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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 18 No. 42 905-727-3300 | theauroran.com | FREE | Week of August 2, 2018 | CMCA AUDITED

THE VOTERS' CHOICE – Aurora's four-man Mayoral race was confirmed Friday as the nomination period for the 2018 Municipal Election came to a close. In the running to be Aurora's next mayor are, in alphabetical order, (left to right) incumbent councillor John Abel, former MPP Chris Ballard, incumbent mayor Geoff Dawe, and incumbent councillor Tom Mrakas. **Supplied photos**

Abel, Ballard, Dawe, Mrakas confirmed for Mayor's race

16 vying for six Council seats in October election

By Brock Weir

The nominations have been filed, the list of nominees has been finalized, and now it's time for candidates to hit the pavement and Aurorans to make a very important decision in this fall's municipal election.

Nominations closed Friday afternoon and by the time 2 p.m. arrived, four men filed their papers to be Aurora's next Mayor while 16 residents threw their hats into the race for six Council seats.

Vying for the Mayoral Chains are, in alphabetical order, John Abel, Chris Ballard, Geoff Dawe, and Tom Mrakas.

Mr. Abel, an incumbent Councillor, is now coming to the end of his second term on Council after being elected in 2010.

A former municipal Councillor first elected in 2010, Mr. Ballard came into the race just weeks after his defeat in June's Provincial Election, prior to which he served as Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, following a time as Minister of Housing and Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

He was elected to Queen's Park in 2014 with just months left in his term on Aurora Council.

Mr. Dawe was among the first candidates to file his nomination papers as soon as the nomination period opened on May 1. He is seeking his third term as Mayor of Aurora after first being elected in 2010.

Mr. Mrakas was also at Town Hall as

Continued on page 13

Hallmark lands go to baseball in Council U-turn

By Brock Weir

Athletes will now get two baseball diamonds on the Hallmark Lands after Council made a U-turn last week on how the property should use.

Earlier this summer, Council struck what many local lawmakers said was a "compromise", deciding to build one multipurpose rectangular field and one senior baseball diamond after reaching an impasse on which sports group was in greater need of field hours.

Continued on page 15

BLAZE OF GLORY – Ray Preston and Heather Sykes, members of the Aurora Village Co-Op, set fire to the building's fully-paid mortgage at a community celebration on Saturday. The Co-Op's mortgage-burning party was not only a way to celebrate a significant milestone, but it was also a way to highlight the issue of affordable housing. For more, see Page 9. **Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan**

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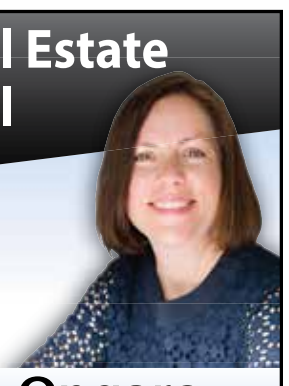
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TOWN OF AURORA

Notice Board

AURORA

Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
~~Tuesday, August 7~~	~~7 p.m.~~	~~Council Chambers~~	~~General Committee~~ **Cancelled**
Wednesday, August 8	7 p.m.	Aurora Cultural Centre	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Thursday, August 9	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
~~Tuesday, August 14~~	~~7 p.m.~~	~~Council Chambers~~	~~Council~~ **Cancelled**

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

Council meetings are open to the public. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit **aurora.ca.**

Congratulations

Congratulations to the 2018 Town of Aurora Student Academic Achievement Award winners

Each year the Town of Aurora awards two grade 12 students from each high school in the local community with the Town of Aurora Student Academic Achievement Award to honour their significant academic achievements.

Below are the names of the 2018 winners:

Aurora High School • Angela Horyacheva and Michael Zheng
Cardinal Carter Catholic High School • Kelly Hanna and Behnoud Hosseinian
Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School • Sophia and Paraskevopoulos and Charlotte Reeves
École Secondaire catholique Renaissance • Chloé Lagacé and Stéphane Arcand
St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School • Peter Chimienti and Breanna DeFreitas

Aurora Town Council extends best wishes to all of the recipients!

Sincerely,
Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and the Town of Aurora Council

What's Happening

Register now for summer camps

Register now for one of the Town's exciting summer camps. Camps include sports, swimming, technology, cooking, science and arts and crafts. View the program guide and the summer camps brochure online at **aurora.ca/campprograms.**

Skylight Gallery Artists for August

This month, the Skylight Gallery will feature *On Location: Paintings & Photographs* inspired by the travels of Nancy Newman and Linda Welch. Nancy and Linda are both active members of the local arts community. They share their love of watercolour painting and photography with others through their popular trips to France, Ireland and Spain.

Paintings and photographs from their travels will be featured this month in the Skylight Gallery. Regular viewing times are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall, 3rd Floor.

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE AURORA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Aurora Town Council invites residents or individuals working in Aurora to apply to participate as a board member of the Aurora Economic Development Corporation ("AEDC").

The AEDC will develop for Council, a dynamic economic development strategy for our community and provide ongoing advice to ensure those goals are achieved.

We are looking for individuals that are eager to lead and provide a fresh perspective and vision to shape the economic direction of the Town for future generations. Candidates will ideally have business experience and reflect the cultural and demographic diversity of our community. Experience in the Hospitality, Arts and Culture, Educational, Health Care or Governmental areas would be helpful but not required.

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please complete the required application form accompanied with an updated resume prior to August 31, 2018.

For more information, please visit aurora.ca/AEDC to review the related Terms of Reference and the required Application Form.

Civic Holiday Service Schedule

aurora.ca • 905-727-1375

MUNICIPAL OFFICE • 100 John West Way

Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way) will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, August 6** for the Civic Holiday. Regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with extended hours until 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays will resume on **Tuesday, August 7**.

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

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY • 15145 Yonge Street

The Aurora Public Library will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, August 6**.
For more information, please visit **aurorapl.ca** or call 905-727-9494.

WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection is **NOT AFFECTED** by the Civic Holiday. For more information on waste collection in Aurora, please consult your *2018 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar*.

RECREATION CENTRES

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

Please note, the **Aurora Seniors' Centre** is **CLOSED** from **Saturday, August 4** to **Monday, August 6**.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

What's Happening

TD PRESENTS
AURORA'S 2018
CONCERTS IN THE PARK
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Celebrating Bands, Artists and Songwriters
August 8, 15, 22 and 29 • 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Town Park, 49 Wells Street

August 8 • Borealis Big Band
This Aurora based jazz band performs a wide variety of styles including swing, fink, smooth, Latin/Cuban and fusion.

August 15 • Jared Lutes
Jared Lutes is an international award-winning songwriter from Atlantic Canada, with roots in Country, Folk, and Rock n' Roll.

August 22 • Fleetwood Nicks and Practically Petty
Enjoy the greatest hits from Fleetwood Mac, Tom Petty and Stevie Nicks.

August 29 • Just Heart - Tribute to Heart
Just Heart will feature the fun-filled, full-tilt Rock n' Roll songs that Heart is famous for.

TD Premium Concert Experience
With every food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry made before the concerts start, you have the opportunity to earn two concert prize packages, as well as a chance to receive an upgrade to the front row and watch the concert from the special TD chairs.
Inclement weather? Please call the 24-hour special events line at 905-726-4762.

NEW
The Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair will be on-site with sample market starting at 5 p.m.

Concerts are free.
For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.
aurora.ca/summerconcerts
#AuroraConcerts • 905-726-4762
We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

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AURORA'S **MOVIES IN THE PARK**

ALL MOVIES START AT DUSK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16
WONDER WOMAN (PG-13)
ADA JOHNSON PARK 60 Hartwell Way
- Don't miss the first outdoor movie of the summer.
- Arrive early to enjoy some action-packed activities, starting at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23
THE INCREDIBLES (PG)
AURORA TOWN PARK 49 Wells Street
- Come dressed as your favourite superhero for a chance to win a prize.
- Arrive early for superhero skill training activities before the movie, starting at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30
COCO (PG)
HICKSON PARK 155 Conover Avenue
- Join us for the final movie of the season.
- Arrive at 7:30 p.m. to create some Coco themed crafts and play games.

- Enjoy the special pre-movie crafts and activities starting at 7:30 p.m.
- **Movies are free!**
A food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated.
For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

Inclement weather?
If you are unsure about the weather the day of the event, please call the 24-hour special events line at 905-726-4762.
We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

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AURORA'S **RIBFEST**
THE TASTIEST EVENT OF THE YEAR

FREE ADMISSION
AUGUST 24-26, 2018

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
11 a.m. to 11 p.m.	11 a.m. to 11 p.m.	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• Age 18 and older only from 8 p.m.-11 p.m. •

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SATURDAY 9 p.m. PLATINUM BLONDE — BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

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* Nominal fee applies ** Various times of operation

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#AuroraRibfest

Another exciting event brought to you by AURORA

Provincial Government to scrap race for Regional Chair

By Brock Weir

The race to lead York Region came to an abrupt halt on Friday when Ontario Premier Doug Ford announcing the Provincial government would scrap the election of the Regional Chair in York, Peel, Muskoka and Niagara, with just hours left in the nomination period.

In a statement released Friday, Mr. Ford said it was a move to "deliver better government."

"We ran on a commitment to restore accountability and trust, to reduce the size and cost of government, including an end to the culture of waste and mismanagement," said Mr. Ford. "Because one thing every politician at every level and in every region needs to remember is we all share the same boss. We all work for the people."

In addition to scrapping the Regional Chair vote, a process which got underway following a motion by then Newmarket-Aurora MPP (and now Aurora mayoral candidate) Chris Ballard which was subsequently passed by the Ontario Legislature, the Better Local Government Act also outlined plans to slash the size of Toronto Council by nearly half to align with the current 25 provincial and federal ridings in the City of Toronto.

Ahead of Friday's announcement, a number of high profile candidates were in the Regional Chair races, including former Ontario cabinet minister Steven Del Duca in York and, in Peel, former Progressive Conservative leader – and Mr. Ford's predecessor – Patrick Brown.

The reaction to the move here in Aurora was swift, particularly as electing the York Regional Chair had been a contentious issue around the Council table.

Aurora Council almost unanimously voted in favour of sending a clear message to the Region they would like to see the Head of Council become an elected position, something Mayor Geoff Dawe ultimately voted against as the Town's representative at the upper tier.

The first reaction came from Mr. Ballard, who said residents have a "fundamental right" to choose who governs us. He said he was "profoundly disappointed" the new Ontario government was going back on reforms.

"As Member of Provincial Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, I introduced Private Members' Bill 43 to directly elect the Chair," said Mr. Ballard. "It received unanimous support by all parties before being sent to an all-party committee for consideration. At committee, residents of all political stripes came forward to testify in support of my Bill. This is not a partisan issue.

"Previous versions of [my Bill] had been introduced by York Region MPPs Reza Moridi and Helena Jaczek. They, too, had received all-party support, including from my predecessor, Frank Klees, a Progressive Conservative. Julia Munro, Progressive Conservative MPP for Simcoe North spoke in support of my Bill in the Legislature, as did MPP Gila Martow, Progressive Conservative, representing Thornhill.

"Directly electing the Regional Chair is important so that you and I can have a say in what goes on at Regional Council. Direct election means we are able to hold the most powerful politician in the Region accountable. With a 2018 Operating Budget of $2.28 billion, a 2018 capital budget of $810 million, and significant debt, the Region is responsible for a large portion of the municipal tax bill we pay. But, perhaps more important, the Regional Chair has a huge say in how our Region, its towns, cities and villages will look in future years. Is growth balanced? Is the environment protected? Is there adequate public transit? Are Regional roads being well maintained? All this, and more, lie at the feet of the Regional Chair."

Addressing Friday's announcement, Mr. Dawe did not comment on the Premier's decision directly, but reiterated his position on why he believes the Chair of York Region should be appointed by members of Regional Council rather than by the public at large.

"It is no secret that I was not in favour of moving to an Elected Regional Chair," he said. "The existing system, where the democratically elected representatives of York Regional Council vote for the Chair, has served Aurora well and ensured that our relatively small community continues to have a strong voice in Regional affairs.

"The Northern 6 [York Region] Communities, which include Aurora, represent roughly one quarter of York Region's population. An elected Regional Chair, in all likelihood, would be selected from the more populous communities in the south. While I am sure that whoever was elected would do his or her best to represent all York Region communities, I can't help but think there would be bias towards the south. As Mayor of Aurora, I have 1 vote in 20. It represents far better odds than 1 in 300,000!"

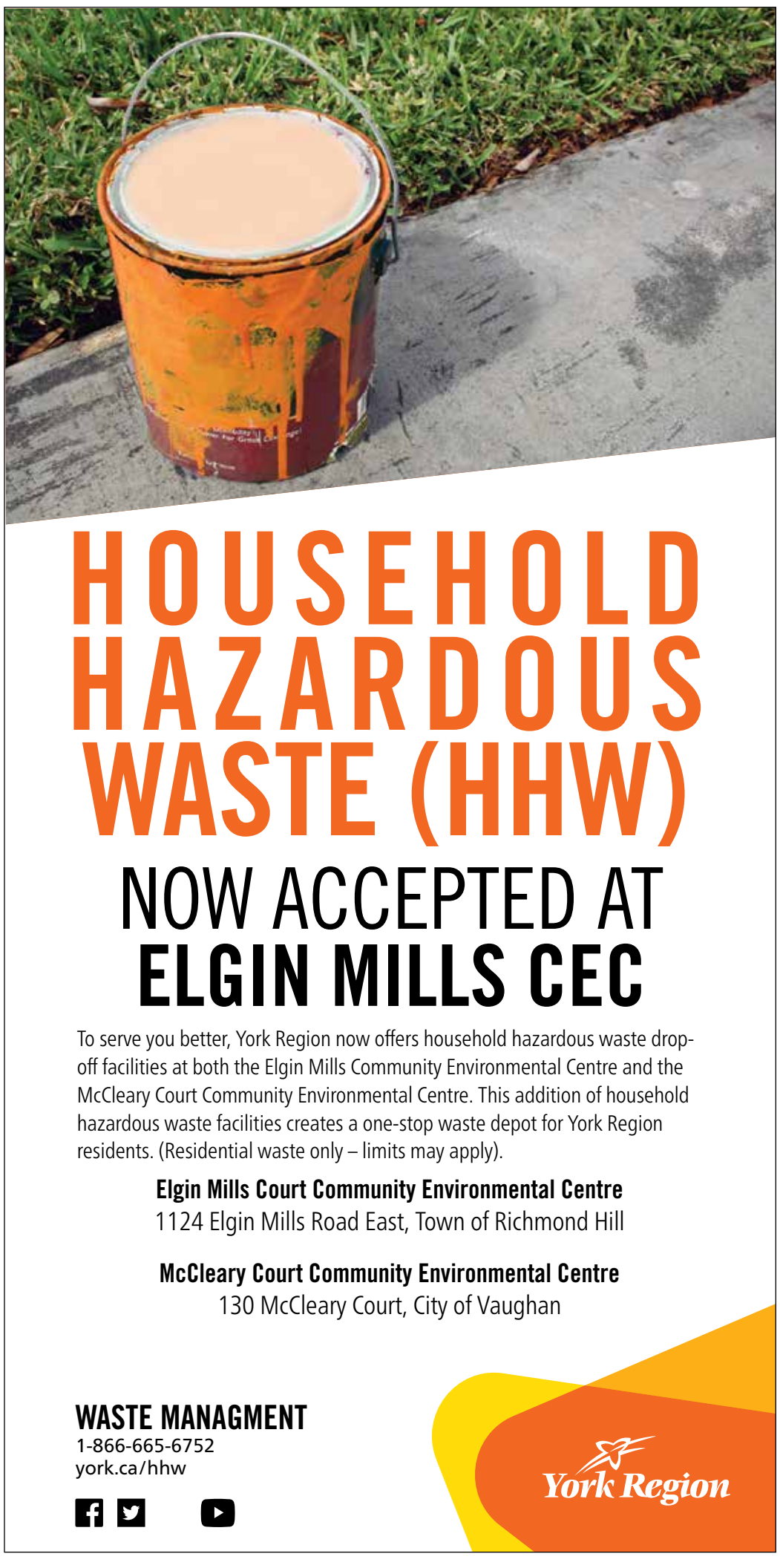
Mr. Mrakas, on the other hand, has a far different view.

"The issue was not contentious at Aurora Council," he said. "Council voted 8 – 1 in support of an elected chair. The only member who did not support democratically elected representation at the Regional level was Geoff Dawe. Further, he voted against Council direction at Regional Council, voting against an elected Chair and for the status quo of appointing someone to the job."

"The municipalities in York Region are on record supporting electing the Regional Chair," added Mr. Abel. "It's part of democratic process. I would have preferred a longer timeline and consultation with the Province prior to any decision."

At press time, the confirmed candidates for York Region's chair were, in alphabetical order, Steven Del Duca, Mario Racco, Rasari Sriskandarasah, Chevaunne Stewart and Judith Tenenbaum.

HAVE YOUR SAY – Should the Provincial Government allow the election of the York Regional Chair to continue? Have your say at letters@auroran.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ford "blowing up traditional norms"

(Re: Brock's Banter, July 26)

Remember when conservatives wanted to "conserve" things? And some of them were actually "progressive"? No more!

Within 24 hours of Brock Weir's publication of his thoughtful meditation on decency, civility and resilience, Doug Ford dropped several bombs on good faith and good governance.

Destructive, anti-democratic impulses are driving decision making from the American White House to Ontario's Pink Palace. Donald Trump and Doug Ford delight in "blowing up" traditional norms, venerable institutions, practical policies and fair procedures that actually serve the public good.

Supported by just 40 per cent of the electorate, Premier Ford is trashing sex education in deference to religious extremists, cancelling the arbitration award that resolved last year's bitter college strike, doubling-down on Mike Harris' ill-conceived amalgamation by changing Toronto's election rules and empowering himself to do for Queen's Park what voters sensibly prevented him from doing as Mayor of Toronto, and robbing citizens of York Region of the right to elect our own chief executive officer, and much, much more.

Soon he will surely rescind needed increases to the minimum wage and repeal the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act that brought hope to precarious workers.

Following the mass shooting in Toronto, he wants to expand police presence and electronic surveillance by defunding mental health programs. He has blundered into the immigration debate, cancelled important environmental programs, and is abandoning the lucrative marijuana industry to for-profit entrepreneurs regardless of public health and safety.

Say what you like about these thoughtless initiatives, but let no one claim that they're progressive, conservative, or in the interest of "the people."

Howard A. Doughty
Oak Ridges

Pedersen isn't the only problem traffic area, says reader

(Re: Traffic calming measures coming to Pedersen Drive following plea from neighbours, July 5)

I agree with everything said.

The whole area from Wellington St. to St. John's Sideroad to Bayview is an accident waiting to happen.

I live on John West Way at Civic Square Gate. The traffic on John West Way is horrible, I see it every day.

People are using this road as a cut through to Bayview. Driving is aggressive, vehicles passing on this road, in this high-density area: park, senior's residence, condo buildings.

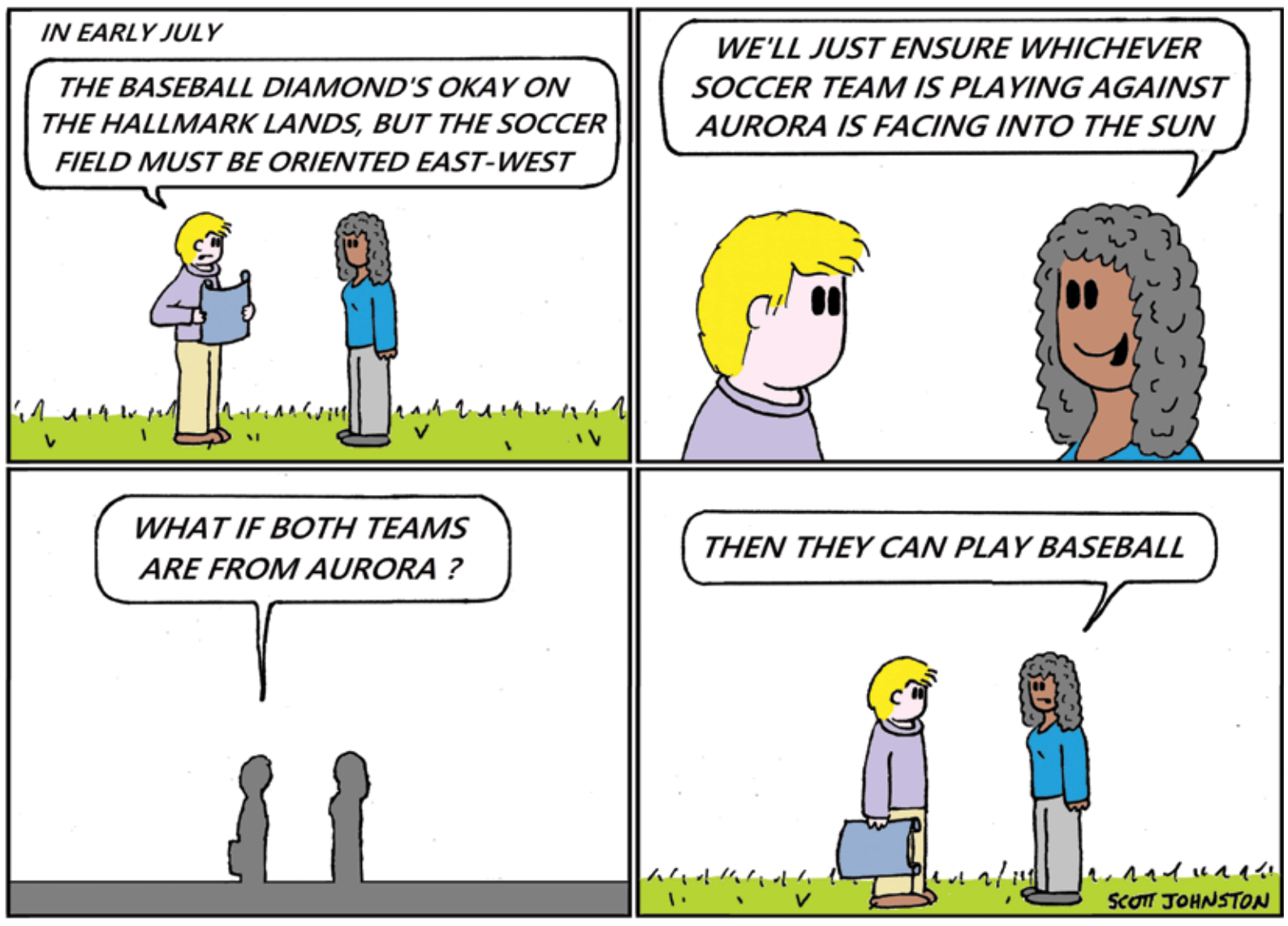
I've seen and heard cars with very noisy mufflers, revving engines, drag racing later at night, especially on the weekends.

I have spoken to the sergeant at the local police detachment, I was told they don't have enough police cars to monitor the streets.

Someone is going to get seriously hurt.

J. Mayer
Aurora

Machell's Corners



People of Convenience

BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm finding myself more and more frequently looking in the rear view mirror the less and less I actually happen to be on the road.

With each passing day, I wonder with greater frequency whether I got off the road at the wrong exit. If it's not wondering whether I got off on the right exit, it's pondering if I got distracted somewhere along the way and the exit I was supposed to hit was a few kilometres back and I was bound for a destination unknown.

The former typically wins out over the latter and each day seems stranger, more foreign, and perhaps even more bewildering than the last.

Although we're probably more than tired of hearing about it at this point, consider the goings-on south of our border, where each hour seems to bring a new twist that was stranger than the last turn. Our accepted line between what is considered "normal" and that vague area of "abnormal" is continually redrawn further and further away, what was once inconceivable is now just your typical, run of the mill Thursday, and what can be found by turning on any outlet from CNN to FOX News at any given moment is stranger and more ludicrous than anything Aaron Sorkin or the creators of House of Cards ever dared dream.

Yet, it's the reality we're living in now and it is likely to get worse before it gets better. The most alarming part is, it is going to continue to get weirder than what was once, just a few years before, beyond the limits of our collective imagination.

It's a word where the so-called Leader of the Free World, so anointed by the people of the country he now leads, tells the same people that they shouldn't bother to believe, or even consider, what they see with their own eyes or hear with their own ears, and only what comes out of his mouth, or the tweets from his fingertips as the approved gospel.

It's a world where governments purporting to be for the populace often prefer their people to surrender their powers of critical thinking to be led blindly to their final destination, and they are doing so willingly.

And yet, those who are doing so still cling to the belief that they are being heard, their needs are being met and they, the little guy, are still ultimately wielding the keys to power.

Thankfully, here in Ontario, things have not quite hit the skids, but all too many people were on high alert last Thursday when word began to leak from Queen's Park that Premier Ford was poised to not only halve the admittedly unwieldly size of Toronto's municipal Council, but also unilaterally cancel the votes for the position of Chair in the Regions of York and Peel.

This fall's Municipal Election, up until that point, seemed to be a relatively sedate affair.

There seemed no real rush from candidates to file their names in the attempt to storm the halls of power with their own visions for the municipality.

Many of those who already hold some sway in the power department – Mayor and Councillors – formally put in their paperwork and paid the requisite fees in order to be re-hired by the people, but others, some names as expected, jumped into the fray for the first time, looking for their opportunity to make a difference and their chance to help shape their communities.

All seemed to be shaping up as expected, but, having a gut feeling there might be an unexpected twist in the municipal saga, some of us camped out at Town Hall to see just what it might be.

I guess that gut feeling must have been something we ate, or at least a bad case of gas, and no twists ultimately transpired, but there was no shortage of things to talk about thanks to the Premier's decision.

That bombshell revelation gave plenty of fodder, ranging from speculation on the Premier's motives for doing such a thing, whether or not it was simply a move to spite his Progressive Conservative predecessor Patrick Brown, who was then in the running for Regional Chair of Peel, the practicality (or lack thereof) of pruning the size of Toronto Council, and the in-real-time developments of Mr. Brown subsequently filing his papers to run for Mayor of Brampton and the whiplash of incumbent (and appointed) York Region Chair Wayne Emmerson announcing Thursday he would not seek election to the Region's top job, only to change his mind and file his papers in the wake of the Premier's announcement.

A suddenly exciting election? Absolutely. But worrying? Sadly, yes.

The newly elected Progressive Conservative Provincial Government likes to paint itself to be a "government for the people."

There have been a few glimmers of this in the lead up to – and weeks following – the election where the Premier-to-be reversed his position on opening up the Greenbelt to development after extreme backlash from the people – backlash, in this case, dubbed "consultation with the people of Ontario." Most recently, the government made a pivot on redrafting the health and sex-ed curriculum after heated public feedback.

And yet, this very important decision on how Ontarians are governed was made unilaterally.

It is concerning to me that a government that claims to be "government for the people" will not give the people a say in how they are governed. When push comes to shove, Torontonians might believe they would be better served by a streamlined Council. Aurora certainly thought so when they voted to shrink Council by two members in the 2014 referendum. But Aurorans were afforded the chance to have their say.

Citizens were also given the chance to speak out on whether they wanted the heads of their Regional Councils to be elected positions. Some Regional Councillors – including Mayors – in each area had their misgivings about opening the position up to the general public, and, in many cases, voted against it, the public was very much of the position that they wanted to have a say in who would lead the way.

This was born out in many ways, ranging from unscientific online polls, to debates in lower tier Council chambers, to extensive public consultation and hearings undertaken by the Previous Provincial Government.

And yet, the very change that the people wanted, has been snatched away.

If the new Provincial Government wants to live up to its promise of being a "Government for the People," the first step is to listen to those people and serve those interests. By choosing that moniker, they have set a high bar and now they have to deliver. If not, we might be on a slippery slope, and we now know some of the things that could be at the bottom of that hill.

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Founder Ron Wallace | Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: administration@auroran.com

EDITOR Brock Weir, brock@auroran.com
GENERAL MANAGER Zach Shoub, zach@auroran.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Cynthia Proctor, cynthia@auroran.com
CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-3300 ex.102, cynthia@auroran.com
ADVERTISING Zach Shoub, zach@lpcmedia.ca
ADVERTISING Diane Buchanan, diane@auroran.com
TODAYS NEW HOMES Zach Shoub, zach@auroran.com
PHOTOGRAPHY Glenn Rodger, grodger@rogers.com
ADVERTISING Doug Sherritt, doug@lpcmedia.ca
ADVERTISING Jamie Steranka, Jamie@lpcmedia.ca
MOTORING Heather Erwin, heather@caledoncitizen.com

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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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating…

Fishing Month!

August is fishing month and here at the Aurora Museum & Archives we have some sharp points to make. This spear (W72) is cast-iron and has two openings in the bottom shaft to attach a handle. Spear fishing is a technique that has been used since the Paleolithic age. Trident spears, like this one, have a barbed edged to secure the fish and stop it from escaping, which ensures a good catch and fun fisherman's tales. The trident is probably most famous as the chief weapon of Poseidon the ancient Greek god of oceans.Enjoy a safe and fun Fishing Month!

AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Now there are four

FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

One intriguing rumor that had been floating out there in the ether was that Chris Ballard, the former Liberal MPP for Newmarket-Aurora and Minister of Environment and Climate Change might decide to seek the Mayor's chain of office.

It would not be the last time that something like this happened.

Scores of defeated or retired MPs and MPPs have left party politics and run for municipal office.

In the end, this rumour turned out to be true.

With the former MPP declaring his intention to seek the mayors' office we now have four candidates. He joins a race that includes incumbent Mayor Geoff Dawe, Deputy Mayor/ Councillor John Abel and Councillor Tom Mrakas.

Three things should motivate people to vote this fall.

First, a good, hard fought and respectful campaign being run by the four mayoralty candidates will energize their respective political bases to action. Each of the candidates is of high profile, and has sufficient depth, experience and knowledge of the issues to mount an effective campaign.

Second, important issues are required that galvanize the electorate. And we do have those.

Managing growth while maintaining Aurora's unique "small town feel" is an important issue. Transportation infrastructure and transportation congestion is another. Public safety and security concerns as population increases is still another.

Other items to debate during the fall campaign include the appropriate level of taxation to assist in managing growth challenges. High incomes and land costs make it difficult for a wide range of incomes to settle in Aurora. Sources of funding for capital projects, service and program delivery when the Town is built out (i.e. loss of development charges). The list goes on.

Stable neighbourhoods has also become a big issue. Residents want to hear from the prospective mayoralty candidates about what improvements or changes they would like to see to the Town's Zoning By-law in order to protect the character of our existing neighbourhoods.

For each of the mayoralty candidates I had a quick look at their respective websites, in the "About" section which usually highlights/speaks to their background or areas that they want to stress during the campaign.

I did not yet see a website for Mr. Ballard, but as he has just entered the race, I expect to see one up shortly. This is from a recent Auroran story about Mr. Ballard's announcement to enter the mayoralty race:

"Mr. Ballard was first elected to Aurora Council in 2010.

"He served in this position until nearly the end of his term when he was elected to Queen's Park in the 2014 Provincial election.

"As a member of Kathleen Wynne's cabinet, he held a number of portfolios including Minister of Housing, Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy and, lastly, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change."

From Mayor Geoff Dawe's website:

"Geoff and his wife Henny moved to Aurora in 1977. Their three daughters were born and raised here. As a father, a businessman and civic minded resident, he quickly became involved in our community: cubs, scouts and guides; the Rotary club; Trinity Anglican Church; the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, where he was named president (2009); the "Grow your Mind" fundraising campaign for the Aurora Public Library; board member and then Chair, Aurora Public Library Board and then, in 2010 in a landslide victory, Geoff was elected as Mayor, for the Town of Aurora."

About John Abel:

"In 2010, at the age of 55, I decided to be a candidate for the Aurora Town Council because I had come to realize that politics should be about improving people's lives – no more and no less. My wife, Tracy, and I raised our children in Aurora and I felt it was time to give back to the community we love. I also knew that I could make a difference. Over the past seven and a half years, I have served as Deputy Mayor of Aurora. I am proud of the volunteer work I have done, the boards I am on, and the initiatives that I introduced on behalf of my fellow residents.

About Tom Mrakas:

"Thank you Aurora for putting your trust in me. I am honoured to serve as your voice on Aurora Town Council. In 2014, I ran for Aurora Town Council because I believed in giving back to my community. And since being elected as your representative, I have put that belief to work.

"My priority since day one has been, and will continue to be, to focus on smarter growth. Given that Aurora's population is expected to grow by over 10,000 by the year 2020, how we grow will be vitally important to the health and well-being of our present and future community."

I don't know who will win on October 22nd, but this should be an exciting race.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Doors Open Aurora Feature: Aurora Rising Sun Masonic Lodge

By Leslie Gough

The Aurora Rising Sun Masonic Lodge located at 57 Mosely Street, at the corner of Mosley Street and Wells Street, is one of the Doors Open Aurora 2018 sites. The Masonic Lodge served as the Methodist Episcopal Church from the time of its construction in 1877 until it was sold to the Masons in 1885.

Doors Open Aurora

On December 5, 1877, the Methodist Episcopal Church in Aurora officially opened its doors and held its first dedicated service on Sunday, December 16, 1877. From 1877 to 1885, the building served as a church with A.T. Ferguson as the congregation's first pastor. It was part of the King Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1885, the Methodist Episcopal Church united with the Wesleyan Methodist Church and moved into the United Church on Yonge Street. That same year, the congregation decided to sell the property to the Masons, who began to use it as their lodge hall. Originally, the Masons' old hall, built c. 1866, was located at the rear of the Ough property on Centre St. In 1897, the Anglican Church purchased the old Masonic Hall and relocated it for use as their parish hall.

The interior is an exceptional example of Masonic architecture in Ontario. The pictures displayed at the entrance are of the Lodge Masters that have served the lodge since 1860. Many of the masters were also the founding builders of this town. The artwork in the lodge room on the west wall was painted by Ms. Stevenson, a wife of a lodge member, in 1902. One should take note of the numerous symbols like the rising sun in the large medallion at the east end symbolizes the beginning of the day and the Masonic all seeing eye represents the eye of God that oversees our life's actions.

At the top of the hall are three framed documents that symbolize the 1860 issuing of The Rising Sun Lodge's charter. Finally, the floor area, referred as the Masonic pavement, has contrasting colours that symbolize the uncertainty of life. This Masonic Lodge is associated with The Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, fraternal organizations in Aurora and the world.

The Town of Aurora is proud to present the Aurora Rising Sun Masonic Lodge as a Doors Open Aurora 2018 sites. Make sure to visit Aurora Rising Sun Masonic Lodge from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 18 to learn more.

For more information about Doors Open Aurora, to volunteer for the event, and to print a copy of the Doors Open Aurora 2018 Map Guide, please visit www.aurora.ca and click on the Doors Open icon on the front page.

TIME TRAVELLER'S DIARY

Michelle Johnson

Collections & Exhibitions Coordinator
Aurora Museum & Archives

A Marvelous Park for a Moondance

Now that the 2018 Concerts in the Park series is in full swing (speaking of swing check out August 8th performers the Borealis Big Band) it is a great time to look back on the history of music in the park.

Simply put, music in the park is as old as the park itself. Whether it was the 12th Battalion Band striking up a tune during the 1800s or the "Big Bands" of the late 1940s and 1950s – when summer arrived, you could count on music flowing from Town Park. Since 1970, the Concerts in the Park series, formerly Music in the Park, has been a regular feature during the summer months.

The Town's Recreation Commission, a precursor to the current Recreation Division, organized the first concert, which took place on Sunday, July 26 from 7-9 pm. It featured the Shan Clifford Group who were described by attendee Adrian Peetoom as being "professionals, with a nice beat, a sense of harmony, square with just enough ragged corners to get the feet tapping, the heart pumping and the head thinking of younger days" (Aurora Banner, July 29, 1970). The concerts became a regular event during the summer months and took place on Sunday evenings up until 2003 when they were moved to Wednesdays.

Of course, to have a concert there needs to be a performance venue. Throughout Town Park's history a combination of permanent and temporary pavilions, platforms, bandstands, and band shells have been built so that musicians – and speakers – had an adequate stage.

The current placement of the band shell can be traced to 1892, when Council made the decision to change its location from the east side of the park to the west side – specifically 200 feet from the north-west corner. While the exact distance from the corner has changed, the location of the permanent band shells has remained the same.

The first permanent band shell was gifted to the Town from the Aurora Lions Club in 1950. It was funded through a lengthy fundraising campaign that took place over three years. Construction of the band shell occurred in two phases: the first was the stage portion completed in 1950, and the second was the dramatic parabolic roof completed in 1962.

In 2001, Council approved the Town Park Redevelopment Master Plan, which called for the building of a new band shell. The old structure, which saw the beginning of the Concerts in the Park, was removed and the distinctive parabolic roof relegated only to photos and memories.

The new band shell opened in 2003. If you look closely within the brickwork of the current stage, you will find one brick that offers a remembrance of the old structure. The Town continues to organize the Concerts in the Park series and since its inception, the Town Park band shell has hosted a range of musical selections including country, folk, blues, soul, rock, pop and, of course, swing.

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you agree with Premier Ford's decision to scrap the Regional Chair elections?

Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous poll results

Do you support retaliatory tariffs against the United States?

RESULTS TO DATE JULY 31, 2018	YES	NO	UNSURE
	75%	17%	8%

Aurora Heights community will stay in Stable Neighbourhoods discussion

Resident says Council has just "two choices"

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Heights community will remain a part of Site Plan controls impacting Stable Neighbourhoods, despite attempts to remove it in the lead up to last week's Council meeting.

Council approved a new bylaw that will see Site Plan approval be required by new developments within four areas identified as "stable neighbourhoods" within Aurora.

Going into the previous meeting's General Committee meeting, however, lawmakers faced a recommendation that impacted just Regency Acres, the neighbourhood surrounding Town Park, and segments of Temperance Street as part of the study, leaving the Aurora Heights neighbourhood out of the protected zones.

According to a report before Council by Lawrence Kuk, Manager of Development Planning, the Aurora Heights neighbourhood was not proposed as part of the Site Plan Control bylaw because "the majority of the resident concerns regarding the type and scale of development" was focused in Regency Acres and Town Park.

This was, however, not reflective of the view of the Aurora Heights Ratepayers' Association.

The group was represented at last week's meeting by Allison Halls, who said she was "quite dismayed" that the recommendation before Council took Aurora Heights off the table.

"I am quite dismayed and, in some sense angry, that someone would propose the Aurora Heights neighbourhood be removed from the Stable Neighbourhoods designation when it has been there since the beginning of this process," said Ms. Halls. "Furthermore, what we're asking and what we have been asking through our attendance and comments at each of the meetings is we also want the zoning bylaws to align with the official plan. I think we have been consistent in that. We are a newer ratepayers' association and that is working against us. I am not sure why."

While the report left the door open to adding new areas down the road, the majority of Council agreed Aurora Heights should be included from the outset.

Responding to Mayor Geoff Dawe's questions on why this particular neighbourhood was excluded in the first go-round, Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, said that, although area ratepayers have come forward asking for protection, his department has not noticed new builds, particularly the large-scale new builds, dubbed "monster homes", that residents in other areas have found so objectionable.

"From the Aurora Heights perspective, I live in that area and there is development going on," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes. "There is one in particular, I don't want to name the street, but it has caused a number of concerns with the neighbours. I don't want to insult anybody but [it sticks out] like a sore thumb in the rest of the area. I think it would be great to include it and just have an opportunity to take a look at what is going to be done there and know it is still going to conform with the neighbourhood."

> *Although they are different and distinct, they are similar in that they are larger lots and small bungalows. Perfect for bigger homes that fit the style. We're not opposed to people building their dream homes, we just want conformity and that has been expressed very clearly*

This was a view shared by Councillor John Abel, who said he valued the input given by the Aurora Heights Ratepayers.

"In my mind, if you exclude the other two (Regency Acres and Town Park), development opportunities will look for the next place and that will be on the north side," he said. "Although they are different and distinct, they are similar in that they are larger lots and small bungalows. Perfect for bigger homes that fit the style. We're not opposed to people building their dream homes, we just want conformity and that has been expressed very clearly."

Councillor Paul Pirri, on the other hand, offered a contrary viewpoint, noting he agreed with the reasons for excluding Aurora Heights as outlined by Mr. Ramunno.

"There are no major developments happening in this area," said Councillor Pirri. "I would rather see Mr. Ramunno move expediently on the other two areas of town as opposed to this."

By the time it was time to ratify the decision last Tuesday, only one member of the public approached the podium, this time Robin Grey, a resident of the Regency Acres area, speaking on behalf of her ratepayers' group, as well as the ones representing Aurora Heights and the Town Park area.

From her perspective, there were only two practical solutions at Council's disposal.

"The three ratepayers groups are asking the Town to consider that there are two choices available to stop the incompatible homes being built in the three neighbourhoods that have been recognized," she said. "The first option is to freeze development in the three areas immediately, or to direct planning to work with the three ratepayers' groups to change the zoning bylaws to stop any growth because the proposed site plan will not help.

"We are not in agreement with what has been presented in the past and most of us were in attendance last week, and this is a continuation of that. The choices are to stop until the new Council, whatever you have suggested, Mr. Ramunno wants things weighted until January until he has architectural. It has to stop now and you have two choices."

Site plan approval in stable neighbourhoods get Council green light

By Brock Weir

Aurora's stable neighbourhoods will soon have extra protections in their corner.

Council last week gave the green light to a new Site Plan Approval bylaw for new developments, redevelopments, and additions equal to or greater than 50 square metres within three communities identified as "stable neighbourhoods" – Regency Acres, Aurora Heights, and the neighbourhoods surrounding Town Park.

Council's approval came after months of debate around the Council table, five meetings in which opinion was offered by dozens of residents impacted by stable neighbourhoods protection, and, in the views of some Council members, last week's decision still falls well short of the mark.

The Site Plan Approval bylaw, which also includes detached garages of any size, and is applicable to both detached and semi-detached dwellings, is seen as something of a stop gap by residents, a band-aid before addressing what they see as the real problem: existing zoning bylaws being incompatible with Aurora's Official Plan, thus allowing for the construction of "monster homes" within the communities.

This was a view shared by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who voted against the measures.

Speaking against the bylaw, she noted the dramatically dwindling members of the public who have filled the Council galleries in the last two meetings concerned with this issue.

"I see very few residents here for the stable neighbourhood issue, which is interesting after having five meetings and hundreds of residents come to the Chamber," said Councillor Gaertner. "My understanding is [they feel] Council hasn't listened to them. If the motion to approve the site plan control for the stable neighbourhoods fails, I will be making another motion and I will be asking Council to sincerely think about adding the moratorium to our interim control bylaw that goes until the end of January and staff said last week that it is possible.

"It is the only thing that will protect these neighbourhoods in the interim."

In opposing the measure, Councillor Gaertner posed a number of questions to Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, including whether an entire municipality could be designated under a site plan control bylaw.

But Mr. Ramunno said Site Plan Control would give planning staff the ability to pass judgement based on many architectural features, including size, and allow them to "try and attempt to control massing, materials, colours, architectural styles, et cetera."

But Councillor Gaertner contended that existing zoning bylaws do not address character, appearance, and other design features.

"I am assuming the site plan control bylaw will look at everything in the context of zoning bylaws that are in place, but can staff, for the other issues that residents feel so strongly against with respect to character, scale, appearance, design features, can staff form parameters that take those into account?" she asked.

"Yes, we can," Mr. Ramunno applied. "As I mentioned last week, they would be part of the negotiations when I sit down with the applicant to deal with not only the architecture, but the scale, the height, the size of the proposed structure.

"The standards within the zoning bylaw are more regulated development, but once we have the site plan control, staff will work with the applicants and also indicate to them the process that we've followed today over the last six or seven months that it is the intention of Council to continue to review our existing zoning bylaw standards."

Among the issues Mr. Ramunno said his department would raise with residents is that a 10 metre high roof line is "an issue" and that they will work with applicants and developers to bring that scale down.

"If they are bringing forward a proposal that is 10 metres and has an architectural style we feel doesn't fit into that neighbourhood, we will work with them to try to bring that down," he added, conceding Councillor Gaertner's point that if the zoning bylaw remains as is, the applicants really don't need to listen.

"At the end of the day, the provisions in the zoning bylaw are legally still in place but we still have a say over architectural style and the overall look and treatment of the roof, etc. It will be an ongoing discussion, we will have that control, there is a process that they will have to follow to be reviewed by staff at the end of the day until we actually change the zoning bylaw we're working with our current standards but we will have some control and say…and encourage them to reduce scale and change the architecture."

In the end, however, Councillor Gaertner said she agreed with Regency Acres resident Robin Grey who told Council that there are only two options available to Council: freeze development or change zoning bylaws.

"The bottom line reality actually is that the only thing that is going to protect the neighbourhoods, protect the hundreds of people who come to Council are actually what Ms. Grey said: either a mortarium that is attached to what is already in place… or simply having a committee of residents work with Mr. Ramunno to form a set of zoning bylaws that would be appropriate and then that comes to Council," said Councillor Gaertner. "I will be voting against this, hoping that Council will decide to put the best protection in place for our residents."

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UPCOMING EVENTS
FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST

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WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 8
AT 2:30 PM
The crew from the King City Seniors Club are coming to RHRR to show us the latest line dancing steps. It's a great way to stay in shape and have fun while you are doing it! Please RSVP

Nygard
Fashion Show
FRIDAY | AUGUST 10
AT 2:30 PM
Resident's of RHRR will be hitting the runway and modeling this fall's fashion line from Nygard. Ladies round up your crew and bring your wallet, items will be for sale after the show. Please RSVP

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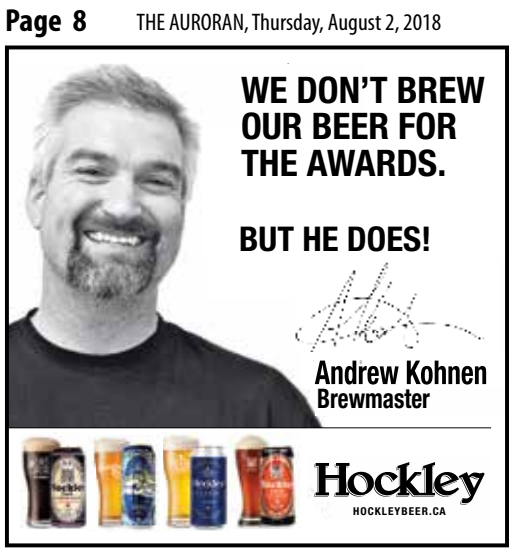

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New business giving peace of mind in the home

By Mike Pickford

A new addition to the King and Aurora/Newmarket business community, Right at Home Canada is here to stay.

The organization, which specializes in providing home health care and assistance to seniors and individuals with mobility issues, officially launched in the community last week with the opening of its new office on Industrial Parkway. The man behind the operation, Ash Walani, sees a huge need in the area. Speaking to the Citizen, Mr. Walani says he's excited to "plug a gap" in this community.

"We really specialize in providing home care services to people in the community – we're there to meet our clients' needs, doing whatever they need wherever they call home," Mr. Walani said. "Our in-home services can range from making a pot of home-made soup and laundry all the way up to providing 24-hour nursing care, and anything and everything in between."

Right at Home has been supporting families across the globe since 1995, with thousands of locations in countries such as Australia, China and the United States. The company has seen extensive growth here in Canada since its launch a little over five years ago, with dozens of locations across the GTA. As well as this new office here in Aurora, Mr. Walani also operates an office in Caledon, which he opened roughly two months ago.

While Right at Home specializes in home care, the organization also provides a variety of other supportive products, such as incontinence items, adaptive clothing and personal emergency devices.

The organization relies on a well-trained team of Registered Nurses and Personal Support Workers to carry out its services in the community. Ann Corrigan will serve as the company's community care manager, assisting Mr. Walani when it comes with developing care plans for local residents.

"That's one of the best things about our company, is that we base all of our services and programs on the needs of the individual. We're very fortunate in this country that we have a government that provides health services to its people, but there are some things they simply cannot provide. That's where we step in," Mr. Walani said.

The main pillars of Right at Home Canada's programming centre on companionship, homemaking, errands and transportation, physical assistance, personal care and hygiene, nursing and therapy, Alzheimer's and dementia and special care situations. While the company is still in its infancy here in this region, Mr. Walani says they're already taking calls from many potential clients.

In some of the company's most successful markets, the organization provides support to hundreds of people each month. Over time, Mr. Walani is hoping to make Right at Home Canada the go-to place for any local resident requiring in-home health care services.

ADDING LIFE TO YEARS: Ann Corrigan, left, and Ash Walani aim to make Right At Home the go-to place for in-home healthcare services. Call 905-997-3731or 1-855-983-4663.

"There is a large demand for our services even today. Essentially, we're here to give people peace of mind and right now we're seeing how much people value that. We help take the stress away from potentially problematic situations," Mr. Walani said.

"There's such a growing need in this community. There are people who are not getting the support or service they need because we're considered to be a more rural community the further out of the GTA we go. There's so much available to you in the core GTA, but the further you get out the less options you have. We're here to offer a solution and plug a very real gap in our community," Mr Walani concluded.

The company offers free consultations to potential clients enquiring about its services. For more information on Right at Home Canada, visit www.rightathomecanada.com. To contact your local team in King and Aurora you can call 905-997-3731 or our 1-855-983-4663 number at any time.

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AURORA
TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE
SEEKING BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE AURORA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
The Aurora Town Council invites residents or individuals working in Aurora to apply to participate as a board member of the Aurora Economic Development Corporation ("AEDC").
The AEDC will develop for Council, a dynamic economic development strategy for our community and provide ongoing advice to ensure those goals are achieved.
We are looking for individuals that are eager to lead and provide a fresh perspective and vision to shape the economic direction of the Town for future generations. Candidates will ideally have business experience and reflect the cultural and demographic diversity of our community. Experience in the Hospitality, Arts and Culture, Educational, Health Care or Governmental areas would be helpful but not required.
To apply for this exciting opportunity, please complete the required application form accompanied with an updated resume prior to August 31, 2018.
For more information, please visit aurora.ca/AEDC to review the related Terms of Reference and the required Application Form.
About the Aurora Economic Development Corporation
The Aurora Economic Development Corporation provides strategic leadership and coordination of community economic development in Aurora. The AEDC works with partners to strengthen and diversify existing business, attract new business and investment, and coordinate strategic economic development initiatives within the community.
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Community Co-Op marks red hot milestone 35 years in the making

By Brock Weir

It was a sizzling celebration on Saturday as the Aurora Village Co-Op gathered around a fire.

This wasn't, however, your average fire – it was a blaze 35 years in the making.

The atmosphere was jubilant as co-op board officials lit the match on the co-op's mortgage that turned the page on a new chapter in the community's history.

"We're a housing cooperative, part of the social and affordable housing stock, and it is not often that units of affordable housing are able to pay their mortgage off without having another mortgage or another loan, and we thought it was something to celebrate," says Colleen Ewart, Manager of the Aurora Village Co-Op, on why they wanted to make this milestone as festive as possible.

"It is a massive, huge milestone. To be able to maintain affordable housing for 35 years, we have to start replacing major components in the building because they are old and they have reached their life expectancy. We have been able to do that, hopefully without taking another mortgage. We're able to continuously replenish and top up our reserve fund to do so and meet those needs. By paying off this mortgage, that is a huge chunk of money that has been freed up, so we can continue to build and develop up our reserves, and improve housing for people."

There is no shortage of ideas – and necessities – floating around on what these replenished and strengthened reserves can be used for.

The co-op recently undertook the development of a brand new playground.

That was one of the happier projects.

But, there is a flipside of the coin.

They're also dealing with having to prematurely replace watermains on site, an issue that came to light just last month when a sinkhole opened up in the area.

"It is huge for us and that just came to light last month," said Ms. Ewart. "The godsend is the mortgage is paid off. The life expectancy the engineer typically gives on water mains is 80 to 100 years. We're at 35, so it is not something we expected to be replacing at this stage in the game. This is a really big project – it is not a claim to fame, it is not a project we're happy we have to do, but it is one that is going to take a lot of focus and resources as well."

The Aurora Village Co-Op does have real claims to fame, adds Ms. Ewart.

Chief among them, she says, is the unique housing model that co-ops provide, and that can be seen in its membership.

"In co-ops, people are called members, not tenants," she explains. "As a member, when you become a member, you're agreeing to participate within the governance of the co-op, and perhaps do work through committee. You are volunteering your time and you're agreeing to do so once you become a member. For example, when you come on site, all the gardens are done by volunteers and there's a Board of Directors and various community activity committees and various committees that actually do some of the work that needs to be done. That is the difference in terms of the co-op model versus the straight non-profit.

"They vote on their budget increases and every member has a vote, that vote is the privilege part of it; the responsibility is the participation. One of the ways to achieve low end of market housing and keep us affordable is because people put their time in and I don't have to tender out landscaping and pay for a contractor to come in. The fact everyone has a vote and a say and it is a majority rules democracy."

That member buy-in translates into social equity. The Aurora Village Co-Op has members who have lived there from Day One. Then there are others who lived there once before, bought a house and moved, but came back because they missed the "absolutely wonderful" community involvement.

"I think there is a lot of perception that a cooperative is 100 per cent subsidized and it is not. We have a percentage of our units, in our case it is 15 per cent, that are rent geared to income and the rest of the units are market value," says Ms. Ewart. "That market value is based on basically the increases that we take per year and we try to stabilize inflation if we possibly can. When things have to be done, people will step up and do them. The misconception is perhaps there is a stigma that there is social housing and therefore everyone is subsidized and that is not the case at all.

"I hope [the dignitaries on hand for Saturday's mortgage burning] get to experience cooperative community and get to see it in action. I would like them to leave and say it would be great to have more affordable housing in Aurora and York Region, and in my opinion, particularly for people aging. All my units have stairs except for a very few one bedrooms. I have a high population of aging people and my wait list internally for a one bedroom is about seven to ten years. My desire would be that the Mayor will be able to take a look at that and like what he sees and realise that affordable housing is a very, very important component and an important aspect for people to live a quality life."

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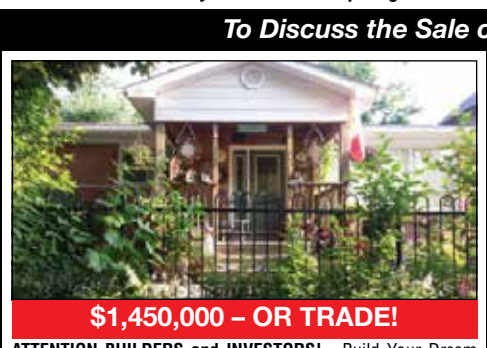

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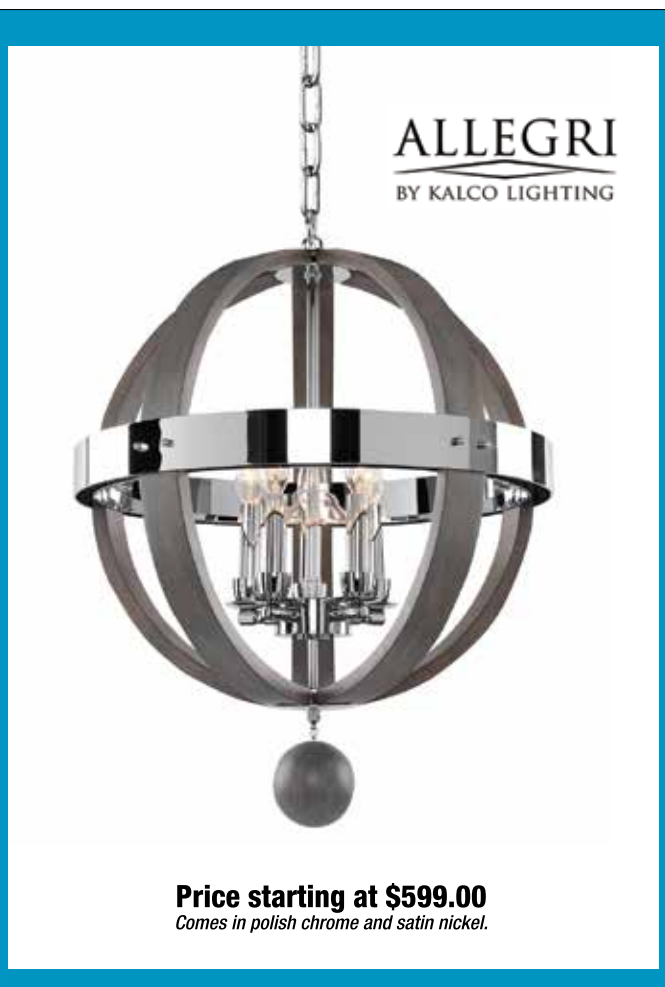

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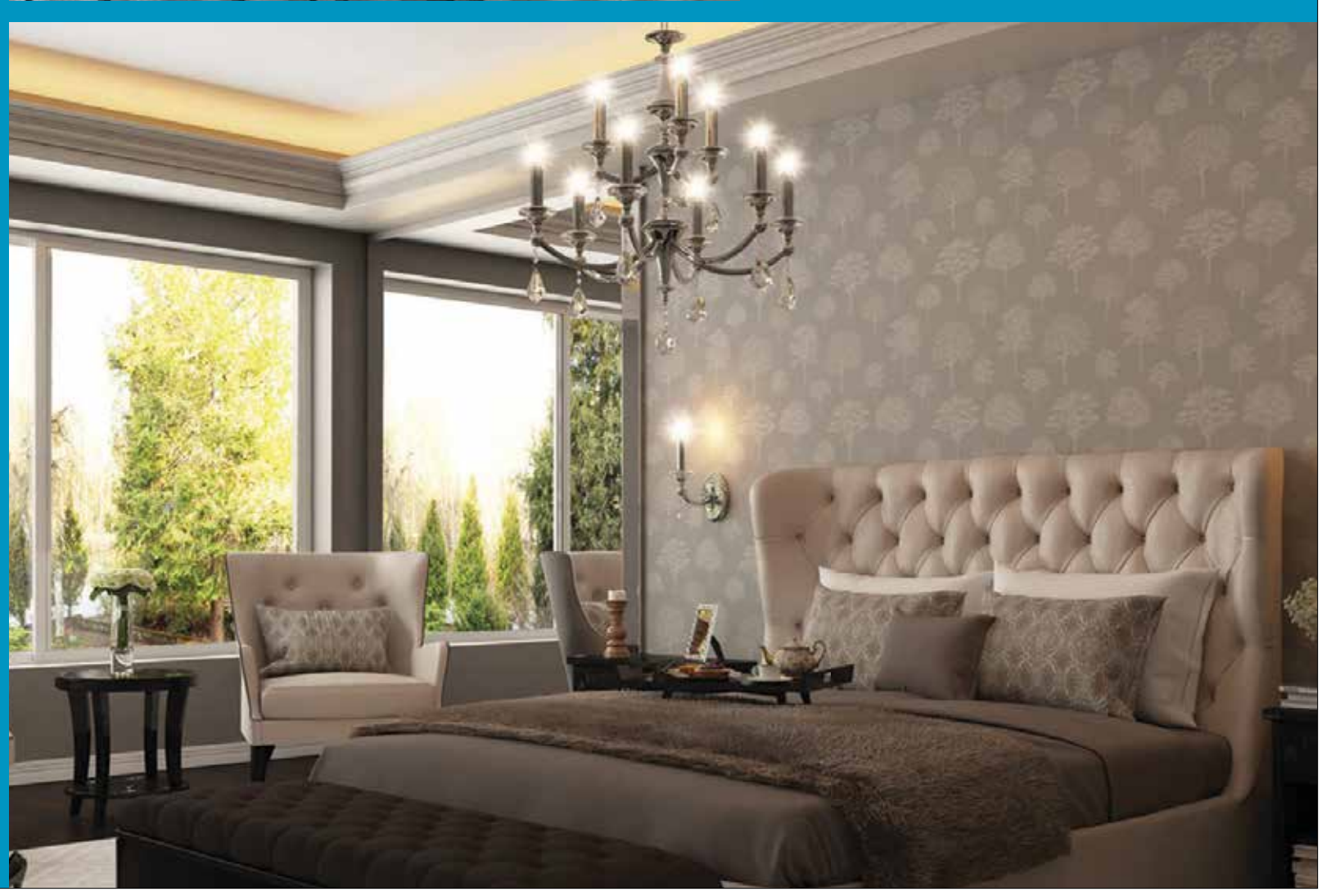

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Concerts in the Park shines light on local talent with the Borealis Big Band

The Borealis Big Band is pictured at Newmarket's Old Town Hall.

Contributed photo

By Brock Weir

The Borealis Big Band made their public debut this past December with a successful performance at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Over the last seven months, their musical muscles have been flexed elsewhere, but they are set to return to a hometown crowd this Wednesday at Concerts in the Park.

Concerts in the Park, the ongoing weekly summer concert series which takes place each Wednesday at Town Park from 7 – 9 p.m., welcomes bands from across Canada, offering everything from classic rock to Caribbean rhythms, but it's rare they present talent from so close to home.

But the Borealis Big Band was just the ticket to grace the stage at the Town Park Band Shell and, according to bandleader Gord Shepherd, this is not your grandfather's Big Band.

When people think about Big Bands, they tend to think typically about musicians like Glenn Miller or Benny Goodman, that swing band music from the 30s and 40s," he says. "Our Big Band is definitely a contemporary Big Band." The Borealis Big Band has its roots in the Aurora Community Band, where some members wanted to found a band that was more compact with a more specific, jazzier focus. After members auditioned for Borealis, they worked to define their sound, and bowed at the Cultural Centre.

"After our first concert, our band was really happy with the audience we had and the band played so well and we were so, so well received by the audience," says Mr. Shepherd. "People were thrilled about the concert and were looking forward to hearing the band play again. At our next concert at Newmarket's Old Town Hall, we sold out that concert as well.

"Playing for the local crowd is much more exciting for us because there are a lot of people in the audience who know the members of the band. Our band is new enough that there is certainly interest amongst family and friends of members of the band who come out to see us. We haven't reached the point where our audience is too much beyond family and friends of people in the audience, but it is moving in that direction and that is what we're hoping to do in the future."

This Wednesday, the Borealis Big Band will offer a varied program ranging from the classic Sing, Sing Sing, to the classic I Can See Clearly Now, Michael Buble's Sway, Brian Setzer's Rock This Town and Zoot Suit Riot, and, in a nod to another hometown hand, a selection or two from the Glass Tiger songbook.

In addition to the 20-member band on the bandshell stage, additional entertainment will also be provided by the Artistica Ballroom Dance team.

"We have developed a great relationship with Artistica because this partnership provides live music for their students to dance to, which I assume they don't have an opportunity to do that too often," says Mr. Shepherd.

Concerts in the Park begin at 7 p.m., and is preceded by miniature Aurora Farmers' Market, offering meals and tasty treats, starting at 5 p.m. and continuing through to the end of the concert at 9 p.m.

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FESTIVE CHEER – It was Christmas in July at the Royal Canadian Legion on Friday as they hosted their annual summer "holiday" dinner. (Right) Volunteers donned their Christmas apparel to dish out the turkey dinner, which was enjoyed by dozens of revellers including, left, veterans Peggy Strange, 100, and Carl Bedal. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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Aurora FC ride hot streak to win over North Mississauga

By Jake Courtepatte

Halfway through the League1 Ontario season, the Aurora FC men's side is hitting its stride.

The club picked up its second win of the 2018 season on Sunday evening, a 3 – 2 victory over North Mississauga SC, as part of a 2-1-1 streak dating back to mid-June.

Riding an abrasive offense that sent seven shots on the Mississauga goal, Maximillian Ferrari led the way for the Aurora side with a brace, his first two-goal performance in suiting up for ten games this season.

North Miss earned the first real chance of the game in the twelfth minute, forcing Aurora keeper Ryan Collins to make a diving stop.

Aurora returned less than a minute later with an offensive zone interception by Parmpreet Johal, sending Ferrari in alone on the keeper and putting it away on the far side.

Collins was finally beaten by the Panthers on their fourth shot of the game in the 61st minute, fooled by a rebound he stood little chance on, though Aurora stormed back with their second of the game thanks to a substitution for Matthew McGrouther.

Just two minutes after coming into the game, McGrouther finished off a well-place header to give Aurora the lead in the 77th minute.

With momentum on their side, Ferrari potted his second of the game just seconds later to take an insurmountable late lead.

Carlos Buitrago looks to make a pass in Aurora FC's 3 - 2 win over North Mississauga SC on Sunday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

North Miss brought the score back to within one with eight minutes to go, but a tactical change to a shutdown defense from Aurora eliminated any chance of a comeback.

Picking up five of their nine total points on the season over the last four games, Aurora has settled into the middle of the pack in the League1 men's side with six games left on the schedule, holding onto a record of 2-5-3.

A tough matchup awaits Aurora on Aug. 8 when they host Toronto's Sigma FC at Stewart Burnett Park, the only remaining undefeated team in the semi-pro league.

Also visiting with North Miss on Saturday, the Aurora women failed to pick up a point in a 1 – 0 loss, shut out for the third game in a row.

It was Aurora that dictated the pace throughout much of the first half, with Madison Johnson gaining the first real opportunity fifteen minutes in, though a ball on the goal line was cleared by a North Miss defender.

In the 27th minute, a shot from Andrea Garcia just wide of the post was returned to the Aurora end, where Quinn Josiah was beaten from within the box for the game's only goal.

Aurora had one final chance in extra time of the second half, though a Natalia Casiello header sailed just wide to signal the referee's whistle.

They will be looking to keep a distance from Whitby's Darby FC when they visit on Aug. 7, whose similar 1-7-1 record falls short of Aurora's thanks to goal differential.

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Varsity Lions fall to Oshawa in OFC first round

The York Region Varsity Lions fell 28 - 9 to the Oshawa Hawkeyes in the first round of the Ontario Football Conference playoffs at St. Maximilian Kolbe on Saturday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

The Varsity York Legion Lions roared through the Ontario Football Conference in 2018, only to be muffled in week one of the post-season.

The league's second-best defense clashed with the league's top offense in a battle between the Lions and Oshawa Hawkeyes at St. Max Kolbe field on Saturday, with the Hawkeyes' high-flying passing game coming out on top 28 – 9.

Up 9 – 7 late in the first half on field goals, the Lions took a rare deficit into the second half after the Hawkeyes hauled in

Continued on page 12

Jays eliminated from North Dufferin playoff contention

By Jake Courtepatte

A perennial contender in the North Dufferin Baseball League will be sitting out of this year's postseason.

The Aurora Jays fell just short of a playoff position in the 2018 AA season, bowing out just a few points shy of the eighth and final spot.

With the losses piling up in July, the Jays entered Thursday's contest with the Orangeville Giants at Lambert Willson Park with losses in five of their last seven, sliding down the NDBL ladder.

Ian Milne went the distance on the mound, giving up just ten hits and five runs through all seven innings of work, though it was a sixth inning double that drove in the winning run for Orangeville in a 5 – 4 loss.

Aaron Giroux, Ted Beadle, Stephan Vallee, and Brad Crosby all crossed the plate for the Jays.

Facing the perennial powerhouse New Lowell Knights for the first time this season on Saturday, Crosby and the Jays surprised last year's runners-up by handing them only their fourth loss of the season, a 9 – 5 score thanks to an explosive second inning.

Brad Crosby throws out a pitch in the Aurora Jays' 9 - 5 win over the New Lowell Knights at Lambert Willson Park on Saturday. Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Veteran Daniel Lehmkuhl returned to the lineup for the first time this season, cashing in a run on four at-bats, while Ian Rettie's monster three-run home run capped off a seven-run second.

Rettie, who added a solo late in the game, was also returning on a one-game stint, two years removed from a league MVP title with the Jays.

Crosby picked up his second win of the year as the starter, giving up eight hits and two walks through all seven innings.

Monday's rematch with New Lowell on the road was forfeited by the Jays.

A rebuilding season for the Aurora club, their record of 8-15-2 falls quite short of their 21-6-2 record in 2017, a team manager Rob Wilson said is "one of the best (we've) ever fielded."

Losing a number of starters to higher-tier advantages, including Lehmkuhl to the Newmarket Hawks of the AAA Greater Toronto Baseball League, proved costly for this year's crop of less-experienced Jays.

The Ivy Leafs finish the season as the regular season champions, allowing just one loss over their 26-game schedule, followed by the 21-4-1 New Lowell Knights.

Last year's Strother Cup champions, the Bolton Brewers, head to the playoffs with a 19-4-3 record good for third position.

Playoff schedules will be released following a league meeting after press time on Wednesday.

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

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Lions fall to Oshawa

From page 11

a long touchdown pass with just over two minutes left on the clock.

Turning over the ball in less than a minute after a pair of tipped passes on the next drive, the Lions were able to salvage a 14 – 9 score heading into the break thanks to a late blocked field goal attempt on their own 38-yard line.

With Oshawa on the receiving end of the second half's opening kickoff, it was their running game that brought the return into Lion territory, before forcing York Region to begin their drive on their own six-yard line.

Oshawa made it an eleven-point game late in the third, stumbling in from two yards out while failing to convert the extra point.

York's most opportune moment for a comeback came on the following drive, beginning on the Oshawa 39-yard line after a long return.

After a face masking call put the Lions on the Oshawa nine for the opening play of the final quarter, the desperate Lions failed to convert on a third-down pass to the end zone.

Earning possession back deep in their own end, the Hawkeyes moved the chains all the way down the field for another converted touchdown for a final score of 28 – 9.

The clock ran out on the Lions' season when an interception in the Hawkeyes' end zone led to a touchback in the final few minutes.

Oshawa moves on to face the undefeated Scarborough Thunder in the varsity semifinals.

The Junior Varsity Lions narrowly missed the postseason by just two points, finishing with a 5-3-0 record. They closed off their season on a strong note with a 42 – 0 win over the Brampton Bulldogs in late July.

The Bantams closed out their season on July 21 with a 6 – 0 win over the Etobicoke Eagles, ending their season at 3-5-0.

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Race takes shape in 2018 Municipal Election campaign

From page 1

the doors opened on May 1 to file his nomination papers in the Mayor's Race. A first-time Councillor, he was elected in 2014.

After the nomination period closed, The Auroran reached out to each Mayoral candidate to look at the state of the race so far.

"I would like to commend the many residents who have put their names forward for Council consideration and the countless others volunteering on campaigns," said Mr. Dawe, the first candidate to respond. "Government works best with public involvement, and the level of public involvement is both refreshing and a sign that democracy is alive and well in Aurora. I know from experience how grueling an election campaign and a Council term can be. It is time sacrificed from family and many long hours of work. To those who have taken time to get more involved, my hat is off to them!"

With that said, Mr. Dawe said he was concerned with the "rising levels of nastiness and disinformation emanating primarily from online and social media" over the course of the campaign thus far.

"This is not a new thing," he continued. "It has long been said that to be in politics you need a thick skin! What is particularly distressing is the level of personal attacks online and the increase of deliberately biased information masquerading as public discourse. We see on a daily basis how deliberate misinformation negatively affected the recent US election. While not nearly as calculated, it is on the rise locally as well. As always, I will advocate for issues-based civil discourse and ask the electorate to get involved and do your research before voting!"

Mr. Mrakas, the second candidate to respond, said this election is about "a choice of leaders" and a choice between "positive change or more of the same."

"Since elected, I have worked hard to provide the leadership that residents and businesses expect; leadership that gets things done," he said. "I've taken the time to listen and bring issues to the Council table, and found solutions to problems and introduced innovative possibilities. I have worked with members of Council, residents, businesses and all three levels of government and together we got things done -- building a solid track record of successful collaboration, consensus building and decisions that serve all members of our community.

My focus has always been Aurora – the needs, the concerns, the issues of our community. I believe Aurora's future is bright, but a future of positive change needs responsive, decisive leadership; leadership with fresh ideas, and has a passion for this Town."

On the part of Mr. Ballard, the third candidate to respond, he said Aurorans have the opportunity to "put Aurora back on a more fiscally responsible course, one that respects the views of the public.

"It's no secret that residents are growing uneasy and are truly concerned about the rate of residential growth and excessive municipal spending," he said. "I'm hearing they want a mayor who is committed to protect and grow the investment residents and business owners have made in this community. Instead of Aurora falling behind in the GTA, Aurorans want to move our Town forward in a fiscally responsible way.

"I'm hearing that the community wants to have a mayor who cares, who doesn't focus just on getting elected. They want a mayor who they can count on to passionately speak up and work relentlessly to protect and enhance their quality of life, security and prosperity in Aurora; one who is engaged, knowledgeable, not afraid to work hard and takes a hands-on approach. Town Council needs a mayor who will commit to working with all of council to get the right things done.

"My three opponents are all members of the current Town council, so they all share some responsibility for the pressing problems Aurora now faces. The last four years have seen an obviously divided council where the divisiveness has led to wasted time and costly flip-flops, where decision making has been unnecessarily sidetracked and has, often, been mired in petty disagreements, personality conflicts and block voting. It's time for leadership that leads, not divides."

Mr Abel also weighed in on the state of the race.

"Having four qualified mayoral candidates presents quite a challenge," said Mr. Abel. "I'll be employing a similar campaign strategy that netted top results the last two elections when I ran for Councillor. It will be important to differentiate myself from the others, that under my leadership we will do a much better job with the taxpayers' money. Changes that will improve the lives of the residents."

THE COUNCIL RACE

This fall, Aurora will see Council reduced from the current roster of a Mayor and eight Councillors to a Mayor and just six elected members.

Vying for these six seats are, in alphabetical order, Matthew Abas, Ian Clark, incumbent Wendy Gaertner, John Gallo, Rachel Gilliland, Derek Hammett, David Heard, James Hoyes, incumbent Sandra Humfryes, incumbent Harold Kim, Anna Kroeplin, Daniel Lajeunesse, Vicky McGrath, Adam Mobbs, incumbent Michael Thompson, and Denis Van Decker.

In joining the Council race, Ms. Gaertner seeks a fifth term at the table, while Ms. Humfryes and Mr. Thompson are looing for a third mandate. Mr. Kim, first elected in 2014, seeks a second term.

Mr. Gallo, who ran for Mayor in 2014, seeks his second term on Council. He was previously appointed to the table by the 2006-2010 Council early in the term following a resignation, and he served until the end of the term. He was elected to the 2010-2014 Council.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Heard, and Mr. Hoyes all ran in the 2014 Council race.

In the running for the position of York Region District School Board trustee are incumbent Peter Adams-Luchowsky, former councillor Bob McRoberts and Ken Turriff.

Elizabeth Crowe seeks a further mandate as York Catholic District School Board trustee in a race that includes Paul de Roos and Laura Ronco.

Kathleen Beal and Maxime Papillon seek to represent this area on the Conseil scolarire catholique MonAvenir, the French Catholic Board which includes ESC Renaissance at Bathurst Street and Bloomington Road.

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One diamond would have been "putting a band-aid on a broken leg": baseball club

By Brock Weir

Over the last few years, the Aurora King Baseball Association has been turning players away due to the sheer demand on diamond space in Aurora and King, according to Association president Jamie Cole.

Now, relief is coming in the form of two baseball diamonds set to be built on Aurora's Hallmark Lands.

Mr. Cole was on hand to reiterate his position at last week's Council meeting that two diamonds on the land on Industrial Parkway South at Vandorf Sideroad was the only solution, and that anything less than two would be like "putting a band-aid on a broken leg."

Local baseball groups – softball, slo-pitch, and baseball proper – have maxed out the existing diamonds, he said. Aurora, he continued, has more rectangular fields than ball diamonds than either Richmond Hill or Newmarket, and claimed that Aurora has "the worst rectangular field to diamond ratio" compared to surrounding communities, or nearly four to one, over two to one elsewhere.

"The desire for baseball in this community is high," said Mr. Cole, speaking on behalf of the Association (AKBA), the Aurora Diggers, and other baseball groups in the area. "All diamond users are turning groups away. Just this week, we had a meeting with 25 potential coaches who are pleading with us to increase the number of competitive teams, something we would love to be able to do, but struggle to. All diamond users have done everything they can to maximize what is available, including renting private diamonds, some of which are outside of Town.

"Recently we learned that repurposing the fields at Machell Park and Fleury Park is far too expensive an option. We know that building parks on the Oak Ridges Moraine would not allow for building bathrooms or other facilities required for hosting tournaments. There are no diamonds at the school boards that we can share. The Hallmark lands make so much sense for two diamonds. They can be built with the right amenities. These diamonds could be used by baseball, softball and slo-pitch, and free up time on existing diamonds as well. They would be used every day of the week, could be used for both games and practice times."

In asking Council to reconsider its previous decision for one baseball diamond and one rectangular field on Hallmark, Mr. Cole said two diamonds would lay the foundation of a facility that will become a "hub" of baseball activity for "years to come."

"The Hallmark lands, at this time, really are our best option," he said.

The position of the AKBA was backed by Sport Aurora, who drove home the "importance of a single sport solution on Hallmark" and the positive impact such a move would have on sport tourism in this community.

Javed Kahn, Director of Community Relations for Sport Aurora, told Council that data presented to them has shown baseball has a greater need for space over soccer.

"If the data is truly in question, Sport Aurora, along with its members, commit to providing verified metrics to assist Council in coming to a just and confident decision," said Mr. Kahn, who said since Sport Aurora last delegated to Council, it has been determined by the Town's Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee (PRAC) that repurposing the fields at Machell and Fleury Parks from rectangular fields to baseball diamonds would be costly, requiring trees to be removed and hills to be excavated.

"There are no other options for diamonds," he continued. "We have also delegated on other community partners that can provide full-sized rectangular fields oriented in the ideal north-south direction at a fraction of the cost. I will therefore respectfully ask again that Council re-examine its options in light of the new data, that a reconsideration be put forward and a motion to move forward with two ball diamonds on Hallmark, as was originally proposed and recommended. This motion provides much-needed ball diamonds, services multiple user groups, and is fiscally responsible, doesn't impact other capital projects, supports sports tourism, and has the potential to generate income for our Aurora businesses."

But soccer had its moment at the podium too.

Martin Ambrose of the Aurora Soccer Club underscored soccer as a continued draw not only in Aurora but around the world, emphasising the recent success of the World Cup in Russia, which brought an estimated 1.2 million attendees and generated 220,000 and a $30 billion bump in GDP.

"The World Cup is coming to North America in 2026. Canada, US and Mexico are hosting a 48 team roster," said Mr. Ambrose. "It would certainly be a shame if Aurora was not in a position to take advantage of some of the economic tourism surrounding this. In 1996 when the US hosted the world cup, the German national team set up their base camp in Alliston where they took advantage of the Nottawasaga fields."

Like Councillors Tom Mrakas and Sandra Humfryes, Mr. Ambrose too questioned information going against the proposed multipurpose field coming to Council at a late stage in the game.

"As one of the primary representative sporting bodies in this community, why does it appear that irrespective of the June 12 one and one decision that this is now being suppressed by a manoeuvre?" he asked. "Even if Council decided favourably of a one and one option, we continue to make ourselves available for dialogue with Council, staff, and our fellow recreational users. This is a very large capital project. They are clearly divided on the best course for the community and this topic has divided…this community. We do request again that Council direct staff to include at least one grass soccer field, with floodlights and the project design and approval, in addition to our continued request that soccer be provided its own representation at PRAC."

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Councillors not happy with how field information came forward

From page 1

Each sports group made their respective passionate pitches to Council, but Council decided to go down the middle of the road.

This approach, however, hit a speedbump last week when a report from Sarah Tienkamp, Aurora's Manager of Parks and Fleet, said a multipurpose sports field would not fit on the land in the ideal direction if coupled with a diamond.

Instead, staff recommended the multipurpose field idea be scrapped and replaced with a natural turf soccer field, which could be oriented in the ideal north-south direction, a direction intended to keep the setting sun out of players' eyes and thus extend playing hours.

Staff's report raised many eyebrows around the table at the previous week's General Committee meeting, and this continued last Tuesday, with some Council members stating this information coming so late in the game was "circumventing" their direction.

"I have problems procedurally with how this has come back to us," said Councillor Tom Mrakas. "I think this has been a way to circumvent the process and the decision made by the majority of Council. I am disappointed. I guess we will have to deal with this as we move forward in election season."

These sentiments were echoed by Councillor Sandra Humfryes, who added: "I am very disappointed with the report in general and how the information came to us in between reports. I wouldn't want to say this publicly…but I am very disappointed. This is not the quality of work I want to see in the future."

Councillor Harold Kim was on the same page, noting when Council voted to "compromise" on the Hallmark lands with one field and one diamond, what they described as a "one and one" solution, that this decision was based on a certain set of information. Since that time, other pieces of the puzzle have come into play, including an extra $1.2 million needed to make a multipurpose field a reality.

While baseball ultimately won the day, soccer was not without its supporters.

Before the final resolution was reached, Councillor Paul Pirri put forward a motion that would have accepted staff's recommendation for one baseball diamond and one natural turf soccer pitch.

"I think we have debated this ad nauseum over the last month and a half or so," said Councillor Pirri.

But, this ongoing debate was fine for Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

"I think this is so very important to both the soccer groups and baseball, so if we have to speak about it on and on I think that is the right thing to do," she said.

When his motion failed, Councillor Pirri put two diamonds on the table.

"It would have been my preference for us to move forward with one and one… [but rather than nothing getting built] I will be in favour of this," he said.

OPTIONS STILL AVAILABLE FOR MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS

Although Council voted 5 – 3 on two baseball diamonds for the Hallmark lands (Councillor John Abel, an opponent of using the Hallmark Lands, previously designated as employment lands for any other purpose, was not at the meeting), their decision was influenced, in part, by assurances from Mayor Geoff Dawe and staff that there would be opportunities down the road to address the needs of local soccer clubs and other sports teams that would benefit from a multipurpose field.

Among these opportunities, said Mayor Dawe, Provincially-held land on Bloomington Road near Cardinal Carter Catholic High School.

Mayor Dawe told Council he and the Town have discussed the lands with Aurora's two MPPs, Christine Elliott and Michael Parsa, and there have been "some indications there is a possibility of moving forward sooner rather than later on that."

Should that come to fruition, he said those lands would accommodate between three and five multipurpose fields.

This was reiterated by Robin McDougall, Director of Community Services.

"We know that the lands for Magna are coming off our repertoire and we have to look at our future plan," she said. "Looking at that long range accommodations and trying to accommodate soccer in a multipurpose facility that has multiple fields is an ideal scenario and Bloomington would serve as that opportunity."

This was music to the ears of Councillor Harold Kim, who said the decision to move forward with two baseball diamonds did not mean that soccer would be left out of the mix.

"No one likes to wait, but there's something to be said in good things come to those who do," he said. "We're only taking about another year. Baseball has been waiting a long time [for space], they have been suffering in terms of enrolment," he said. "I think we made the right choice. It is unfortunate in terms of how it progressed, but I think Council made the right choice in the end."

Help send kids Back to School in style with Women's Centre of York Region

By Brock Weir

Back to School has always been a special time for Payton Chapley.

The start of a fresh grade is like a fresh slate, almost like "New Year's", she says.

Okay, while some kids might not feel the same excitement as she does, the summer student at the Women's Centre of York Region (WCYR), is looking to spread that excitement as far as possible with fresh backpacks and school supplies for over 80 local students from low income families.

But they need your help to achieve this goal.

The WCYR, after their Backpack program lost Regional funding this year, has set a $2,000 crowd funding goal to ensure that these kids are not left behind when they hit the books this September.

"A lot of Back to School stress isn't put on the child, it is put on the parent," Ms. Chapley explains. "With everything being, 'Look at all the new things I have this year,' some kids are going to school with a torn up backpack, two pencils and that's it. That can be really tough for the kids showing up and not feeling as prepared as everybody else, feeling less than. That is also a great stress for the parents to watch their kids go through that and know that they couldn't do more.

Catherine Curtis and Payton Chapley of the Women's Centre of York Region are hoping to get 80 fully-stocked backpacks into the hands of kids in need this Back to School season.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

"To me, it is really important, especially now, to take that financial stress off parents and know their kids are going to go to school, they are going to get their education, and they are going to be excited and proud to go to school on that first day."

From WCYR's perspective, it gives students and parents the tools they need to be ready to learn.

"For us, it is about creating dignity for families and really empowering women to be able to provide their children with a level of dignity and be able to move forward on that equality plane to keep up in school," adds WCYR Executive Director Catherine Curtis. "Our clients are primarily low and moderate-income women, so we're trying to remove some of the barriers that create that stress. Back to School time is expensive between clothes, school registration fees, and all those other things that ramp back up. If we can alleviate some of that stress for mom, that makes a huge difference and has a ripple effect."

In addition to the financial donations, which can be made online at gofundme.com/WCYRBackpacks, material donations are also being accepted in the form of erasers, pencil sharpeners, highlighters, packs of paper, binders, and glue sticks.

"We try to do things somewhat by age range, so the older kids might need a scientific calculator to be able to participate in their math class," says Ms. Curtis. "The goal in past years would be to provide a water bottle as well so the kids have something to take with them, a lunch kit potentially. In some cases, we've been able to include a gift card to places like Walmart so mom could go out and get supplies on that list that comes home from school or get healthy snacks so kids are equipped to learn."

As much as Ms. Chapley sees Back to School as a "whole new start" for students, the WCYR is in the midst of a fresh new start as well.

They are moving this week from their long-time location on Harry Walker Parkway in Newmarket to new digs at Yonge Street and Mulock Drive.

As their lease expired, they realised they now have more space than they currently need.

The WCYR took on more space a few years ago for a social enterprise program that ultimately did not get off the ground "for a multitude of reasons," says Ms. Curtis, and a lot of their current space was being underutilized.

"It just seemed like it was time for a fresh start and, from a budget perspective, we really needed to tighten things up and reduce our administrative expenses from an overhead cost with the building itself," says Ms. Curtis. "We have been able to reduce our rent and related expenses by about half, which is significant considering the competitive market we're in with non-profits in the Region. And it is a fresh start for the Centre."

It will also, in the end, be convenient for women who come to the WCYR for whatever reason as the new location is easily accessible by both YRT and VIVA, and is in the same building as similar organizations like the York Region Centre for Community Safety, and is just across the street from Belinda's Place women's shelter.

"From a client perspective, it is easier to access and they can access multiple services in one visit," says Ms. Curtis. "We're all about change, so it is time for a change."

Helping with the transition is being one of the 20 community partners in this year's Magna Hoedown.

Being part of this event, says Ms. Curtis, helps the organization "from many perspective" not just in raising "significant funding" for their programs, but also raising the profile of the work they do.

The WCYR's share of the Hoedown proceeds will go to individual and transitional counselling programs.

"This is helping women in two different ways: individual counselling is exactly what it sounds like, with self-esteem, depression, stress and cultural adjustment, and all those services are provided free," says Ms. Curtis. "Our transitional counselling program is helping women leave abuse, dealing with things like a safety plan, housing applications to make sure they've got safe housing.

"We are a very diverse Region and we are really reaching all points."

For more information on the Women's Centre of York Region, including programs and how to help them directly through the sale of Hoedown event and raffle tickets, visit www.wcyr.ca.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

Aurora's Concerts in the Park Summer Series continues tonight with the hometown favourite Borealis Big Band. This Aurora based jazz band performs a wide variety of styles including swing, smooth Latin/Cuban and fusion. Don't miss this evening of high energy entertainment. Concerts are free, food vendors will be on site. For your comfort, please bring your own portable chair. A food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. 7 – 9 p.m. at Town Park. Preceded from 5 – 9 p.m. with a sampling from the Aurora Farmers' Market.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

The Aurora Soccer Club hosts an annual Kenny McDonald Charity Golf Day in memory of past members with proceeds being donated to The Southlake Foundation (Cancer Center) and Heart & Stroke. 12 noon to 9 p.m. The golf will be played at Station Creek Golf Course (12.30pm shotgun start), followed by dinner, prizes and a silent auction at the Clubhouse starting at 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.aurorasoccerclub.com.

* * * *

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill will host their sixth annual Craft Beer Tasting Festival to raise funds for charities supported by Rotary. The event will take place at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Entry ticket prices are $20. But if you buy in advance, five beer tickets are included in the price. Ten local craft brewers will be available. For more information, visit rotarybeertasting.com.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

Aurora's Concerts in the Park Summer Series continues tonight with Jared Lutes. Jared Lutes is an International award winning songwriter from Atlantic Canada, with roots in Country, Folk and Rock & Roll. This incredible evening of music is not to be missed. Concerts are free, food vendors will be on site. For your comfort, please bring your own portable chair. A food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. 7 – 9 p.m. at Town Park. Preceded from 5 – 9 p.m. with a sampling from the Aurora Farmers' Market.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Come out to Ada Johnson Park (60 Hartwell Way) tonight for Aurora's Movies in the Park, featuring Wonder Woman on the big screen. Arrive early to enjoy some action-packed activities starting at 7.30pm. The movie will begin at dusk. Movies are free, a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

Windfall Ecology Centre (93A Industrial Parkway South) hosts the Power Off and Play Festival today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a special one-day festival. There will be rock climbing, face painting, geocaching, nature play, a whole host of new sports to try such as zumba, dance, karate, baseball, football, gymnastics and much, much more. There will also be a wide range of health and wellness vendors to check out and lots of freebies. Refreshments will be available on the day with lots of healthy options. It is a jam packed schedule so make sure to check our website in a few weeks' time for our full timetable at www.windfallcentre.ca/festival. Expect to have a lot of sweaty fun, good food and many laughs.

* * * *

Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson will host his annual Summer Barbecue today from 1 – 3 p.m. at Newmarket's Fairy Lake Park. For more information, visit liberal.ca/en/event/75831/newmarket-aurora-summer-bbq.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22

Aurora's Concerts in the Park Summer Series continues tonight with Fleetwood Nicks and Practically Petty. Enjoy the greatest hits of Fleetwood Mac, Tom Petty and Stevie Nicks. This tribute concert is outstanding and a night to be savoured. Concerts are free, food vendors will be on site. For your comfort, please bring your own portable chair. A food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. 7 – 9 p.m. at Town Park. Preceded from 5 – 9 p.m. with a sampling from the Aurora Farmers' Market.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Canadian Blood Services will host a Blood Donor Clinic today at the Aurora Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) from 2.30 – 7.30 p.m. Summer donors are needed to help hospital patients! Please schedule your appointment to #GiveLife now. For more information, call 1-888-236-6283.

* * * *

Come out to Town Park (49 Wells Street) tonight for Aurora's Movies in the Park, featuring The Incredibles on the big screen. Arrive early to enjoy some action-packed activities starting at 7:30pm. The movie will begin at dusk. Movies are free, a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

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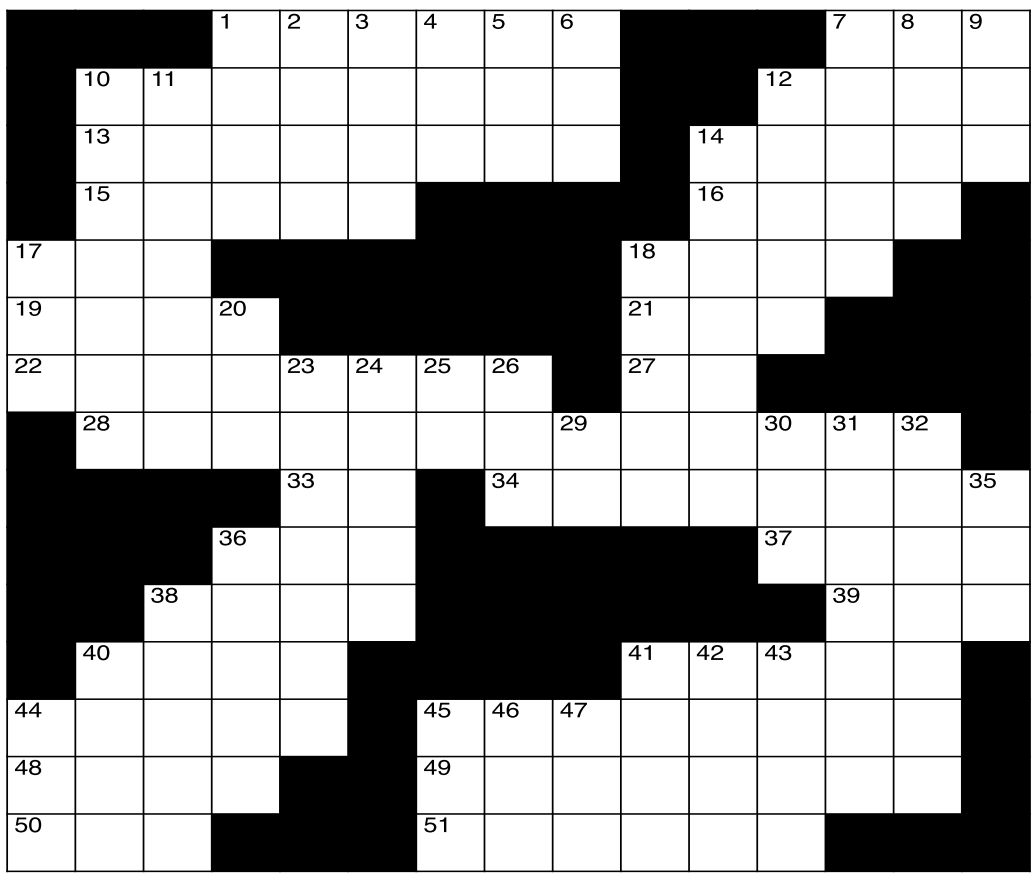

CLUES ACROSS

1. The winners
7. A place to relax
10. Monies to pay debts
12. Horse mackerel
13. Type of steroid
14. Make dry
15. The Godfather's adopted son
16. Ivanovic and Gasteyer
17. Horror movie franchise
18. Grab
19. Iranian city
21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
22. One's illicit lover
27. Fake smarts (abbr.)
28. Where Jersey natives depart from
33. Doctor
34. Front feet
36. Insurance option
37. Some is "wicked"
38. Type of weaving
39. Religious woman
40. One point east of southeast
41. Prestigious literary prize
44. Tiny humans
45. Relish over
48. Computer manufacturer
49. Envelops
50. One type is dippin'
51. Bequeaths

CLUES DOWN

1. Dice game
2. Greek goddess of youth
3. Piers Anthony protagonist
4. One-thousandth of an inch
5. JFK Library architect
6. A type of corrosion (abbr.)
7. Beat up
8. Political action committees
9. Antidiuretic hormone
10. Of the desert
11. Oblivious of
12. Actress Lathan
14. Musical instrument
17. It's in a plant
18. One-time special prosecutor
20. Indigenous people of Brazil
23. Mothers
24. Mongolian desert
25. Great Britain, Scotland and Northern Ireland
26. British air aces
29. A lover to Zeus
30. Frequently
31. Get together again
32. Gives a permanent post
35. Sun worshippers love one
36. Ammonia-producing process
38. 4th month of the Jewish calendar
40. New England river
41. Stores grain
42. Confess openly
43. Quarterbacks do it
44. Not good
45. Witness
46. Author Coulter
47. Type of screen

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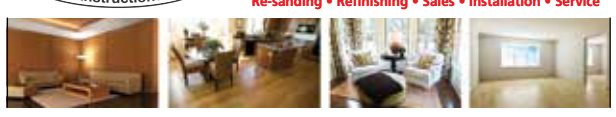

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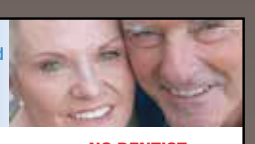

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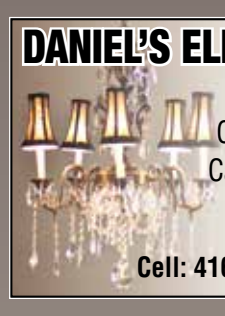

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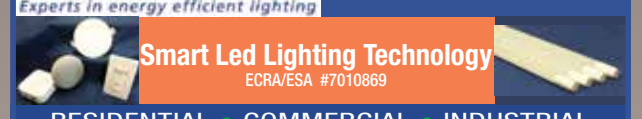

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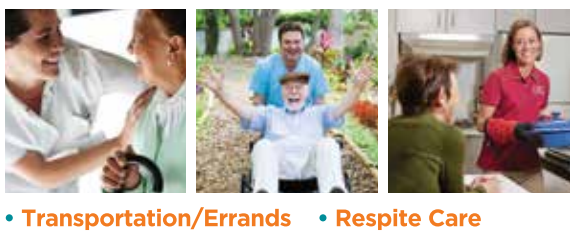

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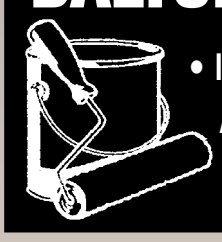

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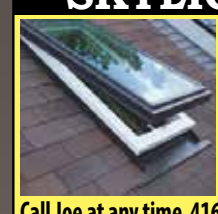

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