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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 20 No. 22 905-727-3300 *TheAuroran.com* **FREE** Week of March 19, 2020 



STATE OF EMERGENCY – Newmarket-Aurora MPP and Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliott, left, joins Ontario Premier Doug Ford on Tuesday morning to issue a Province-wide Declaration of Emergency amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They are joined by Solicitor General Sylvia Jones and Finance Minister Rod Phillips. For more, see Pages 2 and 3. Photo courtesy of the Premier's Office

First COVID-19 case hits Aurora as services shut down

By Brock Weir

A female in her twenties is Aurora's first case of COVID-19, according to the Regional Municipality of York.

A travel-related case, she is self-isolating as services across Aurora and Ontario continue to shut down due to concerns surrounding the virus.

Premier Doug Ford declared a State of Emergency across the Province on Tuesday morning, following an announcement made late last week that publicly funded schools across

Ontario would remain closed for at least two weeks following March Break. The closure is expected to last through April 5, according to the Ministry of Education.

"We recognize the significant impact this decision will have on families, students, schools, as well as the broader community, but this precaution is necessary to keep people safe," said the Province in a statement last week.

The Town of Aurora has announced sweeping closures of its own, shutting down municipal facilities including Town Hall, all recreation centres, the Aurora

Seniors' Centre, Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Cultural Centre.

"Like you, I am deeply concerned about the health and safety of our community and the impact of COVID-19," said Mayor Mrakas in a statement, noting it is hoped the closures would lift April 6. "I encourage everyone to take personal responsibility and follow proactive measures to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on ourselves and the community."

For updates, visit aurora.ca/covid19 and York.ca/covid19.

Full coverage begins on Page 2.

Fear can be contagious, but programs step up to combat anxiety

By Brock Weir

In challenging times, it is normal for people to feel anxious.

It is a natural response, according to the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, but there are ways to manage and cope.

That is the message from CMHA York's Rebecca Shields as the organization looks for ways to continue

Continued on page 19

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SINGING THE BLUES – This weekend's Aurora Winter Blues Festival may have been postponed due to COVID-19, but the countdown to the big weekend provided a showcase for up-and-coming local musicians, including Louisa Barbosa and Olivia Zarboni. For more, see Page 11. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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Municipal facilities, Town Hall closed through April 6

By Brock Weir

All municipal facilities – including recreation centres, Town Hall, and the Joint Operations Centre – are closed to the public through April 6 amid ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19.

COVID-19 assessment centres opening this week

By Brock Weir

Southlake Regional Health Centre will open one of three York Region-based COVID-19 assessment centres this week, according to the Region of York.

Southlake’s clinic will serve alongside similar clinics at Richmond Hill’s Mackenzie Health and Markham-Stouffville Hospital in helping patients experiencing COVID-19 symptoms get diagnosed, thus reducing the impact on emergency rooms, physicians and the community.

“COVID-19 assessment centres help ease some of the pressures experienced by emergency department teams coordinating the testing and assessment of suspected COVID-19 cases to date,” says the Region of York. “They will also help ensure local hospital emergency departments are focused on treating people who are critically ill and have life-threatening illnesses or injuries.”

You can attend a COVID-19 assessment centre if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and you have:

- Recently returned from travel outside Canada within the last 14 days
- Been in close contact with someone who is a presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19
- Been in close contact with someone who has flu-like symptoms who has travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days

The Town announced the closure of Town Hall and the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) on Tuesday afternoon, following a similar announcement made by Mayor Tom Mrakas on Friday afternoon.

If you have concerns about symptoms, you should contact your primary care provider or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each York Region hospital will manage their assessment centre based on their operational capacity.

“Not all people who attend a COVID-19 assessment centre will be tested for COVID-19,” says the Region. “The role of an assessment centre is to evaluate the need of each individual and triage patients accordingly. Each assessment centre will be managed by hospital staff and located in close proximity to an emergency department in case any patients being assessed require urgent care. If a patient is determined to be ill but not requiring hospitalization, self-isolation or monitoring at home may be required.

“York Region Public Health continues to collaborate with local hospitals, emergency services and other health agencies to ensure prompt reporting and follow up of all individuals who may require testing for COVID-19. Patients who test positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by York Region Public Health for follow up and monitoring. Patients with negative test results will also be notified by York Region Public Health.”

outlining the first closures, which impacted such facilities as the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Aurora Community Centre, Aurora Public Library and Aurora Cultural Centre.

April’s Easterpalooza, a new spin on the Town’s traditional Easter Egg Hunt, set for Saturday, April 11, is also cancelled. All programs, permits, and camps scheduled for this time will be refunded, according to the Town.

“Like you, I am deeply concerned about the health and safety of our community and the impact of COVID-19,” said the Mayor on Thursday afternoon. “As a Town, we are following the lead of our federal, provincial and municipal counterparts, and out of an abundance of caution, we are closing all Town recreation facilities as of midnight tonight through Monday, April 6.

“We are actively working with staff, emergency services and York Region to follow a plan for prevention and increased communication regarding COVID-19. All programs, permits and camps held during this time will be refunded. Details regarding refunds will be communicated early next week. The Aurora Seniors’ Centre will also be closed as of midnight tonight and will be closed until further notice.

“We will be monitoring the situation as it evolves and posting updates on Town facility closures and program cancellations as a result of COVID-19. For updates, visit aurora.ca/covid19. I encourage everyone to take personal responsibility and follow proactive measures to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on ourselves and the community.”

While Town Hall will be closed until April 6, Aurora CAO Doug Nadorozny said that Council’s March 24 General Committee meeting and March 31 Council meeting will continue. Due to social distancing, both meetings will be closed to members of the public and media alike. As such, no delegations will be allowed during the sessions. Meetings will be live-streamed at aurora.ca/gcstream

and will be archived on the Town of Aurora’s YouTube Channel.

If any member of the public wishes to provide Council with comments on any item on the agenda, email clerks@aurora.ca and input will be forwarded to all Council members.

Closures, added Mr. Nadorozny, are not expected to affect services such as water, wastewater, roads, parks maintenance and solid waste collections.

Nor has the Town looked at laying off employees.

“What we’re trying to do is balance the community’s expectations and needs for service delivery from the local government with the pressure that all of us are facing in terms of the requirement for social distancing and basically keeping people out of circulation,” he said. “We are working towards providing almost all services that we would normally provide. There are a few smaller exceptions (such as civil weddings) of things that we won’t be providing, but we’re basically trying to figure out how to provide all those services even though we’re going to have less people working in our buildings in an office environment in order to provide the protection we’re basically being asked to provide.

“I think like any other workplace, the stress level is high and certainly everybody is dealing with this at a multitude of levels. There are some that have expressed some concern about supporting their home, especially ones with young children who are going to be home for at least three weeks, so we’re trying to take a long-term approach and be ready for whatever happens, as this is changing very quickly. Our facilities people are doing work they wouldn’t have necessarily had the time to do because normally they would have the public coming through the building. Now we’re turning our attention to some other tasks that we can do in this period they are not open. We are keeping people working.”

For further updates, visit theaurora.com or the Town’s website at Aurora.ca.



Aurora closes Town Hall and the Joint Operations Centre to the public to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

Municipal offices, recreation centres, library and recreational programming will reopen on April 6.

In an effort to protect staff and the community, the Town of Aurora is taking a proactive approach to social distancing and will be closing Town Hall and the Joint Operations Centre immediately. Aurora continues to work closely with the Regional Municipality of York and our local community partners to monitor the global situation regarding COVID-19 and respond accordingly.

As announced earlier, all Town recreation centres and arenas will be closed until **Monday, April 6**, including:

- Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex
- Aurora Community Centre
- Aurora Family Leisure Complex
- Aurora Museum and Cultural Centre
- Aurora Public Library
- Aurora Seniors’ Centre

• All programs, permits and camps scheduled during this time, including March Break Camp, will be refunded. Easterpalooza on **Saturday, April 11** will be cancelled. Refunds will be issued.

• **Local Planning Appeal Tribunal and Advisory Committee Meetings:** Will be cancelled until at least **April 6**.

Aurora Town Hall will be closed to the public but services will still be available by email, online and telephone. For a list of departmental contact information and payment options for Town services please visit aurora.ca/covid19.

The Town will notify the community of future cancellations, openings and updates through the Town’s website, social media and local media. For programming refund information, please visit aurora.ca/covid19.

Other essential services such as water, wastewater, roads and solid waste collection services are not expected to be affected.

We will continue to update residents on the status of our municipal operations as the situation changes.

For updates on the status of the COVID-19 virus in York Region, please visit York.ca/covid19.

For more information, please visit aurora.ca/covid19 or call **905-727-1375**.

Publicly-funded schools closed for two weeks after March Break

Emergency declared across Ontario

Publicly-funded schools across Ontario will remain closed through April 5 due to the impact of COVID-19.

The announcement was made last Thursday by Premier Doug Ford, Health Minister Christine Elliott, and Education Minister Stephen Lecce.

“The health and well-being of Ontarians is our government’s number one priority. Since we first learned of COVID-19 as an emerging public health issue, Ontario has been diligently monitoring the developing situation to protect the health and well-being of all Ontarians,” said the Province in a statement. “Based on advice from Dr. David Williams, Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health and the experts at the COVID-19 Command Table, the Minister of Education has issued a Ministerial Order to close all publicly funded schools in Ontario for two weeks following March break, in response to the emergence in Ontario of COVID-19. This order was approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. This means that Ontario schools have been ordered to remain closed from March 14 through to April 5, 2020.

“We recognize the significant impact this decision will have on families, students, schools, as well as the broader community, but this precaution is necessary to keep people safe. Today’s steps build on a number of actions our government has taken in recent days to respond to COVID-19, including moving forward with additional public health measures, which include enhanced access to screening, expanding lab-testing capacity, and implementing new initiatives to keep the public and frontline workers safe. We are further setting aside up to \$100 million in contingency funding in the upcoming 2020 budget to address challenges related to COVID-19.

“We are further mindful of those who work in other public institutions and buildings. As this situation evolves, Ontario’s COVID-19 Command Table is prepared to respond quickly and effectively to any scenario and provide the government with advice on measures to keep the public and frontline workers safe. We are committed to working with partners to keep students safe and we expect to provide further information in the near future.”

Local school boards – and, indeed, students and families – are still looking for answers on how the rest of the school year will proceed.

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), previously scheduled to take place on March 31, has been put on the backburner, with the York Region District School Board seeking further direction.

“Students who require the OSSLT to graduate will be supported,” said the York Region District School Board (YRDSB). “More information regarding the OSSLT will be made in the future.”

“Although we recognize the significant impact this Provincial Government decision will have on students, families and the broader school community, we appreciate the measures to keep students and families safe,” added the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB).

The Boards noted they are also waiting on word on whether the school year will be extended into the summer.

In the meantime, the YRDSB has compiled a list of online resources for students and parents to continue their learning from home. Resources ranging from math to drama, can be found at www.yrdsb.ca/Students/Pages/Online-Resources.aspx. Further resources and updates from the YCDSB can be found at ycdsb.ca/covid-19.

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

On Tuesday, the Government of Ontario announced that it is taking decisive action by making an order declaring an emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. “In doing so, Ontario is using every power possible to continue to protect the health and safety of all individuals and families.”

“We are facing an unprecedented time in our history,” said Premier Ford. “This is a decision that was not made lightly. COVID-19 constitutes a danger of major proportions. We are taking this extraordinary measure because we must offer our full support and every power possible to help our health care sector fight the spread of COVID-19. The health and wellbeing of every Ontarian must be our number one priority.”

As a result of this declaration and its associated orders, the following establishments are legally required to close immediately:

- All facilities providing indoor recreational programs;
- All public libraries;
- All private schools as defined in the Education Act;
- All licensed child care centres;
- All bars and restaurants, except to the extent that such facilities provide takeout food and delivery;
- All theatres including those offering live performances of music, dance, and other art forms, as well as cinemas that show movies; and
- Concert venues.

Further, all organized public events of over 50 people are also prohibited, including parades and events and communal services within places of worship. These orders were approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and will remain in place until March 31, 2020, at which point they will be reassessed and considered for extension, unless this order is terminated earlier.


“We are acting on the best advice of our Chief Medical Officer of Health and other leading public health officials across the province,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of

Health. “We know these measures will affect people’s every day lives, but they are necessary to ensure that we can slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect our people. We’re working with all partners


across the system, from public health to hospitals and community care, to do everything we can to contain this virus and ensure that the system is prepared to respond to any scenario.”

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Being Black in Canada: Barriers still exist

On February 20, the Aurora Public Library’s programming on Black History Month continued with “In Conversation”, a panel discussion on being black in Canada.

The panel was composed of Tessa Benn-Ireland, the York Region District School Board’s first black trustee, Jacqueline Benn-John, the Executive Director of the Women’s Support Network of York Region and musician and educator Glenn Marias. The conversation was moderated by Brock Weir, editor of The Auroran.

Brock Weir introduced the panel and made some opening remarks. “We are all immigrants to this country Canada.” Brock suggested that an event like this discussion helps Black history to evolve.

Glenn Marais spoke first and told the audience that he grew up in Aurora. “The demographic composition of the Town was different when I was a child and I felt singled out in a ‘white’ world.” Marais mentioned Viola Desmond for an example of racism in Canada. In 1946, Viola Desmond, a Canadian civil rights activist in Nova Scotia, refused to leave the whites-only seating in the Roseland Theatre, in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Glenn encouraged the audience to think of the freedom she fought for in Canada every time we spend the \$10 bill with her portrait printed on one side of the bill.

Tessa Benn-Ireland spoke next and she referred to John F. Kennedy’s speech which asked what an individual could do for his/her country. In her opinion Black history is happening every day. Blacks have made contributions in many different areas of our society, such as medicine, business, sports and politics.

Jacqueline Benn-John’s comments on being black in Canada followed next. In her introductory remarks, she mentioned that when she saw the history of Canada mural painted on the side of a building, at Wellington and Yonge Street, “the contributions of Blacks were not noted.” Blacks are “invisible” in our history.

She told the audience that being Black in Canada has changed. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is an example of the progress of civil liberties in our society. But barriers still exist in housing, job promotions and employment, and in the legal system. “Today’s racism can be traced back to previous society’s segregation and discrimination.”

Benn-John pointed out that the rates for poverty and welfare for Black women are three times higher than for white women. Health issues, such as diabetes, often face Black women at significantly higher rates than the general population. Overall, Black individuals had to work twice as hard as whites to get ahead due to oppression.

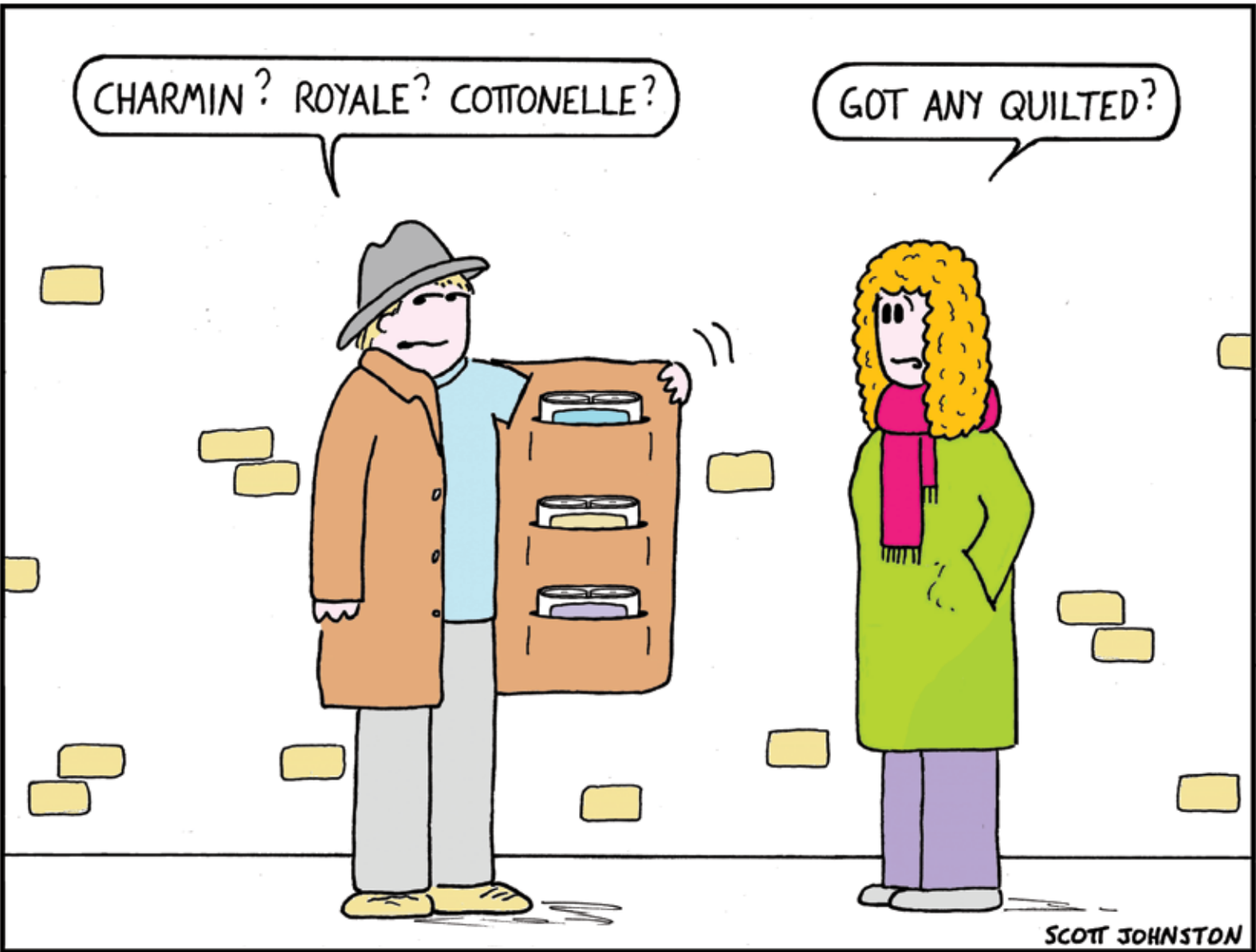
In conclusion to the conversation, some suggestions were presented by the panel to improve the system for parents. Tessa told the audience that parents “need to get involved and to know what their kids are doing. Get tuned in.” Jacqueline spoke of the gender roles for boys and girls in the family. Girls had more responsibilities than boys in the family. It was not fair and violence was normalized in the Black family.

Glenn Marias concluded the conversation by saying that “racism hurts.”

We need to get educated in all areas of our society. Social class and race are big barriers in our society today.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

Machell’s Corners



Responding to the New Normal

As COVID-19 rapidly got a foothold in such European nations as Italy and Spain over the last week, evocative images have been beamed around the world.

In Italy, for instance, we have seen classically trained musicians, deprived of a professional venue to play, taking it upon themselves to keep their creative muscles in check by setting up shop in their apartment windows or on their balconies, playing for their neighbours or the rare passer-by.

Some of these neighbours with a shared passion – and talent – were shown to join in for community jam sessions, practicing “social distancing” all the while.

Elsewhere, a personal trainer without a gym to go to kept their well-honed muscles in check by getting up on the roof of their apartment building and leading those gathered at their windows in a work-out session, getting the blood pumping and breaking up the monotony.

It was a nice antidote to the panicked images from here at home that have now been seared into our minds, whether you witnessed it first hand or saw members of your family come back with everything but the battle scars.

It remains to be seen when we’ll be able to look back on this, but, when we are, I’d prefer the images from Italy and Spain rising to the top before those of the masses flocking to their nearest grocery store to inexplicably stock up on toilet paper like it was going out of style or resorting to fisticuffs with a fellow human over a stale package of dried pasta.

Here in Canada, we’re still in the early days of “social distancing” which can upend a society that seems increasingly focused these days on instant gratification. It is something we haven’t been forced to practice in more than a generation, so the very idea might seem a bit overwhelming.

As can taking on the anxiety of others second-hand.

Speaking strictly from a personal perspective, I had not seen the need to even venture out to the grocery store to get a stash of emergency supplies until late last week until a chance encounter with someone who was steeling themselves in anticipation of a last-minute food dash admittedly got under my skin. As a neighbour, they are usually unflappable, but that façade had suffered more than a couple of cracks.

Until that point, I had only heard the grocery horror stories on social media and certainly not from any in my social circle.



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

To underscore their point, they sent pictures of an overrun store, complete with empty shelves and lines that stretched the entire perimeter of the premises and out through the parking lot.

Yet, it was still a day before I could head out, list in hand, to see for myself.

On Saturday morning, I was braced for the worst.

Well stocked with bathroom essentials, including, thankfully, the suddenly hot commodity that is all varieties of paper product suitable for wiping, I thought long and hard about my mission before stepping out.

I was never athletic by any stretch of the imagination – gym in school was something I dreaded and I avoided every opportunity to participate in organized sports – so I went into this situation at a slight disadvantage; after all, where else but in gym class or on the sports field would I have had the chance to learn how to throw a well-placed elbow in the fight for a package of hot dogs? That being said, as a student, I did learn how to block, so I figured that might be a transferrable skill at the deli counter.

So, in I went. What I witnessed was almost as unsettling as the previously documented mob scenes.

Nothing. Although the shelves that had been groaning under the weight of flushable paper products had been quickly relieved of their loads, along with a few sparsely populated trays that had, until recently, been filled with tomatoes and oranges, the rest of the store was relatively well-stocked.

No, that wasn’t the unsettling part. That can be attributed to the sheer lack of a mob scene, the eerie quiet of citizens at large, about 70 per cent fewer than the average crowds I have experienced at this particular supermarket, methodically getting

what they needed, some wearing face masks, and beating a swift and equally methodical exit.

Perhaps I just lucked in to a good time to get some provisions, but the lack of a mob scene – scenes which are usually ushered in by rash reactions to a temporary problem – drove home the point that for the next little while this is to be our new normal. And this new normal will be what we make of it.

So, how do we make the best of it? That is entirely up to you, but it is worth a thought.

In the days since “social distancing” became an inextricable part of our lives, I have been heartened to see how people are stepping up to the plate.

Although March Break programming has wisely been cancelled, our libraries and other cultural institutions are examining ways of providing services on a virtual level.

Businesses, particularly restaurants, who rely on foot traffic and dine-in patrons to make ends meet are worried, leaving organizations like Chambers of Commerce to step up and encourage their members – and citizens at large – to order in or grab take-out once or twice a week to give small business owners a hand at this difficult time.

Parents are now hastily setting up home offices all the while keeping an eye on their kids whose March Break plans have been scuttled, along with their planned – and nixed – return to school on Monday, leaving families with much more togetherness than they had anticipated a few short weeks ago. Now, the question is what to do?

Maybe it is as usual “business as usual” as you can muster at home, but perhaps you’re thinking about new ways of engagement, such as picking up a book that has been moldering away on the shelf, board games that have been collecting dust, planning DIY projects that have been put on the backburner from the sheer lack of time, or re-learning the art of conversation.

Whatever your plans, I am very curious to see, when this is all said and done, what we have learned from the experience – new skills? New coping mechanisms? Realizing strengths you didn’t know you had?

The next few weeks will be challenging ones, for sure, but they will be what we make of them, so let’s do our best – for ourselves and our neighbours.

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



The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

The Arrival of Spring! (March 19)

Some believe that Spring symbolizes fertility while others are more focused on what the arrival of the warmer season means for their favourite activities, such as gardening and fishing. As far as we're concerned, this postcard (995.22) represents those three things combined in a rather confusing image.



Parsa's Perspective

Michael Parsa, MPP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

(Editor's Note: MPP Parsa's column was filed before increased concerns over COVID-19)

It's a brand-new year, with a brand-new session currently underway at the Legislature. 2019 at Queen's Park proved to be another productive session and yielded incredible, measurable results in terms of economic growth and job creation in Ontario.

Throughout 2018-2019, our government worked hard to lay the foundation for an array of initiatives that will make life more affordable and more convenient for all Ontarians.

Since being appointed Parliamentary Assistant to the President of the Treasury Board, I've had the privilege of seeing first-hand some of the projects being planned and implemented throughout Ontario. One of our largest projects, which we've called "Smart Initiatives", is a concerted transformation of services and administrative functions across all of government.

This ongoing project will modernize and streamline the ways in which work is done in Ontario's public sector. Our "Digital First" initiative is a great example of that.

Digital First will bring the delivery of government services into the 21st century by giving Ontarians the option of being served online. In practice, this means that instead of having to go into Service Ontario, the government will provide the option to apply for, and receive, many of the same services from the comfort of your own home – bringing choice and convenience to Ontarians.

Another smart initiative we're implementing is the centralization of the government's supply-chain.

Currently, if a school and a hospital are both ordering new furniture, they would both place separate orders—sometimes with the same supplier—duplicating effort and reducing the government's buying power.

Under the new system we are building, these different agencies will be able to pool their orders together, allowing the government to leverage its size to ensure Ontarians get the best possible value for every dollar. "Supply-Chain Centralization" may not sound exciting, but the savings certainly do! The Treasury Board estimates that this seemingly simple and long-overdue change will save Ontario taxpayers \$1 billion a year. Truthfully, this should have been done years ago. Unfortunately, the previous Liberal government was complacent with duplication and mismanagement, needlessly wasting taxpayers' money.

It's important to note that when we took office in 2018, we inherited a provincial government saddled with hundreds of billions of dollars of debt; the highest sub-national debt on earth. We're still paying over \$1.5 million in interest to our creditors every hour, which is just one reason why our Smart Initiatives are so important. We've committed to building a sustainable public sector for Ontarians and respecting taxpayer dollars, while preserving or improving the vital services Ontarians rely on. Thanks to these initiatives, we can return money to taxpayers, reinvest in healthcare and education, and bring our government closer to fiscal balance once again. These initiatives have been a resounding success so far, and I can't wait to see more results for Ontarians.

As always, I'd like to end off by saying that I'm here to serve you, the residents of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, first and foremost. If you are a resident living in the riding and require assistance or have questions about how government is working for you, please contact me and I will do everything I can to help.

THIS WEEK'S POLL

Does Aurora need more purpose-built rental housing units?

Yes No Unsure

www.theauroran.com

RESULTS TO DATE March 17, 2020	YES 75%	NO 25%	UNSURE 0%
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This year, Aurora Public Library marked Freedom to Read Week (February 23 – 29) with a fun social media series.

Staff set up a selfie station with a backdrop of a police lineup wall and invited colleagues and visitors to "get booked" by grabbing a banned or challenged book from the display and posting their picture on social media.

Included on postings were links to why the books selected were challenged, or in some cases, outright banned.

When I look at the extensive lists provided by Canada's Book and Periodical Council, it always amazes me how many of my favourite authors have made this list. Margaret Laurence, Mordecai Richler and Margaret Atwood have all had their books challenged, and writers exploring race, politics and sexuality in their work have frequently found themselves at the hands of censors ready to withdraw their books from the shelves of public and school libraries.



Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

The thought of having books banned in Canada seems remote, but our freedom to read and to get our authors read in other countries can never be taken for granted. And although challenges in Canada seldom make headlines, there is always the more subtle form of censorship where books are dropped from a course syllabus or quietly not made available.

Organizations representing core library values, such as the American Library Association, speak to the efforts at suppression that are related to pressures brought against education, the media, art, film and

the internet. In these instances, the problem extends beyond actual censorship to a voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy.

In my library career, I have been very fortunate to not have been asked to pull books off our shelves due to controversial material, but this is because APL is guided by a strong Collection Development Policy that informs our selection of materials, whether purchased or donated.

I never take my privilege to read beyond the censors for granted. Although Canada's Freedom to Read Week is an annual celebration, I make a point of reading books that face challenges at home or abroad year-round. It is within these books that I find some of my most thought-provoking reading material.

Reccia Mandelcorn is the Manager, Community Collaboration at Aurora Public Library. The opinions expressed in this column reflect her personal thoughts about the engagement of community with their public library.

COVID Chronicle



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

Some personal and local observations regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

February 28

Found a medical face mask on the ground in our neighbourhood. Have walked thousands of kilometers on the sidewalks and trails of Aurora over the years and had never seen one of these masks amongst the litter in Town. Have now seen three in two weeks, despite there being no reported cases of coronavirus in Aurora.

March 5

COVID-19 is getting closer to home with cases now reported in Vaughan, Richmond Hill and Newmarket.

March 8

Social media is full of stories and photos of people stocking up on toilet paper. It's one of those situations that's both amusing and alarming at the same time.

March 11

A case is confirmed in Markham. It feels like our Town is being surrounded.

March 12

It's announced that schools will be closed for two weeks following March break. That should put pressure on Town facilities to cope with the additional use.

March 13 (am)

Went to pick up weekly groceries at 8.45 a.m. Had to wait in line

outside the store for 40 minutes before being allowed in. People in line were understanding, but I really feel for the folks working there.

When I got inside, the shelves were already stripped bare of toilet paper, cleaning products, canned goods, pasta and vinegar, amongst other things. Interestingly, there was a huge variety of fresh/perishable goods available: meat, bread and dairy products, and fruits and vegetables.

Not many people in the "X items or less" line – everybody seemed to have full carts.

March 13 (pm)

So much for the kids having places to hang out following March break, as the shutdown of Aurora begins with word that municipal facilities will be closed and programs cancelled until April 6.

March 14

I had an appointment at Southlake late afternoon. Have never seen the hospital so quiet; corridors empty, waiting areas vacant... place is a ghost

town.

There was what seemed to be a huge security presence at the door, and all people were being screened as they entered.

When asked if I had been exposed to anyone who had been out of the country lately, I was asked to explain my response of "not that I'm aware of". Noted that, for example, when I got groceries yesterday I didn't think to ask the lady at the checkout counter or the people in line around me about their travel history.

Realize they're doing their best in a horrible situation. A big shout out to all of our health care professionals for what they've been through already, and for what's still to come.

March 15

Some good arises in all the chaos, as word spreads of Aurorans purchasing supplies and sharing their own stashes with neighbours and the elderly.

March 16

The first case of COVID-19 is confirmed in Aurora. The Town seems eerily quiet as social distancing becomes the new normal.

Remember

Hang tough, Aurora. Wash your hands. Avoid crowds. Help those who need it. Stop hoarding.

We'll get through this.

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

The Coronavirus, or COVID-19 is a contagious viral infection that has many people worried.

This world-wide virus has the potential to have a huge impact on almost any industry in our current global economy. We have been flooded with questions and requests for information on what our technology might do to help contain this and other microbiological elements. We put together the following FAQ to help.

Has your product been tested to be effective against viruses and bacteria?

Yes, the ability of Odorox machines to kill viruses, bacteria, and mould was scientifically proven back in December 2014, when the Odorox MDU/Rx machine was tested and approved by the FDA as a Class II Medical Device in occupied areas.

What data do you have to prove this?

Our machines were tested at the Aerosol Research and Engineering Laboratories (ARE), an independent commercial laboratory that specializes in studying aerosolized microbiological organisms. These tests were performed on viruses, bacteria, and mould chosen by the FDA as some of the toughest. These viruses and bacteria were aerosolized in the test, mimicking the way they are often transmitted through actions like people coughing. We did this to obtain FDA approval for the Odorox, MDU/Rx machine. All of the tests had kill rates of between 4 and 5 log reductions (99.99% and 99.999%) within 2 hours: an exceptionally high (and fast) kill rate. If you want more data, we have detailed information documented by the Head of our Scientific Advisory Board on the independent microbiological laboratory testing that was performed.

Has your product been tested to be effective against the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, specifically?

No - this is not possible at this time. Only the top national labs like the CDC and NIH can get samples of the Coronavirus so soon after an outbreak like this. Commercial labs are not equipped with the bio safety measures and containment protocols needed to test these types of viruses. However, one of the viruses included in the ARE laboratory

testing was the MS2 virus, which is an excellent surrogate for the Coronavirus as both are positive-sense single-stranded RNA, or (+)ssRNA viruses. Based on this, we believe that the Odorox, MDU/Rx machine will be effective against the Coronavirus.

Which Odorox machine is the best for killing viruses and bacteria?

The Odorox, MDU/Rx machine was tested and approved by the FDA as a Class II Medical Device for use in occupied areas. We have other Odorox machines that are built exactly the same as that unit but they are more powerful. Any of these Odorox machines would be great assets to add to an infection control protocol that would also include things like spraying chemicals, wiping surfaces, and other effective disinfection methods.

How do the Odorox machines work?

It's incredibly easy: You just plug it in and turn it on. Our machines replicate the natural production of hydroxyl radicals to completely eliminate biological and chemical contaminants. These hydroxyls work on both the air and on surfaces while the spaces are occupied and in use. They can run 24/7, require very little labour, and leave little room for human error.

Where can these machines be used?

Our Odorox Technology is ideal for any type of commercial building that has been or could be exposed to the Coronavirus, such as: apartment buildings, condominiums, hotels, big box retailers, universities and schools, manufacturing and industrial warehouse facilities, hospitals, churches, theatres, airports, office buildings, government establishments, and many other high traffic public facilities.

They are safe to use while the building is occupied and in use.

Where can I get the Odorox machines?

For sales and rental information, please contact us directly and we will assist you at (647)-629-3003

2020 Home & Living Show postponed due to Coronavirus fears

April event was set to have free admission thanks to sponsorship



The Aurora Home & Living Show, pictured above in 2019, was a popular, family-friendly attraction.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Home & Living Show, which was set to take place next month at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, has been postponed due to concerns over COVID-19.

After several days of consideration, the Chamber announced its decision to put the popular expo on hold over the weekend, as the Chamber and its business members alike continue to grapple with "navigating these turbulent times in the world."

"The Aurora Chamber of Commerce (ACOC) continues to monitor and assess new developments pertaining to COVID-19," said Sandra Ferri, Executive Director of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, in a statement. "In times of uncertainty for individuals and businesses, it is important that we focus on everyone's safety and well-being first and foremost, while continuing to support one another in whatever way possible.

"In light of current circumstances, the ACOC has made the decision to postpone this year's Home & Living Show. We will be working with the Town of Aurora and monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic to determine when the show can be rescheduled. Rest assured, anyone who has registered for a booth at the Home & Living Show will have their booth confirmed at the rescheduled event.

"We have also made the decision to cancel all regularly scheduled ACOC events from now until April 5, in line with the actions being taken by the Ontario Government and municipalities in the GTA."

Had the Chamber's Home & Living Show gone ahead in April, it was set to track very well with foot traffic.

Kempfenfelt Windows and Doors stepped up as a significant sponsor of the event to cover the cost of admission.

"Kempfenfelt was looking for a way to give back to the community and support the Home Show," said Ms. Ferri, shortly after the sponsorship was announced. "We were very grateful they stepped up and agreed to do this for all the attendees.

Free admission was not the only big change scheduled for the show.

RS Homes, a luxury custom home builder and renovator, had stepped up as Stage Sponsor, paving the way for a series of new and interactive talks and sessions for event-goers.

"They will be bringing in experienced designers and architects that have been featured at the Toronto Home Show for many years, and hosting panels where you can bring your design questions and have them answered by top experts," said Ms. Ferri.

Food trucks were also set to make a splash outside the SARC, being on hand for the first time to welcome guests with several tasty options.

At the end of last week, the Aurora Chamber was nearly 90 per cent sold on booths. Details on admissions, stage offerings, and other details of a rescheduled home show will be announced in due course.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce Home & Living Show was set to take place April 17 – 19 at the SARC. For more information, including any rescheduling information, visit aurorahomeshow.ca, and check back in future editions of The Auroran.

Be creative in supporting local businesses: Chamber

By Brock Weir

It's a difficult time for all businesses, but particularly small, local businesses.

As such, the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is asking residents to think outside the box in supporting Chamber members as the community comes to grips with COVID-19.

"In this time of uncertainty for individuals and businesses, it is important that we focus on everyone's safety and well-being first and foremost, while continuing to support one another in whatever way possible," says Sandra Ferri, Executive Director of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. "Cancellations are happening throughout the province and the world. As we think about our neighbours, business associates and fellow business owners, let's be creative about how we can support

one another at this time.

"If you are reluctant about going out to shop, perhaps your local store or restaurant would be willing to deliver their goods to you or prepare your order for pick up. If you were planning to attend an event at a local business, but the event has been cancelled or you no longer feel comfortable attending, perhaps ask for a credit that you can use at a later date instead of a refund, in an effort to mitigate the effect on our local business community. Or perhaps you might buy a gift card to be used later in support of our local businesses. If you are in touch with a local business, ask them how you can help them through this difficult time and perhaps they can help you as well."

If any business is looking for specific information or is in need of assistance in keeping their businesses "moving forward", Ms. Ferri suggests contacting the Chamber over the phone at 905-727-6272.

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Province introduces job protection for workers during COVID-19 situation

By Brock Weir

The Ontario Government is moving to put new measures in place to protect workers during the COVID-19 crisis.

On Monday, Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Labour Monte McNaughton announced the government's intention to introduce new legislation which, if passed quickly, would "immediately provide job-protected leave to employees in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19" as well as those who need to take time away from work to care for their children amid school and day care closures.

"While everyone's concerns about their health and safety is top of mind, the last thing we need is anyone worrying about job security as the COVID-19 situation evolves," said Ford. "That's why I directed the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development to draft legislation that will protect workers and their families during this difficult period."

Added the Minister: "Mothers and fathers who need to care for children or dependants shouldn't have to worry about losing their job. The same goes for people who receive medical or public health advice and are required to take precautions as a result. They shouldn't have to worry about losing their job. In this time of uncertainty, we need to support employees who must isolate or

quarantine themselves, or who need to care for a loved one.

The proposed legislation would, if passed, provide job protection for employees unable to work for the following reasons:

- The employee is under medical investigation, supervision or treatment for COVID-19.
- The employee is acting in accordance with an order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.
- The employee is in isolation or quarantine.
- The employee is acting in accordance with public health information or direction.
- The employer directs the employee not to work.
- The employee needs to provide care to a person for a reason related to COVID-19 such as a school or day-care closure.

The proposed legislation would also make it clear that an employee will not be required to provide a medical note if they take the leave. The measures would be retroactive to January 25, 2020, the date that the first presumptive COVID-19 case was confirmed in Ontario.

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STK# 5144 | 67,452KM |
CLEAN CAR FAX, AUTO,
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2012 GENESIS COUPE
STK# 5181 | 34,222KM |
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VERY WELL CARED FOR THE CONDITION
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STK# 5141 | 58,411 KM | CLEAN CAR FAX
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2016 ELANTRA SPORT
STK# L5173 | 55,944KM |
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2014 BUICK ENCORE PREMIUM
STK# 220291 | 103,121KM |
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REAR CAMERA, GREAT VALUE

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+LIC

2016 SONATA
STK# 5131 | 61,222KM |
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2016 AUDI A4
STK# 5188 | 85,211KM |
KOMFORT PACKAGE, S LINE, AWD, LEATHER,
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STK# 516511 | 47,334KM | HIS CAR JUST TRADED
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STK# 5179 | 50,122KM |
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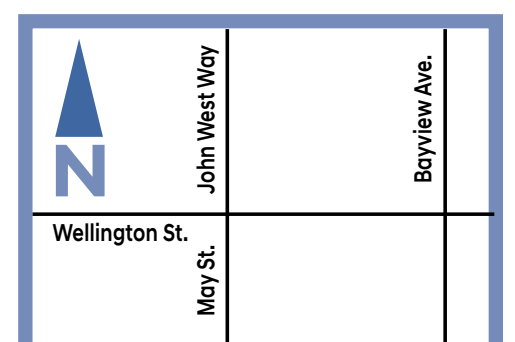


AURORA HYUNDAI

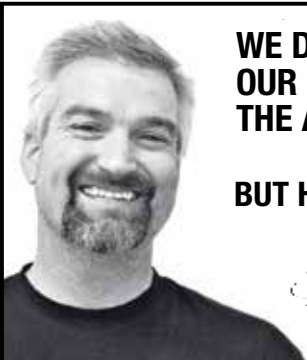
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Restaurant took measures to ensure “business as usual” environment before State of Emergency



Andrew Taranowski, Managing Partner at Aw, Shucks, tests an infrared thermometer on patron Ellen Campbell.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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By Brock Weir

It's far from business as usual for many Aurora businesses, but downtown restaurant Aw, Shucks deployed some out-of-the-box thinking to try and keep their doors open amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ahead of the Provincial Government's recommendation to limit restaurant service to takeout and delivery, Aw, Shucks took measures to keep business flowing on their busiest nights of the week: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. These evenings usually pack crowds into the restaurant, located just south of Yonge and Wellington, and those looking for a fun night out this past weekend saw the precautionary measures in action.

In addition to heightened vigilance sanitizing everything from the tabletops to the sugar caddies, those hoping to come through their doors had to wait as staff used a non-invasive, laser thermometer on potential patrons. Those who measured as having a temperature

greater than 99.5 degrees F were turned away, while those making the cut were ushered inside.

“We plan on using these thermometers tonight (Friday) and going forward every night that is generally busy,” said Andrew Taranowski, Managing Partner at Aw, Shucks last week, before the Province's recommended limits. “Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays are our busiest times here, so we're going to be screening our patrons. If [they have a temperature over 99.5] we're going to ask them not to enter the premises and that goes for staff as well. Staff will be screened in advance of starting their shift and if they have a temperature they will be asked to leave. Of course, if they are feeling ill, they are asked to advise the management beforehand and not to enter the premises at all.

“On Thursday, we started sanitizing all the door handles and bannisters. Today we're actually stripping the tables bare – just the bare necessities. We don't have salt, pepper or sugar shakers. Those would be given upon, or at the request of someone

who wants it. It is a common-sense approach to ensuring my safety, the staff's safety and everybody else's safety. I have two kids and I don't want to be bringing that home to them. We just think it is the right thing to do.

“We think these measures will be well-received. People will want to know we're taking the necessary precautions to ensure their safety. At the end of the day it is to ensure their safety and everybody else's. Some people might get perturbed but I would rather be accused of being over-cautious than accused of not doing enough. It seems like this pandemic is changing every day. We're going to monitor the situation daily and we'll take the necessary precautions or update the procedures as we see fit.

“The next potential big event is going to be Mother's Day, so we're going to take a step-wise approach to seeing how we deal with that. Previously, this is changing almost hourly, so we're just taking it step by step. The government has set a date of April 5 and we're hoping that will be a turning point.”

**Important Announcement from the
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
RE: COVID-19**

AURORA CHAMBER
Home & Living Show **POSTPONED**
April 17 - 19, 2020

The 2020 Home & Living Show is postponed until further notice. All registered booths will be confirmed at the rescheduled event. The ACOC will continue working with the Town of Aurora and monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic to determine when the show can be rescheduled. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**All regularly scheduled Aurora Chamber events
are cancelled until April 5, 2020**

Visit **www.aurorachamber.on.ca** for ongoing updates related to COVID-19 and ACOC events.

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Kitchen Table CEOs helps “mom-preneurs” make their businesses grow

By Brock Weir

Finding that work-live balance is often a difficult task, particularly if you’re juggling being a spouse and parent with trying to make your business grow.

Tracy Smith knows this reality all too well.

A freelance writer by trade, the 30-year Aurora resident was looking to build her portfolio while also balancing “being a present and awesome mom and wife – two things that are most important to me.” In trying to find that balance herself, she knew other moms were looking to do the same, and Ms. Smith decided to use her skills to try and try to help herself and others redress the balance.

Earlier this month, Ms. Smith launched Kitchen Table CEOs, an online resource for women entrepreneurs looking for tips, tricks, resources and support to help grow their small businesses and make their lives easier.

Having worked in the communications industry for more than a decade, Ms. Smith saw that entrepreneurs and small business owners needed help navigating an ever-changing landscape, one which is evolving rapidly thanks to the online world.

“Last spring, I was thinking about formalizing and packaging up some of my services a little bit more efficiently and, in the process of doing that, I thought, ‘You know what? Let me take my writing, communication and networking experience and put it all in one place for women entrepreneurs to help them with all the hats they need to wear on a daily basis and provide the tips, tricks, resources and supports to run their businesses but also run their daily lives.

“As a group, entrepreneurs are required to do so many things; you have your business you’re trying to run, but you have all these other pieces that are required to run a business that you might not be as

skilled in [such as] invoicing, rebranding, learning social media, communications and outreach to your clients, professional writing. Now, all of those things you’re responsible for because you don’t have an IT department to help you. For a lot of entrepreneurs, that can be really overwhelming and for moms who are starting up a business from home, a lot of times you also have the demands of family and running a home. You have this sort of unique balance of growing your business and supporting your family and [what I want to do with this] is help these mom-preneurs with both sides, to help make their life easier and help make their business grow.”

In the short week since its inception, Kitchen Table CEOs has gone from strength to strength, with content ranging from social media post ideas, a how-to on setting up a Facebook business account, a comprehensive “social media dictionary”, and tutorials on everything from writing to when to update your professional headshot.

To get a handle on what mom-preneurs might want from a resource like Kitchen Table CEOs, Ms. Smith went right to the source. A lot of her friends and peers are currently at the stage in their lives where they are thinking about starting their own businesses, so she talked to many local business owners and women in the community. She sent out surveys asking what they were struggling with, what they needed help with, and this, she says, was “a huge part of understanding” the market.

“That lightbulb moment has been the accumulation of all of this intel over the last seven years of what I have been helping with and what I have witnessed, plus all of my peers and what they’re going through, and I have been able to funnel that into this website,” she says. “So far, I have gotten amazing feedback from my network as well as my online community, so I just want to hear from women entrepreneurs knowing



Tracy Smith

Photo by Jim Craigmyle

how my site has helped them. I would love people to download the resources, free and paid, to help them on their journey and through all those things I will be able to tell that the site has helped people. Just knowing in some small way that I have been able to help a woman feel supported or make their life easier, or have provided some sort of insights or tips that have made them able to run their website more successfully, that would be a biggie for me.

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and resources to make your life easier both in business and juggling your family, then come on over. We’ve got lots of resources that will help you out. I know it is hard, I’ve lived it [and] I made the site for all those hard-working women out there who are trying to do it and want something for themselves and their business but also want to be an amazing mom and want to be there for their family. I think they will find a great spot for themselves if they visit us online.”

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International Women’s Day brought artists, activists together at Library

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

The Aurora Public Library was abuzz with women—and a few men—to recognize and celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8. Women from all walks of life, including local artists, musicians, activists, artisans and educators came together to support women at a community-led event that began with a generous serving of cake.

Karen Cowderoy, founder of the Love Project, laid out a banner for a community art project. “Anyone can come in and colour on the banner. We do creative process, where everybody creates art individually and it’s an opportunity to give yourself a few minutes of space and to have fun,” she said, as butterflies took wing in different shades on the cloth.

Visitors stopped at different stations set up around the library, while some attended a screening of *Because We Are Girls*, a movie about three sisters who were sexually abused by an older relative, in the Magna Room. Iara Encinas from the Women’s Centre of York Region was at one of the tables. “Our programs and services are offered free of charge to women 18 and older in York Region. We offer counselling, financial education, soft skills coaching and also a career exploration program. Our next course will take place right here at the library on April 17,” she said.

Veronica Bairos, who founded the Ontario chapter of Moon Time Sisters, was at a table taking many visitors by surprise. She had printouts of the cost of menstrual products and groceries in Northern communities, and many were surprised to learn that a pack of tampons costs about \$18.

“Moon Time Sisters was created by Nicole White in January 2017, and I started the Ontario chapter in March that year. We gather supplies such as pads, tampons, Diva cups and cloth pads and ship them to high schools, community centres, women’s shelters and local health centres. We run two drives per year; in the spring and fall. We also collect products throughout the year and send up shipments once enough products have been gathered,” said Bairos, while tending to her baby boy.

Nancy Hunt, an Aurora resident, stopped by the Moon Time Sisters table. “I support two charities, Water First, which works with First Nations communities to resolve local water challenges, and the Anishinaabe in Toronto, so I’m always interested in these things. It is shameful that even in Canada, there are women who don’t have access to menstrual products.”

A simple exercise in blind contour drawing facilitated by artists Marie Boal and Karen Soulds also drew a lot of interest to the table.

“We are here to celebrate the idea of women supporting women, as the two of us have over the years. Marie and I have known each other for 35 years, supporting our pursuit of visual arts. We also camp and paint at Lake Superior every year. Today we are here to encourage creativity, and talk a little about how art can create community among perfect strangers. Our blind contour drawing exercise encourages people to explore their creativity even if they have never drawn or think they can’t draw,” explained Boal.

Soulds, an Aurora resident, is an expressive art facilitator and holds workshops exploring mindfulness.

“Expressive art means that everybody can approach art making, we all have the ability to do it.”

Elizabeth Saville, an Aurora resident, came in with her friend Teresa Degiorgio, and they both tried the blind contour drawing. “I enjoyed the experience because I usually draw stick people. It really pushed you to do something outside your comfort zone and I did better than I thought,” said Degiorgio. Saville too loved all that the event had to offer. “The library is my second home, I’m here all the time. When there’s an event like this one, I have to stop by because I know something interesting will be going on,” she said.

The event concluded with a performance by local artiste Louisa Barbosa, a student at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School. “International Women’s Day holds a special place in my heart. If I can have a positive impact, I want to do that through my music. I will probably be [performing] a power anthem here and there and get people in the spirit to remind them that they can do anything.”



Auroran photos by Kinjal Dagli Shah

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In the lead-up to the now-postponed Aurora Winter Blues Festival, the Aurora Public Library played host to a number of pop-up performances that showcased young musicians. (Clockwise from bottom left) Aurora Winter Blues Festival co-founder Jamie Macdonald introduces the acts. Dash Smith. Olivia Zarboni, Louisa Barbosa, Olivia Freeman. Owen Bulger and Erin Keaveney.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Winter Blues Festival postponed until September

By Brock Weir

As far as winter events go, Music Aurora was keeping things to the wire, saving the 2020 Aurora Winter Blues Festival for the last possible day in the season.

But, amid concerns over COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the popular music event could become a Fall affair.

Organizers behind the Aurora Winter Blues Festival (AWBF), which was supposed to take place at Theatre Aurora this Friday and Saturday, are looking to reschedule the two-night series of performances for “possibly in September” after officially postponing the event over the weekend.

“Music Aurora is very sorry to announce that the upcoming AWBF shows on March 20 and 21 at Theatre Aurora have been postponed due to the threat posed by the current COVID-19 pandemic and circumstances that are beyond our control,” said Music Aurora


in a statement. “Ensuring the health and safety of our audience, our volunteer organizers and our musical guests is our primary concern at this time. We believe it is our responsibility to postpone the shows and that exercising caution is the best course of action in mitigating risk and worry.

“Music Aurora’s March 20 and 21 AWBF shows will be rescheduled for a future date to be announced and tickets will be honoured for the new date.”

Details on the rescheduled dates will be provided to patrons and ticketholders via email.

“As a small Not For Profit organization, Music Aurora is so grateful for our tremendously loyal fans and partners who support us every year. We thank you for supporting live music!”


As the event has been postponed rather than cancelled all together, Music Aurora notes that ticket sales will not be refunded.



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Run for Southlake postponed due to Coronavirus

Organizers hope to reschedule event for October

By Brock Weir

The annual Run for Southlake routinely brings more in than \$350,000 to support local health services, but this essential cash infusion for the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation is in doubt following the postponement of the popular event.

On Friday, the Southlake Foundation announced the Nature’s Emporium Run for Southlake, previously scheduled for April 26, had been postponed “out of an abundance of caution” due to continued concerns over the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

“We know that this is an event that many people across our communities look forward to and that this news will come as a disappointment,” said the Foundation in a statement. “We are incredibly grateful for the support we have received so far from our communities, staff, volunteers and sponsors who have already signed up and are actively fundraising in support of our hospital. Southlake,

in consulting with the hospital Infection Prevention & Control team and York Region Public Health, is taking proactive and preventative measures to help protect our patients, staff, health care providers and the communities we serve.

“Southlake Foundation appreciates the support of its partners in this decision and will continue to monitor the situation and share the new date for the Run for Southlake once confirmed. Those who have already registered for the event have been notified directly, and the Foundation is committed to providing participants with ongoing updates.

“With the safety of our participants and communities in mind, we believe this is the right thing to do for everyone’s health and safety and appreciate your understanding.”

The Foundation notes the Nature’s Emporium Run for Southlake is their largest annual fundraiser and was expected to raise more than \$400,000 this year.

“The decision will have an impact on the Foundation’s ability to support the critical needs of the hospital,” said the Foundation. “The continued support of our communities is deeply appreciated as we ensure that the hospital clinical teams are equipped with the tools required to provide



Hundreds participated in last year’s Nature’s Emporium Run for Southlake.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

the leading-edge care that patients depend on.”

Speaking to The Auroran at the start of the week, Susan Mullin, President & CEO of the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation elaborated on their decision to postpone the run, adding they were zeroing in on rescheduling at a to-be-determined date in October.

“We knew we couldn’t do some of the sponsor things we had done last year – we couldn’t sample food, we knew there would be some limitations, and that’s not the end of the world, but when we thought about having upwards of 2,000

people potentially on site, it didn’t seem like a responsible decision to go ahead,” said Ms. Mullin. “We were also going to be at the Newmarket Seniors’ Meeting Place where we have been for the last number of years and it didn’t feel appropriate, given how vulnerable a population they had going in when they were open.

“Frankly, we also wondered whether people would stay away themselves out of concern for what was going on in the community. I felt we needed to show some real leadership and just not put anybody at risk, including our own staff.”



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Neighbours helping neighbours in COVID-19 crisis



Contributed photo

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

The worst times can sometimes bring out the best in people.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, while some may be raiding grocery store aisles, others are thinking about those who aren't even able to shop for basics. These community heroes are reaching out through social media, offering to drive, shop and deliver for

those in need.

Amy Brubacher, a resident of Aurora, wrote on a local group, "I would like to offer what little I can do to help the vulnerable in our community. I'm sure there are many in Aurora who are burdened by this crisis, unable to purchase extra supplies for the next few weeks, or too at risk to be out in the community. I will be out all day purchasing and dropping off what I can find for those who may need things (toothpaste, non-perishable food, and if I can manage it, toilet paper)."

Within a single day, she received many other messages offering to help her with the efforts. She also knocked on the doors of elderly neighbours on her street, some of whom she was able to support. "I was able to pick up an essential item that someone was having a hard time finding because the shelves had been cleared out of it and she needed it for medical purposes. I could track it down and deliver it by the end of the day," said Brubacher.

The mother of two is aware that so many more seniors could do with assistance at this time but may not be using social media. "They aren't aware that there are so many community members eager to help them. To be

honest, my phone was lighting up with offers to help. So many people messaged me to offer to help me deliver items. Some even offered money to help cover the costs. It is incredible and heartwarming," she said.

Reza Riaz, who lived in Aurora for 15 years, posted a similar offer of help and even offered to cover all costs. "If you are unable to purchase, travel, obtain or help yourself during this crisis, message me and I will help you to the best of my ability. I can pick up certain supplies and deliver them to you at no cost to you, I will cover all costs associated," he wrote.

He strongly condemns the hoarding and fearmongering that we have seen as a society in the past few days. "It's mindboggling to see people's behavior and that's why I said I will help people instead. I'm healthy, I'm young and I'm doing my job as a person to assist others in need. If we don't help our neighbor, how will we survive in the face of adversity?" he said, adding that someone who knew a disabled person, an amputee who couldn't get out of the house, contacted him for help after reading his post.

Brubacher too is worried about the plight of the vulnerable sections of

society. "I'm very fortunate to have family close by and can easily check in on my grandparents. It really breaks my heart to see elderly people facing the storm alone and having to face crowds when there are so many that could support them and allow them to stay home where it's safe for them.

Brubacher also "hung out" in the parking lot of a local grocery store to see if she could offer anyone a drive home who had a large load of groceries. "One very elderly woman told me, 'We've lived through worse and we just have to have a little faith in times like this that we will get through it just fine'. I found the older the community member was, the more positive their outlook was on this situation. It gives a real perspective to those of us who have never faced something like this. This is unprecedented for so many of us but many very senior people are able to see the light at the end of the tunnel," she explained.

If you are a senior or someone needing help with grocery or medicine delivery, please contact Amy Brubacher at 647-898-8164 between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm. She and her team of helpers are eager and happy to offer support.

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Week of March 19, 2020



Senior Women Barbarians prepare for 2020 season



Contributed photo

By Robert Belardi

The Aurora Barbarians' Senior Women's rugby team is gearing up for the summer of 2020 after a third-place finish last season in the Ontario Women's League (OWL).

The team is prepared to welcome more players to the roster for this year and the availability is open to anyone interested in playing.

It is anticipated that 24 will return and 15 more are expected to join, according to head coach, Khalil Ajram.

Five players on the roster went on to play with Team Ontario and one with the national team.

Come this season, the expectations are high.

"This year coming up, we're just working on getting the numbers up, and, obviously improve on our third-place finish last year," explained Ajram.

He has been coaching with the Aurora Barbarians since 2010 with the Junior and Senior Men's teams. He has now been with the women's team for the past two seasons and works outside of the club as the Program Lead with Rugby Ontario 7's and Rugby Canada U18 boys 7's program.

"Every team you coach and you work with is a different experience. [That's] the beauty of rugby. You'll never get the exact same results two times in a row."

That might be encouraging to hear for a team looking for a different result. They can't possibly finish third this year, can they?

It's optimistic surely, but the proposition is the motivating factor.

This year, the senior women's team will welcome back the captain of the Canada Rugby League team Mackenzie Fane, former Canada 7's player Arielle Dubissette-Borrice, current Canada 15's player McKinley Hunt and former Canada Aged-Grade player Dani Grant.

Another player returning this year is 28-year-old Colleen Barbalindaro. The 11-year veteran with the Barbarians was sidelined for most of last season with a leg injury and is excited to get back out there.

Barbalindaro says the program has

been spectacular.

"It's a great program. Our coaches are pretty high-level coaches, so they've both coached at an Ontario level."

"A lot of girls join the Barbs when they're in high school. They have the opportunity to play U18 and U16 Ontario tournaments and can build their skills," Barbalindaro said.

She joined the Barbarians right after playing Rugby in high school and has never looked back.

There are a few women who have played for Canada and British Columbia on the roster. But, when these women are not playing for Canada, they still need to play for a home team and that's what the Barbarians are for.

Amidst this great opportunity is a challenge the club continuously faces.

Head Coach Ajram says the Barbarians face an off-field challenge in the League that separates the Town of Aurora from the rest.

"Most of the towns are university towns. So, they benefit from players who play for the university and stay in those towns," Ajram elaborated. "[We] don't benefit from that. The issue we run into is retention of our players."

The U18 Barbarians is one of the best teams in the province. Once they head off to school, the roster can change and some of the players may or may not return.

The hope is those players do return and remain a part of the rugby culture.

It's a culture Ajram says is unique, with players buying each other drinks after the game and teams being open to players of all ages. The Men's Team, for instance, has a 55-year-old player on the roster, while the local club has helped found the Guardian Angels, a team solely dedicated to women over the age of 30.

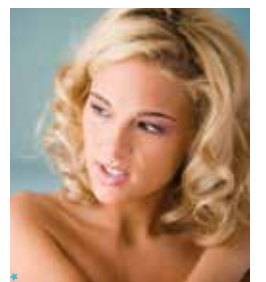
In this program, the women who enter it enter a sisterhood; a place where their legacy is cemented within the team's history.

The girls are expected to begin practicing on April 28. No announcement has been made regarding any changes to that schedule.

For more information, head to the Aurora Barbarians website to learn how to register.



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Processing the very thought of Canadians having the opportunity to play football at a high level, is not as far down the pecking order as you might think.

This past year, Kansas City Chiefs offensive lineman Laurent Duvernay-Tardif became the ninth Canadian to win the Super Bowl and the 16th Canadian to step foot out on the field, according to Sporting News.

In the college system, Oklahoma State Cowboys running back – and Edmonton native – Chuba Hubbard was a hair width away from winning the infamous Heisman Trophy, the ultimate prize in the competition. In the last 20 years, only three running backs have won the Heisman. Being a Canadian and coming that close is more than just an incredible accomplishment.

You might ask, how far have we really come as a country in our development of this sport?

“I would say it’s better now than it’s ever been and it’s only going to get better,” said Marcello Lio, head coach of the St. Andrew’s College Saints first football and junior basketball teams.

That’s all thanks to the impenetrable belief system coordinated by Canada

Football Chat. This organization has been the mantra in Canada for young athletes who are passionate about playing football.

“They’ve done an excellent job recognizing the top talent and ranking the top talent. You’d be surprised, I think there’s over 30 to 35 Canadian kids that are going to division one in the NCAA this year,” Lio explained to The Auroran.

On the website, there are currently 18 D1 Prospects. Every year, the CFC hosts a prospect game and a youth prospect game on TSN.

Grade 12 students at St. Andrew’s College Nathan Falconi and Brendan Dilworth, who recently committed to Queen’s University, were noticed through Canada Football Chat and participated down south.

All provinces in the country compete amongst one another. This year, the Saints have seven prospects attending the Canada Football Chat Top Prospects Camp and tryouts for Team Ontario. The hope is by mid-April, if there are no cancellations due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the prospects will be cut and Team Ontario will be formed.

“In 2012, I took a stint with the junior national program here in Canada. So, I had an opportunity to recruit across the country,” Lio said.

The former quarterback’s coach at York University went on to add that Ontario does very well versus other competitive provinces such as Quebec.

This year, Grade 11 students, including quarterback Cameron Mitchell, defensive lineman Kieran Walters and offensive lineman Ty White will make an appearance in the prospects camp.

Grade Nine youngsters include quarterback Anthony Lio, running

*They’ve done
an excellent job
recognizing the top
talent and ranking
the top talent.*

back Ahston Watson, defensive back Joseph Aitoro and offensive lineman Nihaal Rana, who will compete as well.

Lio speaks highly of each and every one of them.

Mitchell missed the prospects camp last season and is excited about making it out this year should everything run smoothly. He has been working on his pocket presence and delivery.

For a tall player, he has the assets to be a great quarterback.

White is returning again and Walters is a great defensive tackle with some good potential at the U-sports level.

As for the Grade Nines, Rana, Aitoro and Watson are ready to compete at a high level. Lio used to coach Rana at the Bantam level. Watson is a special running back and Aitoro has turned some heads with a great nose for the ball.

Lio went on to add that his son Anthony received offers from schools in Chicago, Lio’s hometown, before choosing St. Andrew’s College.

Lio, who played at York University and in Europe professionally, has worked with his son and says that he has been fortunate to be coached by him throughout his life.

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Please note, we reserve the right to cancel, amend or change the program.



Community Recognition Awards shine light on selfless giving

By Brock Weir

Lynne Camilleri was speechless when she learned she was set to receive Aurora’s Community Safety Award.

As a school crossing guard, she has passionately dedicated her life to ensuring students and their families get to and from school safely, forging relationships with those she protects, never pausing for a moment to look for recognition.

But, she received just such recognition last year when she was nominated for the prize as part of the Town’s Community Recognition Awards – and now you can step up to shine a light on the unsung heroes all around you.

Nominations are now open for the 2020 Community Recognition Awards, which recognize deserving residents, businesses and organizations for their efforts in making Aurora a better place.

“People volunteer for a variety of reasons, but rarely is there recognition of what they’re volunteering for,” says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. “This community simply can’t be as fantastic as it is without the volunteers that we have and the impact they have directly on us. For those that benefit from seeing the magic that volunteers create, we really want to encourage them to take the time to fill out a nomination form.”

Nominations are now being accepted online through April 3, and include: the Volunteer Service Award; the Youth Volunteer Award; the Green Award, recognizing those who are making a difference on our environment; Arts & Culture; Community Leadership; the Good

Neighbour Award; the Good Business Award; Community Safety; Inclusivity; and Citizen of the Year.

New this year is the “Senior Volunteer Award”, presented to a citizen above the age of 55 who, “through their volunteer efforts, has made a significant contribution to the community and has demonstrated their commitment to being a positive leader today and in the future.”

“Currently, we have a Youth award and this year a community member brought forward the idea of a Senior Award, which has been enthusiastically embraced,” says Ms. Ware. “Seniors in Aurora are so active and come from so many talented backgrounds that they are really an important group within the community and I am hoping for lots of nominations in that specific category.”

Yet, there are some awards, in Ms. Ware’s view, that continue to fly under the radar.

The Good Neighbour Award is just one such example.

“Aurora is made up with such exceptional residents and each of those residents is somebody’s neighbour,” says Ms. Ware. “A neighbour doesn’t mean the geographic address beside you; a neighbour is someone who embodies what it means to be a good neighbour within a vibrant neighbourhood. A neighbourhood could be a retirement home, it could be a residential neighbourhood, an apartment building – it is not the bricks and mortar stuff that matters, but the simple acts of kindness and compassion that a Good Neighbour demonstrates to keep our neighbourhoods connected.”

The Inclusivity Award, recognizing those who have contributed to

Our community becomes more and more inclusive year after year and it happens because there are passionate people in the community

making Aurora a more accessible or inclusive place to live, work and play for “all people regardless of race, ancestry, national and ethnic origin, creed, religion, age, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, family status or ability” is also sometimes overlooked by potential nominators.

“Our community becomes more and more inclusive year after year and it happens because there are passionate people in the community who bring forward ideas for improvement, to make the area as inclusive as possible,” says Ms. Ware.

Additionally, the award which so moved Ms. Camilleri last year, can also fall behind.

“This goes to an individual for the development, promotion, or support of initiatives that improve our community safety,” says Ms. Ware. “This includes those who go above

and beyond in our neighbourhoods to improve the overall safety of it. We know good deeds are being done out there to ensure our community remains safe, but this is one category where we struggle to get nominations and I think it is just those who have seen the safety improvements maybe aren’t realizing that there is this award that they could nominate a person for.

“Lynne, she was absolutely speechless to have been recognized in this fashion. She does it from deep down in the bottom of her heart. The fact that she touched and made so many families feel safer sending their kids to school, it was such a humbling experience for her that she was literally moved to tears. Being able to watch that from the outside in was just amazing, such a humbling experience to see somebody be recognized when truly they are not doing it for that.

“I think volunteers and advocates are so busy doing what they do well that the busiest volunteer often doesn’t have time or realize these programs exist out there because the fundamental thing we hear over and over again is people don’t volunteer to be recognized, they volunteer because they choose to make a difference. I think we really need to press our efforts towards those who see who the difference-makers are in the community and encourage them to take an active role in this process. I am not sure I have met a resident or someone in the community at some point that has not volunteered or given back and been proud to do so. That truly is what makes Aurora special and stand out.”

For more information on the 2020 Community Recognition Awards, including nomination forms, visit aurora.ca/cra.

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Canadian Mental Health Association offers tips for anxiety caused by COVID-19 measures

From page 1

to serve in need and at-risk people in our community as social distancing becomes the new normal for the next few weeks.

“What we need is to manage that anxiety and not let it overtake us,” says Ms. Shields. “When you’re just feeling anxious, we often tell people to stop and breathe – not through your lungs, but put your hands on your belly and breathe through your belly with some deep breaths, hold it for three seconds and then release it. Try to calm yourself down. Think about, am I catastrophizing? Then [we advise] we only go to trusted news sources like Public Health to make sure you’re not getting your news from places where there is a lot of the biases you might find on social media.”

Another very important technique in managing anxiety, says Ms. Shields, is simply taking a break.

“Don’t consume information all day all the time, it will absolutely escalate for you,” she says. “Try and consume your news maybe an hour a day or a couple of times a day, then take a news break and turn it off. If you follow all day, it is just going to keep you going. We really recommend people taking a news break and really practicing good self care, like eating healthy meals, making sure you’re getting sleep and getting outside. It is beautiful right now; make sure you’re getting outside, taking a walk, and exercising. Those core things are critical at this time in terms of self care.”

Practicing what Ms. Shields describes as “practicing gratitude” can also be beneficial.

“Write down three or five things every day that you’re really grateful for: make phone calls to the people you love and let them know to just connect with people, keep the social connection, even in this time of social distancing. Find a way to call your friends, message them, and check in with those you love.”

Beyond these techniques, resources are still available for individuals in crisis.

Crisis lines are operational, with the hotline 310-COPE available for anyone struggling, along with York Support Services' Streamlined Access program, which connects individuals to mental health, addiction, and dual diagnosis services in York Region and South Simcoe. (yysn.ca/streamlined-access – 1-888-695-0070).

The CMHA is also continuing with the Province's Bounce Back program, a free skill-building workshop to help adults and youth manage low to mild and moderate depression and anxiety,



stress, worry, and low mood – all delivered over the phone at 1-866-345-0224.

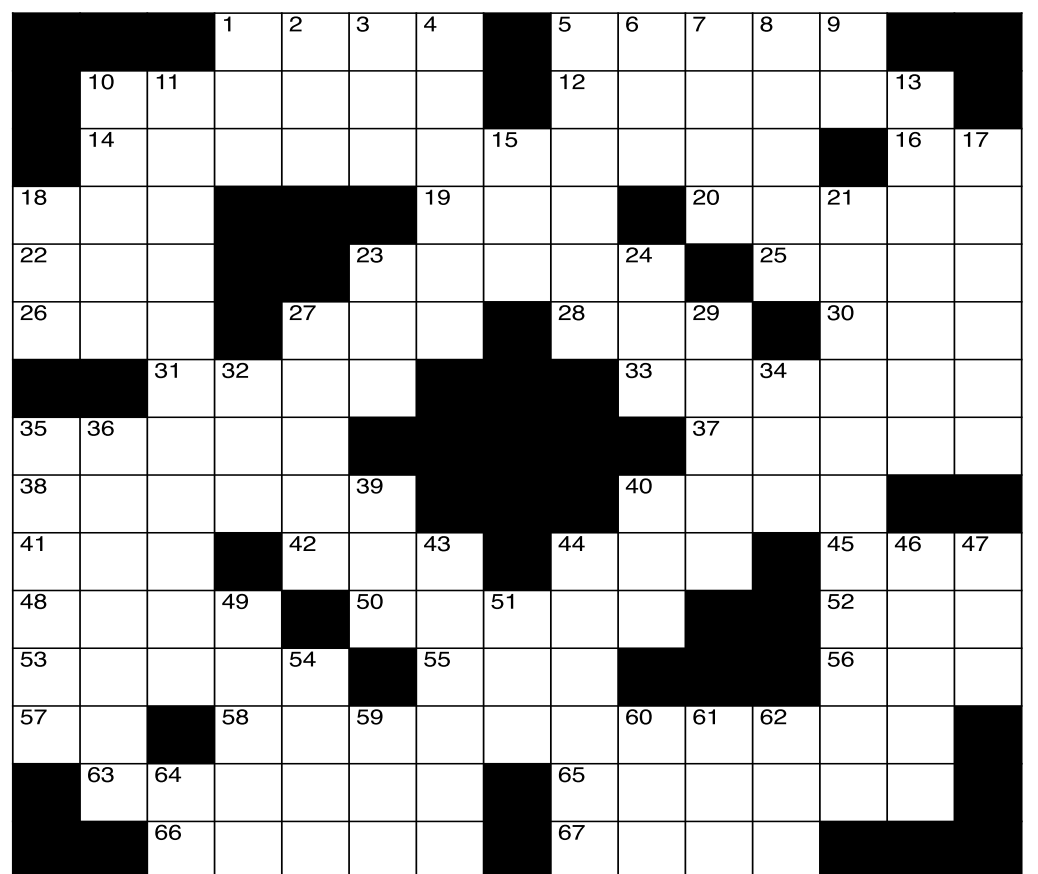
“This helps people manage anxiety...and learn those skills of anxiety management,” says Ms. Shields. “It is free, available over the phone, and available in French, English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Farsi, South American Spanish, and we also have coaches that speak 12 other languages. If people are feeling anxious, they really need to get that under control and there’s a free program available through the day, but also evenings and some weekend hours.

"A lot of the community agencies are moving a lot of their support services to virtual and phone call. All of that is emerging. What I want to tell people to do in the Region is two things: One, they can check out 310-COPE for crisis, they can go to Streamlined Access and ConnexOntario (connexontario.ca) to find out other services. You can reach out to the Canadian Mental Health Association. We are redeploying a lot of our staff to support people as virtually as we can so we're all doing our part to flatten the curve by practicing social distancing. Everybody is really working hard to do that. We're redeploying staff who might do other things to be able to support our clients and we have some essential services ... some of our clients who require access to nursing and medication, we are ensuring that no client is left without appropriate medical care.

“This is a time of a lot of unknowns and that can be a difficult time. They talk about COVID-19 being contagious but fear can also be contagious. We really have to support ourselves and do the self care and manage our own fears and do the right things, that we know are going

to keep us and our community safe. The CMHA is doing our part and we ask everyone to work together to come together do this with us. We're here for you and please reach out to us if you need us."

CROSSWORD




CLUES ACROSS

1. Currency of Guinea
5. Avert something bad
10. Sounds
12. Immediate dangers
14. Legendary Tar Heels coach
16. Californium
18. Work standards government dept. (abbr.)
19. Coastal Scottish town
20. Triangular lower back bones
22. Trouble
23. A way to smile
25. Something that is not what it seems
26. Of she
27. Temporary living quarters
28. Bag-like structure in a plant or animal
30. Indicates near
31. Spiritual leader
33. Soup dish
35. Philippine island
37. No longer fashionable
38. Peaks
40. Alabama football team
41. ___ King Cole
42. Digital audiotape
44. Open trough
45. The woman
48. Cools down
50. Turkic language
52. Body part
53. Pulse steadily
55. Embedded computer hardware company
56. Indicates shape
57. Thou (plural)
58. Odd and remarkable
63. An evening party
65. National capital of Zambia
66. Tantalizes
67. Dark brown or black

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Not naturally outgoing | 29. Greek god of desire |
| 2. Exclamation of pain | 32. Take to the limit |
| 3. Polynesian garland of flowers | 34. Cool! |
| 4. Surrounded by water | 35. Sound mental health |
| 5. Church towers | 36. Native American group |
| 6. Hot beverage | 39. Test for high schoolers |
| 7. Body parts | 40. Rocky peak |
| 8. Travel documents | 43. Preferences |
| 9. Railway | 44. Bother |
| 10. Gradually wear away | 46. Call attention to (slang) |
| 11. Measuring instrument | 47. Snake-like fish |
| 13. Minor dust-ups | 49. Bulgarian capital |
| 15. Strongly alkaline solution | 51. Don't know when yet |
| 17. Extreme scarcity of food | 54. Italian Seaport |
| 18. Dash | 59. Brooklyn hoopster |
| 21. Philly culinary specialty | 60. Where to bathe |
| 23. Popular lager __ Adams | 61. Equal, prefix |
| 24. Snitch | 62. Beverage container |
| 27. Trimmed | 64. Denotes openness |



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THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

(Editor's Note: Due to the ongoing and rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation, it is suggested that those interested in the events below contact the host group prior to the event to confirm the status of the listing)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting to today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North Aurora. The speaker today is Sonia Faruqi of Earth Week speaking on things pertaining to the Earth and Oceans. For more information on this month's speaker please call David Brisley at 905-841-9338. New Members Welcome – contact Brian Walsh at brian.walsh1@sympatico.ca or be our guest at the meeting.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

The Aurora Cultural Centre hosts The Caregiver Project today from 1 – 4 p.m. Being thrust into the role of becoming a family caregiver can be one of the most disorienting and overwhelming experiences of a person's life. Yet caregiving can also be one of the most deeply satisfying and rewarding experiences as well. Join us to better understand this paradox and create the best possible experience for you and your loved one in their time of need. In Love in Action, our expert caregivers will skilfully share with you the full range of human emotions along with tools, techniques and maps to better equip you to support a loved one as we create a more caring society. Artists, storytellers & caregiving professionals express their story and knowledge in a variety of ways - through dance, images, creative video, and words.

Light refreshments included. Doors open at 12.30 p.m.

* * * *

Amnesty International Aurora-Newmarket holds their monthly meeting tonight from 7 – 8.30 p.m. at the Rectory of Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. At the meeting, we discuss current human rights issues and write appeal letters. Free, all are welcome. For more information, call Renee at 905-713-6713, or visit amnesty.ca or amnestyaurora.wordpress.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Portraits of Giving will host an opening reception this evening at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel in Richmond Hill. Portraits of Giving is committed to celebrating York Region leaders who demonstrate the importance of giving back. 2020 marks the 11th anniversary of this initiative with over 100 honourees and organizations who they support. This year's 14 new honourees will be highlighted throughout York Region wide tours unveiling their portraits by Karen Merk from Merk Photography and stories of giving back written by I C Publishing to inspire York Region to keep giving back. For more, visit merkphotography.com/portraits-of-giving.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

The York Symphony Orchestra presents "Dances Around the World" tonight at 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church (79 Victoria Street). Experience the greatest dances from around the world! The performance includes: Brahms - Hungarian Dances 5 & 6, Gershwin - Rhapsody in Blue, Strauss - Blue Danube Waltz, Enescu - Romanian Rhapsody and more! For tickets, call 647-849-8403.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

MOVIES IN THE SARC – We are bringing out the big screen for the Town of Aurora's 5th Anniversary of Movie in the SARC! Join us for a free viewing of Frozen 2 at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex! Bring along a comfortable chair and enjoy the show. Before the movie, there will be crafts and activities as well as a chance to win one free week of Aurora Summer Camp! Crafts and activities will run from 4 p.m. to 5.45 p.m., the movie will start at 6 p.m. Free admission, but food donations are appreciated.

APRIL 30 – MAY 2

The Pine Tree Potters Guild will host their spring sale at Newmarket's Old Town Hall (460 Botsford Street). Pine Tree Potters Guild holds a pottery sale twice a year. During this event, over 3000 unique pieces of both functional and decorative porcelain, stoneware, and Raku pottery are offered for sale. Guild members are available during the sale to answer your questions. At each sale a piece of pottery is selected as a door prize. Everyone is welcome to fill out a door prize ballot, which is drawn at the end of the sale.

Briefly

CHARGES LAID IN THEFTS FROM LCBO STORES IN ONGOING LIQUOR THEFT INVESTIGATION

A 30-year-old man from the City of Toronto has been charged in relation to multiple thefts from LCBOs across York Region. In March 2019, officers with the #4 District Community Oriented Response (COR) Unit began an initiative that included proactive policing efforts to address the issue of thefts from LCBO stores in the City of Vaughan. These efforts included plainclothes and uniform presence, responding to calls for service and conducting detailed follow-up investigations. An increased concentrated effort, including the assistance of many outside agencies and an investigative support by the York Regional Police's #4 District Criminal Investigations Bureau Property Crime Team, provided very positive results. As a result of this initiative, a suspect was identified as being involved in 28 thefts from LCBO stores in Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Markham, King, Aurora, Newmarket and Whitchurch-Stouffville as well as more than 75 additional thefts from stores across the Greater Toronto Area. On Wednesday, March 11, 2020, investigators located the suspect in the City of Toronto and he was placed under arrest. 30-year-old Sean McCulloch faces 28 charges of Theft Under \$5,000. The charges have not been proven in court. "We will continue to work closely with our local businesses to prevent criminal acts and to bring those responsible for committing these and other crimes before our courts. This initiative is a fine example of our officers' diligence, truly making a difference in our community," said York Regional Police #4 District Superintendent Graham Beverly.

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SPEAKEASY

Jane Taylor & Reccia Mandelcorn

Award-winning Marquee Theatrical Productions is an Aurora-based community theatre and performing arts school that encourages creative expression through theatre for toddlers through to adults, in a wide variety of programs. This month on the Speakeasy, Sheryl Thomas, Executive Director, along with actor Brian Bishop stopped by to talk about their upcoming community production of The Rocky Horror Show. This campy, cult hit first emerged as an Off-Broadway production, later gaining fame in the film The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Brian discussed playing the iconic Frank-N-Furter, complete with 7-inch heels and his lab creation of the perfect human specimen in the form of “Rocky.” Brian spoke about his lifelong love of theatre, and explained that this

form of creative expression helped him not only find his voice, but gently encouraged him to move beyond his performance comfort zone while always feeling supported. Sheryl concurred, offering that parents and youth frequently discuss how theatrical expression offers so many life skills – time management, self-confidence, musical and acting skills development. This upcoming production, Sheryl noted, is a bit of a departure from Marquee’s roster. The show contains adult themes, and is not intended as a show for children. For fans, all the classic songs – Over at the Frankenstein Place, Sweet Transvestite, Time Warp – will be there. As anyone who has attended late-night film screenings knows, Rocky Horror is an audience participation dream, and this production is no exception.

Marquee is encouraging patrons to dress up, with audience costume prizes at each show, and prop bags available in the lobby for a nominal fee. So while toast won’t be thrown in the NewRoads Theatre (for obvious reasons!), all the familiar cues will allow audience members to participate along with the props provided in the goodie bags. The Rocky Horror Show runs from April 23 – May 3 at the NewRoads Centre for the Performing Arts (formerly Newmarket Theatre), and tickets are available at www.marqueetp.com

As we emerge from deep winter in March, International Women’s Day (March 8) offers the opportunity to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and girls. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women’s equality through the

collective efforts of all who care about human rights. Aurora Public Library marked this global initiative with a day long community party. Rhobi Jacobs, Coordinator of Community-Led Initiatives, dropped by to tell us about the event that featured community organizations, activists, artists and artisans. A screening of the NFB’s film “Because We Are Girls” by Vancouver filmmaker Baljit Sangra, interactive art experiences, a performance by local musician and rising star Louisa Barbosa and delicious cake rounded out the event. Bringing women, girls, men and boys together on this important day gives everyone the opportunity to reflect and celebrate women’s achievements, and understand where the conversation continues to lead into the future.

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be occasionally asked to assist in shopping and errands. Must be able to speak and read English. References and First-aid certification required. Certified PSW preferred but may consider non-certified if the fit is right. Rate range: \$14-15/hr. Please email resume to: rose@summitmetal.com

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- Tour groups of students through houses and apartments to rent them out for the annual rental campaign.
- Plan, Prepare and Execute Advertising and Marketing Material for the annual rental campaign.
- Complete all necessary paperwork involved in lease signing and payment collection for newly rented units.
- Work with all current tenants in completing necessary paperwork for renewal units

EXPECTATIONS:

- Have a positive attitude
- Willing to work hard and enjoy rewards in a team environment
- Willing to take chances and learn from your peers

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- Sales Driven
- Work well in results based environment
- Goal Oriented
- Great Personal Skills
- Some Sales Skills Preferred but would be willing to train the right candidate
- Marketing and/or Communication education would be a great fit

COMPENSATION:

Base + Commission

Let's Talk.

EMAIL RESUME FOR CONSIDERATION:
employment@londonprop.com

London Property Corp.



Freelance Reporter for Local Community Newspaper

Come join a dynamic, fast paced, growing entrepreneurial company looking for an energetic Freelance Reporter with a passion for community news.

The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover local community events and issues.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

QUALIFICATIONS:

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

LP
LONDON PUBLISHING CORP.

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



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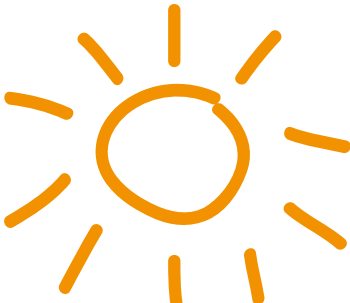
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