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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 11 No. 40 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of August 2, 2011

Morris to appeal decision

As she indicated she would do in a statement to The Auroran last month, former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris has formally sought leave to appeal a recent decision by Justice Carole Brown which dismissed her Norwich motion, part of her \$6 million lawsuit against three local bloggers, among others.

In her Norwich motion, which was argued in Toronto in March, Ms. Morris asked for the courts to order parties in the case to reveal any and all information they had as to the identities of anonymous posters to the Aurora Citizen blog, which she alleged defamed her.

Justice Brown delivered her **Please see page 13**

Briefly

Hoedown sold out

The Magna hoedown has sold out and there is still a month to go before the event happens. It marks the second straight year that the popular event has been sold out. Full story is on Page 8.

Volunteers needed

If you have fresh and creative ideas, the Special Events committee of the Aurora Senior Citizens wants to hear from you, according to the committee's chairperson Marie Leone.

"If you would like to share your ideas, help plan some of those special events, or even be willing to chair a committee we would like to hear from you," she said.

Contact her at 905-713-0608 or e-mail leonemi@bell.net.

Tea and Chat

The Town of Aurora is inviting you to a "Tea & Chat", at the Seniors' Centre.

"We want to hear your thoughts and ideas about the 2011-2012 Strategic Plan," said seniors' coordinator Janet Beatty.

The event will be held Wednesday, August 3, at 1.30 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre in the lounge area.



The Aurora Jazz Festival, held at the Town Park, was a huge success last weekend, attracting more than 2,000 people. Highlights of the three-day event were 26-year-old Auroran Stacey Kaniuk, photo at left, and Aurora's Courtney Field, right.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Bisanz is expected to be Liberal candidate in riding

Christina Bisanz, who ran as candidate for the Liberal Party of Ontario in the last provincial election is once again expected to be confirmed as Newmarket-Aurora's Liberal candidate in a meeting this Thursday.

Ms. Bisanz, who will be acclaimed to the post as the lone candidate to put their name forward, said she made her decision to jump back in the provincial race where she will face off against Progressive Conservative candidate and incumbent MPP Frank Klees, NDP candidate Robin Wardlaw, and a Green Party candidate to be determined, because she wanted to see

Ontario continue with the "positive changes" brought forward by the current Liberal government.

"I was very concerned with what I saw as a need to make sure the Province continued to move forward with positive changes that would benefit not only the current population and residents of Ontario and our strong community, but for the future of our children through accessible and quality health care, strong schools, sustainable environment and all the other things that I saw as core Liberal values that I supported," she says.

Ms. Bisanz, who lived in Aurora for

nearly a decade after growing up in north Toronto before moving to Newmarket with her family 20 years ago, says she had been considering throwing her hat in the ring but initially decided to continue in her career as CEO of the Ontario Long-Term Care Association.

As her concerns grew, however, so, too, did her desire to re-enter the political fray.

"As my situation changed and I continued to just develop more and more concerns about how we could so easily not only lose the ground that we have made and the important founda-

tional steps that have been taken in this province through a Liberal government over the last eight years, but that we would also stand to lose the ability to progress forward together," she says.

It is moving forward together that binds Ms. Bisanz' vision for Newmarket-Aurora and Ontario as a whole, she said.

Being "forward-looking" is very important for Ontario, and in Newmarket-Aurora, and she says this entails seeing "progressive infrastructure and transit, community spaces

Please see page 5



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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents the first of four outdoor painting classes this month from artist/instructor Herbert Pryke. Learn the joy of summertime painting "en plein air". All mediums welcomed. Classes run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today, August 6, 11 and 13th. The \$120 fee includes all four classes plus a bonus one-hour introductory class. For info or to register contact Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, or call 905-713-1818.

AUGUST 9-10

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

AUGUST 9-20

Theatre Aurora kick starts its 54th season, with The Cemetery Club, a comedy by Ivan Menchell. The first performance is August 9, and continues August 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, and finishing August 20. All performances are at 8 p.m. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora. You can now purchase tickets on-line through the web-site www.theatreaurora.com, or you may contact the Theatre Aurora Box Office by phone at 905-727-3669, or by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

A fundraiser, called "Goats For Africa", will be held this evening from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Timberlane Athletic Club, 155 Vandorf Road. A barbecue, catered by the Roving Chef, will kick things off and participants will be able to listen to music provided by "The Timecats". Also included in the evening's events will be a raffle, wine tasting and a cash bar. Admittance is \$45 with all proceeds going to P.R.E.F.E.R (poverty - reduction - education - family empowerment - Rwanda) to send children to school and buy goats to sustain families. Tickets are available from Dorothy Campbell. Call her at home 905-237-9066, at work 905-830-4444, extension 2303 or on her cell at 905-751-6342. She is also available by e-mail at dorothy.campbell119@gmail.com or dorothy.campbell@york.ca.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

The 38th Annual Antique & Classic Car Show will be held today from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum on Don Mills (Woodbine) Road. Rain date is August 21. Join in as exhibitors from across southern Ontario display their prized antique and classic cars. Food is available in the tea room or off the barbecue. Historic buildings will be open with heritage demonstrations, children's activities and live entertainment. Admission is \$7 (children under 7 free) or \$17 per family of up to four. For more information call 905-727-8954.

AUGUST 15-18

Here's your chance to join Dr. Hyoun Park and bridge the gap between Grade 12 Calculus/Vectors and first year university calculus. Join Dr. Park at the Aurora Public Library for four days of calculus problem-solving in preparation for university. Classes begin at 6 p.m. for two hours in the Optimist room. The event, while restricted to students entering 1st year university calculus only, is free although seating is limited. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk or call 905-727-9493, option 4.

AUGUST 23, 24

Aurora Cultural Centre presents a series of two individual Camp Days for children ages 6 to 12. A full day brimming with a variety of music, dance, art projects, improv and theatre games; \$45 per child. Bonus before-and-after care included in price; inquire about special rates for sibling/friend registration. The Aurora Cultural Centre is located at 22 Church Street. For information or to register call 905-713-1818 or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SEPTEMBER 9-11

The sixth annual Ribfest will be held this

weekend in Machell Park. It will operate Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 11

The 14th Annual Aurora and Newmarket Parkinson SuperWalk will take place at Fairy Lake in Newmarket. Registration, a Yoga demonstration by The Royal Pathways Inc., and speeches begin at 9.30 a.m. under the main pavilion closest to the Water Street entrance. The walk begins at 10.30 a.m. For more information or to volunteer call Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774 or e-mail kimp@sympatico.ca For more information on Parkinson's or to register on-line visit www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca

OCTOBER 1

The Juno nominated Sultans of String bring their CD release tour to the Aurora Cultural Centre tonight at 7.30. Tickets are available at the door from the Cultural Centre for general admission seating for \$30. Advance tickets are \$25.

CONTINUING

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at 44 Metcalfe Street, Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All monies raised are used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

The Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Richard Heinzle, meets every Wednesday afternoon in the West-McKenzie Hall of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Members meet at 1.30 p.m. and rehearsals are from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. New members are always welcome. For more information call the desk at 905-726-4767.

Aurora Probus Club, which meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Aurora Legion, will not meet during July and August. They will reconvene September 14th. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROfessional and BUSiness people, hence the name. New members are welcome. For more information, call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a capella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or e-mail Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

The Aurora Lions Club meets the second and fourth Thursdays at the Aurora Lions Hall, corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets. Co-ed club welcomes new members. For further information, call 905-727-6079.

Martha's Table, the community lunch program offered at St. Andrew's Church, Aurora, will open again on Thursday, September 1, after closing for the summer.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the co-ordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.

Aurora Opera Children's Chorus welcomes treble voices. It is a choir dedicated to nurturing and providing opportunities for children to express their musical abilities. The chorus is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Contact the general director at keepsinging@rogers.com.

Community Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) is looking for volunteers to assist with the activities in its Adult Day Program. The positions call for a commitment of a few hours a week at its Aurora location. Various times are available. Call Christine at 905-713-3494.

Every Wednesday from 6.30 to 8 p.m. the Pioneer Club for boys and girls, age

three to Grade 4 and the Junior High Club for boys and girls, Grades 5 to 8, will be held at the Aurora Cornerstone Church, 390 Industrial Parkway South. For more information call 905-841-8884.

A drop-in centre will operate every Wednesday at the Community Bible Church on Bathurst Street just south of Henderson from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information e-mail Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@sympatico.ca.

Scottish Country Dancing on Tuesday evenings at 8.15 p.m. at the Aurora Heights Public School and Friday mornings at St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church beginning at 10.30 a.m. No partners are needed and beginners are welcome. For more information, call Helen at 905-713-3439 or Agnes at 905-841-2747.

Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday at 6.30 p.m. at Gabriel's on Yonge Street. New members are welcome.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge 148 meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. at 15216 Yonge Street, south of Wellington. For more information call 905-830-9205.

Masonic Rising Sun Lodge meets the first Thursday of each month at the Rising Sun Temple, 57 Mosley Street, Aurora at 7.30 p.m.

Robertson Masonic Lodge meets the third Saturday each month at 57 Mosley Street at 10.30 a.m. Coffee Club at 9 a.m. and lunch at noon. Call 905-727-3032 or 905-727-1080 for more information.

Gamblers Anonymous meets every Tuesday night at Trinity Anglican Church, Victoria Street, at 7.30 p.m.

Progressive Euchre every Thursday night at the Aurora Legion at 7.30 p.m. Call 905-727-9932.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds monthly meetings at the Aurora Legion with a variety of speakers. Contact Beverley at 905-727-2151.

Four people from Aurora win Duke of Edinburgh awards

Young Aurorans had their own encounter with royalty last week as Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, presented them with their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards at a ceremony in Toronto.

Of the 156 award recipients at the ceremony at the Holcim Gallery of Evergreen Brickworks were four Aurora youth: Sarah Knowles, Geoffrey Ruddock, and sisters Augusta and Jade White.

For Augusta and Jade, whose older sister also received a Gold Award through the Duke of

Edinburgh's Award Scene (and who also have a younger brother at the award's bronze level) Tuesday's award ceremony was very much a family affair.

"There was a real sense of pride in me," said Augusta, reflecting on the ceremony. "There was a real sense of pride that these are three strong, independent leaders, family leaders, who have been able to achieve this and it was a real sense of community just being around the rest of the young people in the room. There was a sense of

energy in the room that you could feel being part of something so great, and it [also fostered] curiosity as to how other people achieved their awards."

Seeing the sheer number of fellow students and youth that not only participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, but also achieved the ultimate Gold Award, was awe inspiring for Jade, who said when she completed the program, she didn't know many other people doing it.

For these students, one of

Please see page 3

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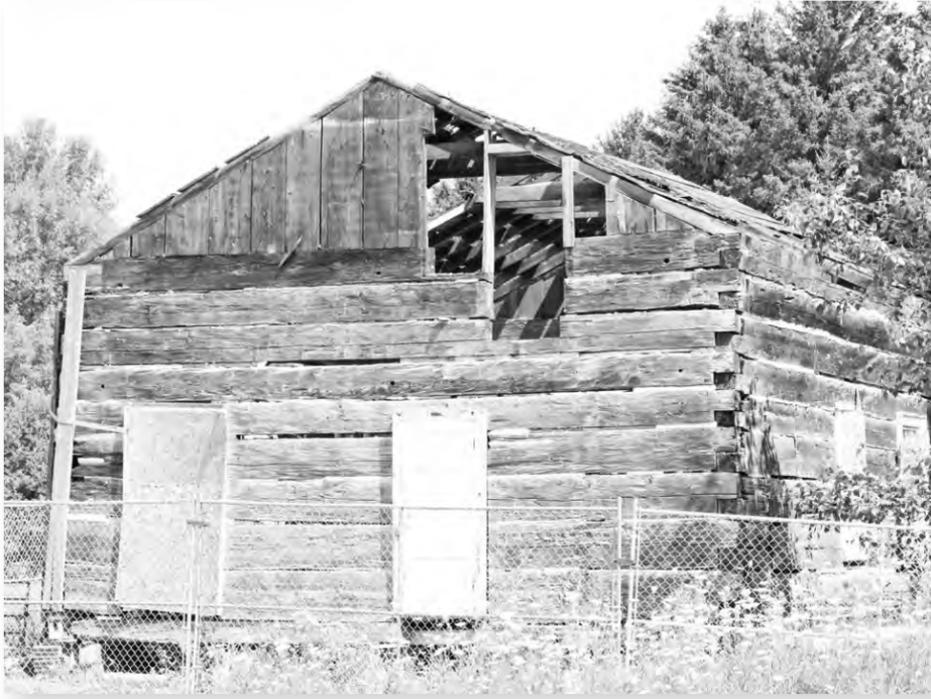
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The roof is now off the Petch House as workers renovate one of the oldest buildings in York Region. The building will, once restored, be relocated to an area of the Aurora Arboretum near the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Currently, the Petch House is located Town of Aurora property south of Wellington Street, on Leslie Street.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Councillor's Notice of Motion would create smoke-free areas near town's recreation facilities

"Peer pressure" could get people to butt out if near municipal recreation facilities, if Deputy Mayor John Abel has his way.

Councillor Abel made the first step in efforts to increase smoke-free areas around recreational facilities, including playgrounds, in a Notice of Motion at Council last month.

In his Notice of Motion, he points out that the Town of Aurora has undertaken a "public education campaign" to discourage drivers from idling their cars, putting up signs around town promoting "Idle Free Zones", along with a subsequent media strategy.

This, he said, should be expanded to include outdoor recreation space.

"Second hand smoke has been shown to affect young children more significantly than adults and, further, young children most often frequent our outdoor recreation areas such as playgrounds and park areas," said Councillor Abel in his motion, which goes on to direct staff to "implement a similar education campaign to the idle-free campaign, by erecting signs in our Town Parks and any other outdoor recreational areas promoting a smoke-free environment."

When The Auroran asked Councillor Abel why he brought this item forward, not only did he say he brought the item forward out of plain old "common sense" but also stemming from conversations he has had both before and after the municipal election with representatives of the Canadian Cancer Society.

If his motion is passed by council when it comes up for discussion this month, he said one of the biggest challenges surrounding this issue is enforcement.

"It would take a lot of funds and resources to monitor these sorts of events," he said, of people found smoking in newly minted smoke-free zones. "Most people would not smoke around

their children or in their environment, but some people would probably not be aware of it.

"I think enforcement is one of the issues and that's why we're going to ask for it to be voluntary. When someone lights a cigarette it lasts for about seven minutes, so you can't have a response to that. But when you have a sign there and someone was smoking around a playground it is kind of like peer pressure.

"A concerned person can say there is a bylaw and I'm sure a smoker would say, 'I'm sorry,' and move on to an appropriate area away from children."

What Councillor Abel

proposes is quite similar to new anti-smoking bylaws in other municipalities such as Georgina which prohibits smoking at, and within a 10-metre radius of, all public parks and recreation facilities.

Aurora's anti-idling "education program" went into effect in the winter of 2010.

As council did not have an official anti-idling bylaw, it was seen by the council of the day as a "pre-emptive educational measure".

Signs were installed outside Town facilities like arenas where idling engines were deemed to be particularly problematic, especially in the winter months.

Four locals win awards

From page 2

the highlights of the ceremony was having the opportunity to speak to Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, youngest son of the Queen and the Awards' founder Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince Philip, who turned 90 in June, founded the Duke of Edinburgh's Award program in 1956 as a three-level awards scheme consisting of bronze, silver, and gold levels.

The first gold awards were presented in 1958 and made their Canadian debut in 1963.

Since then, more than 500,000 Canadians have taken part in the program at various levels.

Students between the

ages of 14 and 24 can participate in the program which focuses on achievements in the area of physical activities, skills development, volunteerism, a residential component of working away from home on a collective activity, and an expedition abroad.

While Prince Philip remains patron of the awards and presented a batch of Gold Awards in Toronto last year, his son has gradually taken on increasing responsibilities entailed with the program, often presenting awards in and around Canada as he did last week.

"I had never met a royal before, and was actually very surprised," said Geoffrey.

"You'd think that obviously as Prince Edward has to go around and do this a lot you'd think that it would get tiring, but he was very interested."

This is a sentiment also shared by Augusta and Jade

"Prince Edward was very welcoming, very warm, and very excited to be there and truly intrigued and interacted with every student on a personal level," said Augusta. "As he went around, he talked to everyone and asked questions and for me it was about me and my family."

Augusta said Prince Edward took the time to speak to her brother, encouraging him to stick with the program.

"We actually discussed how young leaders have the potential to influence one another to do great things, so just in those short moments we really connected on that level."

Prince Edward's personable nature also had an impact with Jade who said he showed "genuine caring" to all those he spoke to.

"It was really amazing for me to see that he was such a nice guy," she said. "It didn't surprise me, but he was so genuine and he would look you in the eyes and was just so kind and really cared about how you got there and what struggles you went through [in the program]."

"It was just really rewarding that after all that work to see so many people appreciated and cared and it was just great."

Kaufman, which opens January 27, running through February 11.

A three-act play, The Laramie Project looks at local reaction to the murder of a gay student from the University of Wyoming.

In a definite change of pace, Mary Chase's classic comedy Harvey, about Elwood P. Dowd's relationship with what seems to be an imaginary giant rabbit, closes out the season from April 13 - 28.

Tickets are available from the Theatre Aurora box office at 905-727-3669, and are also available online at www.theatreaurora.com.

While individual performance tickets are \$23, \$95 gets you the entire season.

As Theatre Aurora launches its new season, however, they are always looking for volunteers on stage, backstage, or at the front of the house.

To volunteer, you are invited to contact the Theatre at the number above.

Theatre is ready for 54th season

The 54th season of Theatre Aurora kicks off on Tuesday, August 9, with The Cemetery Club.

The Cemetery Club, a comedy by Ivan Menchell, is a play about a friendship among three widows who make a pact to visit their husbands' graves together each month, runs through August 20 and is followed by the Canadian drama, The Drawer Boy.

The Drawer Boy, written by Michael Healy, which follows a young actor from a Toronto troupe as he heads to a rural Ontario farm to research a role, runs from September 30 to October 15.

The last play of 2011, which arrives at Theatre Aurora just in time for the Holiday season, is the musical You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown by Clark Gesner.

"Charlie Brown" opens on November 30 and runs through December 10.

The first play of the New Year is scheduled to be The Laramie Project, a drama by Moises



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Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

Ottawa light show is a "must-see"

If you're travelling in Eastern Ontario, as Patricia and I did for the last two weeks, there is a location that should be marked as a "must".

It's called "Mosaika: Sound and Light Show on Parliament Hill" and it continues throughout the summer.

Best of all, if you can imagine anything free in Ottawa, it's free.

Mosaika is the story of Canada.

It's a powerful narrative set against the spectacular backdrop of Parliament Hill, and Mosaika takes the audience on an unforgettable journey of sound and light, as it explores Canada's physical, historical and cultural landscapes.

All this is accomplished using the centre block of the parliament buildings as a "screen".

The free, bilingual show is presented nightly and runs from July through September 5.

In August the show starts at 9.30 p.m. and in September at 9 p.m.

Cleverly, we took lawn chairs with us and they became very useful during the show.

We didn't have to go far to see the spectacular light show, since we treated ourselves to a couple of nights in the Chateau Laurier Hotel, located right next door to the Parliament buildings.

Interestingly enough, it wasn't our favourite spot.

That had to be an old house, located near downtown Kingston, owned by a couple of antique collectors. They had turned the place into a hotel, known as the Belvedere, and our stay there was worth every penny.

We could walk downtown, where the city was celebrating a busker event. There must have been 100,000 people there to watch the crazy people perform.

Actually, Patricia found out about the Belvedere by reading a travel writer's report in the Trawna Star.

The writer had stayed at the place and was taken by it, so we had to follow suit.

Everything the writer said in the story was bang on the mark, including the restaurants recommended.

We followed, like a couple of little dogs after a scent, every word written and, thankfully for the writer, everything worked out well.

The only place that left a bad taste in my mouth was the East Side Mario's location in the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Niagara Falls.

After standing there like a couple of dummies, we were ignored as the seater found spaces for five people behind us.

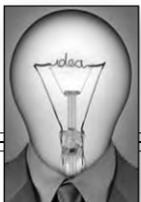
At that point we took what was left of our money and found another restaurant.

Which isn't a problem in a Tourist Trap like Niagara Falls.

We did all the right things, too, like getting wet aboard a Maid of the Mist which found its way into the heart of the Canadian Falls and going round and round aboard a huge Ferris Wheel, located just off Clifton Hill, the street in the Falls guaranteed to take your money.

It wasn't easy to come back to work, since my replacement, Brock Weir, had done a wonderful job of producing two papers while we were away. Thanks, Brock.

I now need two weeks off, to recover from the two-week holiday.



100 Watts

By Christopher Watts

Child's play

As a parent of two children under five, I fully appreciate how unpredictable child's play is and could never endorse imposing limits based solely on worst-case scenarios.

Back in grade school, supported by two of my classmates, I reached the cross-post of a soccer-net in our schoolyard.

Victory was cut short when the school bell rang.

Like something out of a cartoon the classmate on the bottom left two of us hanging, literally. Returning to the ground was accompanied by a resounding thud and a sprained ankle.

Posing obvious safety risks to children, soccer-nets can still be found in parks, everywhere.



By a total fluke, or perhaps kismet, a 1943 photo of his grandfather, J.H. Knowles, above right, is now in the possession of former councillor Bob McRoberts. Not often, maybe once a month he scans the Living in Aurora (www.livinginaurora.ca) blog. There are typically some very nice photos of in and around Aurora. A few weeks ago, a particular photograph caught his eye. As instructed in the blog, he contacted Anna Lozyk Romeo and explained his connection to one of the people in the photo. J.H. Knowles was principal of Aurora High School (the original one) from 1923 to 1958. The lady in the photo, Gladys Humphrys, taught at the school from 1941 to 1945. He would like to thank Anna for giving him the photo, and the story of how it got back to Aurora, may be found on Page 6. And we would like to thank Mr. McRoberts for sending us the photo, which is the one that Anna found in the book.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you

To the editor,

I just wanted to thank you very much for listing the SuperWalk in the coming events section.

I really appreciate the

help!

Have a great rest of your summer.

Kim Rouse
Director
MayWeHelpU Inc.

—THE AURORAN—

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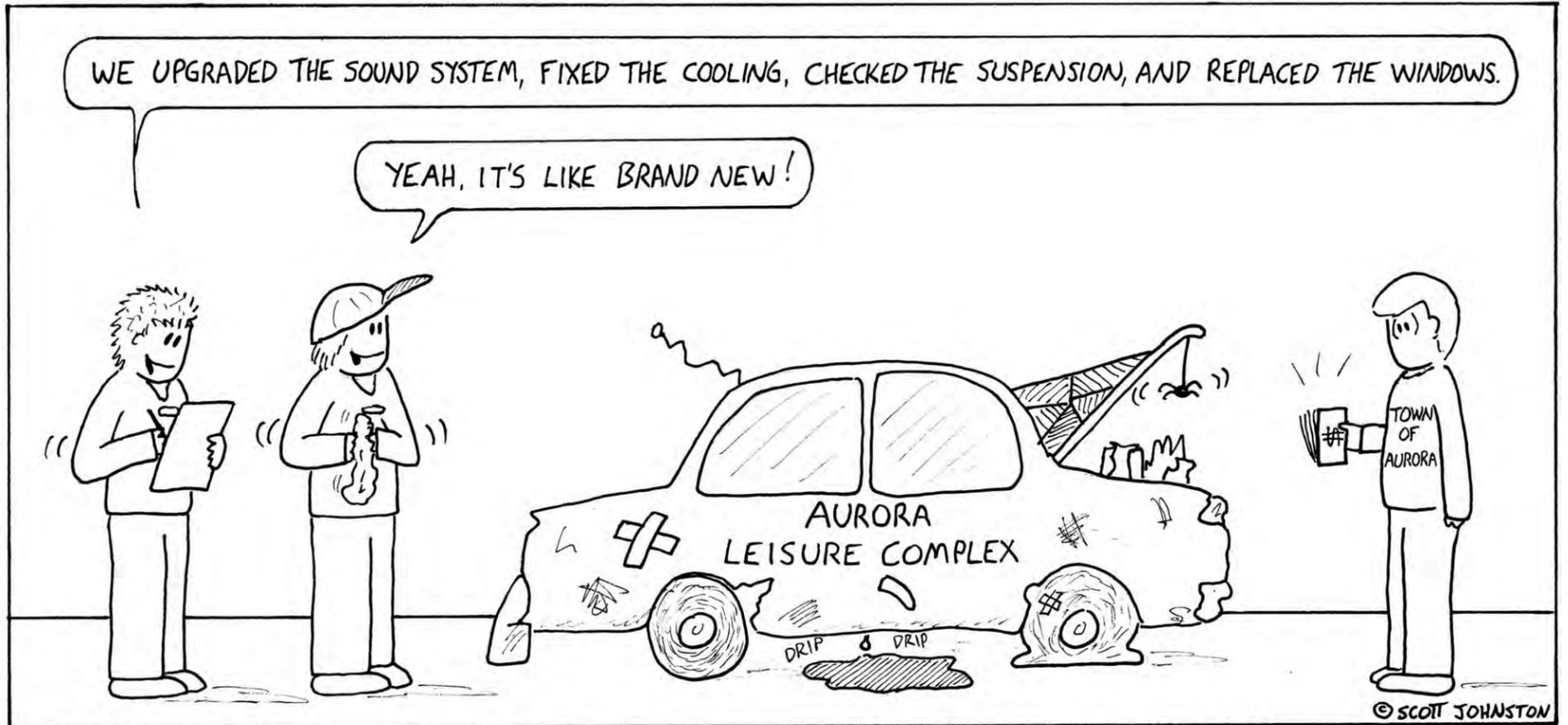
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Front Porch Perspective

By Stephen Somerville

This column returns (after a short hiatus due to my vacation) to the local Before themes of people, politics and public affairs.

Below are some unconnected, stream-of-conscious and (most likely) incoherent musings and observations regarding the summer season in Aurora.

Last week the Aurora Youth Soccer Association initiated a one-time experimental program where spectators were to remain silent while watching the action.

Only clapping was allowed.

It sure felt odd watching my seven-year-old son's soccer game. I kind of felt like I was at Wimbledon.

You know - the intermittent clapping that goes with a fine shot - minus the champagne and strawberries, though!

My verdict - I did not like it much.

But I can certainly understand why the experiment was tried.

I think it is great when people cheer for their children.

What I don't like are the buffoons in our community who castigate the referees, especially when, for the little tyke's games, the refs are usually 14 years of age or so.

Over the last couple of weeks Ontarians have experienced some serious days of heat, although luckily enough, we have not had any blackouts.

Peak energy demand in Ontario was about 2,000 MW shy of the 27,000 MW demand peak that was reached back in August of 2005.

As a result of the demand destruction in the economy over the last few years, our energy supply margin had been adequate this

summer.

But that doesn't mean that we don't need an adult conversation about energy policy and choices. And lucky for all of you, you will get a chance to weigh in on this and other issues on October 6 when we go the polls...provincially, that is.

This will be the first election that I can recall where energy policy will most likely be an important public discourse.

The last time energy was even spoken out was in 2003 when the provincial Liberals promised to close the coal fired plants in the province by 2007 (this is now scheduled to happen by the end of 2014), but this issue was not front and centre.

In a future column I plan to examine the energy policies of the respective parties and give my take on how their policies will impact price in the province.

An appropriate way to end this rambling soliloquy would be for me to make one of my patented, dead-on and fearless election predictions for this fall.

Here goes.

First, polls for the last number of months have consistently shown Tim Hudak and the PC's with a seven to 10 point lead over-all.

These poll results would translate in a healthy majority in the fall for Mr. Hudak and the Tories.

But as we all know, campaigns have a funny way of derailing the best developed plans.

Witness the 2007 provincial election and John Tory's decision to extend faith based funding.

Summer musings

I believe that it will be a minority government (either way) once the dust settles after October 6th. There are a couple of reasons for this.

One, the Liberals have not really begun to fight.

They have a large campaign war chest and their third party supporters have not yet bombarded the air waves with any media ads.

Second, the Premier has been through three campaigns now (winning two and losing his initial try to Mike Harris in 1999) and he is a seasoned performer.

I believe that Mr. Hudak will perform very well but it will be a very tight contest that will be settled in very close contests in about 25 of the 107 ridings.

The other wild card in all this is the NDP.

Andrew Horvath is photogenic, intelligent, and a good speaker, fast on her feet and will be a worthy debate night opponent for the other two leaders.

Will some of Jack Layton's federal magic assist Ms. Horvath?

There could be a scenario, although very unlikely in my book, whereby the Liberals finish third, behind the Tories and NDP, because the Liberals get squeezed from both the right and left of the political spectrum.

And last, the Leafs will be sitting fifth (and comfortably within the playoffs) in their division by Christmas!

Stephen can be contacted at:
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Bisanz expected to be Liberal candidate in riding

From page 1

and services that will continue to support our families, seniors, and youth to live well and healthy, and high value jobs that will secure Newmarket-Aurora's competitiveness both in terms of the Province but also the global economy."

It is a two-way street, Ms. Bisanz said, when asked whether her career in health care and advocacy had helped define her vision or whether her vision shaped her career.

While she said she has worked with a number of businesses and organizations through advocacy, the positions and clients have allowed her to have a "broader perspective" on what is important for Newmarket-Aurora's business community, health sector, and also to the people at large.

"I think that has enabled me to understand the importance of partnerships, working collab-

oratively together, focusing on positive outcomes and also looking at ways that we can be innovative and move, whether it is an individual sector or industry or advocacy arena, forward," she said on her not-for-profit business background.

Moving forward into the heat of an election campaign, which is only going to get warmer as the province approaches the October 6 election day, Ms. Bisanz says one of her biggest assets going forward is being able to bring a "fresh perspective" to the community, something she said the riding is looking for.

She added she would also be committed to working full time representing Newmarket-Aurora, "and that is a representative that has an ambition that is none other to be that representative for this community."

That being said, she conceded she will face challenges

during the campaign, one of which will be getting the message out to voters about the "advantages and positive progress" the Liberal government has brought to the province over the last eight years.

"I remember in the last election that was one of the major concerns people had here was that they couldn't get a family physician," she says. "Now we have physicians who are actually posting that they are open to new patients. Wait times in hospitals was another where Ontario, and in particular Southlake, has made significant strides and progress in reducing those wait times. Jobs, of course, will be another key element in this election and for people in this community. I think that the policies and the innovative agenda, the support for renewable energy sectors has created and [will] lead to some

significant high-value jobs.

"Those are all things where I think when people understand what the true facts are and see where the progress has really been made and move away from the rhetoric that hopefully they will see that another four years of a Liberal government will only increase the ability for us to move forward together in this community."

One challenge that is likely to come up is perceived voter dissatisfaction with the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST).

While Ms. Bisanz said the HST was a "hard choice" for the Liberals to bring in, she added there will be "longer term value" in having an integrated tax system.

"We should be seeing the benefits of the input tax credits through the business community and there is quite a lot of money dependant on flowing from the Federal government

into the province dependant on having that harmonized tax system."

These kinds of "hard choices" will also have to be faced by Aurorans standing in front of the ballot box this fall.

Whether or not the riding has tired of the present Liberal government remains to be seen, but Ms. Bisanz said the party has "picked up the gauntlet" to make a strong foundation for Ontario's future.

"Getting us here has meant giving us some really hard choices and decisions that weren't always popular, but I think in the end we have to ask ourselves, 'Are we doing what we need to do in order to get where we need to be?'" she said. "To me, the value of tough decisions and choices is measured by the legacy of what we leave to our future and our children's future."

"It is important to recognize

that you have one of three options. If you want to maintain and increase and enhance services such as accessible health care, such as strong schools, full day kindergarten, a strong economy, job creation, support for innovation, all of those things come with a cost. You either increase revenue, decrease taxes, or decrease services, so what are people willing to give up for paying a little less?

"Are we willing to sacrifice the environment? Are we willing to sacrifice the strides and achievements we've made in strengthening the schools, in strengthening the community resources and supports, and ensuring that we have green space that is maintained for the enjoyment of the entire community. Is it worth sacrificing that because somebody tells you that you need to have a few more dollars in your pocket?"

Letters to the Editor

Journey of the lost photo from Aurora

To the editor,

Photography is one of the most powerful ways to preserve the past since its invention in the early 1800s.

Over 180 years an infinite number of photographs have been captured - faces and places all around the world.

For most of us the photography has preserved valuable family memories of our ancestors, and sometimes the memories we never had of them.

We look at photographs every day.

Our conscious mind scans for faces and places or other articles, but have you gone beyond?

October 1943. An unknown photographer looks into the viewfinder of his camera and casually snaps a photograph of two high school teachers, Mr. Knowles and Miss Humphrys.

One can only assume that it was taken on the Aurora High School grounds here in Aurora.

Who was looking into the camera's viewfinder at that time?

Where was the dark-

room at which the photograph was developed?

Who scribbled their names with a fountain pen on the back of the photograph?

Who owned the photograph then?

These are questions that may remain forever unanswered.

Presumably for more than 45 years the photograph of the teachers from Aurora had an owner.

At one point in time the photograph was placed inside a book written by W. John McIntyre - Aurora A History in Pictures

(Published 1988).

More unanswered questions, how it got there, exactly when and why?

It is possible that the photograph spent 20 years in the book and it is also possible it was only there for a few years.

The photograph may have never been in the possession of the family of Knowles or Humphrys.

Maybe it was the photographer who owned this photo and the book, notably since the two teachers were not related.

It is hard to believe that a family would leave such a

family treasure behind. On second thought, was it a mishap?

The book hit the book stand again but this time with the photographic treasure inside.

The book, Aurora, A History in Pictures (also signed by the author Mr. McIntyre) with a photograph of the two teachers book-marking page 47 was bought by book hunters here in the Aurora library used book sale.

Page 47 in the book has The Aurora High School Glee Club, 1948 photograph; where Principal J.H. Knowles stands at the top far left corner. Someone found the match.

Later the book was placed for sale online on Amazon.

The seller left the almost 65 year old photograph in the book and later wrote me: 'We thought maybe, the person who bought the book would know who the people were so we just left it in the book.'

A used collectible copy of the Aurora, A History in Pictures book with a lost photographic treasure travelling North America arrived in Aurora in June, 2011, from Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, United States.

It was back home once again here in Aurora along with the book and in my hands.

It was a lost photographic treasure, but it wasn't mine.

I posted the photograph and the background information on my blog.

I researched on the Knowles and Humphrey's in

an Aurora paper from early 1940s.

I received leads and suggestions from others for which I am greatly thankful.

Later, I received a phone call from a long time resident of Aurora, my blog reader and descendant from the Knowles family - Mr. Bob McRoberts.

Mr. McRoberts, now the owner of the photograph, is the grandson of Mr. J.H. Knowles, one of the teachers in the photograph.

My written documentary of the once lost photograph ends here.

Maybe one day someone will tell more and fill in the missing blanks of time.

However, the journey of the photograph does not end here, it only continues with the McRobert's family.

Anna Lozyk Romeo
Aurora

Pair lost in Sheppard's Bush

To the editor,

I could almost see the headlines in The Auroran this week "Two Women lost in Sheppard's Bush" as my friend, Brenda, and I lost (just misplaced for a while) our way Tuesday evening.

We had taken our first Nordic Pole Walking course from Shawn Nisbet on Sunday and decided we required a lot of practice before we met with Shawn again.

It's not as easy as one would imagine.

Shawn had explained all the benefits of this walking exercise but she had me at "Nordic Pole Walking will tighten up that jiggling flesh on your underarms".

You know what she was talking about - the reason we wear short

sleeves avoiding bare arms like the plague.

Standing straight, walking, dragging poles while pumping your arms was a foreign experience to say the least and not a pretty sight to any onlookers seeing us newbies.

However, walking is something I can do and the poles added the bonus of a 90 per cent of my body workout.

Well worth a try!

Back to Sheppard's Bush!

I had been to this park on several occasions but not walked the myriad of paths before.

I know I was distracted by the sheer beauty of this natural oasis with its babbling brooks, forest and well tended paths.

I thought I even saw the elusive Aurora bear but it was just a black

rock, I think.

There were even several pieces of exercise equipment scattered throughout the western portion of the fields.

However, after we had "Nordic Pole" walked until I was ready to return to the parking lot, we ended up at a dead end, in the backyards of what looked like homes off Bayview.

We turned around and swallowing our pride asked a runner for directions back.

She was very gracious, didn't even snicker, and provided us with our way home.

We will definitely go back to do our walking at Sheppard's Bush as it seems that the people who use this park are used to seeing the "Nordic Pole" walkers.

I think I will wait a while

to impose my pole walking on unsuspecting individuals elsewhere in the community.

Once again, Aurorites, Aurorans (whatever), you are fortunate to have this natural sanctuary in the middle of town.

In a follow-up to last week's musings, the Weather Network was incredibly accurate, right down to the minute, of Sunday and Mondays' rain forecast.

I had checked, almost praying for an accurate rain forecast, and was pleasantly surprised at the thunderstorm that woke me up at 5 a.m. on Monday morning and then more rain early Tuesday.

I will always give credit where credit is due!

Bonnie Tiffin
Oak Ridges

Tips will help newcomer

To the editor,

According to Statistics Canada, in 2006, there were 892,715 people living in York Region.

There were 380,530 immigrants living in York Region at that time.

Approximately, over 1/3, of this total population were first generation and more than 150,000 people were 2nd and 3rd generation residents.

The vast majority of these newcomers spoke English.

Almost 3,000 residents spoke French as their mother tongue; but 236,430 people spoke a non-official language in

York Region.

The newcomers need to start to get settled into their new neighbourhoods quickly.

An immigration expert, in the July 2011 issue of the Canadian Immigrant, says that there are five important steps for immigrants to take in order to start working.

First, open a bank account. Without a bank account, it is impossible to deposit your paycheck. Second, get a computer with internet access. Jobs are found posted on websites and housing information is available on some websites. Libraries have computers which newcom-

ers can access if they do not have a computer at their home to use.

Third, get a credit card. Credit cards help people establish credit and a way to help pay for things while they wait for a paycheck.

Fourth, obtain a cell phone for any job interview opportunities. A recruiter will phone rather than use an email to arrange a job interview.

Fifth, networking is important to improve your

chances for employment. Job opportunities are often found out from a friend, or a relative who is already working at a company.

It helps to make friends and new contacts to improve your chances to get a job and to settle into Canada.

These tips can help a newcomer get started in their new land.

Jim Jackson
Aurora

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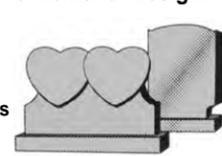
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The Aurora Fire Department, now part of the Central York Fire Services, has moved into temporary quarters from its Edward Street location for the next few months, while workers renovate the Edward Street site. Trucks and equipment have been moved to a structure on Industrial Parkway South, once a home to a York Regional Police unit. The police have since relocated to a new building in Aurora's east end. Fire officials say it doesn't anticipate any change in response times because of the move. *Auroran photos by Ron Wallace*

Aurora okays addition of 34 names for streets

Reminders of Aurora's early rail history and the father of Lester B. Pearson could be found in Aurora's future streetscapes as council with formal approval okayed the addition of 34 new names to the Town's bank of possible street names.

But out of recent discussions surrounding these selected names arose the concern that the Town needs a clear policy on naming streets after living individuals.

The concerns came out of a motion made at a recent general committee meeting when Councillor Paul Pirri proposed discussing the street name bank in closed session rather than in the open public session as he wanted to put the name of an Aurora resident "still relatively active in the community" onto the list.

"If I am putting forward a name and other individuals are saying why this individual shouldn't [be included on the list] it could be perceived as mudslinging," said Councillor Pirri. "I wouldn't want them to be pulled into that in a public forum."

In his reasoning, Councillor

Pirri recalled an incident in the previous council term when an individual got wind that his name was being considered for a similar honour and came to the council chamber with his family to hear the final approval.

But the proposal was ultimately rejected by the council of the day.

"I don't think it is appropriate to be talking about somebody and having it potentially go the wrong way and having their name put out and having the merits of that being discussed, whether for or against, in public," he said.

Councillor Pirri found "100 per cent agreement" in going into closed session from Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

But Councillor Gaertner said that that the overall picture needs to be looked at for future proposals regarding living Aurora individuals.

"My concern is with the process," she said. "I think there should be something in the policy that covers this, how we do this when we want to name someone who is living because mostly it does say an emphasis is placed on histori-

cal persons or families, etc. We don't usually name someone who is alive and there is nothing in the policy that covers that."

Street names submitted for approval included "Radial" noting the early railway that ran through Town; "Capreol" honouring Frederick Capreol "who was the principle promoter of the railway in 1850s Aurora"; "Edwin Pearson" in honour of the father of Canada's 14th Prime Minister; "Rothwell", commemorating Ted Rothwell who "owned a prominent Aurora Harness Shop"; and "Thomas Phillips" in memory of an early landowner.

While council directed staff to bring forward revisions to the street naming policy coming out of closed session, the names proposed join names already approved including "Dennis Reed", after the Town volunteer; "Krochter", after police officer James Krochter; and names honouring First Reeve Joseph Hartman, former Councillors Don Constable and Norm Stewart, and the fondly remembered late Aurora merchant Vic Parainfo.

Public input sought for Strategic Plan

Don't be surprised if you're approached at Town functions and sporting events in the near future asking your opinions about Aurora's future - it is all part of getting public input in preparation for Aurora's new strategic plan.

These "intercept interviews" will provide a good chunk of public input for the planning document, the draft framework of which was approved at Council recently.

In the framework, a number of issues are outlined that look towards drafting vision and goals for the community, economy, and natural environment, what planners describe as the "pillars" of the plan.

Framed on the key vision of "Building our past, creating our future through leadership and innovation", the strategic plan, when completed, is expected to be divided into five key component areas: "Aurora - A Great Place to Live, Work and Play", which will introduce and extol the virtues of the municipality; "Aurora 2031: Today, Tomorrow, Our Future Together", describing the history and value of the plan; "Our Community Vision", a description of the community vision and plan's guiding principles; "The Pillars of Success", outlining the goals and objectives of areas related to the economy, community, and natural environment; and finally "Implementation, Evaluation and Monitoring", which outlines how the plans will be guided into place.

"The framework also articulates a draft vision, guiding principles and goals of the Strategic Plan," said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe in a report. "These key components of the Strategic Plan will be used in the development of objectives and action items and act as the basis for public consultation."

In a presentation to council just before they gave the go-ahead to the draft framework, Strategic Plan consultant Joe Pittari said community engagement has already begun.

"We've done some grassroots engagement of families and youth at various community events, intercept-type interviews at soccer tournaments with parents, with youth themselves at Canada Day festivities, as well as having some information available at Wednesday Concerts in the Park," he said.

"Moving forward, we have

the following engagement activities planned - further intercept interviews, getting out into the community, additional steering committee meetings, online engagement and social media, communications via the website, local papers, newsletters and e-blasts, further workshops with a wide variety of individuals and groups across Town, public workshops and open houses."

The goal of the consultant is to work collaboratively with the Town to develop "a realistic and achievable plan which defines procedures, actions, and the tools needed to achieve sustainability," he said.

The existing vision in the plan reflects input gathered from these stakeholders, which also includes "recognition and encouragement of community contributions and volunteerism."

"Based on that, we are looking to get further feedback from stakeholders on the draft plan - building on our past, creating our future through leadership and innovation," he added.

In addition to the intercept group, the consultant is also looking to make connections via the local school boards to examine any opportunities to engage youth in the process.

One way to engage youth, he said, is a contest they are bringing forward to provide feedback, along with online contribution components and social media endeavours. This is in advance of further public workshops slated to begin in September.

A work plan to update the Town's Strategic Plan was approved last March and the consulting contract was awarded to DPRA and a Strategic Plan steering committee of council and staff was established to oversee the Plan.

The composition of the committee, however, was a matter of debate following the

receipt of Mr. Pittari's presentation and the accompanying report from Neil Garbe.

In her comments to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Councillor Wendy Gaertner wondered why the "usual process" of having a council meeting to discuss the composition of the steering committee was not followed "instead of having it behind the scenes and you making the decision".

"If you will recall, Councillor Gaertner, there was a memo that was sent out by the CAO sometime towards the end of January...suggesting what the makeup of the steering committee would be, how it would be done, and anyone who was interested could respond to that," said Mayor Dawe. "Within days I had responses from Councillor Thompson, Councillor Humfryes, Councillor Pirri, and Councillor Abel."

When Mayor Dawe asked Councillor Gaertner for clarification on what her issue was, Councillor Thompson asked her if she responded.

"No," she said. "Excuse me, that's really cheeky. That's not my point. The process is that we come to the council table, we discuss the composition of the committees, and we see who wants to sit on them. It's a public process."

Councillor Gaertner also expressed concerns that the meeting times for the steering committee were not ideal for public participation.

The meetings, which are often held at 4 p.m., would be better attended if held during the regular council time of 7 p.m.

"These meetings could have been more accessible to the public for input had they not been held...when a lot of people are not available to come to the meeting," she said.

While steering committee meetings are always open to the public, the public is not invited to make input during the proceedings.

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Sewer maintenance project extended

The Town of Aurora is expected to take advantage of a good deal from Liqui-Force to inspect more municipal sewers than initially anticipated after a project tender came at a lower cost than expected - but some councillors wondered if the Town could get an even better deal if they went back out to tender for a larger contract.

The debate arose during a discussion around the recommendation from Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, that a tender to Liqui-Force be extended for two additional one year periods, "pending an annual analysis and satisfactory performance review".

"Funding in the amount of \$150,000 has been provided for this contract through the 2011 annual operating budget," said Mr. Simanovskis in his report. "This is a unit price contract, the Town can leverage the unit price quotes to maximize the repairs to the full budget amount. It is therefore recommended that the purchase order be increased from the quoted amount of \$64,295 to the budget amount of \$150,000, less non-refundable taxes, to maximize the amount of sewer line to be inspect-

ed." The Town had initially identified eight kilometres of sewer inspections, which will be carried out using closed circuit television (CCTV), based on the available budget.

Through the competitive bid process, the price came in significantly lower than Mr. Simanovskis' department expected.

"When that happens, we generally would like to extend the units and increase the amount of units to do more work for the money," he said. "The corollary with this could also occur where we prepare a scope and all the prices come in above budget, in which case we would reduce the units to meet within our budget envelope. The challenge here is trying to ask for enough work that covers the available funding so we can keep the program growing and whether we actually go over or under."

Councillor Paul Pirri, however, suggested that it would make more sense to go out to tender on the number of units originally in the offering, and then do a separate tender for a remainder of the work. This, he said, would give the Town a competitive advantage.

"I'm not sure we're get-

ting the best bang for our buck in the long run," he said, referring to the recommendation on the table. "I do think with the scope report that we have tendered out for that we have great prices in front of us and I would like to move forward with that, but because I think we could have done better, I don't think we necessarily need to be adding up to what was originally budgeted for the project.

"My thought is if we're giving them more work to be doing, could we get a better price? I definitely think we could. At this point in time we go out with what we tendered for, and then maybe next year we retender again...it depends on what we're satisfied with. We're not asking for a little bit more work, we're asking them to more than double the scope of work that they are doing. If we can get a better price doubling the work I think that would be great for us, but I don't think that would be sound business management for one of these companies."

Councillor Sandra Humfries said she too had "difficulty" going from \$64,000 worth of work on this project to \$150,000 and pondered whether it would cost much more money to go out and

retender the whole project.

"I think that there is an opportunity here," she said. "I just support Councillor Pirri's perspective that we maintain what is there for now, or is there an opportunity to maximise the benefit and see if the provider would do more?"

The proposed agreement for councillors would contract the services to one vendor for three years at a price to which they would be locked in during that period of time. A tender would follow next year to secure the additional work.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, however, pointed out that there is "substantial" internal cost for the Town to prepare tenders, including staff time and resources to prepare and analyse the tenders as they come in.

"I also think that is a substantial issue that we need to be addressing, an increased workload on the staff," he said. "I share the concern that we're moving up our work from the amount that is allocated, but at the same time if we look at [the repairs to the Aurora Family Leisure Complex passed earlier in the evening] we're looking at an over \$500,000 project and that went through on consent."

The recommendations from staff were approved and the CCTV examinations of the Town's sewer systems are part of an ongoing and continual process to review what is happening in the underground infrastructure.

"We have an abundance of CCTV work to do, so it is a perpetual catch-up game and if we can include more with the same amount of money that we have and it is a great opportunity to get more work done without having additional costs," said Mr. Simanovskis, replying in the negative if there will ever be an end in sight to this kind of maintenance project.

"We are behind in respect of understanding what our condition is. We

are making great strides in some of the poor areas along Yonge Street but there are parts of the Town that we need to start looking into that we haven't had the time or the funds to tackle. The Region is also pushing pretty aggressively a multi-year strategy driven by the southeast collector which is essentially mandated all the various municipalities in a very comprehensive infrastructure management program."

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Magna's Hoedown sold out

With still more than a month to go before Aurora's annual Wild Wild West Hoedown, Magna International last week said the popular 2011 event is completely sold out.

This marks the second straight year that the popular event has been sold out.

"On behalf of all of the charities and community groups involved in this year's Hoedown, Magna wishes to thank the residents of the community for their overwhelming support," said Aurora's Steve Hinder, Manager of Magna for Community.

He said residents who want to support the local charities affiliated with this year's Hoedown can still do so by purchasing tickets for the 2011

Prospector's Raffle draw.

The Raffle features an all-cash prize package, including a Grand Prize of \$50,000, a second prize of \$15,000, a third prize worth \$10,000, and a fourth prize worth \$5,000.

Prospector's Raffle tickets are three for \$20 and are available through the 20 local charities and community groups selected as recipients of this year's Hoedown funding, as well as at Aurora's Neighbourhood Network and Jonathan's Restaurant.

The 2011 Hoedown will take place on Saturday, September 10 on the Magna campus in Aurora under the largest tent in the country.

Twenty local charities and community groups, serving a wide range of residents and community needs, have been selected as recipients of this year's Hoedown funding.

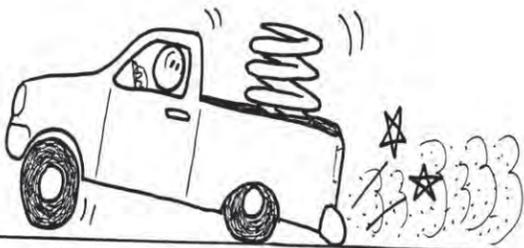
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Week of August 2,



Group of children from Toronto, above, have fun during day at Machell Park in Aurora Thursday. The program was sponsored by Canadian Tire.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

Canadian Tire program held in Aurora

More than 550 youngsters from Toronto came to Machell Park Thursday for the Jumpstart Games,

organized by Canadian Tire's Jumpstart program. The Jumpstart Games

were put on by Canadian Tire's Customer Experience and Automotive divisions and

invited kids aged 4 - 10 to Aurora for a day of activities, including various sports events and a barbecue lunch.

"The event provides children with an opportunity to cooperate with others, make new friends, and develop confidence in a safe and welcoming environment," organizers said.

According to recent statistics from Ipsos Reid, one in three Canadian families are unable to enrol their kids in sports programs and recreational activities due to financial hardship and strain.

The Canadian Tire Jumpstart program looks to fill this gap. Organizers said they see it "as equipping kids for life, because participation in organized sport and recreation increases a child's chance for success in life."

The kids were bussed from Toronto to Machell Park early Thursday morning for their day of fun.

The young participants came to the program via a wide variety of community groups including the YMCA-YWCA, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada.

Jumpstart provides support for financially

disadvantaged youth up to the age of 18 as selected through local community chapters of the organization, and they choose activities based on their own interests ranging from hockey to yoga.



The program was attended by Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, and Dan Thompson, president of Canadian Tire Jumpstart, left and right. Program was put on by Canadian Tire's Customer Experience and Automotive divisions for children aged 4 to 10.



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"Silent soccer" introduced to Aurora parents

Forget making it to early morning practices or racing home from work to make sure they catch their kids' games - Aurora soccer parents may have faced their biggest challenge yet last week as they were asked to stay silent during games.

"Silent Soccer" was brought to Town by the Aurora Youth Soccer Club's Dave Hilgendorff, who said the program has had success in other areas, including a first-hand testimonial from a friend who has children in a New York Soccer League.

"The initiative basically came about because of a study that was recently published by Queen's University," said Mr. Hilgendorff. "We're very

proud of the parents in Aurora and we actually believe that our parents are probably some of the most well behaved parents around the League, but we felt that is not any reason not to try to educate people about the fact we want to protect our players and officials from negativity and make a positive atmosphere."

The core idea of the initiative is to remind everyone involved, whether they are players, parents, or coaches, that the reason why they are there is to "let kids have fun" and let them enjoy the game. Soccer organizations from further afield have also reported successes with this concept and said that the kids playing had a better time when their parents

and coaches kept a lid on it.

"Parents admitted to having a difficult time initially remembering the silent part, but also reported being pleased with the results, particularly the happy kids," noted the AYSC in advance of the Week of Silence, which began July 25.

In planning the week, the goals of the AYSC were to help players develop thinking and creative ability in making decisions "without constant sideline intervention" as well as improving the communication skills they have with each other.

The Week of Silence, they said, would also support referees by "eliminating all sideline

dissent and intervention."

As the week drew to a close on Friday, Mr. Hilgendorff said the response from the parents had been "great".

"They initially were concerned about the fact that they weren't allowed to cheer," he said. "As soon as they all found out it was only a one-week initiative and it was only going to affect one of their games throughout the whole season, everybody was very supportive and they were quite happy with the idea. They understood the reasons behind it - the fact that we'd like to make it easier for the kids to commu-

nicate on the field and we want to avoid any sort of negativity or negative comments."

Creating a positive for the kids is part of a wider effort of the AYSC beyond the Week of Silence. This is part of a component of a broader initiative they are rolling out called "Just Let Them Play".

Another endeavour will be to issue cards to parents explaining "what sort of actions and things we would like to see to support our teams and also outlining what sort of negative actions and comments we would like to avoid.

"Each of the teams will

be receiving a sort of information packet to just give the parents some material to look over and just hopefully make them think about what they are saying before they say it to both players and officials. Even just sitting in silence on the sidelines it gives everybody a moment to reflect about why we're there.

"We're there to create a positive atmosphere for the kids and allow the kids to have as much fun as they can, so I think just a little bit of reflection will help people to think from now on before they make comments about players and officials."

Federal government will pay 60 per cent to repair town ponds

The Federal government will pick up 60 per cent of a \$1,081,180.31 tab to repair and retrofit two Aurora storm water management ponds in what might turn out to be a pilot project for the rest of Ontario.

The project for the ponds, the first of which is located near Mary Street at Wellington, and the other east of Bathurst Street north of McClellan Way, is unique in that it demonstrates new technology that will be a first for Ontario.

"The project will upgrade the existing dry storm water facility into an engineered storm water wetland (ESW) system," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in a report. "The new facility will consist of three basins in series: an oil/grit/sediment removal vessel, a wetland and free water surface wetland cell.

"The new facility is designed to provide enhanced water quality treatment for the storm water runoff as well as quantity and flood control for 58 hectares of urban drainage area. Once constructed, the [Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Area and Ministry of the Environment] will monitor the ESW for several seasons. The operation of this facility and its monitoring results may form the basis for updated storm water management criteria in Ontario."

In addition to demonstrating new technology which could be applied to other projects, benefits of the project are expected to reduce phosphorus and other matter from flowing into the East Holland River and Lake Simcoe.

The \$650,000 grant was made by the Federal government's Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund, a program which will be terminated in March.

Funds for the Mary Street pond were allocated as part of the 2009 capital budget.

In order to take advantage of the Federal grant money retrofits and reconstruction must be completed by October 30.

The project was approved by council last month, after councillors reviewed what Councillor Evelyn Buck described as Mr. Simanovskis' "good news report".

"This is a good news report because of all the funds that we are collecting from the Federal government to pay for this very expensive project,"

she said, adding that reconstruction is particularly needed for the second pond.

The second pond in west Aurora has a catchment area that also includes agricultural lands in King Township, which can result in elevated phosphorus levels in that particular pond, said Mr. Simanovskis, noting that it is hard to remove.

"The soluble piece is more difficult to remove and I believe that the technology we're trying to implement here will improve the removal of that soluble component," he said. "The insoluble piece is what is typically attached to sediments, particularly in the water, which is another beneficial application for the storm pond system.

"There is phosphorus in water in many urban settings and hopefully this technology will improve and enhance the removal of that phosphorus. If it is effective, hopefully we will be implementing other systems in the other ponds."

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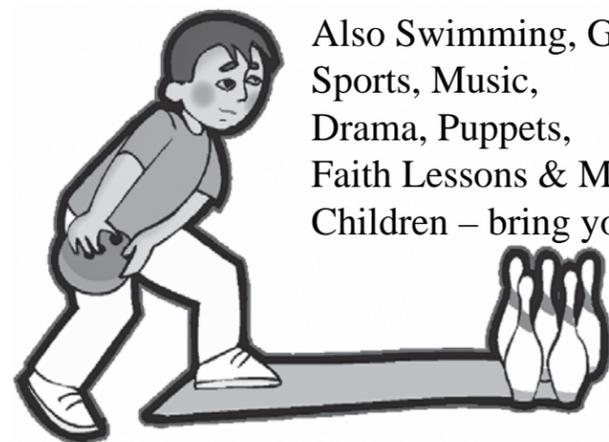
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Gabriel Schacher, right, owner of Aurora's Gabe's Cafe on Yonge Street, was host of a special event last week. My Secret Chef, Luleta Brown, left, took over his kitchen to serve up some Caribbean food, with help from Stephanie Kerr, centre.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Meeting will deal with attacking dog

A local dog could be kept on the Town's dangerous dog list at council's discretion this week after a special meeting was called to deal with a German Shepherd that is alleged to have attacked another dog this month.

The dog was labelled as "dangerous" after an attack on a cockapoo-shih'tzu mix last month in the Aurora Heights neighbourhood.

"According to the witnesses, there was a German Shepherd who was off its leash and it bit another dog, causing a couple of puncture wounds," said Jason Ballantyne, Manager of Corporate Communications for the Town of Aurora.

"A complaint was filed with the town and after an investigation - including talking to witnesses - we filed two charges under the Town's bylaw: one was permitting the dog to run at large and the second one was permitting the dog to bite a domestic animal," he continued. "We also issued a dangerous dog notice under the same bylaw, so that deems the dog as dangerous."

The designation comes with a number of restrictions, including that a dog must be handled by an adult and kept on a leash at all times when off the owner's property, must be kept muzzled, and must be kept within a fenced area if kept outside on the owner's property.

Additional restrictions allow the Town to keep tabs on the dog, including notification requirements if the owners move, the dog gets loose, or the dog dies.

In all, the owners of the dog were charged \$250 (plus a \$50 "victim surcharge") by the Town for allowing the dog to run at large, while it applied a further \$500 (plus a \$150 surcharge) for "allowing the dog to bite a domestic animal".

A special meeting was called at the start of last week for Wednesday, August 3 to allow council to discuss whether the dog should remain labelled as "dangerous".

The meeting came about after the dog's owners appealed the original designation.

"They had five business days from the date she received a notification that she could appeal, and she did," said Mr. Ballantyne, of the dog's owner. "The Town had 15 business days to hold [the meeting], not just schedule it. It's a quasi-judicial process that is held under the Statutory Powers and Procedures Act.

"We have confirmation that there will be five councillors, so we have enough for quorum, and it is a straight majority rule," he said. "The Town will present its case and call witnesses. She, or her representative, will have the opportunity to cross-examine those witnesses, then she will have the opportunity to call witnesses and the town will have the opportunity to cross-examine and they will present a summation."

According to Mr. Ballantyne, councillors will have three options after the arguments are made: upholding the dangerous dog designation; rescinding the designation; or amending the designation. The latter option would allow councillors to increase or lessen the restrictions on the order, including keeping the dog inside the house at all times.

"The hearing itself is not appealable," added Mr. Ballantyne. "Council's decision will be final."

This particular dog attack comes over a year after the Easter 2010 dog attack which left Aurora resident Shelley Rose injured and her dog Kola

dead.

This is a different process than what transpired in the case involving Ms. Rose, which merited special circumstances as it dealt with the death of another dog.

"It was determined that the charges needed to be laid not only under the town's bylaw, but also under the Dog Owner's Liability Act (DOLA), which carries its own set of consequences when found guilty, as well as allowing the Town under the DOLA to have the dog destroyed," said Mr. Ballantyne. "That is not the case in this instance; the investigation found that the dog was attacked and although injured wasn't killed.

"Staff felt it was appropriate to file these charges just under the Town's bylaw and that is why we are finding ourselves in the position that the owners have decided to appeal and it comes to council, whereas before it was actually under the provincial statutes."

The special council meeting will take place in the Holland Room at Town Hall Wednesday, August 3 at 4.30 p.m.

The meeting will be open to the public.

Operating costs of pumping stations should be borne by the users, councillor says

A report is in the works on whether the operating costs of area specific pumping stations should be borne by the whole community, following a recent motion from Councillor Evelyn Buck.

Councillor Buck requested a comprehensive report on the annual operating costs of pumping stations in three Aurora subdivisions, where the extra costs are provided within the subdivisions' site plan agreement bylaws with the Town.

Councillor Buck expressed objections staff plans to shift the costs off the subdivision and spread equally on the municipal water bills throughout the community.

"Last year we had a 12 per cent increase in water rates and again this year a substantial increase in the water rates," she said. "This is not the time to be generous to particular areas in the community which are benefitting from - and in fact probably wouldn't have been developed at all - if it wasn't for these pumping stations. They were only necessary for those particular subdivisions to be approved and I don't see any reason at all, when we are already facing increases in the wholesale water rates from the Region why we should be looking at other areas to jump at the costs, the bills of the residents of the Town."

For Councillor Michael Thompson, one problem he had with changing the status quo of the stations is that what is proposed both by staff, and in the alternative argued by Councillor Buck, is that there was no phasing-in approach to the costs.

"It is not a time-limited approach whereby after so many years [the cost] would be absorbed amongst the community as a whole," he said. "Twenty years from now, these subdivisions will continue paying for those pumping stations all the time. I understand what we're trying to do from an equity and fairness perspective, but while those residents are paying for the pumping station...they have been paying for improve-

ments year after year."

He added that he would be more willing to keep those costs on the subdivisions in question if the costs can be phased out and spread amongst the community gradually over a specific period of time. As it stands now, residents are responsible for costs pertaining to the pumping stations, according to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure.

Councillor Buck continued her argument though that the costs should be carried by the residents enjoying the services of the station and added that she has yet to hear complaints from any of the subdivision residents on their requirement to pay the fees.

"There is no petition from the residents of those neighbourhoods to be relieved of those costs, and I don't think it would be reasonable to be asked either to be relieved of a cost that is over and above the cost of any other area of the Town."

One councillor who expressed opposition to

what Councillor Buck proposed was Paul Pirri, who said that in the sense of community, the costs should be shared by all residents.

"Following that argument, generally speaking I would say that the person at the top of that mountain who bears most of the cost of the house and because he was at the top he wouldn't have water without these pumping stations, so I would probably say it would be wisest then if this one individual has to pay for it," he said.

"It is absolutely ridiculous that I would put that forward, we are a Town, we're supposed to be working together, so I can't support this. Really at the end of the day why not put it on the one individual who needs it the most in that subdivision? It follows the same line. We are a community and I think as a community we need to be working together and it is not fair to leave the burden on one person or three subdivisions."



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Aurora's historic Church Street School is home for the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Aurora Cultural Centre gets on with business, she says

The Aurora Cultural Centre is looking ahead to getting on with business, including working with the Aurora Historical Society and assisting with a compliance audit after Councillor John Abel recently voiced concerns surrounding the Centre's operations, according to Executive Director Laura Schembri.

After issuing a notice of motion in May which called into question the Centre's openness and transparency, Councillor Abel withdrew his original notice of motion to reword it after drawing the ire of Cultural Centre board members.

Councillor Abel's original notice of motion was on Council's June 7 agenda, which called for Town staff to be directed to review the Cultural Centre's compliance with its agreement with the Town after concerns had been expressed "that the Centre is not operating in an open and transparent manner" and terms for services for the housing and display of historic, archived materials not being met.

His reworded notice of motion, which now read "communicating success is critical for the public to be confident in the accountability and transparency of the centre," was discussed and passed by Council later that month.

Less than a week after his original notice of motion was circulated it raised the eyebrows of some of the Centre's board members who made their feelings known to the councillor.

In e-mails sent to him, one member in particular claimed

Aurora Seniors duplicate bridge results

Monday, July 25: North-South-Joan Rotenberg and Mary Oglanby; Frank Lablans and Dennis McFadden; Carole Bell and Rose White. East-West- Zelma Shand and Betty Dyson; Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin; Kay Hack and Melody Irving.

that their reputation had been "impugned" and said the Centre had been "diligent" in honouring their Cultural Agreement with the town "to the letter".

They also said they had been "very successful" in providing the heritage requirements as per the agreement.

From Councillor Abel's perspective, however, the intent of his original notice of motion had been "misinterpreted."

"I indicated at council I intended to reword portions of the Notice at the following council," he said. "The amendments would allow me to clarify areas of concern to council and objectives to be met. At this point, council may begin to debate and comment on the Motion, prior to a vote taken. It's open and transparent.

"The intent is we, as a council, want the Cultural Centre to be successful in the delivery of cultural services. Communicating success is critical for the public to be confident in the accountability and transparency of the Centre. The governance structure of the [Cultural Centre] and the relationship to the Town is unique among similar facilities, and so the motion is asking Town Staff, and the CAO, to work with Cultural Staff, to produce a report on how the Cultural Services agreement is being met."

"My vision is to ensure this heritage heirloom be utilized to the best of its capabilities for years to come, and to ensure the best use of taxpayers' money," he added. "As a council, we prefer to think of our involvement with the Arts and Culture Community as an investment - not only in the beautiful Church Street School but also by the fact that it's being used on a daily basis to enrich the arts and cultural life in the Town of Aurora."

The results of Councillor Abel's motion have been percolating since June, and according to Ms. Schembri, the Cultural Centre was fine with the intent of the second draft of the motion after the "unfortunately worded" first draft.

"Certainly in speaking with staff here there was no real fall-out from that in the sense that I didn't receive a communication from any member of the public for or against it at that stage," said Ms. Schembri last week, reflecting on the original motion. "We did meet with Councillor Abel - and

Councillor Pirri was with him at the time - and we answered the questions that he had and the motion was subsequently reworded. We were fine with the intent of it. If council requires a greater understanding then we're happy to assist in achieving that."

In discussions regarding the Cultural Centre, councillors also raised questions about why the organization was allowed to budget for a deficit as well as a perceived lack of heritage or museum component in the venerable building.

"It is a managed deficit which is funded by cash in bank," said Ms. Schembri, addressing the first concern. "It's a planned deficit and it will not happen again because the money will be spent and we're on track."

As for the "imbalance" between heritage and cultural activities at the Centre, Ms. Schembri said that of the thousands of people coming through their doors in the first year and a half of their operations, she estimates only "about five or six" comments had been received asking about a heritage or museum component.

"It hasn't been a big issue (for) our users, but we're in early days," she said. "We're in discussions with the Historical Society right now and both groups are dedicated to having the artefacts on display more often and we're working to do that and we will be doing that."

This will be demonstrated in a display which will be launched in November called Faces of War, which will involve two artists coming into the Centre for art installations on war through the ears, as well as "what it means to have been through the experience of war."

A complementary exhibit will be launched by the Historical Society unveiling its war artefacts that are currently in storage.

"We're definitely excited to work with the Historical Society and I'm sure they're excited to work with us, and it has been planned for quite some time," said Ms. Schembri.

"What is so exciting about that is that it really meets the perspective of what the Cultural Centre strives to be, which is a diverse cultural experience, so there will be art and artefacts together in this fabulous building and to me it doesn't get any better than that."

Morris to appeal decision

From page 1
decision against Ms. Morris in late July on the grounds that she had not established a prima facie case, a decision which has garnered considerable media attention nation-wide in recent days.

While Ms. Morris did not respond to The Auroran's request for confirmation that she had sought leave to appeal, Jordan Goldblatt, lawyer for Bill Hogg and Richard Johnson, two of the three individuals named in Ms. Morris' original lawsuit, along with Elizabeth Bishenden, confirmed as much.

"Ms. Morris' side has indeed sought leave to appeal," said Mr. Goldblatt Sunday.

"She has provided us with formal notice. The motion to leave for appeal will be argued October 27, 2011. We believe that Justice Brown has applied the correct legal test and arrived at the correct result. Until we see the actual motion record for the leave to appeal motion - all we have now is the notice itself - it is difficult to comment further."

The October 27 date will decide whether or not Ms. Morris will be granted leave to appeal, if permission is granted, her appeal can move forward.

In the wake of Justice Brown's decision, the site at the centre of the controversy, AuroraCitizen.ca, has been abuzz with activity after being all but dormant since May.

While those named in the suit, who were alleged to have been moderators on the site, said they felt vindicated by Justice Brown's decision, within the ruling was also personal win for Mr. Goldblatt.

When the Norwich Motion was originally argued in March, Ms. Morris' legal team put forward the argument that Mr. Goldblatt should also provide any information he had as to the identities of the anonymous posters involved in this case.

Their argument stemmed from an October

15 voicemail Mr. Goldblatt allegedly left for Ms. Morris' representatives "without prejudice" that the anonymous posters had expressed interest in settling with Morris.

According to the defence, it was clear in the voice mail that the anonymous parties were not Mr. Goldblatt's clients and bringing this forward was Ms. Morris' team taking "a running shot" at the defence lawyer.

"It's clear there was another purpose in raising [this issue]...and it is to disrupt the relationship between these individual defendants and Mr. Goldblatt," said Charles Sinclair, Mr. Goldblatt's co-counsel, at the time. "[Adding Mr. Goldblatt to the claim] is a strategy to disrupt the lawsuit."

In her decision, Justice Brown appeared to agree with the defence.

"With respect to the tests as related to the third party, Goldblatt, even if the Plaintiffs had established a prima facie case, there is no evidence which would justify the compelling of the information sought from Goldblatt as third party," said Justice Brown in her decision.

"There is no evidence to establish that Goldblatt was involved in the alleged

defamation or that he is the only practical source of the information.

"Moreover, the communication linking Goldblatt to any information regarding the anonymous defendant was communicated with in the context of settlement negotiations on a 'without prejudice' basis while Goldblatt was counsel for the named individual defendants in this action.

"It was clearly communicated with an expectation of confidentiality and is privileged."

Mr. Goldblatt declined to comment on this aspect of Justice Brown's decision.

Ms. Morris did not respond to The Auroran's request for comment on Mr. Goldblatt.

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WEEKLY SHOW with **Alison Collins-Mrakas**

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Last week Alison's guest was **Councillor Paul Pirri.**

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Click on the thumbnail you wish to watch.

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www.theauroran.com

- Our oldest Aurora resident
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If this position interests you, please submit a resume to rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

SPORTS REPORTER

The Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers is looking for an energetic reporter to cover the sports scene in Caledon, King Township, New Tecumseth and Innisfil, as well as handle various general reporting assignments.

The successful applicant will have excellent writing and photography skills, a valid driver's licence and a reliable vehicle, as well as a willingness to work evenings and weekends as required. A diploma in journalism would be an asset, as well as proficiency in using social media, Mac computers, QuarkXPress, Photoshop and other programs required for the production of a weekly newspaper.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

EDITOR

Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers is currently hiring for the position of Editor at one of our local newspapers.

- The editor will be expected to:
- Produce several bylined new and feature stories each week
 - Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
 - Coordinate and edit content and columns submitted for publication
 - Take photographs
 - Show proficiency at using social media, Mac computers, and QuarkXPress, InDesign, Photoshop and other programs necessary for the publication of a weekly newspaper
 - 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

The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover both community events, local politics, and be able to work in a team-oriented yet self-motivated environment.
 Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com

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Centre is a cooling spot

By CHARLES SEQUEIRA

While we enjoy the summer, the temperature some days does get high, with a lot of humidity. Please feel free to drop in at the Seniors' Centre, which also serves as a cooling location, so come in relax in our lounge on any weekday. You will be glad you did.

Please join us at the Town Park Saturday, August 13, for seniors day at the Farmers' Market and our Seniors' Centre will have three booths displaying all kinds of items crafted by our seniors.

As an added bonus our Silver stars Drama club will be performing live on stage.

The Aurora Seniors' Association would like to thank Belinda Stronach and Neighbourhood Network (NN) for their sponsorship of the The Great Canadian BBQ event held at the Seniors' Centre Thursday, June 30.

Neighbourhood Network provided all the food and drinks for this event, with all the proceeds going to the centre.

Our thanks also go to Greg Foster of M&M Aurora for barbecuing all the food, and to the Neighbourhood Network team for working together with our Volunteers and Senior Centre staff to make this another successful event.

This was the sixth barbeque event that Belinda Stronach through NN has supported for the Seniors' Centre and has now become an annual affair.

They do this as a fundraiser for the Seniors, which always attracts a large attendance – and this year was no exception with approximately 135 guests and members par-

ticipating.

On behalf of all our members, thank you, Belinda and Neighbourhood Network.

Our weekly Wednesday BBQ lunches are very popular.

Thanks to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel who on two separate occasions each did the whole BBQ, grilling burgers and sauges for our seniors at our weekly lunches.

Our thanks to all the volunteers who also did the BBQ, served the food, etc, etc.

Our BBQ lunches for August are the 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st. Hope to see you all there.

Magna Hoedown raffle tickets will be sold by Doane House Hospice August 3rd, and by Marquee Theatre August 10th at the reception

lobby here at our Seniors' Centre.

All proceeds from the ticket sales go to non-profit charitable organizations in Aurora and surrounding communities.

The indoor track users and the ASA Board have now agreed to a recommendation on a proposal previously submitted by the Director of Parks and Recreation.

The users will have the choice of using option 1 or option 2.

In the latter option they will pay a \$1 activity fee every time they use the indoor track.

These revenues will be reimbursed to the ASA on an annual basis.

Recommendations will be effective January 1st, 2012.

The Town of Aurora invites you to a "Tea & Chat" session to hear your thoughts and

ideas. Contribute to the development of the 2011 - 2031 Strategic Plan. It is set for Wednesday, August 3, at 1.30 p.m. in the lounge area of the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

Even volunteers need a break.

For the month of August our regular seniorscape writer, Brian Warburton and many of us will be away and Senior Scape will not be published.

Brian will be back for the September 2nd publication of Senior Scape for The Auroran.

We are organizing a "Corn Roast" dinner Friday, September 9th, at 6 p.m. followed by a Video music concert. Great Menu.

Tickets are now available at the Seniors' Centre for adults \$8 and children \$4.

Call the Seniors' Centre for more details at 905-726-4767.

Cartoon remembers those killed in Norway

The simple, yet evocative drawing, shown below, was left by an anonymous visitor to the Aurora Cultural Centre last week in remembrance of the more than 68 people murdered at a youth camp in Norway July 22.

The sketch, left on an index card, was placed on the wall of an upstairs gallery at the Cultural Centre by a visitor to a travelling exhibit called "Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes", which takes a close look at international editorial cartoons.

In the Aurora Room Gallery until August 14, Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes is put together by the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom, the Canadian

Commission for UNESCO and Cartoonists Rights Network International.

In 2001, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO established an annual competition for editorial cartoonists along with the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom, and since that time more than 700 cartoon submissions are received annually.

Winners are honoured on World Press Freedom Day May 3.

"The exhibit Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes presents the best editorial cartoons received since the best editorial cartoons received since the beginning of the competi-

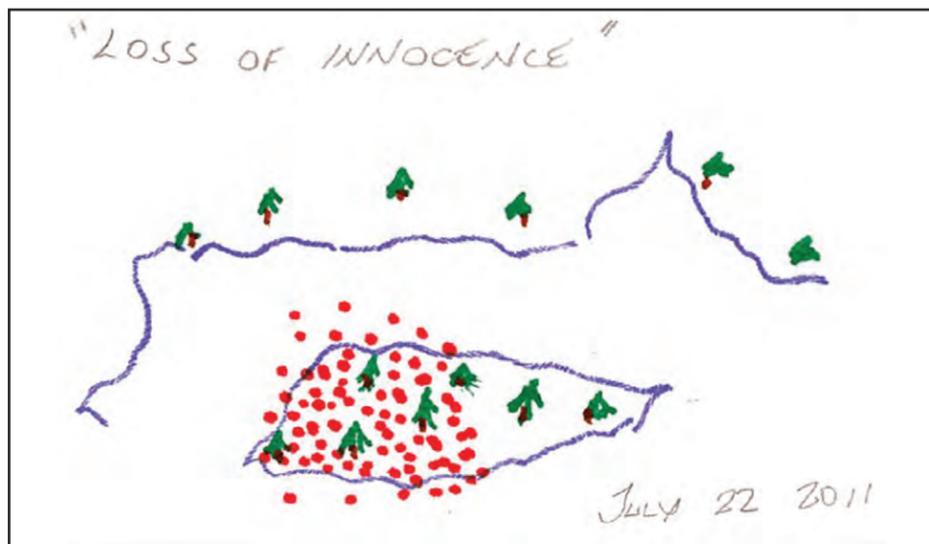
tion," said organizers. "The exhibit is being shown in Ottawa and across Canada where it is being displayed in a number of cities that are members of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination.

"As the fight for liberty of expression and freedom of the press continues today, cartoonists working under repressive regimes - even in democratic countries - face very real threats. In some countries, the cartoonist, like their journalistic colleagues, is threatened with intimidation and physical assault. But as this exhibit shows, the clever cartoonist often uses humour or a nuanced message to escape

the direct attention of the censors."

Visitors to the exhibit, while it is at the Cultural Centre, are invited to exercise their own freedom of expression by drawing personal cartoons on index cards, as well as writing their thoughts on what they have seen and freedom of the press as a whole, for inclusion on one of the gallery walls.

The exhibit is open Tuesday through Saturday from 1 - 4 p.m., or by appointment.



The above cartoon was left at the Aurora Cultural Centre, following the deaths of scores of people in Norway. The simple drawing was left by an anonymous visitor to the Centre last week. The sketch, on an index card, was placed on the wall of an upstairs gallery at the Cultural Centre by a visitor to a travelling exhibit called "Freedom of Expression in Broad Strokes", which takes a close look at international editorial cartoons.

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All work needs to be completed by **March 31, 2012** so register early!

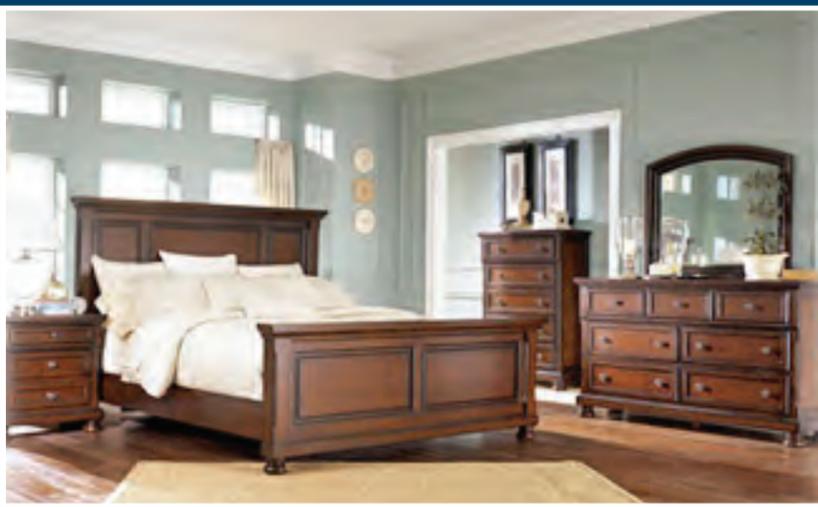
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