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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 17 No. 31 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of May 25, 2017 CMCA AUDITED



CARRYING THE BATON – With just over a week to go before hitting the field, students at ESC Renaissance have already skyrocketed past their fundraising goals for their inaugural Relay for Life and have set an even more ambitious goal for the good cause. To find out more, including how to help, please see Page 12. Pictured here in the back row are Stéphane Arcand, Kaitlyn Bessette, Noémie Boisjoly, Amy Robidoux, Maya Pot, Elise Quail, and Isabelle Keegan. Front: Chloé Ruest, Emma Kocsis, Renée Rochefort, and Katherine Zhu.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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A “baby step” forward for Library Square redevelopment

By Brock Weir

The long-awaited redevelopment of Library Square is set to take a “baby step” forward this week with Council set to approve beginning a design process of what will replace the old public library and seniors’ centre buildings on Victoria Street.

Sitting at General Committee last Tuesday, Council members voted to throw out two concept plans prepared for the area by FOTENN which outlined extensions to the Aurora Cultural Centre and Victoria Hall,

along with various parking lot and water feature configurations, and going forward with a new RFP for design services.

At the same time, they also approved a \$500,000 budget, funded from Council’s Discretionary Reserves, to demolish the two buildings and finance the detailed design process.

The move came after stakeholders from the Aurora Public Library, Aurora Cultural Centre, and the surrounding community came to the podium to express concerns over the plan, particularly the thorny parking

issue which is always in short supply at the current Library building.

Many of these concerns were shared by Council who decided to reaffirm their overall vision for the area, but starting fresh with new designers to realise that vision.

“We all support the idea of the development of the area, and I think we all support the idea of moving ahead but, understandably, there are concerns and everyone wants to be cautious in the approach,” said Councillor Michael Thompson. “I

Continued on page 9

Palmateer, Wall, Thompson named to Sports Hall of Fame

By Brock Weir

Homegrown heroes on the ice, in the pool, and even on the cricket pitch are set to be inducted into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame as the Class of 2017.

Hockey stars Mike Palmateer and Bob Wall, along with gold medal-winning swimmer Dan Thompson and cricket pioneer William Fleury were announced as the latest installment of Honoured Members at this week’s

Council meeting on Tuesday night.

Former Toronto Maple Leaf Mike Palmateer joins the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame in the “Athlete” Category.

Born in Toronto, Mike joined the Toronto Marlboros at the age of 12, serving as goalie until they brought home the Memorial Cup Championship in the 1974/75 season.

A short time later, he made his NHL debut, joining the Toronto Maple Leafs for the 1976/77 season where, in the

Continued on page 20

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No-Left-Turn pilot program has caused problem: reader

As any long-time resident can tell you, efforts to calm traffic in the North East Quadrant of Aurora began over a decade ago.

Spruce Street was successfully calmed and transformed back into a quiet residential street.

Unfortunately, traffic simply diverted to Mark Street and Walton Drive.

The Pilot Project now underway at Yonge and Wellington Streets has worsened the problem, increasing not only the volume of traffic but the speed in our area.

The Pilot Project cannot be adequately accessed and decisions made until the Mark Street, Walton Drive “short cut” is no longer accessible.

What will it take to close this short cut? Will it take a fatality or a health related issue for this to be addressed? The volume, speed and emissions from traffic is ever-increasing. Hopefully the Town will not decide that alleviating traffic congestion at its major intersections is more of a priority than the health and safety of its residents.

As it stands now, it is hazardous to pull out of one’s own driveway safely into the steady stream of moving vehicles. Many people walk to the Go Station, walk to the nearby schools, and the safety risks are now magnified. When traffic calming was first discussed for the neighbourhood, it was strongly suggested that there be no left hand turns permitted from Walton Drive onto Mark Street and no right hand turns onto Walton Drive from Mark Street.

This fell upon deaf ears. 90 percent of the traffic makes these turns in order to avoid the Yonge and Wellington Street intersection.

A more permanent and effective solution would be to implement the same type of road division as Spruce and Catherine Streets at the corner of Walton Drive and Cedar Crescent/ Birch Court. This would return our neighbourhood to the residential area it was designed to be.

Residents I have spoken with have “given up” hoping for a solution. Many parents now drive their children to school instead of having them walk, do not allow them to ride their bicycles on the street and even for play in their own front yard for fear of their safety.

This certainly is not the new future of Aurora?

Hard data has been collected many times over the years regarding this issue and still nothing has been successfully implemented. Perhaps, as most people say, a new administration perhaps will fix the issue and the “traffic calmed community” sign so proudly posted at the busiest intersection of our quadrant will finally be meaningful.

Janet Lewis
Aurora

Senators: cream of the crop of Canadian society

Senator seeking sex with 16 year old girl.

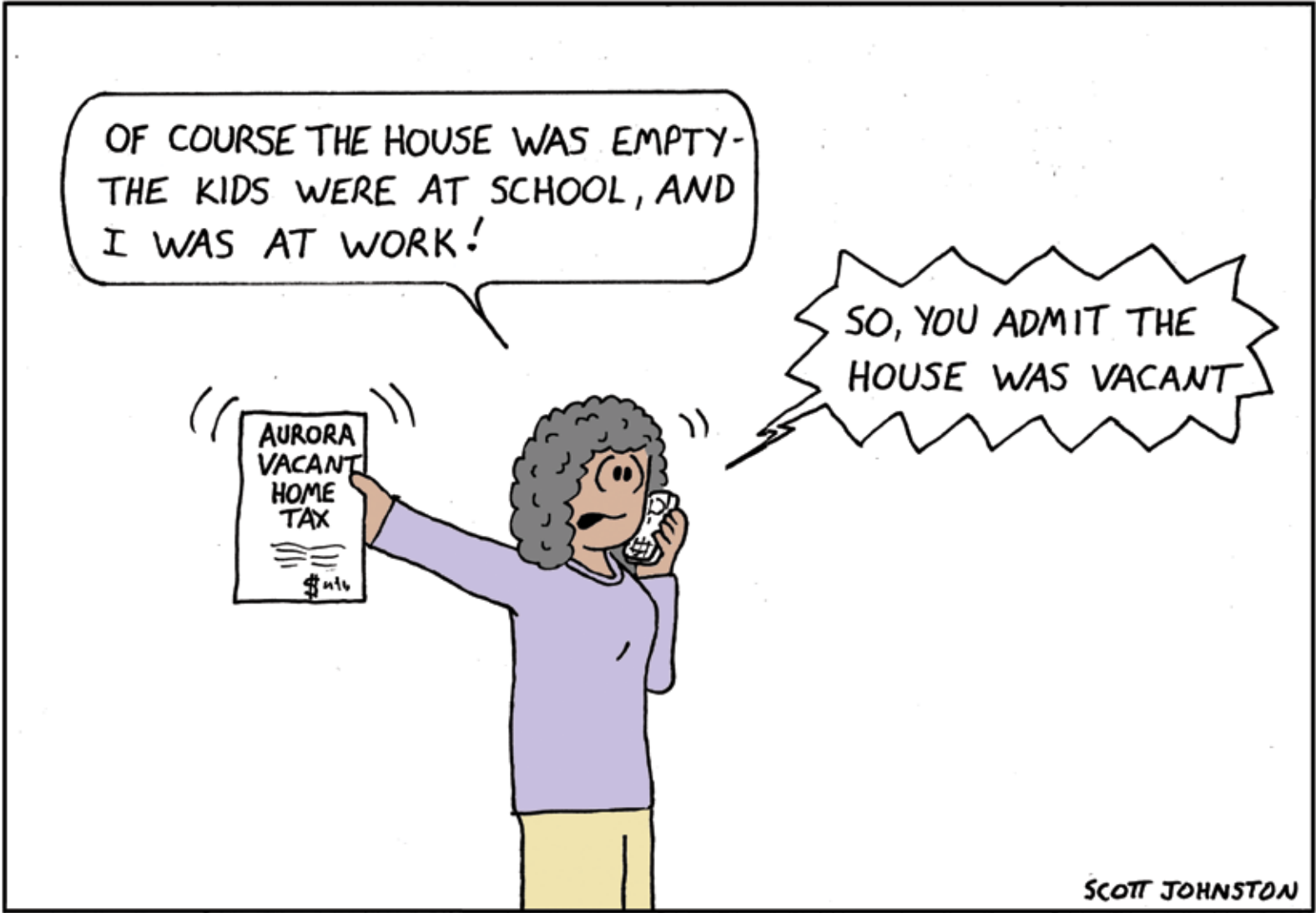
It took days and various levels of Senate authorities in making a decision.

Would take me one second: get a kicking horse and boot him out right through the Senate’s doors.

Alex Vander Veen
Aurora

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Victoria’s Comeback



BROCK’S BANTER
Brock Weir

across the keyboard – and, truth be told, if the portrait were a more exacting depiction of our second-longest reigning monarch – I’m sure her eyes would be following them back and forth. But, as it is, she’s giving me a stony glance.

Is she pleased that I am here doing my duty on her birthday? Unamused that I am not out doing something more celebratory?

The stony expression reveals nothing, clearly prompting my imagination to wander.

So, I present to you this: Let’s put the Victoria back in Victoria Day.

As the years go on, I am finding the “May Long Weekend,” originally set out to be a celebration of all things Vicky – and, as time went on, a celebration for Bertie, the Eddies, the Georges, and now Liz – is becoming increasingly Victoria-less. In fact, I can’t remember the last time I heard the holiday referred to as Victoria Day in passing conversation, unless it was a “special” hustle in a TV commercial or a pitch to buy a fire cracker to blow up a few chunks of your back yard or neighbourhood park.

(No, that is not an endorsement of setting off a firecracker in a neighbourhood park. Or a community park, for that matter. That’s a thorny issue in Aurora, so I’ll just say “... or your local park.” Actually, forget I even said it.)

Each and every year, we receive emails and letters, see lawn signs (snow bank signs), billboards, and many other forms of communication reminding us that we should “Keep the Christ in Christmas.” The fact that these same people don’t call for a rabbit cull every Easter to keep people on the straight and narrow doesn’t seem to be part of this conversation, but they are nevertheless vehement in their message.

Perhaps it is time to be as vehement for poor, neglected Victoria.

Sure, Victoria is well-remembered today.

Victoria Hall, for instance, continues to be part of our great municipal conversation these days as Council members consider options for

tacking an addition onto its rear end as part of the redevelopment of Library Square which happens, fittingly, to be on Victoria Street. And neither one of these landmarks were named after Misses Beckham or Principal.

Just a stone’s throw away, we have the Church Street School, another subject for extension, designed in a style reflective of the Birthday Girl becoming Empress of India and then, a further short jog to the south, is Connaught Avenue, named after her son Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, later Governor General of Canada.

She is the subject of a hit – yet surprisingly dull – hit ITV-PBS that shares her name and a community gathering was held just off John West Way at Diamond Jubilee Park to mark the day her great-great granddaughter, Elizabeth II, made her eat dust on her way to the top spot of longest-reigning monarch.

But, with Elizabeth II sitting comfortably in top position, and some seeing Victoria Hall as a quaint relic of our historical past, Connaught (now Connacht) simply a province of the Republic of Ireland and the architecture of the Church Street School building a possible relic of Britain’s colonial past that is best not discussed in polite company.

And where go these legacies so too seems Victoria. And that, I think, is a shame.

She still has name recognition, her very name has become a byword for many things, and her image, whether head-on in portrait, a profile in coin, or a silhouette in clip art, is instantly recognizable. Those, in themselves, is more than can be said for Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe and his namesake Simcoe Day. Simcoe, despite so many locations here in Aurora and across the Province bearing his name, not to mention being a key character on the AMC TV series Turn: Washington’s Spies, has been cast aside for the antiseptic and decidedly less catchy “Civic Holiday” in August.

For nearly 64 years, Victoria was a rock of stability around these parts and, if you happened to have needed a jacket or hat this past weekend, it is certainly more than can be said for Mother Nature and your “2-4 Weekend.”

Let the girl have her moment again.

(Editor’s Note: In a first for The Auroran, the editor is writing an editor’s note to the editor’s piece. He is well aware that Victoria Day is the monarch’s Official Birthday in Canada)

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The Aurora Museum & Archives is exploring...

The Fleury Foundry!
(Now Bacon Basketware)

Last week, our curator, along with Fleury siblings Ann, Bill and David (great-grandchildren of Joseph Fleury) were fortunate enough to be given a tour of the former Fleury Foundry by current owner Rob Dales. What began in 1859 as Aurora Agricultural Works was later renamed J. Fleury and Sons and operated at the corner of Temperance and Wellington Streets until 1941. Bacon Basketware moved in a few years later and it continues to call this historic building home.



POLITICS
AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

The week that was

It’s been a truly frightening few weeks in global politics. With the latest “test” of missile capabilities, the North Koreans seem hell bent on demonstrating that they too have the big boy weapons and are not afraid to use them.

The Russians are sufficiently rattled by this activity – and the US response to it - that they have scrambled jets and mobilized aircraft carriers. They’ve even made pointed statements to “other” countries to not provoke the North Koreans any further or risk serious reprisals.

We have Syria’s Bashir al Assad continuing to wage war on his own people while at the same time denying it is even happening.

It’s “fake news” he maintains. As if the tiny babies and little children (filmed by CNN and some very brave Syrian reporters) writhing in agony on a flatbed truck, mouths gasping for air like carps on the deck of a fishing boat, foam oozing out of their mouths, are figments of our collective imagination. The horror of those images are so deeply unsettling that I cannot begin to fathom how anyone would continue to argue in support of his regime regardless of the strategic advantage it may provide in the war on ISIL.

We have the emerging threat of laptop bombs on planes, a threat of such credibility that the US is considering an immediate ban on laptops in carry-ons on any inbound flight to the States, although I am not clear how that will really help the situation. If there are bombs in laptops, will they not still be bombs as checked luggage? Seems to me that laptops will have to be banned entirely. But what will that mean to international business travel? How many of us travel for work – or play – with laptops, iPads, kindles, iPhone, BlackBerrys, etc? Imagine now that all of that will be banned? It will radically alter how we all travel – for business or for pleasure.

We have the terrifying Ransomware taking data hostage across the globe wreaking havoc on banking, medical care, even national security. Over 100 countries have been affected. Given that we virtually live our lives online, the evident vulnerability of our critical systems would seem to warrant an immediate international collaborative effort to improve cyber security.

And then we have Trump in the Oval Office. Firing the person who is leading the investigation of him. Firing the person who warned him that his own national security head was compromised by the Russians. And now, handing out secrets like candy to hostile agents – if the reporting of the Washington Post, New York Times, Reuters, MSNBC among others are to be believed. Or frankly, if one is to believe Trump himself who tweeted out that he has every right to decide what “facts” he gives out, whenever and to whomever he pleases.

So, parsing his tweet then, one could infer that he did give out classified information but that Trump thinks he is perfectly within his right to do so...

So, where does that leave all of us? In Canada, we haven’t really heard a meaningful peep from our fearless leader or leaders about all of this, which is astonishing, frankly, given the sheer scope of the pending security issues that we are facing.

Continued on page 9

THIS WEEK’S
POLL

Should a parking lot at
Library Square
be a permanent solution?

Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE	May 23, 2017	YES	NO	UNSURE
		40%	60%	0%

Budget Passed



View From
Queen’s Park

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

Last week, the government of Ontario passed the Stronger, Healthier Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2017. This budget included significant investments in education and health care, including free prescription medications for everyone aged 24 and under through OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare, starting in January 2018.

I know this budget will help many people not just in Newmarket-Aurora, but also across the province. It will strengthen Ontario’s economy by investing in people, communities and businesses. Health care funding is being increased by \$11.5 billion over three years to reduce wait times, improve access to care and enhance the experience and recovery of patients.

Southlake Regional Health Centre will receive an additional \$5,746,684 of funding this year taking our contribution to the Southlake’s operating budget to \$284,398,584 in 2017-18. The provincial budget is also supporting families by investing an additional \$6.4 billion over three years to help learners reach their full potential by supporting them from full-day kindergarten to postsecondary education and beyond.

In addition to these investments, the budget also includes, 100,000 more children access affordable, quality licensed child care, including 24,000 in 2017-18, launching a new Career Kick-Start Strategy to create 40,000 new work-related opportunities for students and recent graduates, lowering and household electricity bills by 25 per cent, on average, making housing more affordable for homebuyers and renters through Ontario’s Fair Housing Plan.

Ontario’s Fair Housing Plan

Last week the Rental Fairness Act, 2017 was passed with unanimous support

in the house. The new Act expands rent control to all private rental units, including those occupied on or after November 1, 1991.

Effective April 20, 2017, landlords cannot raise rents more than the rent increase guideline set by the government. In 2017 it was 1.5 per cent. Any rent increase notices above this amount given on or after April 20 must be reduced to 1.5 per cent. I have heard from people across Ontario who have had to deal with unfair increases in the past couple of years. This new guideline means that now they will know how much their rent can increase per year and it will be fair and predictable.

The legislation also introduced additional protections for tenants, including, a standard lease to help both tenants and landlords know their rights and responsibilities, protection for tenants from eviction due to abuse of the “landlord’s own use” provision, ensuring landlords can’t pursue former tenants for unauthorized charges, prohibiting above-guideline rent increases in buildings where elevator maintenance orders have not been addressed and removing above-guideline rent increases for utilities, to protect tenants from carbon costs and encourage landlords to make their buildings more energy efficient.

Ontario Municipal Board

In the coming weeks, the province will introduce new legislation to create the

Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, which would, if passed, replace the Ontario Municipal Board.

The new tribunal will ensure that development and growth happen in a way that is beneficial for the municipality, Ontario and our shared future. The tribunal will be able to give greater weight to the decisions of local communities and would also make planning appeals more accessible to the public by creating the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre – a new agency that would provide free information and support for the public. The changes were proposed after extensive public consultations, including an open house in this riding and with input from both Aurora and Newmarket councils.

OMB reform is a topic close to my heart, given my years on Town Council. I spoke extensively with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and his predecessor and at caucus on the need for reform. The government received more than 1,100 written submissions and held 12 town hall meetings across the province that were attended by more than 700 people. Our community has been critical of the planning process and OMB and I believe you will find our major issues reflected in the changes. It’s further proof this government is listening to its citizens.

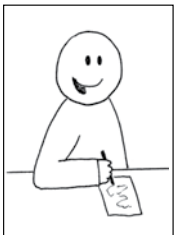
Nurses Week

On May 12, I served ice cream to nurses and staff at Southlake Regional Health Centre in celebration of the amazing nurses we have at this hospital, and those living and working in our community. Each of us has been touched by a nurse in some way and serving ice cream was a symbolic way of saying “thank you.”

I have met so many nurses who go

Continued on page 11

The Sky Is (Not) Falling!



INSIDE
AURORA

Scott Johnston

I’m not sure why, but Aurorans seem to be unusually prone to paranoia when it comes to change.

Progress is often good, if not inevitable, but whenever a potential change is floated here in Town, seemingly whatever the subject, the Chicken Littles come out in droves proclaiming that that particular piece of the sky is falling.

There are no end of examples of this. Remember when the Home Show used to be held at the Aurora Community Centre? Then changes to the Tigers’ playoff schedule shifted the show to the Stronach Aurora Rec Complex.

The way the Chamber of Commerce went on you’d have thought that despite moving just a few kilometres away down Wellington, to one of the most recognized and accessible buildings in Town, and with a blitz of signs and ads pointing the way, no one would never find it.

Somehow, Aurorans were adept enough to pick up on this change, and the Show just keeps getting bigger and better every year in its new home.

Another example was the outcry that resulted from the concept of splitting Aurora into two federal and provincial ridings. We’ll lose our united voice, people feared.

Well, guess what?
It seems that the only thing better

than having one voice presenting the views of our community on the wider political stage is having more than one voice doing so. Now, if only we could get the same increased representation at regional council.

Then there is the inevitable angst every time a new location is proposed for traffic calming. Will it impede emergency vehicles and response times? Will it redirect cars onto other streets?

Probably not, since the most recent and relatively wimpy speed humps installed in Town don’t seem to slow traffic any more than the naturally bumpy surfaces of the roads already did.

Although I can see how some people who have more limited mobility may have been disadvantaged by the widespread introduction of super mailboxes, this was likely blunted by the fact that hardly any real communication is sent by snail mail, anymore.

So, we managed to survive that change, too, as well as the loss of our post office.

On the subject of infrastructure,

while there have been a bunch of cell towers pop up in Town over the past few years, the days of mass protest when one is suggested seem long gone.

And how about the people who, twenty years ago, thought that discussions were moving too fast on plans for what to do with library square? With a decision still pending today, there was obviously little to worry about, hasty decision-wise.

It wasn’t that long ago that there were those who predicted the end of civilization as we know it, when 10 digit dialing was introduced to Aurora.

Going right back to our Town’s beginnings, I expect fears were stirred up in the 1800s when it was announced that the train would be coming to Aurora, or that the Town itself would be named “Aurora”.

Sure, some change does cause inconvenience, but in the end, we adapt and move on.

Keep that in mind as we plough through other controversial subjects on Aurora’s imminent horizon, be they e-voting, Yonge Street development, parking, Magna’s imminent departure, military vehicles being displayed at the cenotaph, or whatever else is awaiting us.

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

Fire devastates Ames Crescent home



By Brock Weir

Working fire alarms are being credited with averting complete disaster after a family of four were able to flee their fire-engulfed home in the early hours of Wednesday morning. Central York Fire Services responded to a call at 11 Ames Crescent,

just off Conover Avenue north of Wellington Street East, at 2.15 a.m. on May 17. Arriving on the scene, the CYFS found the home “fully involved” in a fire with heavy smoke coming out from the garage and the front of the home. Nearby homes were evacuated as a precaution but fire suppression

crews were able to contain the fire and extinguish it before it spread. The local fire department says the two adults and two children who lived in the home “were alerted to the fire by working smoke alarms and were able to safely leave the home.” “Six CYFS apparatus were involved in the incident, with additional resources from York Regional Police and York Paramedic Services,” said the CYFS. “In addition, mutual aid was activated. Richmond Hill Fire and East Gwillimbury Fire Services

provided assistance.” Due to the extent of the incident, fire prevention staff remained on the scene throughout the rest of the day, monitoring the home whose street front was blackened by the flames with a burnt out shell of a vehicle still visible in the garage. By Friday, the windows and garage had been boarded up as the investigation continued. CFYS believe the fire started in the garage but the cause of the fire itself remains under investigation.

The Sounds of Triumph



Triumphant Ring resonated through the rafters of Trinity Anglican Church as the hand bell ringers from Trinity, Aurora United Church, and Mount Albert United Church converged, along with a few accompanists on strings and other instruments, for an afternoon of joy. A freewill offering, the hand bell players were greeted by a standing-room-only crowd.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



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Light of Christ celebrates quarter-century with public open house



If you were once a student, faculty, staff member, or parent at Light of Christ CES, head over to the school next Thursday, June 1, for a special celebration.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

There was little more than a shell in place when Greg Clancy and his staff first set foot in what was to become Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School.

Since that day in July 1991, that shell has become nothing but a distant memory as the school has become a busy, active and important fixture in the lives of southwest Aurora residents.

25 years on, Mr. Clancy, Light of Christ’s founding principal, is looking forward to seeing the community once again as the school hosts a public celebration to mark its first quarter-century next Thursday, June 1.

The entire school community, including alumni, former staff, and the school’s parent community are invited to come out for the festivities, starting at 1.30 p.m. when Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick will read a special anniversary blessing Mass featuring speeches from dignitaries, including Mr. Clancy, school trustee Elizabeth Crowe, and others.

The celebration continues at 5 p.m. with the school’s Open House, which will showcase the school’s history, an art gala featuring work by the current roster of students, and a community barbeque.

“Our school is blessed to have a very dedicated and committed staff,” says Principal Travis MacDonald. “Their commitment to the school community is inspiring as they encourage all students to work to their full potential as caring, responsible life-long learners. We are also blessed to have an active parent community who support the many initiatives and activities that help make Light of Christ an incredible school.”

Many of these sentiments are expressly shared by Mr. Macdonald’s predecessor.

The teachers and kids at Light of Christ from those early days made Mr. Clancy’s life a joy, he says. He knew them all by name, standing outside just about every morning welcoming the students as they got off the buses and spending the first 90 minutes or two hours of his day going from classroom to classroom.

“The worst thing you can do is be rowing a boat and have someone in the back drilling holes,” says Mr. Clancy. “We never had any of that at Light of Christ and it was a really good time for me and, hopefully, the community. It was a great community and very supportive. Before we opened, the teachers were all there getting things ready for the first day and they were in there before 8 a.m. and still there after 6 p.m. opening boxes.”

It was a bit of a rough ride getting to that point, however. When they stood in front of the shell that summer morning many of them had doubts that the building would be ready to welcome students that September. In fact, it was a bit of touch and go on the day of, with the first day of school hitting a bit of a delay as contractors hadn’t yet put in the electrical plates for the light switches.

After that small hitch, however, they opened the school around 9.45 a.m. with 247 kids, excited to start the new chapter of their lives with a “new energy that took us through the whole year and for some years after that.”

“That part of Aurora was a really growing community,” says Mr. Clancy. “We started with 247 kids and it just mushroomed. In the seven years I was there, we split the school twice when we got so big and they had to reorganize the boundaries and build other schools. It was an exciting place to be. You know that saying that if you love your job you never work a day in your life? That was me for that time.

“The highlights every day were going into the classrooms and seeing how much fun the kids had learning and how dedicated and how much the teachers loved teaching them. It was a joy to see the dedication of the teachers, the enthusiasm of the parents and the support we had from the community. We were really lucky. We had a great community that really supported the teachers and really supported the learning. We were really lucky to work together and there were just some fabulous people in the community who really helped us out.”

Next Thursday, Mr. Clancy is among those looking forward to sharing these memories and reconnect with

“a fabulous community” which now hosts 300 students from kindergarten through Grade 8, boasting after school programs and an on-site child care centre.

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Stakeholders, neighbours raise concerns over Library Square proposals

By Brock Weir

Proposed plans to replace the soon-to-be-demolished former homes of the Aurora Public Library and Seniors’ Centre on Victoria Street with Library Square left neighbours with more questions than answers at Town Hall last week.

Representatives from the neighbouring Aurora Cultural Centre and the current incarnation of the Aurora Public Library, as well as members of the public at large, converged on Town Hall last week to speak out on two options which would allow for extensions onto the Aurora Cultural Centre and Victoria Hall, with a new parking lot and water feature.

The two options offered by consultants FOTENN proposed significant changes

to the current parking configuration enjoyed by the Library and the Cultural Centre.

The first of two options suggested replacing the two Victoria Street buildings with a parking lot of nearly 80 spaces, turning the current Aurora Public Library parking lot into a landscaped area with water feature.

The second option dramatically reduced the existing Library parking to 20 spaces adjacent to the building with a pick up/drop off roundabout and adding additional parking onto the site of the former seniors’ centre.

Both options left much to be desired in the eyes of the Aurora Public Library Board.

Responding to the first option, Board Chair Nancy Eveleigh Brown said the plan did not take shipping and receiving

vehicles into the equation, nor adequate access for persons with mobility challenges, seniors, and other, who might find steps or a slope down from Library Square parking to the library itself a potential problem.

“The concept drawings seem to show a series of stairs or a stepped-down path down from the upper lot,” she said. “This makes access during inclement weather challenging. Parents with strollers, young children, or anyone with mobility issues might find getting to the Library difficult. Seniors are strong Library users and the lack of convenient parking could have a negative impact on their use of the Library. In general, it is a significant barrier to the ease of use of the Library.

“Inadequate parking at the Library continues to be a top complaint for users. The Library lot is currently used for a wide variety of purposes other than Library use and Library clientele are fortunate if they can find parking for their visit now. An increase of four spots in an area far removed from the Library is not an improvement.”

The second option, she said, was not an improvement either; far from it, leaving only 20 parking spots adjacent to the Library, plus the proposed additional lot to the northeast.

“If current parking patterns continue, the upper parking lot will see heavy usage by people not visiting the Library,” she said. “A reduction in available parking from 72 parking spaces to 45 will add to frustration and customer dissatisfaction. The Library is an anchor store in the downtown core. It draws people to the area and supports commercial and retail activity. If either option is enacted there is a real potential for the Library to experience decreased usage. The Library is a successful, thriving municipal service located in the area targeted for growth. The parking provisions proposed in the concept plan do not provide the infrastructure needed to support that growth.”

Eric Acker, Vice President of the Aurora Cultural Centre Board, said he also agreed parking was an issue that needed to be addressed.

“I am not here to tell you what the solution to the parking problem is, but we are certainly prepared to work with whoever we are asked to work with, but there needs to be a solution found to parking in that overall area,” he said. “In principle, our Executive Committee supports the recommendations that have been put forward tonight because they provide direction for a way forward.”

Additional space for the Cultural Centre, he added, would help them help the Town achieve its cultural objectives.


For nearby resident Susan Morton-Leonard, there was a significant piece of the puzzle missing, particularly how the two additions might be used. In her view, it was a stumbling block in local lawmakers making an informed decision.

More thought should be given on looking at how Library Square might work in the larger context of the Cultural Precinct, she added, particularly when it comes to the expansion of GO Service already on the horizon.

“Aurora grew from a small hamlet to a town because of being the last stop on the train,” said Ms. Morton-Leonard. “If there is something exciting to visit, people will once again get off the train here in Aurora much less maybe even consider meeting here. Seek funding from both the province and the federal government for the precinct. We know it will be expensive, but we want a better, much fuller plan, not just a portion to satisfy political need. If you want a lasting legacy look beyond the next election.

“It is becoming more and more apparent that we need to have all levels of government working together [along with residents] to be able to produce these really novel and interesting spaces for people to want to come to.”

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Chamber Street Festival promises music, fun – and a few secrets

By Brock Weir

Whether you’re looking for a good buy, a day of family fun, or an opportunity to tap into your inner Sherlock Holmes, there’s something for everyone planned at next week’s Aurora Chamber Street Festival.

Now entering its twenty-second year, the popular annual festival, which sees Yonge Street closed from Wellington Street in the north to Murray Drive in the south for a jam-packed day of merriment, organizers are hard at work ensuring this year’s Street Fest is the best yet.

“It is a fun, family-friendly day to either spend with the family, get outside, get some fresh air, and you can support local businesses, learn about lots of different community organizations on the streets, and there are always lots of opportunities to win fabulous raffle prizes,” says Sandra Watson of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. “The food and drinks are outstanding and there’s something for everyone. I think if you want to get out there, meet your neighbours and see some local businesses, this is a great way to do it!”

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is still finalizing vendor spots along Yonge Street and doing some fine tuning. Right now they have sold 620 out of 660 spots – 75 sold in the last

week alone – so they are on track to make sure there really is something for every taste.

In fact, just what you might find at the Street Festival is never a certainty until the day of as many vendors come out at the last minute looking for opportunities to take part – opportunities which the Chamber works very hard to accommodate.

At this point, however, the big food trucks are all confirmed and ready to go, as is the entertainment lineup.

Buskers will be entertaining all along Yonge Street at various locations and various times throughout the day. Two live stages are always popular draws and the northern most stage at Yonge and Church, just south of the Aurora Public Library, will feature the local band Six Ways to Sunday while the southern stage down at Brookland Avenue will host The Coyotes, which Ms. Watson says “are always a Street Festival favourite and play fabulous music all day long.”

“We mix up our buskers every year, but one that always draws a huge crowd and remains a fan favourite is our fire guy,” Ms. Watson continues. “He will be doing four performances at the intersection of Yonge and Brookland starting at 1 p.m. on the hour. His shows last about 15 minutes and he just does amazing fire breathing, running



The Aurora Chamber Street Fest, seen here in 2016, attracts tens of thousands each year.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

around on an electric scooter with flame-throwing obstacles and the young and old just love him.”

Old favourites in place, the 2017 Aurora Street Festival will offer some new twists this year.

Among them is a partnership with Brainy Games and Mark Kolb who has developed a Pokemon GO-style app which will encourage Festival-goers to find “secrets” along the street and in various vendor booths.

Another feature is a partnership with Activate Aurora on Open Streets, which will see a couple of streets adjoining the Street Festival route closed to vehicular traffic and open to sports and play, including a three-on-three basketball tournament.

“I am hoping there is going to be a really good flow of people who are

attending the Open Streets and will come to the street festival,” says Ms. Watson. It is just going to be really good for the Open Streets participants and our vendors, bringing in another mix of attendees.”

As a note, following last year’s controversy over a petting zoo hosted by a third-party business adjacent to the Street Festival last year, the Chamber will not allow live animals at any of the booths at the Street Festival this year and going forward.

The 2017 Aurora Chamber Street Festival will take place Sunday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Yonge Street. The Festival is brought to you by presenting sponsor St. Andrew’s College and “Friends of the Festival” the Town of Aurora, Magna, Geranium Homes and Goodlife Fitness.

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Sun finally shone down on the Aurora Farmers’ Market on Saturday and weekend shoppers came out to take in the rays and pick up a few weekend essentials. (Top Left) Andie and Norah try out some new Dutch pancakes. (Top Right) Alex, Marilyn and Mia pick up some produce. (Above) Archer and Sarah try their hands at the crafting tables.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

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ClimateWise spurred forward by Climate Change Action Plan



Windfall Ecology Centre director Brent Kopperson with MPP Chris Ballard at Friday's announcement.

By Brock Weir

Over the past year, Aurora's Windfall Ecology Centre has reached nearly 6,500 businesses in helping them become more energy efficient through their ClimateWise business network.

6,500 businesses, however, is closer to a drop in the bucket considering there are over 40,000 businesses registered in York Region alone.

Thanks to the Ontario Government, however, Windfall – and ClimateWise – are energized in their goal to reach every business within the next three years through Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan.

Released last week, the Climate Change Action Plan is intended to foster businesses and individuals to adapt to climate change and “deliver innovative clean technology solutions” to help.

“We know that Climate Change is a fact in our daily lives, raising the cost of food, causing extreme weather, and we only have to look to the Toronto Island where Mayor Tory is up to his knees in carp and water to see examples of extremes in change,” said Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard on Friday morning visiting Windfall, which is nestled in Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area off Industrial Parkway South. “We know extreme weather damages property and infrastructure, threatens outdoor activities, and I know from my days working in the far north that melting winter roads are causing real problems in those northern communities that rely on

winter roads to get the vast majority of their food and their fuel in for the year.

“We recognize the need to take immediate action because the costs of doing nothing are enormous and we're not willing to impose the costs on our children and our future generations. Taking action now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will mean cleaner air, less time spent in traffic, more comfortable homes and offices and more convenient, livable cities.”

Friday's visit was a reiteration of Province's support for Windfall and eight NGO's across Ontario who are sharing in \$1 million over three years for programs just like ClimateWise aiming towards sustainability.

“This is the first of many contributions that are all incentive based,” said Windfall Executive Director Brent Kopperson. “We have made commitments in terms of the amount of emissions we're going to help businesses reduce, the amount of businesses we're going to be engaging in the program and the funding that the province has provided is performance-based, so the more that we do, the more money we will be getting to support the program.”

The ClimateWise Business Network is designed to provide supports for local businesses in York Region to set and achieve sustainability goals providing the resources for carbon accounting and integrated plan development.

“They are leading by example and helping us deliver the next generation of clean technology solutions that will

help the world fight and adapt to climate change,” said Mr. Ballard. “By acting now, Ontario can help foster innovation and will be well-positioned to export low carbon goods and services to markets around the world. Windfall helps business members develop a credible business case for sustainability and then works with them to qualify their sources of greenhouse gas emissions, identify mitigation priorities and establish emission reduction targets. To date, Windfall has received \$23,500 for that program.

“The fight against climate change is about respecting this province and this planet, whose care has been entrusted to us all. Ontario's Climate Change action plan is a springboard to progress and it is a five year plan that builds on work already done in achievements already made in reducing Ontario's Greenhouse Gas pollution.”

From Mr. Kopperson's perspective, investments made in organizations that focus on sustainability are “circular” and pay for themselves in the long run.

“Our mission here with this program is to engage the business community in reducing their emission. York Region is the second largest business community in the province and there are over 40,000 businesses registered,” said Mr. Kopperson. “We have a long, long way to go and you would probably not be surprised that a majority of businesses are not aware of the quantity of emissions they are emitting through their daily

activity and they are not really equipped to develop the mitigation opportunities. That is what we're doing. We're helping businesses identify the emissions they are emitting, helping them set targets to reduce them, and helping them develop strategies.”

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From page 5

above and beyond to help patients and their families. May 12 is a very significant day for nurses across the country.

In 1971 the International Council of Nurses, designated it as International Nurses Day because it was Florence Nightingale's birthday, the founder of professional nursing. I want to thank the nurses at Southlake and across our community and the province for their hard work and dedication. I recognize that nursing is not an easy job.

Windfall Ecology Centre

Last week, I had the honour of acknowledging the great work being done by Windfall Ecology in Aurora on their ClimateWise Business Network, and to announce funding. Windfall is helping to fight climate change in our

community by supporting initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and boost energy efficiency.

Through the ClimateWise program they have engaged almost 6,500 members of the York Region business community in reducing their carbon emissions. Windfall helps business members develop a credible business case for sustainability and then works with them to quantify their sources of Greenhouse Gas emissions, identify mitigation priorities, and establish emission reduction targets.

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

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Relay for Life has personal meaning for Renaissance community

By Brock Weir

Emma Kocsis is carrying the baton for her mother.

Having lost her mother to cancer in 2013, the ESC Renaissance student was eager to become involved in a cause that touched her family personally and just such an opportunity presented itself this year as the southwest Aurora school decided to spearhead their very own Relay for Life.

Each year, the French Catholic school’s Pastoral team has organized events to help the community, usually



Helping steer this year’s Relay for Life are (from left) Emma Kocsis, Amy Robidoux, Chloé Ruest and Stéphane Arcand.
 Auroran photo by Brock Weir

holding an annual fashion show with the proceeds going towards a different cause each year. This year, however, they decided to do something new and different, an activity with the potential to involve the entire Renaissance community.

“I have always done Relay for Life in the community and it has always been very important to me,” says teacher Chantal Bertrand, who lost her own mother 16 years ago to cancer, spurring her to join a local team. “I have always had the dream of doing it in the school and this year we decided we would try and make that dream a reality.”

They are doing more than making it a reality. Dividing themselves up into teams each charged with different tasks ranging from marketing to developing fun activities to keep everyone occupied and having fun during the 12-hour relay, the team initially set a fundraising target for themselves of \$21,000.

By this past Friday afternoon, they had well surpassed that goal, standing at \$25,835-and-counting for the Canadian Cancer Society, with a revised goal of \$30,000 with over a week to go.

“When we put [our fundraising thermometer] up at the beginning, a lot of students said, ‘We’re never going to reach \$21,000! There is no way we can do that,’” says Ms. Bertrand with a chuckle.

With their initial fundraising hurdle cleared, the students are energized to also carry that baton across the \$30,000 line by the time they begin the Relay next Friday, June 2, at 11 a.m.

“We made an Instagram account for Relay,” says student Chloe Ruest, Captain of Marketing for Renaissance’s Relay for Life. “We have a new person [featured] every holding up a sign saying, ‘I am participating in Relay because...’ and I put in the caption on why and their reasoning is either to raise awareness or because a family member has been impacted by cancer.”

There are few people in the Renaissance community – and the wider local community for that matter – whose lives have not been touched by cancer in some way and, of course, the students leading the June 2 Relay are no exception.

“Everyone can say they know someone who has been affected by cancer, so we really know how to incorporate the parts where we’re going to have fun, but these are the reasons why we’re doing it and the whole goal of why we are doing it,” says Emma.

Adds Stephane Arcand, Captain of the Ceremony Committee, “It is such an important cause, especially since the Cancer Society has made so much progress already. I think it is important for our school to find a way to unite because it is a fun activity that unites us and it is always good to have more and more activities that unite the school. Not all the students like to participate in events, so I feel this is a good opportunity for the students to come together and really contribute to something that is important.”

Beyond the Relay itself, the students will facilitate a number of fun activities to not only keep spirits high during the 12-hour event, but also keep those all-important fundraising dollars rolling in. Among the activities on tap are a students vs. teachers basketball game, yoga sessions, an RV for gaming, an RV transformed into a photo booth, an on-site ice cream truck, fundraising head-shaving, and the creation of a “Mural of Dreams” which students will paint throughout the day, becoming a permanent fixture in the halls of Renaissance.

Each Relay, regardless of location, always begins with a Survivors’ Lap for those who have beaten the disease and those who are in remission. While the bulk of the day’s activities are open to the school community for security reasons, students invite all survivors to come and participate in the opening lap.

If you or someone you know might be interested in participating in the Survivors Lap, or if you are a business who would like to help sponsor the Relay, contact Ms. Bertrand at cbertrand@cscmonavenir.ca.

“It is about coming together as a team, as a community, as a school and [the students] being able to make a difference in the world,” says Ms. Bertrand. “It is beyond just the community here in Aurora, it goes way beyond. If they can see their actions can actually make a difference maybe it is going to motivate them, once they leave this school, to make a difference and get involved in stuff as they get older and decide what they want to do with their lives and always get involved with causes that are close to their heart.”

To support Renaissance’s Relay for Life, visit www.relayforlife.ca/renaissance.

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What is this case about?

The lawsuit says Ontario failed to properly care for and protect people who lived at CPRI. The lawsuit says inpatients of CPRI were emotionally, physically, and psychologically traumatized by their experiences at CPRI. Ontario denies these claims. The Court has not decided whether the Class or Ontario is right. The lawyers for the Class will have to prove their claims in Court.

Are you included?

You are included in this lawsuit if:

- you were an inpatient who stayed overnight at CPRI, between September 1, 1963 and July 1, 2011, except for any time when you were in the Glenhurst or Pratten 1 wards; and
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Who represents the class?

The Court has appointed Koskie Minsky LLP to represent the Class as “Class Counsel”. You don’t have to pay Class Counsel, or anyone else, to participate. Instead, if Class Counsel achieves money or benefits for the Class, they will ask for lawyers’ fees and costs, which would be deducted from any money obtained, or to be paid by Ontario. You may hire your own lawyer, but you may have to pay that lawyer.

What are your options?

At this stage of the case you have a choice whether you want to stay in the case or get out of it.

Stay in: To stay in the Class, you do not have to do anything. If money or benefits are obtained, you will be notified about how to ask for a share. You will be legally bound by all orders and judgments, and you will not be able to sue Ontario about the legal claims in this case.

Staying in the Class will not impact the support services you receive which are funded by Ontario.

Get out of the Class: If you want to keep your rights to sue individually over the claims in this case or do not wish to be part of this Class you need to remove yourself. If you remove yourself, you cannot get money or benefits from this lawsuit if any are awarded. To ask to be removed, send a letter to the address below, postmarked no later than **October 20, 2017**, that says you want to be removed from *Templin v. HMQ*, and include your name, address and telephone number on the letter or send an E-mail to CPRI@crawlco.ca including your name, address and telephone number. You can also get an Opt Out Form at www.ClassactionCpri.ca. You must mail your removal request or Opt Out Form postmarked no later than **October 20, 2017**, to: CPRI Class Action Administrator, c/o Crawford & Company Inc., 3-505 Weber St. N., Waterloo ON N2J 3G9, or send a written removal request by email at: CPRI@crawlco.ca, which must be received no later than **October 20, 2017**.

How can I get more information?

Go to www.ClassactionCpri.ca, call toll-free 1-866-640-9989 (TTY: 1-877-627-7027) or write to CPRI Class Action Administrator, c/o Crawford & Company Inc., 3-505 Weber St. N., Waterloo ON N2J 3G9, or by email at: CPRI@crawlco.ca.



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STEM Minds helps today’s kids tap into their digital and tech futures



STEM Minds founder Anu Bidani, right, and Director of Curriculum Nicole Myers are eager to welcome kids to their new Earl Stewart Drive space next week.

By Brock Weir

Aside from the music, and vying for Top Artist at this past Sunday’s Billboard Music Awards, there are other ties that bind The Weeknd, Shawn Mendes and Justin Bieber – all got their start as YouTube stars.

As YouTube and other online platforms continue to explode, more and more people are looking to see if they have what it takes to be the next online sensation. But it takes more than a good voice and a webcam to make it, and a new Aurora business is stepping up to give youth a flavour of just what it takes and to see if careers in digital media and other flourishing tech areas are right for them.

STEM Minds, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, opens its Earl Stewart Drive doors to the public on Saturday, June 3, with a special free coding workshop. Held in conjunction with Canada Learning Code Week, the 12 noon to 2 p.m. program will also include a free Minecraft Drop-In class to give families an opportunity to try out new programs and tour their new space.

“The sky is the limit,” says Anu Bidani, an Aurora resident and Founder and CEO of STEM Minds, of the opportunities open to kids today through STEM.

Ms. Bindani established STEM Minds after noticing kids – including her own – facing a gap in York Region when it came to opportunities to gain “the skills and tools they needed to be successful for the future and what is happening now.”

“The future, she thought, was not only STEM learning in terms of knowing how to use 3D printers, knowing robotics, knowing how to code and all of that stuff but, more specifically, the thinking skills and the general personality traits that are needed for success,” says Nicole Myers, Director of Curriculum and Business Development. “All children, regardless of background, and regardless of their family situation, should have the opportunity to have these experiences. Seeing that lack in her own community is why we decided to base ourselves in Aurora.”

According to Ms. Myers, many

people think STEM is strictly limited to robotics and coding, but that is far from reality. While STEM Minds offers robotics and coding, they also focus on app development, 3D design, web design and digital media --- including “YouTubing for Beginners.”

“A lot of kids have these ideas of what they want to be when they grow up and these careers are really new and really foreign to a lot of their families,” she says of kids who might want to pursue a career as a video game desire, or a content creator on YouTube. “They are totally awesome [career options] but people either deride that and think it is silly or, ‘Okay, cool, but we don’t know how to support our kid in actually moving forward towards that.’”

Kids at STEM Minds will have the opportunity to create and film their own content and, perhaps most importantly, learn how to market what they create.

“Kids are so used to seeing this five minute video on their screen and don’t really realise everything that goes into that,” says Ms. Myers. “By the end, a lot of kids have a variety of reactions to it.”

They are usually ether “stoked” at the possibilities or “taken aback” by the reality of the hard work that goes into making content hit with that special target audience. Some kids might like the whole experience of video creation, others might take a shine to one particular aspect of the production, such as video editing; and with that knowledge in hand, they are able to pursue their path forward.

“It is giving kids the opportunity to try thigs out so they can see if they like them or not, instead of being adults and realising the dream they have had since they were 12 doesn’t actually suit their personality the way that they thought,” says Ms. Myers. “It is a chance to try it out now and figure out the steps they need to take to actually be successful in that thing.”

Whether you think you might have a career ahead of you as a YouTube creator, in coding and app design, or in science and technology fields making use of 3D printing technology, Ms. Myers says many of these opportunities simply aren’t happening because there

is an “initial barrier” where people are worried about looking silly or taking a chance. It is something she says she noticed at teacher’s college and being able to be in an environment where those barriers are removed and they can have a positive impact on their communities is so rewarding all around.

“We can positively impact the school system to give not only students the experiences they should be totally getting, but also giving teachers and schools the opportunity to learn themselves so they can further support their students,” she says. “We truly believe that STEM learning is for everybody. It is not just about giving kids a good time, but giving them skills and experiences which have an underlying purpose to share with others and create solutions to the problems that we are facing in this world”

STEM Minds is located at 212 Earl Stewart Drive (Unit 3). For more information, visit stemminds.com.



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Open Streets inviting “people, not cars” into Aurora neighbourhoods

By Jake Courtepatte

Mark June 4 on the calendar as a day to put away the car keys.

Aurora residents and visitors are invited to come out and enjoy the inaugural Open Streets Aurora, a partnership between the Town, Activate Aurora, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, York North Basketball and Music Aurora to bring foot and bicycle traffic to Aurora’s cultural district.

Closed to vehicular traffic from 1 – 5p.m., the area east of Yonge Street and South of Wellington Street will play host to dozens of fun and interesting activities.

“We are thrilled to host the first ever Open Streets Aurora in the historical cultural precinct area,” said Ron Weese, chair of Activate Aurora. “All residents can engage and improve their health while walking or wheeling along some of our most culturally significant streets.”

Held in conjunction with the Aurora Chamber Street Festival which annually closes Yonge Street in Aurora, Weese said both events should “complement each other” and will allow residents and visitors to “enjoy the town outdoors without traffic.”

Javed Khan, the chair of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, said the annual Street Festival attracts over 33,000 visitors per year, a number he believes can be boosted by the addition of Open Streets.

“The potential that Open Streets brings to the day is monumental,” he said.

The route will include Mosley Street from Yonge Street to Wells Street, Wells Street from Metcalfe Street to Mosley Street, and Victoria Street between Mosley Street and Church Street, in addition to Town Park.

Six activity hubs will line the route, including the introduction of Court 33, a three-on-three basketball tournament and skills demonstration held at the corner of Victoria and Mosley.

Run by the YNBA, teams can be registered at www.court33.ca, with a cost of just \$30 per team. Six courts will run with non-stop action, while members of the Laurentian University women’s basketball team will provide free training sessions and lessons.

All skill levels in three divisions, youth, adult, and special needs, are encouraged to participate.

Other hubs will include “Porch Fest” by Music Aurora to entertain passersby with music, A street art activity centre, a KidZone featuring the York Regional Police obstacle course, a Healthy Kids Community Challenge, and a pop-up centre with rotating activities like Zumba and pickleball.

Aurora mayor Geoff Dawe said the initiative is a huge step forward in the ultimate goal of making Aurora “Canada’s healthiest community.”

“It’s a great opportunity to get people out, get them interested, and get active.”



Members of Aurora Council, Sport Aurora and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, gathered at the bandshell at Aurora Town Park last Wednesday to announce Open Streets Aurora.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte



ACTIVATE AURORA

Ron Weese

Active Transportation

and health and social benefits are lost.

Creating a community where active transportation is valued, supported and enabled is important if we want to be considered a “Healthy Place”. The “Healthy Places” concept is one that is global in scope and, in each one, there is a theme called “Active Transportation”.

Here are some suggestions about building a community that supports active transportation and building Aurora as a healthy place. I am proud to say we have a few of these in place. The rest need some work.

Encourage Safe Routes to School programs to enable children to walk and bike to school safely.

Construct a connected network of multi-use trails.

Accommodate all roadway users with comprehensive street design measures such as “complete streets,” including sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and share-the-road signs that provide safe and convenient travel for all users of the roadway.

Separate motor-vehicle traffic from non-motorized traffic with physical barriers, such as the construction of bicycle boulevards.

Prioritize infrastructure improvements near transit stops and public transportation stations.

Provide safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian connections to public parks and recreation areas.

Promote safe roadway crossing through use of small block sizes, pedestrian refuge islands, and crosswalks.

Provide streetscape amenities such as benches, landscaping, lighting, and public art.

Encourage way-finding with signs, maps, and landscape cues to direct pedestrians and bicyclists to the most direct route.

Encourage bicycle parking at workplaces and transit stops.

Encourage the development of street-level shopping and restaurants along pedestrian and bicycle routes.

Educate bicyclists and pedestrians on local laws, as well as on safe practices.

Some good news! Our Trails Committee is working now, among other things, on the development of trails-use strategies. This includes a Bike Aurora Event on June 24 that will encourage bike-use on our extensive trails system.

Likewise, Activate Aurora and their partners are implementing “Open Streets Aurora” on June 4, designed to encourage walking in the Cultural Precinct and more Open Street Aurora events are being planned. An “Open Trails” event

Continued on page 21

3 on 3 Basketball by YNBA, Street Art, Porch Music by Music Aurora, Cycling Displays, Active Living Demonstrations and More!

Walk and Roll Through Open Streets Aurora!

Why not come to Open Streets Aurora during the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Festival? Walk or wheel our ‘Open Streets’ in historic Old Aurora Village and the Cultural Precinct. Enjoy music, activities and interesting displays. The streets are ‘Open’ for you!

Sunday, June 4th
1:00pm – 5:00pm
Cultural Precinct

Visit our Open Streets Aurora Facebook page for up-to-date information.

Want to Volunteer? Contact info@activateaurora.com

ACTIVATE AURORA

STEP UP!

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SUPPORTED BY

Incoming Grade 9 students will be prepared for a global future



Josie Hadden with Janet Downer.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

If you're in a canoe with 19 other people, it is probably best to make sure you're all rowing in the same direction.

That's exactly the experience Josie Hadden was faced with just starting Grade 9 at Pickering College.

An Aurora student who joined the Newmarket independent school towards the end of Grade 8, Josie was a relative newcomer to the school when she plunged into Grade 9. Thankfully, everyone was quite literally in the same boat.

"We had to work together and be on the same page to move that canoe," says Josie about her Grade 9 trip to Camp Tawingo near Muskoka at the start of the 2016-2017 school year, a trip designed to build camaraderie amongst Grade 9 students, many of whom were coming to Pickering College from the public school stream. "Some of us had to work harder because other students couldn't push as hard, we had code words, and it was fun. I really learned a lot about students in my class and really bonded with them."

And that, in a nutshell, is just the first way Pickering College sets itself apart.

Grade 8 students from across the Region are gearing up for their final exams, knowing that after just a couple of months off for summer vacation, they are headed to high school, whether in the public, separate or independent streams.

If they are headed to – or are considering Pickering College – they know what awaits them will be a little bit out of the norm.

"We have students who are new to the school and haven't had the Pickering experience yet, so we have to get them integrated fairly quickly," says Janet Downer, Director of Middle and Senior School, at Pickering College. "We begin the year with a four-day camping trip at Camp Tawingo and it is a time for students to get to know each other and to bond as a group – both with the students and the teachers as well."

The relationship between students and teachers, and among the students itself, is a hallmark with which Pickering College prides itself. With smaller class sizes and programs and Advisor Groups designed to build ongoing bonds, Ms. Downer says their program has taken the emphasis off teacher directed learning to student directed through collaborative learning, group work and pushing the limits of their own innovation and creativity. Among the key components of this is Pickering College's Global Leadership Program, which is designed to encourage students to consider what they are learning in a wider global context and develop the skills necessary to go out into the world. Lessons in the Global Leadership Program are augmented by the Co-Curricular Program, which is intended to expose students to various activities – from athletics, to in-school clubs, to volunteer opportunities out in the wider community – they might not otherwise be keen to try.

For each individual student, all this is steered in a very hands-on way by teachers and other students alike in Advisor Groups, tailored to provide

students with not only a regular faculty member but students from across grades, cultures and backgrounds.

"It's nice to have international students in my Advisor Group because I get to learn about different cultures and what it is like to live in their countries," says Josie. "Everyone in my Advisor Group is amazing and it is so nice to have that support. They just take all that stress off me when I can just talk to them; they are just like friends and family and it is amazing."

Seeing these relationships develop are what Ms. Downer says are the most rewarding aspects of the job.

"We have students who come from countries all over the world – Mexico, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Russia – and it is really rewarding for me to see that all of these students are working together,

building friendships, feeling good and secure about being in this environment," she says. "When students feel safe and secure, this carries over to success in their academics as well."

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Aurora native looking to qualify for US Open

By Jake Courtepatte

Shyamal “Sam” Nagindas is one step closer to realizing his golf dream.

A score of 71 at Beechmont Golf Club in Ohio in early May was enough to send the amateur to the next round of competition in US Open qualifiers, the ultimate prize being a spot in the PGA’s prestigious major tournament.

“The course matched my strengths, which is my ball striking and my putting,” said Nagindas, who chose the course due to the country club style and fast greens. “I love (US Golf Association) style courses because you have to hit the fairways otherwise you are in rough where you can barely see your ankles.”

The only amateur golfer to earn one of seven spots in the sectional tournament, Nagindas has long been in the local spotlight around York Region.

At the age of thirteen he won four straight Canadian Junior Golf Association tournaments, and was in the top 150 of junior golfers in the world by sixteen.

Attending Dr. G.W. Williams High School in Aurora, he helped the varsity golf team to the YRAA team championship as a freshman and a sophomore and to runners-up as a junior and senior.

Nagindas said his passion for the game came back after going to university in the United States.

“I really started studying the game, practicing with a purpose, and believing in myself. And my hard work and dedication has been showing.”

After missing the U.S. Amateur tournament by just one stroke last season, he returned determined to progress to the next level. Arriving at Beechmont a day early to get in a practice round before the US Open qualifier, he found the course closed due to a storm, though he sought advice from the caddie master.

“So I spoke to him and we went over the course hole by hole and he gave me some great course knowledge which I noted down on the scorecard. It paid huge dividends in the end because I made a huge decision prior to my tee time to take out my 8 iron to switch it for a 3 iron specifically for the seventh hole which was 227 yards.”

Heading into a playoff hole after a tie through eighteen, the golf gods shone down on Nagindas: the playoff hole chosen by officials was the seventh hole.

Next for the overachieving amateur is the US Open Sectionals, colloquially known as “the longest day in golf”: 65 players compete for

five spots over 36 grueling holes, something Nagindas has the confidence he feels to achieve.

“I believe I can do it,” said Nagindas. “My ball striking has been fantastic and I’ve been practicing my putting more than anything. I constructed an indoor putting green in my room and I basically have been rolling 500-1000 putts a night. And it has been paying off. If it wasn’t for my putter at a tough track like Beechmont I wouldn’t have been able to grind it out and earn my way to sectionals.”

Sectionals are set to kick off in New Jersey in early June, with the major set for the dates of June 15-18 at Erin Hills in Erin, Wisconsin.

As for the next step, Nagindas said it is the “rush and liveliness” he gets out of golf that keeps him motivated.

“Keeping the heartbeat even keel is tough to do but I feel I have that edge against my competitors. I play better under pressure because I can embrace it. I want to be good enough to put myself in positions like this more often because that feeling is what I play for. I truly love this game and hopefully I can make each dream come true one step at a time.”



Aurora native Shyamal Nagindas has moved onto sectional qualifiers for the US Open after a solid finish in local qualifiers at Beechmont Golf Club in Ohio.

Supplied photo

Aurora Jays riding three game winning streak

By Jake Courtepatte

After a loss in their season opener in early May, the Aurora Jays are looking like the Aurora Jays.

The senior AA ball club has rattled off three wins in a row in the North Dufferin Baseball League, thanks to some strong defensive efforts on the mound.

In already their second and final matchup of the season, the Jays were looking to avenge their 5 – 2 season opening loss to the Bolton Brewers in their game on Wednesday in Innisfil, where they squeaked out a 2 – 1 win.

Thomas D’Andrade, in his first start on the mound as a Jay, settled in early, putting in five strong innings of one-run ball.

A familiar face came out for the sixth to battle the Bolton bats, former Brewer Nathan Robinson, who put up two strong innings to close out the game.

Aurora manager Rob Wilson said it was “great to get a season split.”

“It seems strange to say it, but it felt almost like a must win,” said Wilson.

The Ivy Rangers were the Jays’ next victims, at Victoria Park in Ivy on Thursday. The Rangers were in tough, winless through three games in their first season of senior level ball, falling 6 – 2 to the seasoned veteran Jays.

Devin Wu, who was dominant pitching for the Jays save for two solo home runs from the same batter, worked one of his best performances despite his mind possible being elsewhere.

“Wu, the night before he married his fiancé, was throwing darts from the mound,” said Wilson, noting that Wu’s fiancé was also in attendance at the game.

With the Jays putting up multiple runs in the seventh, the game was

Continued on page 21



Aurora Minor Hockey Association



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2017/2018 REGISTRATION

PRICE GOES UP June 1, 2017

In-House Registration dates: May 10, 17, 24, 31 (6:00 – 9:00 pm)
May 13, 27 (10:00 – 1:00 pm)
AMHA Office at the Aurora Community Centre
Yonge/Aurora Heights Drive

On-Line Registration is available online or through our website link at www.auroraminorhockey.com.

REGISTRATION fees for the 2017/2018 season are:

Early Bird Registration Fee

\$600.00 Players born 1997 through 2011*

(Registration fees increase by \$50 on June 1, 2017 and \$100 on July 1, 2017)

\$ 60.00 Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

*New Tyke players born in 2010 and 2011 must submit a copy of a birth certificate or passport and proof of residency. It is recommended that 2011 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.

Refunds will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2017 (less a \$25 admin fee).

Yeehaw!! The Aurora Minor Hockey is a recipient of the Hoedown presented by Magna. Contact the office for a “volunteer discount” on your player’s registration.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

Guaranteed spots are available ONLY to players registered on or before June 30, 2017.
We will not add teams in September to accommodate late registrants.

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Baseball tournament honours slain York officer

By Jake Courtepatte

Police and fire departments are well known to band together in the name of one of their own, and in the case of Garrett Styles, it has been baseball that brings them together since his passing in 2011.

The seventh annual Garrett Styles Memorial Baseball Tournament kicked off across York Region last week to honour the slain officer, who was killed in the line of duty on June 28, 2011 following what he thought was a routine traffic stop in East Gwillimbury.

Forces from York, Toronto, Ottawa, and Barrie converged on the fields to not only play some competitive baseball, but to raise thousands of dollars for local charities, including Canadian Tire’s JumpStart, the Newmarket Baseball Association, and the York Regional Police Association Benevolent Fund.

While final numbers are not yet available, over \$75,000 has been raised for local charities in Styles’ name since the tournament’s inauguration.

Styles was pinned under a rolled-over van after attempting to take the keys out of the ignition of the stolen vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle, who escaped from the wreck a quadriplegic, is currently serving nine years of

“conditional supervision” for the incident he caused as a 15-year old.

As a youth, Styles played within the Newmarket Baseball Association.

This year’s tournament also honoured Constable Mike Pegg in the opening ceremonies, in what tournament convener Steve Warbuck called “a nice tribute.”


Pegg passed away as the result of complications from surgery following an injury in training in 2013.

After each playing to a 1 – 1 record through the round robin, the York Regional Police and Toronto Police met in Friday’s final in Newmarket, with Toronto finally taking home the championship 12 – 2 after their third consecutive finals appearance.

Warbuck said plans for next year’s tournament are “already in the works.”



The Toronto Police Iron Pigs were winners of the Garrett Styles Memorial Tournament held over Victoria Day weekend. **Photo by Steve Warbuck**



Public Information Session

Town of Aurora

Secondary School Accommodation

The York Region District School Board will host a Public Information Session to share information and gather feedback about developing secondary school accommodation options that may impact Aurora High School and Dr. G.W.Williams Secondary School.

Public Information Meeting:

Monday, May 29th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting will be held at:

Dr. G.W.Williams Secondary School, Cafeteria
39 Dunning Avenue, Aurora

For further information, please contact Planning Services at (416) 969-7170 or (905) 727-0022 Ext. 2424

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THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

MAY 9 – 26

The works of Richmond Hill artist Johanna VanKempen will be on display in the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Johanna's colourful creations explore nature and our daily surroundings. She is intrigued by the Canadian landscape and not only paints it with great passion but also with the aspiration to create in the viewer a feeling of joy and admiration for what has been given to us to cherish and protect. The artist has been painting in watercolour, oil and acrylics since the early 80's and is a member of the Society of Canadian Artists. She was a long-time member of SOYRA in the society's earlier years and is known as a frequent award winner in the annual Aurora Art Show, in which she participated since 1988 and won 23 awards. This exhibition in May will not only show landscapes, but also still life and colourful florals and the artist hopes that you will be inspired. So come out and have a look. For more information call 905-883-1679 or email lmcguire@aurora.ca.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

The Aurora Lodge, in association with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, will host Business After Five today from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Open to Chamber members, network with members of the local business community while enjoying refreshments generously provided by the Lodge. Advance registration is required. 15216 Yonge Street. For more information, and to register, visit www.aurorachamber.on.ca.

MAY 26 – 27

Join the Lions Club and the Aurora Community Arboretum planting 100 trees to form the "Lions Grove" in celebration of the Lions Club 100th anniversary. Please see auroraarboretum.ca for more details.

FRIDAY, MAY 26

SPRING MUSIC & DANCE PARTY – The 40+ Club & Summerhill Resto Pub & Patio have their first Spring Party tonight starting at 8:30 p.m. featuring live music by PLANB Live. Door prizes, meet new friends, and enjoy the great ambiance of this upscale venue. Groove to the sounds of the 50s, 60s, 70s rockabilly, old school rock and roll, and country. Something for everyone! \$10/door. A portion of the evening drink sales will be donated to the King Township Food Bank. The Summerhill Resto Pub & Patio is located at 13775 Highway 27 (at 15th Sideroad), Schomberg. 905-859-4445.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

The Evergreen Choir of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way, presents its annual spring concert "Something to Sing About," with guest artist, Sal Amenta, Digital Accordionist, this afternoon. Doors open at 2 p.m. and the concert starts at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available now at the Reception Desk of the Centre. 905-726-4767. They are \$5.00 each, with children 14 and under free. There will also be a light refreshment at Intermission. This concert is always a very popular and fun event. This year, as Canada celebrates its 150th Anniversary, we will be performing several songs of celebration. Come join us as we

sing in harmony, with solos by members and fun sing-alongs.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Walk for Dog Guides with the Aurora Lions today at Sheppard's Bush (Industry Street entrance) today at 11 a.m. Registration for the 11 a.m. walk begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit www.walkfordogguides.com or call Pet Valu at 905-727-4938. Give Canadians a new Leash on Life.

Garden Aurora! Annual Plant Sale. On May 28, 2017, the Aurora Garden Club and Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre are once again joining to make this plant sale even better than last year's. Our members will be donating plants from their own gardens in this area so you are assured they will work for you. Great member and nursery plants at fabulous prices, giveaways and more, make this a must visit to Aurora Home Hardware at 289 Wellington St East, Aurora. Sale from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday May 28, 2017. More info at www.gardenaurora.ca or 905-713-6660.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

Come out to Hillary House tonight for their first ever Youth Music Night. Come and showcase your talents in a beautiful, historic park-like setting. All genres welcome. Come and perform or just enjoy the music under the stars – rain or shine. Tickets are \$7. For more information, visit aurorhs.com/activities.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Aurora hosts its first-ever Indigenous Festival today with The New Beginnings Pow Wow at Lambert Willson Park from 12 noon to 9 p.m. Free entry to the Pow Wow featuring traditional dancing and drumming. Food festival featuring traditional food and classic favourites. Multicultural performers and a market place. No dogs permitted, service animals excepted. For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/powwow

Celebrate your love of dogs today at Aurora's Paws in the Park. Taking over Sheppard's Bush from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., enjoy free treats, activities, meet other pet owners and local pet vendors, and learn about the Town of Aurora's pet bylaws and how to license your pet. For more information, visit aurora.ca/pawsinthepark or call 905-727-1375.

PFLAG hosts York Region Family Pride today at Richmond Hill's Town Park (43 Church Street South) from 12 noon to 4 p.m. York Region Family Pride provides families with a fun and welcoming safe space where you can teach your kids about inclusion and the diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, featuring crafts, a bouncy castle, games, a DJ dance party from 1 – 3 p.m., Doo Doo the Clown, the Magic of Aaron Matthews at 2 p.m., LGBTQ-friendly vendors and much more. Family Pride is an official Stand Proud York Region initiative hosted by PFLAG Canada York Region, with support from the Town of Richmond Hill.

United sides still searching for first win



The Aurora United FC women (yellow) fell 3 - 1 to West Ottawa SC at St. Max on Sunday.

Auroran photo
by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora United men came within one minute of picking up their second point of the season against Toronto's Masters Futbol at St. Maximilian Kolbe field on Sunday.

Falling down 2 – 0 early off the foot of former Toronto FC player Jose Melo, the Aurora squad climbed back to a 3 – 2 deficit at the half thanks to Jared Agyemang and Jordan Kalk.

Matthew Caguana tied the game for the home team in the 74th minute, but the heartbreaker came in the 90th and final minute when Yasin Shahwan sent a long strike off the crossbar into the Aurora goal.

"They are a type of team that like to play long and use their physicality, so our idea was to get the ball down, play some football, and keep it on the deck," said Aurora head coach Derek O'Keeffe.

"When we did that, we did it well. When we started to go long, I think we were playing into their hands at that stage. We're a footballing team, and I think when we do keep it on the ground we are capable of good football."

The loss brings Aurora's season record to 0-3-1, one point up on Toronto Skillz FC in the basement of League 1 Ontario's East division.

"We're a new team, we're rebuilding, and there are a lot of players that don't know each other," said O'Keeffe.

"We have a new coach in myself, and all I've said to the team is that it is going to take time for us and we need to be patient. We are building a new team, and an exciting team that likes to play football. Unfortunately it wasn't our day, but we'll learn from it and we'll create our own identity. It might take time, but we've got to be patient and we'll build our own

brand. It will happen soon."

The men resume play Saturday in a tough match against the undefeated Woodbridge Strikers, kicking off at St. Max field at 7 p.m.

The women's side, meanwhile, found the wrong end of a 3 – 1 score against West Ottawa SC. A scoreless first half was met by three quick goals from the opposition in the start of the second.

Victoria Pickett finally put the home side on the board in the ninetieth and final minute, her first since joining the squad just a few days ago.

"I think considering that I have yet to play with these girls in a proper setting: today was the first game really, and before the game occurred we basically all introduced ourselves: I thought it was fairly good," said Pickett.

"Although we didn't always connect our passing, I thought we did connect fairly well considering it was a first time meeting and playing together."

Pickett, who has represented Canada at the Under-17 and Under-20 national levels, was one of seven Aurora players to see all ninety minutes of action.

"With the goal, I think Emilie (Cote) passed me a good ball, and I tried dribbling but I got fouled and I just managed to get it in under pressure," she added.

With matching 3 – 1 scores in all three games so far, Aurora remains the only team on the women's side of League 1 without a win. They host the Woodbridge Strikers (1-1-0) at St. Max on Saturday.

Kickoff is set for 4 p.m.

For stats and schedules, visit www.league1ontario.com.

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With the warmer weather on the horizon – somewhere – Aiden and Michelle will soon see the trees and shrubs they recently placed at Neighbourhood Network’s annual tree planting flourish. Each year, Neighbourhood Network plants hundreds of trees in and around the communities they serve. This year in Aurora they focused on Ivy Jay Crescent.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Jays continue streak

From page 17
called early due to darkness.
A record of 3 – 1 brings Aurora into a tie for second place in the NDBL standings, behind only the 4 – 0 Orangeville Giants and tied with Clearview Orioles, Lisle Astros, and Barrie Angels.
They hit the field at Lambert Willson Park for a battle with the Angels Tuesday following press time, and will

meet with the Alliston Athletics in their first matchup of the season at 8 p.m. Sunday at Riverdale Park.
Elsewhere around the league, the New Lowell Knights defeated the Brewers in the championship game of the annual Lisle Victoria Day Tournament by a score of 4 – 1.

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

Activate Aurora

From page 14
has been suggested to bring people to our trails system. Three new Activate Aurora Schools are coming on-stream in September and Travel Plans are being developed.
But let’s all start by leaving the car at home.
It is a big paradigm shift but is needed to boost active transportation. Consider taking some time to engage in activities that explore our Town as a pedestrian, not just for recreational

purposes but as a part of every-day life.
Join us on June 4 at Open Streets Aurora and walk our Cultural Precinct and join in activities at Town Park. Find one of our trails at goo.gl/GbQeYN and take the family for a walk. Consider joining Bike Aurora on June 24 for a trails bike experience.
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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14				15			
16					17		18			19			
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49					50				51		52	53	54
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59					60					61			
62					63						64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Baby’s first words

5. Expression of creative skill

8. Reddish-brown coating

12. Spanish province

14. Stinging insect

15. Greek temple pillars

16. Refurbish

18. Cave-dwelling amphibian

19. Millisecond

20. Removes something

21. Trendy

22. The Buckeye State

23. “Taken” actor

26. Of the skull

30. Made a mistake

31. Malignant tumor

32. Not night

33. German heavyweight boxer

34. Indicates weight

39. Businessman

42. Charged negatively

44. Indian instrument

46. Helps you know where you’re going

47. Written works

49. Kate and Rooney’s last name

50. Fast, flightless Aussie bird

51. Jerry, George, Kramer and __

56. Dodger great Hershiser

57. Where wine ferments (abbr.)

58. Supreme Allied Cmdr. Europe

59. Vedic god of fire

60. Not well

61. They grow into plants

62. Variety of pear

63. Where golfers start

64. Posterior

CLUES DOWN

1. Challenge

2. Assert

3. A female operatic star

4. Expression of sorrow or pity

5. Resistance unit

6. Attached a new backing canvas

7. Method painting

8. Branched

9. Barefooted

10. Beer mug

11. Beloved Mexican dish

13. Make better

17. One-time king of Troy

24. Pie __ mode

25. St. Anthony’s fire

26. Reciprocal of a sine

27. __-rah skirt

28. Notre Dame coach Parseghian

29. Computer hardware company

35. Policeman

36. Black tropical American cuckoo

37. Popular basketball player Jeremy

38. Electrocardiogram

40. Cheese dish

41. Prickly shrub

42. Atomic mass unit

43. Nostrils

44. Enchantresses

45. Emphatic typeface

47. One of the Florida Keys

48. Soft, fine material

49. Moutainous tract in Jordan

52. Breezes through

53. Professional assn. for tech pros

54. Class of comb jellies

55. Formerly (archaic)

LAST WEEK’S SOLUTION

	R	A	S	T	A		B	U	R	S	T	S	
M	E	T	H	A	M	P	H	E	T	A	M	I	N
A	D		A	B	U	S	I	V	E	L	Y		A
C	E		M	S		A	N	I		E	T		F
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M	O		L	I	N	E	A	R	I	T	Y		G
P	R	O	G	N	O	S	T	I	C	A	T	I	O
	D	R	E	A	M	T			E	N	A	C	T



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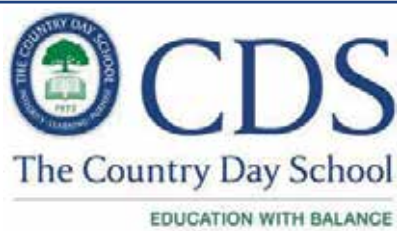


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- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
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