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ON PAGE 17

THE AURORED

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 19 No. 42 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of August 1, 2019 

A HOCKEY HERO'S WELCOME



Aurora native Robert Thomas received a hero's welcome at Machell Park on Monday afternoon as he brought home the Stanley Cup. Thomas, a member of the St. Louis Blues, was cheered by hundreds of residents – including dozens of budding hockey stars – at the festivities, where Thomas received an extra bit of hardware: the key to the Town. For full coverage, see Pages 8 – 9.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION – The investigation continues into an Edward Street blaze on Saturday morning, which left one person dead and a 36-year-old Aurora woman charged with second degree murder.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Woman, 36, faces murder charges following house fire

By Brock Weir

A 36-year-old Aurora woman is facing second degree murder charges following a fatal housefire in the early hours of Saturday morning.

On July 27, just before 1 a.m. York Regional Police and Central York Fire Services were called to an inferno on Edward Street, between Metcalfe Street and Harrison Avenue.

There, officers found the house, which had recently been sold, fully engulfed.

Central York Fire Services had knocked down the fire by 2 a.m. and when they were able to enter the home, they found the body of an individual, believed to be an adult man, deceased.

By the end of the day on Saturday, the York Regional Police Homicide

Continued on page 23

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MAKING MERRY – The Royal Canadian Legion got into the festive spirit last Thursday for their annual Christmas in July lunch featuring a turkey dinner and all the trimmings. (LEFT) Legion President Lori Hoyes, centre, with fellow elves Maryann Keeble and Brenda Braendel. (RIGHT) Councillor Rachel Gilliland with Len Whines. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

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Town enters fight to protect “Henderson Forest”

By Brock Weir

The fight to protect the so-called Henderson Forest, a heavily wooded, privately-owned property on Henderson Drive, against the building of two large homes on portions of the land, got stronger last week.

On a 6 – 0 vote, with Councillor John Gallo not present for the meeting, Council came out of closed door talks last Tuesday night and set in motion retaining external legal counsel to fight against the build at Ontario’s Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).

Once retained, the Town’s outside legal counsel will work to support a decision made by the Town’s Committee of Adjustment this summer to block the building of the homes at 672 and 684 Henderson Drive, a decision which was largely made due to environmental concerns.

“We have decided to support the Committee of Adjustment’s decision of the refusal of those two applications,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas following the vote, which was greeted by cheers from ratepayers and other advocates gathered in Council chambers to learn the decision. “There will be an (LPAT) hearing date and we will get those dates out when they are made public or, when they finalize them, and then everyone will be notified at that time.

“At the end of the day, we have an adjudicator from LPAT that will basically be making the final decision on these two properties. We will be there fighting vigorously to support he refusal but, at the end of the day, it is in the hands of LPAT at this time.”

While it can’t be predicted at this point which way the hearing will go, ratepayers said Council’s decision was a step in the right direction.

“So many people from all over Aurora and beyond have become engaged in this campaign,” said Wendy Kenyon on behalf of the Henderson Forest Ratepayers’ Association. “One only has to look at the rich environmental identity of these Moraine lands to understand why they need to be preserved. We’re delighted that Council recognized this

and has done the right thing. It was a good moment for the Town!

“We’re delighted with Council’s decision but, unfortunately, the fight to protect these Moraine lands is far from over. Last week’s vote was an excellent outcome but the final battle will be at LPAT. We’re hoping that whoever hears the case will look beyond the ‘smoke and mirrors’ and recognize the unacceptable level of environmental damage that would ensue if either of these monster homes is built. This campaign goes far beyond the Henderson Drive area and reflects what communities are doing around the province and on an even wider scale. If we don’t take a local stance on protecting our woodlands and our at-risk wildlife, nothing will change.”

The Ratepayers added they are hoping “all the work done by the community over the last two years will be put to good use” when the Town’s external counsel makes their case.

“We have to win this so that these pristine woodlands and species-at-risk habitat are preserved for future generations to enjoy. It is the only environmentally reasonable option.”

The area in question was two lots, one of approximately five acres and the second just under three acres. The landowner has proposed two builds on the northwest and the southeast of the complete land envelope.

At the last Committee of Adjustment meeting, planner Ryan Guetter, representing the landowner’s consultants, told members that the proposals had undergone a number of changes since they were first filed based on comments from both members of public and municipal staff.

Committee members, however, disagreed and voted down the application in a unanimous decision of 3 – 0 (with one member absent from the proceedings)

“We have a duty to protect the land of this Town in which we live,” said Committee member Clarence Lui. “That is why this Committee is composed of residents of this Town. I share the concerns expressed by my

colleagues and members of the public over the impact on the ecological integrity, including the number of trees that could be removed, the actual number of which is not yet known, together with the negative impact on wildlife, the significance of which, in my mind, is unclear... but the negative impact will be permanent should the

proposed development on the land [be] permitted to proceed.

“With respect to this particular application, the size of the proposed building envelope at 916 square metres and the area of disturbance is troubling in my view. The proposed variance is not minor in nature. Accordingly, I move to reject the application.”



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Advertorial

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GRIDIRON STAR POWER – While Aurora was all about hockey this week with the homecoming of Robert Thomas with the Stanley Cup, there was additional sporting star power on Saturday as Aurora Hyundai welcomed Frank Beltre of the Toronto Argonauts to their Wellington and John West Way lot. He is pictured here, right, being greeted by Aurora Hyundai’s Carman Widdess.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Henderson ratepayers thank Council

A tremendous thank you to all those who contributed to the exciting outcome of last week’s Council vote to support the Committee of Adjustment’s decision on the Henderson properties.

A special thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy summer schedule to come along to the meeting, including our friends from the Stable Neighbourhood groups. It was important for Councillors to see that residents from all parts of Aurora care deeply about protecting our woodlands and our wildlife.

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters and e-mails to Councillors. We’ve heard that they received many varied and thoughtful comments which is, again, a strong signal that the future of the Henderson lands is very much on the minds of Aurorans – we value our environmental heritage.

A final and heartfelt thank you to our Mayor and Councillors who unanimously voted to support the Committee of Adjustment’s well-reasoned decision to uphold the Official Plan and the By-laws.

It’s a powerful moment when the Town and its residents come together for the good of the community as a whole, including future generations of Aurorans who will also benefit from the responsible protection and guardianship of our green space.

Unfortunately, the fight to protect these Oak Ridges Moraine lands is far from over. Last week’s vote paved the way for Council to appoint representation at a forthcoming Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) hearing. We hope that all the work done by the community over the last two years will be put to good use in preparing for this critical final step. Let’s maximize our resources and win this case. When we all work together, great things can happen.

Thank you.

George Skoulikas & Wendy Kenyon
President & Vice President
Henderson Forest Aurora Ratepayer Association

One Book | One Aurora
Photography Contest



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Must be a minimum of 16 years of age
- Employees/Board members of APL and their immediate families are ineligible to win.
- Photos must be high-res for print

In Sweetness in the Belly, Lilly is sent to live with a poor family where she earns her keep teaching local children the Qur’an. Throughout the novel, children are featured in the book. This year’s OBOA photography contest features photographs of children: Capture children in the act of discovery!

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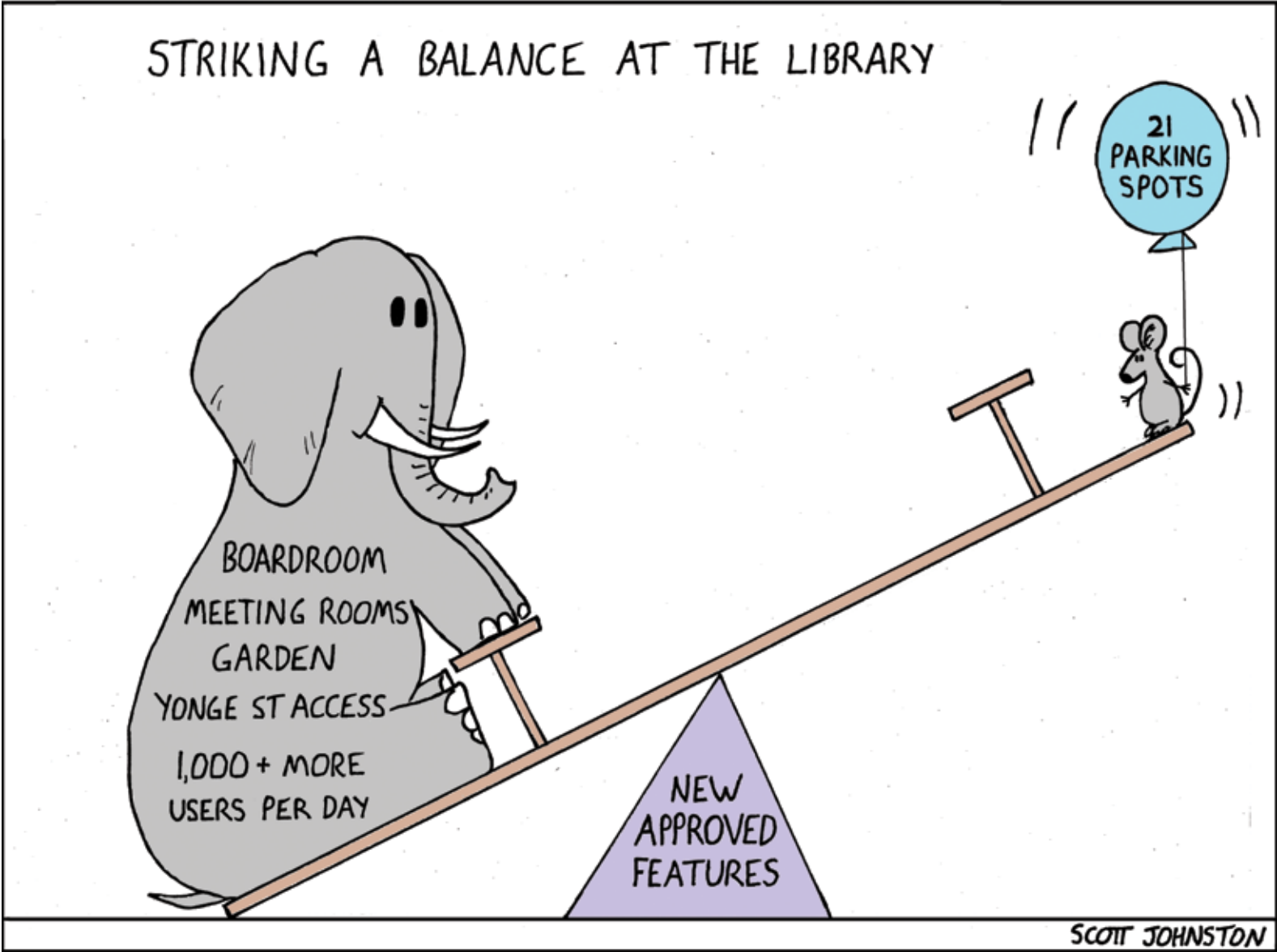
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Machell’s Corners



Balancing the Bad with the Good

It has often been said that love conquers all.

Too often said, in my opinion.

When I was going through university, this seemed to be the prevailing opinion of one of my professors in regards to a particular segment of our history: that peculiar year of 1936 when Canada had not one, but three monarchs.

This was the year of the Abdication Crisis when long-time monarch, George V, grandfather of our present Queen, died near the start of the year, only to be succeeded by his eldest son, who then reigned as Edward VIII.

As we all know through the benefit of hindsight, this reign was something of a blip in our historical radar as, unbeknownst to most of the people across what was then the British Empire, the new King was in the midst of a long-term affair with a twice-married (and soon to be twice-divorced) American woman by the name of Wallis Simpson.

What happened once Edward VIII succeeded the throne is still relatively fresh in our public consciousness. After the governments of the countries Edward VIII reigned over rejected the idea of a twice-divorced American as Queen Consort (or, so politicians of the day would have us believe), the King abdicated in favour of his brother, the future George VI, and he remained in gilded exile with “the woman he loved.”

Those of us inclined to watch documentaries for kicks – and, truth be told, I am usually one of those people – have been bombarded with the idea that the romance between the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, to use their titles used in exile, was one for the ages, the “romance of the century”, one that pitted political views against the romantic notions that united the people of the empire behind the monarch who, at the end of the day, just wanted their king to be happy.

On the surface, this seemed like an easy enough theory to swallow. It was neat and tidy, and gave a warm and fuzzy spin to the story. But, was it true?

As a history student, I had the opportunity to find out more, and it was the subject of one of my papers for the class. Hitting the Library at Carleton, as well as the microfiche archives at the Ottawa Public Library, I dove headlong into editorials and letters to the editor in both British and Canadian newspapers to see just where opinions lay.

The results were surprising to me. While in Great Britain those who cared



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

enough to write on the subject were largely in favour of the King following his heart, across the pond, in most of the Canadian newspapers I was able to access, thoughts were very different. In fact, they gravitated towards being vehemently opposed to any union between the King and Mrs. Simpson and were quite harsh to the King himself.

The letters and editorials indicated a small-c conservatism prevailing in the Canadian consciousness, a mood that stopped just short of moral panic. While those across the pond seemed to be of the opinion that a good King was a happy King, Canadian writers appeared to be gravely concerned about the long-term impacts of the relationship on the Empire, the Monarchy, and even the then-70-year-old Dominion.

As I studied journalism in tandem with history, this writing exercise reinforced my (obvious) view that newspapers are a snapshot in time that can be a highly informative resource and determining the moods, ideals, and priorities of past generations.

Looking back on this experience, I think this has, in some ways, informed the way I approach the job here.

Take Council for instance.

While this is no reflection on the individuals sitting around the table, and I think they will agree themselves, there are more exciting ways to spend one’s time than watching the proceedings unfold in Council Chambers. Granted, some hot topics that have crossed their desk in recent years have spiced things up considerably, garnering no shortage of public input, heated debate, and occasionally unusual responses. But this is usually the exception to the rule.

More often than not, topics are, understandably, on the more bureaucratic side of things, occasionally bogged down in the minutia that so often determines the direction of a debate. While the decisions might be important to the public purse and the bottom line of taxpayers, they are relatively inconsequential to the everyday

lives of the average residents.

“How can you stand sitting there for so long every week?” I’m often asked. Really. Often.

The ready response is usually, “Well, it’s my job,” but, in all honestly, what keeps it interesting to me is trying to put myself in the shoes of people who, fifty or sixty years from now, might want to dig deep into the archives – whatever form such archives might take in a half-century or century from now – to find out how the lawmakers of the day came to a decision that helped shape how their lives are being lived...in whatever decade they happen to be in.

This method helps separate the wheat from the chaff, as it were, and home in on the issues that might actually have an impact on the lives of residents or be of historical interest to subsequent generations.

This is very much the approach I had to take this week.

July and August are usually sleepy months here. School’s out, many people decamp for their cottages or on vacations with their families and it’s easy to plan ahead.

Knowing a hometown hero was making a homecoming this past Monday with Canada’s favourite piece of hardware, it was relatively easy to plan this week’s front page well in advance. After all, how many times does a rising star on the ice get to bring home the Stanley Cup?

Depending on the day’s photos, the front page was essentially a done-deal until many of us woke up to the unsettling news of the fatal fire on Edward Street on Saturday morning.

With both items being quite important to the community in an otherwise quiet month, the mindset of the time-traveller had to be deployed.

On the one hand, we have a story that will likely be before the courts for the next few months and, at the time of publication, will serve as a sad epilogue in the life of one Auroran and, potentially, a sad new chapter in the life of another.

The other story is the beginning of a new, exciting chapter in the life of a budding hockey idol and the rare opportunity for the community to celebrate and take pride in the achievements of one of their own – anticipating great things to come, and possible achievements that might even be unfathomable to readers of today.

It was a tough decision, and we hope we struck the right balance.

THE AURORAN
Aurora’s Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8, Aurora, L4G 1L8

Main number 905-727-3300 • Fax number 905-727-2620

Founder Ron Wallace | Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
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<p>To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com. Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.</p>				



The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

The 60th Anniversary of a hilarious swimming contest!

Pictured here is Aurora’s first public pool, which opened September 20, 1958 and was located behind the George Street School. The following year, to celebrate the beginning of the outdoor swimming season, a hilarious race took place between Harry Seston and C.A. Cathers. The race was referred to as an “across the pool challenge” and the results will forever be disputed. Why, you ask? After the race, the contestants could not agree on which side of the pool was actually the opposite end. C.A. Cathers swam the length of the pool and Harry Seston swam the width. Both competitors boasted about their victory.

It’s Time to Change Course and Restore Confidence in Canada’s Energy Sector

With a Federal election only a few months away, the future of Canada’s energy sector is shaping up to be one of the most heated and contentious points of debate.

Two pieces of legislation recently passed into law by the Federal government, Bills C-69 and C-48, have clearly set the tone by showing this Government’s vision for Canada’s energy sector - and the consequences are dire. Bill C-69 nicknamed the “No More Pipelines” Bill and C-48 “the Tanker Ban” are dramatic in their impact and almost universally misunderstood.

In Bill C-69, the Liberals have implemented longer timelines for energy sector projects, like pipelines, with no maximum caps, increased restrictions and regulations, compounded by inconsistent approval processes and vague criteria for environmental assessments. This creates profound uncertainty and risk for resource companies driving capital investment and jobs to other countries. The Bill will have far reaching implications for all aspects of Canada’s energy sector affecting oil and gas, hydro, nuclear and renewables.

While the impact on Alberta is significant, this flawed legislation affects every province and territory and is why many of the provincial governments are calling this a constitutional crisis.

Bill C-48, will ban some oil tanker traffic in northern B.C. A closer review of the Bill, reveals that is not a universal “ban” but rather is very narrow in its application, and only applies to the west coast - and not the east coast. This proves that C-48’s intent is not to improve transport standards, marine traffic, or protect the safety and ecology of Canada’s oceans let alone



MP’S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

B.C.’s northern shore. It is instead yet another step in limiting Canadian oil development and export by hindering only Alberta and BC’s oil transportation. Tankers have safely transported crude oil to and from Canada’s since the 1930s. In 2011, 2.2 million tonnes of oil were safely shipped from B.C., and on the east coast, an incredible 82.5 million tonnes of various petroleum products have been shipped from 23 ports in Atlantic Canada. There have not been any tanker navigational issues or incidents in 50 years in the port of Vancouver or on the east coast - and we have significantly increased our regulations and protections since then.

Canada’s Energy Sector an Irreplaceable Economic Driver

The global demand for energy will continue to grow with estimates that it will increase by 30% in the next 20 years, and oil will maintain the largest share of global energy market. Canada is the 4th largest oil nation and it’s estimated that Canada’s energy sector contributes 11% to Canada’s GDP or approximately \$230 Billion - more than any other sector.

Under the Liberals, energy investment in Canada has seen its biggest decline since records started

being kept 70 years ago and over \$100 Billion in proposed projects have been cancelled with the Bank of Canada predicting that there will be no new energy investment in Canada after 2019. Since 2015 the oil and gas sector has lost over 120,000 jobs, more jobs than the entire aerospace sector and almost as many as the entire automotive sector. This year, the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Ranking removed Canada from the top 10 most competitive economies in the world – the worst performance in the annual survey’s history.

Energy Security

Canada’s lack of pipelines makes us vulnerable through our dependence on foreign oil and gas suppliers like the US, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia. It is unacceptable in a country as resource rich as Canada that we import 70 percent of the oil we consume.

That the government is putting even more roadblocks in the way to our energy independence is counterproductive. The recent amassing of war ships in the Strait of Hormuz and the capture of a British oil tanker by Iran only underscores the need to secure our own resources and reduce our dependence on foreign countries who may not act in the best interest of Canada.

The severe restrictions placed on Canada’s resource development and exports by these two Bills has essentially placed a “closed for business” sign on Canada’s front door. Without a change of course, the economy will continue to jeopardize the future of all Canadians. We must restore the conditions that will re-invigorate our energy sector and set us on a path to energy security for generations to come.



Getting Things Done

Mayor
Tom Mrakas

Last week, Council deliberated in Closed session and came out to open session and voted 6-0 (Councillor Gallo was absent) to retain an external lawyer and consultants to support the decision of the Committee of Adjustment to refuse the variance applications for 672 and 684 Henderson Drive.

While I appreciate that folks are very happy that efforts to protect this green space have been successful thus far, as I have stated previously, there are other steps in the process that must still be undertaken that may impact the ultimate outcome.

As provided in the legislation, any applicant has the right to appeal a Committee of Adjustment (COA) decision. In the case of these properties, the applicant has decided to appeal and Council (as is our right) has just decided to retain an external lawyer and consultants to support the decision of the COA (refusal of both applications.)

The process for appeals before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) of COA applications are that said hearings are “De Novo”. This means that LPAT will hear evidence as to whether the variance meets the four tests and issue a decision independent of the COA decision – and the LPAT decision is final on the matter. It cannot be appealed.

While the LPAT panel will give “due regard” to the decision from the COA and the support of Council, the hearing is, from the Panel’s perspective, in essence a whole new application submission.

So, while the COA has denied the applications and Council has decided to uphold and support that decision, it will ultimately be LPAT and a single adjudicator that decides the fate of the properties in question. And the single adjudicator’s decision is binding and not subject to appeal.

This is the land-use planning process we have now. And this is what we fought so hard to try and have changed – to limit the scope of powers of an unelected, unaccountable body as it speaks to land-use planning decisions in our community.

We fought successfully to ensure that municipal elected officials were granted greater authority to decide how, if or when our community grows and develops. With the passage of Bill 108, those hard-fought changes have been undone.

This, unfortunately, is the system we have now and how the process works.

Future Past



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

I was walking near Machell Park last Monday afternoon when I ran into myself.

Even in Aurora this is not something that happens every day.

I stopped and gaped at the older version of me.

“Hi, Scott,” said my doppelganger.

“Um...hi,” I replied.

“Caught you by surprise, I bet,” he said. “Yes, I’m you, but from the future.”

Anticipating the inevitable question, he said, “You know the folks who write the Time Traveller’s Diary column in The Auroran? Well, I borrowed their time machine. They were awfully nice about it. Just have to return it to allow them to go back to research the history of the Town’s murals for a column they’re working on.”

“Of course, with a time machine,” the future me smiled, “getting back in time’s never an issue.”

“What are you doing here?” I asked.

“I came back to see the Stanley Cup,” he smiled. “Sadly, even in the future it doesn’t make an appearance in the GTA that often. Now I’m just taking a few minutes in Town to be nostalgic before heading back.”

We started walking. The older me gazed around with interest. “Look at all the trees. And there’s still real grass, not the artificial stuff!”

Of course, I had to ask; “What’s Aurora like in the future?”

“Oh...bigger...more crowded. Similar issues to what you have here now.”

“Like Monster Homes? Please tell

me you’ve resolved that question.”

“No, I’m afraid that one’s still a problem. It’s been a challenge to keep new homes to less than a thousand square feet.”

“A thousand feet?!” I exclaimed. “That’s tiny! Right now they’re looking at a limit of almost 4,000 square feet.”

“Well, with the population in Town over 100,000, and Council still reluctant to allow buildings taller than five-storeys, going smaller in both house and property sizes is the only way in the future there is to fit in more homes.”

“Wow, that’s a big change.” I shook my head. “How about wards?” I asked. “Have they finally been introduced?”

“No, they’re still being debated,” the older Scott responded. “One doesn’t want to rush hastily into any decisions. After all, look how long it took back in your day to come to any decisions on Ellis.”

“Ellis? What’s that?” I asked.

“I’m sorry. I guess you’re not aware of the name they chose for what you call

‘Library Square.’ No one could agree on a title for such a grand location, so in the end they just went with the Library Square initials ‘L.S.’ or ‘Ellis.’ Not one of the Town’s most inspiring decisions, I admit,” he added, sheepishly.

“Whoa, watch it!” I exclaimed, grabbing his arm as he almost stepped off the curb in front of an oncoming car.

“Thanks!” he gasped, taking a deep breath. “I forgot how fast cars travelled in the early 21st century. In my day the speed limit on most roads is 10 km/h.”

“Ten! That’s slow.”

“Where I come from...or is it when I come from...in any case, people driving in Town spend most of their time on the road looking for parking spaces, they don’t need to go very fast, anyway.”

“Well, I should be getting back,” the older me said, looking at some sort of hand-held device. “But I expect I’ll return again.”

There was so much more I wanted to find out about such as the impact of Magna’s departure, the status of efforts to increase Yonge Street vitality, what green space was left in Town, and whether a use was ever found for Petch House, but those could wait.

As we bade our goodbyes I hoped he wouldn’t wait until the next time the Stanley Cup reappeared in Town before returning for a visit. I might be his age by then.

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

THIS WEEK’S NEW POLL

Are you engaged in the upcoming Federal Election

Yes No Unsure

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Previous poll results

Do you believe there's a parking problem in Aurora's downtown core?

RESULTS TO DATE	JULY 30, 2019	YES	NO	UNSURE
		79%	21%	0%

Volunteering is chance to get in on the action at CP Women’s Open

By Brock Weir

The world’s best female golfers are set to descend on Aurora this month for the CP Women’s Open, and if you want to get in on the action, consider volunteering for the week-long tourney. Set to take place at the Magna Golf Club August 19 – 25, the CP Women’s Open is heavily reliant on volunteers, needing more than 1,000 to make the event a success, and there are plenty of opportunities to get involved, says tourney organizer Ryan Paul.

“Volunteers are the lifeblood of this event,” Mr. Paul tells The Auroran, noting they hope to call upon up to 1,200 volunteers this month. There are over 20 committees potential volunteers can choose from, something that fits everyone’s needs. “If you’d like to be right in on the action, it doesn’t get better than being a marshal,” says Mr. Paul. “You would be inside the row, see every player come through, and you would be designated to a particular hole. If you want to be more behind the scenes, we have corporate hospitality opportunities, you can be on the range, or even standard-bearers or scorers, walking the holes



Volunteering is your chance to get in on the action at this month’s CP Women’s Open, and help players including Brooke Henderson, above.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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with the groups.” Volunteering is an \$80 entry fee, but with that fee, you get a uniform, a pass for yourself that gets you in for the week, as well as an additional pass for a guest that is transferrable for the week, so you can bring someone with you each time.” Mr. Paul has been involved with golf tournaments from a young age. The son of Bill Paul, tournament director of the RBC Canadian Open for more than 20 years, he first became involved with Golf Canada as a summer student, learning the ropes by working tournaments, putting up grandstands, and having a hand in on-course logistics. Given his time with the organization, he says the best volunteers are individuals who are “passionate not just about the game of golf, but also of volunteering.” “We find that we get a lot of people who sign up from referrals, their friends are golf fans, but they have never golfed, and come out with a big appreciation for the game, especially the women’s game,” says Mr. Paul. “The best volunteers are the energetic, enthusiastic ones. You don’t have to be a scratch golfer or anything like that, but just someone who is eager to support, loves volunteering and loves sports.” It is also a chance to be a part of history. The RBC Canadian Open has taken place in York Region in the not-too-distant past, but the CP Women’s Open is the first in York Region in nearly 20 years. Being involved in an “international event of this magnitude” is “really something special” and shouldn’t be understated, he adds. “Volunteers are a group of people who are really special and nobody

notices that more than the players,” he says. “They really understand that without the volunteers the event doesn’t happen. You can be a marshal who keeps the peace on the golf course. If you’re working the Player Transportation Committee, you can drive the players around and have access to them. Even if you’re not inside the ropes or Player Access Committee, what’s great about the LPGA Tours is the players are always willing to give back. They will make trips back to the volunteer centre just to say hi and say thanks. They really make you feel special for volunteering and it is not just something you have done because you like to volunteer. You see what kind of impact you’ve made and the players really make that impact known.” If you’re interested in signing up as a volunteer, the entry fee is \$80. Mr. Paul says he realises that that might be a hindrance to some people stepping forward, but there is a reduced rate for high school students looking to gather community service hours and, for those who have to pay the full entry fee, the underscores the fact volunteering gets you access for the week – and all you need to do is put in three shifts. “We’re here in Aurora and York Region for the first time since 2001,” says Mr. Paul. “We don’t know if it is another 19 years or five when we come back, but this is an opportunity you don’t want to miss out on. The value of what you’re doing versus what you’re paying for, the pros outweigh the cons. This is such a special week. Without the volunteers, we can’t make it happen.” *For more information on the CP Women’s Open, including how to volunteer, visit cpwomensopen.com.*



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Southlake, CHATS join forces for Ontario Health Team

By Brock Weir

Christine McGregor wanted her mother to age in her own home as long as possible. But, when she developed dementia, the family felt it was no longer safe for her to be at home. At the time, there weren't enough supports in place to keep her aging in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so she settled into a Newmarket retirement home, where she enjoys regular outings as part of CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors) Day Programs.

These programs have offered her a chance to get out, participate in social and recreational activities, all the while experiencing care under watchful eyes. "I've learned a lot about navigating the system [as a caregiver]," says Ms. McGregor.

Changes to the system are coming, however, and Ms. McGregor says she is hopeful it will help those embarking on the same path she travels with her mother will experience more fulsome support as part of an integrated system.

On Wednesday, Southlake Regional Health Centre CEO Arden Krystal joined CHATS's Christina Bisanz at their Aurora headquarters to announce the local hospital, along with community partners, including CHATS, are moving forward with an application to the Province to become an Ontario Health Team (OHT).

Replacing Local Health Integration Networks, the new OHTs are integrated teams of local healthcare providers that will come together to improve access and provide quality care to their communities.

The ultimate goal of the Southlake Community OHT is to "bring connected care to our communities and end hallway healthcare in our part of the province," says Southlake.

Southlake's OHT proposal was one of 31 that received the go-ahead from the Ministry of Health last month. If approved at the next stage of the process,

it will further integrate health care for the residents of much of northern York Region and South Simcoe County.

It is intended to make healthcare easier to navigate for patients and families, with better communication between providers, which will result in smoother transitions for patients between settings, such as moving from hospital back home, or from hospital into long-term care.

"This is a really exciting time in Ontario healthcare," said Ms. Krystal. "We're excited because we believe that the Ontario Health Team we're creating is really going to result in better transitions for patients, a much more seamless care, patients being able to get home sooner than they can get home right now because of having more robust community services to support them in their own homes and more opportunities for things like respite care for caregivers as well.

"What that is going to result in for our hospital is we believe less hallway medicine, less patients in unconventional spaces, in our hallways, and in our emergency department. We believe if we do this the right way with all of the great partners we have, that is also going to result in less visitations to our emergency department because people will be at home, they will be healthier and they will be happier. I couldn't be more pleased."

Local patients have already seen some of the results of this new integration through the pilot project Southlake at Home, which contracts home care and social service providers, like CHATS, in order to move some "very complex" patients home instead of having them go into long-term care or a transitional bed.

Feedback has been positive, she said, from both patients and their families. Any time of the day or night, if they have a problem when they are at home, they can call this number and a qualified nurse answers the phone and knows their case. The other thing they have noticed differently is that instead of multiple providers all from different agencies



Christina Bisanz of CHATS, Arden Krystal, President & CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre, and Dr. David Makary spoke at last Wednesday's announcement.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

coming into their home, it is a team of people and it is the same team of people and they all know the patients. When somebody new does need to come in, what our patients have told us is, 'It is amazing. They come in and they don't ask me the same questions over and over because

they have already talked to the other team members and already know what is going on with me.' That is the kind of direct relationships and coordination that we see will be different [in the OHT model]. What we're probably going to see is less

Continued on page 20

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AN AURORA WELCOME

(Clockwise from Top Left) St. Louis Blues star Robert Thomas brought the Stanley Cup home to Aurora on Monday afternoon and was greeted by hundreds of fans from across the community. Mayor Tom Mrakas presented Thomas with the Key to the Town. Families got a chance to get up close and personal with the cup – and, in some cases, take a load off their feet.

Auroran photos
by Glenn Rodger



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Aurora’s Thomas has his day with the Cup

By Jake Courtepatte

Lord Stanley’s Cup made an appearance at Machell Park on Monday, alongside newly-minted NHL champion Robert Thomas.

It was a spectacle for the hundreds of well-wishers and fans lined up around the bandstand: pulling up in an orange convertible with the most coveted trophy in hockey.

Yet, the humble Thomas, upon taking to the stage alongside Mayor Tom Mrakas, had plenty of thanks and praise for those who helped him along his incredible journey.

“I just have a lot of people to thank for a moment like this,” said Thomas. “Obviously, Mayor Mrakas, everyone from the town, I couldn’t thank them enough. And thank you to all you guys

for showing up, it’s a pretty special day for me.

“To be able to share it with the Aurora community, let’s make this a fun day.”

“It’s been amazing to have you back in the town of Aurora,” said Mrakas. “I just want to give you a huge thank you for allowing us to share in this special moment.”

Thomas, who posted six points in the St. Louis Blues’ playoff run and finally got his day with the Cup after it made a number of stops in York Region, just turned 20 years old this month.

“The Cup goes all around Europe and North America over the summer, and every one of the team’s members only gets one day with it, so for Robbie to spend some time with us on his special day is incredible,” said Mayor Mrakas, who hosted a question and

answer period with Thomas on stage.

Mrakas listed off all of Thomas’ achievements at his young age.

“You won gold at the World Juniors, you were the OHL playoff’s MVP last year, and now you’ve capped an amazing season with a Stanley Cup win,” said Mrakas. “But it started with seven years with the York-Simcoe Express, as well as two years playing with St. Andrew’s College U-16 team.”

Thomas also played volleyball, soccer, lacrosse, and baseball in the area growing up.

“I tried to play as many sports as I could,” said Thomas. “I would try to get as much involved in the Aurora community as I could. I think around fifteen, sixteen was when I started focusing mainly on hockey. That’s kind of when it took over.”

He recalled how the Thomas

family had an ice rink in the backyard growing up, something he called “very important” in helping achieve his dreams.

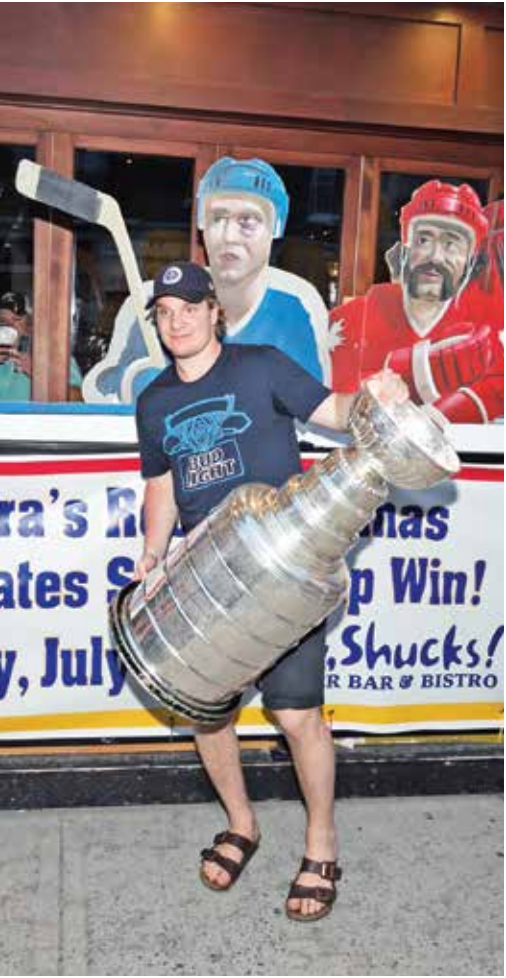
“My family has definitely been huge,” said Thomas. “I definitely wouldn’t be here without their support. My dad built me a backyard rink right from when I was four years old, to two years after I left the house, which was seventeen, eighteen. So, he was building it for a while. It was great, all the neighbours, all my friends I played hockey with, would always come over and play shinny. So, yeah, the support that they have given me has definitely helped me to get to where I am today.”

An ice cream lover, Thomas and the Cup made a quick stop at Dairy Queen after the event, where he enjoyed a Blizzard out of the Mug.



(Top) Thomas was welcomed by MPPs Michael Parsa and Christine Elliott, as well as MP Kyle Peterson. (Bottom) Thomas’ whirlwind day with the Stanley Cup ended with a party at Aw, Shucks.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



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Library expansion receives Council green light

By Brock Weir

Council has formally signed off on a \$5.47 million expansion to the Aurora Public Library, a plan which will give the Library more space, and the potential to hold conferences, as part of the Town’s overall vision for Library Square.

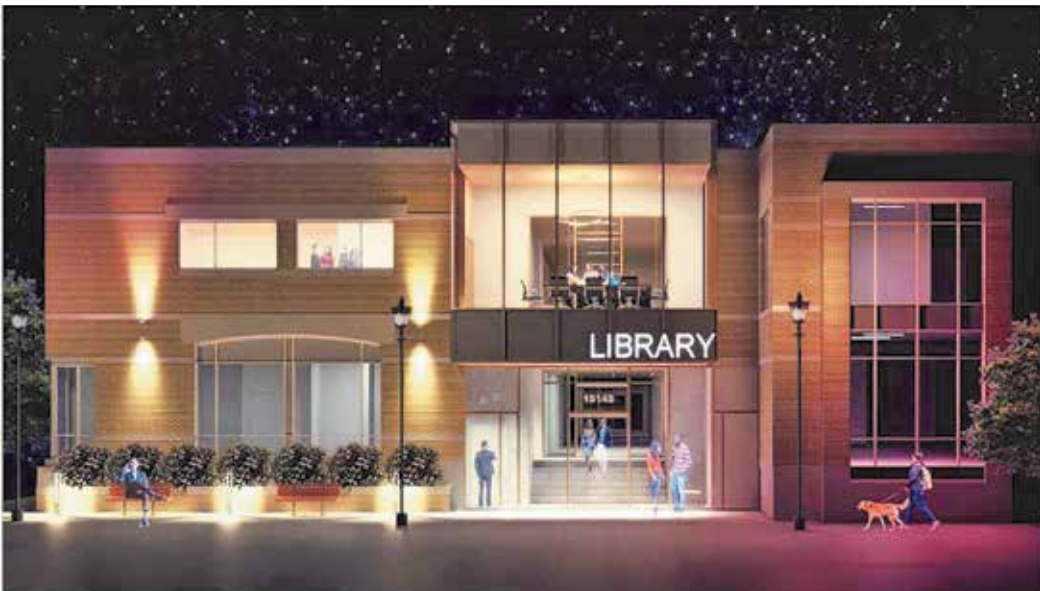
Local lawmakers ratified their approval, which received the tentative thumbs-up at July’s General Committee meeting, at last week’s Council.

The Library expansion is a

corridor extension that would link the previously-approved bridge connecting the Library (APL) with the future addition to Church Street School, to a Yonge Street entrance.

The extension will include the corridor, along with a reading garden, two multipurpose rooms and an elevator to Yonge Street. This elevator will enhance accessibility for APL patrons by going directly down to street level, replacing the Library’s existing concrete ramp.

This component of the overall Library Square development is estimated to clock in at \$5,465,300,



An artistic rendering of the proposed new entrance to the Aurora Public Library, a corridor extension approved by Council last week.

Image courtesy of RAW Design & The Planning Partnership

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\$3.4 million of which will come from the APL’s Library Services Development Charges reserves with the balance of \$2.065 million coming out of the Town’s Hydro Reserves.

Council’s discussion on the corridor extension earlier in July was fruitful, with each elected official weighing in largely positively on the plan. The one voice missing from the earlier discussion, however, was Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who had to excuse herself from the evening’s proceedings due to a family matter.

But, when Council reconvened last week, she took the opportunity to question the financial wisdom behind the proposal.

“I listened to the meeting pretty carefully, and I know Council is going to approve the concept that the Library was in favour of,” she said. “[But] I have two concerns: we already have a parking problem and finding parking to service the new building...Now, with this new option, we’re going to be adding more programming space and we’re going to be setting us up for, perhaps, a convention centre. I think the parking will just be an unmanageable situation for the Town. I think it is going to be a nightmare.

“The Library says visits were up 15 per cent last year...and I think that’s a serious problem.”

Councillor Gaertner went on to question claims made by municipally-retained consultants who argued the previous week that the new elevator reaching street level with Yonge would increase accessibility. She said she “took exception” to the argument that the present ramp presented “a bit of a barrier” for Library patrons.

“I can’t imagine what better entrance you could have,” she said. “You have a ramp and you’ve got stairs. I know we’re kind of going for a ‘wow’ factor here...but I think that front entrance is very nice, was planned very well.”

Her second issue came down to dollars and cents, she said.


“At this point we have doubled the amount of money we were talking about originally and it is very concerning to me,” she continued. “We’re also going to be taking another \$2 million out of Hydro Reserves, so I would like to [have] some more information about this. We know those Hydro Reserves are being used to supplement taxes and the reserve funds. If we keep taking money out of that Hydro Fund, I would like to know what that means.

Staff replied that there is still more work to be done before a final estimate on costs can be put on the table for Council’s review, with Robin McDougall, Aurora’s Director of Community Services, stating these more concrete figures could be ready as early as the fall.

Responding to Councillor Gaertner’s concerns, Councillor Michael Thompson said the money being spent on this and other projects related to Library Square were an investment for the community, tying the conversation into the goals of the Town’s recently struck Economic Development Board.

“We have all been talking about Library Square and downtown revitalization since each of us individually first got elected, in one way or another,” said Councillor Thompson. “When the [Economic Development Group] did community engagement and talked to stakeholders, what rose to the top [was] downtown revitalization. It is not just Council’s vision, it is the community’s vision. Yes, it is a significant amount of money, but keep in mind that it is four projects we’re lumping together as one total project. The Library corridor extension is one of those four projects, as is the connecting bridge, as is Library Square itself, as is the addition to the Church Street School.

“It is a significant investment in our downtown core and we believe it will make a significant difference and help us revitalize that downtown.”



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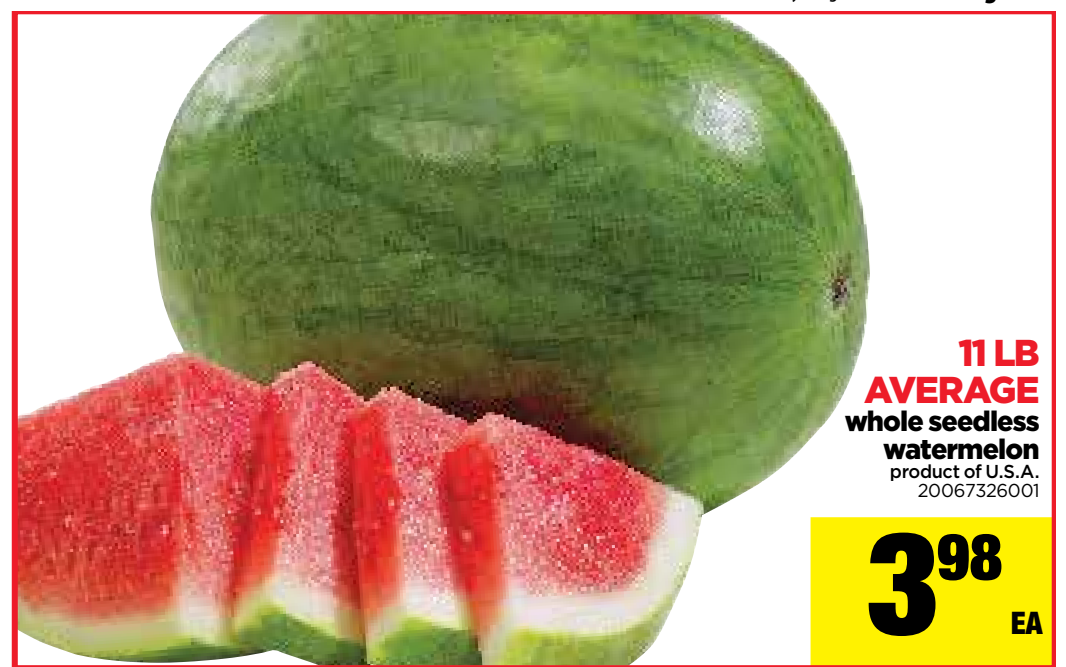
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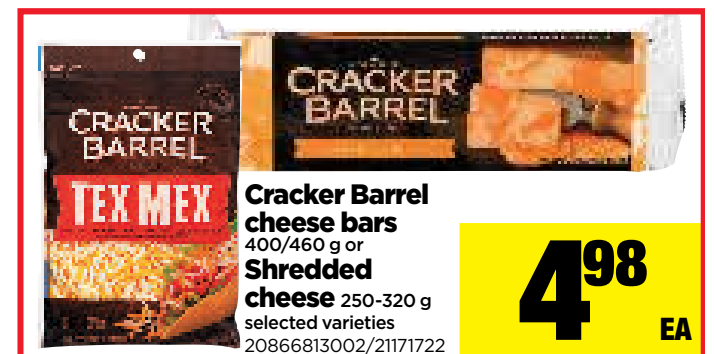
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Art therapy gives grieving kids a chance to express their feelings and find fellowship



By Brock Weir

The grieving process can be a lonely thing, but knowing someone else has been down that road before and can offer a listening ear or a comforting shoulder can make a world of difference – at any age. This is the philosophy of Doane House

Hospice, which is underscoring the healing power of art. Doane House, which celebrates its 30th anniversary in the York Region community this year, is preparing for a summer art therapy workshop for kids this month entitled You Are Not Alone. Focused on children between the ages of six and 12 who are grieving the loss of

a loved one, it is a chance for kids to find an outlet for their grief and begin healing through the creative process – all the while forging connections with other youngsters who are navigating their own complex feelings of loss.

“It is really important for kids to be with other kids,” says art therapist Jennifer Page. “They want to know that there are other kids out there, that are having similar experiences. It’s about starting those conversations and reassuring them they can still be kids in the face of these losses, challenges, difficulties, and horrible things they are feeling; it really brings the kids together to know they are not alone.”

Before becoming an art therapist, Ms. Page worked a desk job. Handed a pamphlet near work one day, she found a listing for “art therapy” and felt compelled to learn more. The more she learned about the process, the more eager she was to know more.

“I wanted to know what drives people, so I went back to school and did my post-graduate in art therapy,” she explains, noting that her new career path has made every day a fulfilling one. “Every time I see a client make changes that they’re hoping to make or have those ‘ah ha’ moments they hoping to have in their lives’ makes it all worthwhile – being a part of that, knowing I have helped them get a tool that will help them in their lives to reach their goals.”

When it comes to art, there are no age limits as to who can pick up these tools. Learning about art therapy for the first time, people often think the door is closed to them, mistaken in the belief that you have to be “creative” to get anything out of the process. But that, she says, is a myth.

“Everyone has inherent creativity, whether they know it or not,” she says. “I think a lot of people just want to be engaging in art work and, for some people, it is just working with their hands. Others are using art simply for relaxation or stress relief. Others are coming through deep-rooted issues and art is a great way to

visually represent those things that may be difficult to express.”

For kids, art comes naturally. It is, she says, “a language they speak” and children have no qualms about picking up a crayon or a paintbrush and just get down to business.

“They have no problem getting right in there and putting their whole selves into it,” she says. “It is a natural part of their language. They will draw pictures of things they are thinking about. With adults, it’s different. We, as adults, have different lenses through which we look at art and sometimes it is difficult to go back to those places where we feel free enough to simply pick up an art material and play with it.

“Every child is different and we make all sorts of different materials available to them, whether they like to paint or draw, or sculpt, or even use craft materials like pipe cleaners and pom poms. I don’t want to say it is not about the loss, but sometimes it is more about what they are left with, coping with that person not being here anymore, or those changes that have happened since that person passed away, and really asking questions, talking about their feelings and being able to be heard without upsetting someone else. Often that is a big worry for a child.

“Here, my art therapy students are all students of the Toronto Art Therapy Institute and they are taking the helm on the groups. On the bereavement side (of our therapy programs), a lot of it has to do with the legacy piece – that is, memorializing the person and how can we still keep this person in that child’s life while, again, encouraging them to ask questions and think about things using the skills they have, which are art and play, to get through this time that is often quite challenging”

For more information on You Are Not Alone: Summer Art Therapy Workshops For Kids, taking place at Doane House Hospice on Friday, August 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., visit doanehospice.org or call Jennifer Page at 905-967-0259.

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INTRO TO ADULTING – It’s a wrap on the Aurora Public Library’s Intro to Adulting Course, which saw local young adults come into the library for a week-long series of courses teaching practical skills that often aren’t imparted in schools, subjects ranging from the simple – like, how to iron a dress shirt – to the more complex, such as how to complete a tax return.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Classic country of Alabama will take centre stage at Concerts in the Park



Contributed Photo

By Brock Weir

All they wanted was a bite to eat after a gig, but it seems musicians have a certain look about them.

When Elton Lammie and his bandmates rolled up to a Wendy’s, the cashier suspected they might be more than your average group of guys looking for some burgers.

“You guys look like you could be in a music group,” Lammie remembers the cashier saying.

Indeed they were. They were fresh off a concert paying tribute to the iconic country band Alabama.

“Spur of the moment, we were doing a song a capella for her with three or four part harmony right there in the Wendy’s,” he says, after the cashier told her she was a fan of the group. “When you see the looks on people’s faces when you do that,

that’s a reward for us: taking people back to when they first heard Alabama’s music in the 70s and 80s.”

That’s just what they intend to do next week in Aurora when Mountain Music: A Tribute to Alabama takes centre stage in Town Park for the popular Concerts in the Park Summer Series.

While Lammie says he grew up with Alabama’s style of music, paying tribute to the band is a more recent invention. Before dipping into their song catalogue, the group focused on more modern country music, but while performing in tribute to the Zac Brown Band, they tested out some Alabama tunes and the response from the audience was staggering.

“We realized that every time we played Alabama songs, we would get this enormous response,” he says. “Over the last few years we decided to do some investigation into Alabama and see if

it has enough legs to swim on its own. Alabama has over 40 number-one hits and they are actually the most successful country band in history yet. South of the border, this was a huge success. You’ve got thousands of people in an audience singing the words to every song Alabama did. It was also satisfying and stimulating for us because every song has a three-part harmony. There are a lot of southern rock influences in the music which all of us in the band enjoy – and I get to play the fiddle, which is another thing I didn’t get to do in other projects!”

Considering why the music of Alabama continues to resonate with audiences, Lammie muses there is a “blue-collar aspect” to the music that transcends boundaries. The songs reference jobs traditionally seen as “blue collar” and it is clear the songwriters were tapping into this audience.

Although it was clear this band was on to something big when they began digging deeper into Alabama’s songbook, adapting their style to the sounds people are so familiar was a more challenging task. The core of Alabama is three cousins who came together as teens to make rock and roll. While they eventually switched both gears and genres, there is what Lammie describes as a “family harmony” that is difficult to capture.

“That took a great deal of rehearsing and coaching,” he says. “You’re not just going to be a guitar player; now you have to be a guitar player who is singing constantly, and the same goes for the bass player and drummer. We used to joke in rehearsals, ‘Now I (the non-vocalists) have to think about looking after my voice after every show!’ You’re warming up your voice and treating it proper now because I’m not just a drummer, I’m a singer.”

Looking ahead to the Aurora gig on August 7, Lammie says the biggest reward is seeing the joy on people’s faces when the music transports them back to the 70s

and 80s.

“I hope the audience sees we have fun when we perform,” he says. “When you have these voices blending together, it is not common anymore. It used to be at one time bands had to sing well in order to make records and go on tour. Nowadays you have so much electronic equipment to take a very mediocre singer and make them sound like a million bucks. We’re the kind of band where we can literally stand around one microphone and play and sing. It is exciting for an audience to hear four voices and one guitar blend so nicely.

Concerts in the Park take place each Wednesday at Town Park through August from 7 – 9 p.m.

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Doors Open Aurora 2019: 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 2019 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.

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 2019 site. Make sure to visit Aurora Rising Sun Masonic Lodge at 57 Mosley Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 19 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 2019 Map Guide, please visit www.aurora.ca and click on the Doors Open icon on the front page.



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Meridith
Meridith Eberhardt, RPN

Question:
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Answer:

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Revamped plan will see more accessible parking spots on Church Street

By Brock Weir

A new parking plan will see additional accessible parking spots to service Library Square and nearby amenities.

Council formally signed off on a revised vision for on-street parking in the Church Street Area last week, a plan that is part of the overall vision for the Library Square development, and helps address some lingering concerns over a parking shortage in the area.

Earlier in July, Council members reviewed several parking concepts, eventually agreeing on the plan recommended by Town Staff which will remove boulevard treatments and some street trees on the north side of Church Street in front of the Library, which will then be replaced with lay-by parking.

While trees and additional boulevard features will remain in place outside the historic Church Street School, additional work will take place on the south side of Church Street accommodating additional parking spaces while also limiting on-street parking in front of existing residences.

All told, the revised plan will see an additional 21 parking spaces added: three lay-by spaces, 14 on-street spots, three accessible parking stalls, and one loading area.

The new vision for on-street parking helps address some lingering concerns over a parking shortage voiced by residents and Council members alike since work began on bringing a concept for Library Square to fruition.

These worries were once again brought into the fore during last week's Council meeting before lawmakers approved a \$5.5 million corridor extension for the Aurora Public Library (APL), a move proponents say would create more space within APL and help position the APL and the surrounding area into a

destination for conferences. "We already have a parking problem and finding parking to service the new building and the Square is going to be a challenge," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner, referring to the addition planned for the Church Street School, as well as associated amenities within the Library Square concept that are designed to be community draws. "Through [the APL corridor extension] we're going to be adding more programming space and we're going to be setting us up to perhaps be a convention centre. I think the parking will just be an unmanageable situation for the Town. I think it is going to be a nightmare."

Tackling Councillor Gaertner's concerns, Councillor Michael Thompson said parking demand would be a good barometer for the success of the Library Square project.

"As we keep talking about parking, in some ways, yes, it could create a parking problem, but we will solve that parking problem," he said. "It might be a good problem to have because it might mean people are downtown, people are shopping, people are utilizing the facilities, people are visiting businesses, and we just have to solve that problem. I hope that is a problem that we have and a problem we solve."

Leading up to Council's decision on parking last week, public feedback to each of the plans offered by staff was "mixed," according to Andria Sallese, Senior Policy Planner for the Town.

"Generally, however, the participants were supportive of a design option that balanced good streetscape design, preserving existing trees, promoting walkability, and providing addition parking on Church Street and the balance of the site," said Sallese in the Council report. "Planning staff also spoke with two residents and one

business owner on the south side of Church Street. While some residents on the south side of Church Street preferred the design options that did not include on-street parking in front of their properties, one of the business owners indicated they were in favour of providing additional on-street parking for their patrons.

"The options were also reviewed by the transportation consultant hired by the Town (BA Group). The consultant's recommendation is that it is important to find a balance between good design, costs, and accommodating additional parking demand."

And, the report notes, the option ultimately approved by Council fit the bill.

The estimated cost for the parking reconfiguration is set at \$93,500, which comes in well below the approved budget of \$145,740.

Additional consultation on the parking plan is also expected to take place with York Region Transit, which runs a bus route south on Victoria Street, before heading west on Church Street to Yonge.

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SECTION B

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Aurora athletes take to the Pan Am stage



Carmen Whelan will be one of three Aurora natives to compete in this month's Pan Am Games in Lima, Peru.

By Jake Courtepatte

A trio of local talent will be looking to put Aurora on the map at the 2019 Pan Am Games.

Spread out over a two-week period beginning this week in Lima, Peru, the latest iteration of the Games will feature

Photo courtesy of Carmen Whelan

Aurora athletes in rhythmic gymnastics, beach volleyball, and equestrian.

Carmen Whelan, a third all-around finisher at the Canadian Championships in Richmond, B.C. in 2018, will be looking to reach the podium as a top hooper.

Those who have been following the longtime national team member's journey may remember Whelan as one of just two

Aurora-King Jays back on top in Newmarket Silver Bat

The 2005 AKBA Jays took home the Newmarket Silver Bat championship over the weekend.

Photo courtesy of Michael Burdo



By Jake Courtepatte

For just the second time in the tournament's 44-year history, the Aurora-King Jays are champs at the Newmarket Silver Bat tournament.

In both occasions, it is the 2005 Jays who have added their names to the coveted trophy.

This past weekend saw the Jays absolutely dominate this year's iteration of the tournament, going undefeated through six games to take the championship.

Opening the tournament on Friday with a 23 – 2 drubbing of the Brantford Red Sox, the Jays won a trio of games Saturday, in besting the Anette Black 13 – 0, the Peterborough Tigers 13 – 7, and

the Mississauga South West Twins 13 – 5.

Sunday's semifinal saw the Jays cruise to the final game by a score of 9 – 4 against Peterborough, before meeting the Red Sox again in the final, where they took home the trophy by a score of 17 – 8.

It was in 2016 that the Jays first took the tournament, as an AA squad before being promoted to the AAA level for the 2017 season.

Congratulations go out to Noah Glenn, Noah Sutchy, Cale Williams, Parker Bifulchi, Matthew Burdo, Luciano Montanaro, Luca Cutajar, Colin Ellsworth, Romeo Waghmare, Lincoln Glover, Tyson Kushnir, as well as coaches Raj Waghmare, Mark Cutajar, Tim Glenn, Richard Glover, and Peter Bifulchi.

Canadian representatives in individual rhythmic gymnastics at the 2015 Pan Am Games, where she finished sixth in front of a hometown crowd.

Now, an older and more experienced Whelan has her sights set on reaching the podium.

Ranked in the top two in her craft in Canada for the past seven years, Whelan, who at only twenty years old, already has an impressive resume: she competed in the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto, as well as the 2015 and 2017 World Championships, and was named the Athlete of the Year by Sport Aurora in September of 2017.

A graduate of Dr. G.W. Williams, Aaron Nusbaum will be taking to the sand to compete in the men's beach volleyball category.

The Libero will be partnering with Mike Plantinga of Langley, B.C., and has formerly earned a bronze medal in the 2017 NORCECA Continental Tour in Jamaica.

Rounding up the Aurora squad is 26-year old Nicole Walker, who will be jumping in the equestrian category.

Walker will be riding the 14-year old Falco van Spievel, a bay gelding which is the mare of choice of her grandfather, Frank Stronach.

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Gattas notches first hat trick in CPL history

By Jake Courtepatte

Another historic first for the budding Canadian Premier League. Rodrigo Gattas was the latest York9 FC player to put his name in the history books on Saturday in securing the league’s first ever hat trick, part of a 6 – 2 drubbing of the Halifax Wanderers. “I’m expecting to have many more good games,” said the Chilean after the match via a translator. Just over 3,000 fans were on hand at York Lions Stadium to witness history, while Ryan Telfer added a pair of goals himself to secure York9’s third win in four CPL matches.



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“Honestly, I didn’t expect Gattas to come out and outscore me,” Telfer said. “I think Gattas and I clicked way earlier than expected. Gattas has been feeding me balls, and I’ve been doing the same for him.” The win came on the back of a despairing loss to the Major League Soccer club Montreal FC in the third round of the Canadian Championship on Wednesday, where Montreal squeaked by on a 3 – 2 aggregate score. Head coach Jim Brennan said Saturday’s game was one where his club “took their frustration” out. “Obviously they were still gutted from that game on Wednesday. It’s a game we all thought we should have won and we should be in that next round.” Brennan said after Saturday’s match. “I think we took our frustration out today on Halifax.” “We said to them, if you keep creating these chances, there was gonna be one game where they all fly in for you,” he said. “Today was that day. “I enjoyed watching them today. They were playing with their chests out, they had smiles on their faces.” It took a penalty for the Major League squad to pull out the victory on Wednesday, with York9 hanging in until the end. Brennan said he was proud of his team following the match. “Overall, I’m proud of these guys,” said Brennan. “After the match, it was just, get your heads up. You put a good shift in against a good team, you end up losing the game to a penalty.” As for the upcoming schedule, the York9 club takes almost a two-week break before heading back to the pitch, after the August 2 match with Hamilton’s Forge FC was postponed to a later date. York9 hits the pitch once again on August 10, hosting Valour FC at York Lions Stadium. “We have a few days here where we’ll



York9 FC’s Rodrigo Gattas, pictured when he first signed with the team in April, became the first CPL player to ever record a hat trick in a 6 - 2 win over the Halifax Wanderers on Saturday.

Photo courtesy of Matt Gathas/York9 FC

send them away tell them to come nowhere near the club, don’t even watch football – get away from it as much as possible,” said Brennan. Game time is scheduled for a 3:30 p.m. start.

Aurora Master Duck heads to FINA World Masters Championships

By Kelley Hughes

Aurora Master Duck, Jack So, will proudly represent Town and Team at the 18th FINA World Masters Championships in Gwangju, South Korea, August 5 – 18. This global aquatics event is host to over 8,000 participants, age 25+, and five water disciplines: competitive swimming, artistic swimming, water polo, diving and open water. The event theme “Dive Into Peace” promotes global peace and harmony, combined with the masters’ philosophy which links friendship, leisure and fitness. Jack So joined the Master Ducks in 2014 and had no previous competitive swimming background; in fact, no experience in organized sport. His inspirations to tackle a new sport were his two young boys who represent the youth program, Aurora Ducks Swimming. Jack began his swimming journey with no competitive aspirations, but rather a short-term goal to complete 40 consecutive laps (1 km) of the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex pool before he turned 40. Within 2 months, Jack had surpassed his expectations and was able to swim 100 non-stop laps of the



pool, (2.5 km)! He was hooked! The intervening years have included some impressive accomplishments, consistent improvements, participation at every Provincial and National Championships since 2014, and two previous FINA World Masters Championships in 2014 in Montreal and 2017 in Budapest. Jack is himself an inspiration for others to push personal boundaries and take on new challenges. Live streaming of the World Masters Championships is available on FINA TV. Jack races August 13 - 15, and will compete in the 100 m Breaststroke, 50 m Butterfly, 200 m Individual Medley and 50 m Freestyle, men’s 45 - 49 category. These masters athletes defy age and promise to dazzle audiences with their remarkable performances.

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The last couple of Saturdays at the Farmers’ Market have taken place in the very hot and humid conditions that we are experiencing this summer.

Happily, we were cooled occasionally by breezes blowing through the park.

Unfortunately, whatever bit of shade that had been provided by the two large maple trees at the entrance to the park has been lost as they died and are in the process of being taken down by the Town.

This is a busy time of the season at the Market with so much produce ripening lately and appearing on the farmers’ tables.

While there is no longer asparagus or rhubarb, they have been replaced by lots of vegetables and other fruit.

We have all kinds of salad greens, green and yellow beans, peas, beets, and Willowtree Farm even has the first corn of the season. They also have the first wild blueberries I have seen yet this season as well as cultivated blueberries and cherries. Both Willowtree Farm and the Coopers Farm have lots of

freshly picked strawberries, perfect for canning and baking. Simpson’s Farm has lots of potatoes available

as well as some lovely new potatoes, perfect for making potato salad. When I bought potatoes from them last week, they advised me that the red skinned new potatoes make the best potato salad—who knew?

The next vendor I’m going to tell you about is the daughter of the Antonic Family who represents the Providence Hill Farm in Nobleton. Aurora says that she has fond memories of growing up on the farm and sitting down with her family at the end of the day sharing a home cooked meal. Her parents always made sure that the kids grew up eating healthy food – real food – and that they learned how to take care of and properly nourish their bodies.

Aurora attended the Toronto Waldorf School from ages 4-17 which helped to foster her love for the



MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

outdoors, exploring, and learning about the plants and animals around them. She says that this occurred

whether she was simply running around the large forest at recess or attending lower school gardening classes.

She has been a horseback rider since the age of six and briefly participated in gymnastics during her pre and early teens. Then, in her later teens, she began to work out as a way to combat some of the depression and anxiety she was experiencing as a young adult trying to find her way in the world.

The casual hobby of working out in her parents’ basement eventually took on a mind of its own. Aurora realized how much better she felt, both mentally and physically, when she was exercising.

Through casually looking for new fitness routines on the internet, she found herself fully engaged in that lifestyle. Over the next few years she began to educate herself even more

about the food she was eating and ended up interning at a private fitness studio in Bolton where she was surrounded by like-minded people. Her goal was to work towards becoming a certified personal trainer.

That plan was put on hold in 2016 when, at the age of 23, her son, Jack, was born. Her primary focus shifted to raising her little family. At this point she realized how much she really disliked cooking – it’s finicky, time-consuming and she simply finds no joy in it. However, she realized that it was crucial that Jack be well fed and grew up learning to nourish his body as she had learned to do.

Aurora created an addition to the family farm, the Farmer’s Pantry. The goal of the Pantry is to create easy foods that are healthy and delicious. She believes that she isn’t alone in feeling a lack of joy in the kitchen for what feels like all day long while trying to feed an insatiable toddler.

Interestingly, although she dislikes cooking, Aurora loves to bake, so she looks forward to sharing her favourite recipes for baked goods, drinks, soups and other products along the way that will help make the kitchen fun again in a tasty and healthy way.

Visit her mom Beth’s Providence Hill Farm booth in the park to try Aurora’s amazing and attractive soup mixes.

See you at the Market!

Southlake, CHATS join forces for Ontario Health Team

From page 7

patients, for example, waiting in hospital for long-term care and more of them waiting in home because we can now support them and their caregivers with care in a different way to keep them at home.

“It is really hard to be a caregiver of a senior with a lot of needs and who is really frail. Sometimes those caregivers burn out. One of the reasons why sometimes patients end up in the hospital is they can’t handle it anymore. We envision a new future where, in fact, we will be able to wrap services around them so the patient or client can stay in their home much longer and caregivers can be supported.”

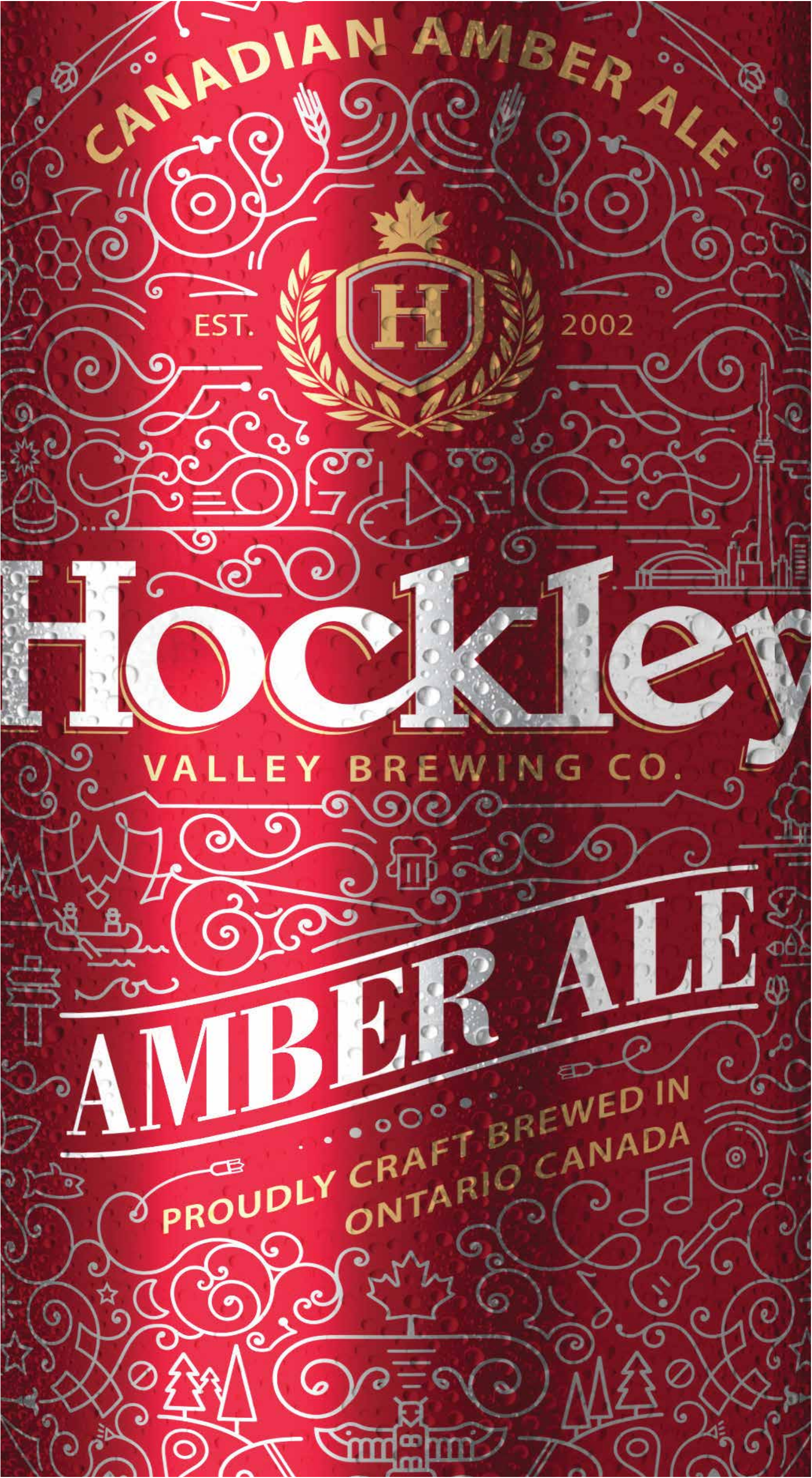
This excitement was shared by Ms. Bisanz, who said the priority of the OHT is to “ensure there are better outcomes for clients/patients and family caregivers.

“Another key component is to enhance the experience of the providers themselves,” said Ms. Bisanz. “If we can work more closely with doctors and the family health team in ensuring that we’re transitioning the patients or providing support to his patients, then [the doctor’s] sense of confidence and experience with the system is going to be better, there won’t be the frustration that sometimes happens now, where we don’t know where to refer somebody, or we don’t know that a service is available, we know there is a particular need but there’s a gap in how to fill it.

“We’re going to be working with one another to ensure we’re also providing a better experience within the healthcare system and within the OHT here for the providers as well as patients and their family caregivers.”

This news was greeted very positively by Ms. McGregor who knows these challenges all too well. While Ms. McGregor, who also works at CHATS, says her experience navigating the healthcare system with her mother was a “pretty good experience,” the new proposals give her peace of mind.

“It is [tough] when you have somebody who could be in long-term care and you’re supporting them where they are, but you never know when they are going to top over that ledge and if that [support] is going to be available when they are there,” she says. “I am hopeful the supports they intend to have in place will be easy for us to access, should we need them. I think, like everybody, there are unknowns, but I do feel certainly confident [in the partnership] we will be working closely together to meet the needs.”



WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Aurora's Concerts in the Park Series continues this week at Town Park from 7 – 9 p.m. with Exodus: A Tribute to Bob Marley. Exodus, led by Lazo, was chosen as the Top Reggae Performer of the Year from the internationally recognized Canadian Reggae Music Awards and has earned many Juno nominations. Join us for a night of Caribbean rhythms celebrating the legendary Bob Marley. The Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair will be setting up a mini-market. The market will operate from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be a variety of food and artisan vendors to shop from and enjoy. Bring a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry before the concert starts and be entered to win a chance for you to enjoy the Premium Concert Experience with upgraded TD-preferred seating and two prize packs.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7

Aurora's Concerts in the Park Series continues this week at Town Park from 7 – 9 p.m. with Mountain Music: A Tribute to Alabama. "You will be in a hurry and you'll know why" Aurora Town Park is the place to be to enjoy the band Mountain Music – a Tribute to Alabama. Enjoy a night full of country tunes, so bring your western dancing shoes. The Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair will be setting up a mini-market. The market will operate from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be a variety of food and artisan vendors to shop from and enjoy. Bring a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry before the concert starts and be entered to win a chance for you

to enjoy the Premium Concert Experience with upgraded TD-preferred seating and two prize packs.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

The Buzz About Bees: The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust will host The Buzz About Bees today from 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. in Schomberg. Did you know that Canada is home to over 800 species of native bees; from big bumblebees buzzing from flower to flower, to tiny sweat bees that may visit you on the hottest days of summer. Learn how to tell apart bumblebees in the field at one of our beautiful protected properties and help discover which bees call it home. For more information, including location, register at oakridgesmoraine.org/workshops-events.

Garden Aurora – the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society – will host its annual flower show today from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library.

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill hosts its seventh-annual Craft Beer Tasting Festival today from 4 – 11 p.m. to raise money for

THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

charity. Headlining the festival is Green River Revival: A Tribute to CCR. Ten breweries will be in attendance with 4 oz. samples priced at \$1 per ticket. For more information, including tickets, visit www.rotarybeertasting.com.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at Country Style Deli/Bistro, 14980 Yonge Street, from 3 – 4.30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults from francophone to beginners with a good base) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez-fr.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

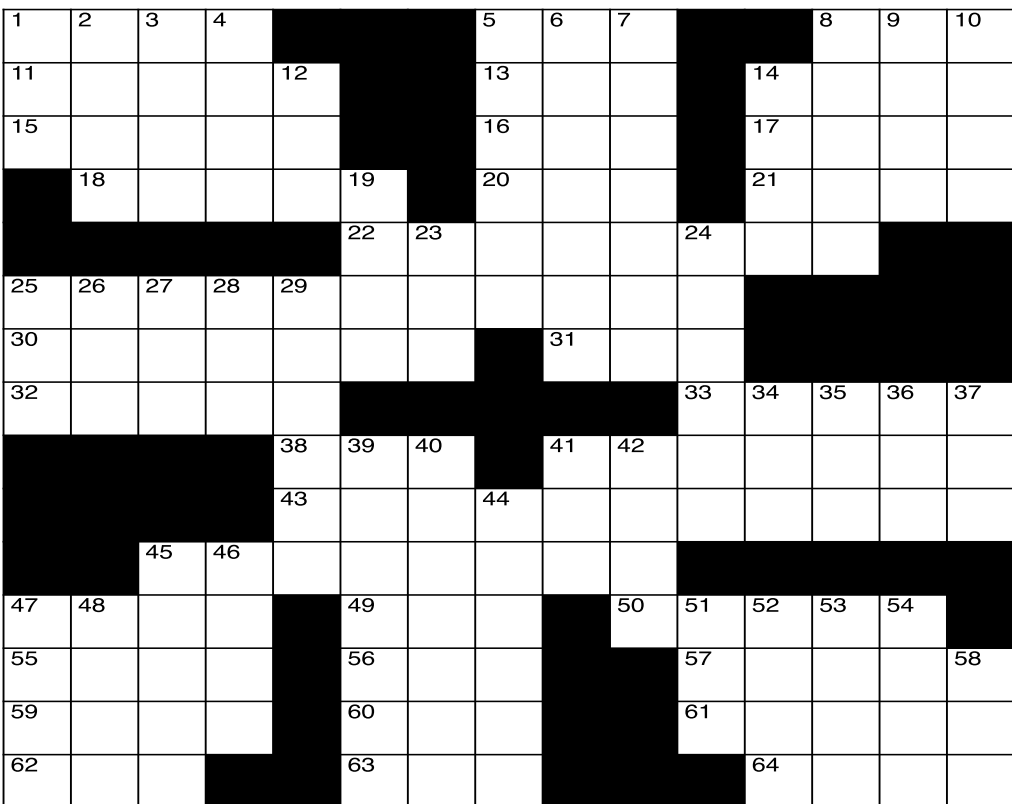
Aurora's Concerts in the Park Series continues this week at Town Park from 7 – 9 p.m. with A Tribute to Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix. Enjoy a trip down "Woodstock" memory lane with the greatest hits from the ultimate Tribute to Janis Joplin – Piece of My Heart and Wild T. performing the best

of Jimi Hendrix. Enjoy a night full of country tunes, so bring your western dancing shoes. The Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair will be setting up a mini-market. The market will operate from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be a variety of food and artisan vendors to shop from and enjoy. Bring a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry before the concert starts and be entered to win a chance for you to enjoy the Premium Concert Experience with upgraded TD-preferred seating and two prize packs.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Aurora's Movies in the Park Summer Series kicks off tonight with a screening of Star Wars IV: A New Hope tonight from 8 – 11 p.m. at Ada Johnson Park (60 Hartwell Way). Movies in the Park is back! Rebel spies have stolen plans to the Galactic Empire and Princess Leia, secretly one of the Rebellion's leaders, has obtained the plans. Under the orders of Darth Vader, Princess Leia is captured and held hostage in their effort to destroy the rebellion. Luke Skywalker and Han Solo, captain of the Millennium Falcon, work together with the companionable droid duo R2-D2 and C-3PO to rescue the beautiful princess, help the Rebel Alliance and restore freedom and justice to the Galaxy. Arrive early to enjoy making some movie themed crafts and participate in some action-packed activities. All movies start at dusk and are free but a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is great appreciated.

CROSSWORD



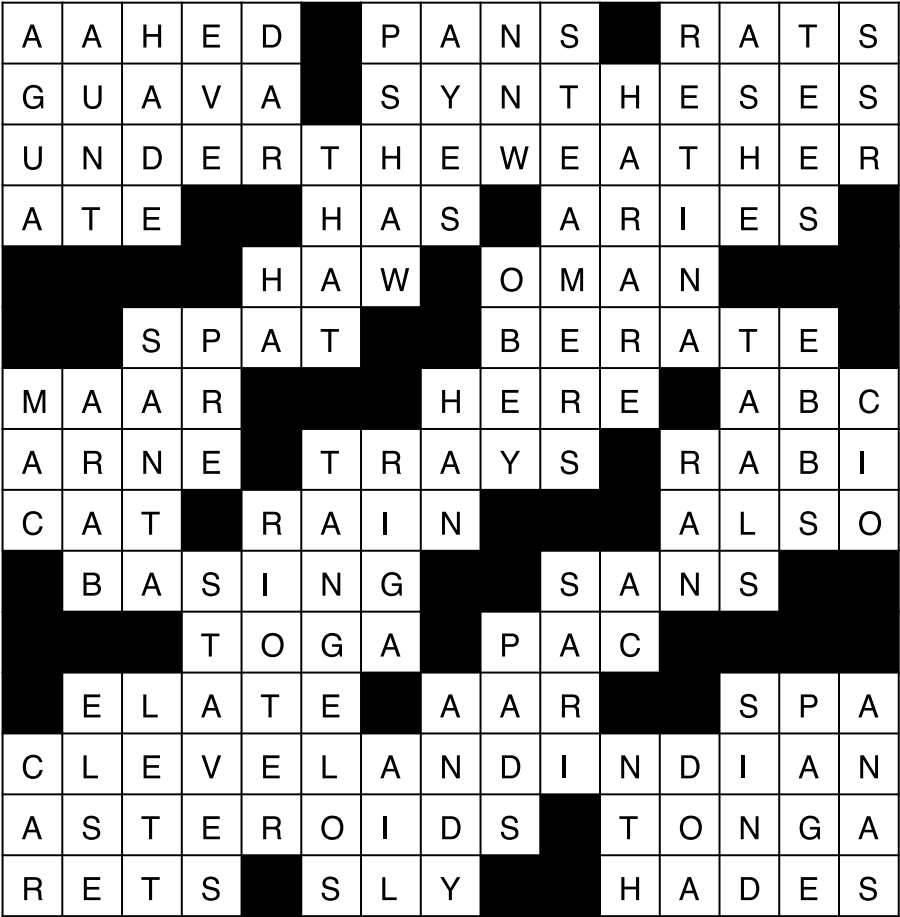
CLUES ACROSS

1. Social reformer Lucretia
5. Engine additive
8. Where draft beer comes from
11. Skin lesions
13. Denoting one or more things
14. Beloved dish
15. Packaging allowances
16. Surrounds the earth
17. Expresses pleasure
18. "For goodness ___!"
20. Liquefied natural gas
21. Paul __, Swiss painter
22. Benign tumors
25. In an early way
30. Covered with wood
31. Principle underlying the universe
32. Message
33. Become dry through heat
38. Printing speed measurement
41. One who does not succeed
43. Type of agent
45. Type of waste
47. Wings
49. Giants' signal caller
50. Polio vaccine developer
55. Congo native
56. Mortal is one type
57. Fishing vessel (Naut.)
59. Ethnic group of Thailand
60. Where golfers begin
61. Western Florida city
62. Belonging to us
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Influential Israeli diplomat

CLUES DOWN

1. Mountain Time
2. Int'l political organization (abbr.)
3. Olympic champion Lipinski
4. March
5. Less fresh
6. Reduced in size
7. Garden archway
8. Professional translators group (abbr.)
9. Type of pain
10. What to do for the cameras
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Bangladeshi monetary unit
19. Satisfy
23. Flop
24. Nearsightedness
25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
26. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
27. Midway between northeast and east
28. Swedish castle
9. War-ravaged Syrian city
34. American model Carol
35. Bitterly regret
36. Grand __: superior grade wine
37. Of she
39. Clergymen
40. Ringwald and Shannon are two
41. Daze
42. Scores perfectly
44. More narcissistic
45. Fencing sword
46. Highest point
47. In addition
48. Hawaiian feast
51. Appropriate under the circumstances
52. Hillside
53. Metrical foot
54. Winemaking region
58. Someone

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Murder victim expected to be identified this week

From page 1

Unit had arrested Melissa Galea, 36, a resident of Aurora, and charged her with Second Degree Murder.

Ms. Galea was held in custody and made her first appearance before the Ontario Court of Justice on Sunday.

York Regional Police Constable Andy Pattenden told The Auroran that the suspect was “arrested at her residence, which is not far from the location of the homicide.”

Constable Pattenden said Tuesday morning the homicide took place in a “tight” community and investigators have been on the scene since the fire broke out speaking to neighbours and potential witnesses.

One such witness, Dave Cook, who has been living part-time in the community since June, said he was woken up at the time of the fire by the sounds coming from the scene.

“There were two girls who stopped [when they saw the fire] and called it in,” said Mr. Cook. “When I went out, I was talking to them and stuff, but I didn’t see anything except for a lot of flames. The fire was huge.”

Mr. Cook said he was surprised he didn’t see more neighbours come outside at the time of the fire, including the residents of homes on either side of the inferno.

“I was pretty much alone out there,” he said. “I never saw [the owner of the home] outside, so I thought he was still inside when the whole house was engulfed by the time I was out there and the firemen were there, but apparently it wasn’t him inside but somebody else.”

While Mr. Cook said he has not seen the primary resident of the

home on the scene since the fire and he understood the resident was not “affiliated” with the victim, Constable Pattenden said more details would be coming within days as the investigation continues.

“At this point in time, we’re awaiting the results from the post-mortem,” said Constable Pattenden. “From there, we will be able to confirm the identity of the victim and the cause of death.”

Last weekend was a tough one for the York Regional Police, who are also in the midst of investigating a quadruple homicide in Markham, which took place Sunday.

“We should have more information before the week is over,” said Constable Pattenden. “Right now, we’re kind of at the mercy of the coroner who is very busy. If anyone has any other information and they haven’t spoken to investigators yet, definitely come forward and speak with us. At this point in time, we’re not looking for any other suspects and we do believe the person we have in custody is responsible for this and that’s why they have now been charged. Our investigators are still working through a lot of evidence and all that forensics work is still going on, but if [any members of the public] know anything and haven’t spoken with Police, please come forward.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police Homicide Unit at 1-866-876-5423 x2865 or via email at homicide@yrp.ca. Tips can also be left anonymously with Crime Stoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS, or logging them online at www.1800222TIPS.com.

The charges have not been proven in court.

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