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THE AURORAN CANADA 150

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 17 No. 39 905-727-3300 **theauroran.com** FREE Week of July 20, 2017 CMCA AUDITED



ART FOR KERRY'S PLACE – Sarah Lawler is all smiles as Robert Lawler gets his face painted by Alana at Art in the Park, the annual outdoor event held in conjunction with the annual appreciation day for Kerry's Place Autism Services. For more on recent development at the Aurora-based Kerry's Place, see Page 12.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

United Church, retirement home development approved

By Brock Weir

Aurora United Church is almost set to rebuild. Council last week paved the way for a two-storey church and associated seven-storey retirement home complex – six storeys from Yonge Street frontage – to be rebuilt on its historic home at the corner of Tyler Street.

Tuesday's approval clears the controversial height of the Amica seniors' resident and now the only

thing standing between Aurora United Church and a formal ground-breaking will be a site plan approval expected this fall.

The plan was approved 6 – 2 with Councillors John Abel and Wendy Gaertner the dissenting voices.

From their perspective, the plan was not in keeping with either the heritage neighbourhood on adjacent Tyler and Temperance Streets, nor in keeping with Aurora's vision for the historic Yonge Street core.

"I am fully in support of rebuilding Aurora United Church," said Councillor Abel, who said not enough effort had been made by the developer to meet with neighbours from surrounding areas who had a number of concerns, particularly with the height and massing of the proposed complex. "[This] is in a sensitive area and it should be embraced and good for the community. I would like to see a solution going forward where

Continued on page 6

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West Nile Virus found in Aurora mosquito trap

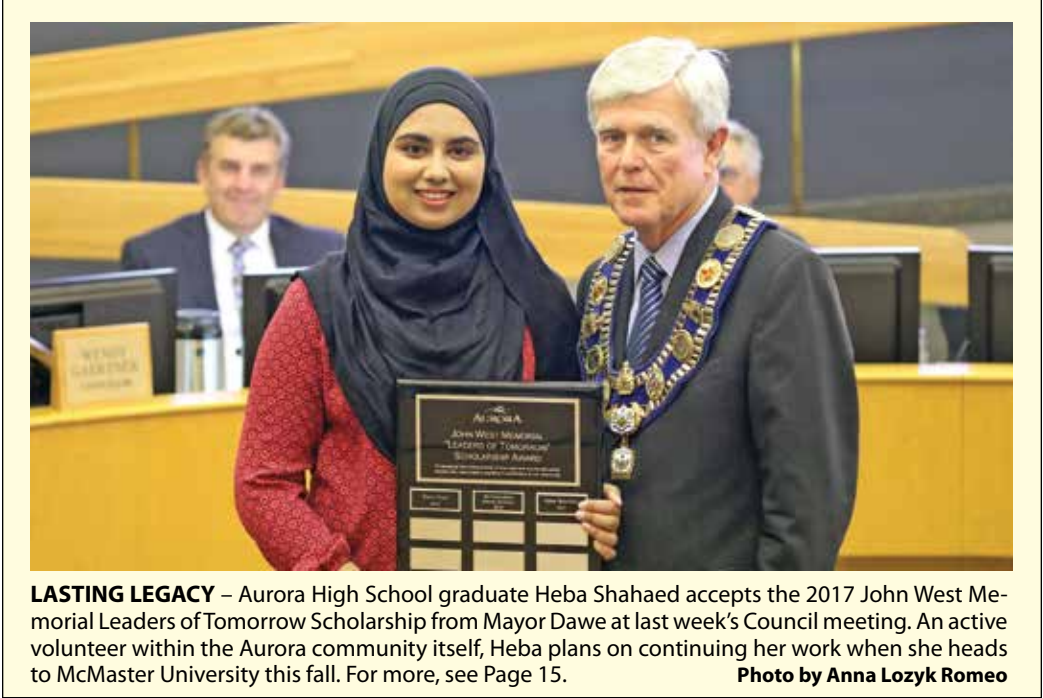
By Brock Weir

The Region of York is urging residents to protect themselves after three mosquito traps – including one in Aurora – tested positive for West Nile Virus last week.

A trap located on Yonge Street at Murray Drive tested positive for the mosquito-borne illness, along with examples in Markham and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"Ongoing surveillance tells

Continued on page 3



LASTING LEGACY – Aurora High School graduate Heba Shahaed accepts the 2017 John West Memorial Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship from Mayor Dawe at last week's Council meeting. An active volunteer within the Aurora community itself, Heba plans on continuing her work when she heads to McMaster University this fall. For more, see Page 15.

Photo by Anna Lozyk Romeo

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Harlequin and David Wilcox to headline Ribfest

By Brock Weir

Canadian rockers Harlequin and David Wilcox will headline Aurora's 2017 Ribfest.

The fan favourites were announced by Mayor Geoff Dawe and Wendy Browne of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at last Wednesday's Concerts in the Park series.

Traditionally, the Mayor builds anticipation for the big reveal by throwing out a few teasers to the hundreds of concert-goers – and while Harlequin themselves let the cat out of the bag when it came to their Friday, August 25, gig, the return visit of David Wilcox the following evening – his second trip to Ribfest in as many years – came as more of a surprise.

“With David Wilcox hitting such a grand slam home run last year – and I could not keep up with the call volume asking him to come back – it seemed really logical to bring back by popular demand,” says Shelley Ware, Special Event Coordinator for the Town of Aurora, of the musicians famed for his songs Bad Apple, Do The Bearcat, Cat Man, and Suzie Q.

As for Harlequin, the Winnipeg-bred band have long been on Ms. Ware's radar, and everything aligned perfectly this year.

“I am really excited they have the chance to perform,” says Ms. Ware of Harlequin, who hit the charts with Innocence, I Did It For Love, Superstitious Feeling, and Little White Lies. “They are a very active band, very busy, so we're fortunate to actually get them in Ontario. I think there are a lot of gems in their albums that some people might not identify



(Main) Mayor Geoff Dawe unveils the 2017 Ribfest headliners at last Wednesday night's Concerts in the Park. The Concert series continues this Wednesday, July 26, with Bryan Adams Forever: The Canadian Tribute. Concerts get underway each Wednesday through August 30 at Town Park. (Inset) With just two days in Aurora under his belt, Japanese student Ikumi Kato, who is being hosted this summer with the Lyttle family, met up with Mayor Dawe, along with Councillors Humfries and Mrakas at the Concert.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

as Harlequin, and that is where the dialogue of music comes into play. There are going to be songs where you will say, ‘Oh, that was Harlequin?’ and I am excited to surprise a few attendees.”

Harlequin is a Canadian rock band originally formed in Winnipeg during the mid-seventies. The band began their recording careers in New York with Jack Douglas, legendary producer of John Lennon, Aerosmith and Cheap Trick. They are still heard frequently on the radio.

“Their stellar performances and music are legendary,” says Ms. Ware, who dubs Wilcox as “one of the most talented guitar players in the world. He has been described as the ‘songwriter’s songwriter.’ His talent as a performer and storyteller is incredible.”

Harlequin takes the stage on August 25 at 9 p.m., while Wilcox takes over August 26 at the same time.

The party, however, gets started a bit earlier this year when original band The Kings performs at Town Park on Wednesday, August 23 at Town Park as part of the Concerts in the Park series.

“It is kind of a wave of classic rock taking us through the weekend,” says Ms. Ware.

The entertainment lineup also got the Mayor's seal of approval.

“I am a big fan of any Winnipeg-based rock and roll band – some of the best talent in Canada comes out of Winnipeg going back to Terry Jacks and the Guess Who,” he said. “I am really pleased to see David Wilcox coming back; he was fabulous and just really put on a great show. There was a lot of energy there for a three-man band. It will be a great night for live

music – and it doesn't get much better than live music!”

The headliners aren't the only chance to experience live music at Ribfest, however, as Magna will present the semi-finals of the 2017 Hoedown Showdown talent competition, a more recent – and popular – addition to the Ribfest lineup.

Ribfest gets underway at Machell Park (Aurora Heights Drive just west of Yonge Street) Friday, August 25 at 11 a.m. running through 10 p.m. on Sunday, August 27.

Admission is free. Age of majority after 8 p.m.

Region offers tips to avoid mosquitos

From page 1

us West Nile virus is present in the community and protection against mosquitos remains important,” said Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region's Medical Officer of Health. “By taking simple precautions, residents can reduce the risk of West Nile virus and exposure to mosquitos.” These precautions include cleaning up standing and stagnant water on properties – such as in bird baths, flower pots, pool covers, eavestroughs, and clogged gutters – and ensuring your window screens are tight-fitting and in good repair.

Outside the home, you are being urged to cover up by wearing protective clothing – including socks, long-

sleeved shirts and jackets – as well as donning lighter colours when possible to detract mosquitos. Insect repellent is also recommended, as is minimizing outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when the bugs are most active.

“As part of York Region's 2017 West Nile virus (WNV) Control Plan, York Region Public Health larvicides catch basins to interrupt mosquito breeding, educates residents on self-protection, investigates human cases and conducts surveillance,” says the Region. “York Region treats catch basins along Regional and municipal roads and other stagnant public water sources, including roadside ditches. Private backyard catch basins are treated upon request.”

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Community Environmental Centre Enhancements Coming Soon

To serve you better, York Region will be constructing new features:

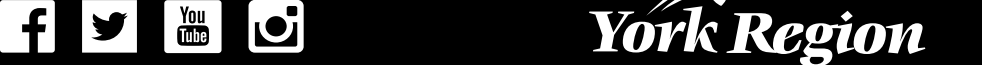
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Facilities**
The addition of household hazardous waste facilities will create a one-stop waste depot for York Region residents.
- Weigh Scales and Weight-Based Fees** Once construction is complete, weight-based fees of \$100 per metric tonne (equivalent to \$0.10/kilogram) will be introduced for garbage, mixed loads (garbage and recyclables), and high cost recyclables (wood, rubble, concrete and drywall.) A \$10 minimum fee per load will apply.

Dedicated loads containing blue box recyclables, cardboard, metal and/or electronic waste will remain free of charge.

The Community Environmental Centres will be open during construction. Please expect delays.

- McCleary Court, Community Environmental Centre**
130 McCleary Court City of Vaughan
- Elgin Mills, Community Environmental Centre**
1124 Elgin Mills Road East, Town of Richmond Hill

For more information or construction updates, visit york.ca/wastedepots or call **1-866-665-6752**



**TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

The Town of Aurora has received the following applications under the Planning Act:

APPLICATION: The Owner has submitted a Complete Application for a Zoning By-law Amendment to allow the development of two three-storey stacked townhouse buildings comprised of 27 and 28 units each, for a total of 55 stacked townhouses. Associated underground parking and a landscaped news area is also proposed.

PROPERTIES: 15086, 15094 & 15106 Yonge Street

LEGAL DESC: Part of Lots 1 & 2, Registered Plan 9 and Lots 51 & 52, Registered Plan 246

APPLICANT: Bawa Group (Aurora) Ltd.

FILE NUMBERS: ZBA-2017-04

CONTACT: Any inquiries should be directed to Carlin Group of the Planning and Building Services department at 905-727-3123 extension 4347, Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Building Services department at the same address, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and Number.

Personal Information Collection Notice

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees under the legal authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter c.113, as amended. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act. If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora ON L4G 6J1 905-727-3123.

DATED at the Town of Aurora, this 20th day of July, 2017.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Perhaps Councillors should rethink job: Reader

(Re: Workload has outgrown part-time job: Councillors, July 6)

In regards to the article as noted above in The Auroran dated July 6, it advises that Councillors will have their pay increased to off-set the income taxes they now will have to pay for the one third of their salary which previously was exempt.

It must be nice to just be able to pony up to the public money trough.

The article also notes a comment from Wendy Gaertner saying, and I quote “there have been Cost of Living increases over the years.”

Really - welcome to the real world Wendy Gaertner.

I can tell you without hesitation as a pensioner that the small increases in my pension don’t by any means cover the increases in cost of living expenses - just try it some time.

Articles like this make me wonder if anyone really cares about people who are trying to live on pensions or fixed incomes.

As for those Councillors who feel their salary doesn’t pay enough for the work involved, my suggestion would be to do like anybody else and get another job.

William Rogers
Aurora

An Open Letter to Garden Tour participants

It’s been two weeks since you woke up and checked Environment Canada’s website to look at the BIG YELLOW BANNER proclaiming a severe weather watch. Well, the weather held (maybe a little rough to start) and you got through the day. As Hilka (Parker) and I visited each of your gardens, we only experienced smiles from you, the volunteers and the visitors we spoke with. I hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

We have had such positive feedback from those who brought their umbrellas and carried on. I know the numbers may have been a little disappointing for you. They were for us, as this is a major fundraiser for our and your club. But we did track the numbers and we had over a hundred visitors to each of your gardens. It probably didn’t feel that way because they would have been spread through the day but that’s official.

Photos of the tour are in The Auroran’s and Snap’d newspapers and on their websites...fantastic.

I have been told this collection of gardens was outstanding. Each unique but quite beautiful. And special because they represent your vision and care. I couldn’t agree more.

Without your hard work (remember, we told you not to fuss last year but you didn’t listen), very generously allowing us to showcase your beautiful gardens to our community AND personally hosting, this tour would not have been possible or the success it was.

Our next meeting will be at the Royal Canadian Legion on September 27. “Go Wild...Make Your Garden a Habitat” is the featured topic.

Judy Ryan
Board of Directors
Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society

—THE AURORAN—

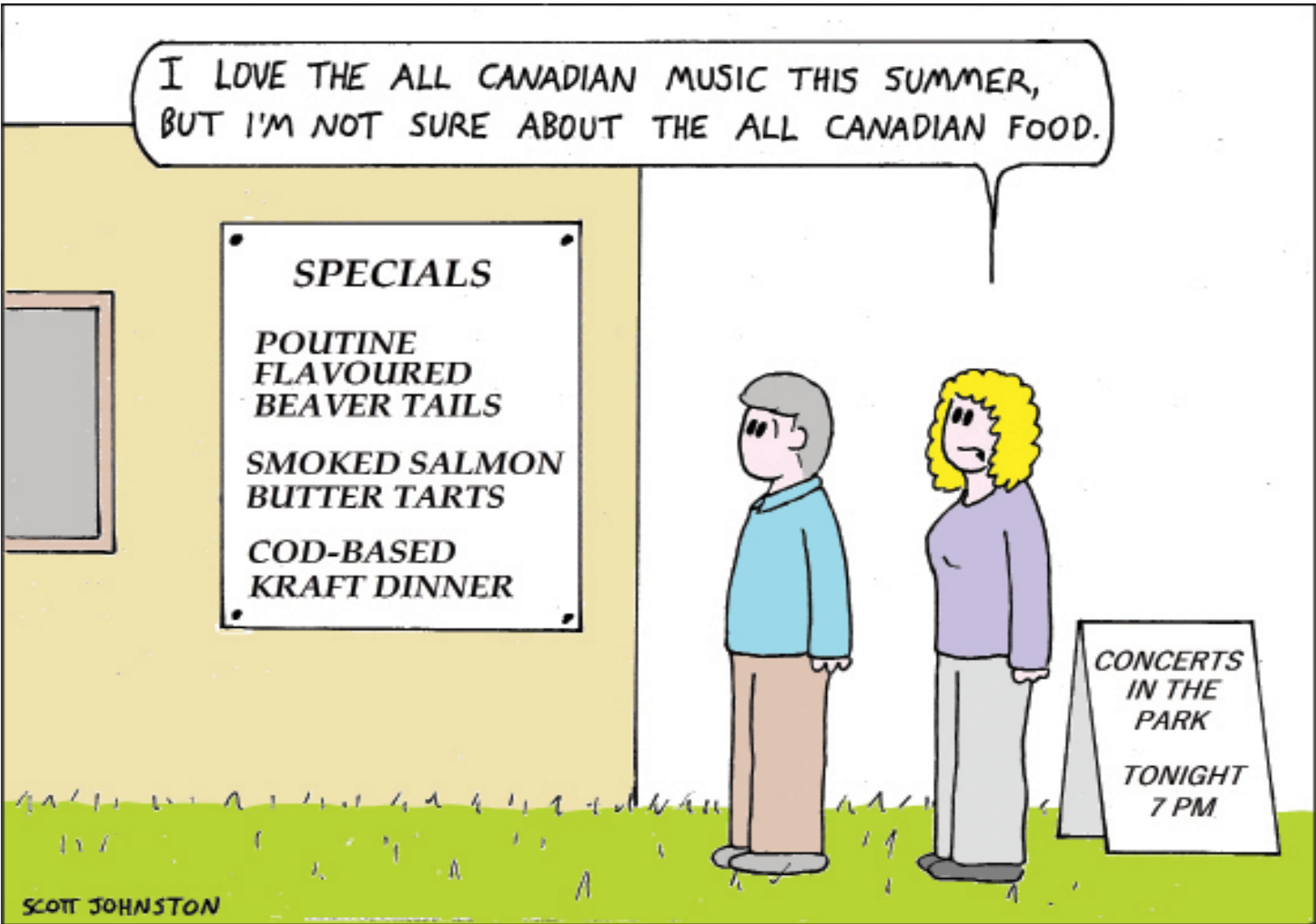
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BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

in Canada, the Governor-General’s role is to perform the Queen’s duties as laid out by the constitution on her behalf,” he said. “It is a critical non-partisan role that can have a direct effect on the stability of Canada’s government.”

Mr. Scheer is quite correct that the Governor General is a critical position but its non-partisan role is, in my opinion, one of its greatest selling points.

As a Canadian, I have personally been an advocate for our current form of government where we have a strictly non-partisan head of state, a role, of course, currently fulfilled by the Queen, and represented here by the Governor General.

While I have always felt this to be the case, these feelings have never been so strong as they are now where, in certain parts of the world, heads of state elected with a political mandate behind them have proven particularly problematic not only on the world stage, but blurring the ideal separation between Head of State and Head of Government. As such, it is difficult to say such a position is able to represent the entirety of a nation.

Since Adrienne Clarkson was appointed to represent the Queen back in 1999, Canada has been fortunate to have had three successive, dynamic Governors General who have left a lasting imprint on the venerable office, each shaping and further defining the role for their successor.

Ms. Clarkson admirably achieved something that was once thought next to impossible, revitalizing the office itself and making it accessible and relevant to Canadians.

This was a tradition more than ably carried on by Michaelle Jean, who built upon this, reaching more Canadians than ever before, forged new ties with Canada’s military and military families, and handled a constitutional crisis which allowed her to flex some of the more atrophied muscles of the office.


Under the term of the incumbent, David Johnston, along with his wife Dr. Sharon Johnston, we have been well-served by an impressive double act which has not only carried on the legacies of his two predecessors but breathed new life into the ancient constitutional roots that define the Governor Generalship.

As was so ably demonstrated by Chris Hadfield’s most recent journey into space, astronauts have almost an unparalleled ability to capture the imagination of Canadians, especially young Canadians, and I expect Ms. Payette to be no exception.

Backed by her own remarkable accomplishments, along with nearly half a millennia of history behind her, I greatly look forward to seeing the stamp she will leave on Rideau Hall, and Canada as a whole.

“I must express my sincere appreciation to Her Majesty the Queen and to the Prime Minister for the confidence they have shown me, but more importantly for the chance, an amazing chance, a second chance to serve Canada again,” said Ms. Payette in her first speech as Governor General-designate. “Seen from outer space, Canada is immense, made of mountains, lakes, forests, of breathtaking beauty, in spite of the fact there are 10 provinces, three territories, many regions and municipalities, the fact remains we see no borders from space. Rather, we see 1,001 details, small and big differences in terms of languages and culture that make Canada so rich, a grand and luscious land, glorious and free.

“Just like space travel, we don’t do things necessarily because they are easy, but because they are hard and indeed the task will be hard because it requires to follow in the footsteps of giants.”



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The Auroran in partnership with One Book One Aurora

Investigate and capture the beauty and struggles of what it means to be truly ALIVE! Portraits, street scenes, documentary and conceptual – straight from the camera or digital illustrations are welcome. Inspire us with your creativity! (iPhone photos are welcome, but no selfies!)

Send your entries labelled “Alive Photography Contest” to brock@auroran.com. The winner will be announced at the Library’s Ontario Public Library Week Open House on Mon. Oct. 16 and will receive a gift certificate for a Movie Date Night. The winning photograph will be published in The Auroran.

THE AURORAN

Aurora’s Community Newspaper

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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com.
Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

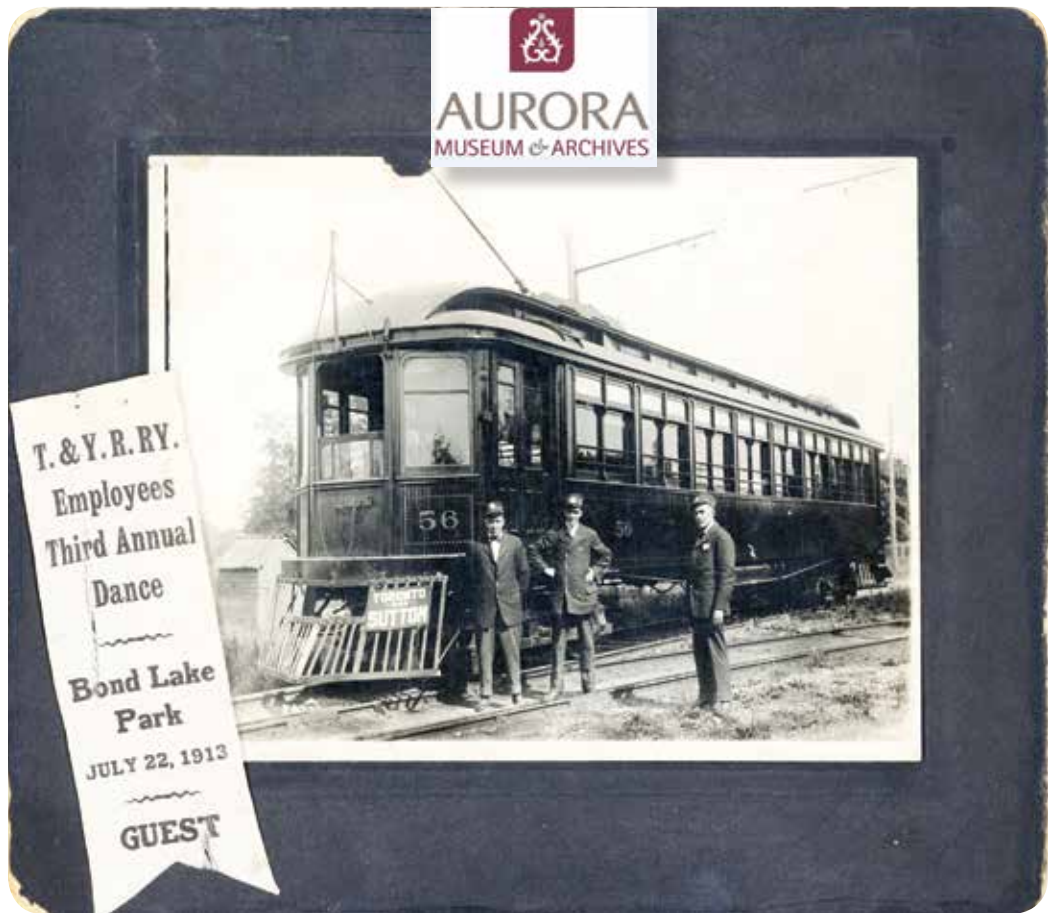
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The Aurora Museum & Archives is giving a shout out to...

Radial Railway Employees!

Before WWI, employees of the Toronto & York Radial Railway were invited to attend a dance at Bond Lake Park (northeast of Stouffville Road and Yonge Street) during the third week of July. The ribbon and photograph belonged to Harry Holman (right) who is pictured with his coworkers Dutch Schmit, left, and William Ellison, centre. Harry Holman went on to enlist, serve, and survive the frontlines of WWI where he fought in the Battles of the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Arras and Passchendaele.



IN GOOD COMPANY

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

Celebrating the Summer

We had a great visit with our partners from Leksand, Sweden a couple of weeks ago. The group from Sweden had a wonderful time meeting town and regional officials, participating in the Canada Day festivities and touring our beautiful town and its facilities.

It was a wonderful chance to help strengthen the bond between our two towns and learn from each other. I look forward to the next visit!

I am also delighted to announce my appointment of Vice Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee at York Region.

This new position will allow me to address the topics of planning, housing, land, zoning, heritage and development of neighbourhoods in York Region. I look forward to learning more and helping to make a positive difference in our community and region.

I recently announced that Harlequin and David Wilcox will be performing at Aurora's Ribfest this year! Aurora's Ribfest is from Friday, August 25 to Sunday, August 27 at Machell Park. Don't miss the tastiest event of the season filled with fun and great food.

Stay tuned for more information to come soon! Celebrate Canadian bands, artists and songwriters at Concerts in the Park. Enjoy performances from Carl Berger, Dani Strong, Classic Lightfoot Live, Toronto All Star Jazz Band and more.

There is an exciting community event coming up this weekend called The Great Canadian Songbook on Saturday, July 22 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dance the night away to an all vinyl playlist of Canadian Hits at the Aurora Community Centre.

Browse through an indoor classic car show and music memorabilia. Admission to this event is free with thanks to the following event sponsors: Geranium and TACC Developments and the associate sponsors: The Auroran, Aurora Mayor's Golf Tournament, Kwik Kopy Print, Rotary Club of Aurora and Treasure Hill. Thank you to David Heard and Christopher Watts for their vision in creating this dynamic and entertaining event.

Aurora is also a proud supporter of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. This is a national charity that helps kids from financially disadvantaged families participate in organized sport and physical activity. One in three Canadian children cannot afford to participate in organized sport and recreation.

Jumpstart helps these families by providing funding for equipment, enrolment and transportation. By engaging over 1,900 community partners in every riding across the country, Jumpstart has been able to support over 1.4 million children.

To honour this partnership, Jumpstart is hosting a series of games for disadvantaged families which I will be attending later on this month.

Stay connected to the Town. Visit the Town's website, read the local Notice Board, subscribe to our social media feeds and sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter, Aurora Matters.

I also have a monthly radio spot on 105.9 The Region called Mayors in the Morning. This is one of the great ways that helps me to stay connected to residents. Please email, tweet or call in questions about our Town. For scheduling information, visit 1059theregion.com/mayors. If you're not able to call in, please feel free to email me with any questions or comments about the Town at mayor@aurora.ca.

Ontario's economic strength

Recent reports highlight Ontario's economic growth is strong and sustained and we have led the G7 in growth for the last three years.

Since this time last year, Ontario has created 75,100 new jobs. Since June 2016, we've seen a rise in employment in manufacturing of 27,700 jobs. Once again, Ontario is below the national average for unemployment, as we have been for the last 27 months.

Since the worst of the recession in 2008 (the Great Recession!), Ontario has added over 700,000 net new jobs, most of which are full-time, private sector jobs that pay an above-average wage.

Ontario's economy continues to grow because of our competitive business environment, our highly skilled workforce, our low corporate tax rate, and significant investments in infrastructure—it's not just government saying this, economists are as well. These numbers are good news for residents in Newmarket-Aurora. And while we need to ensure everyone in this riding, and across Ontario, benefit equally from a strengthening economy, it is good news that our continued growth in the province continues to attract new investments in the region.

Blitzing the Moraine

Last week I was happy to be standing on the Oak Ridges Moraine in beautiful weather, surrounded by supporters of this critical, geographic feature to announce funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The Trillium Foundation is an arms-length organization funded by the government of Ontario to help not-for-profit and charity groups develop as organizations and develop and expand important programs and services.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust received a \$207,600 grant over 35 months to deliver and expand on its



View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

Citizen Science Bioblitz project. This project encourages people to support a healthy and sustainable environment and is helping people connect with the environment and understand their impact on it.

The Oak Ridges Moraine's most important function is sustaining the health of the many watersheds and the diversity of species that live within them.

Sixty per cent of the Moraine is in the Greater Toronto Area, (Peel, York and Durham Regions). To date, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust protects 47 properties totalling over 3,700 acres ensuring that these lands continue to contribute to the ecological integrity of the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine.

The moraine programs are designed to improve the ecological integrity of lands that are owned by the Oak Ridges Moraine by tree planting, riparian area restoration, meadow maintenance, and specific projects to improve habitat for species at risk in Ontario. Protection is less expensive than restoration.

As a life-long resident of York Region, I was taught the importance of the Oak Ridges Moraine in high school geography classes, and learned first-hand growing up on the moraine. I hear time and again that preserving the Oak Ridges Moraine is high the priority list

for those living in Newmarket-Aurora, and it is high on my list as your Member of Provincial Parliament.

Supporting the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust is one important way we all can preserve this important natural feature of our community.

Youth Entrepreneurship Day

Ontario is continuing to provide young entrepreneurs across the province with the opportunity to start a business and gain valuable career skills and support with the fourth annual Summer Company-Staples Youth Entrepreneurship Day.

This event gives students the opportunity to introduce their summer businesses at different Staples locations across the province, including here in Newmarket-Aurora. This program helps young entrepreneurs gain valuable business experience, receive real-time feedback and allows them to promote their products and services to customers.

This program is Ontario's flagship entrepreneurial program for students ages 15-29. It gives students grants of up to \$3,000 to help turn their ideas into a business. The province believes in supporting the next generation of job creators, it is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs Public Consultations

There is still time to have your voice heard on the Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs plan.

The province is creating more opportunity and security for workers through its plan for Fair Workplaces and Better Jobs. The plan includes hiking the minimum wage, ensuring part-time workers are paid the same hourly wage as full-time workers doing the same job, introducing paid sick

Continued on page 6

Water World



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

and walk away. There must be tons of unsold stock of hoses and sprinklers at our local hardware stores.

Despite the lack of watering, the Town's lawns are greener and lusher than ever. They're so thick, that weeds, which usually spring up everywhere as they over-compete with stressed grasses, have not been as prevalent as they usually are.

In fact, when I'm doing yardwork, I seem to be mowing down more mushrooms than dandelions.

As for other outdoor chores, no one seems to be washing their driveways, patios or windows, and there are never any lines at the car wash places.

A cleaner, greener, more weed-free Aurora has been a benefit of our monsoon-like weather, but it hasn't all been good news.

Unfortunately, the almost double the usual amount of rainfall has meant flooding in some areas, and it's done damage to various trails and other

vulnerable infrastructure.

On the agricultural front, farmers are having trouble keeping their fields drained properly. And I guess it's too late for them to turn them into rice paddies.

Of course, it hasn't been fun for kids who have had to play outside more in the rain, and run from the soccer pitches and baseball diamonds as the almost daily late afternoon thunderstorms roll in.

One group that has benefitted from the wet weather is our local mosquito population, which has been using the increased amount of standing water to its reproductive advantage. I'm not sure if ticks like wet weather, but they seem to be on the increase in our area, too.

On the plus side, this wet weather can't last forever, and whether we need them or not our water restrictions only go to September 30, so we only have about 10 weeks to go.

Looking ahead, if this watery trend continues in Aurora next year, perhaps we can embrace it by renting that giant yellow rubber duck that was recently featured on Toronto's waterfront.

I'm sure it would make a great tourist attraction bobbing around in Salamander Pond.

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

THIS WEEK'S POLL

Will more people living in the downtown core result in revitalization for area businesses?

Yes No Unsure
Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous poll results
Do you support moving Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School to Bayview Avenue?

RESULTS TO DATE
July 18, 2017

YES
71%

NO
24%

UNSURE
5%

Remaining details to be worked out at Site Plan stage

From page 1
the Ratepayers’ Association (Aurora Village Ratepayers Association) came in before Council and said they were in support of the application.

“It always concerns me when we don’t have that. It means it can be held up at an (Ontario Municipal Board) meeting and we don’t want that.”

Looking over the application, and the comments received earlier on behalf of the Ratepayers’ Association, Councillor Gaertner said this is “one of the most difficult decisions” she has had to make as a Councillor. While Aurora United Church “suffered a great tragedy” and everyone wants to see them rebuilt on the land that was once their “spiritual home,” she said she saw challenges with the proposal.

“The church property is in our historic area, a very important area for the Town, and I was extremely disappointed last week when the developer did not present an approved plan options that would have kept the United Church viable, but would have respected our downtown heritage and the adjacent heritage residential area,” she said.

“The Downtown has been protected as a heritage resource area through 30 years of Official Plans (OPs) endorsed by many councils and Aurora does have planning in place, planning criteria to ensure the character of this historic part of Yonge Street is honoured. There is also criteria there to ensure that the height and the size of new development does not overwhelm the heritage. To me,



An artist’s rendering of how the rebuilt Aurora United Church will look heading north on Yonge Street towards Wellington. **Photo courtesy of the AUC**

You’re invited! Seminar: August 3rd

Learn How Local Experts are Investing in Mortgages

This month, as banks and Home Capital Group turn down Canadian borrowers seeking a mortgage, an opportunity is created for local investors.

“Private lenders are now overwhelmed. They are taking many deals turned away by Home Trust,” said Victor Camba, a mortgage agent who specializes in matching borrowers with individual investors.

Home Trust, Canada’s biggest non-bank lender, was a conduit for many Canadians to have home ownership. During its struggles in recent weeks, it has scaled back on lending, leaving many borrowers in the lurch.

This has created an opportunity for local residents to invest like a bank and become lenders using cash, an RRSP, or equity in their home. As a result, they obtain similar benefits that banks enjoy, such as predictable and stable monthly cash flow, and “bricks and mortar” security

For example, a home owner can borrow from their equity in the form of a Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), and use the proceeds to fund a mortgage. In addition, because funds are borrowed for the purpose of earning investment income, the interest paid on such funds could be tax deductible.

In today’s low interest environment this makes sense. Bank posted rates for HELOCs average 3.2%. Private mortgages can earn investors up to 12% on a 1 year term. The lender’s cash flow would net up to 8.8%.

A misconception is that these are bad-quality borrowers. “Bad credit? No Credit? No Problem,” are advertisements sometimes seen. This is far from the truth.

In 2016, 2.7 million Canadians were self-employed (Statistics Canada). These people are generally in the sales and services industry, such as Realtors and Contractors. There were also 1.2 million small businesses. These borrowers do not meet the bank’s lending criteria, and are

therefore turned down. Their tax return may show a significantly lower figure than what they actually take home as income.

“We take into consideration all sources of the client’s income, including stated business income, something the banks don’t do,” Victor said. “But we are not going to take undue risk. We will take a calculated risk.”

He prefers to offer loans below 80% of the value of the property to limit losses in case of a housing price downturn. Unlike mutual funds or stocks, a mortgage investment is collateralized with existing residential properties within the Greater Toronto Area, including Aurora and Newmarket.

If the borrower defaults, their lender has the legal power to sell the property to recover their funds.

“It used to be investors went to their lawyer or accountant and said, ‘I have a few million dollars and I want to lend this out and make a good return,’” Victor said. “They are still around, but now there are opportunities for the average investor with cash, a home equity line of credit or an RRSP.”

For those who want to invest in real estate without the hassle of tenants or repairing toilets, there will be a free workshop on how to become a lender. Details below:

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Victor Camba is the Director of Business Development, Lending for UNION Capital Management. Mortgage Brokerage Lic# 10318 -Mortgage Agent license #M14001907

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this development should not be based on emotion, it should not be based on politics. It is a planning decision. We have an OP that speaks to this area. In my opinion, the proposal is not in keeping with the requirements of our planning documents, does not uphold the vision for this area, and I don’t believe it is in the best interests of the Aurora community.”

The majority of Council, however, strongly disagreed with this assessment, assured by Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning, that the proposal, in his opinion, was based on “good planning.”

Many members said the proposal should be looked at in a larger context, and not just on this one corner of the downtown core.

“It will be a significant but at the same time we were entrusted with making a decision that is for the benefit of the community as a whole,” said Councillor Michael Thompson. “I do believe that there is a benefit to the community. I think the re-establishment of the church provides a significant benefit to the community. I think we all recognize the services and support that they have provided over the years to this community as well as some of the amenities and so forth about supporting the downtown revitalization. But I also support the recommendation of our staff.

“We have our director of planning, who in his professional expertise, has said this is acceptable, that it is worthy of an amendment to our official plan and zoning bylaws and he believes it

is good planning. Based on the benefit to the community and our staff’s recommendation, I will be supporting the recommendation.”

Similar views were offered by Mayor Geoff Dawe and Councillor Jeff Thom.

“I think it is the right solution in the right place at the right time,” said Mayor Dawe. “I do believe that the developer has been working very diligently to make changes to become a better fit for the neighbourhood and it is obviously incremental. Our obligation, as members of Council, is to listen to all the information we get, to read the reports, and to quiz Mr. Ramunno, which we all do on a fairly regular basis, and to make a decision we feel is in the best interests of the Town as a whole and that is our obligation. That is not an easy obligation and I think that is pretty evident from the amount of time that we have spent discussing this particular issue.”

Added Councillor Thom: “I do believe that the United Church wants to be a good neighbour and the ratepayers have their best interests in mind. We want to have the Town’s best interests in mind as well. We all come from a place of trying to make our community a better place and trying to do what’s best for our community. I think we still have the opportunity to do that moving forward. This amendment is something that is within the realm of good planning and this also gives us the opportunity to allow the United Church to reclaim their spot on Yonge Street and be a focal point for our downtown as they have been for over a century.”

View From Queen’s Park

From page 5

days for every worker, enabling at least three weeks’ vacation after five years with the same employer and stepping up enforcement of employment laws.

The province is wrapping up a two-week consultation on the province’s proposed Bill 148, also known as the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017. Protecting workers and supporting business is part of our plan to create jobs, grow our economy and build Ontario up.

Those wishing to submit their recommendations can submit them to: The Clerk of the Committee at Room 1405, Whitney Block, Queen’s Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A2 by July 21, 2017.

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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Aurora Village weighing options after United Church approval

By Brock Weir

Members of the Aurora Village Ratepayers' Association are weighing their options – including an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board – after Council paved the way for the redevelopment of Aurora United Church and an adjacent retirement complex last week.

All options are being considered, said Troy Hourie of the Ratepayers' Association following last week's Council meeting.

Ahead of last Tuesday's session, there was contention between the group and Aurora's Clerk's Department after the Ratepayers' requested to make multiple delegations to local lawmakers. However, in the interests of time, and considering the already delegate-heavy agenda, they were asked to keep it to just one speaker.

In the end, that role fell to Mr. Hourie, who asked for a delay in the approval so

their concerns could be fully addressed. "Town Council directed the Planning Department to create a comprehensive report outlining recommendations and options at a future General Committee meeting," said Mr. Hourie, quoting comments made by Councillors themselves at earlier meetings. "While there are recommendations, the report only outlines two options for Council to consider. These options are not extensive enough to thoroughly weigh the impact this development will have on the community. The magnitude of allowing so many amendments to the Promenade Plan is such a significant precedent that more consideration must be directed to be sure it is in the best interest of the community.

"We ask each Councillor what options they considered. What are your visions for the Downtown Core? Are you familiar with what is permitted in the Downtown Area, versus the upper downtown core? Have you been provided

with correct and thorough information from your planning office, and do you realise that you have approved a design with no concessions on massing?"

Questioning what he described as "Town Council decision-making," he issued a challenge, calling on all Councillors who voted to approve Aurora United Church's application at the previous week's General Committee meeting to explain why they had changed their minds and how the current design satisfies the requirements of the Aurora Promenade Plan.

"It is shameful that any Councillor could vote to approve this application when the direction they gave was not met," Mr. Hourie contended.

Another bone of contention, he added, was a still outstanding request from Council calling on the developers and Ratepayers to work together on the remaining issues of height and massing surrounding the plan for the Amica retirement residence.

By last week's Council session, that meeting had yet to take place.

Following initial email exchanges between the developers and the Ratepayers, Mr. Hourie said it had been 32 days since they had heard anything.

In the end, the Ratepayers gave their own requests to Council to "avoid delay and great expense to everyone." These included tasking Town Planning staff

with reviewing all submissions from the Aurora Village Ratepayers Association in the context of previous Committee recommendations to address "how the matters have been satisfactorily addressed."

They also called for Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, to make a peer review of the application immediately available to the Ratepayers Association without charge, that a meeting between planning staff, applicant, residents, and another peer reviewer be immediately held, and a further report summarizing recommendations and potential compromises.

These recommendations gained no traction around the Council table, but members said there is still some wiggle room ahead of the site plan approval later this year.

"I know this is very difficult for you guys and I can hear the passion in your voice and how you have been fighting for what you believe in," said Councillor Sandra Humfries. "I respect that very much. I do believe that what is happening tonight is a zoning change. Tweaks to the plan and working together with the developer can still occur. When I look at the vision...I believe it will be a lovely area you will love eventually. I think it is a huge change, it is a massive change, but I do believe it will be the right thing."



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However, many people are hesitant to have surgery given its invasive nature. It is important to know that although surgery is sometimes necessary, it is considered a last resort in most cases.

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Massing on the Temperance Street side of the seven-storey retirement home complex slated to be built in conjunction with the new Aurora United Church has angered area neighbours.

Photo courtesy of the AUC

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The Signs You See Everywhere!

Celebrate your Canadian playlist at the Aurora Community Centre on Saturday

By Brock Weir

Back in 1978, and with his \$25 winnings from a local public speaking contest burning a hole in his pocket, Dave Heard made his first fateful purchase. After taking the prize at the Royal Canadian Legion, the budding music lover immediately hit the record store and bought three vinyl record and promptly pinned the artsy covers on his bedroom wall. He held a torch for vinyl over the years, becoming a regular DJ on the local scene, but these flames were stoked into a blaze once again four years ago and now he's ready to light your fire.* The playlist has been set, the fine details hammered out, now all that's left to do is get spinning for this Saturday's The Great Canadian Songbook, an all vinyl admission-free dance party for all ages celebrating Canadian hits from the

1950s stretching through the 1990s. The Aurora Community Centre, which is celebrating its 50th birthday this year, will be transformed back to its days as a popular concert venue, complete with a fully licensed vinyl lounge, an indoor classic car show, and curated displays of Canadian music memorabilia. "I started this playlist and have gone out and asked people for their input on songs, and there is a lot of community in this," says Mr. Heard. "I think the first song will make people feel exceptionally proud, but then, after that, it is time to party. This is about celebrating Canadian music and I am going to do my best to recreate a live experience at the area just like some of the band who have played there." Mr. Heard has had opportunities over the years to talk to some of the bands who once played at the Aurora Community Centre, and, in addition to his artwork in which he dissects the art from cover albums and creates picture discs on the original vinyl, has become a curator of these stories. The love of music was rebooted inside of him about four years ago when he went through what he describes as a "traumatic experience" helping someone else in crisis. "I kind of needed something to bounce back to," he says. "Out of nowhere, I reached into my record collection, pulled out an old beat-up one, all scratched and destroyed, and I started working on an artwork." Showing the finished product to one of his coworkers, she asked if he would donate it for a silent auction to benefit one of her favourite causes and, in the end, it went for nearly \$400. That was certainly a "good motivator," he said, and it sent him on a quest to scour thrift stores and second hand stores across Southern Ontario collecting vinyl. Along the way, he amassed huge collections from the remaining inventory of Peter Dunn's Vinyl Museum, and a large cache of records uncovered in a locker by the stars of Storage Wars Canada. "When I have time and need a bit of stress relief, I sit down and start an artwork, creating a picture disk out of a beat-up copy; everything in this collection is being utilized in some way," says Mr. Heard, noting that each of the tracks



Dave Heard, organizer of The Great Canadian Songbook. Photo by Anna Lozyk Romeo

spun on Saturday will be done from the best available copies, some of them being unsealed for the very first time. Adding that donations will be accepted to Kerry's Place Autism Services, he say, "It's all for enjoyment; sharing it through the Songbook. Analogue has value in so many different capacities: visually, auditory, and I think spiritually do. Curating this collection is like Christmas every day. Every song means something special to someone and that is why I am trying to share this." And you're being asked to share too.

"Because it is music from the 50s through the 90s, we would really encourage people, if they can, to dress in their favourite music era, or as a favourite artist," he concludes. "Let's just celebrate Canadian music." The Great Canadian Song Book on Vinyl takes over The Aurora Community Centre this Saturday, July 22, from 7 – 11 p.m. For more information, visit cdnsongbook.ca. *Okay, so that's not a reference to a Canadian track, but we try our best.

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MARKET MUSINGS Jan Freedman

We were extremely fortunate to have a lovely sunny and warm day at the Farmers' Market on Saturday given all the rainy days we have experienced this summer. We also had an embarrassment of riches with two buskers performing on the same day, due to a scheduling error. It wasn't our busiest day, but business was steady. Walking around the Market, I saw some new produce now available: Wild Blueberries at 19th Avenue Farm along with small yellow plums, raspberries at Oakridges Finest, raspberries and corn at Willowtree Farm and our cherries at Coopers Farm. There were beautiful peas and beans at several of the farmers' tables. This is the time of the season is when so much of what we grow in Southern Ontario begins to appear at Farmers' Markets, so it's a very good time to drop by on Saturday mornings before you go on to other activities. The next new vendor I'd like to introduce is Denise Voth, who may not be at the Market for much longer. She has been living in Aurora for the past 15 years and is new to us this season. Born in 1969 in Toronto to a young couple from Nova Scotia who had moved to Toronto for work, she and her parents then moved back to the Maritimes when she was five. She remembers her early years as being spent fighting pirates on an old wooden ship that had been left as a play structure at her elementary school. In the early 80s, her family moved to Edmonton where she managed to get herself into some trouble. At the young age of 12, she began drinking and smoking at bush parties, where teens brought their boom boxes, wore leopard print tops and hung feathered roach clips in their hair. Fortunately, when she moved back to Nova Scotia for high school, she began attending church. She found comfort and

confidence in the message of God's love, which gave her peace and enabled her to turn her life around. After graduating, she became most interested in work that involved caring for others, and has since worked in group homes with special needs children and supporting seniors by providing in-home care. In the nineties, her work and marriage to a man from Ottawa brought her back to Ontario. A few years ago, Denise learned how vulnerable young women in neighbourhoods across Canada were being forced into prostitution by traffickers who controlled and manipulated them with threats and violence. She decided that raising awareness of the crime of trafficking was the best thing she could do to help. She was inspired by a quote she had heard: "If you see an injustice, shine a light on it until it becomes so uncomfortable that it cannot continue." That is the goal of the human trafficking information display she has created. She has also turned her sewing skills toward creating hand sewn bags from beautiful repurposed fabrics as a fundraising campaign for the project. Funds are used to pay for display space at trade shows and community events where she talks about the ills of human trafficking with anyone interested, gives out literature on the signs to look for and the Crimestoppers telephone number. Do come by next week to see Denise, her bags and to discuss her important work. Our next Special Event is next Saturday, July 22, when we'll celebrate our Community Appreciation Day with the usual children's crafts and a draw for a market bag. Our entertainment will be provided by Lawrence Moule and his new partner and their band, "Take Two", renamed from "Jazz Two."

See you at the Market!

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Residents, developers to hammer out Highland Gate park plan

By Brock Weir

After a week's cooling off period, residents surrounding the former Highland Gate Golf Course will work with developers to come up with a park solution that is hoped will work for everyone.

The collaborative effort was announced last week following a particularly heated process which has seen groups of neighbours lock horns with other groups of neighbours – not to mention Highland Gate Developments Inc. (HGDI) and the Town of Aurora – on amenities best suited for a 21 acre piece of land slated for park development.

"I think it is fair to say the debate over specific elements of the park has led to a breakdown of the fellowship that normally characterises our community," said Susan Walmer on behalf of the Highland Gate Ratepayers' Association (HGRA) last week.

A new ad-hoc committee between the Ratepayers and other nearby residents not affiliated with the Ratepayers' Group, along with representatives from HGDI will be the first step in restoring some of that dialogue and, indeed, fellowship.

At the heart of the contention are a set of amenities set to be installed in the park. These amenities are outlined in Minutes of Settlement executed between HGDI, HGRA, and the Town of Aurora. The subject of considerable debate in particular is the plan to illuminate the trail cutting across the park linking Bathurst and Yonge Streets, but neither the developers nor the Ratepayers' Association were willing to take those out of the agreement in case it opened the entire document up for renegotiation.

“Our respective missions are to represent the interests of our membership and to provide a forum for the expression of concerns and ideas within our community,” said Ms. Walmer, noting the ad-hoc group’s mission will be to “design this community park in accordance with all the requirements of the Minutes of Settlement and the technical requirements and limitations of the Town of Aurora, while representing the needs and desires of all homeowners in the community.”

The group will be comprised of two members of HGRA and two members representing the remaining residents.

“Its mandate is to resolve to the general satisfaction of all, the final details of the park and this Committee will work towards that goal over the next two weeks,” she said. “We hope and trust the Director [of Parks and Recreation Al Downey] will be responsive to our plan, subject only to the technical requirements and limitations of the Town of Aurora. Our goal is to resolve the outstanding issues, particularly the lighting concern, with the assistance of Highland Gate development consultants and create a truly beautiful park that combines the natural surroundings of the area with the needs of the community and the Town.”

Ms. Walmer was joined at the podium by Joanne Bartholomew, who spoke out against the lighting and other park amenities at the previous week's Committee meeting. Speaking on behalf of what she described as "100-plus people" who came together to address the concerns of homeowners, she said she was happy with the latest developments.

"We are delighted to be working with the Highland Gate Ratepayers Association as we put our heads together to come up with an alternate plan for the lighting than the one that presently exists," said Ms. Bartholomew. "Our focus will be to mitigate the effects of the lighting, while at the same time enhancing the absolute beauty and uniqueness of this special piece of parkland."

"I think I can speak for everyone in the Highlands community when I say we are all looking forward to the completion and beautifying of this park so that we can all get on with enjoying the trails, the natural green and open spaces, and the amenities that are prescribed by the Minutes of Settlement. I think if we work as

a team we will achieve a successful conclusion.”

This was music to the ears of Council members who also found themselves previously locked in a battle over the trail lighting, coupled with a reluctance to open up the Minutes of Settlement again.

“I think you guys who live in

the area know the area best,” said Councillor Paul Pirri. “We do have some constraints, but with that said there is some wiggle room to work around and find something that works for all the residents in the neighbourhood.”

Added Councillor Tom Mrakas: “I am glad to see we have come to this

point.”

“This is a very good example for Council and our community,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

These views were shared by Councillor Sandra Humfryes and Mayor Dawe, the latter of whom said, "We appreciate your willingness to work together."

[illegible]

THE AURORAN

SPORTS

Vol. 17 No. 39 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of July 20, 2017

Aurora Soccer Club kicks off international friendlies for Food Pantry



Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Soccer Club hosted participants from around the globe on Saturday in the club's annual charity day, in support of the Aurora Food Pantry.

Guests were treated to bouncy castles, a barbecue, and three exciting matchups, culminating in the famous England vs. Scotland match.

Canada and Ireland also teamed up to take on the World, before an open women's game later in the afternoon.

The club will be hosting a touring British Army team in mid-September, open to the public.

Aurora United FC falls hard in League 1 action

By Jake Courtepatte

Saturday evening at Bill Crothers Turf Centre.

The men experienced a similar fate the same day at the hands of a dynamic sibling duo, with Michael and Noah Pio combining for all six of Windsor TFC's goals in a 6 – 1 final.

The away squad was up 5 – 0 before Michael Caguana was able to capitalize with his team-leading fifth goal of the year in the 68th minute.

Despite the loss, Aurora technical director Dave Di Placido said he liked what he saw from his team in the latter 45 minutes.

"We did create quite a bit more in the second half," said Di Placido.

"I think we had two or three breakaways, a penalty shot, two or three free kicks around the box. We created more but we weren't happy with some of the goals we conceded, I think we could have done better defensively."

"I don't think we handled the situation properly in a couple individual situations. It's something good that I think we can implement from time to time though, although it didn't work out today."

The men remain in seventh place in the League 1 East division with a record of 1-9-1, and will face FC London (5-2-4) in an away match Friday evening.

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

Aurora Jays come up short in rally against Leafs

By Jake Courtepatte

allowing four hits and striking out one.

Just their fifth loss of the season with under two weeks to go, it was the team's third in the last six games.

A week of ups and downs has created a logjam around the top of the NDBL standings, with the 14-5-0 Jays now in a three-way tie with the Orangeville Giants and Lisle Astros for fourth place in the ladder.

Seven points separates the Jays from the league-leading and reigning champion New Lowell Knights.

Next up for the Jays is a crucial meeting with the Clearview Orioles (16-5-1) Thursday night at Lambert Willson Park in Aurora, who sit just five points up on the Jays.

First pitch is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

This weekend will feature a busy Saturday for Aurora as they host the 6-17-1 Mansfield Cubs at Lambert Wilson, before heading to Newmarket in the evening to face the 3-17-1 Cornhuskers.

Thursday's postponed game will be rescheduled for a later date.

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



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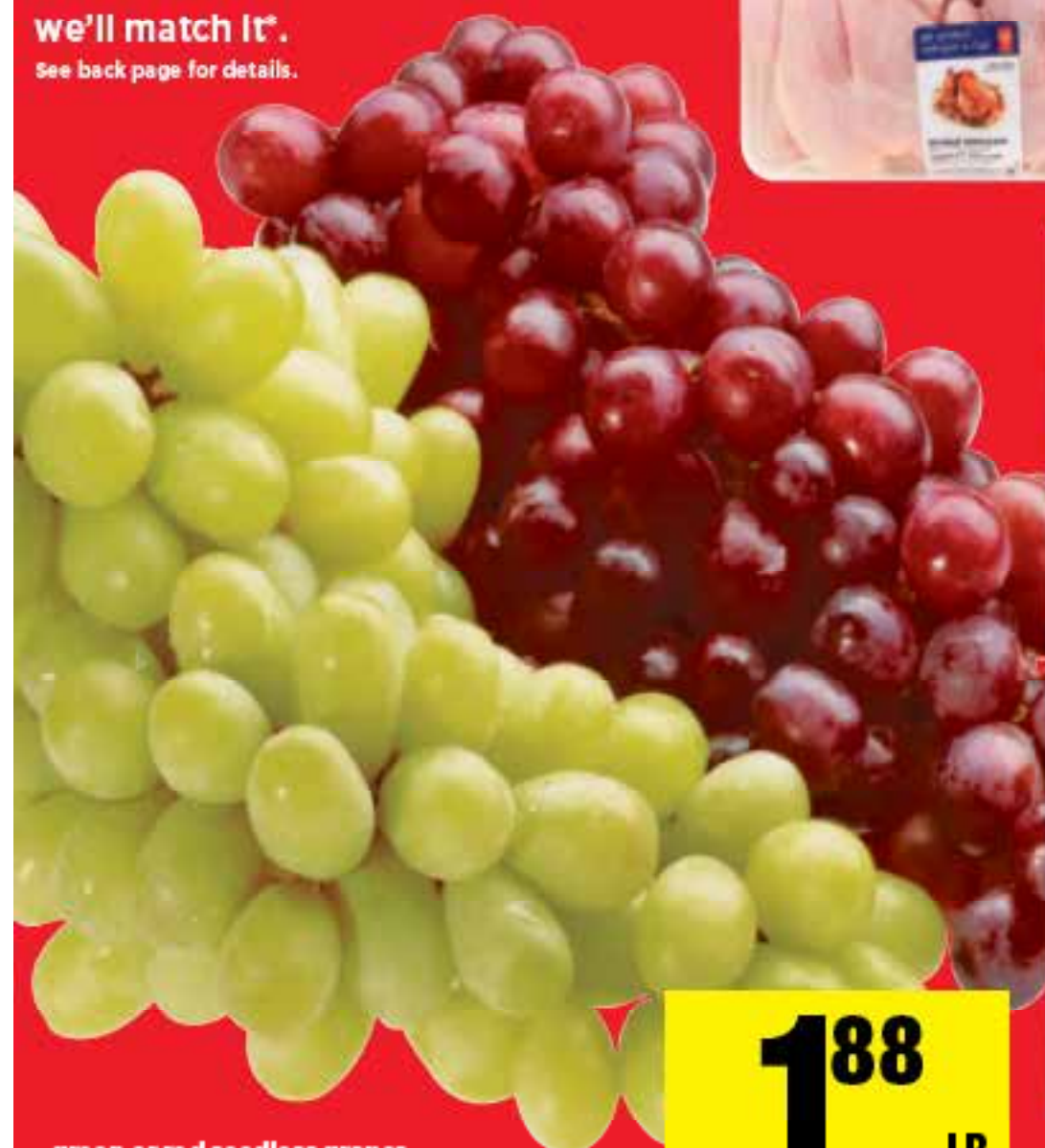
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Kerry’s Place grapples with services for aging population

By Brock Weir

The Autism Spectrum is very broad, and so too are the range of people living on it – but this range is growing all the time and it is a challenge Kerry’s Place Autism Services will be tackling in the years ahead.

Since coming on board as the Aurora-based organization’s new Executive Director this spring, Sue Coke has been meeting with Regional leaders and stakeholders to develop their new Strategic Plan, which will carry them through the next three to five years and chief among the challenges in their path is grappling with the needs of Canada’s aging population.

We all know the immediate burdens the aging population could place on the health system, but Kerry’s Place is looking not only on these commonplace challenges, but also the very unique ones facing the thousands

of individuals they support through residential care.

“Obviously, we always want to look at the full person, but as these individuals with autism age they are going to have more medical problems and we are already seeing that,” says Ms. Coke. “How can we make sure we are meeting their needs? Some of our individuals are non-verbal, so how can we make sure we know that they may have other issues aside from their behaviors?”


“What I am helping to do is not only encourage people to make sure we’re doing evidence-based practices on the behavioural side, but I also want to see evidence-based practices for people who have any physical issues that might need treatment. As people age, we have to make sure we’re addressing all of their needs.

Ms. Coke comes to Kerry’s Place after years of work in acute care,



Members of the Wise Men riding club motored onto Town Park to present Kerry’s Place with a cheque for \$4,500 at the annual Kerry’s Place Appreciation Day. They are joined here by Councillor Tom Mrakas, third left, Kerry’s Place’s new CEO Sue Coke, fifth right, and, to her left, Mayor Geoff Dawe.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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including serving as the Executive Vice President of Sunnybrook Hospital, with an additional focus on working with organizations “that are in transition and having a lot of challenging events happen.”

To that end, Kerry’s Place is a particularly good fit, she says, because Kerry’s Place itself is in transition.

It is not only the aging population that is putting Kerry’s Place in this transitory state, but the new autism program handed down by Ontario’s Ministry of Child and Youth Services. Set to change the way support is offered to children and families who are on the Autism Spectrum, the plan will see increased funding for Autism supports and innovative ways of addressing waiting lists for Autism services, which Ms. Coke describes as “huge.”

“There is a third category, and I think this is where Kerry’s Place can really be innovative, and that is the children are funded for ASD support until

they are 18 and after that there is no financial support from the Ministry,” she says. “We have individuals who are coming out of high school and they no longer have any support. A lot of people who have ASD in schools, many of them have support from either a support worker, they get teaching support, they get coaching, but it ends at 18.

“I see an opportunity for Kerry’s place to work with other stakeholders and to fundraise and develop programs that will help young adults who are going to be either entering university to go to university, seek a trade, seek employment. They need help, they need coaching on how to apply for a job, how to interview, how to do their resume. Social interaction is challenging, so I believe that we can really help this group of people because there is nobody out there doing it. Looking at employment, looking at their future in education, and helping them just with social skills.”




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Get the buzz on your native trees, shrubs and bees



Trees planted at last year’s event, as pictured above, are now in need of some TLC.

Supplied photo

By Brock Weir

If you have ever been curious about some of the hidden gems in your local “urban forest,” head over to Machell Park this Saturday for the Tree Tenders Stewardship Day.

Hosted by LEAF, in association with the Town of Aurora and Region of York, it is a chance to get your hands dirty and learn about native trees, shrubs and bees which can be found – or, perhaps more accurately, should be found – in your own back yards.

Set for 10 a.m. to 12 noon on July 22, the LEAF crew returns to Machell Park to give a bit of tender loving care to native trees and shrubs planted last year as part of an effort to naturalize the shoreline of the nearby creek.

“Last year, we hosted a National Forest Week celebration there and what we did was invite members of the community to come out and we did a big National Forest Week celebration,” says LEAF’s Tooba Shakel. “We did a demonstration for all of the participants on how to properly plant a tree if they were to plant a tree in their own back yard, the proper steps, how to mulch the tree, and how they can participate in our back yard tree planting program.

“Machell Park was selected by our Town of Aurora partners because they have been doing restoration work along both sides of the waterway and naturalizing those areas to add more native trees and shrubs to improve habitat and provide habitat for local wildlife and support the local urban forest.”

LEAF became involved with both the

Town and the Region of York to support education surrounding the local urban forests and native tree planting, particularly in light of the ravages being caused by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer beetle, which is on track to decimating all untreated ash trees in its path.

Their efforts include working with residents on how they can plant diverse species throughout York Region to support, grow and fill in gaps in the urban forest the dead ash trees will leave behind.

“We’re returning to the site this year and we’re inviting the community again to come out and learn about the restoration work that took place last year, what we did what we did, why people need to help us, and how they can take what they’re learning into their own back yard to plant and grow their own native trees and shrubs.”

Events get underway at 10 a.m. with a tour of the site, an in-depth look at restoration efforts, a talk about the native species that have been planted along the creek, and how people can select some of these species for their own back yard [and] which species are ideally suited for their own individual backyard conditions.”

Following these opening events, there will be tree care demonstrations, tree and plant identification, and then hands-on work to remove invasive species and spread mulch around young trees and shrubs.

“That will be more of a work party,” says Ms. Shakel, noting it is a perfect opportunity for high school students as well to collect their community

service hours. “Everyone is going to get all the material and training. It is a family friendly event. You’re getting an educational tour and get to spend some time and getting your hands dirty with your family.

“This is going to be an event where we’re going to do a pop-up for our Bees love Trees campaign. This year we are working with Ontario Power Generation to basically promote the message on how trees are really great for supporting our native bee population. We’re also going to be highlighting some native trees that we have already

planted that are already supporting our native bee population. Come and learn about how you can support our native pollinators!”

The Tree Tenders Stewardship Day takes place rain or shine this Saturday, July 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Wear long pants and close-toed shoes, and bring sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and water just in case. Refreshments will be provided. Pre-registration is recommended by visiting www.yourleaf.org/event/2017-07-22/tree-tenders-stewardship-day-machell-park-aurora.

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Christine and Susan give Hank the Dog the once-over on Saturday at the opening of the Aurora North Pet Clinic. The clinic, located at 239 Earl Stewart Drive (Unit 4) beside Ren’s Pet Depot opened July 15 with new clients receiving \$20 off their first visit.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Young “storytellers” showcased at Aurora Music Festival

By Brock Weir

Claire Wright is a storyteller by nature. As a writer, she is inspired by the lives of those around her, whether they are fellow friends at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, or survivors of traumas of monumental proportions,

and music has turned into potent outlet for her. The 17-year-old student, along with her band Half Birthday, are set to be one of youth bands showcased at next month’s Aurora Music Festival, which will take place at Town Park on Saturday, August 5. “They are artists we have all known,” says Festival co-organizer Jamie Macdonald, “and to see them excel and come together now is just a different dynamic. And Claire? When we did the Porch Fest (as part of Open Streets in June), her voice just carried so much.” Adds co-organizer Councillor John Abel, “When I heard they were all together, it was just like magic and all the pieces were fitting in. It is all about enabling youth and that is our underlying mission.” The Aurora Music Festival will feature the headlining act of Monkey Junk, along with local favourites Bernadette Connors, and the Pick Brothers Band, and local youth bands Louisa and the Planets (lead by former Aurora Teen Idol Louisa Barbosa) and Half Birthday. The members of Half Birthday, including Claire on lead vocals and guitar, Ray Goudy on bass, Harrison Smith on guitar, Charlotte McMunn on drums and Ben Rosittan on sax, have largely become known to Festival organizers either as solo acts or as members of other bands. They came together as Half Birthday with a first gig at 33 1/3 Record Store at Bayview and Hollidge, with a mix of



Claire Wright

Supplied photo

original songs and covers, from Led Zeppelin to contemporary tunes. “I have always been exposed to music by my parents, especially my dad, and I did musical theatre when I was younger,” says Claire, “But I was reintroduced to performing live music about a year ago.” Setting out for local open mic nights, she found her musical theatre training made it easy to be comfortable singing and strumming for an audience. She wasn’t sure how it would feel at first, but she says it came back very naturally. From there, she began to write. One of the first songs she wrote was called By Chance Alone, which was inspired by an experience she had meeting Max Eisen, a Holocaust survivor. “I feel when you’re writing it is more personal, but when you’re on stage, you’re sharing your feelings with all the people you are playing with,” says Claire. “As a band, we all bounce off each other and it is a different energy than writing.” Since putting herself out there, Claire says she has been described variously as sounding like an R&B artist, but she has also received feedback that she has a bit of a country vibe. She doesn’t necessarily buy it, but she’s not discounting it. “I feel like everyone can determine my sound in different ways,” she says, inviting the community to come out to Town Park and experience Half Birthday themselves. “We’re just looking for everyone to have a good time!” And, in the end, having a good time and nurturing young talent is what it is all about for the Aurora Music Festival, and its umbrella group Music Aurora. “There has always been a component of introducing the local community to local talent and something that is going to wow you,” says Mr. Macdonald. “That keeps any festival fresh. Our lineup always keeps spots open for youth acts and local acts as well. There is so much great talent in our back yard and it is making opportunities available. That is the mantra of Music Aurora.”

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Shahaed named 2017 John West Memorial Scholar

By Brock Weir

In his lifetime, former Aurora mayor John West was awarded for his leadership, and nearly four years after his death, his legacy continues to recognize the leaders of tomorrow.

One such leader is recent Aurora High School graduate Heba Shahaed, who was named the 2017 recipient of the John West Memorial Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship.

With a value of \$1,000, the scholarships were established with a bequest from Mr. West, who died in December of 2013. To recognize students who have made a positive impact in the local community and have set a good example for other young people to follow.

This scholarship is just the latest award Heba has received for her leadership as she prepares to embark on her post-secondary career after receiving Magna's Give Back Award this past spring.

"Heba recently graduated from Aurora High School and is attending McMaster University in the fall in the Life Sciences program," said Julie Stephenson, Youth Programmer for the Town of Aurora, last Tuesday as Heba was cheered on by friends and family. "Heba was the president of her high school's Health Occupation Students of America Association and the Empowering Student Partnerships, Vice President of Equity Council, president of Student Council, an executive on her school's Relay for Life team and Member of the Town of Aurora Youth Engagement Committee."

The testimonial continued from Gregory Peri, Acting Youth and Community Development Coordinator for the Town, before Mayor Geoff Dawe formally presented the scholarship.

"Heba was the coordinator of her school's Peer Mentor program, which helped launch a student wellness campaign at her school using innovative design of exam anti-stress kits and activities meant to support mental

health," said Mr. Peri. "As she has demonstrated exemplary dedication to our community and volunteered almost 1,300 hours in community involvement throughout her high school career, Heba is a dedicated leader with a personal passion for programs and initiatives that develop community and promote inclusion.

"Her involvement in the Aurora Oral History project, in partnership with

In school, I began to see how my help and volunteerism made an impact and helped make a difference in the lives of many people, so I decided to explore different options to get involved

the Aurora Historical Society focused on bridging the gap between seniors and youth with the sharing of personal history and the preservation of our town's heritage. We are honoured to present to you the 2017 John West Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Award."

Speaking to The Auroran as a recipient of the 2017 Give Back Awards, Heba told The Auroran that she dedicates herself to giving back to the community "so that we can progress as a society."

"I think it is my responsibility," she said, noting she is inspired to continue her work when she sees the impact her volunteerism has – and continues to – have. "In school, I began to see how my help and volunteerism made an impact and helped make a difference in the lives of many people, so I decided to explore different options to get involved, whether it has been through the Aurora Historical Society or with the Pen Pal program at the Aurora Public Library. It is something that makes me feel really good, made

others feel really good, so I decided to continue."

As noted, Heba will continue her studies at McMaster University with plans to become a medical doctor.

"I want to continue volunteering wherever I go," she said. "I want to give back, whether it is through volunteering at the hospital or spending time tutoring and helping out my peers, assisting teachers, with people living in the community – anything I can do to help and be a leader in my community I would like to do."

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- CLUES ACROSS**

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 - 3. ___ N' Baloo
 - 10. At all times
 - 14. ___ Triad: fictional crit
 - 15. Spiked revolving disk
 - 16. Swiss river
 - 17. Most
 - 18. Finnish lake
 - 19. Spanish cyclist Juan
 - 20. Consumer
 - 22. No more available
 - 23. Arrive
 - 24. Update NY city
 - 27. Team's best pitcher
 - 30. Follows signs
 - 31. Consumes
 - 32. Compromises
 - 35. Spider's territory
 - 37. Conclusion
 - 38. Female parent
 - 39. Instruments
 - 40. ___-box exercise
 - 41. Jewish spiritual leader
 - 42. Old carol
 - 43. In support of
 - 44. Mossy ecology
 - 45. Color of blood
 - 46. '___ death do us part
 - 47. Radio finder (abbr.)
 - 48. Promotions
 - 49. Songs
 - 52. Tony winner Daisy
 - 55. Not just "play"
 - 56. Affected with rabies
 - 60. Formal group of like-minded people
 - 61. Hold valuable
 - 63. Style advisor
 - 64. Actress Lucy
 - 65. Prevents the fermentation of
 - 66. Furniture
 - 67. Long, winding ridge
 - 68. Cover with drops
 - 69. Major European river
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Greek goddess of youth
 - 2. Early kingdom in Syria
 - 3. Fortifying disk
 - 4. Walk into
 - 5. Island state ___ Lanika
 - 6. Japan's most populous island
 - 7. Mindful of
 - 8. Fuel
 - 9. NY Giant's Manning
 - 10. Very willing
 - 11. Linear unit
 - 12. Guitarist Clapton
 - 13. Scramble letter
 - 21. Habitual repetitions
 - 23. Bank
 - 25. Tied
 - 26. Small movement
 - 27. A theatrical performer
 - 28. 2-door car
 - 29. ___ and flowered
 - 32. Arabic female name
 - 33. Implant within
 - 34. Groups of two
 - 36. College athletic conference
 - 37. Body part
 - 38. Disfigure
 - 40. Accept
 - 41. Allude to
 - 43. Type of tone
 - 44. Doctor of Education
 - 46. Paul Jane's first album
 - 47. Flower cluster
 - 49. Heavy cavalry sword
 - 50. Arabian Peninsula desert
 - 51. Martin
 - 52. Type of sound
 - 53. Expression of grief
 - 54. Librarian tribal people
 - 57. Wizards' shooting guard Bradley
 - 58. Matched feet
 - 59. Blooded knowledge
 - 61. Slave-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 62. Midway between south and southwest



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Chad Brownlee headlines Hoedown’s Friday night

By Brock Weir

Award-winning country singer Chad Brownlee will headline the first night of Magna’s annual Wild, Wild West Hoedown.

Brownlee, an award-winning singer, songwriter, philanthropist and former NHL draft pick, will open York Region’s biggest two-night party starting with a rollicking show on Friday, September 15.

“With over a billion radio impressions to date, his singles have rapidly climbed the country music charts,” says Erin Cerenzia, Coordinator of Magna for the Community and Neighbourhood Network. “Most recently, he garnered a highly coveted 2017 Juno Award nomination for Country Album of the Year, earned Gold certification for his single, I Hate You For It, celebrated his first video on CMT, and achieved his third consecutive Top 10 hit with the single Somethin’ We Shouldn’t Do.”

Brownlee’s story is a unique one on the country music scene.

Few emerging country stars can boast about making the NHL draft, nor his philanthropic work with the Tim Horton Children’s Foundation, but he says he “lives by the credence that opportunity lies along the path created by the choices you make.”

Since embarking on his country music career, he has racked up over one

billion radio impressions so far and has also received recognition on the road with his Hearts on Fire Tour, launched in January, which he co-headlined in some venues with fellow country star Tim Hicks.

“‘[I Hate You For It] is my favourite song on the new album,” he says of Hearts on Fire. “It’s got an edge that is slightly softened by an underlying addictive love. We can become entangled in one another. A conscious knowing of the intoxicating power one person can have over our emotions. We lay prisoner to the chains of infatuation. Like the lyrics say, one is literally ‘punch drunk crazy!’”

Hearts on Fire is his fourth studio album. It is characterized as “reflective, conveying a philosophical honesty regarding his musical journey.

“[It is] quite surreal actually,” he says. “I’m starting to grow to accept how incomprehensible time is. I really didn’t know what to expect when I started down this music road. It’s like watching a bucket of water fill up one drop at a time. In the moment it may seem slow, but before you know it, the drops have filled the entire bucket.

“At the beginning of my journey, and still to this day, I just want to write the best song in each moment of creativity and sing the best I can sing each time I perform.”

THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

THURSDAY, JULY 20

National Bank at 133 Pedersen Drive will host a fundraising barbeque today benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The grill is hot from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SPEAKERS SERIES: Join the Aurora Historical Society for its 2017 Speaker Series with Megan Houston and Saving the Temple: 100 Years of Historic Preservation. Here, she will share the history of preservation and conservation the Sharon Temple. Tickets are \$7 each, or \$5 for AHS members. Refreshments served. To reserve your seat, call 905-727-8991. For more information on Megan and the rest of the Speakers’ Series, visit aurorahs.com/activities.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

LEAF will take over Macell Park today for the Tree Tenders Stewardship Day from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This site, planted last year with young trees and shrubs, needs some TLC in order to thrive. Join them to get your hands dirty at this family-friendly event! 10 – 10.30 a.m.: learn about restoration efforts during a short tour of the site. 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon: hands-on work party to remove invasive species and apply mulch around young trees and shrubs. Refreshments provided. Volunteer hours available. Please wear long pants and close-toed shoes (no sandals!) and bring sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, and water. This event is rain or shine. Registration is recommended. For more information, visit www.youleaf.org/node/1689.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

DISCOVERY DAYS FOR KIDS: Join the Aurora Historical Society for the return of the summer children’s program, Discovery Days for Kids! Each day will consist of a kid-friendly tour of Hillary House National Historic Site followed by a fun heritage craft or activity. This year’s programs include Medical Detectives, Nature Seekers, Arts and Crafts and the ever-popular Dig It! For more details, contact Leigha Cooney at community@aurorahs.com. Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street. 1.30 – 3.30 p.m.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK – Join the Town of Aurora as TD presents Concerts in the Park at Town Park this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. with Bryan Adams Forever: The Canadian Tribute. Enjoy a great evening celebrating the incredible music of Bryan Adams. Enjoy classics like Run To You and Summer of ‘69. Concerts are free, food vendors will be on site. For your seating comfort please bring a portable chair. A food donation to the Aurora Food Pantry is greatly appreciated.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

DISCOVERY DAYS FOR KIDS: Join the Aurora Historical Society for the return of the summer children’s program, Discovery Days for Kids! Each day will consist of a kid-friendly tour of Hillary House National Historic Site followed by a fun heritage craft or activity. This year’s programs include Medical Detectives, Nature Seekers, Arts and Crafts and the ever-popular Dig It! For more details, contact Leigha Cooney at community@aurorahs.com. Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street. 1.30 – 3.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

The Aurora Ladies Ball Hockey League (ALBHL) will host their finals at the Aurora Community Centre tonight from 6.45 – 11.30 p.m. The ALBHL is a recreational indoor ball hockey league for women of any age consisting of 8 teams playing out of the Aurora Community Centre on Tuesday nights from May to August. Proceeds from the finals will benefit the Aurora Food Pantry, Walk it Off, the Canadian Cancer Society, Autism Ontario, and more.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

DISCOVERY DAYS FOR KIDS: Join the Aurora Historical Society for the return of the summer children’s program, Discovery Days for Kids! Each day will consist of a kid-friendly tour of Hillary House National Historic Site followed by a fun heritage craft or activity. This year’s programs include Medical Detectives, Nature Seekers, Arts and Crafts and the ever-popular Dig It! For more details, contact Leigha Cooney at community@aurorahs.com. Hillary House is located at 15372 Yonge Street. 1.30 – 3.30 p.m.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK – Join the Town of Aurora as TD presents Concerts in the Park at Town Park this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. with the Toronto All Star Jazz Band. For a standing ovation quality big band Jazz and swing music don’t miss the Toronto All Star Jazz Band. It will be a high energy evening. Concerts are free, food vendors will be on site. For your seating comfort please bring a portable chair. A food donation to the Aurora Food Pantry is greatly appreciated.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

“A simple hello could lead to a million things,” say organizers of the Spanish Business Meetup, which takes place at Aurora Town Hall this evening from 7 - 9 p.m. Come and explore new possibilities, meet like-minded people, create meaningful connections and learn ways to improve your business. Networking, workshops, presentations, roundtables and more – todo en Español. For more information, contact Chole Vargas at chole@holayorkregion.com.

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REGISTERED RECES required for local school aged child care centres in Aurora. Must have experience working with children ages 4-12 years. Available for part time split shift Monday to Friday 7 - 9 am and 3 - 6:30 pm. Please contact Marisa at amongfriendsday-carecentres@hotmail.com.

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OFFICE SPACE TO RENT: Downtown Yonge St. Ample Parking. For information call Telly, 905 -717-4073.

DEATH NOTICE

Wood, Christopher Broderick

Peacefully at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket on Saturday July 15, 2017 in his 92nd year. Chris beloved husband of Joyce for 69 years. Loving father to Carol, and her husband Dean Thompson, Rick, and his wife Julie, Shirley, and her husband Bill Mowat, Don, and his wife Cathy, and Heather. Dear grandfather to 10, and great grandfather to 9. Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway S., Aurora (905 727-5421) on Friday July 21 from 2-4, and 6-8pm. A Funeral Service will be held in the chapel Saturday July 22 at 10am. Interment Queensville Cemetery. Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family. On-line condolences may be left at www.thompsonfh-aurora.com. Chris will be fondly remembered for his clowning, and his contagious smile.



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- Freelance reporting work for weekly community newspapers and special projects
- Will produce stories and bylines for the events they cover
- Will be paid on a freelance/contract basis per project/story
 - Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
 - Take photographs
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
 - Valid driver’s license and a reliable vehicle
 - Reporting experience an asset
 - An interest in local issues is a necessity, as the majority of the writing for this role will be local



Let’s Talk.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to brock@auroran.com



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Send your entries labelled “Alive Photography Contest” to brock@auroran.com.

The winner will be announced at the Library’s Ontario Public Library Week Open House on Mon. Oct. 16 and will receive a gift certificate for a Movie Date Night. The winning photograph will be published in The Auroran.

