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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



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RELIEF AMID THE FRUSTRATION

Shawn Shanmugarajah, along with Hayden and Hallem, were all smiles as they did the first leg of their school run mid-Friday morning at Rick Hansen Public School. A one-day strike by Ontario's elementary school teachers was averted around 4 a.m. when their pending action was declared illegal by the courts. Parents expressed frustration not just with the uncertainty of whether schools would be open Friday, but the battle between the Province, teachers, and their respective unions as a whole. See Page 19.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Aurorans face 5.17 per cent tax hike this year

By Brock Weir

Aurora residents are facing a combined 2.6 per cent tax hike for 2013. The update came as Aurora Councillors prepared to tackle the 2013 Operating Budget on Saturday morning. As The Auroran reported online last week, the Town's portion of the 2013 tax bill stands at a 5.17 per cent tax increase from last year. This is down significantly from the previously proposed 8.3 per cent tax hike which has been a focal point of budget deliberations so far.

According to a report before Councillors at their weekend session, the combined tax rate – combined with the 1.94 per cent tax increase from the Region of York and a forecasted zero per cent increase on the school tax rate – this will mean a \$27 per year increase for each \$100,000 worth of assessment on your home. For the average home valued at \$400,000, this translates approximately to \$108.

Speaking specifically to the Town's share of the tax rate, the report indicates the 5.17 per cent breaks down to an estimated increase of 15 cents per day, \$4.65 per month, or approximately \$55.80 per year for a home assessed at \$300,000. The Town's share represents a 1.76 per cent increase to the combined rate.

"The 8.3 was a forecasted number, so when we went through it there are a number of key areas we focused on," Aurora CAO Neil Garbe told The Auroran. "One was the salaries and wages line, so when we plotted

Continued on page 7

Public could have say on 2C plan details next Wednesday

By Brock Weir

Residents will have a chance to have their say on plans for the 2C Development next week.

Detailed architectural plans for the multiple subdivision complex will be brought forward to Councillors at the committee level this Tuesday before being the subject of a special council public planning meeting next Wednesday, January 23.

The plan covers a vast expanse of Aurora's remaining undeveloped (but developable) land, roughly bordered by Aurora's border with Newmarket in the north, Leslie Street in the east, the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex in the south, and Bayview Avenue at its most westerly point. The area contains lands not only for seven separate subdivisions, but also protected environmental wetlands and the proposed site of the Aurora Wildlife Park.

If the plan is brought to fruition as planned, about 3,000 new residential units will be constructed alongside a variety of parks and protected green spaces, schools and commercial blocks.

In addition to being forwarded to the January 23 meeting, the recommendation before Councillors this week also calls for work to begin on urban design guidelines.

"[The plan] contains urban design and amenity

Continued on page 11



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Saturday, January 19, 2013 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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The Salvation Army will also be participating in this event and will accept gently-used clothing, textiles and linens.

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 Town of Aurora at 905-727-3123 ext. 3447.

www.aurora.ca

NEW AURORAN POLL

Q: Whose side do you support in the battle between Ontario Teachers and the Province?

- a) Teachers
- b) The Province
- c) Neither

Send your thoughts to letters@auroran.com

FINAL RESULTS OF PREVIOUS POLL

Council recently approved plans to move ahead with a youth centre, known as a “Community Space for Youth” at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. Do you think this addition will serve the needs of Aurora’s youth?



Please participate in our POLL –go to www.theauroran.com, scroll down and look to the bottom right of the home page to VOTE.



Introducing “double-takes”, a rephotography project celebrating the Town of Aurora’s 150th Anniversary. This first image in a monthly series, combining a vintage photo of Yonge and Wellington with the current streetscape was accomplished by photographer Peter Cameron. If you know the name of the gentleman in the photo, please email letters@auroran.com.

Ottawa Report

Our government has made a number of positive announcements thus far in the New Year, many of which have direct benefit to Newmarket-Aurora. Here are just a few:

Canada Summer Jobs 2013

Beginning February 1, interested employers can apply for Canada Summer Jobs funding. In 2011, the Government of Canada increased the budget for Canada Summer Jobs by \$10 million, bringing the total program budget to \$107.5 million. Canada Summer Jobs 2013 will create up to 36,000 job opportunities for young people 15 to 30 years of age and who are full-time students intending to return to their studies in the next school year.

Today’s students are tomorrow’s workforce, so by investing in them we are contributing to Canada’s long-term growth, competitiveness and overall prosperity. The initiative is available to non-profit, public-sector and small private-sector employers with 50 or fewer employees. Applications are available online at servicecanada.gc.ca/csj2013 and at Service Canada Centres, and must be submitted between February 1 and February 28, 2013.

Staying the Course on Jobs & Economic Growth

Statistics Canada announced that +39,800 net new jobs were created in December and the unemployment rate fell to a post-recession low of 7.1%. With December’s job growth and the over

922,000 net new jobs created since July 2009 (90% full-time and 75% private sector), we’re on the right track for the Canadian economy and jobs. Our upcoming Economic Action Plan 2013 will continue to build on our Government’s pro-growth initiatives to support job growth and long-term prosperity for Canadians.

\$29 Million to Clean-Up Lake Simcoe

\$29 million over 5 years is now available for clean-up projects through the Lake Simcoe/South-eastern Georgian Bay Clean-Up Fund. The fund aims to restore the ecological health of Lake Simcoe and South-eastern Georgian Bay and improve water quality for the residents and wildlife of the region. It builds on the success of the 2007-2012 \$30 million Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund. The Town of Aurora has obtained funding in the past to help control and treat urban runoff and divert phosphorous from entering the watershed. Landowners, environmental groups, community groups, provincial and municipal governments are eligible to apply to the fund. Visit www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water to learn more.

Automotive Innovation Fund Renewed

Last week Prime Minister Stephen



LOIS BROWN

MP Newmarket-Aurora

Harper announced the renewal of the \$250 million Automotive Innovation Fund (AIF). This is great news for Newmarket-Aurora considering the number of local businesses here with connections to the auto industry. The AIF provides support for leading-edge innovation in automotive manufacturing and research and development (R&D) to build

advanced, greener products and processes. To date, investments have leveraged up to \$1.6 billion in R&D and innovation investments in Canada’s automotive sector, including promoting enhanced R&D capacity, leading-edge engineering and design, and made-in-Canada innovation. As past chair of our Party’s Auto Caucus I have been a long-time proponent of this initiative.

Tax-Free Savings Account Limit Raised

Canadians will now be able to save an additional \$500 in their Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA). Approximately 8.2 million Canadians have opened an account since 2009 with roughly 2.5 million Canadians contributing the maximum amount. TFSAs are available to all Canadians, 18 years and older. Any interest, dividends and capital gains earned in

a TFSA are not subject to tax. I encourage you to take advantage of TFSAs as a valuable way to save for the future and to save on your tax bill.

New Job Alert System

Our government has launched a new Job Alerts system, to make it easier for job seekers to find out about local job opportunities. Subscribers will receive emails twice a day that contain job postings from a variety of sources including Job Bank and other recruitment systems. The initiative takes into consideration a claimant’s EI benefit payment amount and ensures that for an employment opportunity to be deemed suitable, a claimant must be better off financially accepting the job than receiving EI benefits. For more information or to subscribe, visit WorkinginCanada.gc.ca/JobAlerts.

I would like to remind residents that in advance of Budget 2013, I am looking for your priorities and suggestions on how you would like to see your federal tax dollars spent. Please consider completing a survey available online through my website, or by contacting my office. All feedback is summarized and personally given to Canada’s Finance Minister.

If you would like to contact me on these or any other issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I would love to hear from you.

Utilizing the Jobs & Prosperity Council Report

Just as the NHL season is about to begin, so too is the local Budget season.

According to a report in this newspaper last week, members of the public were welcome last Saturday to participate in annual Operating Budget discussions. Folks in Aurora are potentially facing a proposed tax hike of 5.17% on the Town’s portion of their annual tax bill.

These are very important discussions and hopefully more citizens from our community will have shown up than in the past!

As we cast an eye the provincial Budget scene, we know that things are not well.

Ontario has a large annual deficit and accumulated debt, with a large amount of unemployed Ontarians. We need to have an adult conversation about the difficult choices that face our public policy makers.

The seven Liberal candidates vying to replace Premier McGuinty have all been focused on “jobs, jobs and jobs”, but few details have been laid out.

Rather than trying to come up with their own ideas, I think it would be courageous for one of the respective candidates to simply say that there are two very well done economic studies that have just been completed and if they are elected Liberal Party Leader of Ontario and Premier, that they would endorse these in full and pledge to move ahead on the recommendations.

Donald Drummond, the former bank

economist and provincial bureaucrat, was the Chair of the Commission on the Reform of Ontario’s Public Services, and released the first report entitled, “Public Services for Ontarians: A Path to Sustainability and Excellence.”

The report outlined 362 cost-cutting recommendations to reduce the provincial deficit and debt and to make the delivery of government services more effective and efficient.

He is calling for deep spending cuts to all ministries, save education and health, although funding increases for these two portfolios will be limited as well.

The Commission projects that if the government continues on the course it’s on, Ontario’s deficit would reach \$30 billion by 2017-18 and the net debt would reach \$411 billion. Sobering statistics to say the least!

Mr. Drummond’s work should really begin the long overdue debate on the cost, scope, reach and delivery of government.

After witnessing the recent fiscal events in Europe and the specific problems in debt laden Greece, the people of Ontario understand that fiscal prudence is important and all public finance options should be at least



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

laid out for examination by tax payers.

But whether it is the federal government or the provincial government, the size of the public service can’t continue to outstrip and outgrow the capacity of the private sector ability to create wealth to pay for these services.

To govern is to choose. And public finance is not about technical wizardry,

but about making choices, and in many cases, tough choices.

Provincial governments can do one of a number of things to deal with the deficit/debt situation. These include raise taxes, cutting expenditures, selling public assets and or increasing the efficiency of public service delivery.

The second is the report that was issued last December 19th by the Jobs & Prosperity Council entitled, “Advantage Ontario”.

This non partisan group of leaders from business, labour and other sectors has put together a good thirty page blueprint for our economy.

As the report succinctly and aptly puts it in the introduction “We are living in an era of increased global competition and the

continuing aftermath of the financial crisis and global recession. Economic globalization has at once undermined traditional strengths and presented new opportunities. Ontario has some important advantages when it comes to positioning itself from these economic shifts, but also has some difficult challenges to overcome.”

The report’s fourteen recommendations offer a “vision for growth that include more international trade, increased productivity, more innovation by Ontario businesses and a reinvigorated manufacturing sector – things that will lead to better jobs and a better standard of living for all Ontarians.”

Sure, we have all seen or heard these types of individual recommendations before, but as they are contained in two well thought out, and non partisan produced documents, it is time to accept these proposed actions in whole.

I hope that the new Liberal Premier – whoever it turns out to be – adopts both the Drummond Report and the Jobs & Prosperity Council Report which might be a good beginning to a proper debate on the economic challenges and opportunities that face our province and would also potentially allow for wide spread consensus to build for the urgent actions that are required.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Where are all the Volunteers to help make our Centre complete?

What are you doing in your spare time? Are you wasting it? Or are you doing things that keep you active, alert and involved?

You know, one of the worst things a senior can do is become isolated from everyday life and social contact. That's when age really sets in. Not only do these seniors lose muscle tone and balance, but their minds begin to falter.

Most of us can relate to faltering minds as we occasionally are at a loss for that specific word or forget what we were doing. Active people, however, have them far less frequently than idle ones.

That's why it's important for you to get busy and get involved. When I did last November, I could not have conceived what I missed over the past 10 years while in semi-retirement. During

that time, I sat home, worked my online businesses, and watched a whole lot of television. Way too much. All that sitting soon took its toll.

Before I knew what happened, my body had broken down. One day, I couldn't lift a stepladder that I'd swung freely two years earlier. My dog suffered from a major reduction in his walks because my legs hurt so much.

And then, I decided to join the Special Events Committee. I wasn't sure what I was getting into, but since I like planning stuff and thinking up projects, (Yes, I'm a daydreamer) I figured it was far better than sitting home alone. I couldn't have been more right. My energy has been invigorated, my muscle tone is improving, and I can now get out of a chair without as

much pain.

You'd be surprised how much you exercise your body just by being out and about. While you're out, it's even better if you have something specific to do that keeps you coming back. The Centre fits the bill perfectly.

Yes, you can enjoy the company of others for the short few hours you spend in one of the activities. It's better than nothing, but why not take it a step further?

We need you!

Did you know that volunteers are crucial to the success of the Centre? Without them, there would



SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

be no programs. A lot of you will soon know what that feels like if the Budget Bistros and other meal-related events no longer provide food.

You might recall from one of my earlier columns that the mention of food alone can quickly steer a senior to an event. Well, start worrying, because it might not last.

The kitchen committee is desperately in need of more volunteers. Some of the current ones will no longer be available for a variety of reasons. When they're gone, it's crucial that they be replaced.

Will you help?

Kitchen staff is not the only place where seniors are needed. The Special Events Committee is also looking for more members. This one is fun, let me tell you. You get to help think up ideas for entertaining activities for all to enjoy. Exercise your imagination. Participate as much or as little as you like. You can be an idea machine or help to make your ideas a reality. That's where the fun really comes in.

Last week, I told you about my experience conceiving and planning my Victorian Tea and Picture Show event planned for February 10. This is proving to be challenging and a whole lot more fun than I ever imagined. I'm obsessed with it. I think about it morning, noon and night. It's the first thing on my mind when I snap out of a dream at 4 a.m.

You don't have to get that involved, but if you're anything like me, you will enjoy it if it happens.

I've been in the Lounge when the volunteers are relaxing. It doesn't take long to see that they enjoy each

other's company. If this were a business, the boss would soon be on them for having too much fun instead of working. But it's not a company. Such strictness and pressure is non-existent.

To assist in any of the above areas, simply ask for a volunteer application form at the reception desk. No experience needed.

Hawaii bound

Do you have your ticket? It's only \$5! Where else can you get a taste of Hawaii at such a price? The Hawaiian Luau is coming up fast, so get your ticket before they run out. The event will be held January 20 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Centre. Light refreshments will be served and you will be delightfully entertained.

Tickets for the Hawaiian Luau and the Victorian Tea and many other upcoming events and trips are available at reception. Stop by and see what's on offer.

Correction

The Victorian Tea poster lists Cary Grant starring with Claudette Colbert. This is actually Clark Gable.

Letters to the editor

Coach responds to “renegade” soccer club idea

I read the account of the recent appeal made by the Aurora Youth Soccer Club to Town Council December 18, 2012 with respect to limiting field access and protecting them from competition by another soccer organization.

I feel I should clarify some misinformation and clarify some facts that may not be obvious to your readers and, in particular, parents of children who may want a choice to play soccer in Aurora.

The first correction is to dispel the notion that Sport Aurora has any involvement in the development of the proposed Soccer Program. I was the Technical Director for the AYSC for three and a half years when I was suddenly released without cause with over three years left on my employment contract.

My family was brought here with me and we have enjoyed life in Aurora and I therefore began to rebuild my professional life and

formed the Coerver Soccer Academy to continue the work I started. I joined Sport Aurora in order to be a part of that Organization as I believe in their mission and values. I consulted with the Organization as I wanted to permit fields and facilities in town for my participants and was given policy advice on how that is done. I also spoke with the president, Ron Weese, who is a member of the OSA and works directly with them, promoting the province-wide changes called Long Term Player Development (LTPD), to ensure that the program I have proposed meets the provincial standards. After some discussion, the Program was verified as compliant and I was able to make a request for fields.

The comment that my program is “renegade” is not true. In fact it is mainstream with what the OSA has recommended and will be mandating for all legitimate soccer organizations

in this Province. I was successful in constructing the LTPD plan for the AYSCs two Gold Club Excellence awards.

I am as yet unsure if the fields will be permitted, but Mr. Downey has assured me that as a youth-centered community sport organization, my application will be considered fairly. Mr. Downey has been asked to bring a report to the Town Council, and I have provided the information required to demonstrate to him, that my program will be beneficial to the Town and residents.

In my opinion, for the AYSC to make an objection based upon an application for fields that has not even been closely considered or approved by the Parks and Recreation department is both premature and prejudicial.

Similarly, I am concerned that the comments made by some Councilors that evening without adequate fact may be prejudicial and hope that once the facts are known, these objections will

be withdrawn. Without accurate information it is difficult to make any reasonable and fair decision.

I believe that the opportunity for parents to have a choice of sport programs for their children should be welcomed. My program will in fact show that more children can participate in the sport and that this participation may well be less costly to parents. That certainly can't be objectionable to the community.

I think that choice is important, whether one considers automobile purchase, a grocer or the provider of a child's soccer experience. Monopolies can cause complacency in service levels, and price escalation because there is no competition. I think the people of this Town deserve choice and the Town Council certainly should be encouraging a strong and fair environment for all business.

David Thorburn
and Scott Guy
Aurora

Cultural Agreement up for approval Jan. 22

From page 4

Abel is still not happy with the results and has stated so publicly despite having all his earlier concerns addressed. Councillor Buck, who has vowed not to step foot inside the Centre and has not, continues to oppose the Centre and the governance model upon which it is operating. Councillor Buck is unhappy simply because the governance model on which the Centre operates was developed and supported by a previous Council of which she was a member in 2008/09 regardless of its merit.

This is an opportunity for our Council to support the new agreement and allow the Board of Directors and the Centre staff to get on with the mandate, which they have been bestowed, that of

making the Aurora Cultural Centre a cultural destination for the citizens of Aurora and for visitors from beyond our Town's borders. It is well documented that a facility for arts and culture has spin off economic benefits for any community while enriching the lives of its citizens much like sport, natural heritage and recreation, etc.

We have recently seen the negative and disappointing result of needless political manoeuvring regarding the Aurora Jazz Festival which is now, as a result, the Newmarket Jazz Festival. The citizens of Aurora have been denied that event – let us not be denied our Cultural Centre through political misstep and misinformation.

T.C. Smith
Aurora



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POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Budget Woes

This weekend, the Aurora Town Council got back to work.

On the docket was an all day budget meeting on Saturday to begin the process of further reducing the proposed 2013 tax increase. We read in this paper, last week, that the numbers are already down approximately 3 per cent from where Council left off during previous discussions. As you recall, council was staring down a budget of some 8 plus percent tax increase. So a reduction of 3 or 4 % is most definitely welcome news.

Just as an aside, and this is not a criticism, but more of a comment, I cannot help but feel that this yearly exercise of Council being presented with a proposed whopping tax increase and then whittling it down over a period of a few months - is a wee bit frustrating.

Take for example this year's budget, if there were 3 points against the levy to be found, and this reduction was achieved largely through the work of staff in looking for areas to pare down costs (and the library board submitting a reduced budget as well), why was council presented with a budget at 8 plus per cent in the first place? I just find that a bit curious.

Would it not make sense to have staff present a truly pared down budget? Then Council would be looking at comparing needs against needs. It might speed up the process a bit. It would certainly increase the efficiency of the budget process.

Being devil's advocate though (against my own argument no less), staff are charged with presenting as complete a budget as possible, and look to council for direction in paring it down. It's Council's job to look for ways to cut costs based on the fullness of information presented. They need as accurate a picture as possible of the current financial state of the municipality in order to make informed decisions on our behalf.

Some municipalities give their staff a target number to hit - say, put forward a

budget with no more than a 3 per cent increase. I don't agree with that approach at all. It forces staff to make political decisions about services to cut and amenities to exclude. That's the job - the responsibility - of those around the table, not staff. So, I guess Aurora's approach, though somewhat more time consuming, is better than most.

Clearly though, with the Town's portion of tax levy still hovering at around 5%, there is still work to be done.

Council will continue with its aggressive meeting schedule, in an effort to get this budget reviewed, dissected and approved as quickly as possible. So they met all day Saturday, Monday night and then had a budget element on its agenda for the General Committee meeting on Tuesday (the 15th).

The agenda item in question is to ask council to consider the early adoption of the Capital Budget as presented. Early adoption of the capital budget affords the Town the opportunity to take advantage of better pricing and/or sourcing of various contracts and effective and timely RFP processes for example - all good things when looking at our bottom line.

However, an expeditious process is not always an efficient or effective process, so we will see how the members of Council feel about the Capital budget as presented and whether they feel comfortable with the figures as they stand - comfortable enough to approve, while still wrestling with the rest of the budget.

I will be watching with interest how these budget discussions proceed and I hope you are too. Information on the Town's budget - including all presentations etc - is available on the Town's website at: www.aurora.ca. Hard copies are also available for review at the information desk in the Town Hall and at the Aurora Public Library.

That's it for this week, until next week, stay informed, stay involved because this is, after all, Our Town.

Budget talks resume January 22

From page 1

a bit of a strategy on what we thought was fair and reasonable for staff, a one per cent cost of living allowance was in line with inflation."

That accounted for a reduction of nearly 1.5 points on the tax rate, he added, noting that excluded some requests for additional staff.

"The 8.3 was an all-in number," he continued. "It was not scrutinized, so we all looked at what was needed and what was required for the next year. That trimmed it down some more. The third thing was the Library [budget] actually came in lower. The impact they originally had was a 0.7 per cent increase on our tax rate and now they are at 0.3."

Of the proposed 5.17 per cent increase scheduled ahead of Saturday's negotiations, 2.08 is allocated to reserve contributions, while 1.69 will go towards fire services, 1.1 per cent to General Operations, and 0.3 per cent to the Aurora Public Library.

Saturday's all-day session to go over the Operating Budget got underway at Town Hall at 9 a.m. and concluded just after 4 p.m., attended by just three members of the public. At the meeting, Town Treasurer Dan Elliott explained the various components of the proposed 5.17 per cent tax increase and predicted which items might dominate budget deliberations in the coming

weeks. These include new staff positions, the amount of money being put into reserve accounts, the continued phase in of a new fire crew and growth rates within the Town.

"We have an extra 1 per cent tax levy, as is our capital plan," said Mr. Elliott of the proposed contributions of cash to capital, noting \$235,000 to replace trees set to be destroyed by the emerald ash borer beetle in the next decade. "We have also talked about developing a plan to get off the reliance on the hydro reserve fund and interest and we have a knockdown of \$100,000 in this budget."

There is also a proposal to give the Town's election budget a fresh infusion of cash in order to be fully prepared in the event of a bi-election.

"They are a reality, they hit municipalities periodically and they can be very costly, so we're suggesting a small contribution to the election reserve above and beyond the normal to begin this year with \$15,000," said Mr. Elliott.

Contributing to the newly proposed 2013 tax hike is the continued phase in of the new fire crew, shared with Newmarket. It's the third planned phase in and that contributes 1.7 per cent to the tax rate.

Looking ahead, Mr. Elliott forecasts a 5 per cent tax hike in 2014, with that still high number attributable to the new Community Space for Youth, which is slated to start construction

later this year, and new staffing costs, and a 2 per cent tax increase in 2015.

During the meeting, directors from most of the Town's departments presented their individual budgets and their pitches, in some cases, for new staff positions and new programs and also highlighting unique issues contributing to the tax rate. This includes a potential impact to the revenue taken in by the Parks and Recreation Department due to decreasing enrollment in programs with the implementation of all-day Kindergarten in Ontario.

In the presentation on planning, staff underscored efforts made to attract and retain businesses but also highlighted another financial difficulty.

"Our investment income continues to falter with our economy and we're doing our best to manage that, but our portfolio balance is also coming down somewhat as we're drawing down the GC reserves and we have also been drawing down some of our capital reserves and our portfolio is getting smaller," said Mr. Elliott.

Councillors were set to continue the debate as The Auroran went to press Monday evening, with the next session scheduled for January 21. Areas to watch for include the budget presentation of the Aurora Cultural Centre scheduled for January 28 and, in February, how much Councillors will be paid in the years ahead.

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Young Aurora cellist awarded gold medal at Royal Conservatory of Music

By Brock Weir

11 year old Sarah Cupit has a need for speed.

The budding cellist first picked up her bow at the tender age of three, after finding inspiration at a concert with her mother. Her mother, Patti, started practicing along with her but after going from strength to strength Sarah decided to go for the gold.

The Cupits were in Toronto Sunday at Koerner Hall to watch Sarah pick up the 2012 Gold Medal from the Royal Conservatory of Music for scoring the highest mark in all of Ontario and Quebec for her Grade 3 Cello Examination.

“I thought they were kidding!” Sarah told The Auroran of her achievement. “Then they send my dad an email and he showed it to me, and then I knew they weren’t!”

The Grade 6 student at Lester B. Pearson Public School practices the cello almost every day for an hour.



Aurora student Sarah Cupit accepted her Gold Medal Sunday afternoon at the Royal Conservatory of Music from Conservatory Chancellor Michael M. Koerner. Photo courtesy of the Royal Conservatory of Music

Faster songs, like Running With The Bulls, are a passion. Slower melodies, she said, are “boring”, not to mention the sore and stiff arm she has afterwards, and she chose something with a little bit of a clip to jazz up her test material.

Well versed in the Suzuki method of music teaching, Sarah was inspired to take things to a different level by her teacher, Newmarket’s Hannah Jackson, who encouraged her to take on the Royal Conservatory testing. Ms. Jackson has had

quite an impact on Sarah’s life, and she would like to follow in Ms. Jackson’s footsteps not only as a concert cellist, but also as a music teacher.

“My teacher is really encouraging and she also really knows how to make the boring theory stuff more exciting,” Sarah said. I want to be a music teacher because what I want to do is get more people interested in music.”

Mrs. Cupit said news her daughter was to receive the gold medal was quite an honour, if a slightly unexpected one because it was her very first Royal Conservatory Exam. She too cites Ms. Jackson’s influence in Sarah’s success.

“With Sarah being at the age she’s at, her teacher felt it was important for her to take the Conservatory exams to keep her motivated,” she said. “When she started, I was taking lessons with her and played for a number of years with her previous teacher, but she has far surpassed me.”

Although she encouraged Sarah to find an instrument to suit her taste, once she saw the cello there was no turning back.

“From my perspective, her being a very independent and willful little girl at the age of three, I thought I am far better to let her choose this than battle with her over practicing!” said Ms. Cupit. “Sarah is at the stage now where I don’t interfere as much with her practicing. With Suzuki music, the parent is very involved in a lesson as well as the practice.

“They’re expected to be the teacher at home, but we’re at a stage now where I kind of back off because she’s a pre-teen. She doesn’t want me involved and she doesn’t want me telling her what to do, but at the same time I have seen her start to mature and she takes her practices a little bit more seriously.”

Although Sarah’s need for speed as far as the bow is concerned gives her mother a moment of pause, she said

patience should be a thing all parents keep in mind when encouraging their kids to find the musician within.

“One of the things with me starting the instrument with her when young is you gain an appreciation for how hard it is because it isn’t easy,” she said. “I think when parents start a child on an instrument they forget that it is not easy. Kids pick up things really easily but at the same time, their frustrations in terms of not being able to do something teach them perseverance and you need to help them with that.”

Regional Gold Medals are awarded by the Conservatory to the highest scoring students in Grades 1 – 10. Students must achieve at least 80 per cent on their examinations Over 47,000 examinations take place across the two provinces each year.

After accepting the gold medal, Sarah’s parents surprised her with a trip to Chicago to see Yo-Yo Ma in concert.

Group wants to bring their star power to Aurora festivals, initiatives

By Brock Weir

It’s not every day that you have a well known broadcaster, a Canadian Idol judge, an actual Canadian Idol, and a winner of So You Think You Can Dance Canada in one room to hear what the Town has planned for Aurora’s Sesquicentennial next month.

But that’s just what happened last week as representatives from Lucid Productions – including former CTV broadcaster Christine Bentley, Canadian Idol Judge Farley Flex, and Idol Brian Melo – came to the Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc committee Wednesday.

They came to make a pitch to become involved with planning the celebrations, helping to use their star wattage and leverage to wring every last dollar out of the \$220,000 budget for the year-long celebrations. Although probably too late to get involved with Aurora 150, they may have stumbled into a good fit with the proposed Aurora Music Fest this August.

“[We have been] working with community economic teams across Ontario to understand why festivals aren’t making any money,” Lucid president George Roche told the committee. “Why are we not seeing the kind of revenues that we once did? Is it the partnerships, is it the education, the economy, or are these all contributing factors? We noticed a tectonic shift and we decided to get together everybody and put together a turnkey organization that can do exactly what you guys are doing here now.

“The only difference is we’re on wheels. You don’t have to come to us, but we can come to you.”

The group brings together a wide array of experiences and talents – and con-

tacts – to engage the community in areas like dance and theatre, to youth engagement, and community involvement.

“With what is going on with teachers these days, no more extracurricular activities, where are they going? The malls, maybe downtown, but we have to give these kids something to do and festivals offer that opportunity.”

Following their presentation to the committee, when it was clear the Sesquicentennial ship had sailed, they convened outside the committee room to speak with Councillor John Abel, who also attended the meeting. It was suggested following their presentation that what Lucid had to offer might be more in keeping with what was needed for the proposed Aurora Music Festival, since the organizers of the Aurora Jazz Festival decided not to bid for the use of Town Park this August and take their initiative to Newmarket’s Riverwalk Commons.

“We have a brand new opportunity and I know there is a fabulous pool of

people wanting to get into this festival, and we have it opened to tender right now,” explained Councillor Abel, who invited the group to present to Council next week.

Their team was expected to have a further meeting with Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and members of Town Staff this Thursday ahead of the meeting.

“The amount of thrust this kind of team and expertise would bring to the table optimizes and economizes those expenses that one person can then justify,” said Mr. Roche. “You don’t just have a team, you have a highly experienced award winning team and that adds value.”

It remains to be seen, however, how this new group – should Council decide to take them up on the project – envisions fitting into what is needed, particularly when it comes to the proposed Aurora Music Festival. They normally operate, they said, as a year-round initiative to build awareness, whether it is starting early in the year by involving youth in



Talents behind Lucid Productions came to Town Hall Wednesday night to make a pitch to become involved in upcoming Aurora celebrations and projects, including writer Joe Ress, So You Think You Can Dance Canada winner Miles Faber, Canadian Idol judge Farley Flex, broadcaster Christine Bentley, musician Jamie Shear, executive producer George Roche with Councillor John Abel, Canadian Idol Brian Melo, and television dog expert Brad Pattison. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

the selling of coupon books with an eye to a future festival, associated youth projects, and ongoing activities ranging from music to pet awareness throughout the year.

Another initiative is something developed by Mr. Flex called REAL (Reality Education Applied Lifeskills) Schools intended to use “pop culture to engage kids in discovering themselves. Mr. Flex said this would be a perfect fit for the upcoming Community Space for Youth.

“We come into the community, we help kids discover their interests, per-

sonality traits, and skill sets and we take it from there to a career interest,”

said Mr. Flex. “The unfortunate thing Continued on page 19



SOYRA – the Society of York Region Artists – host their annual art show at the Aurora Cultural Centre, beginning next Tuesday, January 22, running through February 2. Showing off a few of the pieces that will be on display are Heather Miller, Diane Croker, Linda Welch, Susan Walker-Ing, and Doug Miles. Thursdays hold special extended hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. where you can see a painting class in action. Auroran photo by David Falconer

MONUMENTS BY THOMPSONS

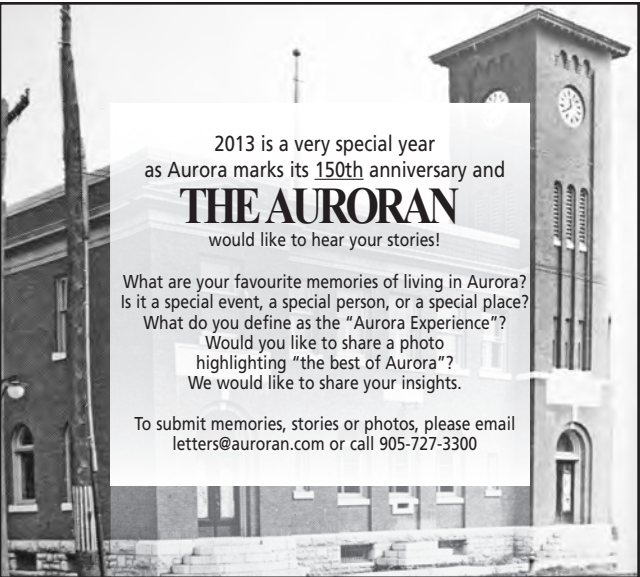
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THE AURORAN REAL ESTATE



REAL ESTATE INSIGHTS

Stefani P. Konidis

New Year Resolutions for your home

2013 has arrived!

It is time to put away your Christmas decorations and the New Year’s platters. Many people start out their year with lists on how to improve themselves through fitness, spending habits or generally being a better person. This year, we suggest you make a list on how to improve your home!

Here are 5 tips to get your house ship-shape for the coming year:

Clear out your closets and pantry

There is no better way to regain storage then by clearing out your closets and pantry. Storage space is a huge issue for many families and it’s easy to fill closets with unwanted or no longer needed items. There are many charities out there that will come to your house to pick up items you no longer use but others need.

Moreover, clearing out your pantry means getting rid of food that is expired or you know you shouldn’t be consuming – a good way to check off your personal resolution as well!

Clean your garage

If you are like most families, your garage is full of seasonal items as well as things you no longer use. Pick a mild winter day and get out there. It is a good rule that if you haven’t touched something in two years then get rid of it. Be selective with items like children’s toys and gardening tools as there will be a use for some of them once the snow melts.

A garage was meant for your car, so make it fit again. A new trend is to convert garage space into extra “chill” space. We have seen some basic garages transformed into fantastic art studios, teenage hangouts and even “man-caves.” It is good real estate that could be made even better!

Clean your windows

This time of year is known for giving people the “blues.” Shortened days and hibernation mode sets in and we all seem to have just a bit less energy and light in our daily life. Pick a day when you know the temperature is going to be above zero and get started. The more light you can let in your house, the better you will feel! This is also a good thing to do in the spring, but why wait?

Conserve water

This seems pretty basic but, between running the tap, taking long showers, and washing clothes and dishes at peak times, it’s safe to say the average home wastes a good amount of water each day. In order to conserve water, a family must change their habits and what a great time of year to begin doing things a little differently than in January – the first month of the year.

There are some obvious ways to conserve water, starting with not letting the tap run while doing something else, but there are many other ways as well. Remember, when you save water you also save money, so ultimately you can check “better spending” off your personal resolution list as well.

Update your lighting

A great way to update the look of a room is to alter the lighting in it. Some lighting just needs a new set of light bulbs. A visit to your hardware store will prove that there are many options for illuminating your space from halogen, florescent and even LED. Choose a light bulb that suits the use of the room and, that you like. Some lights are very blue while others give off a more orange or yellow hue.

A new light fixture may seem like an indulgence, but could make a huge impact in a space – big or small – and

give it a great new look. New lighting can also help conserve energy in your home and therefore, can be added to your personal resolution list as well. New lights will help shed new light on a New Year!!

(Some references in this column have been taken from www.thechestnutparkblog.com)

Happy New Year to all Auroran readers!



ASK TOM

Tom Mrakas

Stud Finders

I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather that has come our way!

This week I am going to introduce you all to the best stud finder. Once in a while I come across a tool that impresses me so much that I just have to tell everyone how great it is. It doesn’t happen often, but when it does I get excited! Yes I am a tool freak!

I was given the Franklin Stud Detector as a present this past Christmas and at first I thought, “Oh, great, another stud finder.” Well, boy was I wrong!

After I used it for the first time I immediately fell in love with this tool. I have taken all other stud finders I have and tossed them out. The people at Franklin Sensors have really come up with a great tool that everyone should have.

What makes this stud finder better than the average ones that everyone has is that it can and will detect through things such as wall and ceiling textures, uneven plaster thickness, uneven paint, and difficult wallpaper, and thick walls, while others tend to fail.

Another advantage is that it is the one stud finder that does not need to be slid along the wall to find the center point of a stud. This sensor has 13 LED lights that function in such a way that when the button is pushed, it will show you the width of any stud behind your walls or even multiple objects at the same time. It also detects many types of materials (wood, metal, even your plumbing).

The reason I am writing about this tool is that I think it is a great tool for every DIY’r to have in the tool box at home. It is very accurate and very easy to use.

Stefani Konidis is a Sales Representative with Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited, Brokerage, Exclusive Affiliate of Christie’s International Real Estate. She has been trading in real estate for over 12. Stefani works with partner, Kim Nichols, Sales Representative and they both live and work in King and Aurora. She was also recently appointed to the 2012-13 Consumer Relations Committee at the Toronto Real Estate Board and can be reached at T 416-925-9191 or online at www.localagents.blogspot.com. Watch for the launch of our new website coming soon!

Now I know that someone out there is saying that this item must cost a fortune if it is this good...Well it is \$49.95 at Lee Valley Tools, which when you consider how good it is, it’s a bargain!

So, if you want to hang pictures with ease or you’re doing something more complicated like installing crown mouldings, this tool will make the job that much easier!

Of course, the rest of the job is still hard work, but at least you won’t have 20 holes to repair because you just couldn’t find that damn stud!

So, until next week, remember a good job, is a job well done! And if you have any questions you can reach me at www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign or on Twitter, @ADesign_build and email of course Anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca.

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Oak Ridges Retirement Community celebrates first anniversary

Oak Ridges Retirement Community is marking its first anniversary this Sunday, January 20, from 2 – 4 p.m. Members of the public are invited to take part in the festivities, which include a commemoration of their heritage efforts in their new building and remarks from local dignitaries. Oak Ridges Retirement Community is located at 12925 Yonge Street in Richmond Hill.

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2C Plan promotes "Crime Prevention through Environment"

From page 1

policies that encourage excellence in community design and promote attractive, accessible, and safe public spaces, such as streetscapes, gateways to the community, vistas and open spaces," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Public Planning in the report before Council this week.

"[This guideline] builds on the general objectives and policies of the 2C Secondary Plan by providing future guidance for the development of the public and private realm. The guidelines will also assist in the review of site plan applications."

According to the architects behind the plan, it has been designed to plant the roots of a "cohesive community design and architectural vision" for the area, key factors in successful community building.

The detailed plan, produced by the Planning Partnership, was released to the public Friday. It outlines the driving forces behind the plan and the cohesion planned for the neighbourhoods. They say it was designed to achieve a "more compact and connected community" by having a "highly interconnected pattern" for lots and development blocks, consistency, "safety, accessibility and comfort" for pedestrians – as well as for transit and cyclists – and achieve provincial density targets.

The project is designed to help neighbours keep an eye on the community. Appearing before Council last year to address residents' concerns over buffers between homes, trails, and environmental areas, Allysa Hrynyk of TACC Developments said the design encourages a modern model of urban safety.

"Urban designers work [on] crime prevention through environmental design principles and essentially this is focused on creating a built environment that deters unwanted behaviour and criminal activity," she said. "You're looking for creating passive or natural surveillance, the eyes on the street theory, the whole Jane Jacobs test."

Accordingly, homes and other buildings will have windows out onto public areas to promote the "eyes on the street" concept. Streets will be well-lit and pedestrian areas incorporate the principles of "Crime Prevention through Environmental Design."

The plan recognizes the Aurora Trails Network as an "integral component" in the neighbourhood's design and the area "shall be developed and designed generally consistent with the requirements of the Aurora Trails Master Plan."

"However, details with respect to the classification, design standards, and finished requirements shall be developed as part of the 2C Urban Design guidelines," said the Planning Partnership in their designs. "The Area 2C Urban Design Guidelines shall, where pos-

sible, aim to provide an east-west and north-south non-motorized circulation grid...as an alternative to the arterial road system.

"[The plan shall] make reasonable efforts to keep these trails vital, safe, comfortable, and in operational condition, minimise conflicts with other modes of transportation through signage, appropriate grades, surfacing width and delineation of rights of way and well-designed transitions where trails merge with roads."

Active transportation such as walking and biking will also be encouraged with the installation of bike stands, public phones and rest spaces throughout the neighbourhood, as well as signs for guidance, and per-

meable paving for environmental concerns.

Residents in the adjacent 2B lands have recently seen a considerable influx of young people into their neighbourhood, quickly filling up Hartman Public School and bringing about the quick construction of Rick Hansen Public School on the eastern side of that development.

At least two elementary schools are planned for the 2C area. The plan calls for these buildings to be built as "high quality landmark buildings" – the standard they have proposed for all public buildings. They aim for these schools to be built in a way that will "minimize automobile dependency and maximize pedestrian access."

It has not been entirely smooth sailing to get to this point. Over the years of debate that has followed this plan through its early concept stages, to a series of public workshops with the public in the previous Council, a number of issues expressed by the public have yet to be resolved.

While an early concern over a proposed expansion of Hartwell Way to cut through this entire plot of land garnered concern from many residents over fears it would create a dangerous traffic situation, concerns remain over density, the environment (particularly with natural buffers), and from Newmarket residents over Aurora properties slated to back onto their neighbourhoods.



MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

First Indoor Market of 2013 this Saturday

Happy New Year to everyone!

All of us at the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan fair hope that you all had an enjoyable holiday season with friends and family and we wish you the very best for 2013.

Once again, we are gearing up for another indoor Market at the Aurora Cultural Centre this Saturday, January 19 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing many of our regular customers and friends as well as some new visitors.

Continued on page 16



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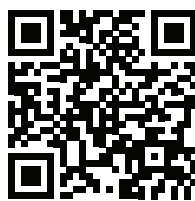
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HOUSE LEAGUE		
205 Caravan Kids - Pittsburgh Black: 9 - Mason Scanga 4G, Harrison Ballard 2G, Braedan Fraser 1G 1A, Josh Lyon 1A, Jack Boyd 1G, Tyler Leblanc 1A, Cole Mcclocklin 1A, Anthony Carbone 1G 1A. 202 Caravan Kids - Boston Gold: 1 - Aidan Edmunds 1G, Kenneth Lawrence 1A.	Fionn Keon 1A, Lucas Wilhelm 1G. Unionville 1	Bantam A, Richmond Hill 2 Aurora 0
804 Optimist Club of Aurora: 7 807 Crabby Joe's: 7	Novice AA, Barrie 3 Aurora 2 - Emmett Ross 1G, Andrew Parsons 1G 1A.	Bantam A, East Gwillimbury 4 Aurora 1 - Ian Rucker 1G, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A.
801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 5 804 Optimist Club of Aurora: 2	Novice AA, Stouffville 4 Aurora 0	Bantam A, Innisfil 6 Aurora 2 - Jack Bryant 1G, Charles Bennett 1G.
809 Manhattan Trophies Ltd.: 1 - Alex Sesto 1G. 810 Neuman's Puck Bandits: 0	Novice AA, Aurora 2 -Adam Rame 2G, William Haines 1A, Daniel Iwai 1A. Georgiana 1	Bantam A, Markham 2 Aurora 0
810 Neuman's Puck Bandits: 4 - Marcus Hamann 1G, Kyle Wulle 1G 1A, Nat Leontis 1G, Jordi Severini 1G, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1A, Zachary Machell 1A, James Samson 1A, Michael Montesanti 1A. 807 Crabby Joe's: 2 - Connor Tripp 1G, Kyle Woods 1G, Liam Desouza 1A.	Minor Atom A, Orillia 3 Aurora 3 - Ayden Whilby 1G, Dylan Andersen 1G, Gavin Loria 1G, Jack Sutherland 2A, Jake McMillan 1A.	Bantam A, Richmond Hill 3 Aurora 1 - Jack Bryant 1G, Ian Rucker 1A, Spencer White 1A.
911 Coldwell Banker Case: 1 - Graham Killby 1G, Russell Johnson 1A, Grant Kavanagh 1A. 901: 2 - Matthew Iwai 2G.	Minor Atom A, Aurora 4 - Ayden Whilby 2G, Dylan Andersen 2G, Jake McMillan 2A, Jack Sutherland 1A, Ryan Weeks 1A, Gavin Loria 1A, Christopher Koulouras 1A, Matthew Reid 1A. Barrie 2	Bantam A, Richmond Hill 5 Aurora 3 - Colin Kostin 2G, Charles Bennett 1G, Nicholas Sansalone 2A, Shaun Broad 1A, Connor Downs 1A, Jack Bryant 1A.
909 Inaria: 6 - Cameron Staples 1G, Erik Balkovec 2G 2A, Michael Liscio 2G, Tom Mason 1G, James Johnston 2A, Emerson Cepelak 1A. 905: 4 - Alessandro Perri 3G, Graeme McDonald 1G 2A, Graeme McDonald 1G 2A, Colin Dunlop 1A.	Minor Atom AE, Aurora 3 - George Rappos Jr 2G, Alex Morra 1G, Ryan Dunbar 1A, Nicholas Petinarelis 1A. Stouffville 1	Bantam A, Bradford 3 Aurora 1 - Michael Dacosta 1G, Jack Bryant 1A.
913: 6 - Neil Duggan 1G 2A, Adam de Roos 1G, David Gonder 1G 1A, Alec Ground 1G 1A, Nathan Dinatale 1G, Ryan McGolrick 1G, Mackenzie Smith 2A, Cody Child 1A. 912 Jonathan's: 2 - Sean Foxwell 1G, Jacob Hagias 1G, Chris Crisolago 1A, Scott Kostin 1A, Scott Kostin 1A.	Atom AA, Aurora 3 - Jake Adams 1G 1A, Jake Piper 1G, Brett Pearce 1A, Zachary Kolm 1G. Richmond Hill 2	Minor Midget AE, Aurora 2 Newmarket 2
902 Tile Master: 4 - Brett Bond 1G, Graham Robinson 2G, Tait Snedden 1G, Jason Glionna 1A. 904 A.D.C. Aluminum: 4 - Harris Riopelle 1G 1A, Michael Tanel 2G, Austin Waite 1G 1A, Evan Jackson 2A .	Atom AA, Aurora 5 - Jake Adams 1G 1A, Carter Beswick 2G, Zachary Kolm 2G, Evan Vierling 2A, Josh Lombard 1A, Ben Barber 1A, Harrison Fleischaker SO. TNT 0	
910 Neuman's Puck Bandits: 4 - Brendan McDonald 2G, Kevin Hillsdon 1G, Gavin Patterson 1G, Brendan Ruuskanen 1A, Cole Baker 1A, Chris Sanita 3A. 906 AHPA: 1 - Jamie Wilson 1G, Brady Wilson 1A.	Minor Pee wee AE, Markham 4 Aurora 2 - Kyle Fowler 1G, Luke Catania 1G, Jack Patterson 2A.	
912 Jonathan's: 5 - Chris Crisolago 1G, Sean Foxwell 3G, Robert Ruscica 1G, Scott Taylor 1A, Liam Gray 3A, Leon Vizkin 1A. 904 A.D.C. Aluminum: 4 - Joseph Veneziano 1G, Josh DiVincenzo 1G 1A, Harris Riopelle 1G 1A, Michael Tanel 1G 1A, Christopher Ottman 1A, Jonathan Caporusso 1A.	Pee wee AA, Aurora 6 - Matthew Hollett 2G 1A, Lucas LaBrier 2G, Nicholas Rountes 2G 1A, Jack Slade 1A, Matthew Ferry 1A, Ben Fleischaker 1A, Michael Fodero 2A. Markham 5	
	Pee wee AA, East Gwillimbury 5 Aurora 2 - Nate Legros 1G, Lucas LaBrier 1G 1A, Ben Fleischaker 1A, Matthew Ferry 1A.	
	Pee wee AA, Georgina 3 Aurora 2 - Anthony Magnante 1G 1A, Jack Slade 1G, Matthew Ferry 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1A.	
	Pee wee AA, Barrie 7 Aurora 0	
	Pee wee AA, Richmond Hill 3 Aurora 0	
	Pee wee A, Barrie 4 Aurora 0	



Photo and Story submitted by Kelley Phillips

Bantam AA Tigers win AMHA Bantam tournament

The Aurora Tigers Bantam AA Team participated in their own AMHA Bantam tournament held the weekend of January 4-6, 2013.

The weekend saw a lot of excitement with the boys having a win and two ties in round robin play and also winning the 3 on 3 tournament held prior to round robin play resuming.

They headed into the semi finals on January 6 having to face the Oshawa Generals team they had tied on Friday night. The boys got off to a slow start with Oshawa scoring an early goal to take the lead. The Tigers' claws came out and they would not give up with Ryan D'Antimo scoring to tie it up and on the very next shift Zack Phillips scoring to put the Tigers ahead.

Bryan Manweiler and Tristan Kuchar each scored to secure the Tigers a win to help them move on to the finals against Kitchener. The round robin game against the Kitchener Rangers had been a very rough, physical game and the Tigers wanted to let them know that they would not be intimidated. The boys set the tone early with a goal by Cameron Zinner 20 seconds in followed by another from Evan Cherubini and a short-handed goal by Phillips to give the Tigers a 3-2 win.

Superb goaltending from Matthew Tanel, named tournament MVP, helped the Bantam AA Tigers hoist up the championship trophy in front of their home town fans.



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Week of January 15, 2013

Back to back games for Tigers as they prepare to take on Stouffville

By Laura Finney

The Tigers won two back to back games last week. The first one was against the Whitby Fury on Tuesday. “We played a very strong game against them,” said James Richmond, head coach for the Tigers. “The boys played wonderful on Tuesday night.”

There’s no doubt Robert Angiolella played a great game. He owned the scoreboard netting four of Aurora’s five goals.

The evening started with Whitby taking the lead after Chris Raguseo took advantage of an early power play in the first few minutes of the period. Aurora’s Zack MacArthur tied it up eight minutes later with assists going to Blake Forslund and Daniel Clairmont. Angiolella scored his first goal of the game at 14:22, with assists from Zack MacArthur and Daniel Lisi.

The next twenty minutes of play saw Angiolella’s second goal and a goal from Whitby’s Henry Thompson. Daniel Lisi and Kyle Liu got the assists for Aurora.

Despite Liu’s trip to the sin bin halfway through the third period, Angiolella was able to notch his hat trick with his unassisted third goal. He followed that up in the final minute with a successful shot into Whitby’s empty net.

Aurora’s Angiolella and Lisi were awarded the stars of the night, along with Whitby’s Henry Thompson.

Final score was 5 - 2.

The boys had little time to rest before playing – and beating – the Pickering Panthers on Wednesday, 6 - 2.

Richmond had no doubts in his team’s performance.

“We have a pretty deep lineup, and if we all play with the speed that we can, then we should be able to beat them.”

Period one started with David Iacono taking advantage of Pickering player Cory Lauer’s early penalty, scoring the first goal of the game.

Robert Angiolella and Adam DiBrina also scored for Aurora, assisted by Kory Kennedy, Tanner Shaw, Daniel



Clairmont and Adam Moody.

Pickering’s Jeff Heard got them on the score board at 6:15.

Blake Forslund had Aurora’s only second period goal with help from Dylan Sikura, and Heard took advantage of Adam DiBrina’s penalty to score for Pickering.

Aurora saw two more goals in the final twenty minutes, including a power play goal from Adam Moody and a short handed goal from John Doyle.

DiBrina, Moody and John Doyle all received stars.

Richmond was very pleased with the games, but is still looking forward.

“We had 11 goals in 2 games, and that was good, and we got our 4 points which was great and now it’s trying to chase down Newmarket for first place,” he said.

Aurora Tiger Taylor McCloy battles with the Whitby Fury in a home game at the ACC last week. The Tigers face three games this week, beginning Thursday in Stouffville against the Stouffville Spirits. Friday, they take on the Pickering Panthers before capping the week against the Wellington Dukes on Sunday.

Auroran photo by Laura Finney

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c u s t o m f r a m i n g

Town set to absorb costs once again for e-Play users

By Brock Weir

Hang up the phone, registrations for Town recreation programs will be moving back online.

The Town will be phasing out telephone registrations in the coming year, with a focus on shifting registration back to its online e-Play system and taking registrations in-person. Municipal Staff propose absorbing the approximately \$5 user fee now faced by each resident wanting to enroll in programs over the internet in a bid to encourage people to make the switch and ease the transition. Last year, staff highlighted the per-enrollment fees faced by the Town by the online provider and Councillors voted to pass this cost back onto the user, but they have now had second thoughts and voted to take back the fees.

According to Al

Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation Services, although the e-Play registration system was popular after its introduction in 2011, popularity swung back to the traditional over-the-phone and in-person registration methods when the enrollment fees were put back into the online programs.

While users headed back to the phones, that particular phone server is due for replacement this year and staff decided it was simply not worth it to keep the initiative running.

“We found that when fees were imposed at e-Play, the use went up and when the services were free, the use of [phone registration] went down,” said Mr. Downey. “We know that people who wish to use technology will continue to use technology, however, if it is free, they will go to that one.

“We found that our in-person dropped from 53 down to 40 but our tele-play dropped from 47 down to 21 per cent and that difference was picked up by e-play. We then imposed a fee and our e-play dropped from 29 down to 18 and [phone] increased from 21 to 24 and in-person also increased.”

Aurora is currently unique in charging a fee to its residents, so the recommendation to absorb the fees once again would not be bucking the trend.

Going to register in person, he added, would create additional pressures on Town Staff and residents alike, compared to shifting focus online.

“We just don’t want the people who are trying to register for swimming as we used to have with people getting up at 4 a.m. and lining up outside the Centre in order to be the first in,” he continued.

“It’s a customer service issue for us and we’re finding if there is a fee associated with it, they’re not as likely to use that service and therefore we’re getting longer lines and people having to deal with our staff, which causes some concerns.

While Councillors were ultimately supportive of re-absorbing the user fees, including Councillor Chris Ballard who said if it’s properly planned it could save the Town money in the long run, Councillor Evelyn Buck questioned this would be an opportunity to revise registration rates on the whole to incorporate the online registration fees rather than it be an additional charge.

“As director, I rarely support increased fees to our programs,” said Mr. Downey. “The more financial barriers we put up, the less likelihood of people participating.”

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Mother-Son team win film contest with stop motion short

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Public Library is a place to learn, have some fun, go on a journey, form new memories, and even find some peace and quiet within the yellow hued bricked “fortress of solitude.”

These were just a few of the themes explored by Library patrons as they grabbed their video cameras to show what the Library meant to them in “My APL”, their very first video contest.

“We recognize our community is very tech savvy and utilizes all sorts of different online and tech media to go about their daily lives and we wanted to embrace that and to grow with our community,” said the Library’s Cindy Shaver, who first brainstormed the My APL contest.

“Without you, the community, we would be nothing and we wanted to get

your experiences to see what [the Library] meant to you. What it ended up being were eight finalist videos that are unbelievably motivating and inspirational and we couldn’t have chosen better participants or better ideas.”

Five finalists were chosen in the adult category, while three made the cut in the teen category. Among the adult finalists was a team entry from ESL students, and individual submission from Gabriela Spinu, Lourita Lue-Shing and Najma Kausar, but “APL Sparks My Imagination” submitted by Kathryn Seaborn, in conjunction with her 11-year-old son Seth, who was too young to submit work to the contest himself, won the day.

What the mother-son duo came up with was a highly creative stop motion animation film highlighting their love for the Library, as well as pro-

viding an effective showcase for their imagination.

“My dad did a little clay-mation when he was a kid so one day we did a very terrible one, but that’s what started it and I started to make each frame shorter and it got better,” Seth told The Auroran after accepting his \$100 prize cheque from Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, one of three judges in the contest. “I liked it a lot because I like drawing and artistic stuff, and making a lot with clay is fun too.”

Added Kathryn: “The team effort involved me pressing the shutter and him doing the rest of the work. He spent a lot of time in his room making the figures and the video and he put it all together in the computer himself. He was the real wizard.”

Although Seth was modest about the result, Kathryn said she was impressed with the finished product and rightful-

ly so. He hopes to extend his enjoyment of animation throughout his life and is split right now on whether to pursue that as a career or go into paleontology.

Winners in the teen category were Michael Nash and Anne Wynne, whose video made the top three along with submissions from Chloe Bray, and Sarah McManaman. Michael and Anne focused on the quieter aspects of the Library and its position as a place of peace.

“It’s great if you want to go and just get this little fortress of solitude and you can read or you can study, or you can also be a part of the community and take part in programs,” said Anne.

When asked what they planned on doing with their prize cheque, the Aurora High School students gave their answer without any hesitation.

“Maple Sushi!”



Seth and Kathryn Seaborn (front) and (rear) AHS students Michael Nash and Anne Wynne were named the big winners Thursday in the Aurora Public Library’s “My APL” film contest. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Winter Blues Fest plans youth band “extravaganza” for Aurora 150

By Brock Weir

Organizers for Aurora 150 were left singing anything but the blues last week as the group behind the Aurora Winter Blues Festival offered to put their heads together for a “youth music extravaganza”

Speaking on behalf of the Blues Fest, James MacDonald proposed a threefold collaboration on events, including a showcase of local youth bands, a performance by a “Canadian youth music celebrity” and capped with a video DJ dance party.

“Last year we had six bands come out from a combination of Aurora and Newmarket,” said Mr. MacDonald of last year’s Blues Fest, which was held at Theatre Aurora. “We were quite focused and successful and raising funds for the Youth and Music Assistance Program, so for local youth who don’t have the financial capability to take music lessons or musical instruments, so we raised about \$2,000. Working through the Aurora high schools, both Catholic and public, we fund students for both music lessons and instruments and it has been very well received by the local high schools.

“Our event is to host a musical extravaganza event focused solely for the youth of Aurora. What we intend to do is give them their space, their music and their party. We’re focused on a three-prong approach showcased around the bands

and local youth. That will basically parallel the same structure we use for the Aurora Winter Blues festival as well.”

Mr. MacDonald told the Sesquicentennial Committee that they’re in negotiations to bring in a performance by a Canadian youth music celebrity through their network of contacts and a “national broadcaster” has expressed interest in working with them to put a spotlight on the events. These details are expected to be finalized in the next couple of weeks, he added.

“We just want to make it fun and make it memorable,” he said. “It’s the same spirit and theme we use for the Aurora Winter Blues Festival and get people talking about it ahead

of time. This is focused on youth, so we don’t co-mingle it with an adult function. That kind of scares them away if mum and dad are around as well, so that is what we are focused on with a youth event.”

Mr. MacDonald said he sees the program as complementary to what the Sesquicentennial Committee has already tentatively proposed for the upcoming months. Their plans included a Battle of the Bands in Town Park, hosted in conjunction with the local Rotary Club, as well as public art – previously known as a “Graffiti Wall” – and the traditional dance in the park for older residents.

“It’s going to attract the same ages so we see that

activity going on in unison with this,” he said. “We look again to the showcase of the band as a late afternoon event, a couple of rounds which would lead more into early evening with a second or third component as well

wrapped up with the dance parts.

“We have a strong organizing committee, we all have kids in that area as well, so we can start canvassing them for ideas to complement the event. We’re open as well – I

know it is a long weekend, so we have flexibility to position this as well.”

The Sesquicentennial Committee voted to refer the proposal for a few weeks until the establishment of a subcommittee

Continued on page 19



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Teens tell the stories of others in “Aurora: Then & Now”

By Brock Weir

Everybody has a story to tell, and these this is something Aurora teens will get the chance to experience firsthand as the Town marks its 150th anniversary this year.

Applications are now being accepted by the Aurora Public Library for the Aurora: Then & Now project, a new initiative slated to begin next month where Aurora’s teens and young adults will not only be able to learn about Aurora’s history, but gain some great interview and writing experience to boot.

Aurora: Then and Now is just one of several initiatives

on the Library’s launching pad to mark the Town’s Sesquicentennial. Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager of Community Collaboration at the Library, says this initiative is a multi-layered series of programs intended to mark the milestone.

“The Library is traditionally about stories and every single person in the community is a story teller and has a story in him or herself,” she said. We’re looking at ways to engage teens, so we know that the teens are very busy, but we also know they are very interested in volunteering community hours and looking for interesting projects to do that will help them on their resume and

college applications,” she says.

“We thought an opportunity for them to gain interviewing skills, to learn about the history of the people in Aurora, and newcomers to Aurora would be a way to engage them and give them something to take away. In the end, we want to compile the stories that they are writing and create a booklet so everyone else in the community can read their work.”

Applicants will have to go out in the community and find somebody to interview. The program is being run by Jennifer Quirke, their young adult librarian, and the selected team will meet for

three Thursday evenings, the first Thursdays of the month (beginning February 2) to provide guidance on how to structure interview types of questions and research.

“Subjects could be a grandparent, it could be somebody who just immigrated, it could be anyone they choose and they could be doing a profile of that person,” Ms. Mandelcorn explains. “Depending on who it is, the research they would be doing would be quite different. We want them to come up with something that is innovative, that is new, so we will end up having a number of different styles in the booklet.

“What we’re trying to do is engage teens to give them real life skills for jobs, for college, university, and for work, and I certainly think that interviewing is a very important skill.

Applications are due this Sunday, January 20 and can be found at www.libraryaurora.on.ca.

Aurora Then & Now will not be the only opportunity for Library patrons to participate in events and projects developed to coincide with the Sesquicentennial. Next month, they’re launching a story contest for adults 18+ with a Sesquicentennial theme that will also be published in a booklet. The unique twist this year is par-

ticipants must each begin their stories with the same opening line. Although Ms. Mandelcorn is mum on what this line might be for the time being, she says it does indeed have “something to do with Aurora.”

In addition to their ongoing History Mondays, a popular new feature on their Facebook page, the Library will also be launching art contests to mark the anniversary, including a youth watercolour competition for teens and tweens creating works “en plein air” inspired by historic buildings, and a contest for younger Aurorans on “Aurora 150 Years From Now.”

COMING EVENTS

ON NOW

JANUARY 3 – 24

The Aurora Public Library will host Winter Watercolours Thursdays through January 24 from 6.30 – 8 p.m. Embrace the beauty of watercolour painting with artist and teacher Alana Biasi. Both the beginner and the advanced painter will marvel at the delightful possibilities of watercolour painting. Ages: Grades 5- 100. Cost: \$36. Materials not included. For more information, contact the Library at 905-727-9494.

JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 14

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) will host Healthy Coping Skills for Anxiety and Depression with Flora Svinarenko for six weeks from 5 – 6 p.m. beginning Thursday, January 10 at their Aurora headquarters. (15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15) Very often depression and anxiety are familiar feelings to someone struggling with disordered eating, body image issues and low self esteem. During this group you will learn how your negative thinking patterns might be affecting your feelings and behaviors. You will be able to explore the “mechanisms” of anxiety and depression and learn why they are triggered. You will learn healthy coping techniques with your symptoms and you will be able to share your struggles and worries in a safe environment.

JANUARY 10 – 31

EDOYR launches The Hope and Inspiration Peer Support Group at their Aurora Headquarters at 15213 Yonge Street beginning January 10 from 6 – 8 p.m. for four Thursdays. Group participants will feel empowered as they ask questions, discover answers, and gain insights together into eating disorders to help and support each other on their journey to recovery. Group participants can become role models for each other, as they witness one another overcome obstacles and make progress in their lives. Registration is \$40. For more information, call 905-886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Bonsai Hill Tea and Coffee will present another evening of poetry tonight with “A Portrait of Precise Words” featuring musician Alex Nugent, poets Luleta Brown, Deborah Campo, Stephanie Davidson, Sterling Dillinger, Dmitry Saltykov, Linda Squires, Dierdre Tomlinson, Malcolm Watts, and an open mic for guest poets. The evening gets underway from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Performances begin at 7.15. Limited Seating. Located at 15263 Yonge Street, Unit 2. 905-751-0797. Please note the last half hour of open mic may contain graphic language.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

The Aurora PROBUS Club will host a joint meeting between the Aurora and Newmarket clubs and Dr. Dave Williams, CEO of the Southlake Regional Health Centre. The meeting will take place at Seaton Hall in Newmarket at 17995 Leslie Street, north of Davis Drive. Arrive at approximately 10 a.m. For more information, contact program chair Bob Staley at 905-727-5017.

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, welcomes back Jacqueline Stuart with the heritage lecture “A Virtual Tour of the

Aurora Cemetery.” A fascinating glimpse into important stories from Aurora’s past. Admission by donation; 7 p.m. lecture. For info, call 905 713-1818, or check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Aurora Historical Society hosts local author Barbara Nattress in a signing of her new book “Dreams in the Mist” this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. All welcome!

JANUARY 16 – 20

The Newmarket Stage Company presents Snow White & The Seven Dwarves by Stuart Ardern at Newmarket Theatre. January 16 – 19 at 8 p.m. and January 19 – 20 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for Wednesday and \$17 Thursday – Sunday. For tickets contact Newmarket Theatre at 905-953-5122 or visit www.newmarket-stageco.org.

JANUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 10

Southlake Regional Health Centre hosts the art exhibition “Mentorship in Motion”. “Mentorship in Motion” is a partnership of six accomplished artists mentoring six young students living with a challenge. Together, each team produced a collaborative piece of art showcasing how creativity can restore, repair, and renew. Art will be on display through February 10. For more information, visit www.artcures.ca. The session is open to the public and will feature presentations on the issues that impact wait times in Southlake’s Emergency and Diagnostic Imaging Departments and what steps Southlake has taken to address these wait times. The seminar will be held from 6.30 – 7.30 in the Lecture Hall of the Medical Arts Building (581 Davis Drive, Newmarket).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

Southlake Regional Health Centre launches the first in an inaugural session of engagement programs at the hospital with “Why The Wait? Pulling Back the Curtain on Hospital Wait Times”.

JANUARY 18 – FEBRUARY 8

EDOYR hosts a free art program with Amanda Di Santo and Rebecca Vos-Van Soelen beginning Friday, January 18 for four Fridays from 6 – 7.30 p.m. at their Aurora headquarters. (15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15). The art program is designed to promote a healthy and effective way of expressing ones’ self without necessarily having to be verbal. A calm and creative approach, this program will offer support to one another through sharing art experiences, for those that choose to do so. Multi-media, no previous art experience required. All supplies will be provided. To register call 905 886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

The first indoor edition of the Aurora Farmers’ Market & Artisan Fair of 2013 takes place today at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome to shop, browse and visit the indoor Market that features some of your favourite farmers, food vendors and artists at the Aurora Cultural Centre. 22 Church Street. For more information, visit www.theaurorafarmers-market.com.

Want to Ace Your Grade 9 Math Exam? Head to the Aurora Public Library! The transition to high school Math can be challenging! Get ready for your first high

school Math exam with teacher and mathematician Danielle Rasu-Park. Free information session for Grade 9 students only. 2 – 4 p.m. For more information, contact the Library at 905-727-9494.

The One Parent Families Association will hold a dance this evening from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. (105 Industrial Parkway North). Hot and cold buffet, cash bar.

MONDAY, JANUARY 21

Winter classes start this evening at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Programs for adults (ages 16+) include painting, drawing, wood carving, creative writing, as well as guitar, ukulele and photography. New this season – Harmonise group singing class! Children’s Saturday art programs start January 26. For all program information, check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818. Register over the phone with a credit card, or in person at the Centre.

JANUARY 22 – FEBRUARY 2

The Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) host their annual SOYRA Showcase 2013 group exhibition and sale at the Aurora Cultural Centre. An opening reception featuring the artists will be held Saturday, January 26 from 1 – 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosts Speed Networking with members of the Newmarket and East Gwillimbury Chambers this afternoon at St. Andrew’s Valley Golf Club (4 Pinnacle Trail) from 5.30 – 7.30 p.m. Cost is \$10 for Chamber members. For more information, call 905-727-7262.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents “A Sheard, Wendellful Delight”, featuring John Sheard (pianist of CBC radio’s Vinyl Cafe fame) and guitar wizard Wendell Ferguson in concert. From rock to mock, jazz to jokes, melody to parody, this duo (with guest bassist Dennis Pendrith) cooks up an unforgettable evening of music and humour. Concert 8 p.m.; tickets, \$25 plus HST. For info, or to purchase tickets call 905-713-1818, or check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host Coffee with the President this morning from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Drop in to the Chamber office (14483 Yonge Street) to have coffee with the president of the Board and the Executive Director. Get answers to your questions or just meet the staff. Visit and see what’s new at the chamber. For more information, call 905-727-7262.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

The White Heather Pipes and Drums presents their annual Robbie Burns Night on Saturday, January 26, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385, 105 Industrial Parkway N., Aurora. Enjoy a wonderful evening of music and dance along with a dinner of roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, tatties and neeps, and, of course, haggis. Entertainment by the White Heather Pipes and Drums, and Celtic Rock group Hadrian’s Wall. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available from band members or at the Legion.

Winter classes continue at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Programs for adults (ages 16+) include painting, drawing, wood carving, creative writing, as well as guitar, ukulele and photography. New this season – Harmonise group

singing class! Children’s Saturday art programs begin today. For all program information, check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818. Register over the phone with a credit card, or in person at the Centre.

The Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) host their annual SOYRA Showcase 2013 group exhibition and sale at the Aurora Cultural Centre. An opening reception featuring the artists will be held today from 1 – 4 p.m.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre will host History Hands-On (H2O): Winter today from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Practice knitting and coking in the Brown House parlour learn how candles were made in the log cabin. Do you know what a megalithoscope is? Come find out! Help cook treats on the wood stove in the Brown House kitchen. Experience what life was like when this area was first settled! For more information, contact the museum at 905-727-8954.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the first concert 2013 Great Artist Piano Series. Chu-Fang Huang, piano. Winner of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, presents a program to include works by Haydn, Chopin and Wanghua Chu. A wonderful opportunity to experience world-class classical music in the intimate salon setting of Brevik Hall. Individual tickets \$30 Adult; \$25 Seniors (60+) and Students (up to 18 years), plus HST. Series continues March 8, April 12 and May 31; special 4-concert subscription series pricing available. For tickets and info, drop by the Centre, call 905-713-1818, or check www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum hosts a P.A. Day Children’s Workshop today from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Drop your kids off at the museum for the P.A. Day! Your kids will spend the day learning how things were done in Whitchurch-Stouffville over 100 years ago. They will try out an old-fashioned soup recipe, bake in the Victorian kitchen, spend time in the pioneer classroom and much more. Perfect for children aged 8 – 12. Pre-registration is required and participants must bring their own nut-free lunch. Cost: \$40, \$32 for museum members.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Aurora Cultural Centre once again hosts a schoolHOUSE concert tonight at 8 p.m., this time featuring Duffy & Ebata. This incredible duo made a splash in a brief appearance at the Centre last summer during Doors Open Aurora. What a thrill to present them for a complete evening of their piano and vocal duos. The show will follow their recent CD “A Different Take” - jazz-inspired renditions of familiar tunes. From Leonard Cohen (Ain’t No Cure for Love), John Phillips’ classic California Dreamin’, Feelin’ Groovy from Paul Simon, to John Denver’s beautiful Sunshine on My Shoulders...even Paint It Black from the Rolling Stones. Tickets are \$15.

FEBRUARY 4 – APRIL 8

The Ontario Clay and Glass Association brings its FUSION: Fireworks 2011 exhibition to the Aurora Cultural Centre FUSION’s mission to promote excellence in clay and glass is fulfilled through the Fireworks exhibitions. Since 1975, the notable or award winning have been purchased by FUSION for the FUSION Permanent Collection, housed at and on permanent loan to the Burlington Art Centre.

FEBRUARY 7

Jennifer Ettinger presents the fourth annual Women, Wine & Chocolate event tonight from 7 – 9.30 p.m. at Madsen’s Greenhouse (160 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket). Women, Wine & Chocolate invites you to guiltlessly indulge in healthy chocolates, tantalizing wines, nutritious appetizers, exciting auction items, music by Milena Viglietta and being waited on by Central York Firefighters. Tickets: \$40. All proceeds benefit the Women’s Centre of York Region. For more information and tickets, contact

Shelley Chidlow at 905-853-9270.


WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The Aurora Public Library presents Money Talk\$— Using Charts for Selecting Investments. This is a free monthly discussion group to exchange ideas and unbiased financial planning information. Presentation will be followed by a question and answer session. No financial products or services will be offered or sold. Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Magna Room. Pre-register at the library Adult Information Desk: 905-727-9494, ext. 275.



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Jazz Fest organizer looks to maintain momentum in Newmarket

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Jazz+ Festival may now be a memory, but organizers in charge of the festival are looking to keep the momentum going when they move operations to Newmarket this year.

That is the vision of Festival organizer Sher St. Kitts. Ms. St. Kitts is working on the logistics of the Newmarket Jazz+ Festival, which is slated to take place at Newmarket's Riverwalk Commons on the Civic Holiday Weekend this

MARKET MUSINGS

From page 11

One of the last of our regular vendors yet to be profiled is Toscana Bakery, now operated by Joe and his sister, Anna.

They take pride in bringing Italian delicacies to Aurora. In addition to their many mouth watering Italian pasties, they specialise in creating unique yet traditional cakes for weddings, birthdays, christenings and anniversaries.

Toscana also boasts an wide assortment of home-made hot table items including meatballs, veal or chicken parmesan, pasta and pizza.

To round things out, they also have a well-stocked grocery section and deli and cheese department. Around holiday time, they feature specialty items like panettone, marzipan and zeppole. They are also well known for their great selection of Italian and Canadian bread, always fresh and preservative free. They are open 365 days a year, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends at their shop on McClennan Way.

When Toscana is at the Market, however, their pastry and bread choices are considerably wider and aren't we all grateful for that? For example, at the upcoming Indoor Market, they will be bringing an assortment of savoury croissants for breakfast as well as cinnamon buns, donuts, strudels, turnovers, bear claws, scones, fruit sticks and chocolate and almond croissants. Yum!

They will also bring apple, cherry, blueberry, strawberry-rhubarb and mixed fruit pies. In addition, they will have bird's nests and a variety of homemade cookies.

When it comes to bread, there seems to be no limit to the variety of bread they produce for the Market. In addition to white, whole wheat, Calabrese and Ciabatta loaves, they bring over fifteen other varieties of very interesting bread.

Some of those are challah (egg bread), several ryes, pumpernickel, cheese and onion, cheddar and chive, potato bread, wild grain, fruit and fibre, raisin and flax, corn bread, sourdough and a variety of bagels, baguettes and buns. There is definitely something for everyone.

I understand that they

August and making sure that it not only remembers its roots in Aurora, but is also tailor made to its new audience. That includes looking at the Town for its own "diamonds" or diamonds in the rough.

"It's a festival that is celebrating the local artists, local musicians and what we have in our back yard, and the diamonds in your back yard is kind of a theme," Ms. St. Kitts told The Auroran last week. "Now we're in their hometown I want to be able to look

can make gluten-free bread upon request, too. So, when you are visiting the Market, whether indoors or outdoors, be sure to stop by to try some of Toscana's delicious assortment of bread and pastries-you won't be disappointed.

At this Saturday's Indoor Market, many of your favourite vendors will be looking forward to seeing you again. There will be coffee and tea, jewellery, Fair Trade products, strudel and bagels, jams and jellies and chili, organic sprouts, scarves, soaps and shampoo, beef and meat pies, items for teddy bears, bears, socks and handmade knick knacks, to name just some of those you can expect to find.

There will also be Gabriel's famous back bacon on a bun and quiche as well as Melvin's equally famous jerk chicken sandwiches. Lots to eat, lots to see and some surprises!

For those of you who will be looking for our farmer, Andy, of 19th Avenue Farm is expecting to have available winter cabbage broccoli and cauliflower, carrots, beets, and Empire apples as well as greenhouse tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers for a great salad.

For our 2013 outdoor season, we will be looking for a new Market Manager as our fabulous Catherine Cook is unable to continue in this capacity. We will be looking for someone with a love of farmers' markets, who is willing and able to work every Saturday during the season for at least a few hours, and has excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

We will be posting an ad on the Market web site for this position in the next few weeks. Anyone who is interested in the position should send a resume to either the website (theaurorafarmersmarket.com) or to our P.O. Box #28576, 14800 Yonge Street, Aurora L4G 1N0.

The remaining two indoor Markets are on Saturday, February 23 and Saturday, March 23 at the Aurora Cultural centre and we hope to see you there. We also invite anyone who is interested to come to our AGM on Saturday, February 9 in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall.

See you at the indoor Market!

at them first, but I will still look at Aurora, absolutely, because they have been so supportive and I love them."

The move to Newmarket stems from a motion from Councillor Evelyn Buck calling for the use of Aurora's Town Park to be opened up for bids to host a music festival on the long weekend in question. After much controversy and heated debate on all sides, the motion was ultimately passed but the Aurora Festival of the Arts decided, after some time to think it over, to take a pass on making a bid for the festival.

"I love Aurora because I have had great opportunities there and great people," said Ms. St. Kitts. "Yes, it has been a hard ride, but it was

never my ride. It was a political ride and I am not a politician. I am just a football. The more they use me, the more we get press for the festival, so...you've got to find the silver lining in everything."

One of the main concerns when the matter was up for debate in Aurora was the matter of fencing Town Park. Thus far, Ms. St. Kitts said she hasn't heard of any of that yet, but said it was pretty early in the communications with the Town.

"If you don't have a lot of sponsorship, the money has to come from somewhere," she said. "I can't pay for it every year, so you have got to pay for revenue streams. If you can pay for something and everyone pays a

little bit them it is great. Fencing in Aurora has been there for 100 years and whatever, so I don't know what all that is about. I tend to suspect it is about personal likes and dislikes which has nothing to do with business."

Looking ahead, Ms. St. Kitts said they were focused on working with the whole of the Newmarket community and the surrounding arts area, but said now that their market is the Town to the north, they have first dibs. Opportunities, she said, included having art programs and other activities in the nearby community centre. It is also, she added, what they hoped to be a springboard to what is eventually a larger opera-

tion, one continuing from the momentum built up in Aurora. "The big dream is to have a festival in Aurora, in Newmarket, in King City, and Richmond Hill and then have them working together with each other building a momentum.

"It becomes expensive unless you can get festivals working together, which is why we have created Arts Music Festivals of York region and tagged it 'York Region' because if I tagged it just 'Aurora' it wouldn't sit well with the other municipalities. This way it is good for all over.

"We're not looking at losing a festival, but creating a new festival and having the other festivals sit by for now until we figure it out!"

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Aurora High School students held a reception at the Aurora Cultural Centre Wednesday to mark the opening of the Aurora Youth Fine Art Show. Featuring works from AHS and Williams students, the show was the initiative of two Grade 12 students determined not to let labour unrest at the school sideline the show. (Left) AHS grad Madeleine models the work of artist Christina Galajda. (Right) Organizers Emily Sweny and Miranda Petrossi, centre, were congratulated by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Stephanie of the ACC.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



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Workshops proposed to determine future of Library Square

By Brock Weir

A series of workshops should be considered to determine the future of Library Square, according to municipal staff.

That is the recommendation that will be before Councillors this week as they look to the future of the former sites of the Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Seniors' Centre, located on the west side of Victoria Street between Church and Mosley.

According to a report from Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, and CAO Neil Garbe, the areas in question have been the subject of 19 staff reports since the Library and Seniors' Centre vacated their former digs in 2000 and 2006 respectively.

A number of issues have brought these recommendations forward including a recent proposal from Councillor Evelyn Buck to spend all or a portion of Aurora's Hydro Reserve Funds on razing the three buildings – including the adjacent Victoria Hall – to make way for a new multi-story, multi-use, and multi-purpose facility that could serve as Aurora's Youth Centre and address ongoing parking issues in the area.

The future of Library Square was also called into question last month when Council approved a \$97,000 contract to examine the revitalization of Aurora's downtown core.

"Council has expressed a desire to consider the disposition of the facilities once again," said Mr. Downey in his report to this Tuesday's General Committee meeting. "In order to make this process effective and inclusive, staff are recommending a number of workshops throughout the year to provide information, receive input, and assist in the process."

The process he proposes is fourfold. The first meeting will look at the existing conditions of the buildings. Here, staff will present past reports, recommendations, and lay everything out on the table – including an "updated evaluation of each facility's conditions and an estimated cost of repair."

The second meeting will essentially be a brainstorming session of all possible uses, before evaluating the suggestions and determining preferences in a third meeting to follow.

The fourth and possibly final meeting in this process will be a meeting to present a boiled down list of preferred

options.

"The limited number of options would then be the topic of a detailed review exploring operational and capital costs as well as timelines for execution," said Mr. Downey.

"The future of the facilities within Library Square has been an ongoing conversation and with Council desire to bring resolution to the issue, staff are recommending moving forward with the four-stage process in time for 2014 budget deliberations."

Since the Library and Seniors' Centres moved to new locations, the buildings have remained in regular use. The former Seniors' Centre has been home to Blue Balloon Health Services, a care centre for children with developmental challenges that also provides support services to their families.

The Library Building has remained in continuous use by the Town for occasional office space, as the home for a large chunk of the Town's heritage salvage program – which collects important fixtures from old and heritage buildings that have met their maker – and has rooms, including a large auditorium, regularly permitted out. It is also the home for an Aurora bridge club.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Tooth caregiver

4. Greek counterpart of Rhea

7. A numbered mail compartment (abbr.)

10. New Zealand parrots

12. Political action committees

14. Fringe-toed lizard

15. Reposes

17. Winglike structures

18. MacMurray of "My Three Sons"

19. Oprah's Broadway show

22. Ceaser, egg and tossed

23. Oarlock

24. Agile, lively (nautical)

25. Skim or dart

26. And, Latin

27. Embodies

28. Gallivants
30. Hyperbolic cosecant

32. Rural delivery

33. Atomic #89

34. Opposite of wealthy

36. Imus and Knotts

39. Yellow ageratum species

41. Large tropical Am. lizard

43. Late Show star

46. Armor breastplate

47. "Death in the Family" author

48. Liquors from rice

50. Bread for a burger

51. Yeast

52. 100 = 1 tala in W. Samoa

53. Two-year-old sheep

54. Hyrax or cony

55. Engine additive

CLUES DOWN

1. Danish krone (abbr.)

2. Insect repellents

3. Move sideways

4. October's birthstones

5. __ Alto, California city

6. Mark of healed tissue

7. Somewhat purple

8. Egg mixture cooked until just set

9. Past tense of bid

11. Ancient stone slab bearing markings

13. 9th month (abbr.)

16. Thrown into a fright

18. A playful antic

20. "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
21. Ultrahigh frequency

28. Cutting gun barrel spirals

29. Youth loved by Aphrodite

30. Get by begging

31. Cleans by scrubbing vigorously

34. Bubonic calamity

35. Radioactivity unit

37. Bow (Sanskrit)

38. Legless reptiles

40. Thick piece of something

41. A distinct part of a list

42. Regarding (Scottish prep.)

43. Something that is owed

44. Mild exclamation

45. River in Spain

49. Variation of 17 down

Secondary School walkout called off

By Brock Weir

Parents of high school students can rest a little bit easier this week after union reps for a secondary school teachers dropped plans for a one-day strike.

Their reconsideration followed confusion and frustration last week after threats by elementary school teachers to stage a one day protest strike on Friday were shot down by the Province and courts as illegal.

That news didn't come until after 4 a.m. on Friday morning leaving many parents in the lurch as they waited for information on whether their children would indeed have a class to go to that day and making alternative arrangements. Due to the uncertainty late in the game, organizations such as the Town of Aurora, stepped up to the plate to provide some day activities for parents.

The eleventh hour decision to block the strike was welcomed by parents, but not all was smooth sailing as the York Region

Continued on page 19

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Kids are going to suffer: Parent

From page 18
District School Board cancelled buses and taxis in anticipation of the labour disruption, and that cancellation continued throughout Friday, so it was ultimately counted as a snow day.
The news was greeted with frustration by many Aurora parents as they showed up to drop their kids at school late in the morning once they figured out how the day was shaping up.
“I waited to hear last night, and I woke up this morning and my

mother actually called me to tell me there is school,” said Kay, leaving Hartman Public School. “It was like, ‘Okay, everybody, get ready, get dressed, try to pack a lunch and try to pack a snack!’ and get them out of the house.”
She provides care for other students, so her hands were going to be full and then plans needed to be rearranged to get the kids to school.
“We had to explain to the kids that they were going to school, and they were crying, they

were upset and they wanted to stay at home,” she said. “It is just that frustration and now I have a massive headache. [The labour disruption] is frustrating and difficult. Parents need activities and programs and places for their children to go to after school. The whole thing is just frustrating on the whole.”
The frustration was shared by Sean Shanmugarajah, who was making the rounds dropping one child at Rick Hansen Public

School, before taking the other to his school.
“I can understand it was a last minute decision, it’s a bit of a hassle, but it is okay,” he said. “I don’t think this [disruption] should happen because the kids are going to be the ones who suffer. They need their education and they need to be in school.”
“They just came back from two weeks’ holidays and next Friday is another PA day, and it is not good to take them out of school. This is a time for learning.”

Winter Blues Fest slated for March

From page 14
tasked with finalizing the plans for the Canada Day weekend festivities. With the subcommittee in charge of next month’s Aurora 150 Mayor’s Levee largely done, they anticipate the formation of the

next group to be up and running by February.
Organizers of the Aurora Winter Blues Fest are formally asking for access to Town Park and its band shell for the afternoon and evening, with the budget for the musical

segment of the program for promotion, prizes, and equipment rental and additional support from Town Staff. Additional items include promotion through the municipal website and social media, and exclusivity for non-

alcoholic beverage sales and raffle prizes as fundraisers.
The 2013 Aurora Winter Blues Festival will be held Friday, March 1 at Theatre Aurora. For more information on the event, visit www.awbf.ca.

Producers aim to present ideas January 22

From page 8
in pop culture is a lot of youth are attached to the iconic part of things and not realising that the infrastructure is there and a

person doing graphic design in the music industry can love music just as much as Mick Jagger does, but they just happen to be a fantastic visual artist. A dancer can love to dance

just as much as all the disciplines under the umbrella of pop culture we embellish and help kids discover that their core interest or what they perceive their core interests to be aligned

with what their inherent skill sets are.
“We will give them access to a rewarding life and career.”



Friday marked the grand re-opening of Aurora Yonge Street Alterations and Cleaners Plus. Owners Virak Ros and Cham Ngeth, originally from Cambodia, put a unique spin on their celebrations by also celebrating their heritage with food and music. (Above) Their youngest daughter, Monica Ngeth, served at the opening.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

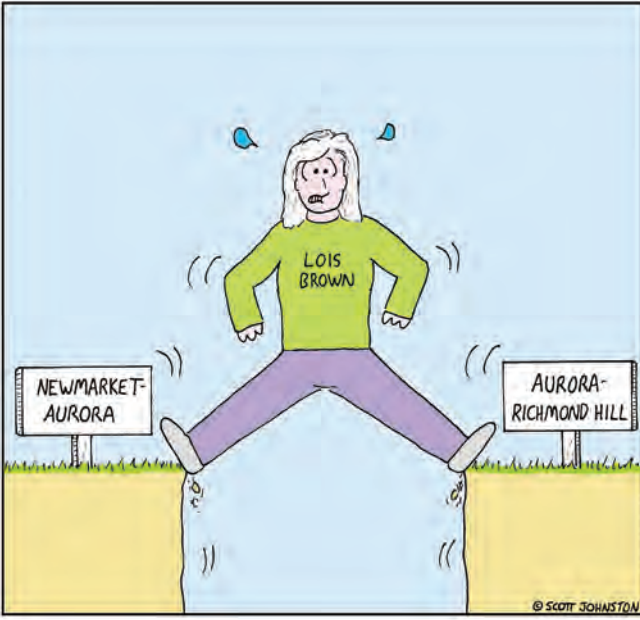
YEAR IN REVIEW – Part 2

The Best of Macell's Corners
By Scott Johnston



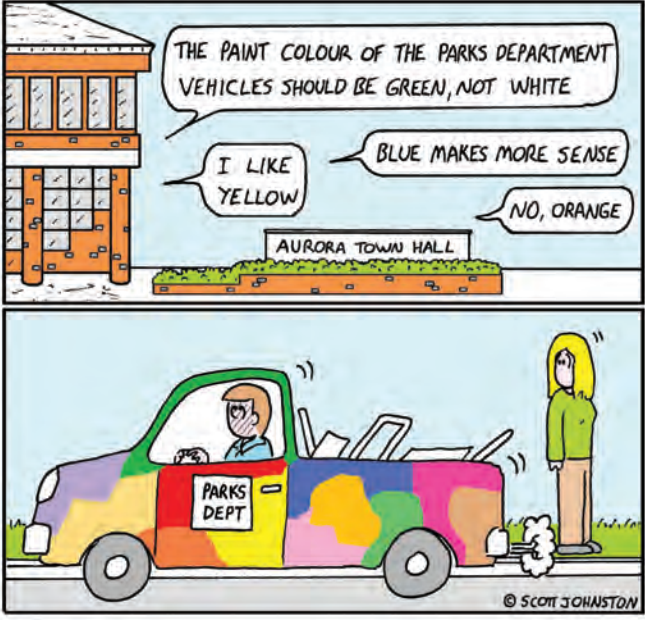
Controversy over the Aurora Jazz+ Festival continued into August over an appearance by Ontario Cabinet Minister Michael Chan. Organizers did not invite either Mayor Geoffrey Dawe or Deputy Mayor John Abel to be part of the greeting party, claiming they were concerned that they might be “rude” to the visiting dignitary, given past comments about the festival.

Last fall, Councillor Chris Ballard, put forward two motions that attracted a great deal of attention in the community. The first called for more “transparency” when it came to Councillors’ expenses and the second arguing for more stringent rules regarding alcohol expenses. Both matters are slated for further discussion later this month.



While there is still no concrete decision from lawmakers, Canada’s Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission issued a controversial plan late last summer revising Ontario’s electoral boundaries. The commission proposes splitting Aurora into two electoral boundaries, with the portion of the town north of Wellington Street forming a revamped federal riding of Newmarket-Aurora with Aurora below Wellington joining up with northwest Richmond Hill.

An unlikely source of contention at the Council table was what colour new parks vehicles should be. While Councillors on both sides debated the motion brought forward by Councillor Buck – and a long-standing issue for former councillor and Parks Director Norm Weller – she ultimately prevailed in ensuring future vehicles are green, in keeping with the “parks” theme.





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