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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 15 No. 42 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of August 13, 2015

CMCA AUDITED



Paul Nichols, centre, was joined by fellow veterans, the York Regional Police's Ceremonial Mounted Unit, and others as they made their way through Aurora on Sunday to highlight the changing face of Canada's veterans. Here, they ride through the Aurora Community Arboretum en route to the Royal Canadian Legion, where they were welcomed by a wide cross-section of the community, including (inset) Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Veteran riders show the “power in a shared story”

By Brock Weir

After Paul Nichols came home from the Balkans after serving with the Canadian Military, he spent some time as an instructor in military courses, before making the transition with his wife out of that “close support network, that close family” of the armed forces to small town British Columbia.

Quesnel, B.C., was a community that didn’t recognize a veteran as being the young man he is – but Quesnel is not

alone. As time went on, Mr. Nichols began to see how he, and others in his situation, were struggling to live outside of the military “brotherhood” while adjusting to live in their newfound communities.

“I was in a little shop in Vancouver and a woman recognized the regimental crest on my jacket and what it was,” he said. “She asked me if I was in the Canadian military, I said yes, and she went on to share her story of living through the Siege of Sarajevo. She spent

three years living in an underground parking lot, they faced machine gunfire and sniper fire every time they went outside. They were starving, they burnt their furniture to keep warm.

“Her taking that time to share that moment with me was a turning point. I was teared up, she was teared up, and here I have this complete stranger hugging me. I was thinking we were making a scene, but I looked at the lineup behind me and there were six or

Continued on page 7

Ex-NHLer is the new owner of Aurora Tigers

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Tigers Junior A hockey club has gone under a major overhaul the last few weeks, most recently announcing the purchase of the team by ex-NHL player Jim Thomson.

“My wife Rita and I are extremely excited to embark on this new journey within our hometown

of Aurora,” said Thomson. “We’re a passionate hockey family and are eager to continue and build on the success that the prior ownership and coach James Richmond have built.”

The news comes just one week

after the announcement of Richmond accepting an assistant coaching job with the OHL’s Mississauga Steelheads, replaced behind the bench in Aurora by Mark Joslin, a successful coach in Brampton minor hockey.

Thomson brings to the Tigers a decade of NHL experience, selected 185th overall by the Washington Capitals in 1984. Through the next ten years, he had stints with the Hartford Whalers, New Jersey Devils, Los Angeles Kings, Ottawa Senators, and Mighty Ducks of Anaheim.

In total, he racked up 114 regular

Continued on page 12

Doors Open arrives Saturday

By Michelle Johnson
Curatorial Intern
Aurora Museum & Archives

If you are driving toward Aurora Town Hall or enjoying an afternoon at the Aurora Community Arboretum, it is hard to miss the nineteenth century log cabin located at the entrance of the Arboretum.

The building is said to be built in 1844. When it was originally built, the Petch House was part of the larger Petch family settlement and farm located at the north-east corner of Wellington Street and Leslie Street.

The house was situated on the

Continued on page 10

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Weekly Notice Board

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

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
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: John Traganitis All-Star Tournament
Date: September 19-20
Location: Aurora, ON

For more information, visit www.aysc.ca or call 905-727-0624

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.



Events at Aurora Public Library

Saturday, August 15: Let's Code

Join Chris for hands-on fun learning the basic concepts of coding with drag and drop programming. From 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Location: Library Living Room. All are welcome!

Saturday, August 15: Sport Legacy

Be part of tomorrow's Legacy of Sport. Meet Shawna White, Aurora Museum Curator, and learn about sporting life in our Town. Create your own collector sports card with your past, present and future accomplishments. From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Location: Library Living Room. All are welcome!

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Skylight Gallery Artists for August - Lindsay Davies and Susan Walker-Ing

Lindsay Davies and Susan Walker-Ing share a friendship and a love for art. Together they show their talents in a combined art show that showcases their unique approaches.

Lindsay has amazing mastery of the mural and Susan has sensitive depiction of the world around her. Come to our show during the month of August and enjoy the view!

Artists in attendance opening night **Thursday, August 13** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

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

Youth Volunteer Fair Thursday, September 24

Need volunteer hours to graduate? Want to make a difference in your community? Coming this Fall, the Town of Aurora presents the Youth Volunteer Fair on **Thursday, September 24** from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. For more information please call 905-726-4760.

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.

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.

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.

Club Aurora Free Guest Day on Friday, August 28

Don't miss the Free Guest Day at Club Aurora on **Friday, August 28**. Come and enjoy our fitness facility or participate in one of our group fitness classes on us!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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 & 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; Dunston 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; Mohogany 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.



**FREE
ADMISSION**



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

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Movies are FREE

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- For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

*A nominal fee applies

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Friday, August 14

Annie (PG)

Ada Johnson Park
(60 Hartwell Way)

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

For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/moviesinthepark #AuroraMovies

Canada Votes 2015 – Candidate Spotlight: Leona Alleslev (Liberal – Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill)

Alleslev wants a conversation on “the things that matter”



Liberal candidate Leona Alleslev is pictured at her Oak Ridges campaign office on Thursday morning. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

By Brock Weir

The first in The Auroran’s series spotlighting candidates vying for your vote in Newmarket-Aurora and Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill begins this week, alphabetically, with Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill Liberal candidate Leona Alleslev.

Being able to have the chance to talk about things that matter is a constant challenge, says Liberal candidate Leona Alleslev.

“What really matters is setting our country up economically, internationally, ethically for the next generation – not about someone’s hair or someone’s first name versus their last name,” she says. “It’s a tactic because if you can get people talking about the things that don’t matter, then they won’t ask you the tough questions about the things that do. Never underestimate the power and intelligence of Canadians.”

An Oak Ridges resident with a proud background as a senior-ranking officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Ms. Alleslev says she decided to enter politics due to her “deep concern with the direction of the country.” As Canada looks towards the 150th anniversary of Confederation, this management consultant says she is well versed in travelling the county evaluating companies. As she travelled, however, the country itself did not escape her watchful eye.

“I did that same evaluation of the country, both from the fundamentals of our values, as well as the practical application of our policies and our social infrastructure and all those kinds of things,” she says. “I am deeply concerned we’re not necessarily leaving the country a better place than how we found it for our children and grandchildren.

“My mission at the moment is to get as many Canadians re-engaged in the conversation and to tell them it matters. My goals are to make sure we all collectively set the direction of the country the way we believe it should be to the best of our ability. Being elected will contribute to that, but even if I am not successful, simply having the conversation with as many people as I have, then hopefully that will have ended up making a small difference in our small corner of the world.”

Among Ms. Alleslev’s chief concerns are youth employment and, given her military background, re-establishing what she feels is Canada’s place in the world.

Canada has a rapidly rising number of unemployed youth, she says, and

those who are employed are often under-employed or contract workers with no real job security, no benefits, and no ability to plan for the future. They are living at home, she says, and many of those who aren’t have left the country to establish careers and raise families.

“We need those future leaders to be employed today, not only because of the contributions they will make today, but because we need them to be our leaders, innovators, developers, entrepreneurs, 10 years from now,” she says. “The government at the moment seems very focused on redistribution of tax money through tax credits, which are a one-time thing, as opposed to building an infrastructure that allows for everyone to have jobs and to grow and prosper over time.”

Since she first joined the Air Force, Ms. Alleslev says she has seen Canada’s role as “an honest broker in the world, a strong member of our alliances, our partners and peacekeepers” changed and not for the better. She rejects the Conservative argument it is the best party equipped to handle peace and security – and it all depends on your definition of both.

“We have to maintain security, there is no question, but we also have to balance it with the values of our society and our individuals and our rule of law,” she says. “I think it is a very delicate tightrope between the two. I don’t believe we need to be as fearful as [Conservative leader Stephen Harper] would have us be, and I think it takes a great deal more courage to be hopeful and to see the opportunities in the world and in our own country than to retreat, entrench, and be afraid.

“As someone with my background, we’re always looking for opportunities to have peace so we can avoid war and you do that through understanding other people’s perspectives, being part of international alliances that are doing great things for peace, and obviously having the courage and hope to build a better country. Peace and security is absolutely important, but not to such an extent that we’re paralyzed with fear, one that allows us to be hopeful and positive.”

And this is a message Ms. Alleslev says she hopes to convey to voters casting their ballots from the south side of Wellington Street, down into the middle of Richmond Hill. Speaking to potential voters, she says she often finds them questioning whether they can actually make a difference and whether lawmakers actually care about their voice.


“Their voice matters and they too can inspire their friends,” she says. “When they have a group of people all

rowing in the same direction, nothing is unachievable. It is resonating, but they really give the impression they haven’t had anyone to have that conversation with them, to tell them and inspire them that they can make a difference, and now is their time and it matters. It is a critical impact on our democracy.

“The possibilities are endless. We have great universities, we have great educated people. We have resources,

we have so many things that we could leverage to make truly great things, as we have done in the past. I am excited about being able to start to talk to people about those possibilities and believe that we really can make a difference and change our small corner of the world.”

Next week, The Auroran sits down with Newmarket-Aurora’s incumbent Conservative candidate, Lois Brown.



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*A nominal fee applies

Wristbands
After 8 p.m. on Friday, September 11 and Saturday, September 12, Ribfest is only open to those 18 years of age and older who have purchased and are wearing a valid wristband. Wristbands cost \$5 and are sold at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (135 Industrial Parkway North) and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (1400 Wellington Street East) or on site at Macell Park. Please note, quantities are limited.

Bands
Chilliwick • Friday at 9 p.m. & The Spoons • Saturday at 9 p.m.

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Pet Policy
For health and safety reasons, pets will not be able to experience Ribfest. Service dogs are permitted.

#AuroraRibfest
For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/ribfest or call 905-726-4762.

LETTERSTO THE EDITOR

Good idea, but wrong location for community garden proposal

(Re: Community garden “template” proposed for Aurora, August 6)

In the article appearing in The Auroran, the Aurora Community Tennis Club (ACTC) was referred to as the main user of the park.

In fact we are one of several groups who use the Park. There is also the Aurora Community Lawn Bowling Association and a children’s soccer league using the park.

There are many dog walkers, kite flyers and people picnicking at the gazebo that overlooks the tennis courts.

Disappointingly, we were not consulted about this proposal.

The ACTC has approximately 260 members and the lawn bowling group has 40 members and our collective activities often lead to overflowing parking issues. While in principle, the ACTC supports community gardens for residents, we feel that there are significant parking issues that infringe on the legacy users of the park.

McMahon Park is in a traffic becalmed area and adding more projects would result in even more traffic into the neighbourhood.

We encourage the initiators of this project to look at other locations. It may be a more appropriate strategy to expand existing community gardens.

Brent MacKinnon
President, Aurora Community Tennis Club

Conservative candidate’s signs are “misleading”

I am concerned that the new candidate for the Conservative Party in Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill has “re-elect” on his signs.

He may hope to be re-elected in Oak Ridges, but he cannot be re-elected in Aurora since he never has been elected here.

To me, the signs are misleading much like the Conservatives have been by wasting money with the long campaign (over \$150,000.00) and by lying about helping our Canadian veterans.

Lastly, the ads that they are running about Trudeau are so far off track and disrespectful by twisting words and only using “Justin” to name him. Come on, Stevie, you must be able to say something good about you and the Harperites party.

Oh, that’s right. You can’t.

Nigel Kean
Aurora

Browne “integral” to Ribfest’s success: Reader

(Re: Chilliwick and The Spoons to headline Ribfest, August 6)

Wendy Browne is standing with the Mayor announcing the acts for Ribfest.

Your photo fails to acknowledge Wendy Browne. She is an integral reason that we even have a Ribfest in Aurora.

For the Mayor, this is simply a photo-op, who I have yet to see during the Ribfest festivities.

Kevin Thompson
Aurora

To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Machell’s Corners



Rock the boat



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

Just when you’re starting to become complacent again on being Canadian, something inevitably comes at you out of the blue – and often with tremendous force – that revitalizes, re-energizes, and renews one’s quiet pride in our humble nation.

That “something” hit me full force Thursday night as I settled into a great night of television. First up, was the inaugural – and perhaps only – full debate of Canada’s 2015 Federal Election.

This event, hosted by Macleans and its parent company, Rogers, had what might ultimately turn out to be the singular distinction of attracting all four leaders of all four national parties.

The second event was the first in what promises to be a lengthy series of debates featuring the men vying to lead the American Republican party in their 2016 Presidential Election.

As I left the campaign office of local Liberal candidate Leona Alleslev for an interview this week on Thursday morning, I asked, “Are you looking forward to the debate tonight?” She replied with a laugh, “Which one?”

I was here to see our own political leaders square off, as was she, but there was also a part of me yearning to turn into Fox’s non-fiction arm to see how the viable Republican candidates would fare against perceived frontrunner Donald Trump, and how far the hirsute billionaire would go to turn this episode into even more of a sideshow than he already has.

Once the Canadian debate wrapped around 10 p.m., and having reached my saturation point in post-debate analyses hosted by CBC News and Omni Television, I fired up the good ole’ PVR to see the Grand Ol’ Party circus.

And it did not disappoint.

As I watched the event unfold, I was not struck so much by the vitriol, bombast, and one-upmanship that has become a hallmark of the Trump campaign – so much so the influential American arm of the Huffington Post has made the bold decision to segregate the bulk of its Trump coverage into the bin of their Entertainment section – but what they actually talked about.

As a Canadian comfortable living in the 21st century, it became increasingly baffling to this viewer that the issues dominating their discussions were actually relevant talking points in this day and age, particularly social conservatism and the role religion plays in informing their governing and decision-making styles.

I don’t discount the importance religion evidently plays in the personal lives of each of the men standing on stage, or indeed the importance religion plays in the personal lives of everyday people the length and breadth of North America, but to hear it so boldly and explicitly stated in how it would inform how each and every one of them would lead one of the world’s great superpowers was mildly unsettling.

Personally, I thought all bets were off near the end of the debate when the popular (and, following the debate, long-suffering) moderator Megyn Kelly asked (on behalf of a viewer, to be fair) how God has spoken to them during the course of the campaign.

Pretty confident God has better things to do with his or her time than to be an armchair quarterback to politicians, regardless of party stripe, I was braced for the worst – but didn’t ultimately get it.

Nevertheless, it made me proud of how things were handled on the north side of the border.

Instead of the Trump sideshow, we got a well-moderated, fairly well-reasoned and thoughtful debate with our party leaders on real, relevant issues that matter to Canadians.

Following the broadcast, each leader wasted no time in hopping on social media to declare themselves the victor, with varying degrees of evidence to bolster their respective claims, but the real victors were Canadians themselves.

Each of the four demonstrated their clear personal strengths, their shortcomings, and where they can make improvements. I’m confident it proved to be a valuable evening for those currently sitting on the electoral fence – and, with 10 weeks left in the campaign, I’d wager the fence-sitters are in pretty good company at the moment – and revitalized the party faithful to hit the pavement even more.

That is, of course, if viewers weren’t completely blotto if they came up with a drinking game every time Mr. Harper and Mr. Mulcair dodged a pointed lob in their general direction, Ms. May prefaced an argument with “All due respect” (This is a Federal debate. How much respect is actually due?) or Mr. Trudeau basically called the incumbent a liar.

As the campaigns and debates roll on – even if they can never get all four party leader in the same room again – I expect more of the same. Voters, however, would be best served if this quartet was able to steer out of a rut they have found themselves in.

Conservative Stephen Harper has from the outset – and, truth be told, from the outset of the last two Federal campaigns as well – stressed that Canadians want to “stay the course.” Inevitably, the others vying for the top job have sent considerable amount of time explaining why it is not such a great idea to stay on a course they see on a downward slope.

Wouldn’t it be nice if this phrase was consigned to the history books, if only to hear what the landmarks might be on the course ahead, regardless of which prong Canadians ultimately decide to explore on this fork in the road? Hearing Canadians want – or do not want, as the case might be – more of the same is simply not inspiring, nor will it give voters any reason to turn out to the polls.

Chart your respective visions, tell Canadians what they have to look forward to, and why they should vote for you, not why they shouldn’t vote for the other guy or gal.

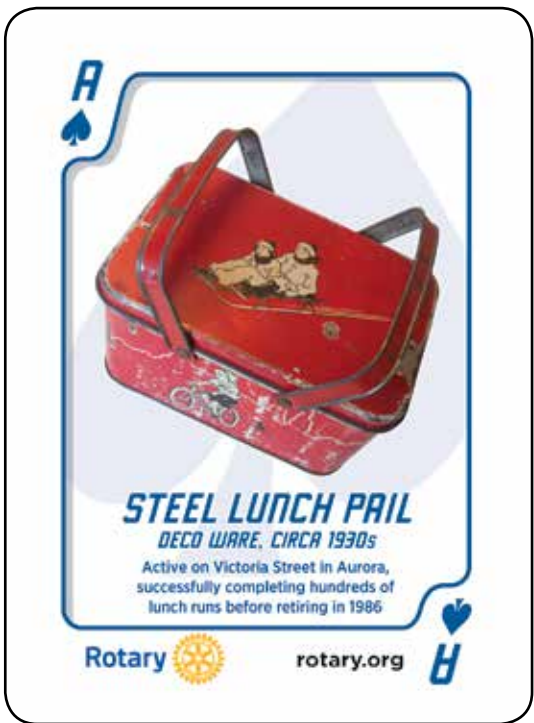
“Don’t rock the boat,” is not reason enough to get my vote but I’m open to all comers.

HUE (AND CRY?)

If you’ve been looking for a way to get up close and personal with this writer, you’re in luck. Come out to the Aurora Cultural Centre on Saturday morning from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. as a group of local artists – Local Colour Aurora – come together to metaphorically peel off my fully-clothed layers to reinterpret me on canvas. This will be the latest in a series of portraits of local Aurorans (including the Aurora Farmers’ Market’s Jan Freedman and Councillor Tom Mrakas) and paintings of local landmarks, which will be part of an exhibition at the Centre next month.

Be gentle, artists.

<p>THE AURORAN <i>Aurora’s Community Newspaper</i></p> <p>The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd. 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8</p> <p>Main number 905-727-3300 • Fax number 905-727-2620</p> <p>Founder Ron Wallace Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker</p> <p>Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S. email: administration@auroran.com</p>	<p>EDITOR Brock Weir brock@auroran.com</p> <p>ADVERTISING Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com</p> <p>ADVERTISING Zach Shoub zach@auroran.com</p> <p>TODAYS NEW HOMES Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca</p>	<p>GENERAL MANAGER Bob Ince bob@auroran.com</p> <p>CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-3300 ex.102 cynthia@auroran.com</p> <p>MOTORING Heather Erwin heather@caledoncitizen.com</p>	<p>PRODUCTION MANAGER Cynthia Proctor cynthia@auroran.com</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPHY David Falconer davidphoto10@gmail.com</p>	<p>EDITORIAL POLICY Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.</p> <p>ADVERTISING POLICY Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.</p>
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52 Pick Me Up Card of the Week: The Ace of Spades

Sponsored by the Aurora Rotary Club (www.rotary.org)

In order to be on your game you need to pack an energizing lunch. The moms of the late 1800s sent their children off each morning with a sandwich wrapped in paper packed in a recycled tobacco or biscuit tin. After many patent attempts, the first commercial lunch box finally appeared on the market in the 1930s. On display at The Aurora Museum & Archives is a red metal lunch pail from this period. The battered condition indicates it was put to good use here in town.

Pick Me Up August 15 during Doors Open in the Aurora Armoury starting at 10 a.m.



Senior Scape

Jim L. Abram

See How Far We Have Come!

What an exciting time it is to be a member of the Aurora Seniors' Centre! Our members are an energetic (yes, that's energetic not geriatric) group of young-at-heart, older adults who are very enthusiastic about participating in the many programs, events and activities that the Centre has to offer.

This year the Centre boasts that 2015 is the 10th anniversary (2005 – 2015) of enriching the lives of older adults at our best in class, state of the art Aurora Seniors' Centre located across from Town Hall at 90 John West Way.

Come on out to celebrate this significant milestone by joining us on Sunday, September 20 from 1 – 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Some of the founding members will present a history of the growth and successes of the Aurora Seniors' Association from its humble beginnings on Victoria Street to what we enjoy today.

Our activities, programs and projects cover everything from A to Z, literally from Aquafit to Zumba Gold. So please come out to share stories, share memories, renew friendships and look over the photos and other memorabilia that will be on display.

The year we opened our doors we had 739 members. Now we have doubled that. Much of the reason for our success is the excellent partnership we have with the Town of Aurora including but not limited to current and past Mayors, Councillors and Town staff, particularly the Town of Aurora Parks and Recreation Department.

Success is measured by the dedication, commitment and hard work of the seniors who volunteer their time, energy and compassion and Town staff who continue to provide both service and leadership to our Association.

The centre is a great place to come for social and physical well-being, as the gym, wood shop, billiard room, library, computer room, bocce courts, many activity and meeting rooms, lounge and exercise classes are well-used. We have so many activities. Our activities extend beyond our walls as we have many travel tours, outdoor pickle ball and a walking club that takes advantage of the wonderful trail system throughout Aurora, just to mention a few. There is something for everyone, and it's very reasonable with affordable membership and a low daily activity fee of only \$1.

We can all be proud that your Aurora Seniors' Centre continues to be a hub of activity for our community of older adults. "It's a great place to socialize."

Jimmy's last word: One final thing, coffee is only 25 cents and water is free!

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

This past Sunday, you may have noticed a contingent of horses and riders come through Aurora. They were accompanied by members of the Governor General's Horse Guard and York Region Police mounted unit. Wearing their blue shirts and white cowboy hats, the group stood out.

In fact, the party, headed by Paul Nichols, a Canadian Forces veteran and his wife, Terry, had left Alberta on April 13 and started a 211-day Communities for Veterans Ride across Canada to raise support for veterans who have returned to their communities after serving in conflict areas.

The group received a warm welcome at the Aurora Legion in an event that included Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell and the Aurora Legion Colour Guard.

Paul and Terry have found that many veterans face mental health issues, primarily post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and too often the process of transitioning back to civilian life is difficult. Paul says too often communities have no idea that young veterans are living among them – and that some could use help.

Learn more at the group's website: www.communitiesforveterans.ca.

The reason I highlight this particular event is not just because I believe in the message, but also because of the work that members of the Aurora Legion undertook – on short notice – to make this stop on Paul and Terry's travels the largest they had enjoyed to date.

Most of us only think of the Legion around Remembrance Day, when we wear poppies and watch veterans, most with white hair, participating in memorial services.

Aurora's Legion is different than most. I'm told it is one of Ontario's larger and more active branches.

The Legion is actively involved in not only the lives of veterans, but also the

Ride instilled pride



View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

community. I could write a lengthy list of all the activities I'm invited to at the Legion.

What has impressed me most is the amount of work volunteers do, and their dedication.

Sunday's event was quickly pulled together on short notice by President Dave Franklin, Parade Commander Ken White and volunteer Lori Hoyes – together with an enthusiastic group of supporters. It was as grand and well-attended as any event planned for months. It did Aurora proud – and the Legion proud as well. Congratulations.

Many believe the Legion just focuses on veterans of the two World Wars, but the story is much different – made evident by the Nichols' visit which focused on young veterans.

Paul spoke about the trouble some young veterans have in reintegrating into their communities because they are, too often, not recognized as "real" veterans. That is, they didn't fight in either World War. Support for Paul was evident at Sunday's event, with many of the elderly veterans giving voice to his concern.

In Aurora, with our own Queen's York Rangers, we have had young men and women undertake peacekeeping roles in Eastern Europe and on the battlefields of Afghanistan. The physical and mental trauma of our modern soldiers is no less real than those of our older veterans. The

2015 Federal Election



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Aurora. This increased to 58,799 in the 2006 election but declined to 53,227 in the 2008 election. Voter turnout increased in 2011 to 58,421, which represented 64% of eligible voters.

Over this same period the Conservative vote in the riding went from 21,818 in 2004 to 22,371 in 2006 to 24,873 in 2011 to 31,600 in the last election.

The New Democrats received 5,111 votes in 2004, 5,639 in 2006, and 8,886 in the last election.

It is the Liberals where the majority of votes were lost. They received 21,129 votes in 2004, 27,176 in 2006, but then fell to 18,250 in 2008 and experienced a further drop to 13,908 votes in the last election. That is a decline of 4,342. In other words, the Liberal share of the vote fell from 34.29% in 2008 to 23.80% in 2011.

It will be interesting to see how many people actually vote this time. If the Liberals have any hope of regaining this seat, they will need three things; to regain past Liberal voters, to eat into "soft" Conservative voters, and they need to attract a large majority of new voters. A tall order and not good news if you are traditionally a Liberal supporter.

On a related note, your scribe has posed the following question to others over the years – "when do the majority of

need to support our younger veterans is no less important. To its credit, Aurora's Legion understands that and has worked at building relations with the Rangers and others who have served, or still serve in the military.

There are many vibrant service groups in Aurora. It's one of the things that makes our community great. I would encourage anyone looking to support the community to consider membership in the Legion.

To join, you don't have to be serving in the Canadian Forces. You don't even have to be affiliated with someone who has served in the Forces. You need to be a Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject. Drop by the Aurora Legion and check it out.

Norm Weller

Aurora lost a community pillar recently with the death of Norm Weller. Much has been written about Mr. Weller. I didn't know him well, but I do recall him fondly. Others may know him as Aurora's Parks Director and former Town Councillor. I remember him as a York Region District Public School Board Trustee.

On my first day as junior reporter at the Aurora Banner, many (many!) years ago, fresh from school, editor Ron Wallace told me to go to Mr. Weller's house in search of a story on the school board budget. Despite my complete ignorance about school board budgets and feeling overwhelmed, Mr. Weller patiently walked me through the numbers and I got a good story.

Over the years as trustee, he told it like it he saw it – often to the chagrin of fellow trustees. People I met in my journalism career, like Mr. Weller, former mayor Dick Illingworth and former mayor John West, taught me a lot about public service and commitment to our community. I won't forget them, and many of the others who served with them.

people make their voting decision" and invariably I get one of three answers.

First, that voting decisions are made in the last seven days of the election because people are unwilling to focus before this time.

Second, other seasoned campaigners say that a lot of people make their decision soon after the Leaders' debates. This will be interesting this time as the campaign is very long and there will be multiple debates.

Still others say it is in the last 24 hours of the campaign.

My own observation is, in a traditional campaign with one English language and one French language Leaders debate in the middle of the campaign – that other than those who are traditional party supporters – it is an even split between those people who make up their mind in the day or two after the Leaders' Debate, based on the media's perception of what happened, and those who decide on the last day of the campaign.

However, a wrench has been thrown into this thinking because this campaign is going to be 73 days long and the first English speaking Leaders debate already took place.

This most likely means that the Leaders debates, while important, will not be the deciding factor, but rather the air war of TV advertisements between the respective parties will be.

With the most recent polls showing a tight race between the Conservatives, Liberals and NDP, this should make for a fascinating election.

I look forward to coming off the front porch to meet some of you!

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

NEW AURORAN POLL

Who do you feel won the first televised Federal Election debate on August 6?

- A) Stephen Harper
- B) Elizabeth May
- C) Tom Mulcair
- D) Justin Trudeau

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

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

RESULTS TO DATE August 11, 2015	A	B	C
	34%	59%	7%

Local youth prepare to shine in Rising Star Competition

By Angela Gismondi

Allison Lee and Daniel Tamburro are hoping to be Canada’s next rising stars. The seven-year-old dancing duo is set to compete in the junior division of the Canadian National Exhibition’s (CNE) Rising Star Talent Competition in Toronto on August 21.

Allison, of Aurora, and Daniel, of Maple, are students at Evolution Dance Studio in Maple. Inspired by their older

sisters, Daniel and Allison started taking dance lessons at age three.

“I started because I saw my sister doing it and I wanted to do it too,” said Allison.

“I watch a lot of dance shows and videos,” added Daniel.

They were chosen to partner by the teachers at Evolution six months ago and have been working on the duet ever since, dancing to the song Dance With Me Tonight. After a lot of practice and preparation, they brought the routine to a variety of competitions including the Bedazzled Dance Champions, a national competition held in Blue Mountain over the Canada Day weekend where they won second overall in the “Mini solos and duet/trios” category.

They were encouraged to enter the routine into the Rising Star Competition by their teachers Natalie and Nicole Cultraro. Now they are poised to compete on the international stage at the CNE.

“I’m very excited,” said Allison. “This is my favourite dance.”



Allison Lee and Daniel Tamburro bust a move ahead of this month's Rising Star competition. **Auroran photo by Angela Gismondi**

The routine, called an open duet, combines two styles of dance – acro and jazz. It also features flips, lifts, ballroom dancing and moves like the worm and the helicopter.

This year marks the 29th annual Rising Star Talent Competition, one of the longest standing competitions to promote undiscovered talent before the popularity of talent TV shows and has discovered the likes of crooner Matt Dusk, famed choreographer and dancer Blake McGrath and many more.

The talent competition is open to dancers, singers, actors and musicians ages six to 25.

The Rising Star Talent Competition will take place at the CNE August 21 – September 6 on the International Stage in the Enercare Centre.

The junior preliminaries, the category Allison and Daniel will be participating in, will run from August 21 – 24.

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Ride hopes to attract over 700 vets by Newfoundland finish

From page 1

eight people behind me and they were in tears. I realised right then and there that there is power in a shared story and I have to share it with my brothers. That is what we're doing."

Aurora provided another page in this shared story on Sunday afternoon as dignitaries, veterans young and old, and members of the public alike gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion to welcome Mr. Nichols, his wife Terry, and their group as they rode in on horseback on the latest leg of their Communities for Veterans Ride Across Canada.

Founded by the couple as a way to raise awareness of the changing face of veterans, as well as the everyday struggles they face in their transition out of military life, particularly Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), they began their journey this past April in Victoria, B.C. Since then, they have welcomed over 100 veterans who have saddled up for the trip in different stops across the Rockies, the Prairies and into Ontario. They hope to reach St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, by November, with over 700 veterans having participated nation-wide.

Helping give the riders a warm welcome was Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who was joined by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard, members of the Governor General's Horse Guards, the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard, and the York Regional Police's ceremonial mounted unit, who accompanied the riders through the Aurora.

"It is often said there is nothing like

a man on horseback riding in from the west to attract attention, and I think that is particularly true today, especially when that man is rallying support for a great cause," said Ms. Dowdeswell. "[The Nichols] and their posse have captured the hearts and imaginations of Canadians with this unique initiative, riding across the country to share stories with veterans and about veterans. I think through sharing their experiences, their strength, and their hope, a new generation of soldier is taking the lead in healing the physical and mental wounds. Our military men and women are reaching out to each other and to civilians in an effort to raise awareness of the increasing PTSD and mental health incidents."

In her role as the Queen's representative in the Province, the Lieutenant-Governor said she is surrounded every day by members of the military, many of whom are more recent veterans of the Afghan conflict. As she got to know them, she came to appreciate "at a personal level" the service they have – and continue to provide – Canada.

"Often [when] veterans return home from conflict zones, our military men and women are too often sidelined, their sacrifices honoured only on special occasions because, as civilians, we don't often understand who our soldiers really are as husbands, wives, parents and community members," she said. "Paul, Terry and the crew are doing a truly remarkable job in advancing our understanding of our veterans' experience when adjusting to civilian life. I think it was Paul himself

who said there is power in a shared story. As Lieutenant-Governor, and as a grateful Canadian, it is my honour to listen and learn from our veterans.

Briefly

MORE THAN 15 EVENTS UNFOLD SATURDAY FOR DOORS OPEN

There are the "adventurous, the promiscuous, the chatty ones who take up all the air space but really have nothing to say," and all these flower types can be found in Dierdre Tomlinson's Centre Crescent garden. The famed Merlin's Hollow garden is just one of 16 things to experience this Saturday at the 10th annual Doors Open Aurora. Participating locations and events include the Aurora Armoury, the Aurora Cultural Centre, Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair, the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club, Aurora Public Library, The Aurora Readiness Centre (otherwise known as Aurora's own Diefenbunker), the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, the Benjamin Stephenson House, the Charles Henry Shepard House (Sheppard's Bush), the George Russell House (Bijoy's), Hillary House, David Heard's History and Mystery Walking Tour, Merlin's Hollow, Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, Petch House and St. Andrew's College. For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/doorsopen.

MOVIES AND MUSIC

Movies in the Park continues this Friday, August 14, at Ada Johnson Park with a screening of the movie musical Annie. Arrive early to enjoy the pre-movie surprises! The screening begins at dusk. The music continues next Wednesday, August 19 – this time at Town Park – when the Dixie Chicklets take the band shell in the latest offering from Aurora's Concerts in the Park music series. Running from 7 – 9 p.m., food is available from on-site vendors and donations for the Aurora Food Pantry will be accepted.

CHANGE ROOMS CLOSED

Fitness change rooms of both men and women at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex will be closed through the morning of August 22 for modifications. Change rooms will be available for use at the back of the building.

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Advertorial

What Makes A Beautiful Smile?



Dr. Pasha Nasirzadeh, Wellington Aurora Dental

Whenever patients express interest in smile makeovers the first thing I hear is, "I don't want to look like I have fake teeth," or "I don't want people to know I had my teeth done." How do we improve our smiles without the results looking unnatural? When it comes to a beautiful smile, there's a fine line between looking better and looking different.

A great smile isn't just about having white teeth. A smile has to fit your face and suit your personality. It has to look and feel natural. The shape, arrangement and length of teeth are as important as their color. When these four elements work together there's a very good chance that you'll be looking at a beautiful, natural smile.



How it's done

First we have figure out what a patient wants changed about their smile. Sometimes we have specific information from the patient, but often their direction is basic: "I just want my smile to be better." This is when experience in cosmetic dentistry is essential. An

experienced dentist will go over patient concerns and try to break things down into smaller pieces. They'll take photos of the teeth and smile, and make models to see how the mouth is arranged. They'll then come up with a plan to help get the results the patient is after. This could be a simple whitening treatment or a more involved smile makeover procedure like veneers or a crown.

Once these details are captured the dentist will mock up the new smile to build a "trial smile": in essence, a test drive of the new smile. After trying it out for a few weeks, the patient approves the new look before the dentist custom builds the final restorations. This process ensures a long-lasting, natural look.

Who can do it

Cosmetic dentistry is not a specialization within the dental profession, however the quarterback of the process will most likely be your general dentist. Some general dentists have an interest in cosmetic dentistry, and have spent a lot of time to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to provide superior esthetic results for their patients.

If you're interested in a smile makeover, it's worth your while to make an appointment with a dentist you trust and get their opinion about your options. There's a lot to consider, but a fresh, renewed smile will boost your confidence and can change the way you go about your day.

Nonagenarian Second World War veterans – and Aurora residents – Frank Young and Albert Arcand present Paul and Terry Nichols with a donation on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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Mrs. Harper fires up local Conservatives while NDP hold day of action

By Brock Weir

It had been less than a week since



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her husband met with the Governor General triggering the latest Federal election, but Lauren Harper wasted no time hitting the Aurora area to fire up local Conservatives.

Mrs. Harper visited the Oak Ridges campaign office of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill Conservative candidate Costas Menegakis last Wednesday afternoon on a whistle-stop tour of southern Ontario while Stephen Harper, along with the other Federal leaders, prepared for the following evening's debate, hosted by Macleans.

"I know a lot of you could be on vacation and things, but when you're a political junkie, you just can't wait to get started," said Ms. Harper. "Some people are smiling at that, I know, lots of people are groaning, but lots of people who love politics are happy. We have campaigned over Christmas, at Easter, in the fall, and I think the only time we have not campaigned is over the summer, so now we have done the four seasons!"



Lauren Harper shakes hands with a young supporter at Conservative candidate Costas Menegakis' Oak Ridges campaign office on Wednesday afternoon.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

With Mr. Menegakis describing the layout of the newly-minted riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, which comprises all of Aurora from the south side of Wellington Street East down to as far as Major Mackenzie Drive in Richmond Hill, Ms. Harper stressed the importance of getting to know your local candidates.

"My husband is one Member of Parliament," she explained, as she met residents from Aurora and Richmond Hill, along with a large contingent of Russian veterans now calling Canada home, including a 97-year-old man who served in the Siege of Leningrad. "We don't get to vote for Prime Ministers in this country. We vote for our local representatives and he couldn't do it if we didn't have lots of Members of Parliament like Costas behind us and then Costas wouldn't be where he is unless he had hundreds of people behind him door-knocking, being the greeters, and every campaign has to have their greeters and sign guys."

"There is nothing more fun and rewarding for Canadians than to get out to their local campaigns. It doesn't matter what colour – of all the different colours, I am partial to blue – but I think for Canadians, it is a lot of fun to join

your local campaign, meet people who you would normally never meet, and get out of your little neighbourhood and into a bigger part of your community."

Aurorans living on the north side of Wellington Street will vote in the reconfigured riding of Newmarket-Aurora and the northern riding's NDP candidate, Yvonne Kelly certainly aimed at being a bigger part of their community.

Ms. Kelly and local NDP supporters spent Saturday hosting a Day of Action, part of a Canada-wide initiative to highlight party leader Tom Mulcair's economic platforms.

"After 10 years of Stephen Harper, middle class families can't afford another four years of working harder and not getting further ahead," said Ms. Kelly. "That is why Canadians are looking for change and the NDP is ready to bring positive change in Ottawa. Stephen Harper's plan isn't working and he's out of touch with what's important to York Region and all Canadians. The NDP's plan is built on the enduring values of respect, accountability and an unwavering commitment to focus the government's priorities on helping the middle class get ahead."

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Over 15 things to see at 10th anniversary Doors Open Aurora

From page 1

north half of the lot and belonged to Isaac Petch while his brother John lived on and maintained the southern half of the property.

In 1844, Isaac married Emma Hacking and together they lived in the cabin for over fifty years. After the death of Isaac

(in 1899) and Emma (in 1904) the house and farm were sold outside of the family.

Despite a few changes, the home maintained most of its original rustic qualities and charm. Much of this is thanks to the new owners who continued caring for it. This high quality of attention and care undoubtedly added to the lifespan and preservation of Petch House.

Eventually the area of the Petch settlement and farm was sold to developers. Eventually the Petch farm land turned into a Smart Center shopping area with urban stores.

The agreement was to ensure that Petch House would be taken off the site and relocated as opposed to being torn down and demolished. For a number of years the house sat unprotected south of Wellington on the eastern side of Leslie Street.

Unmaintained, exposed to the elements and lacking proper conservation care, this historic cabin began to rapidly deteriorate.

After many years and thoughtful debates the decision was made to relocate Petch House to the main

entrance of the Aurora Arboretum. The Town of Aurora Parks staff, with the help of local timber expert Peter van Nostrand, completely dismantled the cabin and stored it in its many pieces while it waited to be rebuilt. Re-assembly of the historic cabin commenced in 2012 and was done so with historically accurate restoration.

Often referred to as a ‘log-cabin’ visitors are sometimes surprised to see the exterior of Petch House now covered in cladding. The cladding is not a modern indulgence; it is in fact true to the period when the cabin was originally built.

Cladding provides another layer of insulation to keep those inside safe from wind and moisture. It also demonstrates to the community that its owners were relatively wealthy.

Be sure to visit Petch House to see the charm of this mid-nineteenth century cabin. The historical details and elements from the recent restoration are best explored in person so be sure to take advantage of Doors Open Aurora on Saturday, August 15!





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Doors Open offers chance to peek inside historic boys’ school

Submitted by St. Andrew’s College

If you’ve never visited St. Andrew’s College, you’ll have your chance on Saturday, August 15 when the independent all-boys school opens its doors to the public.

The College was actually established in Toronto in 1899. In 1905 it had outgrown its space and moved to a newly-built campus in Rosedale. It was there that one of the school’s oldest traditions, the Pipes & Drums, was established.

St. Andrew’s is believed to be the only high school in Canada offering a music course in bagpiping. Many Aurorans will have seen the Pipe & Drums playing at events in town such as the Santa Claus Parade and when the band marches in full regalia down Yonge Street each spring.

In 1926, needing more space and a setting away from the perceived

negative influences of the city, SAC moved to its present Georgian-style campus in Aurora.

The last five years have seen the biggest period of growth in St. Andrew’s history with \$42M in capital improvements through the Not An Ordinary Place Campaign.

In March, the \$22M Centre for Leadership, Innovation & Performance opened, offering state-of-the-art facilities for drama, music, engineering and robotics, and business and leadership studies. This included a complete overhaul to Ketchum Auditorium with additional seating and inclusion of the spectacular Wirth Theatre, an intimate thrust stage surrounded by seating for 250.

Doors Open runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 15. Visitors to St. Andrew’s College can proceed to the Main Reception to pick up a campus map or join in a guided tour.

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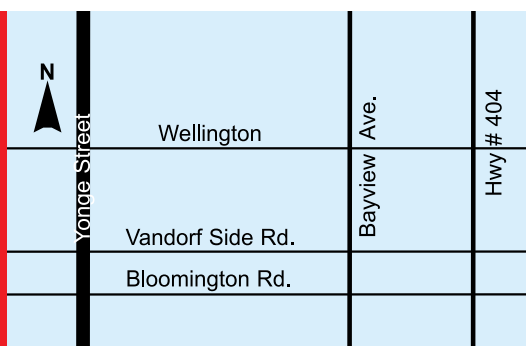
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FREE Week of August 13, 2015

Hall of Fame inductee a champion for disabled athletes

By Jake Courtepatte

Alan Dean has been to Spain, New Zealand, Greece, South Korea, and South Africa, to name a few.

“I’ve had the most exciting life, I’ve travelled all over the world. I’ve been lucky to be able to do what I’ve done.”

His next trip is into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, as one of three members inducted into the Class of 2015.

Mr. Dean has spent a lifetime as a champion in establishing sports organizations, as well as awareness, for the physically disabled.

“I arrived in Aurora on a Saturday... on the Monday, I joined the Aurora Soccer Club,” said Mr. Dean, who just recently celebrated fifty years as an Aurora resident.

He was soon the secretary of the club, rising to the rank of president shortly thereafter. It was August 6, 1974 when his athletic path was altered forever by an accident in a game, losing one of his legs from the threat of gangrene.

He recalls being a hit for the staff during his stay at Toronto Western Hospital.

“Most people that lose limbs are older people, with diabetes or something like a circulation problem. A young guy

like me comes in, and I could do all the exercises the physio staff wanted me to do...I was an athlete, I was fit, I had just lost one of my legs.”

With the rest of his body fit and intact, Mr. Dean was able to push the limits of living with a disability. One year later, he was asked to go to a physiotherapist demonstration on abilities of people living with disabilities. There he met Dr. Robert Jackson, a pioneer in arthroscopic surgery and the Chair of the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association.

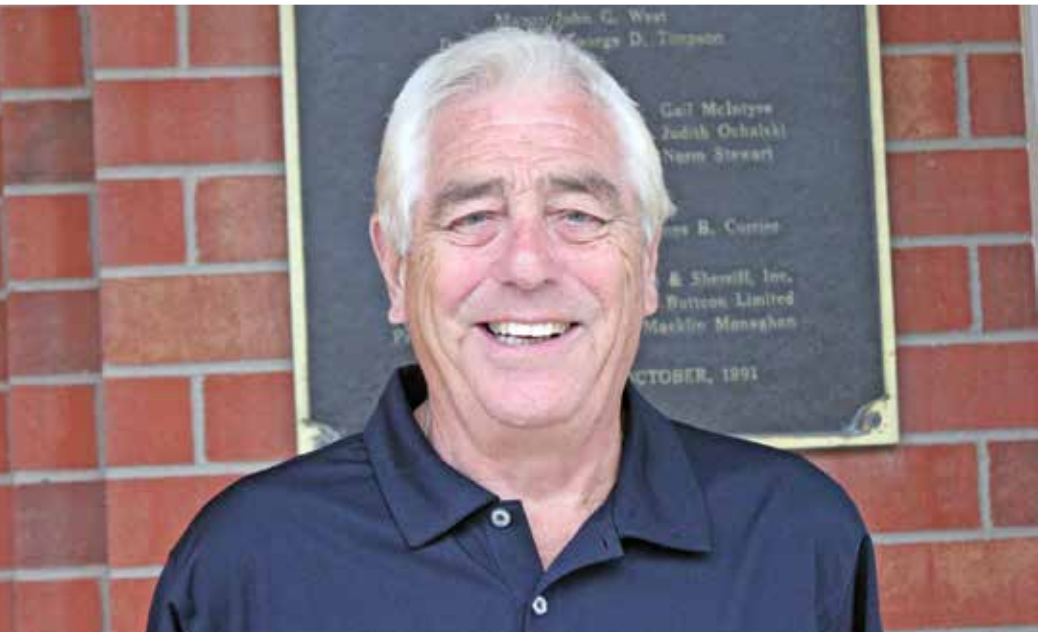
Mr. Dean recalls the doctor showing footage of the 1972 Paralympic Games in Heidelberg, Germany.

“We were all watching this video, and it started to get me excited again. I thought ‘wow, I could get back into this.’”

The timing couldn’t have been better as well, as Mr. Dean says this was around the time when the world of sport and recreation began to look for opportunities for those with disabilities.

One year later, he was standing on the podium at the 1976 Ontario Games, with a couple of gold medals around his neck.

Moving quickly up the ladder of disabled sports pioneer, Mr. Dean was instrumental in the forming of the Ontario Amputee Sports Association



Advocate – and 2015 Hall of Famer – Alan Dean is pictured here at Aurora Town Hall, the current home of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

later that year as well as the Canadian Amputee Sports Association in 1977. He had spells as president of both.

“I think these days, there’s more of a focus on the disability and not the ability,” said Mr. Dean. “You’ve got to push the boundaries to further your sport.”

Locally, Mr. Dean has had his hands on a number of organizations within Aurora. He represents the Aurora Lawn Bowling Club to this day, having first taken up the sport on a trip to New Zealand with the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation.

He came home from his trip, and recalls the hospitality of the members of Aurora’s club when he happened to stop by one day.

“Next thing you know, I’m president of that,” Mr. Dean said with a laugh.

He also sits on the board of Sport Aurora, sitting out on the nomination process this year with the knowledge

that he might be inducted.

Mr. Dean joins tennis champion Ken Sinclair in the “Builders” category of the Hall, as well as volleyball star Mark Heese who is the sole 2015 inductee into the ‘Athletes’ category.

Although he admits to being “overwhelmed” by the nomination, it is actually a case of déjà vu for the sporting pioneer, previously inducted into the Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons Hall of Fame in 2010.

The induction dinner is to be held this November at St. Andrew’s College for the first time. Mr. Dean’s history with the school goes back a long way, swimming there in his early days following his disability.

Tigers kick off regular season next month

From page 1

season games played in the NHL.

“My years of experience in the NHL have given me a platform to help and mentor many young individuals and I hope to continue this within the Aurora Tigers’ organization. It’s long been a dream of mine to be part of an organization like this, and both Rita and I pledge to uphold the standards and respect of what the Aurora Tigers stand for.”

Known as a tough guy in his professional hockey years, Thomson now puts his time towards motivational speaking and life-coaching. He travels the country with his “Dreams Do Come True” presentation, looking to inspire youth to follow their dreams.

The 49-year old from Edmonton is now actively involved in his adopted town of Aurora, both in and out of the sporting world. He played emcee at the 2014 Sport Aurora Breakfast of Champions.

“We look forward to the start of a new season and meeting the many new faces throughout the Aurora community”.

A short pre-season is only a few weeks away, with the Tigers’ early playoff exit last season still fresh in the minds of returning players. The league’s top team was knocked out in the first round by the Kingston Voyageurs.

The regular season is set to kick off in early September.




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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)

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***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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Jays knocked out in first round of NDBL playoffs



Zach Wiseman was behind the Aurora Jays' only win in the NDBL playoffs, as the Jays were knocked out in the first round by the Orangeville Giants.
Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

It was a disappointing end to a short post-season for the 2015 Aurora Jays, one in which they showed a lot of promise.

The team bowed out of the first round of the North Dufferin Baseball League playoffs on Sunday, stunned by the seventh-place Orangeville Giants in just four games.

Orangeville, whose offensive production began to hit a good pace near the end of the season, put the bats to the Jays' pitchers throughout the series, despite Aurora sending their

Mayor forms "Task Force" for physical activity

By Brock Weir

Want to take a stroll to Mars and back? You had better contact Town Hall.

Mayor Geoff Dawe has struck the "Mayor's Task Force on Physical Activity" to help further Aurora's goal to become the "Healthiest Community in Canada" in this, the Year of Sport.

"My goal is simple – we will be Canada's most active community," says Mayor Dawe in a motion before Council this week.

He describes the task force as a "cross-sectoral commitment" to do just that, implementing lifestyle changes that will have a "positive and lasting impact" on our community."

Speaking to The Auroran earlier this week, he said one activity the task force would like to get off the ground was "a walk to Mars and back" whereby people across the community would register to log how many steps they take in one day, tallying everyone's steps with the objective of covering the distance from Earth to the red planet and back.

Improvements – and possible additions – to Aurora's existing infrastructure could also be part of what the task force looks at, he added, and various ideas have been kicked around on just what an additional facility might be. As demographics in Aurora change, so do the sports and activities that are particularly popular.

"We want to be a wide cross-section with people from the sporting community, people from culture, and people from business communities, because we will be looking for sponsorship," says Mayor Dawe. "We are still in the throes of putting this all together. I am just hoping for a general buy-in" from Council.

best arms to the mound.

The series kicked off last Tuesday in Aurora, with Orangeville earning the win to take an early lead in the series. A two-run home run from Chris Fafalios wasn't enough for the Jays, who fell 5 – 3 in one of their lowest scoring games of the season. The loss went to Rob Spencer, arguably the Jays top pitcher of the year.

The teams returned to Aurora on Friday, with Orangeville lighting up Aurora's Brad Crosby in a ten-run output. Aurora countered with four of their own, taking the loss and turning the best-of-five series into a "do-or-die"

Breakfast of Champions spotlight: Evolution Gymnastics Aurora

By Sarah Smith

Training an average of 15 hours a week, the Men's Artistic Provincial level athletes from Evolution Gymnastics Aurora (EGA) topped off another great season last year with some stellar performances at the 2015 Ontario Championships.

13-year-old Level 2 athlete Christopher Kent garnered a Silver medal on rings, and bronze medals on Pommel horse, parallel Bars, floor exercise and all-round.

In the Level 3 category, 11-year-old Julian Farano came away with a bronze medal on Pommel horse.

12-year-old Level 3 athlete Matthew Donovan won a silver medal on Vault.

13-year-old Level 3 Kieran Heaslip earned a silver medal on floor and, due to his strong performance at Provincial Championships, was selected to the Ontario Team that attended 2015 Eastern Canadian Championships.

He represented us very well in New Brunswick, earning a gold medal on floor and a bronze medal on vault

Head coach Sean Heaslip, along with coaches Warren Bisbee and Carol Charad, continue to provide our male team members with focused guidance in a positive, relaxed environment, so that, with consistent effort, each of them can realize their goals, both short & long term.

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format.

The first game in Orangeville went on Sunday, with Aurora finally seeing the output they had come to expect all season, taking Game 3 in a high-scoring 10 – 9 affair. Unfortunately, they lost their momentum later that afternoon, allowing Orangeville to take the series at home.

Ian Rettie, the league's top hitter in a number of categories this season, took to the mound for Game 4. He was handed the 8 – 4 loss.

"We just didn't have it all series," said Aurora bench boss Rob Wilson. "We weren't connecting like we're used to. It's disappointing."

Despite the Jays being one of the top contenders in the NDBL for the last handful of seasons, the club is still in search of its first win of the Strother Cup. They were runners-up to the Ivy Leafs last season, who took the championship series at home in four games.

Orangeville now moves on to the second round and awaits the final series of the first round to be decided between Bolton and Clearview this week. The other two series were also decided on Sunday with first-place New Lowell finishing a sweep of the Mansfield Cubs and Ivy completing their win over Barrie.

Wilson said his team has to take the loss in stride.

"The team just has to come back

out next year, and hopefully we'll be contenders. We've got what it takes to be a championship team, the key components are there. We just have to put them to use in the post-season."

To continue following the NDBL post-season, visit www.ndbl.ca.

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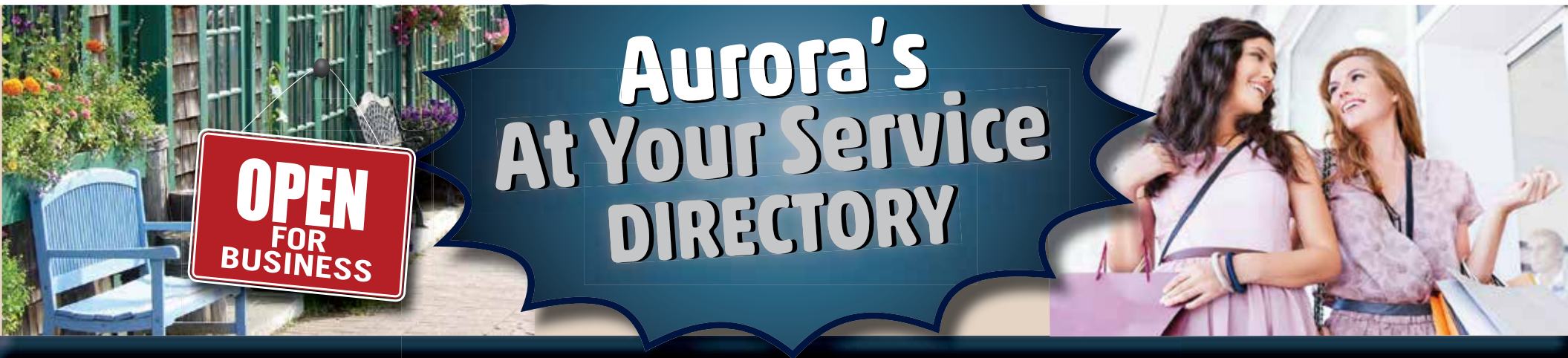
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Development charges “significant barrier” in bringing hotel to Aurora

By Brock Weir

As Aurora looks at ways to draw people into the community, the big question is, now that Aurora’s hotel has closed its doors, just where they are going to stay.

According to a report before Council this week from Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning, however, discussions are currently underway at Town Hall with a hotel investor proposing an 87 suite hotel near Highway 404, but current municipal development charges might pose a barrier to making it a reality.

Last year, Aurora approved a new bylaw updating development charges (DCs) across the board. DCs are funds paid by builders in order to develop in municipalities. These funds are often earmarked for specific purposes, particularly to account for future growth needs faced by the Town as a whole.

The changes impacted DCs for hotel developments to a charge equal to 50 per cent of the non-residential rate, plus further fees for each unit within a proposed hotel.

“The Town has been approached over the past several months by various investors interested in a hotel in Aurora,” said Mr. Ramunno. “A number of groups have entered into advanced stages of planning, including the securing of sites, completing detailed financial analyses, engaging potential hotel brands and engaging an architect. These groups have highlighted the

current development charges as a significant barrier to the construction of a hotel in Aurora.

“The Town is currently in discussions with a hotel investor that is proposing a 46,110 square foot, 87 suite hotel along the Highway 404 corridor. The investor is progressing through planning stages of the project and has indicated that the estimated development charge is extraordinary when compared to other GTA municipalities and a significant barrier to development.”

Comparative numbers in the report indicate York Region has significantly higher DCs when it comes to hotels and Aurora specifically is higher than its neighbours.

“Staff believe that current development charges are a barrier to the Town attracting a hotel and recommend Council take steps to address the issue,” said Mr. Ramunno. “Staff have discussed the issue with York Region staff and understand that a very limited number of hotels have been approved under the current development charge policy. This further supports the assertion that the development charge is hindering the Region’s ability to attract a hotel.”

A possible solution floated to Council is deferring development charges above and beyond what a hotel is required to pay compared to an office building of a similar size until such time as the business changes. If the proposed hotel comes to pass, it will result in a deferral of \$565,000-worth of DCs for the Town of Aurora.

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1	2	3					4	5	6	7
8				9			10			
11							12			
13					14		15			16
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						38				39
40					41				42	
43					44				45	
46									47	
48									49	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Munich jazz label

4. A lump of clay

8. Showy ornament

10. __ Girl, brand of beer

11. Aka Kissavos

12. Warmest season of the year

13. 2nd longest Bulgarian river

15. Records the brain’s electric currents

16. Cutting part of a drill

17. Colorful Italian city

18. The last part

19. Pouch

20. “Mad Men” creator

24. No (Scottish)

25. Actress Farrow

26. Focus cars (Co. initials)
27. Snakelike fish

28. One point E of due S

29. Grey sea eagle

30. Female “Mad Men” star

37. Actress Lupino

38. Time units (abbr.)

39. Moses’ elder brother

40. 4th Caliph of Islam

41. Treaty of Rome creation

42. Theatrical play

43. Told on

45. “To tie” in Spanish

46. Amidst

47. Exchange for money

48. Bar game missile

49. Pluto or ____ Pater

CLUES DOWN

1. Selfishness

2. Cinnamon source

3. Revolutionary firearm

4. Br. university town river

5. Lower back region

6. Relating to oil

7. Soil

9. Cause to lose courage

10. Pushed in nose dog

12. Dregs

14. Part of a cheer

15. Point midway between NE and E

18. Female sheep

19. Main

21. In a wav. tangled
23. Nothing

26. Hoover’s organization

27. Before

28. Patti Hearst’s captors

29. One point S of due E

30. Film splicer & viewer

31. Something curved in shape

32. Possessed

33. Patagonian hares

34. Gave a formal speech

35. Resident of Mogadishu

36. Tangles

37. Annona diversifolia

40. Mures river city

41. Same as 15 across

44. Explosive

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				M	A	G	M	A	S					M	A	S
		A	T	E	L	I	E	R	S					A	U	R
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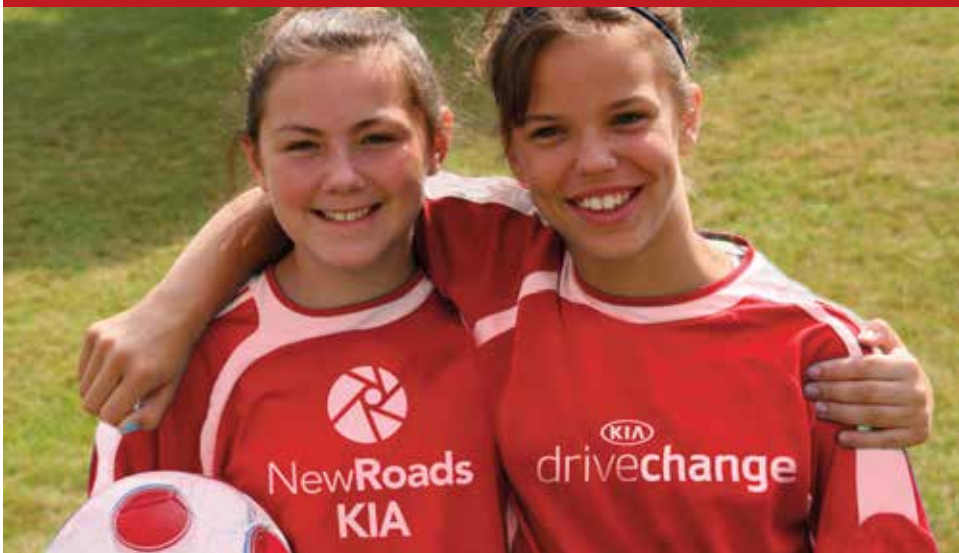
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