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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

Vol. 16 No. 35 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of June 23, 2016



**SPRING INTO SUMMER** – Students at Rick Hansen Public School, like Shaoyang, bounced their way closer to summer holidays last Friday at the school's annual "Hansenpalooza." The annual year-end fair which incorporated bouncy castles, road hockey, as demonstrated inset by Spero, and other family-friendly activities, has become an annual favourite with members of the community and lasted until dusk.

AURORAN PHOTOS BY GLENN RODGER

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## Yonge and Wellington left turn ban eyed for August launch

By Brock Weir

If you're in the habit of trying to turn left at Yonge and Wellington during the morning and afternoon rush, you might have to come up with a few alternative routes between August and October.

Council is poised to approve a pilot project banning left turns at Yonge and Wellington in a pilot project beginning August 15 and running through October 15, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Buses will be exempt from the restriction.

Previously approved in principle by Councillors earlier this year, and requested to the Region of York, Councillors are set to consider the fine details of the pilot at this week's General Committee meeting. If approved this week, it will come before Council for further ratification on June 28.

According to the report before Councillors this week from Ilmar Simanovskis, the Town's Director of Infrastructure, left turn restrictions in the area during peak times are expected to show "marginal benefits" to help improve traffic in the busy corridor and

public feedback will be important in determining future steps.

"Town and Regional staff met on May 20 to discuss implementation of the left turn restrictions," said Mr. Simanovskis, noting the intersection is under the control of the Region of York. "The pilot project...will provide sufficient data for the Region to determine what the impacts of the left turn prohibition has on the Regional and local road network. The Region will deploy two portable message signs north and south of Wellington Street and on Yonge Street on August 1 to

Continued on page 3

### Canada Day parade will start at Wellington this year

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Canada Day Parade will be shorter this year, following concerns raised over "accessibility."

Participants in this year's Canada Day Parade will gather at Wellington Street to prepare for the parade, which formally begins just south of the intersection on Mosley Street.

According to Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Aurora, the decision to shorten the

Continued on page 8

## Study could lead to protected "heritage landscapes"

By Brock Weir

Wide vistas and approaches to well-known historic landmarks can evoke powerful memories and feelings for people who hold them dear – and these landscapes could become protected in Aurora following a Council decision last week.

In an 8-1 vote, Council voted in favour of a motion put forward by Councillor Tom Mrakas to begin building an inventory of what he calls "cultural heritage landscapes."

These landscapes – which could

range from parkland and open spaces to streetscapes, cemeteries and even golf courses – are an extension of protections already in place for "significant built heritage" and a move to protect landscapes could be an opportunity to "encourage good stewardship" of identified lands and structures around the community.

The motion calls on a full assessment and inventory of such landscapes to be incorporated into Aurora's Official Plan Review, and the compiled inventory sent to the Town's Heritage Advisory Committee in September prior to Council

Continued on page 13

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HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW – Lester B. Public School students proudly display their new haircuts before presenting a cheque to the Canadian Cancer Society on Monday morning.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

# Bumper crop of locks raise thousands for Canadian Cancer Society

By Brock Weir

Cheers went up from her classmates when hairstylists presented Georgia Barrington with a Ziploc bag full of her long tresses on Monday, but things didn't stop there.

The Grade 6 student decided to take things a step further and asked for the hair dresser to fire up the shaver. She was joining the boys in going all the way, shaving her head in the third-annual Jakob's Cause, which brought crowds at Lester B. Pearson Public School to their feet at their year-end assembly.

The initiative of fellow Grade 6 student Jakob Israel to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society, it is now in its third year.

In the first year, Jakob went solo on stage as barbers from Yellow Orange Salon and Spa did away with his curls, but since that first outlining, the initiative has grown. This week, the team was 11 students strong who collectively raised \$9,138 and counting for the fight against cancer.

"Three years ago when I asked my mom and dad what I could do to raise money

for the Canadian Cancer Society, I never imagined Jakob's Cause would become so big," Jakob told the assembly. "This year, my team and I have raised over \$9,000, bringing Jakob's Cause's three-year grand total to over \$22,000, all benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society.

"I have a few people to thank and without them this day wouldn't have been possible: the wonderful stylists who have volunteered their time this morning to cut and shave our heads: Esther Farsalis of James Dimitri in Aurora, Jessica and Lori from Becoming Hair Salon in Aurora, Brigitte of Yellow Orange Salon in Aurora, and Bonnie and Brenda MacFarlane. Thank you all.

"I would also like to thank our courageous team: Georgia, Jacob, Anthony, Isobel, Elena, Charlie, Tucker, Lukas, Isaac and Sam. Yesterday, my little brother Henry joined the team by shaving his head too. [I'd also like to thank] amazing Mme (Wendy) Dicker and all of the people at LBP who have helped organize this really cool event, and of course, everyone who has donated over the last three years.

Continued on page 7

# Pilot project up for further Council talks

From page 1

communicate to motorists the left turn prohibition during peak hours.

"The Region is investigating the use of a Bluetooth reader to be strategically placed to collect travel time data, as well as completing additional traffic studies and observations. As this project has the potential to provide a significant change to the traffic operations at the... intersection as well as surrounding areas, there is a high priority for community engagement and feedback."

Over the course of the pilot, the Town will be working with residents and businesses to keep them informed through advertising, online surveys, and social media. The success or failure of the project will be measured through social media response, online survey participants, enquiries received at Town Hall, and traffic surveys before and during the pilot project.

"The Town and Region staff will conduct traffic volume counts, travel

time and queue surveys before, during and after the implementation of the pilot project," said Mr. Simanovskis. "In addition, staff will observe traffic patterns and infiltration in surrounding neighbourhoods. Post-pilot-implementation, staff will report to Council on the findings of the pilot program and provide recommendations."

Yonge and Wellington averages 18,000 – 20,000 vehicles per day, which is typical for arterial roads in the area, according to Mr. Simanovskis' report.

"[Accepted thresholds] could range up to 30,000 vehicles per day, according to the Transportation Association of Canada guide lines for arterial roads," he said. "However, the road experiences traffic delays due to the lack of turning lanes at its intersection with Wellington Street. This corridor is a primary community destination for retail, entertainment and culture. This area also adds a historic small-town and human-scaled character to the downtown."

TOWN OF AURORA  
PUBLIC NOTICE

## SEEKING CITIZEN MEMBERS FOR THE TOWN OF AURORA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Aurora Town Council invites residents to apply to participate as a citizen member of one of the following:

**Advisory Committees**

- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee

Applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 8, 2016.

For more information on roles and responsibilities for Committee members, please visit Aurora Town Hall, Aurora Public Library or the Town of Aurora's website at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

For more information, please call 905-727-3123, ext. 4227.

**What is the application process?**

Appointment to Advisory Committees is open to all residents of Aurora, or owners of land within the municipality, or a tenant of land in Aurora. Applications must be submitted to the Town on the approved application form. Application forms and additional information can be picked up at Aurora Town Hall, Aurora Public Library or by visiting the Town's website at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Clerk and submitted by email to [pthoma@aurora.ca](mailto:pthoma@aurora.ca) or by fax at 905-726-4732. Applications can also be submitted by mail or hand delivered to 100 John West Way, P.O. Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | [www.aurora.ca/publicnotices](http://www.aurora.ca/publicnotices) | 905-727-3123, ext. 4227

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TOWN OF AURORA  
PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS BY-LAW NUMBER 5868-16 TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND SELL MUNICIPAL LANDS

**TAKE NOTICE** that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora (the "Town") is providing notice of its intention to pass By-law Number 5868-16 on Tuesday, July 12, 2016, pursuant to Report No. C3516-016 for the purpose of declaring as surplus and selling land municipally known as 12 Industrial Parkway South, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York and legally described as Lot 1 Plan 535, Aurora, being all of PIN 03645-0021 (C), all together having an area of approximately 0.55 acres, more or less, as illustrated for location purposes only on the map below. This land was recently vested to the Town through the regulated property tax sales process. The property is now in the process of being sold to Metrolink for the purpose of providing additional public parking for the Aurora GO station.

The final version of By-law Number 5868-16 will be available on the Town's website, located at [www.aurora.ca/government](http://www.aurora.ca/government), on July 8, 2016 prior to the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

**PROPERTY:** 12 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora

**LEGAL DESC:** Lot 1 Plan 535, PIN 03645-0021 (C)

**CONTACT:** Additional information may be obtained from Dan Elliott, Director, Corporate & Financial Services/Treasurer at 905-727-3123 ext. 4772 or by email to [de Elliott@aurora.ca](mailto:de Elliott@aurora.ca)

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | [www.aurora.ca/publicnotices](http://www.aurora.ca/publicnotices) | 905-727-3123, ext. 4772

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Town should get fair shake in Theatre Aurora lease: former resident

The Town of Aurora owns a multi-million dollar property (ask any local agent) at 150 Henderson Drive that is currently being extremely underused and not generating any profit to taxpayers.

In a time where programming space is at a premium, the taxpayers own a facility that could reduce the overwhelming burden on its current operations, as well as be made available to a wide range of user groups to bring in facility booking dollars.

On June 1, The Auroran printed an article indicating that Theatre Aurora was calling for support from the town in a so-called “battle.” Their president, Sal Aguila, says if the town wants to “play the game”, they are ready.

The Town is representing taxpayer dollars and if they care enough to represent the electorate, it is definitely not a game to them. A relationship with the Town of Aurora that has a supreme beneficiary claiming to take “battle” with them is not the kind of partnership that any Town should ever want.

There are many issues that were neglected to be mentioned in the article.

Firstly, Theatre Aurora has enjoyed a sweetheart deal for many years that any other theatre company could only wish to have. Their lease agreement is to maintain a Town property for what essentially amounts to a free lease. Their unsubstantiated claim made in the article of saving the Town of Aurora \$500,000 in labour costs are preposterous. Surely the town could put a single staff member in that location in the area of \$50,000 per year to attend the property daily, and in addition, scheduled when required.

Further to this, upon visiting this property surely you will agree that it is aged, dated and in a state of disrepair not in line with Town of Aurora standards.

According to government registered documents, the organization rarely seems to be able to turn a profit. The only reason why Theatre Aurora is still in existence today is a result of having been at the taxpayers’ expense.

Based on their financial documents, there is no way they could afford any rent. This leads to the question of mismanagement, via monopolizing a town asset.

In looking at the Theatre Aurora website’s current schedule from June forward, they have only 78.5 hours marked as “busy” over June to September. Then, from September to December, they have blocked out approximately 74 days in order to accommodate 19 days of revenue generating performances.

Theatre Aurora is blocking the theatre from being used by other organizations, the town and its tax payers. It is obvious that the facility is being underused for revenue generation and mostly used for set building, storage and rehearsals that all other theatre companies would have to pay for on their own.

They quote a daily rate of \$850 for rental to other organizations, a rate they themselves could never afford.

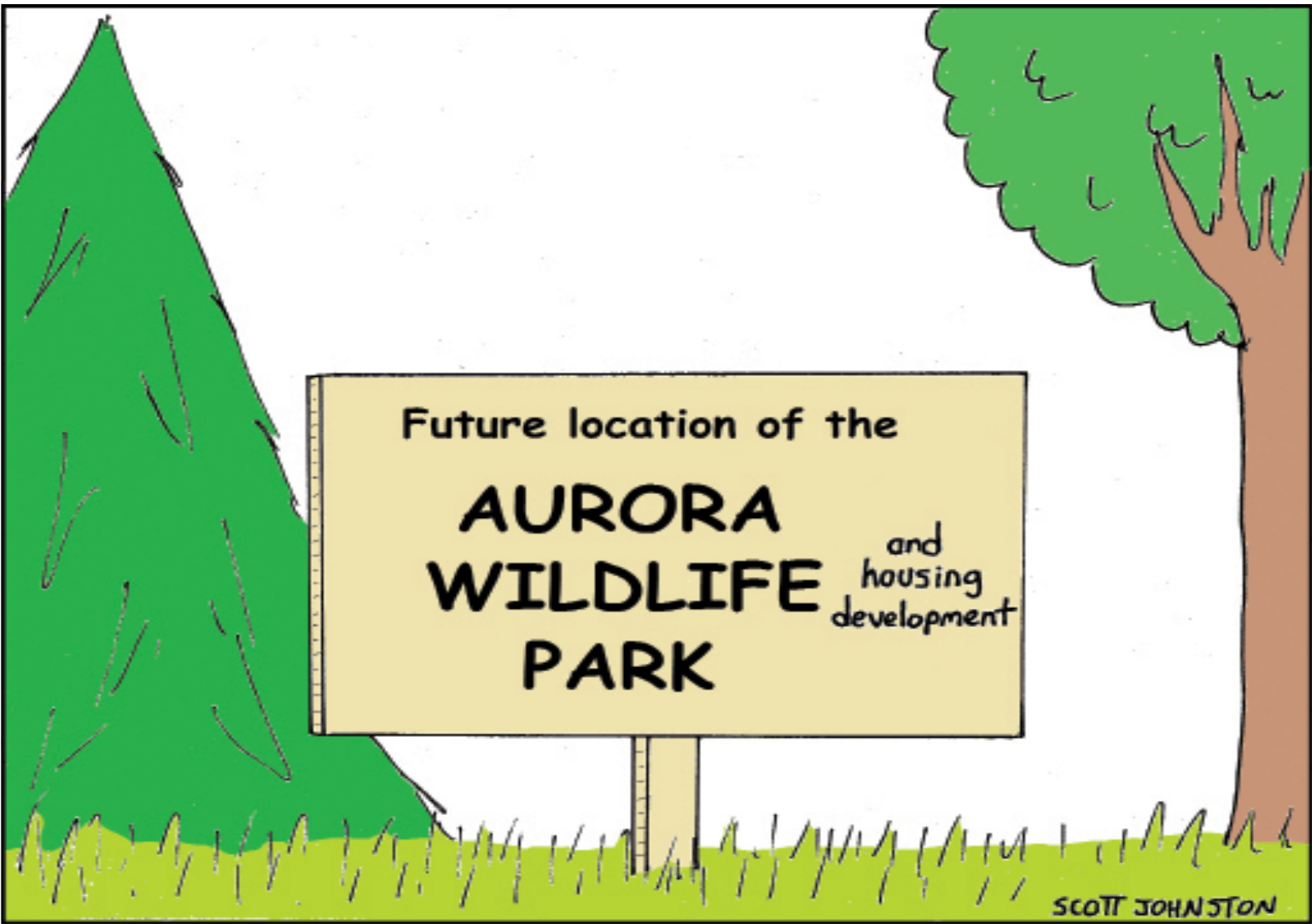
By blocking the Town of Aurora and not giving them additional dates to be used by other organizations, Theatre Aurora has made a decision to exclude other theatre groups in the town. Theatre Aurora talks about inclusion, and creating a family through the arts in Aurora, however in fact they have created a clique that only benefits themselves.

Arts are an integral part of our societal fabric, but should not benefit approximately 50 people versus a town population of 50,000.

If a taxpayer responsible agreement cannot be reached, the Town should consider other options, perhaps putting the agreement out to tender. Ultimately, the time has come for the Town to make decisions that are beneficial to all involved.

Michelle Cutts  
North York

Machell’s Corners



Anxiously awaiting that final straw



BROCK’S  
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Brock Weir

This won’t be news to you, of course, but you’re a clever bunch.

With just a few hours to go before this week’s edition of The Auroran goes to press, your message is loud and clear: It will take more than the worst mass shooting in American history to spur any action on tighter gun control legislation in the United States.

As of this writing, 100 per cent of you voted “No” when asked if you thought recent events in Orlando would be seen by local lawmakers as a call to action.

There’s no wavering there.

And there’s no wavering among the American lawmakers, sadly.

On Monday, despite widespread support from the general public, whether registered Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians or Independent, the United States Senate decisively voted down a series of common sense measures which should have been in place years ago; namely, preventing suspected terrorists from buying guns and other weapons (such a novel idea) and putting in place tougher background checks so that guns don’t fall into the hands of the wrong people.

Over the past week, we have seen no shortage of guns falling into the hands of the wrong people both inside and outside the United States.

There was, of course, the tragic attacks against the LGBTQ community at Orlando’s Pulse nightclub, the horrible assassination of British Labour MP Jo Cox, an advocate for Britain staying in the European Union in the heat of the upcoming Brexit vote and, on the stranger side of things, the British fellow living in the United States who was arrested for trying to knock off Donald Trump by attempting to steal a gun from a police officer.

Most pundits south of the Border seemed distinctively nonplussed over the outcome. They have been to this rootin’ tootin’ gun shootin’ist rodeo more times than Yosemite Sam. It was a foregone conclusion.

“I was mortified by today’s vote, but I am not surprised by it,” said Democratic Senator Chris Murphy in an interview with CNN. “The NRA has a vice-like grip on this place.”

In the same piece, responding to a poll carried out by the news outlet showing the vast majority of Americans are in favour of these simple changes, he added: “I don’t think democracy allows for this Congress to be out of step with the American public for long.”

All too often, however, they have indeed found themselves out of step and Americans now seem to be marching to very different drummers.

Take, for instance, the meteoric and

fascinating rise of both long-serving Senator Bernie Sanders and reality television personality Donald Trump (Home Alone 2: Lost in New York). The fact that these men are on diametrically opposing ends of the political spectrum is clear to anyone with at least one functioning eye or ear, but when you get past the finger pointing, bluster, and political blowhardery, they do have one uncanny similarity.

Both have tapped into something within the American public that has been too long untapped: dissatisfaction. And, with a broken two-party system, they didn’t have anyone to come along and drill in a spigot, until this presidential campaign. Now, it is going to be very hard for anyone to turn off the flow.

Americans want “change” – a lovely catch-all – and they don’t care where they have to go to find it.

The same can be said of some of the more rabid people slinging mud at each other in the Brexit debate, but that is a column for another day. Let’s wait until the dust settles on that one.

Americans are tired of the business-as-usual way of running things. Sanders has taken on the mantle of taking down special interests like his oft-and-oft-and-oft mentioned Wall Street Fat Cats, while Trump is going after change for change’s sake dancing around the issue of the NRA like Salome, unsure where it is most politically advantageous to let his veil-like hair drop.

Nevertheless, the reality is that these special interests, and the NRA in particular, do have these choke holds on one of the world’s most enduring democracies and it doesn’t matter how many students are shot, and it doesn’t matter how many LGBTQ are mowed down while celebrating their pride in the process. Nobody in a position of power wants to rock the boat but, come November, perhaps they will have been cast overboard in a cresting wave.

The more I look with dismay at the process unfolding below our southern border, the more grateful I am for the system we have in place. Sure, it is flawed – no system is ever perfect – but it is certainly effective.

Since we’re still in Pride Month, let’s cast our minds back to 2004

when the Supreme Court of Canada made its historic ruling in favour of equal marriage. They deemed that the definition of marriage, from a civil standpoint, must evolve with society and that equal marriage ultimately “flows” directly from the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

It was a decision that was free of satisfying the needs of special interests groups in certain parties (and indeed represented in some quarters of all significant Canadian parties) holding onto outmoded tenets of a constitution set out in 1867 or, in the case of our southern friends, 1791.

I am sure many people were surprised to see some relevancy recently come out of our Parliament’s Red Chamber over the debate concerning “Right to Die” legislation.

In a rare move, the Senate, intended to be Canada’s “Chamber of Sober Second Thought” attempted to go toe-to-toe with the House of Commons over the legislation fighting for a number of changes stemming from their own debates, most notably a clause in the legislation which would have allowed doctor-assisted dying in cases where patients were not necessarily terminally ill but suffering nonetheless.

The Senate ultimately lost that particular battle, but their efforts re-entered an important part of the debate back into the public consciousness, as it did the Senate’s own relevancy as an oversight body, a further check and balance, to our elected representatives in the House of Commons.

Their decisions, their views, and their suggestions to the House of Commons are no longer – generally speaking – beholden to a particular party’s line, nor are they necessarily looking to score brownie points in their respective constituencies all with an eye of being re-elected in October 2019.

Their collective experiences, expert consultation, and sobriety in thought came together in an attempt to address the important needs of Canadians, a duty their American counterparts – and elected counterparts, yet – seem to have all but abdicated.

Democracy is a fragile thing. For all its flaws, ours seems to be working well at the moment, but we can only imagine how theirs will be working in the aftermath of the November election and the January inauguration of the ultimate victor.

With an appetite for change growling, from whatever corner it comes, one can only hope that will be enough to align gun control laws to the will of the people, and nobody else has to die while the world waits for them to catch up.

# THE AURORAN

*Aurora’s Community Newspaper*

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.  
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8

Main number 905-727-3300 • Fax number 905-727-2620

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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.





**The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating:**

Log Cabin Day  
(Sunday, June 26)

This postcard was sent on March 21, 1908 from Aurora to England. The log cabin belonged to the Hadath family and was located on Ridge Road. Built around 1818, the cabin was destroyed by fire in October 1855.



**IN GOOD COMPANY**  
Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

**Summer of Fun in Aurora**

For the next couple of months, the beautiful summer weather is here and ready for us to enjoy!

Help your kids beat the heat by cooling off in one of two children’s splash pads in Aurora located at Ada Johnson Park (Hartwell & Conover Avenue) and Town Park (Wells & Mosley Streets). These splash pads will stay open pending weather conditions.

For closure updates, please visit the Town’s website, read the Town’s Notice Board, visit our social media feeds or call 905-727-3123 ext. 3233.

There are several upcoming events that we hope will appeal to you and your family.

Join us for the upcoming Canada Day Celebrations.

On Thursday, June 30, don’t miss the Rotary Dance in the Town Park starting at 7 p.m. There will be dancing, a beer garden and live entertainment! On Friday, July 1, join us for the Canada Day Parade, activities and fireworks.

The parade has a NEW route this year! It will travel south on Yonge Street from Mosley Street to Murray Drive. The parade begins at 10 a.m. A list of Canada Day activities is posted at [www.aurora.ca/canadaday](http://www.aurora.ca/canadaday). As well, stay tuned for fun events such as Theatre in the Park and Concerts in the Park starting in July.

Congratulations to Aurora for achieving one of the Top 25 places to live in Canada according to MoneySense Magazine’s Best Places to Live 2016 report. Aurora ranked 19th out of 219 cities in Canada, moving up from 30th place in 2015. Aurora also ranked among the Top 10 cities for a healthy population growth and low crime rate.

The Town was in the Top 25th percentile of all 219 cities for high incomes, strong arts and sports community and good weather.

As a reminder, please be aware that Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is updating the assessed values of every property in Ontario. All properties will have a legislated valuation date of January 1, 2016. These values will be used by Aurora to calculate your property taxes for the 2017-2020 property tax years.

To learn more about your assessed value visit [aboutmyproperty.ca](http://aboutmyproperty.ca) or contact MPAC Customer Contact Centre at 1-866-296-6722 or 1-877-889-6722.

Keep your lawn trim and clean. The Property Standards/CleanYards By-law is in effect. All residents and businesses should be cleaning up debris on their property and keeping grass no longer than eight inches. Let’s help keep Aurora looking beautiful!

Water is one of our most important resources. Residents are reminded to practice water conservation this summer. The Town of Aurora has water use regulations to help ensure there is an abundant supply of water for our community. Check out our [www.aurora.ca/bylaws](http://www.aurora.ca/bylaws) section for more details.

Do you want to be a Business Ambassador for the Town of Aurora? This program solicits key business leaders to help promote Aurora as a first choice for new businesses and families. The program is based on the principle that existing, successful businesses can attract new business. The deadline to apply for this program is Monday, July 4, 2016.

Visit [www.businessaurora.ca](http://www.businessaurora.ca) for more details.  
Have a wonderful start to the summer!

**NEW AURORAN POLL**

Will a left hand turn restriction at Yonge and Wellington during peak times help the traffic situation?  
**Yes No Unsure**

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

Previous Poll Results

Do you think the recent events in Orlando will spur the United States to get tough on gun control?

RESULTS TO DATE	JUNE 21, 2016	YES	NO	UNSURE
		0%	100%	0%

**Honoured by my cabinet appointment**

This past week has been busy and exciting. I was deeply honoured by the trust placed in me by Premier Kathleen Wynne in appointing me as Ontario’s Minister of Housing and the Minister Responsible for the Province’s Poverty Reduction Strategy. It has been more than 20 years since the Ministry of Housing has been a stand-alone ministry, which highlights the importance our government places on this area.

Affordable housing has always been an issue I have championed. As far back as my days on the Aurora Council, I advocated that we need to do more. Increasing affordable housing is critical to reducing poverty in Ontario – the two are closely linked. By creating this stand-alone ministry the province can now continue its efforts, with our partners, to build more affordable and social housing. This will also aid in the government’s work to eradicate homelessness in Ontario. The new ministry will lead the province’s negotiations with the federal government on new social housing agreements, and implement the province’s commitments in the Climate Change Action Plan related to affordable and social housing.

One of my responsibilities for the past two years has been as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Now, as I move into the position as minister for this portfolio, I look forward to continuing to work for some of Ontario’s most vulnerable citizens. Addressing poverty is a priority to the government of Ontario. A province such as Ontario, should not have 1.57 million people living in poverty. We need to adapt public supports and investments in education, housing, health care, mental health, jobs, training and other services, so that everyone reaches their full potential and is a contributing member of society. I would like to thank the people of Newmarket-Aurora for their support.



**View From Queen’s Park**

Chris Ballard, MPP  
Newmarket-Aurora

I am excited by this new responsibility and look forward to helping our government make a difference in the areas of housing and poverty reduction.

**York Region Food Network**

On June 16, I attended *What’s the BIG idea 2.0*, the event was hosted by the York Region Food Network at the Town of Newmarket’s municipal office. I spoke on the provincial plans for a basic income pilot. From my own research I have learned a few interesting and important things about “Basic Income” programs. They are complex and there is no basic definition. However, these programs are generally understood as a cash transfer from the government to families or individuals to ensure a minimum level of annual income.

Pilot projects done around the world, including Canada, U.S., Sweden and Finland, have shown there is no single way to implement a basic income pilot. Results of the pilots are intriguing. Proponents say basic income programs can do everything from decrease domestic violence, to increase graduation rates for young men to improve the health of children. But we need to do our own research through a pilot project to ensure the concept will work here in Ontario. The government committed to do this as part of our 2016 budget, and we will provide updates as we move along.

The second topic that I addressed was on food security. In November 2015, Food Banks Canada released their *HungerCount* 2015, its annual report on hunger and food bank usage across

**Curb Enthusiasm**



**INSIDE AURORA**

Scott Johnston

the experts didn’t recommend them, and there was no pre-approved funding.”

“Yet despite everything being stacked against the idea, Council still endorsed them. All it took was a petition from residents with a few signatures.”

“Whether traffic calming in those locations was justified or not is not the issue,” he continued. “Council has set the precedent on how residents can expect to get extremely localized municipal projects approved and funded.”

With a flourish, he fished a piece of paper out of his pocket.

“I give you ... the petition.”

We stepped forward as the line moved along. As I looked at the document, he explained, “I’ve been thinking about that umbrella idea for a while. If the Town allowed street parking in winter, it might even work to keep snow off the cars. I never thought I’d have the chance to see it implemented until I read The Auroran article the other week noting that the

traffic calming had been approved.”

“I’ve already canvassed my neighbours,” he said. “That petition you’re holding has 37 signatures on it, over 92% of local residents, who agree with the umbrella idea. That’s more than Council needed to approve the speed humps.”

“But the speed humps were a good idea.”

“Who’s to say the umbrellas aren’t a good idea? Neither one has studies, recommendations nor funding supporting it, and the vast majority of impacted residents want them, so they sound the same to me.”

I hated to admit it, but there was twisted logic to what he was saying.

“Yes sir,” he smiled, stepping up to the counter. “It’s going to be so comfortable getting into the car when those umbrellas are in place.”

“You know, now that the Town’s done away with that pesky study and justification process, once we see how the umbrellas look, I may just speak with my neighbours about getting behind another pet project I have in mind for our street.”

Turning to me with a twinkle in his eye, he said, “You hate hand weeding dandelions and cutting the grass on the Town owned property in front of your house as much as I do. What do you think of AstroTurf boulevards?”

Feel free to e-mail Scott at:  
[machellscorners@gmail.com](mailto:machellscorners@gmail.com)



# Townhouse complex approved amid concerns for downtown retail

By Brock Weir

A development of 126 stacked back-to-back townhouses spread between six

four-storey blocks has been approved for Aurora’s Downtown Core, despite some worries of the impacts it might have on local traffic and retail.

The development is slated for land on the northwest corner of Yonge and Wellington, just north of Dollarama, which was formerly the site of a grocery store, and directly across the street of a large condominium complex which is inching towards completion.

Residents came forward at last week’s Council meeting to offer their worries on the impact this development might have on area traffic but while Council received traffic studies saying it should not have a negative hit on the already busy corridor, lawmakers’ attention turned to how it might help or hinder getting people into the Downtown Core.

The original proposal for this site called for a mixed use condo complex which would have incorporated retail and commercial uses on the bottom floor with condos and apartments on the storeys above. The final plan, however, is significantly different with no retail and the units divided into multiple blocks.

Requiring retail at ground level is a key plank in the Town’s Promenade Plan, which covers swaths of Yonge Street and Wellington Street, and this deviation raised the eyebrows of Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

“I understand the developer has concerns that providing commercial and retail at grade won’t be viable, but that is the old reality,” she contended. “Right now we have condos at Centre and Yonge, we have a large townhouse development going in on Tyler and, of course, whatever goes onto this property. I think it is the job of the developer [to build] what they think is best for their company and easiest to sell. I think it is our job to follow our planning policies and promote the communities we want.”

While other Councillors said they too supported the vision of the Aurora Promenade, this situation provides a number of challenges, including the current commercial vacancies already found along the Yonge Street corridor.

“While I respect Councillor Gaertner’s perspective...I am concerned because we see so many [retail spaces] in existing buildings that are not doing well, not thriving and empty, and it concerns me,” said Councillor Sandra Humfries. “I am now seeing evidence in our community of failed commercial first level units and I don’t want to see any more of that.”

This was a view shared by many around the table, including Councillor Paul Pirri, who said the Promenade Plan doesn’t mean every single property proposed for the area has to have “something for people to do. It is okay to have some properties where people just live.”

“We would have loved to have seen some commercial uses on the property but over the three previous meetings it was demonstrated through facts that if you want to build a sustainable downtown, you have to bring more people into the Downtown Core. Councillor Humfries is 100 per cent correct: there are a lot of these businesses that are suffering right now because there is nobody [patronizing] those facilities, so the more people you bring into the community, I think the better the opportunity we have to really foster the business community in Town.”

Added Councillor Michael Thompson: “I am more concerned about getting people to open those store fronts on Yonge Street that are currently empty than adding more to the inventory, so to speak. The only way we are going to fill those shops is to get more people into the Downtown. We have other initiatives we are looking at, but at the heart of it, it is about having more people in the area to support those shops.”

In the end, the proposal was approved 8 – 1, with only Councillor Gaertner voting against the plan.

“We have to be mindful of the businesses in the area,” concluded Mayor Geoff Dawe. “We don’t want to be responsible for cannibalizing some of those businesses. I think we need to achieve a bit of balance there. We have to look at getting people downtown first.”



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## Briefly

### POLICE SEEK ASSISTANCE AFTER HOME INVASION

York Regional Police (YRP) are seeking the public's assistance into a home invasion in Aurora in the early hours of Saturday morning. At around 1.50 a.m., Police responded to an unknown trouble call at Yonge and Wellington. According to YRP Sgt. Kelly Bachoo, details are scant at the moment. "It looks like four persons forced their way to a home, three males and one female," she said. "There was some jewellery stolen. They ended up leaving the house, the homeowner was there, spoke with police and the investigation is ongoing." While she couldn't confirm whether this was a random or targeted incident, she said at this point "there is no further potential risk." The first male suspect is described as black with a large build. The second, also a black man, is described as having a lighter complexion, while the third is described as having a darker complexion. There is no indication on heights or ages. This is the case with the fourth suspect, a woman, who is described as black with a darker complexion. Anyone with information is asked to contact York Regional Police's #1 District at 1-866-876-5423 x7100, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

### THEATRE IN THE PARK

The Humber River Shakespeare Company is returning to Aurora next month with A Midsummer Night's Dream. Part of the annual Theatre in the Park series, performances will take place on Friday, July 15, Saturday, July 16, and Sunday, July 17. All performances start at 7 p.m., while Saturday's performance will feature a pre-show workshop beginning at 6.15 p.m. led by cast member and teaching artist Paula Schultz. The event is open to the public on a pay-as-you-can basis, with a suggested donation of \$20 to support the company.

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# Healthy Kids Challenge plants summer seeds at St. Joseph



St. Joseph CES students prepare to take aim at Coach Steve as part of the latest Healthy Kids Community Challenge held at the school on Friday. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

By Brock Weir

Students are now in the home stretch before packing up their books for a well-earned summer vacation but, as the school year winds to a close, local leaders are hoping they’ve put down the solid foundation of a healthy and active summer.

Aurora’s Healthy Kids Community Challenge was at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School on Friday for a day of fun and games, along with healthy activities and lessons on healthy eating.

Formed into teams, groups divided by the colours of their shirts – usually coinciding with the colour of a healthy fruit or vegetable – fanned out across the school, and into surrounding green spaces, for a packed schedule of nature exploration, yoga, Zumba, and even a sample or two of Kambucha.

“It’s year end and we’re getting them to have physical activity in mind going into the summer,” said Gemma Goldstein, Program Coordinator for the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, providing Mayor Geoff Dawe and The Auroran a tour of the ongoing activities. “In each group’s schedule there are different aspects of physical activities. We’re going to be doing things in Town throughout the summer, but we want to keep it in their minds.

“When the school puts so much energy

into it, you know you’ve got a winner and so far so good!”

Through Friday’s sticky heat, students braved the sun for outdoor Zumba lessons, obstacle courses facilitated by Sport Aurora, volleyball games, and nature hikes courtesy of Forests Ontario.

Inside, things were a bit more laid back with quiet yoga, speed stacking, and the sampling of healthy go-to staples.

The gym, however, was a different story, where Coach Steve took on a barrage of plastic balls pelted at him by the students. It was a good warm-up, he said, for what’s in store.

“I teach kids of all ages different sports skills without having to worry about game play, without having to worry about winning or losing, and it is all about having fun while learning,” he said. “There is no pressure, which is very important, because the kids are young and they get very upset if they don’t score or if the team doesn’t win.

“The main idea is to have kids use their sports skills as a way to learn life skills. One of the main things is a lot of kids don’t understand failure. A lot of kids are so scared of failure they won’t even try but my program is about teaching kids it’s okay to fail. And it’s not just okay to fail, you have to fail before you succeed at something.”

Friday’s fun was one of the final

capstones to Principal Christine de Haas’ time at St. Joseph as she prepares to take leave for a new posting in Newmarket. Working with Gemma, the Town, Sport Aurora, the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, and the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, has been a pleasure and the

kids have learned a lot, she said. “It is just amazing; the kids are learning so much about physical literacy and healthy eating and I am just so grateful for this opportunity,” she said. “It is such a wonderful community for the kids to be educated.”

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## Haircuts all for a good cause

From page 3

Hopefully if we all work together, we can help people living with cancer one day find a cure.”

Although Georgia might have winced a time or two when the stylists went in for a close shave, she knew it was all for a good cause.

“Any girl can cut their hair, which I normally do during the year, so why not take it up a notch and shave it,” she said, adding there were two things going through her mind when the buzzes got closer: what will her hair feel like and what will she look like?

The consensus was clear: she was rocking the new look, but the feel, she said, will take some getting used to.

“I don’t actually care about my hair that much; I did it because it sounded like a good cause, I have never done this before, and it is one more thing to check off my to-do list.”

As she checked one item off her Grade 6 Bucket List, she was cheered on by her mother, Deanna Rose, and grandmother Carol.

“Knowing her, she always wants to do something a bit different and challenge herself,” said Deanna. “She had seen Jakob do it over the years and just thought, ‘I want to do it and if I am going to do it I want to do the same as Jakob and get out there.’ She asked her family for support and everyone was right behind her.”

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THE AURORAN
ARTS & CULTURE

Vikings, Pioneer Days, Passports and “CCR” help ring in Canada’s Birthday

By Brock Weir

Take a trip around Canada without leaving Aurora, catch up with Vikings, and chill out before fireworks to a tribute to Credence Clearwater Revival as Lambert Willson Park becomes Birthday

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Party Central this Canada Day.

The Town of Aurora’s day-long festivities get underway at the park, which is located on Industrial Parkway North behind the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, with the traditional re-affirmation of Canadian citizenship ceremony, a pancake breakfast served up by the Optimist Club of Aurora, and the official cutting of Canada’s birthday cake led by Mayor Geoff Dawe and Mary Georgopoulos, Aurora’s Citizen of the Year.

Live entertainment is the order of the day with performances from the Aurora Community Band setting the tone, followed throughout July 1 by The Mudmen, The Glenn Marais Band, the final round and crowning the 2016 Aurora Teen Idol, and Green River Revival, a tribute to CCR.

“Last year was the first year we had the Aurora Community Band and it was fabulous,” says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of

Aurora. “The Mudmen is definitely going to give us our share of pipes and Celtic music, and we are very fortunate to have been able to secure them because they are actually due in Kincardine and once they get off our stage they are immediately going there.

“We are really pleased to have the Glenn Marais Band participating. This year we have moved Aurora Teen Idol to 6 p.m., which is always a huge highlight for me. Immediately following the Aurora Teen Idol is Green River Revival.”

While the live music will go a long way to provide the party atmosphere, Ms. Ware is particularly excited about the activities planned to help young Aurorans – and the young at heart – get back in touch with their roots and the history and culture of Canada.

“The item I am always most passionate about is the Canada Day Passport because it is such a unique concept,” says Ms. Ware of the stations that will be set up to allow party-goers to experience a unique

facet of each province and territory. “They actually travel across Canada and do interactive activities related to that particular location. They get to learn something while they get to play.

“I am also really excited this year that we have Black Creek Pioneer village doing an interactive activity for the Province of Ontario, which is re-enacting children’s pioneer chores, and we also have a Viking organization coming in and setting up a display, educating people on the Viking settlement of Newfoundland. At Canada Day, we are able to bring in unique cultural experiences I am hoping the attendees wouldn’t typically be exposed to.”

Additional activities include an Antique and Classic Car Show presented by the Aurora Classic and Custom Car Club, a Kids Workshop presented by Home Depot, a horseshoe tournament (on-site registration required), and a community zone where community groups can promote themselves while providing some interactive games for kids.

Canada Day parade shortened due to “accessibility” complaints

From page 1

route, which normally begins at Orchard Heights Boulevard in the north, making its way south on Yonge Street to Murray, came on the heels of a few cases of heat exhaustion last year.

“There were many who participated in the parade who suffered from heat exhaustion [and had concerns that] the parade route was too long and they asked

that it be shorted or if somehow they could enter into the parade at a different time,” he said.

“We were concerned that the parade route was too long. It doesn’t cause a problem with the Santa Claus Parade, but it certainly does on a hot July day. We had three instances last year where we had to have people drop out of the parade in order to recover from heat exhaustion.”

Some of the concerns, he added, stemmed from the Colour Guard at the Royal Canadian Legion, but Shelley Ware, the Town’s Special Events Coordinator, noted that marching bands expressed similar views.

“We have had some accessibility queries in the past,” she said. “The parade was one of the longest parades in York Region, sitting at 2.4 km and there were some marching bands, and given the heat and temperature on July 1, that made 2.4 km a challenge. It was a struggle trying to get bands to commit to Aurora and part of it was the length of parade. As we went through the research and looking at [including] some marching bands halfway, the parade wouldn’t see half of them. After the whole exploratory process, it made sense to go with the shorter route.”

The challenge, she added, has produced a silver lining. Once the new route was devised, party planners signed on “a number of new marching bands” to participate this year including the Barrie Pipes and Drums, the Uxbridge Pipes and Drums, and other bands who “weren’t able to commit” beforehand.

A new feature this year will be a float dedicated to the recent winners

of Aurora’s Community Recognition Awards, which Ms. Ware says was suggested by Councillor Sandra Humfries following May’s awards ceremony.

“I actually think the streets will be fuller [in the shortened route] so the energy the spectators feel [will be heightened],” said Ms. Ware. “I think it is going to be a win-win for all the parties involved. It is definitely something new for everyone to adjust to, but I am getting really optimistic there will be even more benefits than we realise at this point, which originally stemmed from addressing an accessibility concern.”

General concerns over the change in plan were tackled at Council last week with Councillor Michael Thompson raising alarm bells on behalf of residents who came to him with complaints.

“In fact, a lot of them are actually upset that the route is being shortened, especially that it is not north of Wellington Street where a lot of people have homes,” said Councillor Thompson. “There seems to be some misunderstanding of the rationale behind it, even comments on why this wasn’t better communicated.

“Somehow we have to get that information out. I am surprise we didn’t try to communicate that during the street festival because the feedback I get is people are still surprised.”

Aurora’s Canada Day Parade makes its way down Yonge Street from Wellington to Murray beginning at 10 a.m. Following the parade, a full day of Canada Day Festivities kick off at Lambert Willson Park runs through the spectacular fireworks display at Dusk.

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# New Sports Hall of Fame will transform the SARC – but at a cost

By Brock Weir

With four new members in the class of 2016, the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame is on the move to bigger digs and, if all goes according to plan, it will dramatically transform what you see when you walk into the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame (ASHOF) is marching ahead with plans to move out of their current home on the third floor of Aurora Town Hall to the Complex (SARC), but their plans come with a price tag of over \$77,000.

Councillors this week will consider a potential grant of \$58,850 to the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame for their complete plans. The entire budget for the relocation is set at \$77,050. According to a report before this week’s General Committee meeting, the ASHOF has already identified a contribution from themselves of \$18,200 and are requesting the balance from the Town of Aurora.

Four options are presented to Council including full funding of the request to come from the Town’s Facilities Repair and Replacement Reserve Funds, funding from the balance in Aurora’s Sports Plan Reserve Fund to a tune of nearly \$44,000 with the balance coming from Repair and Replacement, deferring the item to the 2017 Budget Process, or coming up with another number altogether.

The largest chunk of the proposed budget is \$20,000 for designs, followed by \$12,000 for new display cases. Further cost items include a new inductee wall, interactive exhibitions, signage, and staff and administration costs.

“The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame has had a very positive impact on elevating the profile and significance of sports in the community,” said Al Downey, Aurora’s Director of Parks and Recreation, in the report. “The proposed improvements identified by the ASHOF Committee further increase the profile of the Hall and have lasting benefits to the legacy of sport and the individuals who have been recognized for their contributions.”

This week’s report comes on the heels of a presentation made to Council earlier this month by members of ASHOF on

just what could be in store for the SARC and what the goals with the move they hope to accomplish by October 1. While Council members said they were pleased with the vision, they requested the hard numbers before discussing further – and here they are.

“Working together with a local design firm, we have created a vision for what might be possible in this space,” said Michelle Johnson, the new curator for the ASHOF, fresh off her co-curation of the current exhibit at the Aurora Museum and Archives shining a light on the Town’s Cultural Precinct. “We would like the presence of the Hall to be apparent the moment you walk into the Complex. Visitors’ eyes are drawn down the hallway to the western end where a hanging sign will indicate the presence of the hall.”

Additionally, motion-activated projections, digital displays and other interactive components will keep the attention of visitors and, it is hoped, engage youth.

Interactive walls will be a teaser of what will be in store just beyond them and that is the more formal part of the Hall of Fame.

Existing display cases at the SARC will be refurbished to house a mixture of historical elements from the Aurora Museum and Archives, as well as artefacts on loan from inducted members of the Hall of Fame.

“I am proud and excited to be working on this important step in celebrating Aurora’s sport history,” said Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Johnson was joined at the podium by Nancy Black, Executive Director of the ASHOF, who said they seek input from Council members on their vision. The SARC, she said, is an ideal location for the Hall from a sports tourism standpoint because it is the first municipal and recreational facility in Aurora people encounter after coming off the 404.

“As a multiuse facility, the SARC hosts people from various locations and sporting backgrounds,” said Ms. Black. “We want the Hall of Fame and, thusly, the SARC, to celebrate Aurora’s sports heritage, inspire locals and visitors, and ensure that this new location becomes a

popular sport tourism destination.

“The goal of our grand reopening is to create a space that inspires people to engage with sport and celebrate Aurora’s sport heritage. This new home has the potential to become a significant Regional sport tourism destination. It is very important that the final product be something that the whole Town can take pride in.”

“This has been a pretty underutilized space and perhaps a wasted space,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. “I think you have done a fantastic job reconfiguring it and bringing people back.”

Added Councillor Michael Thompson: “I certainly like the concept. We always talk about a bit of a wow factor and I can see the residents really being amazed by what you presented.”



**GRAND OPENING** – On Saturday morning, Councillor John Abel, centre, was at Olly, the new children’s shoe store located in the Longo’s Plaza on Wellington at Bayview, to welcome the new business to the community and formally cut the grand opening ribbon. From left: Caitlyn, Marilyn, Jim, Christine, Councillor Abel, Jie, Derek, the Olly bear and Harrison. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

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# THE AURORAN SPORTS

Vol. 16 No. 35 905-727-3300

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FREE Week of June 23, 2016

## Senior Jays win two of three over weekend

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Jays bounced back from two-straight losses with a pair of wins Sunday in North Dufferin Baseball League action.

In Creemore to take on the Braves in an afternoon doubleheader, the AA squad spread 19 hits over the two games to sweep the miniseries.

Game One, rescheduled from a rain-out in May, saw the Braves take an early lead in the bottom of the first inning when just the third batter in the lineup, Ethan Henry, brought in Jeff Akitt from first with a double.

Aurora answered with three runs of their own in the top of the second, with Brad Crosby, Ted Beadle, and Chris Rettie crossing the plate in order, yet the Creemore bats were consistent in taking a 6-3 lead after four innings.

Zach Wiseman came in in relief of Jays' starting pitcher Nathan Robinson in the fifth, shutting down the Creemore offense into the seventh and final inning. And, as is often the case for the Aurora offense, the lineup rallied in the top half with five-straight runs, taking an

8-6 lead.

Rettie came in as the closer on the mound for the last half inning, allowing just one baserunner and earning the save.

Ted Beadle was the first star of the Jays' 5-4 win in Game Two, jumping out to a quick lead they never relinquished.

The first two innings were all the Jays needed, scoring twice in the first and three times in the second. Beadle brought in all five runs, knocking a two-run jack and a three-run jack into the bleachers.

Creemore scored four times in the third inning to draw to within one, but were met by a solid performance from Crosby on the mound in the final three innings of perfect ball. Ian Milne earned the win after throwing the first three innings.

Beadle's outing was the first multi-homerun game of the season for any player in the NDBL, and immediately tied him with Ian Rettie for the team lead in homeruns.

The wins followed a heartbreaker one day prior for veteran starting pitcher Andrew Bukovec, who threw the game of his life in a 3-2 road loss to the Ivy Leafs. Although going the distance and giving up just one hit, seven walks and unusually quiet bats for the offense earned Bukovec the loss.

The Jays are back on the field Thursday in Midland to take on the Indians (11-40), who sit fourth in league standings. The 8-40 Jays are one spot back in fifth place.

A mini road trip closes out the week on Sunday with an early afternoon game against the Creemore Barons (5-8-0) followed by a road game with the Mansfield Cubs (1-11-0) later the same day.

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

## Barbarians bring experience and skill to Ontario Women's rugby

By Jake Courtepatte

Not much has changed in the Aurora Barbarians women's rugby program from the 2015 season to the present: in terms of success, at least.

After hoisting the Ontario Women's League Cup in 2015 for the second time in four years, the Barbs are off to a 5-1-0 record this season to lead the six-team table.

Far and away the best offensive team in the province's top league, outscoring their opponents by an average of 36 points, an onlooker may think the Barbs have carved out their niche with a group of the same experienced players year after year. Not so, according to women's director Gill Hall, who said the team is "in a constant state of flux."

"Many players are in their early 20s and at that time in your life there are a lot of moving parts," said Hall. "We tend to have a core group of girls that are leaders and continue to push the team in the same direction that has found us some success in the last few years. This season we do have many new players that have complimented the existing group of players."

"They bring a lot of talent and are eager to learn."

Providing those lessons are two of the province's top rugby coaches. Head coach Kevin Jones has coached eight club teams in his three decades of experience, including stints with the Ontario and national squads at different age levels. Club coach Paul Loader has been with the Barbs since 2009, coaching the women to their first OWL championship in 2012.

"These two bring a wealth of knowledge to the team and have helped keep us focused," said Gill. "Our team has always had a philosophy that if we perform well the wins will come."

All in all, nine players have donned the Barbs blue for the first time with the women this season. With a penchant for success, the program was able to recruit a solid class of rookies to maintain their position as one of the top club teams in the province.

"I think the addition of some players



The Aurora Barbarians Women's 1st team are in first place in the Ontario Women's League through Week 6. Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

who have played at high levels and for others have been a huge positive," said Gill. "Teams can stagnate without an injection of something new every now and again, so it is always welcome to have players who look at the game a little differently."

"That being said, I think we still have to work on playing together as a cohesive unit. We have seen moments of brilliance and had some really well played games but we need to come together in the second half of the season."

With the second half underway and only four games remaining, the most tasking challenge of the season came last week against the Guelph Redcoats, who evened their season record with a 51-33 win over the Barbs. The two teams will meet again this Saturday at Fletcher's Fields in Markham.

"We know what kind of team they are now and what we need to work on," said Hall. "We were out worked at the breakdowns and did not make important tackles. Guelph is a team with a lot of size and a lot of experience so we will have to work on retaining our ball in contact as well as stopping them going forward with the ball. I may be biased but I think we are the better team."

Their first loss behind them, Aurora can now focus on what is most important: a championship.

"We had a perfect record coming into this weekend but as far as I am concerned the OWL Cup final in August is the only win that ultimately matters."

To learn more about the program, visit [www.aurorabarbarians.com](http://www.aurorabarbarians.com).



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# Polo for Heart brings fashion and equestrian to York Region

**By Jake Courtepatte**

The Gormley Polo Club in Richmond Hill was the site for polo enthusiasts from across North America over the weekend to get a taste of the rich equestrian culture of York Region.

The event, Polo for Heart, has been raising money for heart and stroke-related charities for over 35 years. The weekend-long fundraiser was much more than a polo match, providing a silent auction, live bands, car show, dancing, and even a best hat contest.

Adding to the affair was a demonstration from the award-winning Canadian Cowgirl Drill Team, as well as the Descenders, a skydiving team from Toronto who parachuted onto the pitch.

Although known as the “sport of kings,” to many the social aspect and money raised were more than enough cause to stay the weekend.

“It’s so nice to just spend the day outside with your friends and family,” said Katie Black, whose parents own a horse farm in Markham. “Seeing everybody dressed up, and you can

bring your own picnic and just hang out, and see all the beautiful horses.”

Since its inception the event has raised over \$5 million, with this year’s funds once again allocated to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and cardiac research at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

“The Heart and Stroke Foundation is dedicated to helping Canadians live heart-healthy lives, and our volunteers and donors are key to accomplishing that,” said Tom McAllister, CEO, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Ontario.

The funds generated will partly be used for an MRI to select patients in need of heart surgery, and for the expansion of Southlake’s Heart Rhythm program, one of the busiest in the country but severely under facilitated.

“Through such initiatives we hope to discover new ways of treating heart disease and stroke and help create more survivors,” said McAllister.

Southlake’s Cardiac Care centre is the third largest in Ontario, having worked on over 100,000 patients in the ten years since it opened.



Photo by Jake Courtepatte

## Aurora United blanked on both sides

**By Jake Courtepatte**

Both the men’s and women’s sides of Aurora United FC were on the wrong end of a clean sheet in Ontario League 1 soccer action over the weekend.

A stretch of two unbeaten games for the AUFC men was snapped on Saturday evening at Sheppard’s Bush, in tough match against an unbeaten Sigma FC squad from Mississauga.

After falling behind early in the ninth minute, and taking a 2 – 0 deficit into halftime, Aurora’s chances of a comeback were diminished with the showing of red cards to both leading scorer Simon Adjei and captain Jonathan Parolini early in the second half.

and everything that you work on goes out the window. It was a disappointing game, there were a lot of stops and starts and there wasn’t much flow to it.”

The women’s side met a similar fate against an unbeaten team on Saturday, hosting the Woodbridge Strikers at Sheppard’s Bush.

On the tail end of back-to-back meetings with the League’s two top-ranked teams, Aurora was able to hold the Strikers off the sheet in the first half.

Fatigue set in in the 68th minute when Woodbridge converted a header

Continued on page 13

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# Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2016

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 Lexi Blumenfeld, York University  
 Sophie Byers, Ryerson University  
 Anna Cappuccitti, Western University  
 Ethan Curtis, Dalhousie University  
 Lucas Dasovic, University of Guelph  
 Olivia D’Elia, University of Guelph  
 Sophia Di Giorgio, University of Guelph  
 David Di Paola, University of Waterloo  
 Taylor Dunne, Dalhousie University  
 Jackson Empey, Queen’s University  
 Joanna Falzone, Ryerson University  
 Natalie Ganzhorn, Western University  
 Jacob Garber, George Brown College  
 Soran Ghahramani, Ryerson University  
 Valery Goutorova, University of Toronto  
 Spencer Greenberg, Ryerson University  
 Richard Haché, Dalhousie University  
 Brooke Harris, Queen’s University  
 Linnea Hayhoe, McGill University  
 Kristy Ho, University of Toronto  
 Nasir Jamali, McMaster University  
 Sebastian Jedrzejewski, The University of Edinburgh  
 Angela Joo, McMaster University  
 Emily Killops, Queen’s University  
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 Bryan Leary, Carleton University  
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 Michael Lorusso, Carleton University  
 Andi Ma, University of Toronto  
 Mario Mara, Gap Year  
 Holly McKeever, University of British Columbia  
 Sean Mendes, Western University  
 Jonathan Menjivar, Acadia University  
 Hannah Michaelis, Queen’s University

Emily Moore, Concordia University  
 Tallin Moyer, University of California, Santa Barbara  
 Emma Mull, University of Guelph  
 Arman Naziri, University of Waterloo  
 Brittney Nichols, Dalhousie University  
 Skye Nip, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 Samuel Nixon, Acadia University  
 Paige Ofield, Parsons School of Design  
 Jake Okazawa, Dalhousie University  
 Rocky Oppedisano, York University  
 Devika Paul, Rutgers University  
 Courtney Petrachek, Fanshawe College  
 Nicholas Posa, York University, Glendon  
 Keegan Poulton, Dalhousie University  
 Olivia Pozzuoli, Trent University  
 Cole Pritchard, Trent University  
 Daniel Rajkumar, McGill University  
 Devon Robertson, University of Guelph  
 Michael Rokas, University of Waterloo  
 Thomas Russell, Concordia University  
 Ryan Schmied, University of Waterloo  
 Nikita Shumeiko, University of Toronto  
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 Jack Simpson, University of Iowa  
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 Matt Staples, University of Guelph  
 Kristen Stewart, Queen’s University  
 Alicia Sun, University of British Columbia  
 Mark Tait, University of Toronto  
 Sarah Tudose, Ryerson University  
 Deanna Tzanopoulos-Tzanis, University of Toronto  
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# “Cultural landscapes” motion raises Council questions over property rights

**From page 1**

review.

Although some Councillors said they had concerns about what such an inventory could mean to homes and buildings already designated for their heritage value, as well the owners of such buildings that could be up for future designation, they welcomed an inventory.

“In Aurora, I think we pride ourselves when it comes to heritage,” said Councillor Mrakas. “As a municipality, I think we have done an excellent job in preserving and protecting our building structures, but when it comes to history, it is not just about buildings; it is about places where people gather, where people play, and where they have grown together in a community.

“We need to know the past in order to be able to move forward. We need to protect and preserve not just the built structures. We need to protect landscapes that have special meaning to the residents of the Town. I am saddened at the thought we may have missed opportunities to preserve such cultural landscapes that are important to this Town. I think I we do not address the lack of policy now we may [lose] others forever.”

“Lost opportunity” is key when considering the motion, said Councillor Sandra Humfries, who said it is important to investigate opportunities

that are out there – and there are quite a few, she contended.

“I was very glad to see this motion,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. “I think it is something that makes sense. It is something that has been lacking. I look forward to it coming to the Heritage Committee and I think they are going to be pretty excited about this.”

And they will be, agreed Councillor Jeff Thom, who chairs the Committee.

“Just as we protect our heritage structure, our landscapes should be protected as well for future generations,” he said.

As Aurora looks towards intensification, it is important for these landscapes to be documented now, agreed Councillor John Abel. His enthusiasm for the motion, however, was tempered looking back at some of the community uproar that took place last year over studies to designate the southeast quadrant of Yonge and Wellington into the Town’s second heritage conservation district.

He sought assurances from Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning, that the same issues would not crop up in any future talks when it comes to designation and restrictions property owners might face to their properties if they lie within a future designated landscape.

Those options will be considered in the future, said Mr. Ramunno, noting an inventory of what’s available is just the first step.

“I just want to make sure we don’t have a rebellion,” said Councillor Abel.

Councillor Paul Pirri, who was ultimately the lone vote cast against the motion, shared these concerns.

“The landscape has changed an immense deal with the 2Bs and 2Cs in Town,” he said. “I look forward to seeing how much more there is to preserve. I think it is very easy for us, as a municipality,

to designate our own properties and our own assets, a lot of the roadway, the way the roads work, a lot of our parks, our trail system, and the national historic site in Town. I think it would all make sense, but it would be interesting for me to see how private residential owners react to being put on this list.”

For Mayor Dawe, however, that was a topic for another day.

“Your point is well made, but I don’t think we’re at that stage yet,” said Mayor Dawe. “[But], quite frankly, I agree with most of your points.”

## See what’s on “The Bookshelf” with York Region authors

By Brock Weir

Detective Albert Hodgins is a man on a mission.

The Toronto police officer’s adventures have taken him to Stouffville and Woodbridge so far and his next case, given to him by his creator, author Nanci Pattenden, is set to take him to Aurora, solving a murder unfolding during the holiday season in 1874.

While this third installment in Ms. Pattenden’s mystery series is still in the works, you will have a chance to catch up with her and over 50 area authors at The Bookshelf, a new initiative of the Writers’ Community of York Region bringing together over 50 Canadian authors to read from their books and interact with local book lovers.

Taking place this Saturday, June 25, at the Newmarket Community Centre in conjunction with the Newmarket Farmers’ Market, it is an opportunity to buy local when stocking up on some summer beach reads – or even a cozy mystery to tuck away for the winter months.

“It came into being because we felt there was a need for something in our area showcasing local authors and

local talent because there really doesn’t seem to be anything in York Region that does that,” says Ms. Pattenden, who is helping organize the event. “Everyone knows the big names and things that go on in the city, but there is a lot of good talent in the small towns as well. We need to make people aware that there is good writing locally that they can find.”

Communities typically come together to support traditional artists like painters and sculptors, she adds, but that is not often the case with “print artists.”

“That is what you would call us because it is an art and it is a craft,” she says.

Featured authors, and those who will be reading selections from their books, include Terry Fallis, Kim Chatel, Alexandra Harvey, Bob Brunet, Marissa Campbell, Mark Konig, MJ Moores, Sheila Horne, Cynthia St-Pierre, Doouglas Owen, Isobel Warren and Ms. Pattenden.

The book fair runs from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., with readings taking place between 10 a.m. and 2.35 p.m.

For a full list of participating authors and a schedule of readings, visit [thebookshelf.wcyork.ca](http://thebookshelf.wcyork.ca).

### COMING EVENTS

**SATURDAY, JUNE 25**

Discovery Days for Kids: Enjoy a kid-friendly tour of Hillary House followed by a Nature Seekers program from 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. \$5 for children, \$2 for adults. Parents must be present at all times. Contact Leigha Cooney at [leigha.cooney@aurorahs.com](mailto:leigha.cooney@aurorahs.com) or call 905-727-8991 for more information.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 26**

Partagez le Français! This free French language conversation group welcomes adults from francophones to beginners looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. 3 – 5 p.m. at Country Style Deli and Bistro (14980 Yonge Street).

\*\*\*\*

Today is the Schomberg Horticultural Society Garden Tour from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are sold on the tour day at 9.45 a.m. at 325 Main Street, Schomberg. This self-driving and self-guided tour features eight very diverse gardens in and around Schomberg ranging from large country estates to small in-town gardens, one of which features a unique vertical vegetable growing contraption. First time on the tour: a dog rescue and horse sanctuary with vast Muskoka-type plantings. No dogs, please. Parking on the street for all properties.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 30**

Canada Day gets started early with the Rotary Dance in the Park. This licensed venue at Aurora Town Park, hosted by the Rotary Club of Aurora, features live entertainment from 7 – 11 p.m. A beer garden and barbecue are available for a small fee. Admission is free!

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1**

CANADA DAY: The parade begins at 10 a.m. on Yonge Street. This year, the parade has a new route! It will travel south on Yonge Street from Mosley Street to Murray Drive. Kids can participate in pre-parade sidewalk chalking at 8.30 a.m. in front of the Aurora Public Library. The festivities in Lambert Willson Park begin with a free pancake breakfast. Rediscover Canada with fun, interactive passport activities for children. Learn interesting facts about Canada’s Provinces and territories, and take in an car show courtesy of the Aurora Classic and Custom Car Club. Music will include the final competition round for Aurora Teen Idol, the Aurora Community Band, The Mudmen, The Glenn Marais Band and Green River Revival, a tribute to CCR. The grand finale, of course, will be the spectacular fireworks show at dusk.

**SUNDAY, JULY 10**

Garden Aurora! Annual Tour of Gardens. The Aurora Garden Club presents our annual tour of eight beautiful gardens. The owners of these private paradises will be available to answer all your questions. Local artists will also be in attendance showing their works. This is a self-guided tour from 12 noon to 4.30 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets are \$15 at Caruso & Co. 15210 Yonge St., Hillcrest Nurseries 14230 Bathurst St., both in Aurora, Black Forest Gardens 15445 Keele St., King City. Also available at the Aurora Farmers’ Market Saturdays June 25, July 3 and July 9. Same day tickets will be sold at Garden 1. Further info at [www.gardenaurora.com](http://www.gardenaurora.com) or 905-713-6660.

\*\*\*\*

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**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17**

Leap from reality into The Balloon Tree, a play inspired by Phoebe Gilman’s children’s book of the same name at this free family theatrical event at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Two performances: 11.15 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are limited and should be picked up in advance. Allow your imagination to run free as we follow Princess Leora on a magical adventure through her village in search of the one object that will save them all: a balloon. Up against her evil uncle, the Archduke, and all the guards in the kingdom, she cannot make it without the help of the villagers and, of course, the audience! For more, call the Aurora Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21**

Partagez le Français! This free French language conversation group welcomes adults from francophones to beginners looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. 3 – 5 p.m. at Country Style Deli and Bistro (14980 Yonge Street).

*To submit your event send details in 100 words or less to [letters@auroran.com](mailto:letters@auroran.com) with the subject line “Coming Events”.*

## Aurora United season wraps up July 16

**Continued on page 14**

off a corner kick, followed by two more markers in the next fifteen minutes to secure a 3–0 score.

“Aurora was really trying to slow the game down today, which made sense because we like to play the game fast,” said Joe Parolini, head coach of the Strikers. “We tried to stick to our game plan, and it showed in the final result.”

Although Aurora was able to use strong defensive tactics to slow down the match in the first half, head coach Ramin Mohammadi said his team underwent a shift in tactics in the second after some key players went

down.

“We kept them very well for the first half, and it was a very even game until the set piece went against us. We were forced into some changes due to injuries, so we couldn’t stick our plan.”

Both the Aurora men (1-6-1) and women (1-4-3) remain in sixth-place in their League 1 tables. The men will look to improve this Friday when they visit the cross-division Windsor Stars (4-4-1) while the women take a three-week break before visiting the Kingston Clippers in early July.

The League 1 season wraps up on July 16.

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  - post stories to the website.
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- Diploma in journalism preferred
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