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THE AURORAN

CANADA 150

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Conservative leadership candidate Maxime Bernier speaks to Brock Weir, editor of The Auroran, on an area campaign stop Tuesday afternoon.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Bernier offers "bold, authentic" vision

By Brock Weir

Maxime Bernier is a man of principle.

One month away from a full year in the race to lead the Conservative Party of Canada, the Quebec MP, and former Cabinet minister, has had the opportunity to take his vision to Canadians from coast to coast; a vision rooted in four core principles: individual freedom, personal responsibility, respect and fairness.

"Canadians appreciate that," Mr. Bernier told The Auroran on a campaign stop in the area on Tuesday afternoon. "I think Conservatives in Canada are ready for bold Conservative reform. I propose abolishing corporate welfare and having a policy that would be fair for every single entrepreneur, using the money to lower taxes for every single entrepreneur. Canadians also like the idea that [of having] a government in Ottawa that respects the Constitution, not interfering in Provincial jurisdiction."

As his platform continues to resonate with Conservative voters, Mr. Bernier says the fact that each platform plank is rooted in these four core principals is key to how he has been staying ahead a very crowded – and increasingly headline-grabbing – pack.

"I was [in the race] two days after Kellie Leitch and I have had time to explain our platform," he says. "Kellie Leitch campaigned on only one issue, so that is why we decided to get out there with strong policy announcements every few weeks. Because I am one of the frontrunners, I have more visibility now and I will carry on the same campaign. People can see

Continued on page 13

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Gun threat leads to locked doors at Cardinal Carter

By Brock Weir

Parents of Cardinal Carter Catholic High School students sounded the alarm when the school locked its doors, rather than going into a full Hold & Secure or lockdown mode after the school received gun threats online.

According to York Regional Police, threats were made in an online student chat group last week threatening a gun was at the Bloomington Road high school, a

Continued on page 3

Innovation in the classroom

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School students Garrett Tutkaluk, Jessica Bonello, Kristina Pinter and Zainab Fazli, are pictured at the school after their classroom received a significant grant to transform their classroom. For more on what their teacher has in store, please see Page 14.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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TOWN OF AURORA

Weekly Notice Board

AURORA

Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, March 9	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Thursday, March 9	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 14	10 a.m.	Holland Room	Governance Review Ad Hoc Committee
Tuesday, March 14	5:45 p.m.	Leksand Room	Council Closed Session (if required) - Cancelled
Tuesday, March 14	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council - Cancelled
Tuesday, March 21	5:45 p.m.	Leksand Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, March 21	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee
Wednesday, March 22	5:30 p.m.	Holland Room	Finance Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 22	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning

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

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 **aurora.ca**

Open Forum
As of January 24, 2017, Open Forum will be held at 6:45 p.m. Open Forum allows members of the public to voice opinions on subjects of municipal concern.

Public Notices

Notice of Public Information Session - Highland Gate Park and Trail System Design

A public information session will be held to present a conceptual design and receive public input for a neighbourhood park and green space corridor featuring an off-street trail system, as part of the Highland Gate Developments Inc. (HGDI) plan of subdivision on the former Highland Gate golf course lands.

The neighbourhood park and green space corridor will be located between Bathurst Street and Murray Drive, North of Cranberry Lane and south of Timberline Trail.

The Trail system traverses the site from Bathurst Street to Yonge Street.

Town of Aurora staff and the members of the HGDI Consulting Team will be available to answer questions and receive public input.

Date: **Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Presentation at 7 p.m.

Location: Aurora Seniors' Centre – 100 John West Way in the West McKenzie Room.

If you are unable to attend, please forward your written comments to: Town of Aurora, Attention: Jim Tree, Manager of Parks, 100 John West Way, Aurora ON, L4G 6J1 or email **jtree@aurora.ca.**

Comments will be received until **May 1, 2017**.

Library Square/Downtown Traffic Management Plan

The Town's Infrastructure & Environmental Services Department will be holding an open house to present the Library Square/ Downtown Traffic Management Plan.

The Plan is proposing to convert Church Street, Victoria Street and Mosley Street into one-way streets flowing in a counter clockwise direction beginning and ending at Yonge Street. In lieu of two-way traffic, the additional space would be used for angle parking around Library Square.

The open house will be held on **Tuesday, April 4** from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Leksand Room on the first floor of the Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way. Town staff will be available to answer questions. Please drop by to see the plan and provide your comments.

If you have any questions, please contact 905-727-3123, ext. 4383 or by email at **amihail@aurora.ca**.

Notice for Drinking Water Testing for Lead

The Ontario Government's existing drinking water systems regulation (O. Reg. 170/03) requires municipalities conduct testing for lead in drinking water from plumbing that serves private residences. This means that the Town of Aurora is mandated to perform tests at private residential taps to check for lead in drinking water.

Although the Town of Aurora's records do not indicate the existence of lead in the Town's water, there may be some privately-owned lead pipes that have to be replaced or there may be lead pipe plumbing within a home.

Residents are encouraged to volunteer for the Town's testing program. A limited number of participants are required. The program will involve sampling tap water twice a year in the volunteer's home. All sampling will be done by identified Town Staff.

If you are available for 45 minutes within the 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. timeframe and would like to participate in Aurora's Drinking Water Lead Testing Program, please contact our Waterworks staff at 905-727-3123, ext. 3453 or email **ivoinea@aurora.ca**.

What's Happening

March *Skylight Gallery* Artist – Cate Cuffy

Cate Cuffy's art show titled Expressions includes a variety of art styles and techniques including watercolour, water-based oils, pastel and acrylics.

In Cate's portraits, abstracts and landscapes, she shows the beauty that can be created through these mediums.

Visit the Skylight Gallery during the month of March to view her creations. Regular viewing times are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall, 3rd floor.

What's Happening

Aurora's Multicultural Festival Open Houses

The Town of Aurora is hosting a Multicultural Festival in September 2017. Two public open houses were held to gather input from the public on the festival's programming elements.

For those who were unable to attend the meetings, an online survey will be available until **Sunday, March 12** on the Town's website at **aurora.ca/multiculturalfestival**.

Call for Focus Group Participants aged 55+

The Town of Aurora is seeking focus group participants aged 55+ to provide their input on how the Town can better communicate with its residents. The results of the focus group will be used as a guide to reach out to older adults in our community, ensure the lines of communication are open and identify any communication gaps.

If you are interested in participating in this focus group, please contact Karie Papillon at **kpapillon@aurora.ca** or call 905-727-3123 ext. 3610 with your name, phone number and email address.

Aurora Blood Donor Clinic on March 13

You have the power to give life. Join the movement by giving blood today. There will be an Aurora Community Blood Donor Clinic on **Monday, March 13** from 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church - Lynett Hall located at 16 Catherine Ave.

To book your appointment, please visit **blood.ca**

Seeking applications for the John West Memorial Scholarship

The Town of Aurora is currently looking for youth candidates entering post-secondary school who have made a positive impact on the community to apply for the John West Memorial Scholarship valued at $1,000. Application deadline is **Thursday, June 1**. For more details, visit **aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow**

Aurora Youth Job Fair

It's that time of year again! Youth of all ages are invited to the Town's youth job fair on **Thursday, March 16** from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. Bring your resumé or sign-up for our Job Prep 101 course and we can assist you in creating one. For more information, visit **aurora.ca/youthprograms**.

Summer Camp Early Bird Registration

Save 10 per cent on the cost of select summer camps when you register from **February 27 to March 10**.

The early bird discount applies to the following camps: Tots of Fun, Kinder Kamp, Sports Camp, Adventure Camp and Arts Camp. For more information about summer camps, please visit **aurora.ca/campprograms**.

Notice of Service Disruption

Please note that the leisure swim located at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) will be cancelled on **Friday, March 24** from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

All regular aquatic programs will resume at the SARC starting **Saturday, March 25** for the reminder of the spring schedule. **aurora.ca/news**

Community & Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) Walk for Wellness

Registrations are now open for CHATS 8th annual Walk for Wellness. This event will take place on **Saturday, April 8** at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. **aurora.ca/activeseniors**

March Break Family Fun

Make the most of your March Break in Aurora from **March 13** to **17**.

With so much to do in Aurora, why not stay local and enjoy some of our exciting and low-cost activities?

Check out our scheduled March Break activities online at **aurora.ca/marchbreak**.

Register for the Aurora Art Show and Sale

Register today to display your art at the Aurora Art Show and Sale. Applications can be submitted until **Tuesday, April 18** for both the adult and youth categories, while space is available. **aurora.ca/artshow**

What's Happening

Events at the Aurora Public Library

March Break Madness

Looking for awesome things to do on the March Break? We have lots of free events and drop in programs for kids and teens from **March 13** to **17**. For more information, visit **aurorapl.ca**

New Art Exhibit from Anahita Kiani

This is a vibrant and emotive exhibit, layering the unknown parts of the soul and showing them through our memories of colour. This display is on exhibit at the Colleen Abbott Gallery from **March 13** to **April 16**. For more information, visit **aurorapl.ca**

Borealis Spring Edition

The spring edition of Borealis will be hitting stands in mid-March! Pick up a copy at one of the many locations in Aurora, or view the digital version on the Aurora Public Library's website. We have tons of programs and events for the spring including author events, kids tech programs, teen volunteer opportunities and more.

Drugs and ammo seized on Walton Drive

By Brock Weir

A 30-year-old Aurora man is facing multiple criminal charges after a drugs and ammunition bust at a residence on Walton Drive.

Matthew Wawrykiewycz is facing three charges of possession of cocaine for the purposes of trafficking, possession of methamphetamine for the purpose of trafficking, careless storage of ammunition, possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000, and five counts of failing to comply with recognizance.

The charges have not been proven, and the accused will appear at Newmarket's Ontario Court of Justice next Tuesday, March 14.

Mr. Wawrykiewycz has been charged as part of York Regional Police's "Project Tattoo."

"In September 2016, Police received information regarding suspicious activity at a residence on Walton Drive in the Town of Aurora," said the YRP in a statement. "As the investigation progressed, a suspect was identified and believed to be associated with the sale of illegal narcotics across the GTA. On Thursday, February 9, investigators arrested the suspect and conducted search warrants on his residence in Aurora, as well as a storage unit the suspect was using in Mississauga. Officers seized more than $100,000 dollars in cash, two kilograms of cocaine, 60 grams of methamphetamine, and more than 100 rounds of ammunition."

In a statement, York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe credited investigators in the bust.

"Investigations like this one require significant time and resources and are only successful because of the hard work and dedication of our investigators," he said. "The arrest and the significant seizure of drugs and ammunition keeps York Region one of Canada's safest communities."

Investigators have released the suspect's photo to see if anyone has any further information on him, including whether he was involved in anything else Police are not aware of at this time, added Constable Andy Pattenden.

Photo supplied by York Regional Police

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the #1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-866-876-5423 x7141, or send your tips anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, online at www.1800222TIPS, or by texting your tip to CRIMES (274637) starting with the word YORK.

Parents notified school of possible threat

From page 1

fact the school was made aware of after receiving a call from parents.

"Parents contacted the school and it was the principal who contacted police," said York Regional Police Constable Andy Pattenden "The [venue for the threat] was described as a chat group, but it didn't sound like Twitter or anything like that – more of a private chat group the students were involved in."

This was later confirmed by Sonia Gallo, spokesperson for the York Catholic District School Board, who said "the school had received the information from concerned parents" after rumours began to circulate on iChat.

"The school received the information from concerned parents, and York Regional Police (YRP) spent most of the day at the school to investigate and to ensure the safety of students. YRP conducted an investigation to try and find out where the rumour originated, and officers were unable to find that a credible threat existed," said Ms. Gallo.

"The school was not in a Hold & Secure or Lockdown mode. As the safety of all students and staff is our top priority, administration at Cardinal Carter decided to lock the front doors as a precaution for a period of time. YRP indicated that there was no immediate cause for concern and the front doors were unlocked shortly after 1 p.m. It is important to note that all other exterior doors are typically locked in our secondary schools during the day."

Hold & Secure, she noted, goes into effect when there is a threat outside of the building, such as a police-initiated action or a crime in progress. A Lockdown takes place when there is a threat inside the building.

By the end of the week, Police were left appealing to the public for anyone with information on the threats to come forward.

"The school decide what they are going to do [with the threats] first and depending on the credibility of the threat, whether they choose to do lockdowns, holds and secures, or nothing," said Constable Pattenden. "They contacted us, we arrived, and our first effort is to determine what the threat is, the nature of the thread, do we believe it is a valid threat, and do we believe there is an immediate risk to public safety, or safety to students?"

"In this case, officers deemed there wasn't an immediate risk to the students and the investigation continued from there. They were basically there the whole day from 9 a.m. until the end of the school day.

The investigation involved an initial response from frontline officers, school resource officers who took over the investigation, as well as involvement from the 1 District Criminal Investigation Bureau.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aurora needs new high school, but not at Williams' expense

(Re: Parents urge board to "rebuild trust" and reconsider new high school, March 2)

I had the pleasure of sitting on a committee of parents along with Minister Chris Ballard in the last major accommodation review back in the early 2000s.

I was also a supporter of the Keep Dr. G.W. Williams camp when the board considered closing Williams.

The northeast deserves a new high school but not at the expense of residents in the southwest.

Southwest Aurora is already neglected from a town facilities perspective so losing Williams would be unacceptable. Especially given the intensification plans along Yonge Street, this school will be in high demand going forward.

Greg Smith
Aurora

Parents are appealing to wrong group: northeast parent

(Re: Parents urge board to "rebuild trust" and reconsider new high school, March 2)

The parents in the quadrant wanting the new school to save on transportation costs and time should be appealing to Viva/YRT to expand their route, instead of to the Town for a whole new school.

We are at Bayview and Wellington and go to Williams, my daughter has a Presto card and it costs about $7.50 a day round trip on YRT, with the trip being about 10-15 minutes each way.

Save the taxpayer money and put it into more transit routes instead.

That would serve more in the long run.

Andrea Buckley
Aurora

Cartoon missed the mark, says reader

(Re: Machell's Corners, March 2)

Scott Johnston's cartoon on page 4 of your March 2nd edition insults our community.

It could actually encourage those who are inclined to hate speech and crimes against visible minority segments of our population. We all benefit from a multicultural, multilingual, multifaith, inclusive society, even in small-town Aurora. Most of our families were once immigrants to Canada.

Newcomers need us to be welcoming, patient, learning, behaving, and communicating accordingly.

John T. Harries
Aurora

Response from Scott Johnston:

As my cartoon suggests, because we do support and encourage a multicultural, multilingual, multifaith, inclusive society, a shop owner has every right to purposely gear their services to a non-English clientele if they wish, and they may continue to do so even if the new bylaw requires them to include English (or French) on their outdoor signs - SJ

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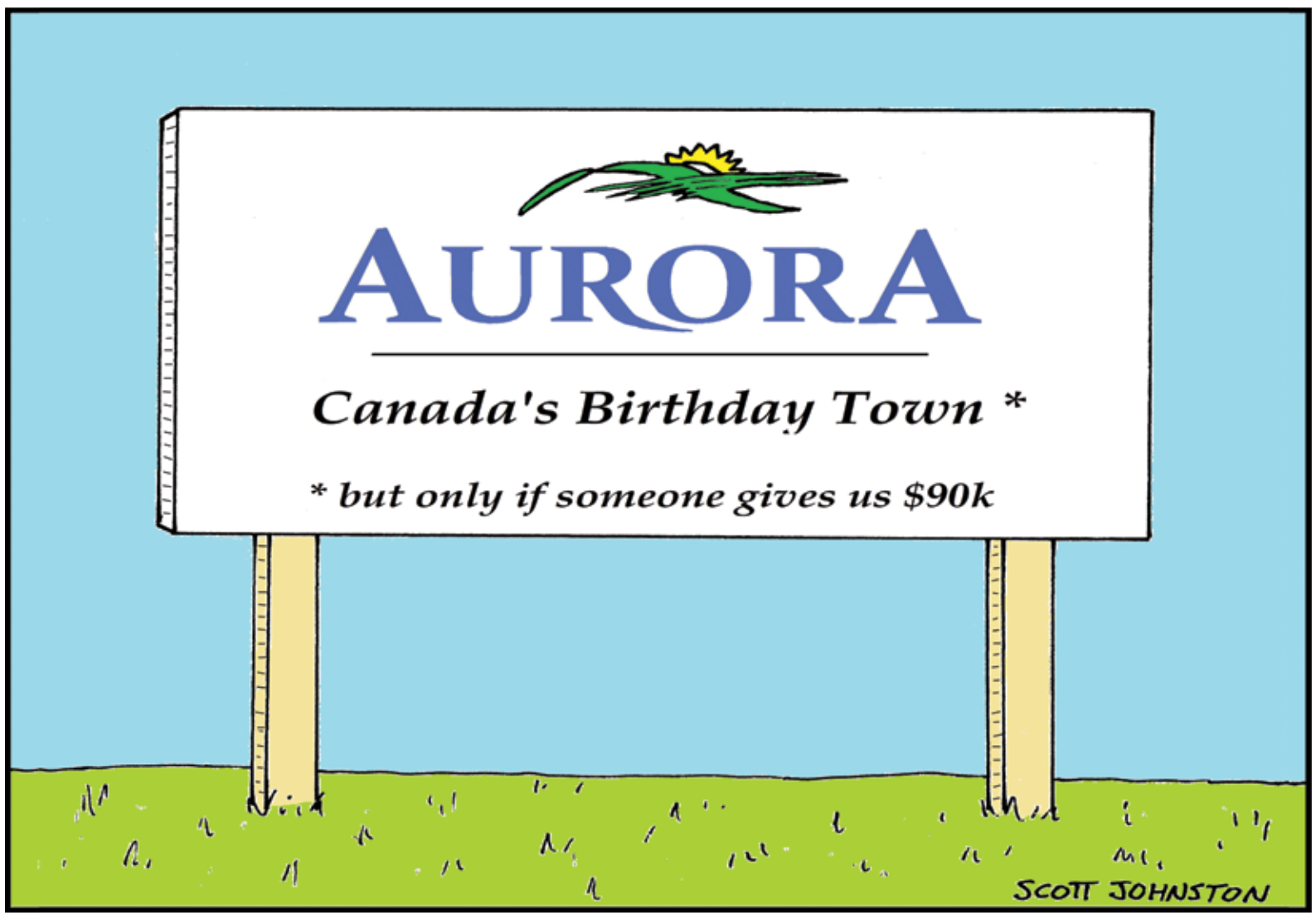
Machell's Corners



Just out of reach

BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

This past Sunday was just like any other day to cap the weekend. There was a bit of time to play catch-up on a few work-related matters, a couple of things to do around the house, and a couple of errands to run. This time, however, there was a slight time crunch as I raced to get everything done by the mid-afternoon to get catch the GO Train down to the city for a friend's birthday party.

With an early alarm, I set to work and completed just about everything I needed to do in record time and, most importantly, just enough time to catch the GO Train in a fifteen minute window.

Upon arrival, however, this window narrowed considerably as things rapidly went sideways.

First, neither of the on-platform ticket machines would read my Debit or Visa cards and then, when I lined up inside the station for a ticket, the woman in front of me thought it would be a wonderful idea, with just two minutes before departure to pay for her connecting ticket to Hamilton with a Ziploc full of nickels and dimes which the clerk, of course, had to spend considerable time counting.

Ticket in hand after the indoor machines took a liking to my plastic, it was time to settle in for a 50 minute uneventful train ride.

For the most part, it lived up to dull, boring expectations as we pulled into Toronto. As Union Station came into view, I began to look forward to the next step in the journey and began to pack up my book and unpack my scarf and gloves.

Then….nothing.

Partway into Union Station, the train simply stopped.

"We're waiting for a signal," said the friendly voice on the loudspeaker.

10 minutes later, one assumed that signal still hadn't come and the winter gear was back in the bag and the book in hand.

The voice then came back…this time with a slight edge.

Mechanical failure, a fault literally 90 metres from the train platform.

As the wait hit the 20 minute mark, people began to chatter. It was ridiculous, they agreed, that GO Transit couldn't send a signal to the station telling them to hold trains as the rest of us made the quick walk to the platform along the track but that was, of course, too complicated a procedure.

By the 45 minute mark, we were told the next step would be for another train to back up and hook itself onto our train to drag us the rest of the way (I assumed this is what one would call a "tug train," actually a "rescue train) and, after a further 15 minutes, CRASH!

The rescue train made its arrival known as it thudded right into the vehicle and jostling the rest of us in the process and we slogged slowly the rest of the way into the platform.

Big deal, you might think. Commuters go through this all the time. And, you know what? You're right, but as I sat on the train watching the comings and goings of train travellers going about their business just a few metres away, I began to think about things that are just out of reach.

You might know the end goal, the end destination, and the means to actually get to that point, but there is something holding you back. In my particular case, it was the mechanical failure so tantalizingly close to the platform, but there are, quite simply too many instances that can be cited.

Take, for example, the perennial goal of what is usually called "downtown revitalization" in Aurora.

We all know what it is, and I am sure the majority of people in this Town agree with the goal. After all, a thriving business and cultural community, no matter where it is in Aurora, benefits us all.

We have seen it born to fruition in so many communities in Ontario, hitting particularly close to home in Newmarket with their wildly successful revitalization process.

Newmarket has carved out a niche and identity for its downtown core. They have active members of their community working together, and independently and, in some cases, with a degree of autonomy to get the job done, and they are much the better for it.

Restaurants are thriving, shops seem to be doing very well, offering products and services that could never be described as run-of-the mill, and services are increasingly finding that Downtown Newmarket is a great place to reach their target markets.

Meanwhile, in Aurora, the Downtown Revitalization Train keeps getting stuck as it attempts to chug out of the station.

As soon as it moves forward a few meters, it comes to a dead halt when the conductor of this particular train decides he needs to re-check the tickets of everyone who has already been checked and re-checked. A few more metres away from the platform, the train comes to a halt again, this time as one of the business class passengers, those with sway over the whole process, go to the head of the train with a new idea for a more efficient route.

Chug. Chug. Screech.

Too many efficient routes have been suggested. It is time to grind to a halt and study them for a cohesive trip.

That done; chug, chug.

One of these exalted passengers is concerned the train is moving too fast and pulls the emergency brake to speak to the conductor and check the passenger tickets once again to make sure there aren't any stragglers.

Then it is back to checking the maps, streamlining the trip, and consolidating the milk run into one smooth ride.

We're stuck and Aurora is still waiting for the rescue train.

The Cultural Precinct Plan might be a step in the right direction, but it is only the first stop.

Last week, Council members spent a lengthy debate discussing whether or not a motion from Councillor Abel to bring together all the different plans for the Downtown Core into one streamlined plan was redundant or not considering all the other balls in the air.

Was his suggestion redundant? Sure, but so have so many other steps in this long, arduous process. What's one more? Bringing everything together into a cohesive plan might be something to grease the wheels – and the track – to get us out of railway purgatory. It might not, but every little bit helps.

Meanwhile, as these plans coagulate into whatever the next iteration might be, it might be wise to consider whether "Downtown Revitalization" is as Mayor Dawe suggests of the term "Cultural Precinct" something of a misnomer.

As we have been sitting on this train, our downtown destination has, despite the Town's best efforts, shifted to Bayview Avenue. If one starts with a brand, identity, and identified gaps to fill in the Yonge and Wellington corridors, maybe this will become a much smoother ride.

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The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating:

Genealogy Day (March 11)

It was common for families to keep track of their genealogical information inside a family bible, which was often contained in a section between the Old and New Testaments for handwritten family records. This family bible dates back to 1832 and was presented to Charles Doan (Aurora's first postmaster and Reeve) by his father, John Doan.

AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Encouraging Youth Contribution

MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

As a mother of two teenaged children, I understand that sometimes our youth feel that they are not recognized as contributing members of society.

However, I believe that our youth are not only our leaders of tomorrow, but are leaders in our community today. So, during the month of February, Youth Achievement Month, I decided to focus on engaging with our young leaders in the conversation on how they are contributing and can continue to contribute their maximum potential to society.

I also want to encourage you to do the same - speak with the young Canadians in your network; engage them in important discussions, ask for their opinions, and work with them so together, we can define and achieve a brighter future for tomorrow.

We can learn from the younger generations, and in that light, instead of writing an article on what I am doing, I chose to feature the opinion of a member of our Constituency Youth Council.

Read below to see what Nadia Narain (member of Aurora-Oak Ridges- Richmond Hill Youth Council) has to say about youth involvement, Canada's international role, and how our Youth Council is working to connect the two…

The millennial generation is often marked by our desire to contribute something of value to humanity. Many of us joined the Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill Youth Council because we wanted, in rather clichéd but no less substantive terms, to "make a difference" in our local community and country.

However, what precise difference are we looking to make? The second meeting of our constituency's Youth Council was, in my opinion, one step closer to discovering and implementing an answer to this question.

During our Council's second meeting on the topic of Canada's international reputation, we agreed with pride that Canada's reputation on the global stage is that of a country that acts with diplomacy and respect for its allies and opponents alike in every instance.

Especially in light of the current precarious state of global politics, it is apparent that Canada's talents in collaboration and cooperation are needed now more than ever.

In his final presidential address, the former US President Barack Obama implored the American nation to inform themselves of the existence and content of various competing viewpoints, regardless of how initially counterintuitive they may be.

I think Canada can take note of this statement and recognize that in order to rectify the deficiencies that threaten to divide us, we must make an effort to act solely in the spirit of collaboration that earned Canada its sterling international reputation.

Our Council's discussion also elicited the point that Canada's strong international reputation begins with our behaviour towards and amongst fellow Canadians.

Your constituency's Youth Council is leading by example on this front.

The Youth Council is an enterprise that is based on discussion, not debate. The success of its participants does not depend on how well they can articulate their point to win an argument, but how meaningfully they can contribute to a discussion to develop effective solutions to pressing global issues. This is not to say, however, that the Youth Council is devoid of challenge. On the contrary, its members' perceptions are often tested by the experiences, opinions and points of view held by other members. In essence, the Youth Council gears its participants to operate in an environment that rewards collaboration, not polarization, and encourages youth to build upon each other's contributions to engage in more informed and balanced analyses. The discussions, led by our MP Leona Alleslev, are practice for the kind of thought and behaviour that is needed to build a more united world.

So, although I may not yet have a precise answer to the question of "what difference are we looking to make?" in collaborating with other youth in our community to address social issues, discuss effective solutions, and promote cooperation in our ever-changing and often isolated world, I feel more confident and better equipped to meet this challenging task.

Accordingly, to any young Canadian who wishes to make a difference in society, it is my sincere and heartfelt recommendation that you seek to join your constituency's Youth Council as soon as you possibly can.

Nadia Narain is a Member of the Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill Youth Council. She is 21 years old and has recently obtained her LL.B. from University College London in the UK.

Charity, Bill and Tom – Three Candidates vying for the local PC Nomination

FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

After the last provincial electoral debacle in which the provincial Tories snatched victory – or at least a good opportunity at victory – from the proverbial jaws of defeat, it is time for the Party to get off the mat and move forward.

The local Newmarket-Aurora Progressive Conservative association is all set to choose a new standard bearer to take on Liberal member and current Minister of Housing, the Honourable Chris Ballard in the next provincial election, slated for June 7, 2018.

As you may know the former Newmarket –Aurora electoral district association was split into two ridings. The area north of Wellington Street through Newmarket is called the Newmarket-Aurora riding.

There are three candidates vying for the nomination in Newmarket-Aurora: Tom Vegh, a Newmarket resident who is a current Newmarket Town Councillor. Charity McGrath, a Richmond Hill resident who is a businesswoman and chair of the York Region Food Bank, and Bill Hogg, resident of Aurora and ex-Aurora Town Councillor, businessman and community volunteer.

If you want to learn more about the candidates please visit their respective websites.

While nominations are still open at this point, it doesn't look like anyone else will throw their hat into the ring. The last day to sign up members or to be a member is March 20, which is fifteen business days before the nomination convention.

The nomination convention itself will take place on Saturday, April 8, in either Aurora or Newmarket at a location yet to be determined.

So, you still have time to participate in the process if you so choose and it is easy to do so. You can simply go on the provincial Progressive Conservative website or onto the website of the three candidates. Signing up only costs $10 per person.

You need to come out on nomination date and cast a ballot for a person of your choosing.

This next election should be very hard fought.

According to a November 2016 poll, conducted by Nanos Research on behalf of the Globe & Mail, 20.5 per cet of the 500 people polled felt hydro rates are residents' largest concern, healthcare at 15.1 per cent, jobs and the economy at 9.6 per cent, high taxes at 7.6 per cent, and education at 6.5 per cent.

Premier Wynne's popularity remains at very low levels, meaning Patrick Brown and the Tories should have a good opportunity of forming a new government next spring. However, we have seen this movie before.

In 2007 then Tory Leader John Tory snatched defeat from the jaws of victory with his vow during the campaign to extend public funding to all denominational schools across the province of Ontario.

And in 2014 then Tory leader Tim Hudak did the same thing with his "Million Jobs Act" which pledged big cuts in the civil service.

There's lots of water to go under the bridge before election-day and anything can, and will, happen.

If you are a Tory, then go out and support one of these three candidates. If you support the NDP or the Liberals or any other political parties, please continue to do so. Your active participation makes our democracy work.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

AURORA SENIORS CENTRE

SENIOR SCAPE

Christina Doyle

Yes, oh yes, spring is a coming, with all its own wonderful excitement.

I can see you are smiling now, it won't be long now when you start wearing your new, fresh pair of running shoes.

I guess you can tell by now how much I love spring; just to hear the birds singing, that very first robin in the tree, and everywhere awakening from its sleep.

Just like us, we have to awaken our spirit of sleepiness from winter, wake it up and start something new. So what if it takes you a just a little longer to learn? Don't worry, we share the same boat together! Never say never.

Spring is a time of new beginnings. As Henry Ford once said, "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."

Thank you, Mr. Ford, for reminding us and helping us realize that we shouldn't be so cautious in trying something new!

Open your windows and let in that fresh air into your home and buy some pussy willows, it's just what you need to feel blessed. Simple things in life are all we ask, we don't need much, do we?

My precious husband can hardly wait to don his hiking boots and get out into the woods once again. If you do get out to where there is a pond, you will be one of the lucky ones to hear first love's lament of the froggies – male frogs, that is. They put on a performance like no other, singing for their mates!

Each one does his best to sing, sing for his new and welcomed partner! The sound is so unique, it's not like listening to birds chirping. However, it's a glorious sound of spring.

Although winter brings its own peace and serenity, there is something so special about being out in the quiet of spring, that calms the heart and stirs up our soul. Welcome sun, welcome that important Vitamin D that we can get naturally.

Here on the home front, we are so excited to declutter. Our basement, filled with memories of childhood in raising two wonderful people. Albums, toys, special clothing items and dusty VHS movies, that my husband and I had watched with our children many a time when they were young. I have given my children the ultimatum: either you take it or it goes on the curb!

Have a look in your closet today, are there a few things you would like to get rid of? How about that sweater, or scarf you never wear? Rather than throw it out, give it to someone, or donate your stuff. Believe me, nothing is wasted when you give it away. There is an old rule that says 'if you haven't worn it in two years, it is most likely you never will.' I guess I didn't follow that rule too seriously. I have a red dress that I bought to wear for Valentine's Day.

Well, let's just say there have been quite a few Valentines that have come and gone and it is still sitting in my closet!

So, this glorious spring, wake up Sleeping Beauty, stop waiting for Prince Charming, be happy who you are, and once you realize and recognize what truly makes you happy; you are off to an adventure of living life as it should be.

No one knows what lies ahead for each of us, but God gave us today, just today, so go for it, have fun, smile, be silly.

And to those of you who have an Irish background, have a merry, happy

Continued on page 17

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Should the York Region District School Board take another look on closing Dr. G.W. Williams for a new high school in East Aurora?

Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE March 7, 2017	YES	NO	UNSURE
	58%	33%	9%

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Pickering College wants to be "voice of Aurora"

By Brock Weir

Nearly two years ago, a group of residents came forward with 101.5 CHRA, dubbed "Radio Aurora." But, while Aurora waits patiently for the proposed radio station to hit the airwaves, Pickering College students are stepping up to the plate wanting to be that local voice.

Last week, Sterling Mancuso, a Grade 12 student at the Newmarket private school, along with Grade 5 student Bryce Osinga came to Council seeking a community partnership which would make the school's own community radio station, 102.7 CHOP-FM "the voice of Aurora."

"95 year ago, December 9, 1921, marked a milestone in Canadian broadcasting history," said the school in their video pitch to Council. "In a small room at Pickering College, a 21 year old alumnus named E.S. Ted Rogers sat at his telegraph key, took a deep breath, and tapped out a message in Morse Code: He was the only Canadian to successfully compete in the first amateur transatlantic radio competition transmitting a signal across the Atlantic to Scotland. In 1925, Rogers revolutionized the radio tube, allowing radios to operate on an ordinary household electric current rather than batteries."

From there, Toronto radio station CFRB was founded and son Ted Rogers went on to establish the family's telecommunications empire we know today.

Now, Pickering College wants Aurora to be part of this storied history.

102.7 CHOP FM was founded in 2007 with a grant from alumnus Jim Waters. It is the only CRTC-licensed station in Canada for a school serving students from Junior Kindergarten up to Grade 12.

Focused on supporting local business and non-profits the station currently has a broadcasting area from Green Lane in the north to Wellington Street in the south, bordered on both sides by Bathurst Street and Bayview Avenue. Thanks to the continued support of the Waters family, they plan to significantly boost their broadcasting area to cover all of Aurora – and beyond – in the very near future.

"We have many unique programs at Pickering College including the Global Leadership Program," said Sterling. "This is a program which seeks to inspire students to become the agents of courageous, ethical and positive change, true to Quaker values. We also have creative writing programs, an award-winning filmmaking program, figure skating, equestrian, great academics, terrific school spirit and, of course, the radio station.

"Student are the on-air hosts, producers and editors. We are the content creators. Students in all grades participate in the broadcast operations. We also have a communication technology course in radio and audio production, which was developed at Pickering College, which you cannot find anywhere else."

Added Bryce: "It is not just students who are involved. We have an active Board of Directors, an Advisory Council, and many dedicated teachers. Recently, we earned the support of the Community Radio Fund of Canada. Community members air programs on our station and we feature many special events."

In addition to event coverage, students host morning and drive time shows, report news and weather, and share their experiences. They profile businesses, such as the Aurora-based State Farm, and Southlake Regional Health Centre. Others in the community have gotten into the spirit too, including Newmarket artist Dave Peters who hosts local musicians on his radio show "Arts Talk."

The station broadcasts 24/7 with morning, lunch, afternoon and evening programs of up to an hour led by the students, along with the radio shows. When there is not tailored programming on the air, there is always music.

"CHOP teaches young people to achieve excellence in communications," said Bryce, noting their recent installation of technology to provide an emergency broadcast system. "We are committed to building our readership and connecting with our community. We also have plans to increase our signal strength so we can reach a wider geographic area."

So, how does Aurora fit into all this? Sterling explained with a "Call to Action."

"We you to join us on the air at CHOP-FM," he said. "We want to partner with the Town of Aurora to regularly broadcast the important events and issues in our community. We want you to choose CHOP to communicate with your constituents. We want you, as civic leaders, to partner with us to voice your ideas, your events and your programs on CHOP-FM. We also have remote broadcasting systems so we can come to you. We have worked hard to make CHOP FM a great campus and community radio station and we welcome you to join us on the air."

The pitch was enthusiastically received by Council.

"I think we will absolutely take you up on your offer," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes.

Added Councillor Michael Thompson: "Hopefully it gets referred back to our Communications Manager and we will look for ways in which we can partner with Pickering College."

With Canadian and U.S. stock markets at record highs, do you think it is time to be more cautious?

- Is your asset mix appropriate given your age and risk tolerance?
- What effect will U.S. President Trump have on stock markets if trade tariffs are implemented?
- Would you like a portfolio review?

Paul Whelan, CFA, MA
Investment Advisor, Portfolio Manager
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Windfall to celebrate rich history of local food with Provincial windfall

Brent Kopperson, Executive Director of Windfall Ecology Centre, with Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard at Friday's announcement in Newmarket.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

Each fall, Aurora's Windfall Ecology Centre throws open its doors for an annual festival; but 2017 is no ordinary year. This fall, close to 2,000 people are expected to descend on the Sheppard's Bush facility for Celebrating Diversity: Food, Land and People.

Windfall formally announced their festival, which will take September 24, upon receiving a significant boost from the Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard and the Ontario Government through the Community Celebrations Program in place to mark both the 150th anniversary of Canada and the Province of Ontario.

Windfall was one of four organizations to receive the grant, which Mr. Ballard says are intended to "honour our past, showcase our present, and inspire future generations."

Windfall is taking this theme to heart, programming a festival that celebrates our local culinary past through a showcase of First Nations and pioneer dishes, as well as foods grown locally today.

"We've decided to throw a party," says Brent Kopperson, Executive Director of Windfall. "We're going to gather the community together in what is really the jewel of Aurora, the heritage site that is Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area. "We will have 30 or 40 exhibits honouring our First Nations partners as well as a lot of events in period costume. It is a bit of a costume party as well. There will be all kinds of things for young people of all ages, some pretty interesting pop-up events that we're going to be doing and, best of all, there is going to be all kinds of food from our history, from present-day cuisine and moving forward.

"We have been wanting to do something in the fall around diversity, people and food for a long time and decided that Canada's 150th birthday was the place to start."

Mr. Ballard also announced three additional Ontario 150 grants as part of the Ontario 150 Community Capital Program, which highlights infrastructure project "building a strong, social, cultural and economic legacy in the province."

Continued on page 10

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"We have disappointed the community" on downtown revitalization: Councillor

By Brock Weir

Aurora has "disappointed the community" on the revitalization of the downtown core and has to "do better," according to Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

The majority of Council hopes that a shift to what is hoped to be a more cohesive plan will go a long way into seeing some results. Last week, Council approved a motion from Councillor John Abel calling bringing together the multiple plans related to the downtown core – including the Aurora Promenade Plan, the Cultural Master Plan, Strategic Plan, and Community Tourism Plan – to develop a comprehensive "Downtown Revitalization Plan through engagement, collaboration and communication."

For many Council members it was an important step forward, but for nearly as many the motion was trying to re-invent the wheel. After a contentious debate, the motion was approved on a 5 – 4 vote.

"Without a plan you can't obtain a vision. If we have a vision to revitalize it – and it is clear that we do – then we should go ahead with making a plan," said Councillor Abel. "In short, that is what I am bringing forward. There is a buy-in from our community partners. When we come up with an idea it is good to know how things fit in. A vision without an action is a daydream and an action without a vision is a nightmare. You don't want to be doing things and then realising that it was the wrong decision and you didn't have all the information and a plan in front of you.

"We need to incorporate all of these ideas if we're going to attract business, buy-in from your community and progress and move forward. We need to come forward with a downtown revitalization plan."

From the perspective of Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who was on Council when the Aurora Promenade Plan was approved, focusing on the Yonge and Wellington corridors, there were "a lot of expectations" when it came forward in 2010 – but little action.

"I was going over my old, and some recent emails over the weekend and there is a lot of disappointment and we need to do something about it," she said. "We're talking about a whole six years. I don't know what the answer is, but we're going to have a new economic development person, we're going to have a Board. I definitely think downtown revitalization should be a priority and I think it should be a priority for the rest of our Council term."

A similar view was offered by Councillor Sandra Humfryes, who said Aurora has a number of good planning documents in place, each pulled together with community input, but they need to be brought together.

"This is pulling together those plans and articulating almost a roadmap of where do we want to go and where do we want to see things evolve," said Councillor Humfryes. "I can see it be a plan over the years, but we can see it evolve and it takes a while to bring these plans to fruition."

Added Councillor Jeff Thom: "I see this as a direction to staff to look at what we have already and try to get this stuff going and putting an exclamation point behind this Council's desire to declare that this is a big priority for us. I don't see it as being redundant necessarily or ordering staff on a wild goose hunt. I think we can work with what we have already and this puts that exclamation point behind it."

Others, however, said they believed the motion did indeed send staff on a wild goose chase or, in short, was simply "redundant."

"I see this as repackaging what we have been discussing for six years and has been said many, many times, be it the Promenade Plan or other plans that have been identified," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "They all speak to downtown revitalization. Staff have confirmed through our discussions that they do have a plan for downtown revitalization already and it is those reports, studies and reports that we have approved before.

"As we can all agree on, the challenge is with the implementation. We haven't done a great job of following through on all those different action items. That's the real challenge as opposed to having some sort of glossy document called the Downtown Revitalization plan that just repackages what we already have. The question is have we done a good job of implementing those policies and procedures that we have in place? The answer is no. That's where the focus should be, rather than repackaging what we already have."

Councillor Tom Mrakas was of a similar mindset, saying "everyone likes to use the buzzword 'revitalization.'"

"Our Promenade Plan is, in essence, a revitalization plan for the downtown," he said. "The difference is we haven't delivered on that plan and that is what we need to do. We don't need to create another plan that we already have. We need to deliver and use what we already have and make some decisions. That is the path we started to take and we started to move. The Cultural Precinct was born from the promenade plan. The Promenade Plan speaks to that revitalization and renewal of the Downtown. That's what we need to do, not create another plan."

Added Councillor Paul Pirri: "Working in the field, I understand completely the value of having a Downtown Revitalization Plan. There is nothing Councillor Abel has mentioned tonight that is not already contained in one of our plans. It would be easy to ask why he wants to bring forward a motion that repeats something that has already been done. I am not going to do that.

"Are we endorsing his plan, or are we endorsing what we already have and what we're already doing? It irritates me we are working towards a goal together and we have a rogue Councillor saying there is no vision other than their vision. I take serious offence to being told that all of our work, all last term of Council's work, is not downtown revitalization but Councillor Abel is going to bring forward this new plan. I think we need to take stock of what we have already done and move forward."

Voting in favour were Mayor Geoff Dawe, Councillors Abel, Gaertner, Humfryes and Thom. Voting against were Councillors Harold Kim, Mrakas, Pirri, and Thompson.

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Sounds of generations will mark milestone anniversary

By Brock Weir

How many of you have a song you immediately associate with a particular happy memory?

Chances are, you all do – and this summer you will be able to relive those experiences, celebrating your own history, and the history this summer, as the characteristic rich sounds of vinyl ring out through the Aurora Community Centre (ACC).

"We are going to dance like nobody is watching," says Aurora resident David Heard, a long-time vinyl enthusiast, whose vinyl-based pop art (and music spun from the records themselves) has been a mainstay of the Aurora Farmers' Market for the last few seasons.

Now, he has taken his collection and devised a Canadian playlist of the generations, proposing to take over the ACC for a very unique dance party on July 22.

"It has taken about four years to curate and plan this event," said Mr. Heard. "Mathematically, we say [the set list] cannot be duplicated."

It is also an experience that can't be duplicated, showcasing not only the history of Canadian pop music, but some of the Canadian pop milestones that happened right here in Aurora, from Gordon Lightfoot's pressing of one of his hit records in a former studio just west of Yonge and Wellington, to some of the important Canadian bands that played the ACC itself when they were on tour.

"Built in 1967, we don't talk about the incredible history of that building," says Mr. Heard of the ACC1 "We're proposing a family event for all ages [featuring] a video produced with the Aurora Museum and Archives, and hopefully members of the community, so we can have this wonderful history on screen. The arena will be lit up with LED lights, patio lanterns…and a dance floor."

That's not all: for the revellers, organizers plan on transforming the Lounge looking over the venerable ACC1 into a licensed venue with an authentic lounge feel for people to kick back, relax, and enjoy the spinning vinyl.

To add a touch of nostalgia, party-goers will be encouraged to "dress for their decades," so take the time to dust off your poodle skirts and bell bottoms, oil your leather jackets in a way that would make the Fonz jealous, and dig out those acid-washed jeans of the 80s.

All proceeds raised over the course of the event will benefit the Aurora-based Kerry's Place Autism Services for the development of a "music motivation" program.

"We all know how music heals," says Mr. Heard.

Dave Heard spins some vinyl at the Aurora Farmers' Market this past October.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Mr. Heard made his pitch to Council last week. It was warmly received by local lawmakers, who received his presentation and referred it to the Town's Canada 150 Ad Hoc committee for further discussion.

"It is so exciting and so Aurora," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes. "I am really excited for what we can do to help get the word out. It is going to be a very local event, but I can see the attraction really spreading out, making this an amazing party with great music. I am just thrilled for this event.

Added Councillor Harold Kim, "You have put your energies into a lot of projects and a lot of causes here in Aurora and I just want to congratulate you for getting the pulse of what the Town needs, and has needed at the right time and the right moment. You grab the bull by the horns, and thank you for leading the charge on this. This is something pretty well everyone can coattail on."

Although the dance party is still in the planning stages, Mr. Heard told Council he is confident that everything will be going forward thanks to the input from municipal staff, particularly the staffers in the Park and Recreation Department.

"They have been impeccable in helping us get the doors open and taking down the hurdles," said Mr. Heard. "I have spoken to a lot of people in the community and gotten their input on the playlist. It's a lot like the CHUM charts. Some songs are going to get moved up. It is a four hour event and we can do 90 -100 songs, and I want to make sure it is the history of music and there is a lot of music history in this Town."

So, what can you expect from the Councillors on July 22, assuming all the approvals go through?

"I'll be dressing in my disco outfit," said Councillor Tom Mrakas.

Added Councillor Wendy Gaertner: "I will be pulling on my bellbottoms."

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Grants recognize Alzheimer Society

From page 7

The Aurora-based Alzheimer Society of York Region was one such recipient of a $25,000 grant over 10 months to renovate existing washroom facilities and install new accessible washrooms in their Thornhill facility. Steps To Recovery will also receive $15,000 over eight months to complete interior and exterior renovations at their Kettleby Ranch, which provides clients with addiction counselling, training and skill development, household responsibilities, and opportunities to give back to the community to become "fully functioning members of society."

"It is a chance for us to celebrate just how incredible this Province is and how much we have to be proud of, and how much we can accomplish when we come together," said Mr. Ballard of the grant program "The programs celebrate the qualities and values that define our province and breathe life into communities by supporting meaningful infrastructure projects. Through our government's support for these important infrastructure projects, we're building a strong social, cultural and economic legacy for our province. This is going to be a really exciting year where people from across Ontario have the opportunity to come together and celebrate the incredible province we all live in."

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THE AURORAN

SPORTS

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Corey Andonovski fights a Blues player for the puck in game two of the CISAA hockey final at Upper Canada College on Friday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Saints taking CISAA hockey final to the limit

By Jake Courtepatte

The St. Andrew's Saints are learning they have some competition in CISAA hockey.

After cruising through game one of the best-of-three independent school final against the Upper Canada College Blues, SAC's top hockey team suffered their first loss in close to a month Friday on the road.

Upper Canada actually drew first blood in game one, beating Aidan Hosein near the end of the first at LaBrier Arena on the SAC campus.

Just seconds later off the draw, SAC's Morgan Barron's individual effort to get past both Blues defensemen tied the score, with the home team never looking back.

By the final buzzer, Regan Kimens, Lucas Thorne, Cam Hillis, Matthew MacDougall, Noah Lugli, and Nicholas Canade also found the back of the net for a final score of 7 – 1.

Upper Canada was only able to get 15 pucks on Hosein's net, and entered game two on Friday as heavy underdogs.

But with a large and rowdy home crowd behind them, the Blues held the Saints off the scoresheet for the first period, opening the scoring themselves just over twelve minutes in.

They doubled their lead in the second, taking advantage of a man leaving the penalty box to spring an impromptu 2-on-1.

A lost draw in the defensive zone led to a quick goal late in the period, giving the Blues a 3 – 0 lead after forty minutes.

After another early Upper Canada goal in the third, Hillis and Ryan O'Connell both got on the board to cut the lead in two, as close as St. Andrew's would get to clinching the championship.

The Blues added a late empty netter for a 5 – 2 score.

The Saints and Blues were far and away the top teams in the skilled CISAA this season, splitting their season series with one win, one loss, and one tie each.

Winners of the CISAA's elite D1 division for four years running, the Saints will be looking to keep that streak going in game three later this week at LaBrier Arena.

The junior varsity Saints were also in action against Upper Canada on Friday, hosting the Blues at LaBrier Arena in their respective semifinal. A decisive 10 – 1 win set up a championship matchup with Villanova College, played Tuesday following press time.

The Blues got the upper hand against the under-16 Saints, who fell 4 – 3 in their semifinal on Wednesday.

The bitter rivals also split hosting duties this weekend of the National Independent School Invitational Championship, with games played at both LaBrier Arena and UCC's Wilder Arena.

Schedules and results can be found at www.cisaa.ca.

Panthers eliminated in shootout heartbreaker

Lauren Daniels looks to take a shot from the point in Game One of the Panthers' first round playoff series with the Nepean Wildcats. Nepean came back from a 2 - 0 series deficit to win in five games. Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

Ottawa was harsh to the Aurora Panthers, who saw a 2 – 0 series lead in the opening round of the Provincial Women's Hockey League playoffs diminish over their weekend road trip.

Surprising the fifth-place Nepean Wildcats in the first two games at the Stronach Aurora Rec Complex, Aurora's top girls hockey squad suffered three losses in Ottawa over three days to be booted from the postseason.

With their backs to the wall, the Wildcats bombarded both Carmen Lasis and Kristen Caporusso with shots in game three Friday, taking a 4 – 0 lead heading into the first intermission. Aurora left the ice with their first loss of the playoffs, 6 – 1, with Jasmine Grant providing the only goal for the Panthers.

Game four on Saturday was a battle in the crease between Lasis and her Wildcat counterpart, with the score tied at zeros midway through the second. Stopping double digit shots in the period, Lasis was finally beaten on the penalty kill, a 1 – 0 score that would hold up for the remainder of the game.

Lasis stopped 27 of 28 shots, prompting coaching staff to once again rely on her between the pipes for the fifth and deciding game on Sunday, at the home of the Carleton Ravens.

Fantastic again in regulation, she stoned 29 shooters and killed seven powerplays in her best performance of the postseason.

Unfortunately for the Panthers, Nepean's goaltender was on a similar level, sending the game to overtime.

Both goalies faced a handful of chances in the extra frame and stood their ground, leaving the decision to a shootout.

Nicole Shaw, Jayden Thompson, Mia Rogers, Emerson Elliott, and Maddy Miller all could not solve the Nepean goalie, while Lasis was eventually beaten on the fifth Wildcats shooter.

Nepean moves on to face the Durham West Lightning in round two.

Five Express teams vying for AAA provincial crown

By Jake Courtepatte

A handful of York-Simcoe Express teams have reached the final four in their respective OMHA divisions.

Continued on page 12

The Minor PeeWee York Simcoe Express tied up their OMHA semifinal series with the Quinte Red Devils with a 4 - 1 win at LaBrier Arena on Sunday. Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Toronto Varsity Blues sign SMK football stars

By Jake Courtepatte

The University of Toronto just bolstered their football roster with a trio of Aurora talents.

Cameron End, Nolan Lovegrove, and Matthew Vassos, who all helped the St. Max Kolbe Mustangs to the YRAA championship game last season, signed their commitments Monday to play football for the Varsity Blues program next season.

"Just having a group of athletes like these three coming into the program is going to mean a lot in changing the direction of our football team," said Blues coach Joe Cappiello. "I saw a couple of their games live last season, seeing them in action and talking to (Mustangs head coach) Joe Gaudio, they're the type of guys we want to change the culture of our team."

End, a linebacker, won defensive MVP for the Mustangs in only his sophomore year. He has since become a staple on the Mustangs' line, leading the St. Max defense to allowing just over three points per game in the last YRAA season.

"U of T showed a lot of interest, and that's what I was looking for," said End. "It's the best opportunity for me to continue my career academically and, football-wise, to do the best of both worlds."

Vassos, a defensive back for both the Mustangs, peaked the interest of a number of OUA programs, and found U of T to be the right fit.

"They're program just fits me," said Vassos. "I love their coaching, I love the facilities, and they showed the most interest in me, which played a big role in choosing the school I go to."

On the receiving end of many catches from QB Ben Langlois last season, Lovegrove, who primarily took the field as a wide receiver, appreciated the interest the Blues program saw in his work.

"Of the schools that were looking at me, they showed me that I was going to be able to reach my full potential there, which means a lot. It's just a great opportunity right at my doorstep, and I had to take it."

The rarity of three athletes from one high school signing at a single university in the same year does not go unheralded. All three signees recognize and appreciate the opportunity to continue working with the same boys they have grown up beside on the gridiron.

"We've all been together for most of our lives," said Vassos. "Basically we're just continuing the legacy we started off with."

Matthew Vassos, Cameron End, and Nolan Lovegrove are flanked by Varsity Blues coach Joe Cappiello and SMK coach Joe Gaudio at their commitment signing to the University of Toronto football program on Monday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

End called what they shared "a brotherhood."

"We're all trying to improve ourselves individually, but it really helps when we're working at it together. We want to be the best and compete against the best, and being able to stay together really gives us the best opportunity."

The Blues, who have not won an Ontario Yates Cup championship since 1993, have revamped their program this season with a new staff and a new outlook.

"We got new coordinators, new facilities," said Cappiello. "We're bringing in the guys that are going to utilize that to its full potential. These are the guys that are going to rebuild the program for the next five years."

End said he appreciates the commitment to change he sees from the Blues program.

"I really like who they brought in. I know the coaches pretty well, I've had one of them at camp before, I think they're the right guys to do the job, they're heading in the right path."

Minor Bantams return Thursday night

From page 11

The Bantam squad, 5 – 0 in the postseason after losing just five games in the regular season, are just one win away from clinching the championship, after defeating the Central Ontario Wolves 6 – 3 at LaBrier Arena on the St. Andrew's campus in Game One of the final, and following up with a 5 – 3 win in Game Two.

The Minor Bantams, who return to action Thursday night, are in a 2 – 0 hole in their first-to-six-points series to the Whitby Wildcats. The Minor Atom Express are also battling the Wildcats, splitting the first two games 1 – 1 between LaBrier and Whitby's McKinney Complex.

Quinte is the opponent for both the Atom and Minor PeeWee division, who each enter Game Three at a 1 – 1 tie. The Atoms took game one at LaBrier 3 – 1 on Saturday, before a loss on the road Sunday by a score of 3 – 2.

The Minor PeeWees also won at home over the weekend, tying the series after a 5 – 3 loss on the road Friday.

The Novice, PeeWee, and Midget Express are competing in the Eastern division championships for regional supremacy.

For schedules, visit www.ysehockey.ca.

"We have to be ourselves"

From page 1

[a distinction] between our campaign and other campaigns because we have a comprehensive platform based on Conservative principles; all the others have opinions on a lot of subjects, and some are only one-issue candidates. For me, it is about more than opinions on certain subjects; it is policies I want to be on the agenda of the Conservative government.

Case in point: his pledge to lower the cost of air travel and increase options by privatizing airports, which has gained a degree of cross-party traction.

"We are the only country in the western world where the big airports are not privatized," says Mr. Bernier, who also proposes the privatization of Canada Post. "We must do that because they will then be able to raise money on the capital markets, they will be able to lower fees for travellers, and I want to open our doors to frontline investment in the aviation sector.

"We don't have a lot of competition: there is Air Canada and WestJet. We need to have those low cost carriers we don't currently have in Canada. This is for Canadian consumers; I want them to be able to travel across this country, paying less than they are paying right now. We are very competitive travelling from a Canadian city to another country, but the costs of travelling inside the country are huge. That is why I propose privatization, open it to foreign investment, and that will be good for consumers."

While Mr. Bernier says his vision for air travel will leave more money in the pockets of Canadians, so too will his plans for tax reform.

"We don't try to please special interest groups to get some votes," he says. "When we were in government, we did a lot of boutique tax credits to firefighters, kids who are playing hockey, and I don't think it is fair to have a policy like that to the people who are paying and are not receiving any benefits. Our platform is a fair one: we want to abolish all these boutique tax credits and lower taxes to every Canadian.

"The firefighter will have more money in his pocket than he gets with the tax credit and the family will have more money in their pocket. They appreciate our tax reform with a flat rate of 15 per cent for 90 per cent of Canadians earning between $15,000 to $100,000, and the rich will have another rate at 25 per cent.

"People are ready for these changes and they are telling me we don't have to be like the Liberals; we have to be ourselves and being a Conservative is a person who believes in individual freedom and personal responsibility."

Mr. Bernier has been Member of Parliament for the Quebec riding of Beauce. In the Harper Government, he served as Minister of Industry from 2006 to 2007, Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2007 to 2008, and Minister of Small Business & Tourism from 2011 to 2015.

"I am an authentic politician," he concludes. "I am doing what I have said for the past 10 years."

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Local clinic unveils new therapy laser centre

King West Chiropractic and Wellness Centre at 141 King Rd, Unit 10, in Oak Ridges announces the immediate offering of laser therapy in the greater Richmond Hill area.

The addition of this exciting and effective technology is part of King West's continued investment in advanced technologies and progressive procedures in the wellness field.

Laser therapy has been used effectively for many years, but advances in technology have produced "the next generation of laser therapy" with the new MLS (Multiwave Locked System) Therapy Laser which uses specific wavelengths of light to treat painful and debilitating conditions.

With laser therapy Dr. Carolinne Aleman can offer relief to those suffering with both chronic and acute ailments such as back and joint pain, tendonitis, arthritis, neuropathy, stenosis, wound healing, disc disease and sprains and strains without the use of painful injections or potentially habit forming drugs.

"We are very excited to be able to offer this new and dramatic treatment option to patients," Dr. Aleman said.

Laser therapy is painless, with treatments usually lasting several minutes, and most patients see positive results in just 1-3 treatments.

"When a physical condition or injury affects mobility or quality of life, there is one goal: a rapid return to every-day activities. We now have the most advanced equipment on the market to deliver these results; results that include a very rapid reduction in pain, strong anti-inflammatory effect, and immediate improvement of local blood circulation," states Dr. Aleman. "More and more, our patients are looking for effective treatment options that are less invasive, have no side effects, provide rapid results and speed the healing process. Laser therapy provides us with an opportunity to meet the needs of our patients, and offer the highest levels of care possible."

Dr. Aleman summarizes, "We pride ourselves on staying on the leading edge of technology and educating our patients on the various levels of care available. Laser therapy is the future of the wellness industry, and we feel our patients deserve to have that option when choosing the best care for themselves."

Speak up on the future of Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area: LSRCA

By Brock Weir

Would you like to see more programs and facilities at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area? Would you like things to stay as they are? Whichever side of the fence you're on, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Area is looking for your input on the future of the popular greenspace.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Area (LSRCA) is in the midst of a public consultation that will help inform the new five-year management strategy for the conservation area, which currently boasts three kilometres of hiking trails, 11 soccer pitches, two picnic pavilions, and a number of historic buildings.

A public open house will be held Sunday, March 26, from 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. at Windfall Ecology Centre, which is situated on the Industrial Parkway South side of Sheppard's Bush.

Since 2009, the LSRCA has been working on key projects within Sheppard's Bush to facilitate programming, including turning the old evaporator hut, a key component of the former maple syrup festival, into a multipurpose space for their Conservation Kids summer nature camp.

"Now, we're in 2017 and we're going back out to the public, stakeholders, and partners like the Town of Aurora, the Oak Ridges Trail Association, the Aurora Lions Club and the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, all those people who have a vested interest in the property," says Brian Kemp, General Manager of Conservation Lands for the LSRCA. "[We want to know from stakeholders and the public] how we're doing. What are some of the challenges? What don't you want us to touch? We're having some general dialogue on really focusing on how we manage that property from a management zone perspective.

"There are certain parts of the property we will leave will forever leave alone because of their natural heritage value. That would be the upper hardwood forests, where the old maple syrup demonstration used to be. That is a very mature, fantastic example of a mature hardwood forest in the middle of Aurora. We're not going to go in there and clear cut an area to build new buildings, for instance. We're going to upgrade trails and, in some cases, we'll probably close a few trails that have very minimal use and perhaps are somewhat redundant meaning, if you look to your left 25 feet there is another trail there."

A particular focus, he says, is making sure Sheppard's Bush is maintained in perpetuity for the public while making sure they have the recreational opportunities in place that the residents want, all the while ensuring sensitive natural heritage features are protected.

One feature they are considering through the new management plan is upgrading on-site washrooms. Sheppard's Bush is currently served by what Mr. Kemp describes as a "vault privy" – essentially an outhouse – that is typically only in commission for specific events.

"If we want to expand usage on the property, if we want to encourage more families to get out there using the pavilion, perhaps it is time to upgrade the washroom facilities so that the people have an updated facility where it is open all year long, perhaps with running water.

"We hear from the public that it is a fantastic place and just leave it the way it is. We know we can walk there safely and the trails are in good condition. For other users, they are looking for a little bit more around structured programming. These are all things that will come together in the consultation process and then we will start to work through how we deliver this and what we are doing as an organization to position ourselves to be able to deliver these new programs. The more feedback, the richer the management plan is at the end of the day."

If you aren't able to make it out to this month's open house, you can submit your feedback online at www.lsrca.on.ca through March 31 for a chance to win a $100 gift certificate to Running Room. To RSVP for the March 26 event, call 905-895-1281 x126 or email L.grzywniak@lsrca.on.ca.

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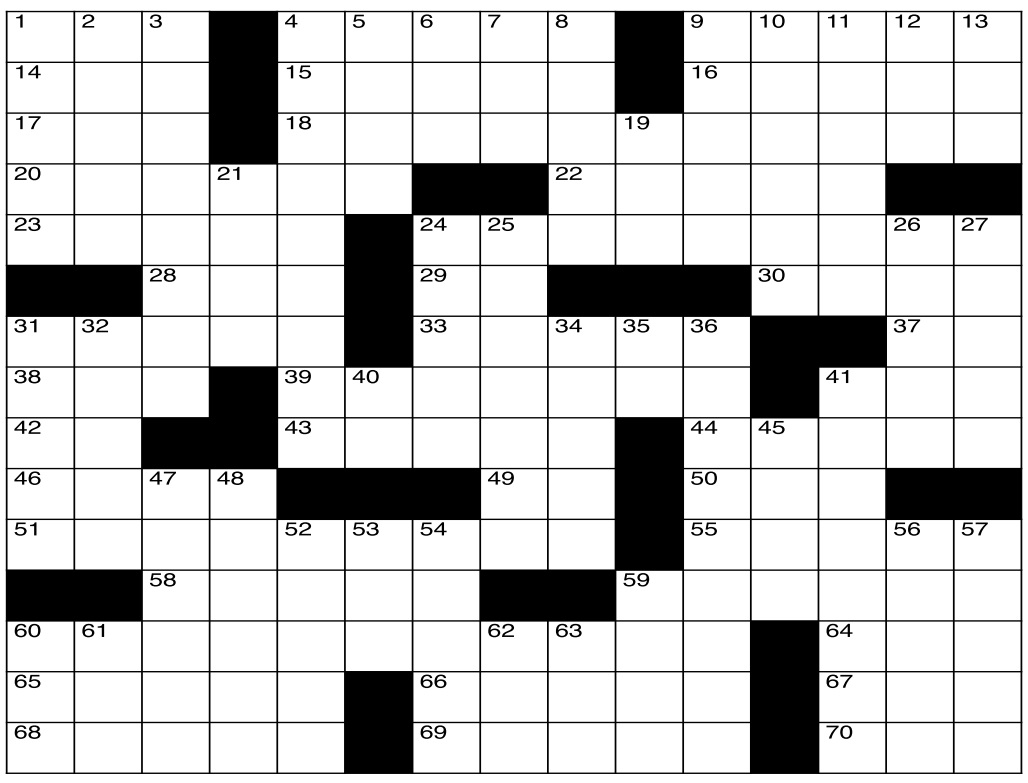

CLUES ACROSS

1. Thick flat pad
4. Green regions of desert
9. Fill with dismay
14. Boxing legend
15. Soup
16. Your sibling's daughter
17. A long thin implement
18. Late ESPN anchor
20. Motives
22. Astronumerology term
23. Semitic Sun god
24. Small cigar
28. Promotions
29. Not off
30. Line or plaster the roof
31. African Indian people of Alberta, Canada
33. Rituals
37. Chlorine
38. Red deer
39. Offers a good view
41. Post-indictment arrangement
42. Blood group
43. Razor clams
44. Fleshes of animals
46. Nipple
49. Indicates position
50. Electrocardiogram
51. Can be disconnected
55. Tall military cap
58. Cape Verde capital
59. Not written in any key
60. Creative
64. Suffix
65. Stacked
66. One who consumes
67. Not he
68. Whiskey and milk are two
69. Entryways
70. __ and cheese

CLUES DOWN

1. Marketplaces
2. Hawaiian greeting
3. Mark left by the sea
4. Strongly affected by something
5. Music and painting are two
6. Small coin (French)
7. Letter of the Greek alphabet
8. A gesture involving the shoulders
9. Grey geese
10. Meal in the park
11. Human beings
12. What thespians do
13. Allow
19. Third-party access
21. "Casino Royale" villain Mikkelsen
24. Painful foot problems
25. The very first
26. Lawful
27. Ceramic jars
31. Hind ends
32. "Virginia Woolf" author
34. Try
35. For instance
36. Academic terms
40. Article
41. Religious belief outside the mainstream
45. Sound caused by reflection
47. Greatly horrify
48. Prey
52. Forays
53. River in eastern France
54. Bleated
56. Soft food cooked from buckwheat
57. Pre-Mayan civilization
59. Assert to be the case
60. Inches per minute (abbr.)
61. "Rosemary's Baby", Farrow
62. Chinese philosophical principle
63. Simpson trial judge

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

B	I	B	B		B	A	B	E	L		E	F	T	S
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C	R	O	C		S	T	A	T	E		B	L	A	B
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3 Eggs, 6 oz Steak
Home Fries
& Toast — $13.99
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Early Bird
Lunch Size Halibut & Chips — $8.95
2 can dine lunch size halibut w/Pop or soup — $18
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Haddock 3 pcs Shrimp
3 pcs Scallop
w/fries — $12
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Phillie Cheese
Steak Sandwich
with fries — $10.95
DINE IN COUPON

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Halibut & Chips 2 can dine for — $23
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Williams Teacher aims to inspire students thanks to Best Buy grant

By Brock Weir

Throughout his first year as a teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, teacher Richard Casagrande has been devoted to developing individual lesson plans for students who thrive outside of the traditional classroom setting – but resources have only allowed him to take his vision just so far.

Thanks to a significant boost from Best Buy Canada last week, however, the Personalized Alternative Education teacher is now able to realise his vision of stepping away from tradition and into a modern, relevant world.

Sixteen schools across Canada, from over 220 applicants, will receive a cash infusion from Best Buy Canada's School Tech Grant program and Mr. Casagrande's pitch on how a grant would make his students "motivated and inspired" secured Williams a place on the list, making it the only York Region school to secure a $10,000 cheque.

"We're super-excited to be here," said Best Buy's Ryan Stuart, presenting the cheque to the class on Friday afternoon. "Our School Tech Grant program exists to give Canadian students the right technology to keep them inspired, motivated and empowered."

Added Williams' Principal Christopher Hilmer: "We really appreciate what Best Buy has done for us. This is a huge opportunity and I am really thankful that Mr. Casagrande took the time to put in the application. He was really thinking about students in his classroom. Knowing he is a huge supporter of technology and using technology in education, he thought, 'How can we use that money to support your learning?' He has a great vision for what this room is going to become in large part to this money."

So, what is the vision? Mr. Casagrande, an Aurora resident, sees his classroom becoming a hub for a "personalized approach" to education, as well as an environment where "modern learning" is a key.

Best Buy's Ryan Stewart, far right, accompanied by staff from their Aurora store, presented a $10,000 grant to, centre, Dr. G.W. Williams Principal Christopher Hilmer and teacher Richard Casagrande.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

A lot of the work carried out in the Personal Alternative Education class is group work, but the Best Buy Grant will allow them to upgrade their computers, obtain new Chrome Books, and noise-cancelling headphones to allow quick and portable access to education.

"To me, this is what the classroom is evolving into: having options," he tells The Auroran. "It is totally different from when I went to school and not as traditional as it used to be. Things are evolving and I want to help them along the way. Updating [the technology] can immediately get them the information and give it to me. I use Google Classroom and it is a lot easier when they all have access to technology to type and dictate. Right now it is a race to get to six or seven computers and unless they bring their own, it is hard for everyone to be connected at the same time."

But it is also about making the classroom feel comfortable at the same time. Many of the students in the Personalized Alternative Education class come into their own there, coming through the door credit-deficient, perhaps having experienced a medical circumstance where they are unable to go into a more traditional classroom, or have anxiety in a traditional setting. They come in for a one-on-one approach, which is beneficial, but if students don't actually want to be in that classroom those benefits cannot be realised.

"My priority is to make the classroom feel comfortable," says Mr. Casagrande. "Our students are excited for change. I don't think they know what is out there and giving them access and opportunity to discover what is out there will really benefit then in the long run and really motivate them. I have a lot of students who are unmotivated, so I am hoping this will motivate them to learn and be life-long learners, not just students right now."

In the lead-up to the surprise cheque presentation, the teacher had students come up with a wishlist of things they would like to see. Of course, new computers, Chrome Books and iPads made the list, but some more surprising candidates emerged, including new soft chairs to make the learning experience as comfortable as possible, a new TV to allow Nintendo Wii to be incorporated into the learning experience, as well as a bar fridge to have some snacks at the ready for students who need a boost or, due to various circumstances, are unable to bring their own lunches.

"It would be nice to have some new computers because they are all kind of old," said student Kristina Pinter. "A change of scenery would also be nice – and the mini-fridge would be cool as well. Having a whole new classroom would be cool because most people don't even have that kind of technology in their house. This will make learning a lot easier."

The call for new computers was shared by fellow students Zinab Fazi and Garrett Tutkaluk, sitting in front of a bank of three desktops.

"These ones take five minutes or so to turn on," said Garrett, showing four separate Google Chrome windows open at the same time. Yes, he had to click on the Chrome icon four times before it sprang to life.

Soon, the new equipment will arrive and Mr. Casagrande is particularly excited about a Virtual Reality headset which will, in a matter of speaking, allow him to take his students even further outside of the traditional classroom settings. A possible first stop? A virtual trip to Vimy Ridge.

Briefly

FESTIVALS MAKE THE GRADE

Aurora's popular Haunted Forest, as well the Town's Christmastime Tree Lighting Ceremony in December have been named two of the Top 100 festivals and events in Ontario. Festivals & Events Ontario named their Top 10 recipients last week, recognizing events from across the Province that "excel within the industry" and draw domestic and international audiences. "Festivals and events create jobs and bring Ontario communities together to celebrate our heritage and diversity," said Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "I am pleased to join with Festival and Events Ontario in congratulating this year's top 100 recipients. There are so many celebrations taking place across the province this year and our 150th anniversary is the perfect opportunity to get out and discover them."

SCHOLARSHIP SEEKS APPLICATIONS

The Town of Aurora encourages students entering their first year of full time post-secondary study at college, university or equivalent to apply for the John West Memorial Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship, which recognizes students who have made a positive impact on their community. Applications for the $1,000 scholarship will be accepted through June 1 at www.aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow.

READY FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT?

Wristbands are now on sale for Aurora's Easter Egg Hunt. The Town and Aurora Girl Guides invite all residents and visitors to head over to the Aurora Seniors' Centre on Saturday, April 15, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the popular local tradition. Enjoy a variety of activities at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, while participating in a non-competitive egg hunt. Every child will receive a bag full of treats. Activities include parachute play, craft-making, an on-site live bunny and chick pen, face painting and more. The Optimists will also host a pancake breakfast for a minimal fee. Children aged 12 and under are invited to participate. Wrist bands are $6 per child and parents are free. Only 1,200 wrist bands are for sale, which must be purchased in advance at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Town Hall, or the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

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King philanthropist in the limelight on Real Housewives of Toronto

By Mark Pavilons

Joan Kelley Walker is as real as it gets.

The TV host, spokesperson, model and philanthropist has entered the proverbial lion's den, as a cast member of The Real Housewives of Toronto.

The show will follow six housewives and will be an "intimate look at the luxurious lives of the city's wealthiest women, from their extravagant day-to-day escapades in Toronto to grandiose getaways to their exclusive colossal cottages in Muskoka – Ontario's playground for the rich and famous."

The cast of the 10-part series consists of Walker, Kara Alloway, Roxy Earle, Gregoriane (Grego) Minot, Ann Kaplan Mulholland and Jana Webb.

In terms of "reality," you'll see the real Joan, 100%. She said she's come away from this experience very proud of the fact she's been herself all the way.

Since the show features very strong, assertive women, there are bound to be conflicts and resolutions. Each woman has her own vision of how things should be.

"It's life, and it's true to the dynamic," Walker said.

She's really excited to see the first episode, which she promises will "knock your socks off," so "brace yourself!"

The show is "really interesting" on a lot of levels. Walker admitted it was an "incredible experience" and the show was a great extension of her work. The personal challenge was for her to be her best.

Walker and her husband Don, CEO of Aurora-based Magna International, are passionate philanthropists. Don was named Canada's Outstanding CEO of the Year for 2014. The Walkers have multiple luxury properties including a sprawling compound in King City, a chic downtown condo, and vacation homes in both Colorado and Miami. However, their large cottage compound in Muskoka is what draws the most attention.

Joan has been involved in humanitarian work for the past 18 years and most recently visited Cambodia, via World Vision's "Starting Strong" program that protects children from life-long stunting and premature death. The program focusses on the health of mothers during pregnancy and newborn health and nutrition.

This time she brought her teenage children along and was so thrilled they were able to get a glimpse into the plight of others in developing nations.

"I feel very blessed to be Canadian," she said. "... to be in my situation, giving back is a huge priority for me."

She finds that it's vital to visit the countries and meet the people behind the causes and issues. For those who give to charities, it's important to see just where the money goes and how to get the best bang for your buck.

The World Vision ambassador and advocate has received the Mother Teresa Award from Athol Murray College of Notre Dame and a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal as well as World Vision's highest award – "Heroes for Children-Power of Generosity Award."

As a World Vision spokesperson, Joan Kelley has emceed panel discussions at the U of T, featuring international experts on HIV AIDS. She organizes and hosts fundraisers.

Joan Kelley has served as Chair of the United Way of York Region's Women's Leadership Counsel. She volunteers locally with Neighborhood Network and has served on Committee for "Right to Play."

Walker is more than happy to spark up a conversation about her humanitarian work, and she was able to help promote it on Real Housewives of Toronto.

Joan Kelley's diverse career and humanitarian work have given her a unique perspective. It makes her who she is.

She just who she is, and catch a glimpse of Toronto's elite, on The Real Housewives of Toronto.

The Real Housewives of Toronto airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on Slice.

PURE IMAGINATION – Charity, Abi, Ben, Kevin and Sam bite into their freshly dipped soft-serve cones at the grand opening of Chocolats Favoris. The unique chocolate shop opened at Bayview and St. John's Sideroad on Saturday, attracting huge lineups eager to sample their signature cones and other sweet treats. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

SENIOR SCAPE

From page 5

St. Patrick's Day and wear the green proudly. Cheers!

What's happening at the Seniors' Centre?

The Silver Stars, under the direction of Joan Brownlow, will be performing "Jack and the Beanstalk" — another fun pantomime — at the Aurora Seniors' Centre on Friday, March 31 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, April 1 at 2:00 pm; and Sunday, April 2 at 2.00 pm. Tickets are only $5.00 per person and include refreshments.

The cast of this production have been in rehearsal for several months learning their lines, using props, getting costumes ready, learning songs, and anything else that is needed to put on a play for you and your grandchildren to enjoy. Even though this may seem like a play just for children, experience has shown that adults have more fun watching the show than the children do.

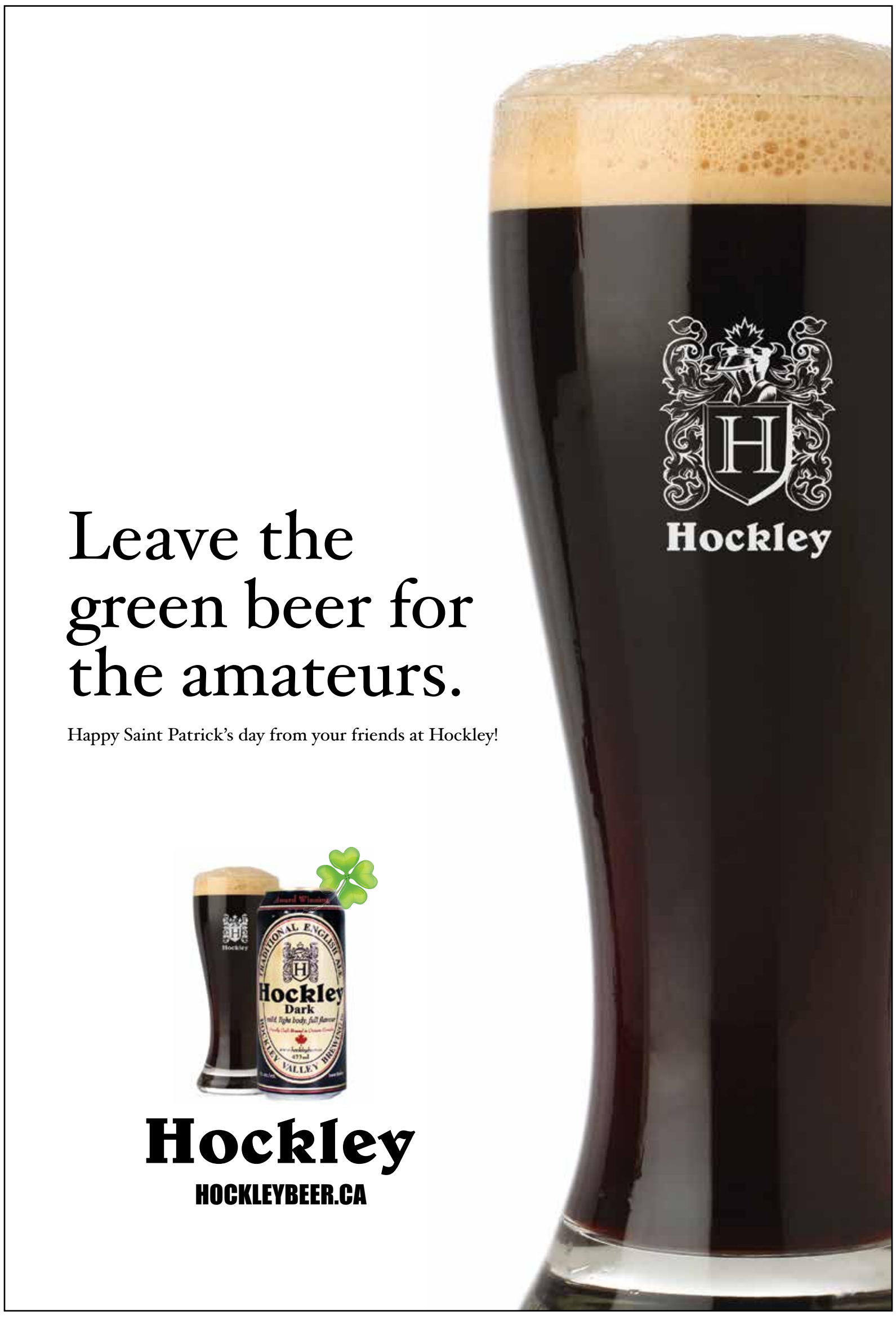
You know the story about Jack who sells the family cow for beans (and yes, we have a cow although not a real one - but close). The beans are thrown away and grow into a giant beanstalk that Jack climbs right up to the giant's castle where there is a hen that lays golden eggs. Wait until you see the hen. There is lots of audience interaction, laughter, and a good time will be had by one and all.

Tickets are available at the reception desk in the Seniors' Centre or by contacting Joan Brownlow at 905-841-2121 or Producer Paul Wells at pwellsie1@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the above performances.

Nominations for the Aurora Seniors Association Board of Directors

A nomination package is available from the reception desk at the Seniors' Centre. In order to be nominated you have to be a member in good standing. Nominations close March 17.



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THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Amnesty International Aurora-Newmarket holds their monthly meeting tonight from 7.30 – 9 p.m. to discuss current human rights issues and write appeals letters. Held at Trinity Anglican Church's Rectory, 79 Victoria Street. All are welcome. For more information, call Rene at 905-713-6713 or visit www.amnesty.ca.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

CALLING ALL WRITERS – The Writers Community of York Region hosts its Spring Bring a Friend Event. The Community is pleased to present a workshop by Dale R. Long and Tobin Elliot entitled: Close Encounters: The Art of Writing Collaboratively. This workshop will help you with such things as understanding the dos and don'ts of writing collaboratively and the various ways and styles of collaborative writing. At this meeting we are pleased to feature our special bring a friend event. Pay for one registration and your friend comes for free! Please note non-paying guests cannot be a WCYR member. Our meeting will take place at the Newmarket Community Centre and Lions Hall, 200 Doug Duncan Drive, Newmarket, Ontario on Sunday March 12th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information and registration please visit our web site at wcyork.ca. This is an event you don't want to miss! Bring a friend and enjoy the wonderful world of writing together!

MARCH 13 – 17

Deep Sea Discovery - March Break Vacation Bible Camp from 8.30 a.m. to 12 Noon for children 5-12 years of age. Hosted by Aurora United Church at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St., Aurora. At Deep Sea Discovery, children will hear amazing stories, play fun games, make incredible crafts, sing great VBC songs, enjoy tasty snacks and explore faith/life issues. Information and Registration Forms available at www.auroraunitedchurch.ca or 905-727-1935.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Lush Gravitas, a solo portrait exhibition by Allan O'Marra formally opens tonight at the Aurora Cultural Centre with an opening reception from 6 – 8 p.m. On from March 11 – May 6, don't miss the special series of hyper-realist over-sized oil on canvas portraits by the award-winning artists.

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The Aurora Cultural Centre hosts Lennie Gallant in Concert tonight at 8 p.m. Lennie Gallant is a native of Rustico, Prince Edward Island. This renowned Canadian singer/songwriter has recorded ten albums (eight in English and two in French), which have won him a host of awards and nominations from both the JUNOs and East Coast Music Awards. He was recently honored with the 2014 Canadian Folk Music Award for Artist of the Year for his latest recording "Live Acoustic at The Carleton." Doors open at 7 p.m.

MARCH 31 – APRIL 2

The Aurora Seniors' Association's Silver Stars present Jack & The Beanstalk on March 31 at 7 p.m., April 1 at 2 p.m., and April 2 at 2 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Tickets are $5, with refreshments included. Tickets available at the reception desk now. For more, call the Centre at 905-726-4767.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

The Aurora United Church Women are holding a book sale at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Choose from a wide selection of second hand adult and children's books at low prices. Stock up on your summer reading!

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will hold their Annual Spring Sale today from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Featuring white elephant and diamond elephant treasures, seniors' centre crafters, books, the famous jewellery table, coffee shop, and much more. For more information, call 905-726-4767.

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