in the country. He will continue to be a member of the player development staff of the NHL's Los Angeles Kings.

"I've been given the chance to work for some great clubs," he said. "My time in Aurora was some of the best years I've had."

Although failing to take home a Buckland Cup during his tenure, the Aurora Tigers went to the OJHL finals two years ago when they lost to the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots in six games.

"It's a great team with a great future," said Richmond, who turned the team from a sub-.500 season to a championship contender in his first year.

Mississauga will be looking to put their newest coach to use immediately, as the Steelheads, having only made the transition from the St. Michael's Majors three years ago, have a long road to success still ahead. They finished the 2014-15 season with a record of 25-40-3, missing the playoffs for the second straight year.

"It's a young team with a lot of potential," said Richmond, a Richmond Hill native. "The staff is excellent, and they've got a lot of good young guys... I'm excited about the opportunity."

The Steelheads are set to open the OHL season against the Ottawa 67's at the Hershey Centre on Sept. 25.

The Tigers, meanwhile, have recently named Mark Joslin as Richmond's replacement at the head coach and assistant general manager positions. Joslin was most recently the head coach of the OJHL's North York Rangers, who fell in the first round of playoffs last season. It's his second stint with the Tigers, with whom he won the RBC Cup in 2007 serving as an assistant coach.

"A Richmond Hill resident for 51 years, past OJHL experience includes winning the Dudley Hewitt Championship with the Aurora Tigers in 2007," said Tigers Manager Barry Quinn in a statement. "Mark has also coached in Pickering, Stouffville, and the Ranger. In addition to his coaching experience, Mark is a skills development specialist working with numerous players at all levels of the game including Anthony Peluso (Winnipeg Jets), Chris Tierney (San Jose Sharks), Connor McDavid (Erie Otters) and Derek Joslin (Carolina Hurricanes)."

With 14 players returning to the active roster for the 2015-16 season, Tigers main camp is set to open next week.



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Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2015/2016 REGISTRATION

In office registration: Wednesday, August 5, 12, 19, 26, September 2, 9, 2015 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)
AMHA Office at ACC1 (Yonge and Aurora Heights Drive)

REGISTRATION fees for the 2015/2016 season are:

\$560.00	Players born 1995 through 2009*
\$100.00	Late fee effective July 1, 2015* (for returning players)
\$ 60.00	Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

***First time registrants in Tyke born in 2008 and 2009 must register in person and submit a copy of a birth certificate and proof of residency. It is recommended that 2009 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.**

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.

***Late fees do not apply to new registrants.**

Refunds (less \$25 administration fee) will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2015.



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The U18 Championship Barbarians (blue, pictured) fell to North Halton 19 - 15 on Thursday at St. Max. The Premiership squad defeated Brampton later in the evening.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Barbarians U18 squads split double-header

By Jake Courtepatte

The Under-18 Aurora Barbarians Premier team brought their record above the .500 level with a win over Brampton at home on Thursday, while the ‘B’ squad failed to rally against North Halton.

Shawn Hamid put up two tries in the winning contest, while Anthony Vella and George Caccamo put up singles in a 26 – 0 blowout. Alex Railton had three conversions.

The team’s updated 3 – 2 record is a welcome sight after starting the season off with two straight losses.

“We’ve really picked up our game,” said Sandy Townsend, head coach of the Barbarians. “We had a fairly new team to start the year, so it’s nice to see them come together and learn to work together.”

With much of the team graduating last season and the season prior, a good portion of this year’s U18 squad is made up of those graduated from the U16 program.

“It’s nice to see those kids stay with us,” said Townsend. “It shows the quality of the program.”

The double-header took place at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High

School on Thursday. It was the second time this season that the Barbs have laid a beating on Brampton, having won their first match of the season mid-July with a 41 – 5 victory over the Beavers, which Townsend credits as their “turning point”.

“We’ve got their number, it seems. We put up a lot of points against Brampton, and those kind of wins can do a lot for a team’s confidence. It’s just something we’ve got to carry into the next game.”

In the early game on Thursday, the ‘B’ Barbarians put on the jets late but a weak first half killed their chances. North Halton used their speed and acceleration to jump ahead in the first half, while Aurora couldn’t convert in time from the goal line before the half ended. Colton McDonald had two tries for the Barbs in a 19 – 15 loss.

“Both of our teams have a lot of potential,” said Townsend. “They’re a dedicated group and exciting to watch.”

They fall to 2 – 3 on the season. The U18 boys are at home again this Thursday against the Oakville Crusaders, 7:30 and 8:45p.m. at St. Max. The Crusaders are the only undefeated team in the Premiership division.

For more information on the Aurora Barbarians club, visit www.aurorabarbarians.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Molten rocks

7. More (Spanish)

10. Artists’ workrooms

12. Radiant light around an object

13. More threadbare

14. Moses’ elder brother

15. Become aware of

16. Exclamation of relief

17. Swiss river

18. Mimics

19. Colored fabric

21. A bunch of bills

22. Despised

27. “Today’s” Roker

28. “Twilight Zone” host
33. Three-toed sloth

34. Actor

36. Lawyer’s organization

37. Maldives capital

38. In bed

39. Wedgelike metal fastener

40. Winglike structures

41. Mesoamerican resin

44. Glasses

45. Green

48. Large South American burrowing rodent

49. Shoulder blades

50. Noah’s boat

51. A female ogre

CLUES DOWN

1. Unkind

2. Vestments

3. A derisive remark

4. Japanese apricot

5. They __

6. Soviet Socialists Republics

7. Arad river

8. Lined up one beside another

9. Diego, Francisco or Anselmo

10. One who analyzes metals

11. To that place

12. Expressed pleasure

14. Fills with horror

17. Find a sum

18. Cognizant

20. Female making debut in society

23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. A group of three

25. And, Latin

26. Fall back time

29. What was that?

30. Inches per minute (abbr.)

31. American/Canadian falls

32. North Palestine region

35. Bird beak

36. Manila hemp

38. Smart

40. Three-banded armadillo

41. Short cloak

42. Scops owl genus

43. 100 = 1 afghani

44. A health resort

45. Equal, prefix

46. Microgram

47. Make imperfect

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18 year old Cadet Chief Warrant Officer Regina Madarello from 2799 Queen's York Rangers Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Aurora had an amazing and well deserved opportunity to represent Canada this summer while training in Australia. She was presented the Ambassador's Award by Lieutenant-Colonel R. Evans, Commanding Officer of Regional Cadet Unit (Central). Army Cadet Exchange, Australia, is an advanced training course offered to senior cadets participating in the Canadian Cadet Program who have displayed dedication, knowledge, and perseverance at their local cadet unit and previous summer training courses. Mandarello has been in cadets for 6 years, she joined for the opportunity to learn how to shoot, and since then she has traveled, done regional expeditions, and had various leadership opportunities. She has won top cadet at her home corps, as well as esprit de corps. She will be going into second year college at Seneca College. In her free time she enjoys weight lifting and playing basketball.

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Cancer survivor walking through Aurora for Gilda’s Club

By Jake Courtepatte

Ruth Garrett walks for those that are faced with the same difficult path she traversed in 2013.

In September of that year, she was given the news that she had a stage 3 cancerous growth in her ovaries at Princess Margaret Hospital, knowing full well that her mother had died of breast cancer.

“On that day I decided I didn’t need to fight the cancerous growth. I needed to work with it to unravel any and all emotional scars propagating its existence.”

Cancer-free in 2015, Garrett has been given the chance to give back.

Beginning on the first of August, Garrett has taken the first steps in a 500-kilometre journey with the hopes of raising at least \$50,000 for Gilda’s

“On that day I decided I didn’t need to fight the cancerous growth. I needed to work with it to unravel any and all emotional scars propagating its existence.”

Club Greater Toronto and Gilda’s Club Simcoe-Muskoka. It’s a place of emotional support for anyone living with cancer, as well as their family and friends affected by the disease.

“Mental support is all but forgotten sometimes when it comes to your health,” said Garrett. “But, as much as we need support physically within our bodies, we also need support emotionally. Something like cancer takes a huge toll on not only the person, but their family, and most people don’t know how to cope with such a thing.”

Gilda’s Club does not receive any direct government funding.

Aside from raising funds, Garrett says the walk is about awareness, to bring to light the need for emotional support for cancer patients and their families.

On August 24, a Monday, Garrett will be on her third leg of the marathon walk when she travels from Aurora to Bradford, approximately a four-hour journey. It will be the third last day of her walk, as she plans to arrive in Barrie two days later.

“It’s exhausting but so fulfilling,” said Garrett after a few days into her journey. “I’m taking a few pit stops a day...everyone has been so welcoming so far.”

Long distance walking is nothing new to Garrett. In 2006, she walked

760 kilometres along the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain to raise money and awareness for the plight of women and children being trafficked in the sex trade.

“Walking is a release, and I enjoy it. To use it to raise money for a cause I care about is what makes me happy.”

She is also no stranger to self-discovery. Garrett is the author of five books on subjects such as resilience, creating the life you desire, emotional intelligence, self-discovery and having effective difficult conversations.

To learn more about Garrett’s trek, or to donate, go to www.goingwalkabout2015.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

of my acceptance into the MicroFIT program - same program as the FIT program but for residential systems generating less power.

I will have a 20 year contract with the government, to produce solar power which will be fed into the grid, just as the young man in the comic proposes to do with his head mounted solar panel, but it’s fed directly into PowerStreams grid, no batteries required.

I will generate revenue based on a contracted rate which has been approved at the provincial level - for 20 years! My break-even on the solar panels is about 5 years, so a great ROI and I am becoming a greener citizen as a result.

Michele Boyer
Aurora

Doors Open arrives August 15

From page 9

suggested that it should be sold.

Duncan McPherson, Toronto Star, editorial cartoonist of the day spoofed the debate with a cartoon illustrating cheering Soviets stating “Comrade Chairman – North America is Destroyed – Except for Two Voices – Monitored as Crombie and Godfrey

Phoning Out for Pizza.”

Police officials successfully argued that the site was still needed, and Metro Toronto continued to maintain the site through the end of the Cold War.

By the early 1990s, however, it was clear that its days were numbered and in 1992 the property was put up for sale.

This unique site was finally purchased in 1996 by its current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Brodbeck, who found most of its Cold War era contents still in place.

The Brodbecks restored the above ground sections of Victorian farmhouse to its 19th century appearance and have made it an attractive family home. Fortunately, they have a strong awareness of the uniqueness and significance of the cold war era of this property and have striven to ensure that the fixtures from this period remain intact.

A visit to the shelter today is like a step back in time to a different era when Canadians believed that nuclear war was a very imminent threat.

Doors Open Aurora organizers are extremely pleased that Mr. and Mrs. Brodbeck have offered to open the doors of the Aurora Readiness Centre for Doors Open Aurora.

Please note that only the Emergency Control Room will be open to the public on that day.

Don’t forget to take a tour through this unique gem in Aurora and experience a part of history!

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Music in the Air at Concerts in the Park



Aurora's popular Concerts in the Park series kicked off its 2015 season on July 8 with the kids' concert "Suzie Sunshine", which attracted crowds of youngsters and the young at heart. The show was led by Suzanne Brown, who has been performing for audiences for more than 30 years. She loves to share her joy of music with kids and adults alike.



The second concert in the series on July 15 brought out some hometown talent in John Stinson's Tribute to Gordon Lightfoot. His showcase of Canada's greatest songwriter and international folk-rock legend brought out hundreds of people spanning generations.



These generations were up on their feet once again for an evening of jazz and swing led by The Megacity Big Band. An energetic evening of live Big Band and jazz favourites from the 1930s, 40s and 50s, everyone from kids to seniors had no hesitation in showing they could swing with the best of them.



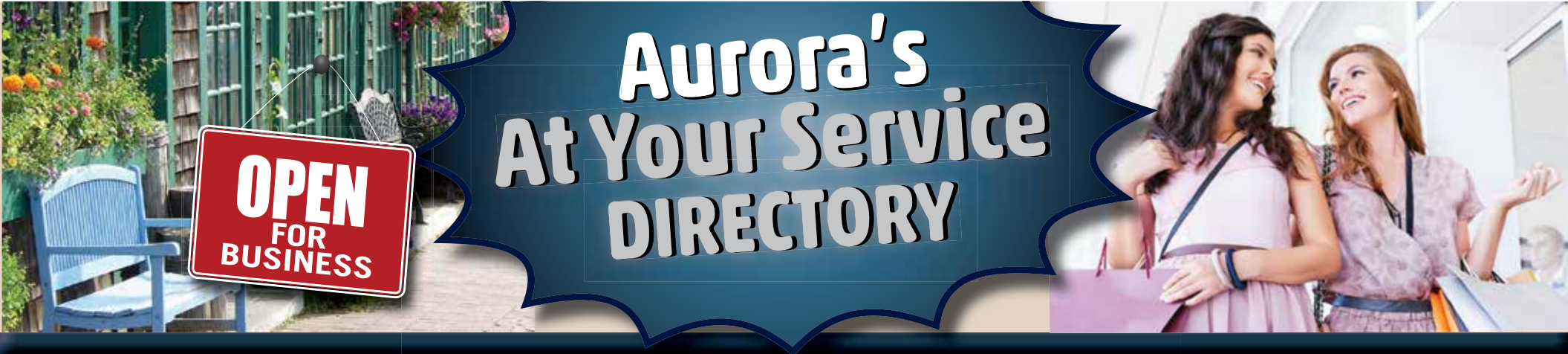
The fun continued this past Wednesday, July 29 with The Wheat Kings (above, and below left), the ultimate tribute to The Tragically Hip. This band delivered the same energy and style as the Tragically Hip themselves, giving audiences exactly what they came to feel and hear. Following this week's concert featuring Eliana Cuevas on Wednesday night, the series continues with Tom Leadbeater and the Spirit of Nova Scotia on August 12, The Dixie Chicklets on August 19, and Absolute Journey on August 26. All concerts begin at 7 p.m. and donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged – and with a donation, you're entered into a draw for the full TD Concert Experience.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



Last week's concert had the added bonus, right, of Mayor Dawe helping to announce the headliners for this September's Ribfest.





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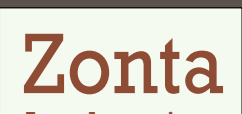
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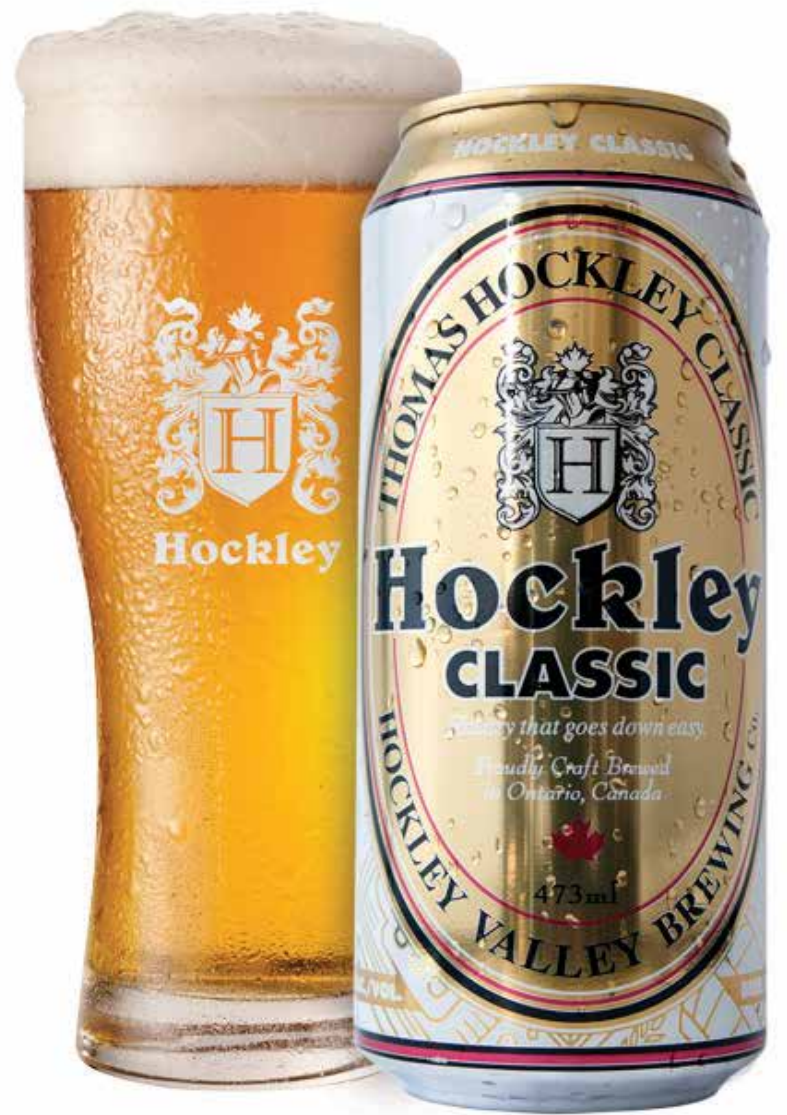
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