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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 16 No. 36 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of June 30, 2016 CMCA AUDITED



ONCE MORE WITH FEELING – Lynn and Bruce Pearson dusted off their respective wedding dress and tux night to do 10 laps around the Pickering College track at Friday night's Relay for Life Newmarket-Aurora. The Aurora couple, members of The Sole Sisters and Misters reached their collective fundraising goal of \$10,000 and, as promised to their sponsors, donned their 1996 ensembles for a memorable turn. Joining them were Leah, mother-of-the-bride Wilma Fairbrother, Helen, Kevin, Brenda and Emma. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

Runaway Bride: Couple don their '96 wedding duds for \$10K victory lap

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Lynn Pearson was jittery on Friday as she fit herself into her wedding dress and made sure everything was in place for her big night. The wedding dress was a perfect fit, the veil was ready to go, now the only worry she had left weighing on her mind was whether or not she would be jilted at the altar. You see, the very presence of her beau, Bruce, showing up in his wedding tux was entirely dependent on the kindness

of friends, family and strangers. Lynn had met her wedding goal, but by Friday morning Bruce still had a ways to go before he was sure he would be able to don his glad rags. Neither Lynn or Bruce should have worried, both made it just under the wire to reach their fundraising goals for that evening's Newmarket-Aurora Relay for Life and people had to clear the tracks for Ms. Pearson's "1996 shoulder pads" as she made her promised 10 laps around the track. This was the 10th year Ms. Pearson has

participated in the local Relay for Life on a team which has grown to include three generations of her family, and tens of thousands of dollars raised for the Canadian Cancer Society. A leading organizer of the event when Aurora still had a Relay to call its own, hosted on the lawns of Magna International, Ms. Pearson is no less enthusiastic about the cause, which she became involved in following the death of her father 10 years ago. To mark the 10th anniversary, she and

Continued on page 19

Yonge Street left turn ban inching towards fall

By Brock Weir

A pilot project to ban left turns on Yonge Street at Wellington Street during peak traffic times has been put on the backburner until at least October following a Regional decision. Ahead of last week's General Committee meeting, local lawmakers were set to do a final sweep over the fine details of a plan, banning left hand turns from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. beginning August 15 and running through

Continued on page 3

New GO station at Mulock will ease Aurora's pressure: officials

By Brock Weir

A new GO Train station on Mulock Drive in Newmarket will have a positive impact on the Aurora station and ease the parking concerns of those living around it, according to Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard and Mayor Geoff Dawe. Both men were on hand outside of Newmarket Town Hall on Friday when Ontario's Transport Minister Steven Del Duca announced three new stations slated for construction on GO's Barrie-to-Toronto Corridor at Kirby Road in Vaughan, near the line with King

Township, at Mulock Drive, and in Innisfil. While Mr. Del Duca cautioned that the three new stations need formal approval from Metrolinx this week – and following which will be more details on the where, the when, and the cost – local politicians welcomed the announcement. "I think it is going to go a long way to solve that parking problem around the GO Station," said Mr. Ballard. "We know that a significant number of Newmarket residents – and beyond – come to Aurora. Now, this Mulock station will have lots

Continued on page 7

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TOWN OF AURORA

Weekly Notice Board

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

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Monday, July 11	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 12	5:30 p.m.	Leksand Room	Finance Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 12	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, July 13	7 p.m.	Aurora Cultural Centre	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Thursday, July 14	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment

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

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream



PUBLIC NOTICE

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NOTICE OF ROAD CLOSURE – AURORA'S CANADA DAY PARADE

Please be advised that vehicular traffic on the following portion of Yonge Street will be temporarily prohibited on Friday, July 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for Aurora's Canada Day Parade:

ROAD(S) TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED:

- Yonge Street from Wellington Street to Mosley Street (8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
- Yonge Street from Mosley Street to Allaura Blvd./Henderson Drive (9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.)

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 the Emerald Ash Borer from June 15, 2016 to August 31, 2016, weather-permitting.

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

Selected ash trees will be injected on the following streets:

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

Selected ash trees will be injected in the following parks:

Atkinson Park (Twelve Oaks Drive)	Elizabeth Hader Park (Timpsom Drive)
Chapman Park (McMaster Drive)	William Kennedy Park (Kennedy Street West)
Copland Park (Aurora Heights Drive)	Wilson Park (Moorcrest Drive)

For more information, please contact Trugreen at 1-800-565-5296 or the Town of Aurora's Parks and Recreation Department at 905-727-1375 ext. 3222.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices

Humber River Shakespeare presents their 9th annual Summer Shakespeare Tour



July 15, 16 and 17 • 7 p.m.
Aurora Town Park • 49 Wells Street

This is a "pay-what-you-can" event (\$20 suggested donation)
For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs

We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.
For inclement weather inquiries, please call 905-726-4762.

Humber River Shakespeare Company 1-888-993-4772
Town of Aurora 905-726-4762



TOWN OF AURORA SUMMER CAMPS

Elite Athletes Camp

Campers ages 11 to 15 will benefit from professional coaching and instruction by specialists in soccer, basketball, baseball and beach volleyball. Campers will also enjoy swimming and rock climbing. For more information or to register, visit www.aurora.ca/recguide

AURORA'S CANADA DAY Festivities

Dance in the Park

Thursday, June 30, 2016 • 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Aurora Town Park
49 Wells Street

Canada Day Parade

Friday, July 1, 2016 • 10 a.m.

New Route – Yonge Street from
Mosley Street to Murray Drive

Canada Day Festivities

Friday, July 1, 2016 • 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Fireworks at dusk!

Lambert Willson Park
135 Industrial Parkway North

PLEASE NOTE, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL, AMEND OR CHANGE ACTIVITIES.





AURORA

Please call 905-726-4762 or visit www.aurora.ca/canadaday for more information.

#AuroraCanadaDay

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AURORA

Canada Day Holiday Service Schedule
www.aurora.ca • 905-727-1375



MUNICIPAL OFFICE • 100 John West Way

Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way) will be **CLOSED** on Friday, July 1 for Canada Day. Regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on Monday, July 4.

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



AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY • 15145 Yonge Street

The Aurora Public Library will be **CLOSED** on Friday, July 1.
For more information, please visit www.aurorapl.ca or call 905-727-9494.



WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection for Friday, July 1 is **MOVED TO Saturday, July 2** due to the Canada Day holiday. For more information on waste collection in Aurora, please consult your 2016 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar.



RECREATION CENTRES

Recreation centres including the **Aurora Family Leisure Complex** and the **Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex** will be operating with **MODIFIED HOURS**. For a full list of hours of operation and program opportunities including fitness classes, pool, gymnasium, rock wall and The Loft hours, please visit www.aurora.ca/canadadayclosure

Please note, the **Aurora Seniors' Centre** is **CLOSED** from Friday, July 1 to Sunday, July 3.



► Check out our renovated **Aurora Family Leisure Complex!**
135 Industrial Parkway North

EMERGENCY SERVICES

For Town-related emergency situations such as flooding, watermain breaks or downed trees, please call 905-727-1375 or 905-727-3123 and follow the voice prompts.
FOR ALL OTHER EMERGENCIES, CALL 9-1-1



TD PRESENTS

Aurora's 2016 Concerts in the Park

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Aurora Town Park, 49 Wells Street

July 6: Soli & Rob

A fun, interactive children's concert featuring Soli and Rob Joy with excerpts from their musical "Bugs, Bugs, Bugs."

Concerts are Free!

Food vendors on site (a nominal fee applies)

For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs



Premium Concert Experience

Bring a food donation for the local Aurora food pantry and win a chance for you and three guests to sit in the TD Premium Concert Experience section complete with TD-preferred seating and complimentary snacks!

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AURORA

Inclement Weather?

For inclement weather-related inquiries, please call 905-726-4762.

www.aurora.ca/summerconcerts
905-726-4762

#AuroraConcerts

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

Turn restrictions require Regional Council approval

From page 1

October 15.

Now, following an eleventh-hour realisation from the Region of York that they might have jumped the gun, the earliest this pilot project will get off the ground is October 1, running through November 30.

“We were working with Aurora staff on [the August] time period,” said Richard Hui, Manager of Transportation Planning for the Region of York, on the pilot, which was requested of the Region by the Town of Aurora last year. “As we approached it, we actually talked more with our legal services on what implementation and protocols were required and [we were advised] we would need Regional Council approval to carry out the bylaw changes.”

The earliest opportunity to get Regional approval would be at their Council meeting in September.

A left turn ban at the busy beleaguered intersection is nothing new. A similar project was carried out in 1998 but was abandoned after traffic infiltration into surrounding neighbourhoods by drivers looking to bypass the intersection became a problem. Nevertheless, it is something Mr. Hui said the Region found beneficial to overall traffic flow.

“There will be less delays for the majority of the traffic volumes,” he said. “Having said that, there will be impacts elsewhere. There will be the diversion of traffic to certain communities, or there may be more turning movements at intersections such as St. John’s Sideroad, in order to make up where the turns would occur. Right now we don’t know exactly where the impacts will be, but at a particular intersection of Yonge and Wellington we think if you restrict the number of turns there will be some benefits.”

Mayor Geoff Dawe told Councillors last week that he was concerned about the infiltration on surrounding streets, including Mark and Batson, and questioned how the Region was going to monitor that when the pilot comes into play.

That is a challenge that will be tackled by the Region with the help of the Town, said Mr. Hui, by monitoring through Bluetooth stations at 15 key locations around Yonge and Wellington.

A report on the results of the pilot will be presented in the middle of 2017, he added.

While the decision implementing the pilot project – how, when and if – is ultimately in the hands of the Region, Council members will either reiterate their support for the plan, or lack thereof, this week.

Potential infiltration was one of the main bones of contention when Councillors subsequently discussed Mr. Hui’s comments on the delay, along with making sure the public is fully aware of what might come to pass.

One of the key components of the pilot, said Mayor Dawe, is “pending local feedback” and that has been lacking so far, he contended.

“I don’t see how we can proceed with this without any feedback from the public,” he said. “I think we need to put in here that we’re going to put in at least one public information session. There will be infiltration on Mark and Batson.”

Councillor Michael Thompson said he saw no reason to delay a public information campaign on the pilot project. However, Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora’s Director of Infrastructure, said he was a “little leery” of a public media campaign on a pilot project where the outcome is outside of Aurora’s control.

“As of 12 noon today, we were under the impression that the Region had given us the green light to proceed with this project,” said Mr. Simanovskis. “When we were informed that they needed to go to their Council, now it is in their hands that this project may or may not proceed. If I was still under the direction that they were in agreement, by all means we could proceed with this plan because now we have the green light to move forward, but that changed today and that is why we are concerned.”

Nevertheless, Councillor Thompson disagreed, stating public information sessions have taken place on a number of issues where the final outcome is uncertain, such as Library Square.

“I don’t seem to follow what the issue is,” said Councillor Thompson on building awareness this could be in the offing. “To me it makes common sense, but maybe I am missing something.”

Councillor Wendy Gaertner offered a similar view, adding that it is “disrespectful of the public” to simply say this is what is happening.

“My son informing me that he wants to take the car and is going to do it is really different from asking my permission!” she said.

Reuben Street’s longest resident enters 100th year



FOUR GENERATIONS & A MAYOR – Four generations of the Videan family welcomed Mayor Dawe to matriarch Doris’ home to mark her 99th Birthday – and the 99th anniversary of her birth on Reuben Street. Doris, front and centre, is pictured holding her great-grandson Gavin Gibeau, as grandson Ethan Videan-Cox, daughter Ruth Anne Videan, and granddaughter Dana Gibeau gather around.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

Hot dogs, ice cream and popcorn sometimes get a bad rap, but talk to Doris Videan and she’ll tell you otherwise.

While it might not be a recipe for longevity, per se, they are certainly three good reasons to get up in the morning.

Ms. Videan recently indulged in these tasty treats the day before welcoming four generations of her family, and a healthy delegation of neighbours, and Mayor Geoff Dawe, into her long-time home to mark her 99th Birthday.

These days, when we say “long-time home,” we might mean 50 or 60 years, tops.

But this is not the case with Ms. Videan. In fact, she has lived in her Reuben Street home for 97 of her 99 years. Topping that, she has lived on Reuben Street her entire life, having been born just two doors down, moving into her present home, bought by her uncle in 1911, when she was just two-years-old.

It was here that she grew up, raised her daughters, and watched her grandchildren, and her growing band of great-grandchildren, grow up and come into their own.

“I came here when I was two years of age and I’m 99 now – I don’t want to leave

until I have to,” said Ms. Videan with a chuckle. “I feel comfortable here.”

She held court earlier this month in a living room surrounded by family photos and artwork painted by her late husband. It was the day after an outdoor service held jointly at Town Park by Aurora United Church and Trinity Anglican Church when they got a whiff of the popcorn and grilled hot dogs.

Peals of laughter rang out between Doris and friend Beverley Wood as they regaled the crowd about keeping their tummies from rumbling until the end of the service – after all, it’s just good manners.

And, when Mayor Dawe arrived to present her with her congratulatory plaque on behalf of Council, she immediately had a few bones to pick with him about the Yonge Street parking situation.

“Doris is a legend,” said Ms. Wood of her friend, whose father was once secretary treasurer of Collis Leather. “We have just had the best history lesson on Aurora ever. She is so special. She comes to church every Sunday and I just don’t think I have ever met a person with a smile like that. Four generations here [for her birthday] is what Aurora is all about.”



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

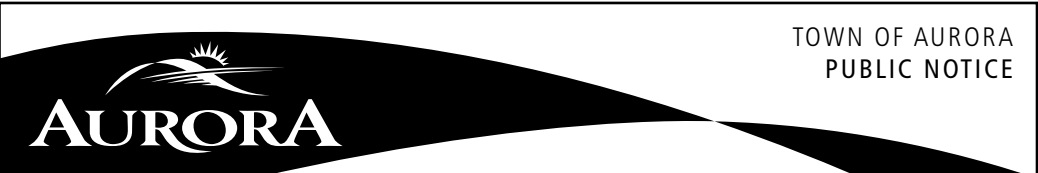
For more information, please call 905-727-3123, ext. 4227.

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

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Clerk and submitted by email to 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 | 905-727-3123, ext. 4227

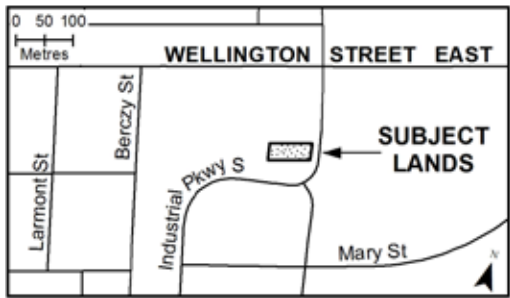


NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS BY-LAW NUMBER 5868-16 TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND SELL MUNICIPAL LANDS

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. CFS16-016 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 (LT), 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 Metrolinx 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/agendasminutes, 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 (LT)

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

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Get into the 21st Century and ditch level crossings: reader”

I have read a couple of articles in your paper that the Town of Aurora wishes to “spruce up” the Town’s appearance and also wishes to improve the traffic through Yonge and Wellington by removing left turns.

I’m sure that the residents and businesses on the surrounding side streets are just going to love all the additional traffic forced to use their streets.

I have a suggestion for the Town Councillors.

If they want to beautify the Town, vastly improve the flow of traffic, and move into the 21st Century simultaneously, they should start by getting rid of the three level-crossings in Town.

While level-crossings were necessary in the 19th century and, perhaps, into the early 20th century and may still be acceptable for crossing roads out in “farm country” or “in the middle of nowhere”, they are a major, sometimes fatal danger within a busy, modern town. They are also the biggest traffic delay on a daily basis in Aurora; in fact, many times a day.

Also, on a purely aesthetic basis, they make the town look “small time” and “behind the times.”

They should have been replaced long ago with overpasses or underpasses. It’s long overdue that those companies who have profited all these years using those railway lines should be made to step into the 21st century and start paying their way.

It has to be a cost of doing business for the corporations involved and not a handout from taxpayers.

Gerry Conetta
Aurora

Johnston’s cartoon was funny, but...

(Re: Macshell’s Corners, June 16)

I saw the cute Macshell’s Corners comic this week in the local paper.

I am on the Mavrinac Park Residents distribution list and, while [the cartoon] is funny, we are not asking for baseball, splash pads, community gardens, washrooms and only one of fitness or “mini” soccer.

The “ingredients” which are left in the comic seem to be a perfect combination for what we all want and we hope that the town can accommodate.

The initial plan is almost perfect!

Michele Boyer
Aurora

Equality should be reflected in anthem

(Re: Reader has “anthem pride”, June 16)

Your reader’s critique of the change to our national anthem warrants a rebuttal.

Our original anthem was gender neutral until 1913 when national patriotism reached fervour because of the impending First World War conflict.

Thus, it was amended to “our sons command.”

This was a time when women did not even have the right to vote and were considered as second citizens.

They had no right to be soldiers.

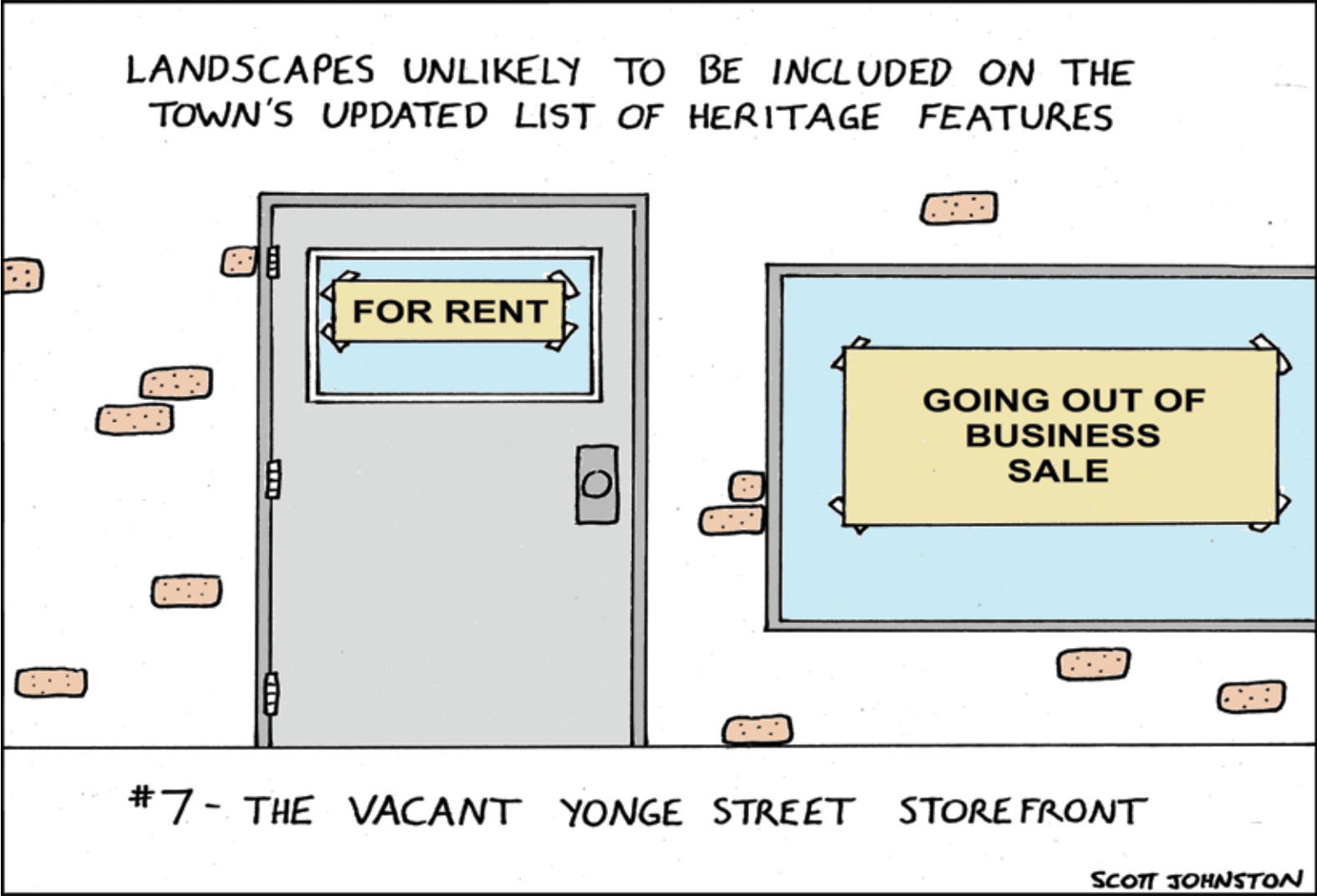
Things have changed and gender equality is being reflected in our words, reflections and things for which we stand.

It is 2016.

Guy L. Poppe
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.

Macshell’s Corners



Brexit strategy



BROCK’S
BANTER
Brock Weir

London core, was clearly in favour of the Leave vote while Scotland, Northern Ireland and, to a lesser extent, Wales, were on the completely opposite side of the political spectrum, making their voices heard in a Remain landslide.

As the night wore on, the increasingly snippy-in-disbelief BBC anchor kept pressing his panellists on whether the theory those who were better educated, or in a more economically advantageous position voted Remain while those who had limited resources and education sought apparently greener pastures in the Leave camp.

For the first little while, many were reluctant to weigh in on that potentially hot button issue one way or the other, but with the clock ticking and their energy draining, a number of them finally conceded this might very well be the case.

Proponents of the Leave campaign will tell anyone who will listen that the vote was not about racism, xenophobia, or a direct response to increasing immigration from other parts of the European Union and beyond, but those who voted Remain aren’t buying it – and the increasingly reported incidents of intolerance and backlash against immigrants in the wake of the vote is lending credence to the theory they hold so vehemently.

No matter how you slice it, cataclysmic changes are underway. Scotland looks ever more likely to hold a second independence referendum which, if the momentum of last week’s vote continues, will surely result in a fully independent nation. Northern Ireland is inevitably going to demand changes to their governance model, breathing new life into a relatively stagnant movement to reunify the entire Irish island, and Wales? Well, that’s between her and England.

What most concerns me, however, is not the geographic gap, not the possibility of the Queen having to preside over the dismantlement of her most senior kingdom in the twilight of her reign thanks to politicians who can’t keep it together, nor the economic turmoil which immediately made itself known.

My worry is the age gap.
Exit polls, and a growing number

of scientific polls, have indicated that young Britons were overwhelmingly in favour of staying within the European Union. They did not buy into the fear-mongering rhetoric espoused by leading figures on either side of the debate forecasting doom and gloom however the dice fell; they were most concerned about their livelihoods, their freedom of travel, their ability to learn in other cultures, and their freedom to work across the United Kingdom.

As pro-Brexit campaigners celebrated their unexpected win with pints and politicians on the losing side licked their wounds, wondering what to do next beyond lining up to replace their political leaders who decided to fall on their swords, the younger people were mourning, to paraphrase the general sentiment, the lost opportunities and the inevitable hardships that will have been inflicted on them by their parents and grandparents in a knee-jerk reaction that will leave their generation, and the ones to follow, to pick up the pieces.

If they do not become a generation galvanized to take back their country and look to the future rather than simply taking the first opportunity to virtually smack their lawmakers, they will become disenfranchised citizens believing their voices, and their vote, amounted to nothing. In this case, that is tragically correct, but as an increasing number of people develop buyer’s remorse over this whole thing, perhaps it is not the end of the story.

While parallels can be drawn between what went down in the United Kingdom and what is currently unfolding in the United States with certain demographic groups gravitating towards the Band-Aid “solutions” offered to them by a television huckster, their decision seems to stand in sharp contrast to Canada.

Whether you bleed red or bleed blue, I think one thing most Canadians can agree upon is Justin Trudeau’s campaign tapped the energy of young voters in a way that hasn’t been done in decades and their desire to actually get out the vote was a primary game changer in casting off a decade of Tory rule.

While the honeymoon period has inevitably started to wane, I am confident that 2015 was a watershed moment in making our youth realise that their vote does matter, that it can make a difference, and they too can be the change they want to see in the world.

A graceful exit is one thing, but fostering this sense and channeling the outrage of youth into a positive driver down the road should be next on the British lawmakers’ Bucket List.

<div>THE AURORAN <i>Aurora’s Community Newspaper</i> The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd. 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8 Main number 905-727-3300 • Fax number 905-727-2620 Founder Ron Wallace Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S. email: administration@auroran.com</div>	<div>EDITOR Brock Weir brock@auroran.com ADVERTISING Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com ADVERTISING Zach Shoub zach@auroran.com TODAYS NEW HOMES Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca</div>	<div>GENERAL MANAGER Bob Ince bob@auroran.com CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-3300 ex.102 cynthia@auroran.com MOTORING Heather Erwin heather@caledoncitizen.com</div>	<div>PRODUCTION MANAGER Cynthia Proctor cynthia@auroran.com PHOTOGRAPHY Glenn Rodger grodger@rogers.com</div>	<div>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. 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.</div>
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The Aurora Museum & Archives is Celebrating:

Canada Day!
(July 1)

A collection of Canada Day memorabilia, including pins, a beer mug and a patriotic play titled The Making of Canada's Flag. During the 1970s and 80s, Aurora adopted the name of "Canada's Birthday Town" and that was at the forefront of community-based celebrations for Canada Day.



MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

One could not have asked for a more beautiful day for the Farmers' Market than last Saturday.

Under a cloudless sky, we welcomed shoppers who remained in Town, perhaps on their way to the new music festival. Our last two farmers have now joined us and there is enough choice for everyone's tastes.

Saturday was our annual Strawberry Festival so we had a delicious free strawberry cake, made by Nicole's Cakes, as well as toothpicks of strawberries for visitors to enjoy. The Aurora Community Band played great music, including some exciting blockbuster movie themes. It was a wonderful day.

The Aurora Garden Club joins us every spring to publicize their annual Garden Tour. In order to help them do that, we are devoting this column to them and to gardening.

So, how does your garden grow? There are as many personalities in a garden bed as there are persons who create, nurture and tend them.

You can have a peek at some of the most diverse gardens in Aurora by buying a ticket to their annual Garden Tour happening on Sunday, July 10. Every year, the Aurora Garden Club presents a self-guided tour of eight amazing properties, rain or shine, beginning at 12 noon. You are welcome to stroll, pause, get inspired and talk to the garden owners.

An added feature again this year is "Artists in the Gardens."

Four artists from Kingscrafts Studio will be painting in the gardens during the afternoons, along with displays of their completed works. You are invited to socialize and talk gardening while sipping lemonade in two of the gardens.

Over time, the Aurora Garden Tour has showcased gardens that serve a wide variety of purposes. Yard spaces large or small can accommodate multiple needs for today's busy families. Enjoy and learn from what others have been inspired to create.

After planting your flowers, shrubs and vegetables, think about adding some art. Colourful garden art to hang on fences or shepherd's hooks make a garden come to life and give it personality.

No garden? Then get creative with a planter box on your patio or deck. You could add a trellis for some height, some garden art and voila, you have your own garden to enjoy.

Whether you desire a place to relax, entertain or putter, you can create a garden space to suit your desires—simple or exotic, low maintenance or low water consumption designs. You can focus on flowers, shrubs, vines and veggies, or a tiny market garden to enjoy eating fresh "from earth to table."

The Aurora Farmers' Market is an enthusiastic supporter of the Garden Club. We both encourage you to get outdoors and enjoy the fruits of your own labour or those of our local farmers. Don't be afraid to dig in and get your hands dirty.

It will feel good and be very rewarding. Tickets for the Garden Tour, including detailed maps, are \$15 each. So, drop by the Aurora Garden Club's booth in the park at the Farmers' Market to purchase them on Saturday July 2 or July 9. Visit their website for complete details www.gardenaurora.com.

Unsure if you have a "green thumb?" Simply give it a try and learn as you grow! Get inspired—take the Tour or attend one of their meetings. The Aurora Garden Club has monthly meetings with an array of interesting speakers to help with all things in our natural world. Their website will tell you who is speaking next.

The next Special Event at the Aurora Farmers' Market will be our Family Day on July 23.

This has become a favourite for families and children of all ages so pencil it onto your calendars so you won't forget. We're already working on our plans so it will be an exciting day to remember for our visitors to the Market.

See you at the Market!

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 to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE	JUNE 28, 2016	YES	NO	UNSURE
		67%	33%	0%

The House Adjourns & Summer Starts



MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

As the first session of the 42nd parliament has come to an end, I can say confidently that our government has accomplished much but there is more work ahead of us than behind us.

Promises Kept, Actions Taken

In the first seven months, we have followed through on three very significant promises. Our government has:

- 1) Cut taxes for the middle class. Nearly nine million Canadians now have more money in their pocket to pay their mortgages, start their own businesses, and plan for their future.
- 2) Introduced the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), providing 9 out of 10 families with more money to help with housing costs, groceries, and clothes. The CCB will lift hundreds of thousands of kids out of poverty, giving more Canadian children a real chance to succeed. If you have children under the age of 18, keep an eye out for your Canada Child Benefit cheque in the mail around July 20.
- 3) Made progress on strengthening the Canada Pension Plan, because all Canadians – our parents, ourselves, our kids and grandkids – deserve a secure and dignified retirement after spending their lives working hard.

Our government is serious about delivering the kind of change that Canadians want, and need, and voted for. Thank you to everyone who shared their comments and concerns on Bills and joined us at Town Halls. Your engagement in your government

and the communication with our office has been incredible. We always appreciate hearing from you.

Look-Ahead Over the Summer

Although the House of Commons has adjourned, that does not mean that I am on "summer vacation." In fact, since I will not be back in the House of Commons until September, I will be able to spend more time connecting with you and other constituents of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill. Over the summer, please look for me at community events and join me at events hosted by me and my office.

Happy Canada Day!

On July 1, our nation will celebrate its 149th birthday! As a proud Canadian I will be wearing my red and white attire and participating in the Town of Aurora's Canada Day parade on Yonge Street. You can also come out to the community zone at Lambert Willson Park to partake in Canada Day activities. I hope to see you out in the community celebrating Canada Day with your friends and family!

Defence Policy Review

I invite everyone to join me, alongside former National Defence Minister, and current Minister of

Citizenship and Immigration John McCallum and other parliamentarians to discuss the challenges to Canada's security, the role of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), and resources and capabilities needed to carry out the CAF's mandate. This public discussion will take place on July 7 from 7 – 9 p.m. at the York Region Administrative Centre, located at 17250 Yonge Street in Newmarket.

Public Consultations

Please stay tuned for more public consultations, my York Region MP colleagues and I will be hosting over the summer. The topics will include: Canada Post, Innovation, and Veterans Affairs. If you have an idea for a public consultation you would like to participate in, please contact my office.

Enjoy the warm weather and time with family & friends

As we transition into summer, I wish you and your families a wonderful summer that includes time to rest, enjoy the warm weather and the company of your loved ones.

I'm looking forward to spending more time with you and having the honour of continuing to serve you as your MP for our great riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

Have a great summer!
Leona Alleslev. Phone: 905.773.8358. Office: 12820 Suite 202, Yonge St., Richmond Hill. Email: Leona.alleslev@parl.gc.ca, Website: LeonaAlleslevMP.ca

The End Is Near



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

"So, this is where the parade starts, eh?"

The older staffer looked over at his younger colleague and confirmed, "yup". "But doesn't the Town have the Canada Day parade every year? Don't people know where it is?"

"They used to," agreed the older man, grabbing an extra sandbag from the truck. "I mean, it's always been on Yonge Street. But, ever since 2016 when the Town started shortening the parade route, the public is never sure where it starts and stops."

"That's why we're doing this," he said, indicating the sign they had just erected, and dropping the sandbag at the bottom to better support it.

"'Parade Starts Here'," read the younger man. "I guess that makes it pretty clear."

"Let's get the other sign set up, and we can head back to the JOC," said the older staffer, referring to their base on Industrial Parkway, "and we'll be done for the long weekend."

Then, seeing his colleague open the door on the far side of the truck, he exclaimed, "Wait a second. What are you doing?"

"Aren't we putting up this other one?" the younger man asked, pointing to the sign in the back of the truck.

"Yeah, but we don't need to drive. It's a beautiful day. We can walk."

"Walk? Carrying that? Isn't the end of the parade route several kilometres from here?"

"It used to be," agreed the older staffer. "Here - give me a hand."

The two men shifted the sign out of the back of the truck, and the staffer continued.

"When they shortened the route in 2016, crowds were more condensed. There was a more festive party atmosphere. As well, parade participants didn't spend hours in the hot sun, and as an added bonus, the Town's costs were reduced. It ended up being a huge success all around."

"So, the next year they reduced the length by another intersection." He pointed to the top of the sign. "Grab that end and let's go."

They picked up the sign, and started walking south along Yonge Street.

"And wouldn't you know it, it was even more successful."

"But that doesn't explain why we're walking, when we could have driven. Does the parade route now go down some

side streets and loop back to near where it started?"

The older man paused, and set down the base of the sign.

"No, but the route's not as long as it used to be. Based on the growing popularity of each successively shorter route, they kept chipping away at it each year, until the end point wound up where it is now."

"And where's that?" asked the junior staffer, looking ahead down the street.

"Right here," said the older staffer, indicating the spot where they were standing.

"But this isn't even a block from where we started!" exclaimed his colleague, pointing to their truck less than a dozen parked cars away.

The older man shrugged, as they started the short walk back. Not a lot surprised him, anymore.

"You know," he said, "I hear if the parade's a success this year, they may shorten the route a bit more."

Looking over at the first sign they set up, as he stepped into the truck, he shook his head and concluded, "If they do that, it may not be long before we only have to put out one sign that has 'Parade Starts Here' on the front, and 'Parade Ends Here' on the back."

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

Sports Hall of Fame strides closer to new location at SARC

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is in the final heat to reach its new home – and reaching the finish line by the end of October could be set in stone this week.

The Hall (ASHOF) is expected to take a significant step forward following Council tentatively approving a \$58,850 grant to overhaul a portion of the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex's (SARC) foyer to house the revamped and rapidly expanding showcase of Aurora's sporting legacy.

The nearly \$60,000 grant, which will be divvied up between the Town's Facilities Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund and the Sports Plan Reserve Fund, was approved at the Committee level last week, and will augment a contribution from the ASHOF of \$18,200 to make it happen.

"Tonight, we ask that you support funding the improvements to the Hall

of Fame which are, in turn, capital improvements to the SARC," said Nancy Black, Executive Director of the ASHOF, which is now located on the second floor of Town Hall. "We joked a little [at the beginning] about this little municipal Hall of Fame being the best in Canada. Well, it's no joke. Over the course of the last two years, we have moved forward on that vision.

"The piece that has been missing that will take us over the top is happening: a widely accessible physical display space of all our sports magnificence as a tourist attraction. The Hall of Fame would be the centrepiece of sport for all people in Town."

It doesn't hurt, she added, that their vision aligns well with a number of tenets of the Town's own strategic plan.

Helping complete the pitch last week was Shawna White, Curator of the Aurora Museum and Archives, who said an expansion into the west side of the SARC is also an expansion of her

vision for what the Aurora Museum and Archives can be.

"Sport History is a special category of local history and over the past year and a half, the museum and the Hall of Fame have formed a productive partnership to increase awareness of Aurora's sporting heritage," said Ms. White. "Not only is the museum the official repository of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Collection, we are actively working together to document living histories from Aurora residents related to sports in new speakers' corners initiatives featured at this year's Street Sale and the upcoming community memories project on Town Park.

"The expanded presence of the Hall at the SARC allows the Museum and Archives to showcase this history in a prominent location outside of our own building supporting one of our key goals: increasing access to the collection. I see the museum as much more than just four walls. This initiative furthers my plans to expand out from our physical location and to view the Town itself as a museum. Preserving and telling stories in this Town is one of my fundamental responsibilities. The legacy of sport in Aurora is one of those stories."

The enthusiasm of Ms. Black and Ms. White was evidently contagious as Council members embraced the

idea. While some members questioned the source of where the money will be coming from – including Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who said she didn't feel this came under the banner of "repair and replacement" and Councillor John Abel who sought assurances that funding the project from these accounts would not derail anything already in process for next year's Canada 150 celebrations – there wasn't a dissenting voice to be had.

"I think this is a particularly good idea because I am very familiar with that area in the SARC and it is an underutilized area," said Councillor Gaertner. "This would be perfect to go in there."

Added Councillor Abel "I would like to thank all the good work the ASHOF has done; it deserves a home of this stature and I am really looking forward to it."

For Councillor Sandra Humfries, the expansion is the logical next step to the ASHOF reaching its full potential.

"I have heard from many residents how great the ASHOF looks just in the corner we have upstairs and the beautiful signage we have in one window," she said. "I can't even imagine how spectacular this will look in a showcase area coming into our Town. It is very worthy and we need to showcase what we have."



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Briefly

SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS OPEN JULY 4

Registrations for the 2016-2017 school year in the York Catholic District School Board begin Monday beginning at 8.30 a.m. at the Catholic Education Centre at 320 Bloomington Road West running through 4.30 p.m. Registration continues at the same times, Monday through Thursday, until August 225. Parents and guardians will need to bring the Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate for child or parent, proof of age, Proof of Status in Canada, Proof of Residency, and proof of English Separate School Support (property tax bill, or MPAC assessment notice). Children born in 2012 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten and those born in 2011 can enter Senior Kindergarten. For more information, visit www.ycdsb.ca.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK SERIES OPENS WEDNESDAY

Aurora's annual Concert in the Park series launches this Wednesday night, July 6, with Soli & Rob, a super-fun interactive children's concert featuring Soli and Rob Joy with excerpts from their musical Bugs, Bugs, Bugs. This concert is sponsored by A&T Tire. The following Wednesday, July 13, the entertainment takes on a more adult flare with Blue Radio, a tribute to Blue Rodeo, and Ultimate Urban, a Keith Urban Tribute. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. throughout July and August. The concerts are free, but the Town will be accepting food donations to the Aurora Food Pantry. With each donation, you have the opportunity for you and three guests to be upgraded to the front row to watch the concert from special TD chairs.

WAVESTAGE LAUNCHES RAGTIME

Aurora's Wavestage Theatre Company is set to launch their latest production, the musical Ragtime. Bringing together a cast of over 60, including many Aurora residents, and cast members from as far away as Thunder Bay, the show opens at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Thursday, July 14, at 7 p.m. Performances continue July 15 and 16 at 7 p.m., with a Sunday matinee set for 1 p.m. Based on a story voted one of the Top 100 Best Novels of the 20th Century by Time Magazine, this sweeping musical portrait of early 20th century America tells the powerful tale of a white, upper-middle class family, an African-American couple, and an Eastern European immigrant escaping to America with his daughter, as they all confront the timeless contradictions of wealth, poverty, freedom, prejudice, hope, and despair in pursuit of the American Dream. For more information, visit www.wavestagetheatre.com.

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Politicians from Aurora, Newmarket, Vaughan, the Region of York and Simcoe County gathered outside Newmarket Town Hall on Friday morning for the formal announcement of three new GO Train stations. Here, Ontario Transport Minister Steven Del Duca makes the announcement as the guests, including Mayor Dawe and MPP Chris Ballard, look on.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Province will “continue to do its best” to address local parking challenges: Minister

From page 1
of parking, we are assured, and should relieve that pressure in the Aurora Downtown.

“The issue with GO is we are a victim of our success in many ways. We promote GO, GO is a fantastic way to get to your job in Toronto, to get to entertainment in Toronto, and the numbers increase and increase and we need parking for that. I suspect people who are at the north end of Aurora will be happy to pop up here and park, and that should relieve the significant pressure.”

Speaking to The Auroran following the announcement, Mr. Del Duca said “a number of factors” are considered in determining the location of a new station, not the least of which is parking pressure.

“Between the plans for some of the new stations we have, plus also as part of the GO Regional Express Rail, we will be including some updates and some creative expansions with respect to our parking. One of the things people sometimes forget, including in my own community in Vaughan, is that GO Transit is actually the largest parking authority in all of Canada, with somewhere in the neighbourhood of 60,000 or so spaces in our network right now. Having said that, we still do have plans because we see that the demand is off the charts with respect to the service itself.

“I have heard from Mayor Dawe and I have heard from Chris Ballard and others about some of the challenges specifically in Aurora, so we are aware of it and we will continue to do our best to work through some of those challenges. Because the service is so popular and so needed, when you’re dealing with that kind of growth that is one of the challenges you have. We’re working on it!”

Mayor Geoff Dawe was in agreement. When asked whether he saw this as a “magic bullet” to the pressures – and complaints – that have been mounting in Aurora, he said the devil was in the details.

“The major bullet is it will relieve the pressure off our station,” he said. “Anecdotally, I would say 25 to 30 per cent [of those parked] are not Aurora residents. A friend of mine, who actually lives in Newmarket, comes down to the Aurora GO Station because it is easier to access at that hour in the morning when he uses it. I know there are people who come from various other places as well. By having a station here [in Newmarket], which is much more accessible than the Aurora station will make a huge

difference.”

With this problem potentially alleviated, our local representatives say they have other transit items that are working their way up the list including, from Mayor Dawe’s perspective, advocating for a 404 interchange at St. John’s Sideroad and, for Mr. Ballard, continuing that push for an all-way two-way electrification of rail service to Newmarket-Aurora.

“This is proof positive that we are providing yet another way to make sure our residents can get to and from school, work, or any Point A to Point B and do so more effectively,” said Mr. Del Duca at Friday’s announcement, which was also attended by Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, King-Vaughan MP Deb Schulte, Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson, and dignitaries from Vaughan and Simcoe County.

“These new stations will help to connect transit and improve transportation options right across the Region and improve access to service and help us build ridership. We are giving commuters in this Region another reason to leave their cars behind and take transit, which is so fundamental to our economy, our quality of life, and our fight against climate change.”



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Congratulations Class of 2016!

This year's 95 graduates join the over 1100 alumni from Villanova College in the School's sixteen year history. Collectively, the Class of 2016 received 280 scholarship offers totaling over \$1.65 million. The School is proud to announce that a member of the Class of 2016 has received the Augustinian Scholarship and will be continuing her studies at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, USA. She is the fourth recipient of this prestigious scholarship since it was instituted in 2011. The members of the Class of 2016 continue the tradition of academic success and are studying at the best universities internationally and within Canada.

Congratulations to the Class of 2016.

 Julia Ammaturo Ryerson University	 Akintoye Asalu* McMaster University	 Victoria Balsamo Ryerson University	 Matthew Basista* University of Waterloo	 Isabella Baxa* University of Western Ontario	 Jessica Bellisario* Wilfrid Laurier University	 Natalie Beltrano* Ryerson University	 Stephen Bianchi Ryerson University	 Kazimier Bieniak* Queen's University	 Sydney Brancatella* Wilfrid Laurier University
 Conor Braund Undecided	 Alessandro Brocca Georgian College	 Fiona Campisi* Wilfrid Laurier University	 Victoria Canale* York University	 Platon Capetanakis Undecided	 Jordana Cardarelli* Queen's University	 Emily Carinci Ryerson University	 Aidan Chiofalo* University of Toronto	 Luca Cianfarani* Ryerson University	 Elisa Colarocchio* University of Toronto
 Matthew Colucci* McGill University	 Julian Cordiano* Ryerson University	 Lucas Corsetti* McMaster University	 Briana Decina* Ryerson University	 Joseph D'Ercole* McMaster University	 Andrew Di Iorio* Wilfrid Laurier University	 Laura DiGennaro* University of Toronto	 Bailey DiTaranto* Guelph University	 Courtney DiTaranto* York University	 Matthew DiVincenti* University of Waterloo
 Katherine Faulkner* Queen's University	 Olivia Fazari* Ryerson University	 Joseph-Fedele Figliomeni Ryerson University	 Sarah Fleischaker* Lakehead University	 Christopher Frustaglio York University	 Adrianna Fuda* Ryerson University	 Jared Gabriel* University of Waterloo	 Raffaella Garofalo* York University	 Tiziano Genova University of Toronto	 Francesca Giannace* Ryerson University
 Connor Jamieson* McMaster University	 Zachary Jamieson* McMaster University	 Chase Johnson University of Guelph-Humber	 Sierra Kehren Undecided	 Lauren Kelenc* University of Toronto	 Sarah Kirstine York University	 Cole Kritzing* Queen's University	 Julia Labelle* Ryerson University	 Emma Lane* Queen's University	 Thomas Lawrynuik* Undecided
 Stephanie Leonardelli* York University	 Francesco Leonardo Ryerson University	 Alexandra Leone* University of Alabama, USA	 Ignatios Leontis York University	 Adrianna Letros* Villanova University, USA	 Alessandra Luchetta* Ryerson University	 Ungaro Lupis Ryerson University	 Kayla Magarelli* University of Guelph	 Alessia Mangoni* University of Toronto	 Selena Mangoni* University of Memphis USA
 Dylan Manzo George Brown College	 Giovanni Martino* McMaster University	 James McDonald* Queen's University	 Bianca Morini* York University	 Alexa Moschella* University of Toronto	 Kristina Nalbandian* Ryerson University	 Joseph-Tyler Palmieri McMaster University	 Matthew Palmieri* Ryerson University	 Julia Paolercio* Sarah Lawrence College, USA	 Christopher Pereira* McMaster University
 Jonathan Piselli Bonsignore Humber College	 Mikalya Purdy* University of Western Ontario	 Ryan Quinn York University	 Hannah Quinton* Queen's University	 Alexander Racco* University of Toronto	 Nicolas Ramundi* Ryerson University	 Julia Rea* University of Toronto	 Marilena Rotundo* University of Western Ontario	 Rebecca Salim* Ryerson University	 Laura Schachtler* McMaster University
 Anselmo Seloterio* University of Ottawa	 Jordi Severini Wilfrid Laurier University	 David Smalley* Trent University	 Stefano Spagnuolo York University	 Amanda Tankovich* University of Guelph-Humber	 Jacob Tersigni* University of Toronto	 Andrea Tickner* Ryerson University	 Marco Tomassi* Ryerson University	 Ryan Toneguzzo George Brown College	 Gianluca Trichilo Ryerson University
 Michael Trompoukis* McMaster University	 Vasilios Tsagarelis* Ryerson University	 Liana Umbrio* University of Toronto	 Rosanna Zitoli* University of Western Ontario	 Esfandiar Zoujaji* Queen's University					



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*denotes Ontario Scholar

Tempers flare over plan to demolish heritage house

By Brock Weir

Tempers flared around the Council table last week when developers came forward looking for permission to demolish a heritage-designated home in southeast Aurora that has been found to contain asbestos.

Historically known as the Alan Brown House, the building in question is now located at 158 Carisbrooke Circle near Bayview Avenue and Vandorf Road, having been moved to its present foundation to make room for the area's new housing development.

The initial plan was for the house to be renovated, including the construction of a new addition, for future sale to new homeowners. This was the plan approved by Council; however, problems with the building have since surfaced, according to Mark Hall, who appeared before Councillors last week representing the developer.

"Fairly recently, in February, Fernbrook [Homes] noticed cracks in the exterior of the brick-bearing walls of the house," he said, reiterating many of the comments he and his group made to Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee earlier this month. "In testing the property, it was discovered the stucco on the exterior, in fact, has asbestos in it and there is asbestos within the plaster on the interior. There is mould in the building and a combination of those issues make it complicated to sell this to a new owner with those conditions."

While he said they now proposed building a replica of the house, which has been standing largely open to the elements for several years now, in new and modern building materials, the suggestion was not greeted with open arms by Council.

Mr. Hall brought these concerns to the Heritage Committee on June 13, asking them to recommend a demolition to Council. They voted to take the time allowed them by legislation to carry out a review. But, in the meantime, the applicants came to Town Hall on June 17 to apply for a demolition permit, not keen to wait for a decision.

This sparked an impassioned response from Councillor Sandra Humfryes, who expressed anger at what she said she believed to be a group trying to circumvent the process.

"There is a process and a Committee that reviews the house as it stands and there is an opinion brought back and Council makes a decision," she said. "We haven't even got there yet. This house has been sitting there for five years and now they're going to demolish it. We have to respect the process and we have to respect our heritage and I am not in any way, shape or form even going to consider what is being discussed right now! I will not do it and I feel it is absolutely disrespecting our whole process and our policies here!"

"Yes, they have the right to demolish it and we have 90 days to respond. There is no hurry and I will not push that process. I want the right things to be done and followed and then we will get back to the developer and they can tear the damned thing down! I am really beyond disappointed here. You know what? Let's get back to basics here: this is our town! I should just shut up, but the bottom line is I want the process followed. If it is going to be torn down, it is going to be torn down properly because the Committee is going to have a chance to review it and there is no way to salvage it. Asbestos can be cleared."

Mayor Geoff Dawe initially put forward an amendment to the Heritage Committee's recommendations to pave the way for the demolition, stating "if this house was at Yonge and Wellington I never would have considered this" but the house, in his view, was not located in an area that was "heritage significant" to Aurora. However, as more information about the process came forward, he changed his mind and withdrew the amendment.

"I find it a little disingenuous that we would have a presentation at the Heritage meeting and a presentation here and, in the interim, a demolition permit was put in place that I don't know about," he said. "I wouldn't support my own amendment if it came

to a vote."

This was the sentiment expressed around the table, including from Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who serves on the Heritage Committee.

"Like [Councillor Humfryes] said, there are no words, folks," said Councillor Gaertner. "We have to respect our process, we have to respect our heritage, we have to respect our residents."

Councillor Paul Pirri agreed, adding: "I don't think there would have been enough information in front of me to make a decision one way or another, although I don't think asbestos is a reason why a building should be demolished. There are definitely work arounds and I would feel comfortable moving into a home that has had asbestos removed in a safe and appropriate manner."



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Sport Aurora wants you to know “All Kids Can Play”

By Jake Courtepatte

Calling all parents: do you, or someone you know, have a child missing out on organized sports due to financial issues?

Sport Aurora, the umbrella organization of over thirty sports programs in Aurora, is looking to help through the “All Kids Can Play” (AKCP) initiative.

Since the program’s initial launch in 2012, All Kids Can Play has raised almost \$40,000 to help children with financial barriers join organized sports in Aurora. Around half of the money has been used, helping fifty children in the community so far.

“We’ve been very fortunate,” said Sarah Smith, director of the AKCP program. “We’ve had a lot of support from the community for the program in terms of donations coming in. So, we actually have these, sort of excess funds, that we want to distribute and need more people to come forward expressing need.”

Announced at last week’s Board meeting, Sport Aurora is initiating a campaign to get the word out about the program, spearheaded by Smith. The goal is to find more children in need of financial assistance.

“We’re just trying to get the information out into the community to bring more clients forward, so their kids can participate in sports.”

“Our objective is to ensure that the entire Town knows of the outreach plan so these funds get into the hands of as many financially strained families as possible,” added Sport Aurora Past President Ron Weese, “so no child who wants to play sits on the sidelines.”

In reaching out to the community, the organization hopes to not only gain clients for the program, but that it becomes a reciprocating process to gain more funding as well.

“If we happen to garner more support as we get busier, that’s great too,” said Smith. “The more funding we receive, the more kids we can help play sports.”

Windfall Ecology Centre in Aurora is one organization that has stepped to the plate to assist the program, through their Healthy Kids Community Challenge initiative. They have provided funding to AKCP to create informative brochures to hand out in the community, as well as assisting with the distribution of the brochures.

Other donors around town have included local restaurants, Mayor Geoff Dawe’s golf tournament, the Rotary Club, and various raffles. Canadian Tire’s JumpStart program has also been a crucial contributor of funds.

Sport Aurora has also been in touch with Welcome Wagon, York Health, and dozens more organizations in getting the program up and running, and find the local families with children who need assistance to get into the game.

“Doctor offices, dentists offices, anybody that works with children, homeschool associations...we’re just trying to reach out and get the word out to as many people as possible so they can pass along the message to apply,” said Smith.

Every dollar raised for AKCP goes directly to the children, funding up to around 80 per cent of fees for organized sports.

“For some kids playing football, that’s \$600 or \$700,” said Smith. “So, between all of our sources we can fund a good chunk of it.”

Information on the program can be found at www.sportaurora.ca, as well as the application process. You can also contact Laurie Mueller, the managing director at Sport Aurora, at managing.director@sportaurora.ca.

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G. GEMINIUC



E. GREGATTO



S. GUPTA



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P. JOHNSON



E. KIM



E. KING



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Aurora's Morrison joins NHL's Avalanche

By Jake Courtepatte

Aurora's Golden Boy of hockey knew his name would be called at the NHL draft in Buffalo on Saturday: he just didn't know by whom.

It didn't take long for Cameron Morrison to find out in the early morning, taken 40th overall by the Colorado Avalanche in the second round.

The Avalanche showed confidence in the 6'2", 207-lb. centre, drafting him above his ranking as the 46th-ranked skater in North America according to NHL Central Scouting.

"It's just nothing I've ever felt before," said Morrison following the draft. "It's an amazing feeling. All the hard work kind of paid off...it's indescribable."

Colorado's director of amateur scouting, Alan Hepple, said in a press conference Saturday he was impressed by Morrison's combination of size and skill.

"We like that he's a goal-scorer," Hepple said. "Good skater. And the one thing we noticed about him was that you typically don't see 'under-age' players score in those leagues, he scored a lot of goals and did it this year at Youngstown. He's a pure goal-scorer that has vision and plays a hard and competitive game."

Morrison was Colorado's second pick of the draft, after taking centre Tyson Jost with the tenth pick of the first round on Friday.

Following a full season with the OJHL's Aurora Tigers in 2014-15, where the Aurora native was second on the team in scoring as a 16-year old with 53 points in 49 games, Morrison went south last season to the USHL to play for the Youngstown Phantoms.

There he impressed scouts as the league's Rookie of the Year, continuing a pace of over a point-per-game.

"I felt like Youngstown gave me the opportunity to develop into a great player," said Morrison. "They gave me everything I needed there and it was definitely a great league to be in for my draft year. They keep producing top-end players."

He also recently competed at the under-18 World Championships for Canada, where Canada lost in a shootout to Sweden in the bronze-medal game.

Meanwhile, the next step of Morrison's rise-to-fame is not the pro ranks just yet: the 17-year old is a freshman-to-be at the University of Notre Dame next season, where he will play Division 1 hockey suiting up for the Fighting Irish.

"I've just got to keep focused on what I've got to work on, keep focused in the gym, and make sure I'm doing everything I need to do to become an NHL-ready player."

Morrison expects to go to rookie camp in the next few weeks when he visits Denver for the first time.



Aurora's Cameron Morrison (#26), pictured with the OJHL's Aurora Tigers in 2014, was drafted 40th overall by the Colorado Avalanche in the NHL Draft in Buffalo on Saturday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte



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Minor PeeWee Jays finish fourth at home tournament

By Jake Courtepatte

The Minor PeeWee Aurora Jays were perfect into the semifinals of their annually hosted tournament at Lambert Willson Park over the weekend, eventually earning fourth-place out of fourteen teams.

Outscoring their opponents by an astonishing margin of 43 - 10 in three round-robin games, the Jays topped Toronto, Scarborough, and Richmond Hill on a busy Saturday to earn a quarterfinal matchup with the Western Ontario Bulls on Saturday evening.

Aurora moved on with a 12 - 0 shutout victory, facing the Newmarket Hawks in the semifinals on Sunday.

Newmarket won the clash of unbeaten teams 6 - 2, sending the Jays to the consolation finals. There, they met a tough Barrie squad and fell 14 - 3.

The Hawks, meanwhile, won the championship later that afternoon with an 11 - 2 thumping of North Toronto.

The tournament was the final of six on the year to be hosted by the Aurora-King Baseball Association.



A Brampton Royals player slides into second against the North York Blues in the Aurora Jays Minor Pee-Wee tournament at Lambert Willson Park over the weekend.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

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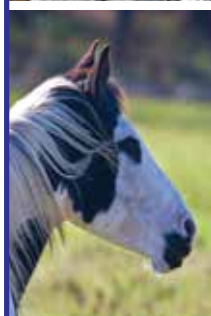
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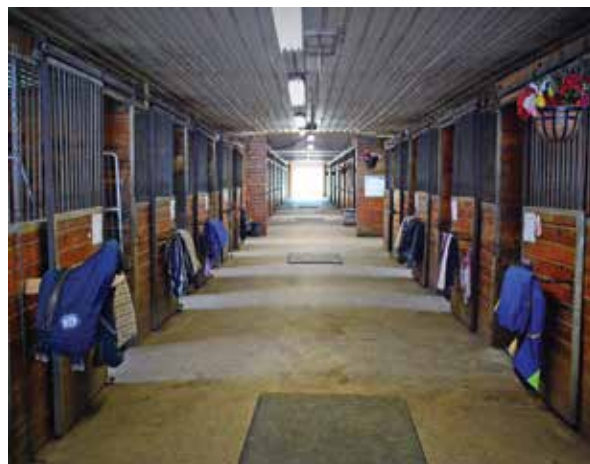
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Systems, doctrines, theories
5. Belle’s friend Chip was one
11. NBA MVP
14. Preeminent
15. ___ and the Beast
18. Round, flattish cap
19. Bright
21. Unpleasant person
23. Passes through a wheel’s center
24. The New York ___
28. Military alliance
29. He prosecutes the accused
30. Noble act
32. Handyman’s tool
33. Austrian river
35. An accountant certified by the state
36. Dad (slang)
39. Women
41. Type of blood
42. Ambush
44. Measuring instrument
46. Protein-rich liquids
47. Socially conservative person (Australian)
49. Girl
52. Small Spanish dishes
56. Mexican plant
58. About thigh
60. Absorptive
62. Diner
63. Ethnic group of Laos

CLUES DOWN

1. International radio band
2. Thrust
3. Measures insignificance
4. Appears on Roman currency
5. Does not drink
6. Midway between northeast and east
7. Actinium
8. A Chicago ballplayer
9. Compound
10. Former British pol Derek
12. Color properties
13. Chinese magnolia
16. American state
17. Conference of Allied leaders
20. Cats “say” this
22. Didymium
25. He conducts physicals
26. European Economic Community
27. Individually
29. Begetter
31. Press against lightly
34. Licensed for Wall Street
36. Posttraumatic stress disorder
37. Mountain nymph (Greek)
38. Italian city
40. South Dakota
43. Rank in the Ottoman Empire
45. In the year of the Lord (abbr.)
48. Explorer Vasco da ___
50. Besides
51. Bart’s sister
53. They hold plants
54. Song
55. Rescue
57. Small island
58. Coniferous tree
59. Albanian currency
61. Of I

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

S	A	S	S			S	A	R	O	N	G		
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Senior Jays split a four-game week

By Jake Courtepatte

A pair of wins and a pair of losses last week kept the senior Aurora Jays at a steady pace heading into the final month of the North Dufferin Baseball League season.

They kicked off the week with a 10 – 7 win over the struggling Nobleton Cornhuskers, on the backs of the strong pitching duo of Rob Spencer and Daniel Lehmkuhl.

The bottom of the Nobleton lineup exploded for five runs in the second inning before the starting Spencer settled down with a total of five strikeouts and just one more run through his four innings of work.

Lehmukhl pitched a solid remaining three innings, fanning six batters and giving up just one run and one hit. He also went two-for-five at the plate, scoring twice.

Traveling to Midland on Thursday to take on the Indians, the Jays were on the

wrong end of an epic comeback in a 7 – 6 loss.

Stephan Vallee, Ian Rettie, Brad Crosby, Andrew Bukovec, Ian Milne, and Kyle Picken all crossed the plate for Aurora in the first three innings, taking a 6 – 0 lead. Starting pitcher Devon Wu was finally solved by the Indians in the bottom of the third, riding the strength of a pair of doubles to make it a 6 – 4 ball game.

He was pulled after four innings when Midland brought it to 6 – 5, and Zach Wiseman eventually took the loss when he allowed a run in each of the fifth and sixth innings to cap off the comeback.

The week closed out on Sunday with a road trip to both Creemore and Mansfield, splitting a day where the bats never seemed to tire.

Milne was the victim on the mound for two home runs by the Creemore Barons in game one, taking a close 12 – 11 loss to the .500-level team.

Heading to Mansfield as soon as the final out was earned to face the last-place Cubs, the Jays’ bats stayed hot in the highest-scoring game by any team this NDBL season.

They managed to score 23 runs in just five innings of work, spreading 19 hits through eight different batters in a 23 – 8 win. Seven different members of the Aurora lineup had a multi-hit game, including three hits from each of Vallee, Lehmkuhl, Ian Rettie, and Ted Beadle. Crosby hit his second jack of the year out of the park, his first since the opening game of the season.

Nathan Robinson went the distance on the mound for his first win.

Sunday’s high-scoring affair with the Cubs gave the Jays 127 runs on the season, a familiar first in the AA league and eight more than the first-place Ivy Leafs.

The 10-6-0 Jays currently sit in a tight race in the middle of the league standings, just one point up on the sixth-place Giants and two points back of the fourth-place Clearview Orioles.

Following a heavy road schedule as of late, only one game is on the docket this week in a matchup with the Creemore Barons on Tuesday after press time.

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

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THE AURORAN ARTS & CULTURE



STRAWBERRY SEASON: Families descended on Town Park under the Saturday sun for the Aurora Farmers’ Market’s annual Strawberry Festival. (L) Kids were able to get a head start on some Canada Day-themed crats. (C) Volunteers Ella and Alysha handed out strawberries to anyone looking for a sweet treat. (R) The Aurora Community Band kept the crowds entertained. (Inset) Jan of Jan’s Country Pantry flew the flag for Pride Week. **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**

Tech savvy grads set to “Ignite” Aurora’s youth

By Brock Weir

Queen’s University students are returning to Aurora this summer to light a spark of computer creativity in local youth at the Aurora Public Library.

Google IgniteCS is set to illuminate the Aurora Public Library in a series of two workshops in July and August designed to give teens a jolt of Java, as far as computer programming is concerned.

Facilitated by the tech giant, the workshop is a joined effort between the Library (APL) and two local graduates who are now working their way up the tech ladder at Queen’s: Diana Dumitrascu and Diana Balant.

Through the workshop, teens will learn how to build small programs and get an introduction to larger concepts like data mining, and how to wade through the vast tech landscape to find potential career fits and emerging opportunities in the field of computer sciences.

“This is really different and really exciting,” says APL’s Reccia Mandelcorn. “I got an email totally out of the blue from one of the Dianas who were coming back for the summer and they wanted to run the program in their local library. When I asked them to come up with a proposal for us to see, in concrete, what they had, they came up with this fabulously laid out proposal. These young women are mentors for students to bring them into computer science.”

It goes without saying that the APL

is all for promoting all forms of literacy, including computer literacy, and this program is a further expansion into the Library reaching its full potential. They want to extend their focus to all aspects of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to become a “prime learning space, not only in terms of engaging and reading, but in terms of engaging in technology, computers and engineering.”

“I am very excited about the fact they happen to be two young women in computer science because it is an area we’re trying to encourage women to go into, but they will be programming and coding with young people, teaching them Java and Scratch, different concepts, and we look at this as part of what the Library is supposed to be doing: providing literacy to our community,” says Ms. Mandelcorn. “But, we’re taking it to a different level now. It was a gift. [The Dianas] are very excited about them and they are simply passionate about their love for computer sciences and where it can take them.

“The other thing I love is the whole idea that we have two young people leading a program with young people. I love the concept of mentorship and being able to engage university students to work with high school students. This is a fabulous partnership and something the Library really supports.”

The first session will run July 18 through July 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

open to teens between the ages of 13 and 18. The second session, at the same time for the same demographic, will run August 8 through August 12. Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop, but a limited number of Chromebooks will be available for use.

Since APL first started spreading the word about the upcoming program, the response has been enthusiastic, with many spots snapped up and adults wondering when they too might get a chance to develop their coding skills. Such opportunities are already being considered for next year when the APL hosts its Day of STEM.

Right now, however, it is all about the teens.

“There is so much changing in the world right now,” says Ms. Mandelcorn. “Young women, for example, are getting more into the gaming industry, designing games, than ever before and that is a whole new area of employment. A lot of the service industry jobs are going to be replaced by technology, but all of the technology jobs are increasing.

“We need to give young people the step to be able to move in that direction and we also have to give my generation the opportunity to learn new things because we’re going to need them for our jobs. Besides, it is fun!”

For more information, and to register, visit www.apl.ca.

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Inaugurating the Aurora Music Festival



Highland Park, home of the Aurora Soccer Club, welcomed visitors from all around York Region and beyond as singers took over for the inaugural Aurora Music Festival on Saturday. Performances included headliners The Good Brothers (centre) along with (top row, left to right) Rick Fines, Leah Daniels (pictured with young singer Leah May), Suzie Vinnick, (middle row), local youth bands and performers, and Raina Krangle, among others. (Bottom Row) Festival organizer Councillor John Abel with Steve Hinder. Mayor Geoff Dawe, Newmarket Mayor Tony and Roxanne Van Bynen. Theresa Buck with Councillors Sandra Humfries and Tom Mrakas.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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Aurora property values are on the rise – but just below average: MPAC

By Brock Weir

Property values in Aurora are on the rise, but fall just below average across

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the Region of York, according to MPAC, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

Over the past week or so, it is likely you have received notices in the mail that the assessment value of your home or property is once again on the rise.

“The overall residential change in the Region of York is 10.1 per cent,” said Natasha Dawood, a delegate to Council outlining steps MPAC is taking to make themselves available to Aurora residents who might have questions on how their properties have been assessed and, as a consequence, how much their property taxes might be going up down the road, as municipal property values are calculated on MPAC’s assessment value. “Aurora is just below that at 9.5 per cent. For a single family residential home in York Region, this is a 10.5 per cent change and, for the Town of Aurora, it is 9.7 per cent. For condominiums, the Region is 3.9 per cent and for the Town of Aurora, it is six per cent.

“In looking at some typical assessed values in the Town of Aurora from 2012 to 2016, for a single family residential home, the change of value has increased by \$218,000 to \$770,000 for the 2016 tax year and, for condominiums, it has increased from \$82,000 to a typical assessed value of \$387,000.”

According to MPAC, this year’s

assessments have been long in the works, with notices going out earlier than ever before. Normally being mailed out in the fall, this year the distribution is being staggered over a 21 week period across the province.

Aurora notices went out in the mail on June 13 and there will be a 120 day extension of the deadline for property owners to appeal.

“When you receive your property assessment notice, the first question you should ask yourself is, ‘could I have sold my property for the assessed value as of January 1, 2016? If the answer is yes, we have done our job,’” said Ms. Dawood. “If the answer is no, we are here to work with you to ensure accuracy in your assessment.”

Information for a review is included in the mailer, and can also be found online at aboutmyproperty.ca. There is no fee for the reconsideration, but an appeal of the reconsideration runs \$75.

Property assessments are conducted by MPAC through various means and measures. Ms. Dawood told Council that in reviewing Aurora’s situation, they looked at 13,137 pieces of data from building permits to sales reviews.

Following the delegation to Council, local lawmakers had several questions for the delegation, including transparency in the process.

“When I was researching MPAC, there were a lot of similarities between MPAC and [the Ontario Municipal Board] in the way they are reflective of the institution and many of those in the public have some issues with both organizations,” said Councillor Harold Kim. “One of the complaints about the Board is it is not elected, but appointed and I think it was about 10 years ago when the Ombudsman said...there were so many complaints in such a period that the issues of the day were insufficient information, lack of timeliness and it was essentially a David and Goliath situation where the onus was on the homeowner to prove his valuation versus MPAC’s valuation.”

A similar view was offered by Councillor Tom Mrakas: “One of the comments I generally hear is: why should a property owner be paying a tax rate based on assessment for a value they have never seen a profit for? They bought a house at \$80,000 over 40 years ago and they are being assessed on a value they have never seen. They are curious why it is that way.”

COMING EVENTS

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, JULY 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 chalk at 8.30 a.m. in front of the Aurora Public Library. The festivities in Lambert Willson Park begin with a free pancake breakfast while supplies last. Rediscover Canada with fun, interactive passport activities for children. Learn interesting facts about Canada’s Provinces and territories, and take in a 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.

JULY 5 – 28

Then & Now: Paintings by Christine Valentini takes over the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall. Then and now is a collection of watercolours, inks, oils and pastel paintings featuring Canadian landscapes, northern lights, florals, historical homes and intuitive interpretations of semi-abstract nature scenes with swirling waters, enormous mountains and tiny images. Join Christine at the gallery for the formal opening on Friday, July 8 from 7 – 9 p.m.

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 or 905-713-6660.

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).

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 with the subject line “Coming Events”.

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(L) Honourary Survivor Linda Smith, far left, is pictured with the Magna Team: Sandra, Mary, Stephanie, Blanca and Pat. (C) A bag piper leads the ceremonial survivors lap. (R) These women were eager to step up to “SOCK” it to Cancer. **Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger**

Newmarket Relay draws Aurora crowds

From page 1

her mother decided to take on the Relay Challenge, setting a fundraising goal for herself and a unique way of reaching that target.

“Two years ago, I did a Throwback Thursday on Facebook with me and my opening-ceremonies-of-SkyDome costume and people made jokes saying, ‘I’d like to see you do that again!’ so I said, ‘Get me to my goal and I will do it,’” said Ms. Pearson while making doing some last-minute primping. “This year, I wondered what I could do to raise interest again and said if I hit my goal, I am going to wear my wedding gown. Bruce is also on the team and when he hits his goal he is going to be wearing the tux. I’m there, he’s not quite there, and we don’t want to leave the bride standing at the altar!”

She wasn’t jilted, and it was a great way to mark their 20-year marriage. Ms. Pearson also received a special award at Friday’s ceremony to mark her significant fundraising for the cause.

“Two or three years ago, my brother was diagnosed with colon cancer and, for me, the good news in all of this was because of what the Canadian Cancer Society has done for research and information on the preventative side, it was caught early and removed, and he didn’t have to have chemo or radiation. While my dad didn’t survive, my brother didn’t have to go through what a lot of other people would have had to go through 10 years ago because of the advancements.”

Linda Smith knows the value of the Canadian Cancer Society all too well. Diagnosed with transitional cell carcinoma in December of 2014, Ms. Smith, who was named Honourary Survivor for the 2016 Relay, said the only information she received on her entire cancer journey was from the Society.

“When I went for my year follow-up, they found cancer in my bladder,” said Ms. Smith, who had already lost a kidney to the cancer ahead of the follow-up. “I went and had another surgery this

February and again the only information I received on bladder cancer was from the Canadian Cancer Society’s website. The cancer I had doesn’t respond to chemo or radiation, so I wasn’t receiving treatment and surgery was my only option. They didn’t bother to [give me the information] because I wasn’t receiving treatment.

“It sure did. I even asked my surgeon about it and he said it is because it is a lesser-known cancer, it is not publicized, so that was the main reason I decided to do this, to raise awareness. Everyone knows about breast cancer and prostate cancer, but not a lot of people know about kidney cancer and bladder cancer.”

Before she delivered her speech to inspire Relay participants, Ms. Smith, a Georgina resident, was enjoying being able to get out and work in her garden for the first time since she embarked on her journey. She says she’s now feeling great and, despite the “shock” of being asked to lead this year’s survivors, she was keen to have the opportunity to raise awareness.

“The reason I agreed to speak today for the lesser known cancer like kidney and bladder,” she said. “If you see blood in your urine, tell your doctor right away. Don’t ignore it, don’t put it off. It may save your life. The more research [the Society] can do, the more lives they can save, the more resources they can offer.”

Ms. Pearson was in agreement. While she said there is nothing funny about cancer, you can have fun along the fundraising journey.

“Everybody [is at Relay] for the same reason,” she said. “You can get on the track with a couple of hundred other people that you have never met before and just look at each other, smile, and be comfortable in your tears. It lets you feel what you need to feel and celebrate the successes of survivors. You see the survivors there in their yellow shirts you see, okay, it is helping, and yet when you’re looking at the luminaries and see ‘in memory of’ and not ‘in honour of’ we remember why we started this and why we continue.”

Respect. It’s a value laden word that is oft misunderstood in the political realm, at least in my opinion.

There is an expectation of respect when one gets elected to office. That is, when you hold the title of Mayor or MP or Premier, you have earned the right to be respected. And that expectation is not misplaced – to a point. Election to public office does warrant respect. You as a member of the electorate have chosen someone – through your hard won right to vote – to occupy an office to represent you, to make decisions for you, to govern you.

You must afford that office at least some level of respect or the entire premise falls in on itself.

However, as I have argued both publicly and privately, that does not mean that the person in the office is automatically granted respect by virtue of their election.

Respect is earned, not granted, and is most definitely not legislated. You cannot force the electorate to respect the Mayor or the Premier if they don’t deserve it. No, respect is for the office the person holds, not the person occupying it. And therein lies the problem. There are far too many leaders who do not respect the office they hold.

To borrow an oft-used phrase, “they feel entitled to their entitlements,” and what the public gets instead of service to the public is ethics violations, \$20 orange juices, bogus travel claims and backroom deal making driven by craven self-interest.

There is a loud lament – and following the Brexit vote that lament is fast becoming wailing – from a wide variety of talking heads of every political stripe about the lack of respect the “public” has for elected office and



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Cutting off your nose to spite your face

the institutions they represent.

The rise of Trump and other demagogues of his ilk has been met with horrified surprise. Personally, I am surprised that they’re surprised.

The disgust of the average Joe with

those that occupy offices of power, position or prestige has been coming for some time now. It is part and parcel of the current state of affairs where folks have lost faith in virtually every institution that they’d held in such esteem a mere decade or perhaps decades ago.

It’s entirely to be expected though, is it not, when daily we are bombarded with the salacious details of yet another public figure embroiled in some sordid imbroglio or another? The pastor that’s stealing money from church coffers. The Family Values politician that’s spending campaign money on prostitutes. The tech giant with pirated software. The doctor pushing the new wonder drug is in the pocket of big pharma.

Even our sports heroes aren’t heroes anymore. We find out soon enough that their golden crowns are made of pyrite: doped up Olympians, rigged games, goons not players, state sponsored cheating at a national scale, and on it goes.

Joe public can see that those at the top didn’t get there fairly. They have their thumbs on the scale, and folks are fed up with not getting a fair shake. What is there to respect about that? Respect is about belief. Belief in something.

If there’s nothing left for people to believe in, then you can’t be surprised when resentment drives decision-making, regardless of how many noseless faces result.

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- Produce multiple stories and bylines each week.
- Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips.
- Coordinate and edit content and columns submitted for publication.
 - Take photographs.
 - assign stories to contributors.
 - edit submitted copy for publication.
 - post stories to the website.
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
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