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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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theauroran.com

FREE Week of July 7, 2016







CANADA'S BIRTHDAY TOWN - Sudden and unpredictable rain couldn't keep Aurora from living up to its patriotic nickname on Friday as droves turned out for the Town's annual Canada Day Celebrations. (Main) Cameron, in prime position on the shoulders of her dad Adrian, couldn't contain her excitement as she took in the party at Lambert Willson Park. (Left, Top and Centre) The Canada Day Parade down Yonge Street was a soggy, but spirited affair. (Left, Bottom) Melissa Suma, second from left, was named 2016's Aurora Teen Idol. She is seen with, left to right, 2015 Idol Louisa Barbosa, 2016 First Runner Up Kahlan Crowe, and Mayor Geoff Dawe. For more on Canada Day, please see Page 10. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Brock Weir





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Five charged after shooting at Dinardo's

By Brock Weir

Five men have been charged with aggravated assault following a shooting at The Mansion – formerly Dinardo's – on Friday night, which left four people wounded.

Raymond Powell, 31, and Adrian Pascal, 28, both of Toronto, are facing charges of aggravated assault and failure to comply with recognizance. Jason Beharry, 24 of Oshawa, Devin Degoias, 20, of Toronto, and Jason Maragh, 30, of Whitchurch-Stouffville, are also facing charges of aggravated assault.

Investigators are also looking to the public for help in identifying a male seen leaving the area. The public is

By Brock Weir

cautioning a costly Ontario Municipal

Board hearing if Council did not

approve his client's development plan

for south Aurora backfired last week

after local lawmakers branded his

development of 30 residential units

at the south end of Town near

Continued on page 13

The debate centred on a planned

A developer's delegation to Council

Caution of OMB

development plan

approach "offensive."

hearing backfires on

contact police immediately if seen.

Parkway South banquet hall just after vehicle." 10 p.m. on Canada Day.

According to witnesses coming forward to the Police, a fight broke out between individuals at the "wellattended" party leaving four victims three women and one man - with nonlife threatening gunshot wounds of varying seriousness.

The five suspects charged fled the scene in a white Porsche and Police say one of the party-goers followed the men from the scene.

"The suspects that are in custody were arrested in Richmond Hill," said Inspector Bellman of the York Regional

advised not to approach him and to Police. "A witness followed them from the scene and our air support and Police were called to the Industrial officers were able to arrest them in the

> Police and Emergency Responders processed two of the victims at the scene before one was taken to the trauma unit at Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital with serious injuries, while the other was taken to Southlake with minor injuries.

> Two additional victims came forward later in the evening, turning up at Markham-Stouffville for treatment on their own accord.

> DiNardo's was cordoned off as a crime scene through Monday with the lawns of the banquet hall and

Continued on page 6

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Fire station near Bayview and St. John's could be two years away

By Brock Weir

A new fire station on Earl Stewart Drive near the southwest corner of St. John's Sideroad and Bayview Avenue to serve both Aurora and Newmarket is roughly two years away from becoming a reality.

This was the update provided to Council by Ian Laing, Chief of the Central York Fire Services (CYFS), last

In his annual report to Council on the CYFS, the fire department which

jointly serves - and is jointly funded and governed by – both communities, Chief Lang emphasized the need for a station near the centre of the two municipalities to enhance response times in all four corners of the CYFS area.

"By putting the fifth fire station in the centre of the community, you will see the primary response time reduced in that central area, which is your St. John's corridor up and down Bayview," said Chief Laing, responding to questions from Councillor Tom Mrakas on the

Continued on page 7

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TOWN OF AURORA **Weekly Notice Board**

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Time Location Holland Room Monday, July 11 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 12 5:30 p.m. Leksand Room Tuesday, July 12 7 p.m. Council Chambers Aurora Cultural Centre Wednesday, July 13 7 p.m. Thursday, July 14 7 p.m. **Council Chambers**

Heritage Advisory Committee Finance Advisory Committee Council Aurora Cultural Centre Board Committee of Adjustment

Meeting

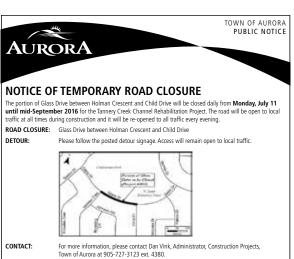
Council meetings are open to the public and can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

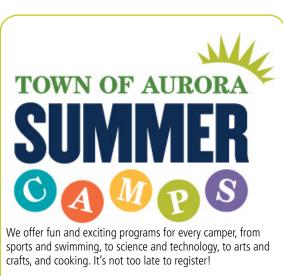


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WHAT'S HAPPENING



For more information, refer to your 2016 Spring/Summer Program Guide or visit us online at www.aurora.ca/campprograms

Adventure-A-Day

Bring your friends and join us for an Adventure-A-Day including babysitter's training, tree top trekking, home alone course, Cold Creek Conservation Area, biking, climbing and swimming.

When: Monday, July 25 to Friday, July 29 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Where: Aurora Family Leisure Complex

Pre-registration required. For more information, please call 905-726-4760.

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

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 July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016, weather-permitting.

Pesticide Product: PCP #:

31375, registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada) Active Ingredient: Imidacloprid

Selected ash trees will be injected on the following streets: Δhhott Δvenue

Closs Square Allaura Boulevard Collis Drive Connaught Avenue April Gardens Conover Avenue Ardill Crescent Copland Drive Covent Crescent Aspen Leaf Court Autumn Wav Crawford Rose Drive Baldwin Road Dawlish Avenue Barr Crescent Deerglen Terrace Batson Drive Delattave Avenue Baywell Crescent Devins Drive Beatty Crescent Devlin Place Bilbrough Street Downey Circle Billingham Heights Duncton Wood Rirkshire Drive Crescent Earl Stewart Drive Blaydon Lane Bonny Meadows Drive Fleury Street Borealis Avenue **Bowler Street** Gilbank Drive Briardale Place Golf Links Drive Bridgenorth Drive Brookview Drive Calmar Crescent Hartwell Way Haskell Crescent Carlyle Crescent Carriage Walk Haverhill Terrace Casemount Street Heathwood Heights Catherine Avenue Hill Drive Chapman Court Hillary Place Charing Crescent Hogaboom Avenue Chippingwood Manor Chiswick Crescent Hollandview Trail

Kemano Drive Kidd Circle Kirkvalley Circle Lanewood Drive Laurentide Avenu Loriview Lane Mahogany Court McClenny Drive Meadowood Drive Millcliff Circle Millov Place Mohagany Cour Morland Crescent October Lane Old Yonge Street Ostick Street Parkland Court Pederson Drive Perivale Crecent Petch Drive Pineneedle Drive

Spring Farm Road Kennedy Street West Starr Crescent Stemmle Drive Stoddart Drive Stone Road Tamarac Trail Tannery Creek Crescent Tecumseh Drive Temperance Street Tilston Grove Timbertrail Crescer Timpson Drive Tonner Crescent Tradewind Terrace Orchard Heights Drive Trent Street Turnbridge Road Tyler Street Únderhill Crescen Valemount Way Valley Crescent Watkins Glen Crescent Watts Meadov River Ridge Boulevard Wells Street Sandfield Crescent Weslock Crescent Wilkinson Place Sandfield Drive Williamson Terrace

TOWN OF AURORA

Cilff Road Jasper Drive Spence Drive Selected ash trees will be injected in the following parks:

Hollidge Boulevard

Ada Johnson Park (Hartwell Way) Aurora Community Arboretum Chapman Park (McMaster Drive) Harmon Park (Aurora Heights Drive) Jack Woods Park (Dunning Avenue) Lambert Willson Park (Industrial Parkway Lions Park (Rueben Street) McMahon Park (Cedar Crescent) Optimist Park (Birkshire Drive)

Rotary Park (Kennedy Street East) Seston Park (Tradewind Terrace) Summit Park (Orchard Heights Boulevard) Timbers Park (Milcliff Circle) Toms Park (Lanewood Drive)
Town Park (Wells Street) William Kennedy Park (Kennedy Street West) Wilson Park (Moorcrest Drive)

Simmons Crescent

Sisman Avenue

Sommerton Court

Willis Drive

Zokol Drive

Windham Trail

Woodland Hills

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**

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

Private Tree Protection Bylaw

Please Take Notice: On Tuesday, May 24, 2016 Town of Aurora Council approved a revised by-law regarding the destruction of trees on private property and enacted By-Law 5850-16.

For complete details, please visit www.aurora.ca/trees



July Skylight Gallery Artist - Christine Valentini

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.

For more information on Christine Valentini's work please visit www.studiovalentini.ca

RFMINDF

Acceptable Containers for Residential Waste and Recycling Collection

To ensure waste and recycling is collected, residents are reminded of the following approved sizes:

Waste container size: Recycling container size:

Maximum 133 litres (35 gallons) Minimum 68 litres (18 gallons) Maximum 83 litres (22 gallons) 22 kg (50 lbs)

Maximum weight:

Outdoor Water Use

The Town of Aurora enforces a municipal bylaw related to outdoor water use. It is important that all residents and businesses observe the regulations, as they have been put into place to ensure a continued abundant water supply. Even/Odd watering restrictions are in effect.

The Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw is in effect.

All residents should be cleaning up debris on their property and keeping grass no longer than eight inches. Let's keep Aurora looking beautiful!

For more information on these and other Town bylaws, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240 or visit www.aurora.ca/bylaws



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Melissa Suma crowned Aurora's 2016 Teen Idol

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Melissa Suma has always had an affinity with pop music, but things recently changed.

As she began learning more about jazz, she soon realised she was already incorporating jazz influences into her original song writing.

It's something the 14-year-old has started to embrace and when she stepped onto the stage on Canada Day as one of eight finalists in the Aurora Teen Idol competition, she blew judges away with her rendition of Feeling Good, a jazz standard popularized by Nina Simone.

Her song selection made her stand out from the crowd which included Kahlan Crowe, who sang Kelly Clarkson's Piece By Piece.

Additional members of the top eight included Madison with Rachel Platten's Fight Song, Emma with Adele's Someone Like You, Stephanie, who chose When We Were Young, another selection from Adele's songbook, Leah with Abba's The Winner Takes It All, Alexandra with The Writing's On The Wall, and Nikita with John Lennon's Imagine.

All eight took to the stage at Lambert Willson Park at 6 p.m. sharp for the final round of Aurora's Teen Idol competition, a popular Canada Day tradition in Aurora. Occasionally interrupted by sudden downpours, the singers were unflappable as they went through their performances, which were evaluated by professional judges.

Stephanie, Kahlan, Melissa and Madison ultimately rose to the top with Kahlan nabbing the first-runner-up spot and Melissa the crown.

"I am really excited," Melissa told The Auroran after her name was announced by Mayor Geoff Dawe and receiving her sash from 2015's Teen

my first year in this competition. My parents said I have been singing for such a long while that I should try some competitions. I think this [win] is such a good opportunity to grow my experience as a singer and meet new people."

Melissa, a student at Richmond Hill's Holy Trinity Catholic High School, has been singing since she was two-yearsold. There are plenty of opportunities to sing at school, she says, and while she is keen to get started learning piano and guitar to broaden her musical talents, she is currently taking singing lessons and enjoying the fruits of her hard work.

"I have always been singing around the house for fun; even when I was little, I was just making up silly songs," she says. "I have been working on some of my original songs and I am hoping to be able to record an album sometime soon."

In the meantime, however, you will have many opportunities in and around Aurora to hear Melissa perform. Among her duties as Aurora's Teen Idol is performing the National Anthem and other songs at a number of community events, including the Town's Concerts in the Park series, which kicks off this

For judge Philip Trow, although each singer was technically sound, there was just something about Melissa's performance that wowed them. In fact, that "something" was very identifiable.

"We're looking for people who have done their technique so they know the technical aspects of singing, but they can sell the song as well," he said, following the competition. "It was pretty clear who knew exactly what she was doing. Being 14, to have that kind of maturity in her presentation was very encouraging because it means already that much further ahead.

"She has got lots of technique, but if you have an idea of what you're trying to say and have the technique to say it, it is amazing. All of the singers were good, and all of the singers were at

Idol Louisa Barbosa. "Last year was that if she pursues it as a career, she is different levels in technique and in their ability to get the song across. Some are quite young in knowing what they are trying to say. They have heard it done, they have got some technique, but they aren't really speaking from the soul. It was clear Melissa was feeling the song."



Melissa Suma, 14, wowed the crowd with Nina Simone's Feeling Good. Auroran photo by Glenn Roger



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Briefly

KEEP COOL IN AURORA

With a heatwave expected to last through the week, there are a number of ways to keep cool in Aurora. Cooling stations will be available at several air conditioned facilities and outdoor green spaces to help you beat the heat. Splash pads at Ada Johnson Park (Hartwell Way and Conover Avenue) and Town Park (Wells Street and Mosley Street) are already popular destinations when operating from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., but there is a new splash pad option this year, now open at Alex Brodie Drive and Thomas Phillips Drive. Town Hall will also be open as a cooling station Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., as will the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (135 Industrial Parkway North) and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (1400 Wellington Street East). The AFLC is open Monday to Thursday from 5.45 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 5.45 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The SARC is accessible Monday to Thursday from 7.30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 7.30 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WEIGH IN ON NATIONAL DEFENCE

Aurora residents are invited to attend a Defence Policy Review with Defence Minister John McCallum this Thursday, July 7, at the Regional Municipality of York (17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket) from 7 - 9 p.m. Co-hosted by Leona Alleslev, Member of Parliament for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, the session will allow discussion on challenges to Canada's security, the role of the Canadian Armed Forces, and resources and capabilities needed to carry out the role of the Forces.

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Scrap left turn ban proposal

and make a decision: reader An Open Letter to Mayor & Council

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Every time I read a story in the local papers pertaining to the horrendous traffic woes every citizen has to endure

at the centre of town, I'm first amused. then my blood boils. Reading the story on Council's latest

delay made that boil faster.

Mayor Dawe states that "one of the key components of the pilot is pending local feedback, and that has been lacking so far."

What? After reading the first story in The Auroran (week of June 23) I immediately zipped off an email to you and all Council members, giving you the solution to the traffic problems at the Yonge/Wellington intersection, but you obviously either haven't read your email yet or you chose to ignore it. I would suspect the latter.

Over 16 years ago, I proposed this solution to Town Council by making a presentation at more than one Council meeting. I had charts, graphs, you name it. I also presented a report from the Region of York traffic department following a study they conducted on this intersection, REQUESTED by Council of the day.

It was all ignored. This report concluded that a dedicated right hand turn lane from southbound Yonge to westbound Wellington was warranted and could be quickly installed by the Town. But, once again, Council ignored the advice of the very source they asked suggestions from. So, why is Council so interested in public input now?

My 16-plus year plan will still work today and make a lot of drivers in this town appreciative that Council finally made a decision about this problem corner. I proposed that the Town expropriate land from in front of the BMO (mostly sidewalk), and install this right hand turn lane.

This does three things:

- 1. Will ease the flow of traffic through this very busy intersection by allowing vehicles turning to westbound Wellington to not impede southbound traffic.
- The current left lane of traffic would then southbound become a dedicated Left Turn lane to eastbound Wellington, once again not impeding southbound flow of traffic, and finally...
- 3. The current curb lane would be a dedicated southbound lane for vehicles heading to the south of Aurora. So simple that a blind man could see this would work.

What does Council do? Let's send this back to Staff to study some more. Once Staff's recommendations are received, they send them back to Staff to investigate MORE. Why?

Across the street, beside the TD bank, the Region identified a problem with right hand turns from Wellington to northbound Yonge. What they did was act upon the problem by expropriating land, building the right hand turn lane and traffic has been a breeze through that intersection ever since. At the time of my original proposal, a right hand turn lane from southbound Yonge to westbound Wellington would have cost roughly \$60,000. Sixteen years later, it's going to be at least 10 times that amount or more.

So, Mayor Dawe, you see, public feedback isn't lacking as you stated.

Just like everything else, you and Council choose to ignore the obvious and keep on NOT making a decision. The only response I received from my email was from Councillor Thom, and I appreciated that very much. So I, along with a great number of drivers in this Town, ask you and Council to make a decision.

Scrap any idea of restricting left turns at this corner and install the right hand turn lane from Yonge Street.

Mark Holmes

Machell's Corners

YONGE AND WELLINGTON



WHAT WE NEED



WHAT WE'RE GETTING

What the world needs now

All in all, this has been a pretty good week for Canada.

I'm not just talking about the people from coast to coast, dressed in red and white, waving their flags, and sporting red maple leaves painted on their cheeks, but I am talking about the entire Canadian mentality.

Over the last few days, we have had the opportunity to mark the centenary of a devastating blow to the men from Eastern Canada – primarily the thencolony of Newfoundland - serving King and Country, which ultimately turned out to be a galvanizing force in the First World War.

Many of us watched with pride, so to speak, as the Prime Minister joined other leaders in the Toronto Pride Parade, a scene which garnered the best kind of shock and awe around the world.

And some simply basked in the ecstasy of President Barack Obama's visit to Ottawa in which he boldly declared: "the world needs more Canada."

Combined, these make for a potent formula for some long-lasting afterglow, but I think, down the road, the words of the outgoing U.S. President will be words cited for many years to come.

"Our Muslim friends and neighbours who run businesses and serve in our governments and in our armed forces, and are friends with our children, play on our sports teams – we've got to stand up against the slander and the hate levelled against those who look or worship differently. That is our obligation. That is who we are. That's what makes America special. That's what makes Canada special.

"Here in Canada, a woman has already risen to the highest office in the land. In America, for the first time, a woman is the presumptive nominee of a major party and, perhaps, President. Our work won't be finished until all women in our country are truly equal: paid equally, treated equally, given the same opportunities as men, when our girls have the same opportunities as boys."

As someone who was once horrified to walk into a New York City gift shop to see racks of pretty pink t-shirts for toddlers to tweens emblazoned with the slogan "Future First Lady" alongside "Future President" t-shirts in a butch blue, driving home the message that the ideal girl marries well, or marries a man whose career prospects seem to be on the upswing, I would have stood up to applaud had I been in the room.

But, alas, I was not in the room, so I listened attentively to his next key points, which brought home the need to be "bold" in the defence of our



BANTER Brock Weir

values, including the rights of people to speak their minds and speak truth to power around the world.

"In the end, it is this respect for the dignity of all people, especially the most vulnerable among us, that perhaps more than anything else binds our two countries together," he noted. "Being Canadian, being American is not about what we look like or where our families came froXm. It is about our commitment to a common creed. And that's why, together, we must not waver in embracing our values, our best selves. And that includes our history as a nation of immigrants, and from all around the world."

Although I sometimes fondly look back on the days when I could spend Canada Day on my own time, there is a certain pleasure to be derived from being on the job. While I enjoy the Town's Canada Day Parade each year, my personal highlight is seeing the unbridled patriotic joy on kids' faces when they are taking in the celebrations for just the first or second

They might not know exactly what they're celebrating or why, but they are in on it. They know there is something in the air. At the moment, it might not be definable, but there it is. They love it and they're basking in it. It is also fun to overhear (well, eavesdrop) on what their parents, grandparents, or caregivers say about why they're there and what it means to them.

The conversations are usually varied, and despite this year's bizarre and wet weather, there seemed to be an increased level of pride and energy in the air amongst those who decided to stick out the deluge.

And that deluge was something to behold. The sudden downpours cleared the park several times throughout the day, no doubt putting the business expected by on-site food trucks into disarray, but at this point I have to thank Mayor Geoff Dawe for being a truly full service mayor, letting me huddle under his umbrella during the final round of the Aurora Teen Idol competition when my skyward prognostication failed me spectacularly.

Thankfully, the skies cleared in time for the traditional fireworks

spectacular, which was lit off just behind Lambert Willson Park. Perhaps my outlook was a bit rosy, thankful to be in a fresh pair of dry clothes standing outside in rain-free, mosquito-free weather, but from my vantage point at Optimist Park, the firework display was bigger and better than ever.

So, the ground is fertile for a Town like Aurora to capitalize on this sentiment.

While a citizen-led committee has been working hard over the past few months collaborating on a program of potential events and partnerships to mark Canada's own 150th anniversary - the country's sesquicentennial - the potential blowout is less than a year away, and even less if there is any impetus on the committee to spread whatever the celebrations ultimately boil down to throughout the year.

Having sat in on a couple of the planning meetings, the possibilities so far are very exciting and likely to appeal to a wide array of Aurorans, I am becoming increasingly worried we must continue to welcome people that everything so far seems to hinge on the Government of Canada pulling through with the money to make it happen.

> The reality is, of course, that the Government wants communities like ours to take the lead on their own celebrations, and this is a mindset that the present Liberal government appears to share with the previous Conservative government, which began laying the groundwork for Canada 150, so the funding enabling them to do so is likely to come.

> We have been told the earliest communities are likely to hear back on their grant applications is October, leaving municipalities in a holding pattern of how far they can go with planning their celebrations until word comes down from on high with just eight months or so to get everything ready to roll by end of June.

> Canada 150 is an occasion to be celebrated proudly. Communities like Aurora would be smart to convene a meeting and earmark what they're prepared to shell out on the celebration themselves so they're not left scrambling at the last minute until they know for sure the resources that will be at their disposal.

> Once the money is handed down from the Government, the money can be returned to where it came from or, better yet, go towards the creation of a legacy project or permanent reminder of the celebrations.

> A spiffy new cornerstone for a new structure on Library Square springs to mind – but maybe that's just me.

> Anyway, bask in the post-Canada Day afterglow. Apparently we deserve it.

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Publisher Emeritus

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The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating:

Cow Appreciation Day (Friday, July 8)

Left to Right: Milk bottles from Cousin's Dairy and Aurora Dairy, cowbell used by William Dunning, who lived in Aurora in the early 20th Century, milk pail circa 1914 used to deliver milk by hand on a little board.



Parading, GO Transit, School Investment and more...



Happy Canada Day

It was wonderful to again walk in Aurora's Canada Day Parade. Although there was some rain, the enthusiastic crowds, colourful floats, great music and marching bands - and cheery parade members - made it a memorable event. Thank you to the Town of Aurora staff and many volunteers who make the event a success, and to all who paraded down Yonge Street. Most of all, thank you to the great crowds who make it worthwhile. See you next year for Canada's 150th!

Go Transit

Parking congestion in downtown Aurora related to Go Transit users will, hopefully, find some relief when the new GO Train station on Mulock Drive, west of Bayview Avenue in Newmarket, opens in the coming years.

The Mulock station is something I've worked hard to bring to the riding, knowing it will benefit both Newmarket and Aurora residents and businesses. Aurora residents who live in the northeast part of town might find it easier to park at the new station, when it opens, as opposed to fighting for limited parking spaces around the Aurora Wellington station.

Ensuring that Aurora and Newmarket are well served by GO Trains is integral to our community's economic growth. Not only are GO Trains essential for commuters, they open our towns to investment by firms that need to be within close commuting distance of Toronto, but are seeking to expand to towns with lower land prices and municipal taxes.

Along with the new Mulock station. Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca announced two more GO Train stations on the Barrie GO Transit line. One will be added at Kirby Road in Vaughan and the other at Innisfil in Simcoe County. These new stations are another example of our government honouring our commitment to residents of Newmarket-Aurora in 2014 to improve GO services.

The Barrie corridor will provide travellers with access to all-day, two-way. 15-minute electrified service between

View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP **Newmarket-Aurora**

Aurora to Union Station, including evenings and weekends, weekday rush 30-minute service between Newmarket to Union Station, and 60-minute service midday.

School Infrastructure Investment

I was delighted to join Education Minister Mitzie Hunter in Vaughan earlier this week to announce our government will invest \$120 million to improve schools in York Region. The funding will enable both the York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Board to make much needed building updates and

This investment in school repair and renewal is part of the largest investment in public infrastructure in the province's history. Our investment of \$160 billion over 12 years will help create jobs - and build roads, bridges, transit, schools and hospitals. This is an important investment for both our school boards one that affects every student. I am proud to support a government that knows a well maintained school creates a better learning environment.

York Region Food Network Grant

I was delighted to make a call this past week to the York Region Food Network (YRFN) in Aurora to tell them they are the recipients of an Ontario Trillium Grant for their *Community Cooks* program.

This is a new pilot project among YRFN. Belinda's Place and the Aurora Food Pantry, that will offer hands-on experience and job training to 20 women in the area. Working in a commercial kitchen, participants will build skills and confidence while receiving formal training and accreditation in safe food handling, Smart Serve, CPR and first aid.

They will work with a chef to prepare meals, learn about nutrition, food budgeting and menu planning. Their

new skills will help support these women in their job searches, and develop food skills and promotes a healthy lifestyle. These skills can be essential to finding employment, as experts tell us more than 60,000 new food and beverage workers will be required by 2020. Congratulations to the York Region Food Network and its partners for this great program!

Combatting child poverty

As part of Ontario's ongoing work to reform income security and combat child poverty, the province is ending the claw back of child support payments from social assistance. Starting in early 2017, child support payments will be fully exempt from social assistance benefit calculations to help increase incomes for families who receive both social assistance and child support. Currently, child support payments are treated as income and deducted dollar-for-dollar from benefits. This change will benefit some of the province's most vulnerable children.

Iftar

friends and family.

It was heartening to see so many community leaders, including York Region Police Chief Eric Jolliffe and senior officers. It was an interesting event, and I met local members of the Muslim faith and learned about Ramadan, especially the emphasis on

I invite you to contact me on any issue. Please call my community office at 905-750-0019, or visit my website at www.ChrisBallardMPP.ca. My email is: cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org.

I look forward to hearing from you.

I had the honour of attending a Ramadan Iftar (breaking of the fast) dinner on June 18 hosted by the York Regional Police and the Al Nadwa Educational Centre. Ramadan is an exciting annual event that brings together people from various religious backgrounds, not just Muslim, to learn about one another and to celebrate with

self-improvement and charity.

My top pet peeves



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Although Aurora is a wonderful community in which to raise a family, your friendly scribe does have a list of things that drive me to distraction. I have pared down my initial published list from nine to five items and also modified it somewhat.

Six years ago your writer produced

a column entitled, "The top ten

reasons why I love Aurora and my pet

peeves". Three years ago I updated

this list.

So, with the appropriate apologies to David Letterman, my top five pet peeves are:

5.) The traffic at the intersection of Yonge & Wellington. I'll bet the amount of green house gases spewing from the idled cars during the rush hour period is just about as much as that emanating from the Town Council Chamber on a typical Tuesday

evening. The only good thing is that driving southbound along Yonge Street we get to look at the mural while we wait to turn eastbound. 4.) Those of you speeding through

the various back streets of Aurora slow down, as there are lots of small children around. And while you are at it, please turn down the music especially after 11 pm on a weeknight.

3.) Slow play on some of the local golf courses. When the course is busy, please do not spend ten minutes looking for your ball in the trees; drop another ball and play on.

2.) Continuing lack of customer service in some of Aurora's retail outfits. While I have written about a good many positive experiences with diverse retail companies in Aurora, I have also chronicled some less than stellar (to say the least) local customer encounters. Remember the simple adage: "A happy customer means a customer that will be coming back."

And my number one pet peeve is... our communities' collective voting record. Only fifty-three percent voted in the 2014 provincial election and 68% in the 2015 federal election. The next federal election is scheduled for the fall of 2019 while the next provincial election is scheduled for 2018. Let's show that we can do better!

> Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.co



On the other hand...

Last week, I wrote about the lack of respect folks feel for politicians and other persons in positions of prestige or power and the reasons - but not excuses – as to why that might be.

With many people of prominence revealed to be cheats and liars, it's no wonder that folks have nothing or no one to believe in. It's a case of, "Fool me once, shame on me..."

However, as there are two sides to virtually every story, this week let's look at the flip side to that argument. I argued that it is the Office that deserves respect and that those who are elected to it must earn that respect. Fair enough, but oft times, it doesn't matter what good one does in office, there will always be those that are hell-bent on proving you are the devil.

Indeed, those that occupy offices of high esteem may not in fact be dastardly fellows but may instead be good people trying to do good works for their communities and the constituents they were elected to represent. Personally, and obviously unscientifically, I would say the vast majority of elected officers - from local councillors right up to heads of state – are honest, hardworking, civic minded people who truly do want to do the best for those they serve. They have noble purpose.

But given what those who seek, let alone achieve, elected office are forced to endure from the modern day scourge of the trolls, the serial complaint lodgers, and hysterical accusers, one really does have to wonder why anyone with any sense at all would bother to run for office.

The level of vitriol hurled at our representatives is truly staggering. Look at the twitter feed of Hillary Clinton and you will get a scary glimpse into the world of online trolls and the misogynistic, hateful, venom they spew at her. Look at the comments page of any newspaper when it provides coverage of a particular leader and you will get a little taste of what our PM, MPs and MPPs endure on a daily basis.

But even at a local level, the level of toxic commentary is pretty shocking. No question, there are elected officers that are not doing a good job, a terrible job in fact. But few warrant the level of hostility and outright nastiness directed at them from folks with whom they do not necessarily agree.

When nasty comments are not enough, then the allegations fly. All sorts of malfeasance are alleged often with not even a scintilla of evidence to support it; but truth is not the point. In this age of 24 hour media, where "news" is instantaneous, the allegation is all that matters. It's the allegation that makes the headline.

Vindications are printed on the back page. Being right doesn't matter. Many folks believe where there's smoke, there's fire. If even five people believe a lie then the troll's mission is accomplished.

Politicians of every level are subjected to the digital drive by smear, buffeted by serial complaints to the integrity commissioner, the auditor general, the ombudsman or the courts.

On and on it goes.

It is wearying for sure.

Honestly, I have to wonder why any of them bother at all.

NEW AURORAN POLL

Did you take part in this year's Canada Day Celebrations? Yes No

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

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

YES NO **UNSURE** 3%

Public input to be sought on left turn bans at Yonge and Wellington

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If you have strong opinions one way or the other on whether left hand turns should be banned at Yonge and Wellington during peak times, you may have your chance to weigh in this summer.

By Brock Weir

Council approved public a information session on the potential pilot project that is expected to be implemented this October, pending Regional Council approval.

Councillors, however, got an early flavour of some of the feedback to come last week from resident Angela Daoust, who approached Council with her opposition to the two-month pilot.

She told Councillors she was concerned about the impact a turn ban would have on surrounding neighbourhoods as drivers looking to avoid the intersection altogether look for alternate routes.

"There are a lot of children who use these side streets to get to the French school on George Street and the public school and high school on Wellington Street," she said. "They use these side

streets as there are less vehicles than hinges on the Region. on Wellington Street. If this proposed left turn ban is implemented, much more traffic will be diverted onto the side streets, making it dangerous for the children walking to school.

"The added traffic to our area that this will produce does not even take into consideration the proposed 68 townhouse development at Tyler and Mill Street, or the redevelopment of the church property at Yonge and Tyler to include a rebuilt church as well as a retirement residence."

The "simplest and most logical" solution to the traffic problem, she added, would be to have advance greens in all directions at the intersection.

This is just the kind of feedback Councillors said they were looking for when debating a subsequent recommendation from Town Staff which resulted in a motion for a public engagement session as part of the project rollout.

"I would hope that all of our dialogue is not one way and we don't only speak to our residents and don't actually listen to them, and take what they say into consideration," said Councillor Paul Pirri.

Some Councillors questioned what was described by Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, as a "leeriness" to go forward with public consultation before the final approvals are met at the Region. Those, such as Councillor Michael Thompson, pointed out several examples of pending projects over which a public consultation was held before it received the Council green light.

difference, said Simanovskis, was those were Towndriven initiatives that needed Town approval. In this case, everything

For some, this answer missed the mark.

"There have been a number of times where we have engaged the public on initiatives that have not yet been approved," said Councillor Thompson. "Clear bags would be one of them. We spent considerable dollars advertising, hiring a consultant and engaging the public on a program that was not approved. I see no issue with going out to the residents and getting that feedback so it can be provided to all of Council as well as the Mayor and members of Regional Council prior to any decision."

This was a sentiment shared around the table. Councillor Wendy Gaertner said the comments offered by the delegate reflected those of people who had approached her.

"I think we should at least take their comments and make them feel valued and say this is what we are going to do," she said.

Added Councillor Tom Mrakas: "I see no issues with us doing something within the summer and having maybe two sessions. Why not have as many as we can, to get as many as we can, to get all the information we need and have it there and hear what the residents are going to say?

"I think there are many ways we can look at it. One of the comments I made...as far as the infiltration into some of the side streets, is right now a lot of us - and I am guilty of this - turn to the streets to avoid the intersection and you would have a lot of people right now who are turning into the streets that would actually continue to go straight now instead if there is a left turn [restriction]. That is why I would like to collect that data."



Police seek witnesses to identify man leaving Dinardo's area

From page 1

surrounding properties strewn with numerous red Solo cups and flyers 1-866-876-5423 x7141, or anonymously advertising Canada Day parties in southern York Region.

The police tape had been removed by Tuesday morning, but the investigation continues.

York Regional Police ask that the remaining individual, or anyone who can identify him, contact the #1 District



Criminal Investigations Bureau at call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS. The same goes for any members of the public with any information at all relating to Friday's shooting.

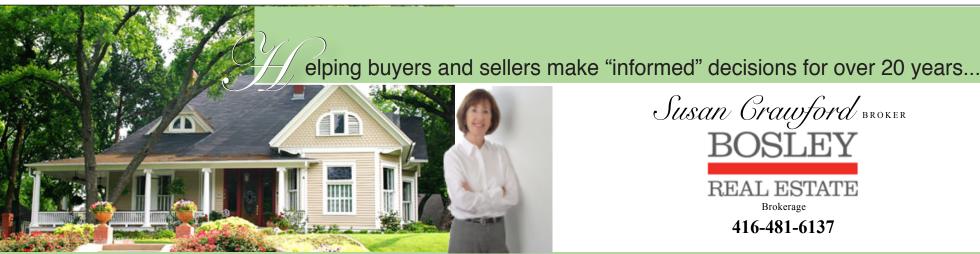
The charges have not been proven in

Updates to this story will be published at theauroran.com.



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scrawford@bosleyrealestate.com

Central York Fire Services talks merger with Richmond Hill

From page 1

impact the new addition will have on service. "Your first truck response time should [be] reduced and it will also reduce the three-truck response because you can respond to back up the four corners of the two communities quicker from the centre than from one of the other corners."

A fifth fire station from the CYFS – and the third operational station to be built in Aurora – has been debated and considered for years both by the Councils of Newmarket and Aurora, as well as their Joint Council Committee, which is the CYFS' governing body comprised of members of both Town Halls.

Land has been secured in the Earl Stewart Drive area near the new Sterne Acura dealership after additional sites were examined, including a suggestion of the northwest corner of Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad initially floated by the CYFS.

"The fire station, from a fire chief's

point of view, is like planting a tree," said Chief Lang, responding Councillor Wendy Gaertner's question of when the public can expect the new station to be operational. "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the next best time is today. I know from my past experience it takes two years to design and build a facility.

"We have a piece of property. It is located in a spot that is really going to help us. Now we are in the process of seeing where we are at."

Part of that process, he added, is feeling out where things currently stand with the Richmond Hill Fire Service. Recent discussions around the Joint Council Committee have touched upon whether the next natural step for the CYFS is to continue the spread southward to have one fire service for the three municipalities.

"Central York is a success story," said Chief Laing. "We are going to begin talks with the Richmond Hill Fire Service to see if there is any merit in consolidating with that department, as well as to see if we can provide a higher level of service to the communities. We want to avoid any duplication [in service]. I tend to look at our training division, which has to relocate to the new facility, would be enhancing the training that was going to be going on in Richmond Hill.

"Currently, we rent time from them to use their facility and they rent time from us to use our facilities, but they are not duplicates of each other; we do different things. They come up and send our crews down there to do live fire training. Everything else we do from here now."

According to Chief Lang, emergency response is the third line of defence when it comes to the mandate of CYFS. The first step is public education on fire prevention, the second is fire prevention, fire safety standards and code enforcement, and the third, when those critical first two steps don't work,

is emergency response.

"In the line of fire prevention and public education, we have developed a program called Stay Fire Smart. Last year, just under 9,000 homes were visited. That means in just under three years we have developed this program, we have covered over 26,000 homes. This is a five year program and at the end of five years, we will have completed the 42,000 residences in the communities. We'll start again because people move and neighbourhoods grow."

These programs, he added, help "our they pay us to rent our facility and we most vulnerable," but there are still situations that need to be addressed. There are currently 19 "vulnerable occupancies" in Aurora and Newmarket which are typically nursing and retirement homes. 16 of the 19 have sprinkler systems, which is now in the fire code, but three do not.

These three, he noted, are all in Aurora and while two will be compliant "shortly", the third will not be brought up to standard until 2025.

Advertorial

Green thumbs kept busy in lead-up to Sunday's garden tour

By Brock Weir

John Briggs learned a lot at his first job in a greenhouse, earning "35 cents an hour – top dollar!" tending plants and bagging soil - and it instilled in him a love of getting his hands dirty that endures to this day.

Come out this Sunday, July 10, and see the fruits of his labour as Mr. Briggs opens up his garden, along with seven other local gardeners, for Garden Tour 2016 hosted by the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society.

Featuring eight home gardens total, the owners of these "private paradises" will be on hand to answer all your gardening questions.

Local artists will also be there, painting en plein air and showcasing their works.

By Monday, Mr. Briggs cast his eye over his Copland Trail domain, which features its own greenhouse in which he grows his own annuals, confident most of the hard work was behind him getting the place camera ready for this weekend's ticketholders.

"It's a lot of extra work." he says with a chuckle. "I grow my own annuals and I have to make sure I stake them all nice and straight to make them as nice as possible - and it's as ready as its going to be! It's nice to dig in the soil and create something.



In Full Bloom: The Copland Trail garden of John Briggs is in full bloom and ready for your inspection as part of this Sunday's annual Aurora Garden Tour.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

I'm a photographer, so flowers give me a subject, as well as other things, and it is just fun to try different plans."

Tickets for this self-guided tour. which takes place rain or shine, are \$15 and are on sale now at Caruso & Company, Hillcrest Nurseries (14230 Bathurst Street), and at Black Forest Gardens at 15445 Keele Street in King. Tickets will also be available at the Aurora Farmers' Market this Saturday, July 10.

For more information, visit www. gardenaurora.com.



Beat Headaches

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Most of us suffer from the occasional headache. Causes are often easy to diagnose: allergies, lack of sleep, changes in temperature, even posture at work. A small percentage of the population also endures migraine headaches, with severe, often debilitating symptoms. Regardless the type of headache, there may be more to it than just a bad day at work.

Why Headaches?

While it sounds simple, people forget that our eyes, nose, ears and mouth are part of a delicate system. When one element is disrupted everything can change. Consider the mouth and teeth as an example: each time you clench your teeth together you use the three muscles needed to close your mouth: the temporalis, pterygoid and masseter muscles. These muscles are located in the temple area over the outside border of your jaw, and bulge out when your mouth closes. Their primary role is to help chew food and move the jaw in the manner needed for day to day life.

Some people develop habits over time that cause these muscles to be used in ways that are destructive and harmful to their teeth and jaw. These habits are known as parafunctional activities; the two most common are clenching and grinding, a condition known as Bruxism.

Clenching and Grinding

Clenching your teeth together can make for a great, pouty headshot, but it doesn't do much for the teeth and jaw in the long run. In fact, when we aren't chewing food or talking, our teeth should rest a few millimeters apart. Grinding includes clenching the teeth and sliding them across each other in different directions.

Along with the potential of chipping or complete fractures of teeth, bruxism tends to overwork the temporalis, pterygoid and masseter muscles. Just like any other muscles in our body, these three workhorses will get tired and sore after prolonged use. This soreness can

Many of us don't understand that headaches can be linked to problems with our teeth and our bite that we aren't even aware of, and can be fixed with the help of a dentist.

trigger headaches in the temples, sides of the jaw, and the neck and shoulders that can happen at any time of the day depending on the person.

But what are the reasons? Everyone has a theory: stress, genetic factors, and lack of sleep are all linked to Bruxism. Even medication can cause problems. Some anti anxiety medications cite clenching and grinding as a side effect. If this is the case, it's a good idea to speak to a dentist.

Take a Bite Out of It

The best way to fight clenching and grinding is to train these habits during the day. Practicing mindfulness (paying close attention to your body) can help with keeping teeth separated. Admittedly controlling your habits when you sleep can be more of a challenge, but a well made mouth splint, bite plate or night guard can help protect your teeth. Be careful with over the counter sports mouthguards that can make the clenching habit, and headaches, worse over time.

If you experience headaches or what you think are migraines, see your family doctor first. There are other medical issues that should be ruled out ahead of bruxism. Beyond that, know that your headaches may be caused by habits that you may not be able to control, and that there are solutions that can be managed by your local dentist.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything in my column, please do not hesitate to get in touch drpasha@ wellingtonauroradental.com



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THE AURORAN ARTS & CULTURE

Wavestage's Ragtime is more relevant today than ever

By Brock Weir

Growing up, Manuele Mizzi was all too familiar with the immigrant experience, but recently he started wanting to know more about his roots.

mother and an Italian father, he grew up knowing how different their own lives were before they settled to Canada. His research into his own family tree, however, coincided in taking on the role of a young Latvian father at the turn of the century, fighting for a new life for himself and his daughter, in the musical Ragtime.

The more he delved into the character, the more he drew parallels not only between his own family's Lester B. Pearson Public School experience and the show, but in the continuing problems plaguing the world today. To him, Ragtime, produced by Aurora's Wavestage Theatre Company, is more relevant & The Chocolate Factory, Gypsy and today than ever before.

[Company], we talked a lot about the word 'acceptance,'" says Mizzi, who returns to Wavestage after first boat they are scared to death," says

cutting his theatrical teeth with the company 16 years ago when it was known as the Aurora Opera Company. "It is an issue throughout history. We tend not to learn in the horror and I think Ragtime brings those issues to The son of a white Jamaican life. I always wanted to be in Ragtime; I have always loved the show. There are not very many musicals in the musical theatre canon like it. There are so few of them that are this grandiose and this amazing. It was a big deal for me to want to be a part of

> Mizzi, who plays Tateh, is joined on stage by 11-year-old Hannah Billo, who plays his daughter.

Although Hanna is just 11, the student is no stranger to musical theatre. First treading the boards at the age of seven in Aladdin, she has taken on roles in Hairspray, Charlie Peter Pan, among others, but the "When I first sat down with the role of the Little Girl is her most meaningful role so far, she says.

"When they both arrive on the



Hannah Billo and Manuele Mizzi play daughter and father in the musical Ragtime, produced by Aurora's Wavestage Theatre Company. The show opens at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Thursday.

Photo by Caileigh Kyle

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Hannah. "The girl is more scared because, at the time, she is only about six or seven, but the father is very excited and nervous and doesn't know how to think about it. When she was little, she has no identity, she has moments you can't put into words no name, she doesn't answer to her age, and she barely has no life. She's starting over and I think that is just away something. Even if they don't terrible and I feel so bad for her.

"But dreams come true. It is not like other musicals where you just go home thinking it was a great musical, you think about everything that is in it," says Hannah, who has her own

dreams of growing up to be a midwife. "There is so much meaning, there are so many different people that come together as one."

Adds Mizzi: "There are those and I think having families come they are going to be able to take take away that acceptance, they are going to take away moments of love, moments of pain, and moments of amazing singing. I have been in many shows before, but I have never been in something this big. I don't think anyone could describe this show as anything less than epic."

Ragtime opens at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts next Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m. Shows continues July 15 and 16 at 7 p.m., with a 1 p.m. matinee on July 17. For more information, visit www. wavestagetheatre.com.





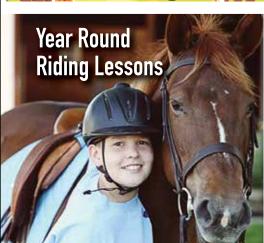
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Time for discussion "has passed" on Library Square, say action-seeking Councillors

By Brock Weir

The time "has passed" to gather options on what to do with Library Square, according to some Council members looking for long-awaited action on the future of Aurora's Downtown Core, but Council moved forward this week on another round of public consultation on the Town's Cultural Precinct.

Councillors gave the green light to a new public consultation schedule this week, following debate at the Committee level last month.

Consultation on Aurora's Cultural Precinct Plan, which proposes significant improvements and overhauls for the Town's historic downtown core, will begin as early this month focusing on meetings with area ratepayers' groups, public outreach at venues such as the Aurora's Concerts in the Park and the Aurora Farmers' Market, online surveys and via social media.

The consultation plan kicks into high gear in September, with two public consultation sessions – one for ratepayers and one for the public as a whole – followed by further meetings with community groups and a Council workshop for Council to consider the public input gathered to that point.

If all goes according to plan, a report for a "final plan" on the Cultural Precinct will hit Council by November.

While Council voted in favour of the plan, several Council members expressed frustration that they were about to embark on another round of public talks, which have been taking place over the last decade-and-a-half.

"I am all for moving forward with the public consultation because that is what we do; we don't actually take action, but we do lots of consultation," said Councillor John Abel, calling for this public consultation process to include a full report looking at all the commonalities within public input gathered so far.

According to Aurora CAO Doug Nadorozny, that is exactly the intent of this exercise: to reshape and gather all materials that have been put out there so far, put them together in an organized manner for public consumption, and make sure Council signs off on all the questions that will be posed to the public before the public meetings begin.

Councillor Abel, however, said he hoped there would be more coming forward, including potential "visions" for all that could be placed on the site of the large swath of Victoria Street currently occupied by the former home of the Aurora Public Library and the former Aurora Seniors' Centre. This was a point reiterated by Councillor Harold Kim.

"I am all for doing it right and I am trying to bring forth new ideas to the table so we can explore what opportunities exist," said Councillor Abel. "I know it all sounds visionary and idealistic, but it is because there has been frustration in repeating the same process over and over again.

Added Councillor Kim: "I just don't want October to be where we were at in January or February when we had a lot of feedback and we're still in the digesting process. I think we're beyond that and it would be nice to have something visual to offer to give them some options."

Similar frustrations were offered by Councillor Michael Thompson, who questioned Mr. Nadorozny on just what ideas would ultimately get presented to the public. The CAO said he envisioned "packaging up" various ideas around repurposing the existing buildings that have cropped up so far to show what can be done with them, as well as opportunities that will come up the ultimate decision is to demolish them.

"I think we can all agree that the time for discussion has passed," said Councillor Thompson. "We all want to take some action. I hope this process continues to move us forward so that we can start making some decisions and taking some actions, be it yes or no, or demolish or keep. This Library Square has been discussed [and] studied over the years and it is incumbent upon us to make some decisions and take some actions this fall. I am hopeful this

materials that have been put out there process will help break the stalemate so far, put them together in an organized that occurred over the past 10 years."

Still, others around the Council table said they were left baffled by some of the resistance to further public consultation, including Councillor Paul Pirri who said conversations around Council sometimes left him "confused."

"We talk about how we're going to approve a consultation study and moving forward and, in the same breath, say we shouldn't be consulting, we should be doing it this way," he said, suggesting summer was the ideal time to send this issue to the Town's advisory committees for their input as well. "This is the opportunity; if we want to make any changes to the consultation process, this is the time that we do it."

Added Councillor Tom Mrakas, noting his continued preference for getting out the wrecking ball: "I do find it somewhat ironic that now that we are going public with some consultation we're hearing from some members that we don't need to go to public consultation, and when some wanted to take some action and move forward, we heard, 'wait a sec, we haven't gone to public consultation and the public needs to be consulted.""

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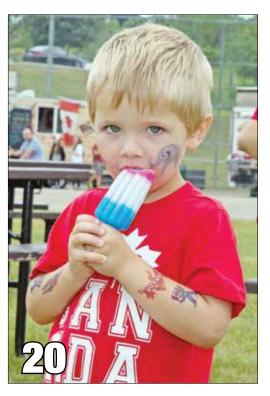














"The world needs more Canada" was the word from U.S. President Barack Obama in Ottawa last week, and Aurora stepped up to deliver on Friday. Canada's Birthday Town was awash with red and white – and torrential downpours – on Friday for a full day of events celebrating Canada's 145th Birthday. (1 – 3) The Canada Day parade got off to a ceremonial start with representatives from the Governor General's Horse Guards, the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard, and Aurora Town Crier John Webster. (4 & 11) Colourful dance costumes represented the multicultural facets of Aurora. (5) Matthew Abas, recent recipient of the Town's Accessibility Award, waves to the crowds from a float celebrating recipients of the 2016 Community Recognition Awards. (6 & 9) The York Lions Steel Band once again brought a flavour of the islands to the festivities. (7 & 8) Participating in the parade were Councillors Tom Mrakas and Paul Pirri, Mayor Dawe, and Councillors Sandra Humfryes, Michael Thompson, Harold Kim and John Abel. (10) Citizen of the Year Mary Georgopoulos and partner Dale wave to the crowds. (12) Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leona Alleslev. (13) Over at Lambert Willson Park, the entertainment started with the Celtic sounds of The Mudmen. (14) Aurora Panthers Andrea, Sam, Erica, Lynne, Kelly, Alex, Maddy, Kelly. (15) Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson joined in the ceremonial cake cutting and reaffirmation of Canadian Citizenship. (16) Eight-year-old Jacob tries on some Viking gear, representing Canada's first European settlers. (17) Horseshoes always provide some fierce competition. (18) Kyle Peterson with wife Andrea and sons Kash and Kolton. (19, 20, 21) Zenia, Jack, and family Michelle, Matt, Jackson, and Lucas take in the scene. (22, 23) Evening entertainment included The Glenn Marais Band and Green River Revival, a tribute to CCR. (24) And, the celebrations went out with a bang. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Brock Weir







Flamingo Frolicks and "Therapy Seekers" lined up for Kerry's Place

By Brock Weir

Prepare to seek out a little bit of Therapy when you head over to Town Park this Saturday.

No, don't expect to have to lie down on a couch while a man in a white beard analyses you – unless that's your thing – but take in the sounds of the band, "Therapy Seekers" as they take over the band shell for the ninth annual Kerry's Place Appreciation Day, which will get started at 10 a.m. at Town Park in conjunction with Art in the Park.

The twofold event has become a popular tradition during the Aurora summer, providing Kerry's Place Autism Services with a chance to thank their volunteers from across Southern Ontario for the work they do, and allow local artists to keep the crowds entertained and connected.

The theme of this year's Art in the Park is "Flamingo Frolics," taking over from last year's "Porcupine Princess Parade." As has been the case for the past seven years, Art in the Park has been spearheaded by artist Deborah Campo, whose program of bringing together a variety of local artists has featured in numerous community events.

Ms. Campo will also be reading passages from one of her more recent books, The Adventures of Miss Wally Wall, which is a fun inside-peek at the shenanigans of students at the former Aurora Senior Public School, now Wellington Public School.

She will be followed by puppeteer Mike DeRushie. Throughout the morning and

Zone games, Autism Awareness craftmaking sessions and silent auctions will keep the crowds entertained.

In addition to the fun and games, there will be a Healing Sprites booth about the mental wellness of children, information displays, a free barbeque, and t-shirt sales to benefit Kerry's Place.

"We start from scratch each vear." says Ms. Campo of the planning process for Art in the Park. "It should be a fun day. Kerry's Place has a mail-out of anywhere between 4,000 people from across Ontario that are made aware of this event. In our second year of Art in the Park, we got a call from Kerry's Place [who had booked the park] and they loved the idea of allowing the artists to participate. That is how it umbrella'd into this."

While each year's Art in the Park and Kerry's Place Appreciation Day offers something new, Ms. Campo says she is most looking forward to the unexpected. One year included a loud, rumbling roll up of the Lost Boyz Motorcycle Club, who arrived in style to present Kerry's



Artist and author Deborah Campo with her latest Auroran photo by Brock Weir

early afternoon, crafty activities, Kids Place with a fundraising cheque and have since become regulars at the event. Then, last year, a rapper took the band shell by storm

And, in the end, he brought the house

– well, the park --- down.

"If you are a new citizen to Aurora, this is an avenue to explore and meet people that are creative within the community," says Ms. Campo.









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Week of July 7, 2016



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Aurora United blanked by Toronto

By Jake Courtepatte

The men's side of Aurora United FC picked up their third loss in a row Saturday against Toronto FC Academy at Sheppard's Bush in Aurora.

A nil-nil score at halftime was blown away by the visiting team after the break, notching goals at the 55, 78, 84, and 90-minute marks to earn a commanding 4 - 0 win.

Aurora assistant coach Dave Di Placido said he thought his team tired as the match drew out.

"I thought the first half we were well organized and didn't give them many chances," he said. "Obviously they're a good side, they have a lot of skill in the team, so we thought we'd close down play and make it difficult on them."

"We did that in the first half, but second half we gave them much too much room to maneuver and with their skillful players they created chances and that was the game."

The Aurora side had a number of chances of their own in the first half, with top goal scorer Simon Adjei



AUFC leading goal scorer Simon Adjei was kept off the scoresheet Saturday in a 4 - 0 loss to Toronto FC Academy.

Photo by Martin Bazyl

leading the charge. The league's tenthhighest scorer had a number of missed opportunities in the opening 45 minutes.

points," said Toronto head coach Stuart Neely. "The goals we scored were good goals, we worked them well."

"We started off very slow, while we dominated a good chunk of the first half we just weren't lethal in front of the goal. And Aurora were to their credit using their tall striker very well. He's quite the target and they had a couple of opportunities mid-way through the first half on counters. Right on the stroke of half-time they had a strike that hit the crossbar. So we had to regroup at halftime, refocus, reenergize ourselves,

think we did that in the second half with four unanswered goals."

The loss was the third clean sheet "In the end I think we deserved the in a row against Aurora, who have not scored a goal since a 3 – 3 tie with Toronto Skillz FC on June 11.

> They will look to get back on track with a matchup Saturday against Brampton's ProStars FC, who sit seventh in the West division with a record of 1-7-2.

> The AUFC women also return to the pitch Saturday after a three-week hiatus, visiting the 3-3-2 Kingston Clippers. Aurora occupies the seventh-place standing in the nine-team women's side with a record of 1-4-3.

Both sides were eliminated from and readdress our game plan, and I League 1 Cup contention last week.



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Creemore Barons sweep season series with Aurora Jays

By Jake Courtepatte

In their second matchup in three days, the Creemore Barons beat the Aurora Jays to win both games of their season series in the North Dufferin Baseball League.

Three runs in the second inning of last Tuesday's game were enough to hold on to the lead, with the Barons besting the Jays 8 – 3. All three runs for the Jays crossed the plate in the fifth inning, scored by Stephen Vallee, Ian Rettie, and Michael Keon.

Rettie had the only multi-hit outing for the Jays, going three-for-four, although Keon also reached base three times via three walks.

Veteran Brad Crosby picked up his first loss of the year on the mound, following two quality starts in late May and early June. He gave up eight runs on eight hits through six innings of work, earning three strikeouts along the way.

Pulled after allowing four runs against in the sixth inning, Rob Spencer cleaned up with a shutout seventh inning while allowing only one base runner. Eric Orser went the distance for the Barons, allowing three runs on six Jays' hits.

The game was the only action of the week for the Jays as the league took a hiatus over the long weekend.

Their third loss in four games, Tuesday's battle with the Orangeville Giants has been made even more crucial. At press time, the 10-7-0 Jays are one

point back of the Giants, occupying sixth place in the fourteen-team league.

Only two weeks remain in the regular season schedule.

The annual league All-Star Game has also been scheduled for this Saturday, hosted this year by the Lisle Astros at Ross Houston Memorial Park.

The senior contest will feature a 9-inning game between the East Division All-Stars and the West Division All-Stars. The divisions are based on historical divisions within the league. Twenty players and three coaches make up the roster for each team.

With only four junior teams this year, the junior game will be 7 innings in length with only a 12-man roster and three coaches. Each team is comprised of three players from every junior club, which results in teammates pitted against each other during the game. This format has proved very exciting in previous all-star contests.

Four players will represent the Jays in the senior game, more than any other league team. Crosby, Daniel Lehmkuhl, and Vallee will all suit up for the East Division All-Stars, while reigning league MVP Ian Rettie will manage.

Rettie is second in the league in batting average with an impressive .522, and third in hits with 24 through 15 games. Crosby, Lehmkuhl, and Vallee are all in the top twenty in the league in hitting.

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

Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Photo Essay



By Nancy Black

This year's contest was organized by ASHoF's Education Committee, whose goal is to inspire students of all ages to be physically literate through educational activities connected to Aurora's rich sports heritage and to the inductees of the Aurora Sports Hall of

The third place winner in this year's **Elementary School Category is Cassidy**

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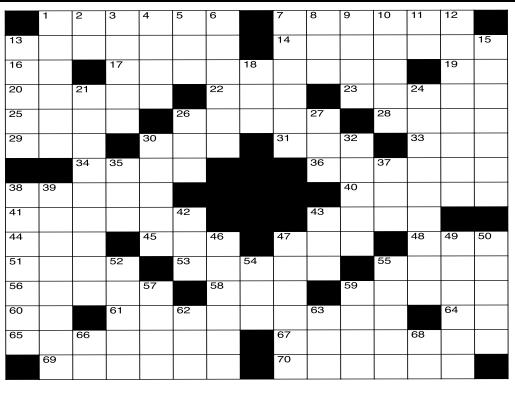


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

Kathy van Nostrand cga

kathy@kvncga.ca

- 1. Acquired knowledge of
- 7. Brief appearances
- 13. Owns a ranch
- 14. Goes by
- 16. Potato state 17. Inappropriate
- 19. Millihenry 20. Treasuries
- 22. Crony
- 23. Norse god
- 25. Accidentally lose
- 26. Allied H.Q.
- 28. Shiva's first wife
- 29. Earth System Model
- 30. Sandy island
- 31. Cam Newton's dance
- 34. A ridge on nematodes
- 38. Gulf of, in the Aegean.
- 33. Nigerian people
- Creed: profession of faith

44. Wrestlers work here

40. Expresses anger

43. WWII battle

41. Emerges

- 45. Not happy
- 47. Measure of speed 48. A way to communicate (abbr.)
- 51. Gemstone
- 53. Metric weight unit
- 55. Region
- 56. Guides projectile's motion
- 58. Not involved with
- 59. Cosmetics giant 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. No fighting
- 64. Tantalum
- 65. Optimistic
- 67. Herbs
- 69. Categorized
- 70. A famous street

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Madames
- 2. Printing measurement
- 3. Being in a position 4. Genus
- 5. Post-deduction amount
- 6. Champs get this 7. Single-__ organisms
- 8. Greatest boxer ever
- 9. Buddhist concept
- 10. Fencing swords 11. Operating system
- 12. Musical interval
- 13. Soldier's tool
- 15. Places of worship
- 18. Supervises flying 21. Offers help
- 24. Precaution
- 26. Car mechanics group 27. Devotee of sports
- 30. Detectives get these

- 37. Feline 38. Decorative tea urn
- 39. Native Americans from Colorado

32. Coming into existenc

35. Loss of signal (abbr.)

- 42. Resembles a pouch
- 43. Type of home (abbr.) 46. Cut a rug
- 47. Devil rays
- 49. Simmer
- 50. Veranda
- 52. Outcast
- 54. Famed aircraft engineer 55. Realm
- 57. Chair 59. Music awards show (abbr.)
- 62. Did not starve
- 63. Was once liquid
- 66. Former Cardinal Taguchi
- 68. Trademark

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

ZZLE SOLUTION

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Development proposal falls on a 6 – 3 vote

Hunter's Glen. Originally proposed as a development of 42 units, the plan by Fernbrook Homes and Ashlen Holdings was subsequently knocked down to 32 units and eventually 30 units following concerns raised by Council and public over density on the site.

While Marco Ramunno, Director of Planning for the Town of Aurora, recommended Council adopt a zoning bylaw amendment to pave the way for the development, stating it was only slightly denser than what the Town's Official Plan calls for in the area, members of the public, and many Councillors remained unconvinced.

The proposal failed on an 4-4 tie vote at Council's General Committee meeting on June 21 with Councillor Jeff Thom absent from the meeting but, when the time came at last week's meeting for Council to render their final verdict, Claudio Brutto, representing the developer, cast Councillor Thom as the ultimate tie-breaker.

"We have a critical decision in front of us, a decision that could result in an Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) next June...and conceivably could cost the Town a half-million dollars in defence of the planning report that is put forth by Mr. Ramunno, which we support [but] four members of Council do not," said Mr. Brutto, naming each Councillor and how they voted the previous week.

Although Councillor Wendy Gaertner said his doing so was inappropriate, he continued, stating 30 units means 30

"We support Mr. Ramunno's report unequivocally," he said. "We have no reason to change our position. 30 means 30. If we go to the OMB, should Council decide in its wisdom to not support this, then we are committed to supporting the 30, but we may end up asking for additional units, which is our original proposal. We haven't made that decision. We expect that this is going to cost halfa-million dollars to defend Mr. Ramunno. The fact that you may have to spend halfa-million to defeat Mr. Ramunno, I leave it in your capable hands. I believe that a wise and thoughtful decision will arise this evening."

Thoughtful and wise are evidently

in the eye of the beholder, as Council members – even if they were among those supporting the plan – took aim at the ultimatum.

"I do support the application and I support it based on my discussions with the director," said Mayor Geoff Dawe. "In fact, if I was to take the delegation into account, I would change my vote because I found it quite offensive."

Mayor Dawe was one of three Council members voting in favour of the development plan, along with Councillors Paul Pirri and Michael Thompson.

"I think I share everybody's dissatisfaction with those statements that were made," said Councillor Pirri in response to the delegation. "With that said, I always endeavour to look at items freshly when we come to Council, take into account what is said around the Council table. Whether or not I always agree with it is a different issue, but I do take umbrage with those comments. I don't think they were fair to us or necessarily fair to yourself either.

"I think the development that is being proposed is a fair development. I am happy to support it.'

Branding the delegation "unfortunate", Councillor Thompson said he foresaw the outcome.

"The reality is we're struggling with an application which I agree is outside what we have been doing with the OP (Official Plan), but I can't ignore the advice of our director who says we need to recommend this. He doesn't say so in so many words, but I believe he is looking at the best interests of the community not just from good planning principles, but he knows the outcomes."

Others, however, disagreed. Following the delegation, Councillor Harold Kim changed his vote from the previous week stating he did not approve of the "process" while Councillor Thom cast what was originally to be the deciding vote, against the developer.

"I didn't appreciate it, but luckily I come to my decisions based on facts, based on official plans and what is best for the community," he said. "I don't appreciate the intimidation tactics that were used, but you can only control what you can control. Speaking of what we can control, that is why we have an official plan. What is before us is applying for in how the OMB operates. specific official plan amendments and, in my opinion, those amendments are not part of our community."

Others voting against the proposal offered similar views, with Councillor John Abel slating Mr. Brutto focusing on the individual Councillors, and Councillor Tom Mrakas stating these situations are why he and Councillor Thompson have been fighting for changes

"Sincerity has been lost at this Council table," said Councillor Abel. "I want to have a builder that works with us, adheres to our official plans, and I am not the least bit intimidated or afraid to uphold that. We're being tested and we have gone to the OMB with a couple of other builders and we have worked [it] out before we got to a trial. "I am hopeful that is what we will be able to do here."

COMING EVENTS

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 semiabstract 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 theses 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, JULY 13

Aurora's Concerts in the Parks series continues this evening with Blue Radio, a tribute to Blue Rodeo, and Ultimate Urban, a Keith Urban Tribute, tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park. Don't miss this amazing double bill evening of country music, sponsored by the Cooperators. Donations to the Aurora Food Pantry will be gratefully accepted.

JULY 14 - 17

Wavestage Theatre Aurora's Company presents the musical Ragtime at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. This sweeping musical portrait of early 20th century America tells the powerful tale of a white, uppermiddle 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. Unfolding through the fiery rhythms of Harlem and Tin Pan Alley, and the vibrant klezmer of the Lower East Side, this vivid and unforgettable Tony-winning score bursts onto the stage "on the wheels of a dream" in what will be the largest and most epic production ever staged at Wavestage Theatre Company

Shows at 7 p.m. July 14 through July 16. Matinee at 1 p.m. on July 17. For more information, visit www.wavestagetheatre.com.

JULY 15 - 17

Aurora presents Theatre in the Park, featuring the Humber River Shakespeare Company's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Pack your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy an outdoor theatre presentation of Shakespeare's rowdy and hilarious comedy of love, marriage and trickery. Each evening's performance begins at 7 p.m., with Saturday's performance preceded by an interactive workshop at 6.15 p.m. led by Humber River cast member and teaching artist Paula Schultz. Open to the public on a pay-asyou-can basis with a suggested donation of \$20 to support the company.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

Aurora's Concerts in the Parks series continues this evening with Irish Mayhem, tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park: an Irish-born powerhouse sharing an impactful and impressive tour de force concert that includes her brand of edgy humour and heartfelt storytelling. Sponsored by Aurora Home Hardware. Donations to the Aurora Food Pantry will be gratefully accepted.

FRIDAY, JULY 22

Christmas in July! The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosts their annual Christmas in July lunch today from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., featuring a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and lots of festive cheer. Tickets are \$17 per person and are on sale now at the Legion bar (105 Industrial Parkway North). Reservations may be made for tables of six or more.

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)

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Please check www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/jpaac/advertisements for an updated listing of advertised vacancies.

At the request of the Attorney General and in accordance with the Justices of the Peace Act, the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee invites applications for vacant Justice of the Peace positions in the Province of Ontario.

A Justice of the Peace is an independent judicial officer who presides in court over various proceedings under federal and provincial statutes. Applicants must meet minimum qualifications as set out in the Justices of the Peace Act.

The Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee reviews and evaluates applications and classifies candidates as "Not Qualified", "Qualified" or "Highly Qualified". Classifications are reported to the Attorney General, who recommends candidates for Order-in-Council appointments to the Ontario Court of Justice.

In addition to reflecting the diversity of Ontario's population, applicants should also display the fundamental skills and abilities, personal characteristics and community awareness attributes set out in the Committee's General Selection Criteria.

Bilingual positions require a high degree of proficiency in English as well as a superior level of oral and written proficiency in French. As First Nations people comprise a large percentage of the population in the areas being serviced by the courts in *Sarnia and *Timmins, we especially encourage people of Indigenous heritage and people with an in-depth understanding of Indigenous communities and the issues affecting those communities to apply for these vacancies.

For detailed information about the vacancies noted above, minimum qualifications and the General Selection Criteria, the required application form, and the Committee's process, please visit the website of the Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee at www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/jpaac.

Applications for current vacancies must be submitted on the current prescribed application form and received by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2016. Applications received after this date WILL NOT be considered.

PLEASE NOTE: Future vacancies and deadlines for applications will be posted on the Committee's website as they occur. Interested individuals can receive e-mail notification of vacancies by registering at www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/jpaac/advertisements/registration/.

Pour voir cette annonce en français, consulter le site Web du Comité à www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/fr/jpaac/annonces.

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- Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips.
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 - 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
 - Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle
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- An interest in local issues is a necessity, as the majority of the writing for this role will be on the local events in the Community.



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- Communications & Media Studies
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- International Strategy and HR Management

McMaster University

- Engineering
- Business
- Life Sciences
- Health Sciences
- Social Sciences
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- Integrated Science
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Queen's University

- Engineering
- Arts (International Study)
- Computing
- Science (International Study)
- Commerce
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Ryerson University

- · Environment and Urban Sustainability
- Graphic Communications Management Computer Engineering
- Architectural Science
- Accounting and Finance
- Business Management
- Interior Design
- Fashion Design
- Biomedical Sciences
- Business Technology Management

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- Media
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- Engineering Systems & Computing
- Computer Engineering
- Management Economics & Finance
- Accounting
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- Health Sciences
- Electrical Engineering
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- Kinesiology
- Life Sciences
- Computer Engineering
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- Computer Engineering
- Global Business & Digital Arts
- Life Sciences Architecture
- Accounting & Financial Management
- Financial Analysis & Risk Management
- Management Engineering

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Social Science

- Management & Organizational Studies Health Sciences
- Media, Information & Technoculture

Wilfrid Laurier University

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- Business Administration & Math
- Kinesiology
- Digital Media & Journalism
- Health Sciences
- Business Technology Management
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