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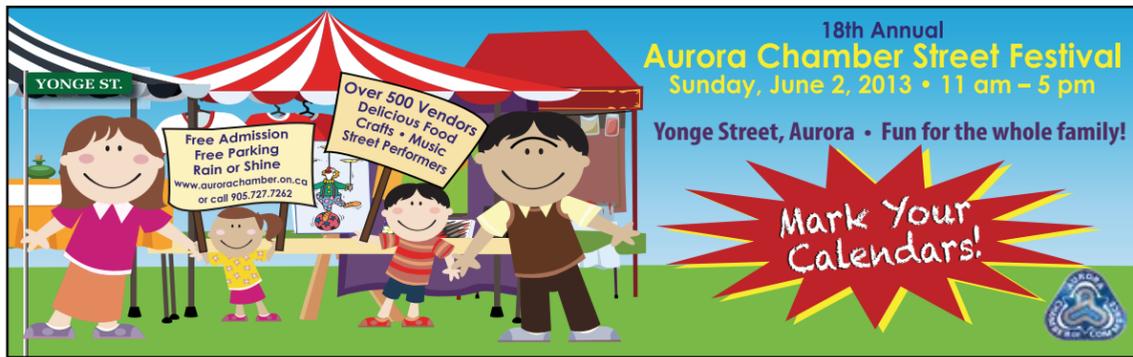
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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 13 No. 28 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of May 21, 2013



A COOL WAY TO WELCOME THE HEAT

Dr. G.W. Williams students Megan Jana, Hans Kang, Courtenay Field, and Natalie Brown were among several taking over Fritzy's Frozen Yogurt on Thursday night celebrating the arrival of warm spring weather, the upcoming end of the school year, and to raise money for student activities – including prom – in the process. Megan was honoured this month by the York Region District School Board for student excellence. For more on her achievements, please see Page 3.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Transit improvements will come at a cost

By Brock Weir

Ontario Politicians could be spurred into action next week debating the next big steps for The Big Move, the multi-billion dollar transit plan proposed by Metrolinx to improve access to public transit in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

Metrolinx, the arm of the provincial government which oversees, among other things, GO Transit, was tasked with finding a way to “dramatically overhaul” transit systems in southern Ontario in 2007. They looked not only to the hassle some people might find in having access to public transportation, but also economic impact of traffic gridlock, where people are sitting for hours in a jam waiting to get to work and the lost revenue that means to both them and their employers.

“Once highly regarded, the GTHA transportation system is no longer meeting the needs of the area’s residents and businesses,” said Metrolinx in their report. “Some of the symptoms of this are clearly evident in our congested roads and highways, gridlocked urban streets, unreliable and inconvenient transit, and a lack of safe bikeways and pedestrian pathways. Other symptoms are less easy to see – the economic disruption from congestion, the hindrance of trade and the movement of goods, the increased number of smog days, the toll on individuals and families from commutes that take way too long, the ever-increasing share of the family budget devoted to basic transportation. Things need to change.”

The report cites underinvestment by successive governments in local transportation systems throughout the GTHA, an inefficient use of the

Continued on page 12

Important issues facing residents are sometimes “invisible”

By Brock Weir

History is said to be written by the victors, but when it comes to pressing challenges facing communities like Aurora, awareness and the comfort level in discussing what can be tough subjects often depends on who is doing the talking.

That is something being grappled with by the United Way of York Region, as they look to engage the community and find a community’s true strength within it as they tackle complex problems such as poverty, housing and employment. United Way held a roundtable discussion in Aurora last week, engaging residents and stakeholders alike, in a talk to look at some of these problems, symptoms and how to tackle them within Aurora.

“We know there is a sense of invisibility of issues in the Region,” says Jane Wedlock, Knowledge Mobilization Officer for the United Way. “People who work in the field of social services or in schools or faith communities, they have a sense of it, but for other folks in the community who may not be connected, there is some degree of invisibility, but we feel there is a broader vulnerability.

“The issue of affordable housing is something that always comes up as a major concern and there are common threads of how do we respond? Do we respond to the symptoms, or are we willing to go deeper to understand the real causes of some of

Continued on page 6

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 21	7 p.m.	General Committee *
Wednesday, May 22	7 p.m.	Public Planning – NOT REQUIRED
Thursday, May 23	7 p.m.	Public Consultation – Re: Future of Library Square
Monday, May 27	7 p.m.	Special Council
Tuesday, May 28	7 p.m.	Council

Meetings are open to the public and held at Aurora Town Hall. Council meetings can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca/calendar

Committees noted with an asterisk (*) are streamed live via Internet at www.aurora.ca/gcstream

AURORA 150 FACT:



Image Courtesy of Aurora Historical Society

Mosley Street

On May 7, 1945, there was a Victory in Europe celebration that ran down Mosley Street. Mosley Street was named for landowner, John Mosley who subdivided the area in 1853 and named the streets within the subdivision.

NEXT AURORA 150 EVENT:



Sign the Town's Memory Book

Share your stories and memories of Aurora by signing the Town's memory book at the following locations:

- The Aurora Seniors' Centre, 90 John West Way
- Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way
- Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street

The books will be placed in a time capsule at the end of the Aurora 150th Birthday celebrations. Thank you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING



New Hours of Operation at Town Hall

The Town of Aurora will have extended hours of operation at Town Hall for core services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The Town is committed to serving its community by providing flexible hours for residents who cannot access municipal services from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Residents will now be able to pay their property taxes, water bills, obtain permits and licences during the extended timeframe.

For any questions on services at Town Hall or to ensure timely processing of your requests, please call 905-727-1375 prior to your visit.

Dinner and a Movie

Avatar

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: Saturday, May 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Rating: Rated PG

Ages: 11 to 14 year-olds

Price: Entry is \$3 per person and pizza will be served.

For more information, please call 905-726-4760.

Request for Expression of Interest Seeking food vendors participation with Concerts in the Park Series, Movies in the Park and Theatre in the Park Series

The Town of Aurora is very excited to be hosting the Concerts in the Park, Movies in the Park and Theatre in the Park series again this year. The Parks and Recreation Service department requests proposals from interested parties to provide and serve various food and beverage items for this event series.

Interested parties are requested to submit their expression of interest in a sealed envelope to the Special Events Co-ordinator by no later than 12 p.m. (local time) on **Tuesday, May 21**.

The terms and conditions for this opportunity can be found at www.aurora.ca/specialevents or for more information 905-726-4762.

UFORE Urban Forestry Study in Aurora

The Town of Aurora's Parks & Recreation department is undertaking an urban forest study that will provide a detailed overview of the Town's forest cover, how urban trees can be a more essential part of a sustainable community and assess maintenance strategies.

The project will involve establishing individual plots within the Town's boundaries, which may be located on private lands. The study team is contacting property owners so they can conduct the study. Property owners can refuse access if they choose. The information gathering process will take place in June and July.

For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation department at 905-727-1375.

Property Standards/ Clean Yards Bylaw in effect

The Property Standards/ Clean Yards Bylaw is in effect. All residents should be cleaning up debris on their property and keeping grass no longer than 8 inches.

Let's keep Aurora looking beautiful! For more information on the Property Standards/ Clean Yards Bylaw please visit www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4751.

Town of Aurora Fireworks Bylaw in effect

The Town of Aurora has updated its Fireworks Bylaw #5373-11 (Sale and Display), which regulates the setting and sale of family and display fireworks. Family fireworks are low hazard fireworks generally used for recreation. Fireworks are permitted on Victoria Day, Canada Day and the day preceding these holidays from sunset to 11 p.m.

For a full list of the regulations under this bylaw, please visit www.aurora.ca/bylawservices

Failure to comply with the provisions and regulations of this bylaw may result in fines up to \$5,000 under the Provincial Offences Act.

For information regarding display fireworks and display permits please contact Central York Fire Services at 905-895-9222.

For more information about the sale and display of family fireworks, please contact Town of Aurora Bylaw Services at 905-727-3123 ext. 4240 or bylawdept@aurora.ca

In the case of a fire emergency or dangerous/hazardous situation please dial 9-1-1 for an emergency response.

Student Club Aurora Membership Specials

Are you currently in college or university and home for the holiday break? Do you find it difficult to pay a lot of money for a fitness membership? Club Aurora Fitness Centre has the solution with a special seasonal student rate!

Special rate: Four month special from **Wednesday, May 1 to Saturday, August 31**
Cost: Residents \$116 and Non-Resident \$138

For more information, please call 905-726-4764 or email fitness@aurora.ca



Outdoor Water Use Reminder Effective May 15 to September 30

The Town of Aurora enforces a municipal bylaw related to outdoor water use. It is important that all residents and businesses observe the following regulations, as they have been put in place to ensure a continued and abundant water supply.

Outdoor Water Use By-law #4420-03.E

No person shall use The Town of Aurora's municipal water from a hose, pipe, sprinkler or permanent irrigation system for the purpose of watering any lawn, garden or washing of vehicles, sidewalks, driveways, patios, decks or windows, or filling swimming pools, **except as follows:**

- An **even-numbered address** may use water outdoors only on **even-numbered days of the month**
- An **odd-numbered address** may use water outdoors only on **odd-numbered days of the month**
- Outdoor water use will only be permitted **between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.**
- These conditions are in place **each year from May 15 to September 30**

Townhouse units having a common street address should water according to the unit number, not the address number of the complex. Apartment buildings should use the building number only. This bylaw applies to all residential, commercial and industrial properties and municipal properties.

About Water Use Advisories and Bans

In the event of an Outdoor Water Use Advisory or Outdoor Water Use Ban, please follow these guidelines:

If an **Outdoor Water Use Advisory** is declared, **all persons are requested to refrain from using Town water** from a hose, pipe, sprinkler or permanent irrigation system.

If an **Outdoor Water Use Ban** is declared, **no persons shall use Town water** from a hose, pipe, sprinkler or permanent irrigation system.

RESIDENTS FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE PROVISIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FINE.

For more information including exemptions to these restrictions, please contact The Town of Aurora's By-law Services department at 905-726-4751 or visit www.aurora.ca





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Courtenay, Natalie, and Megan serve up some frozen yogurt at the event which benefited their fellow students. Megan's activities within the school community, including founding the Williams' Arts Council, caught the eyes of her teachers, and the York Region School Board, celebrating her and 23 other York Region students at the 2013 Celebrating Student Success dinner.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Williams student lauded for leadership by public school board

By Brock Weir

As Megan Jana, a Grade 12 student at Dr. G.W. Williams High School, prepares to graduate and live out her dreams in the Big Apple, much of her time is spent laying a good foundation for the legacy she leaves behind.

In her term at the school, she has been an active member of its community, stepping up to the plate as a peer mentor to younger students, editing the school newspaper, participating on school council, and providing students with an outlet in areas she herself had identified as lacking.

Ms. Jana had a lot riding on her shoulders this month when she was the only Aurora student of twenty four honoured by the York Region District School Board in their 2013 Celebrating Student Success awards.

Honoured in a ceremony by Ken Thurston, Director of Education, the initiative recognizes student leaders and leadership throughout the school board. She was nominated for the award by teacher Mark Fuller, who heralded Megan as the complete "package" of what a student should be: "polite, articulate, charismatic" and an "enthusiastic, sensitive, and caring person."

She was singled out for her academic prowess, earning high marks across the board, and for having a positive impact on her fellow students.

"Utilizing the vast array of leadership experiences Megan had in her early years of high school, she identified a void in our school and sought to be a trailblazer within the arts," said Mr. Fuller in his nomination. "She created an Arts' Council, a multi-faceted group designed to support students with an artistic

passion in areas such as drama, photography, and advertising.

"The efforts of the Arts Council have promoted student work both within the school as well as in the local community. She is a shining example of someone who has shown consistent commitment to the improvement of her school community."

Megan's efforts are not limited to the school community. When The Auroran caught up with Megan last week, she and her fellow students, many of them members of the Arts' Council, had taken over Fritzy's Frozen Yogurt at Bayview and Wellington for a special celebration as the school year draws to a close, helping raise money for student initiatives, such as their upcoming prom, through sales of the frosty treat.

Amid the balloons, streamers, and togas, Megan spoke of her "shock" at being nominated, let alone winning one of these prestigious awards.

"I have so many

peers in my school who are incredibly talented and incredibly driven, and the fact he would nominate my name out of that bunch of people is really flattering," she says. "Once I heard the news [that I had won] the first thing I did was jump up and down and hug Mr. Fuller. It was a really awesome moment."

In the lead-up to the awards, camera crews trailed each student around their own school, getting a slice of their daily life to show at the awards presentation. They caught her in action, working with others, and showing off some of the decorated locker doors spearheaded by the Arts' Council. To see and hear the accomplishments of the others across York Region added to the sense of honour, she says.

"It was incredible getting to represent Aurora in the event," she said. "I know so many students in Aurora who are so driven and so talented, and I felt so honoured to be able to

Continued on page 17

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Briefly

POLICE SEEK SUSPECTS AFTER TUESDAY ROBBERY

York Regional Police are seeking two males in connection with a robbery in Aurora last week.

According to a statement by the York Regional Police, two suspects entered the Black's Photography store at 15440 Bayview Avenue at Hollidge Boulevard at approximately 9 p.m. on May 14. They approached two store employees and made a demand for merchandise and the store complied, the suspects fleeing from the scene with the stolen goods. One of the suspects was armed with a handgun and the other a knife.

Police describe the first suspect as a black male, 5'10, medium build, wearing a black mask, grey hooded sweatshirt and black pants with a white stripe down the side of both legs. The other is a black male, 6'2, wearing a mask, grey hooded sweatshirt, black pants, black gloves and white shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police Holdup Unit at 1-866-876-5423, x.6630, anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or through their anonymous online tip line at www.1800222tips.com, or by texting CRIMES (274637) starting with the word YORK.

"Investigators from the Hold-Up Unit remind business owners of the importance of maintaining and updating video surveillance equipment," said Sgt. Blair McQuillan in a statement. "Quality images help to identify suspects, can aid in arrests, and have a tremendous impact during court proceedings."

Letters to the editor "Anonymous" continues being so

It is so great to continuously read The Auroran and see the lawsuits continue.

It seems that the "blogs" have given the opportunity for "anonymous" to continue to hide behind the lack of a name to lambaste anyone who disagrees with their viewpoint.

Too bad that they have decided to not be public and speak their mind rather than the all-too-famous "anonymous." I guess the lawyers are happy as they are the only ones who benefit from these actions.

That being said now Buck's blog is rearing its ugly head once again. Another day another lawsuit. Oh well. It is Aurora.

I am also disgusted that this Town Council ran a full page ad in The Auroran to apologize for the past Mayor's lawsuit. Is this truly a good way to spend the Aurora resident's money? I don't think so. This could have been done at a council meeting to those people who were affected. That would not have cost any of the taxpayer's money.

On that topic of wasting the resident's money, I am shocked that this Council voted to give the future Mayor an increase in salary of approximately 15 per cent when the rest of us have to be happy with two or three, if any at all.

**Nigel Kean
Aurora**

(Editor's Note: Council voted earlier this year to increase the Mayor's salary by \$9,000 per year after the next municipal election)

Waste was put to good use

Cardinal Carter CHS Free the Children E-waste event was a great success.

We appreciate all the promotion our group received, prior to the event and were delighted when on the day of the event the students were photographed with one of two large dumpsters filled with electronic waste. They were proud to show off the fruits of their labour.

Many who dropped off their "e-clutter" commented that they saw our event promoted in your publication and were happy to contribute to our cause.

This is the first time we've held an event like this and between the wonderful weather and the support of the community, we couldn't have asked for a better day. We await final totals, but we are estimating that we collected over 15,000 pounds of e-waste – items that will be recycled 98%.

Once again, thank you for featuring our student group and our cause.

**Anne Marie Devine
Cardinal Carter CHS**

Alumna enjoyed reunion

As a past student of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School I just have to give a great big thanks to everyone involved in this past Reunion.

You all did a most amazing job from start to finish. I think everyone, myself included, had a fantastic time at all the events both Friday and Saturday.

I have been on previous reunion committees and know the passion, the hard work and long hours that it takes to get the whole thing put together, so thank you, one and all, for everything that went into the successful 125th reunion!

**Pamela Maple
Aurora**

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Machell's Corners



To submit a letter to the editor please send your email to
letters@auroran.com – deadline for submissions is Saturday at 1 p.m.

Sober Second Thoughts



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

"Bullying is very hot this year," joked Aurora filmmaker Alex Broughton Thursday at the Aurora Cultural Centre during the intermission for Aurora screening on the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region's Circuit of York Region.

The film festival culminates next Wednesday with the closing night awards gala and if the sampling screened last week is any indication, Aurora could have some top winners in the mix once again this year.

Our discussion followed several films made by elementary school students, many of whom, for better or worse, had similar but distinct takes on bullying, evidently a subject uppermost on their minds.

Some of the films showed the effects of bullying on their victim, another took a different tack of putting one's self in the shoes of the bully himself. Yet another one touched upon cyber bullying, complemented by another, urging people who are at one with their laptops, Blackberries, and iPhones to disconnect, at least for a little while, and take in the world around them.

It is a testament to the sad state of affairs that these themes are represented so frequently and so evocatively at each and every outing of the Multimedia Film Festival.

Speaking strictly as an armchair critic who spends more than his fair share at movie theatres the length and breadth of the Greater Toronto Area, this is a veritable hotbed of filmmaking talent and it should come as no surprise when, a decade or two from now, we hear much more from these thoughtful kids.

Reflecting on the films afterwards, however, I couldn't help but wonder what emotions and political commentary they would be putting in their films of today if they got their start in 1993, or even 2003. If their keen eyes and raw emotions carried them through their careers, avoiding commercialism or cynicism, they would have no shortage of material to work with by simply leafing through the national newspapers over the past week.

Vivid photo and video essays

(perhaps until just before your own Chief of Staff was about to be implicated) would serve to underscore perceived inequities in the unelected, patronage filed corridor.

It would drive home the view an elected senate would somehow be a magic bullet, curing the senate of all its ills that have compounded over the last 146 years. Surely the public will want reforms.

Or will it drive home an idea that the senate is completely useless altogether and it is time to push the fat cats gently out the door to go out on their own into the night?

From my perspective, not all is lost. Although Senators seem determined to bring pox after pox directly onto their houses, I believe there is still room in this country for, yes, a "sober second thought", although it will be foolhardy to suggest we should leave well enough alone.

Appointments as is, under party lines, do nothing to diminish the sense that this is a room where political cronies go to die.

In an ideal world, political lines would be dropped, vacancies would be filled by a panel of eminent Canadians, they themselves selected in whatever process citizens find most palatable, based on their own qualifications and the variety of valuable input they can bring to public discourse.

They would not be beholden to a party or changing tastes, and can bring something valuable and productive into play.

But, alas, I fully concede that is merely my ideal with no chance of that ever happening. Instead, the Mike Duffies and Patrick Brazeaux of the Senate will continue to shape the future of the chamber.

CORRECTION

Last week we reported on Aurora dancer Eric Abel landing a significant role in the upcoming Toronto production of CATS. The show is actually being produced by Marlene Smith with Nu Musical Theatricals Inc. in association with Classical Theatre Project and Starvox Entertainment.

practically write themselves on the latest, hazy exploits of the once and incumbent Mayor of Toronto Rob Ford, or the awe-inspiring transformation of Mike Duffy from a person who was, just a few short years ago a byword for inspired and insightful political commentary, to a satirist's dream, embodying everything that is wrong with Canada's senate.

DEATH BY 1,000 CUTS

Let me say at the outset I do not support an elected Senate. I do not see the purpose of yet another chamber divided by party lines and elected on a mandate which could ebb and flow with the tide of public opinion. Canadians deserve something more, but what might be is the big question.

For those of you on the electoral boat, however, these past two weeks must have been something of a mental pleasure cruise. Unless, of course, your name is Stephen Harper.

One must step back and question whether his handling of the spending debacle for certain members of what was once purported to be the nation's primary chamber of "sober second thought" was either a spectacular error of judgement, or a cunning plan not unlike a controlled burn.

Now, we shouldn't believe it is simply a spectacular error of judgement, after all, if recent television commercials indicate, if a politician wears a hard hat, he means serious business.

If it was discovered that these senators had significantly damaged whatever dignity remained in the upper chamber, letting it continue

AURORAN POLL

Is Council right in issuing an apology to three bloggers involved in a municipally authorised lawsuit in 2010?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Undecided

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS May 20, 2013	Yes	No	Undecided
	82%	17%	1%



Aurora's Crabby Joe's, represented here by Aaron Conboy and Nicole Young, will host a fundraising event at their Bayview Avenue and Pedersen Drive location this Saturday, May 25 at 5 p.m. in honour of the Ride to Conquer Cancer. Last year, Nicole and Aaron raised over \$13,000 for the Ride, and in memory of Andrew's grandmother Dolly Harrison - and hope to raise even more money this year! For more information, visit www.conquercancer.ca.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Ottawa Report

Welcoming Commander Chris Hadfield back to earth

Canada has welcomed our very own space pioneer Chris Hadfield back to earth following a five month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Chris has done an absolutely remarkable job as the first Canadian commander of the ISS. Commander Hadfield is the only Canadian to have boarded Mir, the Russian Space Station; the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm in orbit; and the first Canadian to perform a spacewalk—when he attached Canadarm2 to the ISS. His tireless and unique efforts to educate Canada and the world about the final frontier through social media are nothing short of inspirational and have helped rekindle the dreams and excitement for many of becoming an astronaut.

Experimental Lakes Area Agreement

A Memorandum of Understanding with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) concerning the future of the Experimental Lakes Area has been signed effective immediately. This agreement is the result of many months of confidential negotiations led by the federal government and is a major milestone in the transition of the facility to a third party operator. IISD is well-suited to operate the Experimental Lakes Area with excellent capacity,

expertise and international reputation to take on this important work.

The Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework within which an agreement can be negotiated that will enable IISD to proceed as the operator of the unique, world-class facility. As an important part of this agreement, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will conduct a sampling program over the summer of 2013 as part of the transition to maintain important scientific research and ensure that long-term data sets can continue uninterrupted. Fisheries and Oceans Canada will work with scientists who have active research at the Experimental Lakes Area to support their needs for the upcoming summer research season, including monitoring activities and requirements to access their equipment.

Food Safety Improvements

Our government unveiled its Safe Food for Canadians Action Plan. Over the next two years, the Action Plan will further improve Canada's food safety system by strengthening food safety rules, more effective inspection, a renewed commitment to service and more information for consumers. As a first step, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is strengthening some of its beef safety rules including new mandatory



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

requirements to strengthen the control of E. coli in federally-registered beef plants. These plants will also be required to label mechanically tenderized beef cuts, such as steaks or roasts as tenderized, and include cooking instructions.

Removing Illegals

Thanks to Minister Kenney's immigration reforms, Mahmoud Mohammad Issa Mohammad has finally been removed from Canada. Mr. Mohammad was first found to be inadmissible to Canada on the basis of misrepresentation shortly after entering Canada in 1987. He was subsequently found ineligible to make a refugee claim because he had been a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and convicted in Greece of participating in a terrorist attack on an Israeli plane, which killed an Israeli citizen in 1968. Astonishingly, this convicted terrorist was able to use numerous and repetitive appeals and loopholes under Canada's old, broken immigration system to remain in Canada for 25 years. Fortunately, recent reforms to Canada's immigration system finally enabled his removal. I congratulate Minister Kenney for his hard work in ensuring that individuals like Mr. Mohammad, whose heinous crimes and misrepresentations mean they are

not legally admissible to Canada, are identified and removed.

Youth Employment

The Canada Summer Jobs program is helping employers in Newmarket-Aurora create summer job opportunities for students, while strengthening our community's economy. In total, Canada Summer Jobs will provide up to 36,000 important job opportunities and experiences for students across the country. Students will gain the skills and experience they need to be successful, now and in the future, while earning money for the upcoming school year.

Canada Summer Jobs is one part of our government's Youth Employment Strategy (YES). With an annual budget of more than \$300 million, YES helps youth, particularly those facing barriers to employment, obtain career information, develop employment skills, find jobs and stay employed. Economic Action Plan 2013 proposes an additional investment of \$70 million over three years to support 5,000 more paid internships, in addition to the extra \$50 million that was invested to enhance YES through Economic Action Plan 2012. All of these initiatives help young Canadians get vital work experience that will help them enter the workforce and stay there.

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 look forward to hearing from you.

Leafs vs. Bruins – fates change quickly

I work for a company that develops and constructs large natural gas fired generation projects and large scale wind energy projects both in the U.S. and Canada. My bosses reside in Silver Spring, Maryland (just outside Washington, D.C.) and in Braintree, Massachusetts (just outside of Boston.)

All of the U.S. employees are huge hockey fans and, as you can imagine, there is no shortage of "smack" talk between the offices when it comes to hockey.

I am used to receiving e-mail commentary from different members of the company stateside, whenever the Leafs are playing the Boston Bruins or the Washington Capitals.

What follows is a partial transcript of the e-mail exchanges between my various U.S. based colleagues and myself during game seven of the Leafs / Bruins series as well as some supplementary commentary on the morning after:

Gary is our company President. Sean is our Senior Vice President, Renewables and Rob is one of our wind development managers.

I would not call the following at all insightful but it is entertaining when you juxtaposition the e-mail exchanges with the timing of key events during the third period and overtime.

Leafs up 2-1.

Gary @ 8:58 PM: "What, no trash talking?"

Come on guys, we can do this!!!"

Leafs now up: 4-1.

Gary @ 9:09 PM: "Ok, maybe not...Bruins will be golfing tomorrow. Congrats."

Sean @ 9:26 PM: "Well they may actually just be standing around the golf course."

Robert @ 9:32 PM: "I hope we see some changes this off season. I was an Islander fan but now I guess I'll pull for Ottawa."

Boston just scored to make it 4-2.

Robert Matria @ 9:34 PM: "Wow!"

Stephen @ 9:35 PM: "My heart is going to stop"

Boston ties score at 4-4.

Sean @ 9:40 PM. "Good last few minutes. Next goal wins. Stephen start shining the clubs - the Bs finally showed up to this series."

Stephen @ 9:41 PM: "Even when we were up 3 I was scared - Kessel will pot the winner in OT!"

Overtime. Bruins win.

Gary @ 10:05 PM: "Holy sh-!"

Sean at 10:05 PM: "Woooooowooooo-hoooooowooooo"



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Sean @ 10:06 PM: "Stephen - I will give the Leafs credit, they almost delivered."

Stephen @ 10:07 PM: "I was still nervous but I thought we would win when we were up by three."

Robert Matria @ 10:12 PM: "That was one of the greatest comebacks I've seen. And Toronto came to play but the Bs just decided to hit the gas at the end. Tough series."

Stephen @ 10:16 PM: See the attached (which was a picture of my T-Shirt that reads - "Stanley's Coming To Town (with a Leaf Logo on it)) - I bought this in 1992 and it has been in my drawer for the last nine years - I was going to wear this for the second round - back to my drawer it goes -big sigh."

Sean at 10:30 PM: "Don't worry Stephen, you can wear it after the Bs win the cup and Dougie Hamilton brings it back home to Toronto for a visit."

The morning after (Tuesday May 14). Stephen @ 7:20 AM: "I had this really bad nightmare last night - the Leafs were up 4-1 with about 13 minutes to

play and I was getting ready to design the Stanley Cup Parade route past our Toronto office, then the Bruins tied the game and won it in overtime - thank god it was just a very bad and horrible dream - better luck next year guys - I hope the Bruins like playing golf - regards - Stephen"

Sean @ 8:33 AM: "Sounds like a terrible dream...one you only want to have every 9 years or so."

Stephen @ 9:08 AM: "I was wondering why it was fairly easy to get tickets on line this morning for round two."

Gary @ 9:30 AM: "By the way, I retract my congrats statement, that was in bad taste..."

Then Sean e-mailed me a picture of Phil Kessel carrying a set of golf clubs over his head around the ice.

Stephen @ 10:49 AM: "Touche!!! Ouch!!! Thanks for worrying about my delicate psyche at this critical time!"

Robert @ 10:50 AM: "Hey I didn't send it to you on purpose. Sean is the one twisting the knife!"

Stephen @ 10:55 AM: "Just kidding - I will be fine and will fully recover from this...in about ten years!"

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



SENIOR SCAPE

Jim L. Abram

Leafs Leave

What do you call a Toronto Maple Leaf with a Stanley Cup ring? Very old or a thief.

Well, I was really worried for a time. I thought the Leafs might win! The otherwise orderly universe would meet its end in tumultuous chaos! Seniors are the fortunate ones who can remember a time when the Leafs put a competitive team on the ice and won the Stanley Cup. That was over 45 years ago. Ma Bell sold us phones instead of hockey tickets. Fifty years ago, most television programming made its way to people's TV sets via rabbit ears until the late Ted Rogers took control of a media empire and revolutionized it.

For this shortened season, the Toronto Maple Leafs are out of the playoffs. They lost in the seventh game in overtime. This makes me very sad because I know that the owners of the Leafs, Maple Leaf Sport and Entertainment, controlled by a Rogers/Bell holding company, will take it out on us in the form of more increases to phone and cable bills. Their shareholders won't stand for such a result and their customers must pay the price for their loss!

Oh, did I forget to mention that I have a conspiracy theory about most everything? Cheer on your Aurora Tigers as they never seem to disappoint us!

Let's move on. I shall rant no further, but I offer no promises.

Aurora Seniors' Centre Annual General Meeting

The annual ASA general meeting is scheduled for June 5 at 4 p.m. The meeting will be followed by a barbecue for a small charge of \$2 per person for all those that attend the meeting. All ASA members are encouraged to attend this very important meeting. This meeting allows an opportunity for all members in good standing to express their views and opinions on the future direction of the Aurora Seniors' Association. Your input is valued and encouraged as the constructive input provided by the membership is very helpful in guiding the mandate of the ASA Board of Directors entrusted by you.

Budget Bistro

This past Wednesday we were honoured to have joined us for lunch Councillor John Abel and Accessibility Advisory Committee vice-chair

Tyler Barker who made a moving and enlightening presentation on behalf of the CCAM, Concerned Citizens for Accessibility and Mobility. Tyler recalled going to grade school with my daughter Nicole!

I knew Nicole was unforgettable but he even remembered little old me! Mark your calendars to attend the Mobility Maze event to be held at the Aurora Community Centre on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 to learn more about accessibility challenges and opportunities in your Aurora.

Fallsview Casino - Thursday, May 30

Get dealt into the action at Fallsview Casino Resort! Whether your game is slots or tables, you'll find it all on one of the largest Casino gaming floors in the world - an impressive 200,000 square feet - the equivalent of three football fields! Throughout, a welcome hint of sophistication and classic luxury awaits, blending seamlessly with the pulsing energy and adrenaline of gaming action!

Enjoy a great day of gaming and slots during this 5 hour visit to Fallsview Casino which for only \$20 (\$25 for non ASA members) includes a \$10 coin voucher. Niagara Falls is a wonderful place to visit in the Spring so come on out for a fun day with your friends from the Seniors' Centre.

Grand River Cruise - Tuesday, June 11

Begin your day in "The Landing" with complimentary coffee, muffin and shopping in the large Craft Shop. Enjoy an interesting audiovisual presentation about the Grand River followed by a fabulous live Music Show featuring "The Blazing Fiddles". You will then embark on a 3 hour cruise featuring a sumptuous 3-course roast beef lunch served to your private window table. During your cruise your captain gives an informative narration about the Grand River and refreshments are served before returning to dock. Enjoy famous home-baked bread, apple pie, and other baked goods available to purchase after your cruise.

Niagara Peach Festival - Saturday, August 10th

This Peachy-keen tour begins at the Magnotta Winery where grapes from Magnotta's own vineyards are crushed

Continued on page 22

Issues depend on who is telling the story: United Way

From page 1

these things? That is what we're trying to get a handle."

But whether people are looking for a quick fix to the symptoms of the problem rather than digging deeper to cut it off at the root, is something that remains to be seen. When people get a sense that people in their community are hurting, they naturally want to help, and this is the collaborative response the United Way is looking to tap into, she added.

One problem in particular here in Town is the perennial sense that Aurora itself is an affluent community. While this might be so in many cases, it is not applicable across the board.

"It depends on who is telling the story," she says. "The stories of difficulty and exposure or vulnerability are sometimes difficult for people to hear and they might think of it as happening to somebody else, but it is actually happening closer to home. I wonder if people have some kind of reluctance to hear. It is hard if you can't see."

That being said, there is evidence that the message is getting across in Aurora. Residents are hearing the message that poverty in town is an all too real issue and various

faith groups are responding to the problems. Ms. Wedlock cites collaborative efforts made, for instance, by various Christian churches to provide a place to get a good meal and to combat as well the problems brought about by social isolation through programs such as Welcoming Arms, Welcoming Table, and Rise and Shine breakfasts.

"People are trying to respond and our interest is in how it is happening," she says. "I never want to second guess what a community is doing and it is sometimes a challenge, but also a great surprise sometimes, to just to learn about all the cool things communities are doing and I always look forward to these conversations."

One predominant issue tackled by the group, who assembled for the roundtable at Aurora Public Library on Thursday evening was the issue of growth and how it affects the issues of poverty, housing and other challenges within a community.

"I think people are really having mixed feelings about growth and change because on the one hand growth is really driving housing prices up and people can't necessarily afford to live in Aurora

anymore, but it is also making a commute more and more difficult because as growth comes, so do the stoplights, so the commute which was once three minutes is now almost an hour," said Carol Lever of Aurora United Church.

"But at the same time, there is also excitement. Like a lot of faith communities, there was a dip in congregational attendance and growth, but now we're starting to see a bit of an upswing that as our community grows, people do want to feel connected and they will find their own way to feel connected."

While Ms. Lever said there is both excitement and growth on this front, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe agreed that some people are "energised" by the growth.

"There has been a substantial increase in the diversity that we're experiencing," he said. "That is, in my opinion, bringing some very positive changes to Town. There are a lot of new experiences."

She agreed, noting that she and her family were first hesitant to move to Aurora because it was very "WASPy" and they had concerns about raising their children in a community lacking diversity. Now that the demographics have changed, her children have grown because of it.

Details of new awards for old businesses to be hammered out in June

By Brock Weir

Aurora's 150 years of business heritage could be honoured with an awards ceremony this fall.

Plans continue to fall into place on "longevity" awards being considered by Aurora's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) to celebrate the Town's 150th anniversary.

The idea for a new form of business awards was floated by EDAC chair Councillor Michael Thompson earlier this spring to serve two purposes. The first is to mark the Sesquicentennial and the second is to pick up some of the slack from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce this year.

The Chamber has decided to put their annual Business Achievement Awards, celebrating individual business people and their companies, on ice until 2014 while they recalibrate, retool and revitalize what was once an annual celebration.

A new awards ceremony for this year will not only highlight the Town's rich history of trade and commerce, but also be a bit of a celebration for the companies that continue to thrive after decades of business in Town.

"The committee is very receptive and enthusiastic about putting something together and the Chamber has also expressed an interest in participating in the process," says Councillor Thompson. "At the last EDAC meeting, we talked over a whole bunch of different ideas. If we're leaning towards one thing, it may be that the York Region Small Business Group, which does a series of six talks a year, their last talk will be in Aurora on 150 Years of Innovation."

"The thought process was that we would align our Business Longevity Awards with that session and go from there."

Ideas floated at the table included starting awards for 25 years of activity in Aurora and working their way up. There was also consideration around the table on the possibility of ways to honour some of the businesses key to the development of Aurora, such as Sisman Shoes and Sterling Drugs, which, while defunct, still played their role.

"We're brainstorming and we're going to vote on

what we think is the best format and process of our next EDAC meeting next month and that would go to Council for Council's approval; that would include things like where we are going to do this, do we need a budget, how we're going to recognize those businesses," he says.

"Some of the things from EDAC were whether it is really a recognition amongst their peers, or is there a way to let their customers know they have been recognized? Not everybody wants a plaque, but there might be other ways to recognize them that might be just as beneficial but in a different way."

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Are you using acceptable containers for residential waste and recycling collection?

A reminder to Town of Aurora residents
 To ensure your waste and recycling is collected, please use the following approved sizes:

Waste container size
 Maximum 98 litres (26 gallons)

Recycling container size
 Minimum 68 litres (18 gallons)
 Maximum 83 litres (22 gallons)









For more information, call 905-727-3123 ext. 3447 or visit www.aurora.ca/wasteandrecycling



Aurora Teen Idol Competition

Register by Tuesday, June 18, 2013

If you are a resident of Aurora and between the ages of 12 and 17, you are eligible to enter the 2013 competition!

Applications available at:
 Aurora Family Leisure Complex,
 Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex,
www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762

Registration deadline is **Tuesday, June 18**

The finals will be held at Lambert Willson Park on **Monday, July 1** at 2:30 p.m.



Monday, July 1, 2013
2:30 p.m.
Lambert Willson Park

For more information, visit www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762

Visit The Town of Aurora booth at the 18th Annual Aurora Chamber Street Festival

The Aurora Chamber Street Festival is **Sunday, June 2** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Yonge Street between Wellington Street and Murray Drive. The Festival is family-friendly and for all ages. There are over 500 vendors with musical entertainment and much more.

A section of Yonge Street is closed to traffic, allowing vendors and visitors full access. Admission is free. Check out the **Town of Aurora's** booth, there will be lots of Town of information and brochures for you to browse through.

For more information, please visit www.aurorachamber.on.ca



2013 Community Recognition Awards

Do you know a person or organization that is making Aurora a better place to live because of their volunteer efforts?

Make sure they get the recognition they deserve by nominating them for a Community Recognition Award. Submit a nomination by visiting our website at www.aurora.ca/2013communityawards and complete the application form.

For more information, please contact The Town of Aurora's Corporate Communications division at 905-727-3123 ext. 4232 or email jnorton@aurora.ca

Act now! Nomination deadline is June 6, 2013.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1

Residents have second chance to plan Library Square's future Thursday

By Brock Weir

From parking lots to a public piazza, ideas for the future of Library Square are set to come up for another review this Thursday.

It is the second of four public consultation sessions to look at the large swath of Victoria Street, currently occupied by the Aurora Cultural Centre, the old Aurora Public Library Building, the former home of the Aurora Seniors Centre, and Victoria Hall. Of particular attention are the Library and Seniors' Centre buildings whose future is far from certain.

The buildings, although continually used, have not served their original purposes for nearly a decade and calls have been made to bring in the bulldozers. But how that potential space can best serve the community, however, is the question of the day.

When the public last had a chance to sound off on the future of the buildings suggestions ranged from a public gathering space – whether a place to relax, or a place to hold celebrations and festivals – to ultimately being a solution to what many people perceive to be a severe parking problem in Aurora's Downtown Core.

Council's advisory committees have also taken a keen interest in the site. Adding onto the suggestions made at the earlier public sessions, which also included stipulations that whatever happens to the site should have a long-range vision for the community, were the Town's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC). PRAC's suggestions included a sports campus or office space for sports groups and parking.

They also stipulated that plans "be a part of a unified vision of downtown revitalization and of the Aurora Promenade" and that final plans be held off until the completion of the Southeast Old Aurora Heritage Conservation District Study, the ball for which got rolling earlier this year with the establishment of a committee to oversee what could become Aurora's second heritage district south of Wellington Street.

Bringing this together, the committee suggested Council consider hiring a "professional planner" to offer input on options and opportunities and how it fits into the wider picture.

Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, told Councillors last week that a planner

would look at the buildings of Library Square and their context within ongoing studies in the area. Getting a wider view of the current situation and the future was something that garnered support from Council, but Councillor Evelyn Buck had a slightly different view of the project.

Councillor Buck gave the initial push over the winter to see some action in determining after years of uncertainty the future of the two buildings. Her initial suggestion was to raze the two buildings and use a significant chunk of Aurora's \$34 million Hydro Reserve account to build a new multi-use building tailored to youth and to foster creativity within the wider community. At last week's Council meeting, she expressed frustration that concrete plans have yet to come forward.

"Council seems to be totally bereft of any ideas whatsoever," she said. "There are nine of us sitting around this table to ask a planner to throw some ideas at us to see what we think of them. "We're not doing what we should be doing and that is putting out ideas."

Councillors, however, supported the idea of taking a step back and getting a sense of the wider picture. They also voiced support of getting further



Former Aurora mayor George Timpson and his wife Ann were on hand at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Saturday running their spring flower and bake sale. The event was a success – with the bake sale tables soon emptied of their loads – and proceeds will be re-invested back into the Victoria Street church.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

input on the Town's citizen committees.

"We're moving in a concentrated, thoughtful way to do what is best to get input from several areas," said Councillor John Abel. "I think there are very some very exciting ideas going forward. [When you look at what Newmarket has done with Riverwalk Commons] what they have turned around in a short period of time is phenomenal and very impressive. I am all for moving forward and I think we're doing the right thing."

Councillor Chris Ballard ventured a solution putting responsibility for fitting the pieces together with the Town's current heritage planner.

"I don't think it is a lack of ideas that

concern PRAC, rather than the fact there are three independent studies moving forward that overlap into the so-called Library Square area," he said. "There was concern that three studies have their own scope of work, their own focuses [and they saw the benefit in having at least one person, one planner, and one committee that is responsible for it all.]"

But in putting together all these visions and ideas, Council needs to come together and decide on the ultimate goals and objectives, argued Councillor Michael

Thompson. Paving to put up a parking lot is a different direction than many of the other suggestions that have come forward, he said, noting the piazza and entertainment centre proposals.

"The list is endless and so are the goals and objectives," he said. "We need to define what that is and what we're trying to achieve in this location and I think there needs to be a steering committee [or planner] to guide the process [and we can look at] all different angles of what the community needs most in this space."

Removing Code of Conduct is a "step backward", says Councillor

By Brock Weir

Aurora took a step backward last week in taking the Town's controversial Code of Conduct off the books, according to Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

Council passed a bylaw on Tuesday formally rescinding the document, which prescribed a series of guidelines to govern Council's behaviour, as well as an equally stringent list of ramifications that could be faced by Councillors if they deviate from the Code.

The document was instituted by the 2006 – 2010 Council after the Province opened up the Municipal Act to allow municipalities such as Aurora to put a Code on the books and to hire Integrity Commissioners to evaluate any complaints against elected officials incurred from a possible violation.

In that short period of time, however, Aurora has developed a considerable history when it comes to the document, including hours of Council debates, less than a handful of complaints, multiple Integrity Commissioners, all resulting in making it a hot button issue in the last Municipal election.

The majority of Councillors expressed concerns with the Code on the campaign trail and have taken multiple steps over the course of the current Council to remove it. Earlier this year, they voted to combine the existing Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics into a new, less stringent document, a revised "Code of Ethics."

According to Town Clerk John Leach, the revised document will be up for Council approval before Councillors break for summer recess at the end of June.

"I have no illusions

I can change anybody's opinion," said Councillor Gaertner on the issue, which was ultimately approved 6 – 3 with Councillors Chris Ballard and John Gallo joining her voting against the change. "[The Code of Conduct] was an interesting and important initiative of the last Council and what this did was allow politicians to stand up and say that they will uphold the principles of good conduct and ethics and that we will be held to a high standard. If our behaviour falls short of that, there will be consequences that we will accept as politicians."

"There were mistakes made, it was a new initiative, it was a new initiative in the municipal act, but we tried to do something to increase our accountability to the community and I think that is something pretty special as politicians. I think this

is a step backward for this community and it is a step backward for the politicians of this Council and I strongly object."



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Even off duty, firefighter's sense of commitment goes beyond borders

By Brock Weir

Firefighters are often referred to as “heroes among us” for the brave work they do within the community, but their work is not limited to what they do on the truck or on their beat – and Aurora native Adam Simson is proof of that.

The former G.W. Williams and Aurora High School Student has always subscribed to the belief that when it comes to emergency services there are no borders to helping. When an opportunity arose to put on his running shoes and help Ryan Humfrey, a former pilot for American Airlines, he didn't think twice.

Mr. Simson, who himself battled back to his dreams of working on a fire truck after a serious injury in the line of duty threatened to take him offline all together nearly four years ago, saw his own similarities with Ryan.

While Adam dreamed of being a firefighter from his earliest days of playing with toy fire trucks and plastic fire helmets and equipment, Ryan had his dreams of being a pilot.

Adam went through school and intensive training to achieve that dream of being on that

truck responding to fire and medical calls. Ryan watched from the Customer Service desk he was manning for the airline with stars in his eyes watching the pilots head off into the wild blue yonder. He followed them five years ago becoming a commercial jet pilot for the carrier.

Unlike Adam, who was able to use physiotherapy and other efforts to get back on track, Ryan did not fare so lucky when he was diagnosed with angiosarcoma, an aggressive and rare form of cancer which, after lung surgery, left him unable to pass standard pilot health screenings.

Now back at that customer service desk, and with his health somewhat back on track, Ryan is not taking it lying down and has devoted himself to raising awareness of this particular form of cancer of which so little is known.

Adam first heard of Ryan's plight from his cousin, Denise, who works for the same airline and when the opportunity presented itself to participate in Ryan's Angiosarcoma Awareness 5k Run/Walk in Troy, Michigan, he jumped at the chance to help out.

“I lost two very good friends of mine on the

fire truck, including a captain who passed away about eight or nine years ago from cancer, and I just lost a very good friend of mine to cancer off the truck and we had always worked together from our days in the East York fire department. As soon as I heard Ryan needed assistance and my cousin asked, anything I could do to spread awareness, even out there, I jumped on it.

“Ryan ended up organizing it, he did it all in a month. It was a really inspirational weekend to go out there and meet other people and survivors, and they appreciated the fact I came from Canada. I always believe there are no borders, no matter what.”

As someone who spends a significant part of his day responding to medical calls and to people who are living with certain health issues, he says he is always of the belief that the more you can do the better. There is a lot more one can do for the community when one is off duty, he adds.

But when on the truck, he is living out his childhood dream, a fact he is eager to tell the endless parade of young boys and girls that come to fire stations across York Region and in the Greater Toronto Area. If they



Aurora native Andrew Simson (above) serves with Toronto Fire Services. After battling back from his own injuries following an accident, he is back on the truck and recently returned from Michigan, helping Ryan Humfrey (inset) raise awareness for a rare form of cancer.
Submitted photos

too spend endless hours playing with fire trucks, as he did, they can look at him and see that it is possible to achieve one's dreams

While he says it is indeed all he dreamed it was cracked up to be, it's not without its challenges. His own health battles aside, certain calls can be particularly challenging, such as people “deliberately trying to cause harm to others.”

“That is very challenging trying to prevent that from happening and hurting people, and people get hurt because of that, he says. “The most fulfilling part is when we respond to a call and are able to help somebody and it just makes someone feel better.”

“I remember when I was a rookie responding to one of my first house fires, there were children,

they lost a lot of their stuff and we grabbed one of our Dalmatian stuffed animals, walked over and gave them to them, and just that smile on their face. Suddenly you take something that is bad and really turn it around.”

There is yet another example of the similarities between Adam and Ryan.

For more on Ryan's story and his efforts, visit www.troyasa5k.org.

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Preserving Communities gains traction in Aurora

By Brock Weir

The efforts of MPP Frank Klees to have local Councils be the ultimate authority when it comes to new developments and their impacts on existing neighbourhoods gained some added traction in Aurora last week.

Mr. Klees' bill proposing the "Preserving Existing Communities Act" was tabled in the Ontario Legislature earlier this spring. Its objective is to halt the Ontario Municipal Board from being the ultimate king-maker in most cases when a municipality has a dispute with developers' plans.

Mr. Klees argues that the bill, which is awaiting committee review at Queen's Park would confirm "the authority and role" of local councils in equally local planning matters, ensure that local lawmakers are tasked with maintaining the province's growth and intensification targets based on their official plans, and preserve the character of existing communities.

The impetus of this bill can be found to the north, where Newmarket residents are grappling with the redevelopment of the property that was formerly Glenway Golf and Country Club.

A neighbourhood was built in conjunction with the golf course with hundreds of yards backing directly onto the course itself.

The new owners of the property plan on filling much of the golf course lands with high density housing and townhomes, causing a stir with the existing community residents.

Council for Aurora, a Town which has received a fair share of criticism for the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent fighting developers at the OMB over the past decade, endorsed Mr. Klees' bill last Tuesday, 6 - 3 with Councillors Chris Ballard, Wendy Gaertner, and John Gallo voting against the measure. Aurora now joins communities such as Newmarket and Mississauga in throwing their weight into the debate for the Legislature's consideration.

Speaking against the motion, however, Councillor Chris Ballard said while he agreed with the bill in principle, he disagreed with shutting out the OMB.

"I think the intent of what is proposed is sound, but I do have issues with the discussions about the OMB," he said. "As much as I like to rail against the OMB, I think in many cases, and

looking over the history of the OMB it provides that necessary direction. If we think the OMB is expensive, we ought to try when the developers take us to court. I have concerns with the solution. The intent, I don't have problems with [but] I would be more willing to support this if we support the intent of the legislation without supporting every clause."

According to Mr. Klees, Aurora's endorsement of the bill is "helpful" and provides a "clear signal" to Queen's Park that this is an issue of concern to many municipalities across the province and something they need to "take seriously." He added, however, he believes Councillor Ballard's reasoning for voting against the measures was based on a "misunderstanding" of his bill's intent.

"Matters of a planning nature cannot be taken to court if it deals with the specific issues that my bill addresses," he said. "The only way that matters can be brought before the court is if there is a point of law at issue. These issues relate not to points of law, but specific planning issues."

Since his bill was presented in the Legislature, he says he has received "overwhelming" support



Stephanie of the Aurora Cultural Centre gets the word out about their new Aurora 150 Project inviting all Aurora youth to submit their photography and creative writing to My Aurora! 150 Youth/150 Years, a new competition where your photos and words could form an upcoming exhibit at the Cultural Centre. The competition for those aged between 5 and 15 asks, what does Aurora mean to you? What is your favourite space/place in Aurora?; and what you would like Aurora youth 150 years from now to learn from your work? For more information, contact Stephanie at 905-713-1818. Watch in next week's edition of The Auroran for full details.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

for the document which, he says, people see as "common sense" when it comes to their homes, possibly the single biggest investment they make in their lives.

"Their homes, and having them devalued because of inappropriate development encroaching into their neighbourhood is something that is of great concern," said Mr. Klees. "Residents believe they should be able to count upon their locally elected representative, namely their Town Council, to make decisions in their best interests and in the best interests of the local

community.

"To have those decisions overturned by an unelected,

unaccountable body [such as the OMB] is something I think most residents find offensive."

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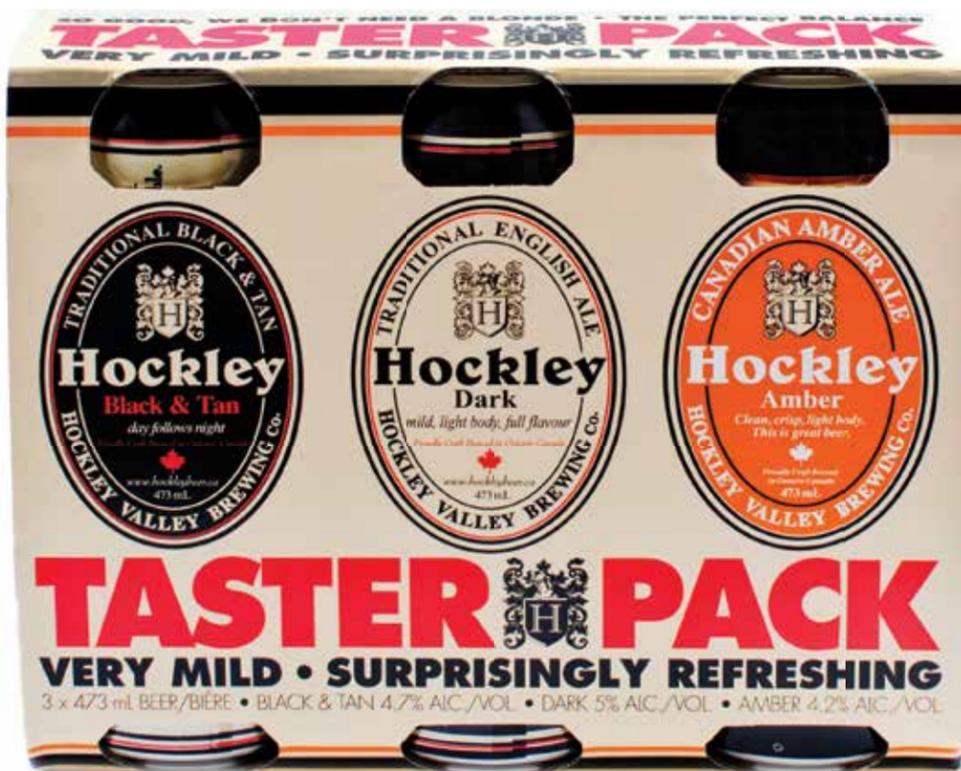
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Regional representation takes next step

By Brock Weir

Aurora's bid to have one more voice at the Regional Council table took one step forward last week.

The late motion from Aurora Council to ask the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to consider additional representation for Aurora was approved by Regional Council by 2/3 majority on Thursday and, as a result, will come up for a more detailed debate in June.

The motion, made by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe last week and brought forward a week early for debate by Councillors, followed similar motions made earlier this month by King Township, East Gwillimbury, and Whitchurch-Stouffville. Their concerns are identical and clear – one more voice in time for the 2014 election.

“As some of you know, this has been on Regional Council for quite a while, for the better part of the year,” he said. “King, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville have all passed Council resolutions unanimously to ask the Region to approach the ministry to examine the situation in terms of Regional representation.”

Council ultimately passed the resolution, sending it onto the Region, but it was not without some reservations from those at Town Hall.

Councillor Paul Pirri, for instance, said he liked the motion but had his doubts such a move could be “realistically” implemented in time for 2014.

“I am happy to support it, but it is much more likely something like this takes place for the 2018 term of Council,” he said.

Councillor Evelyn Buck also expressed some degree of caution, stating the last time any municipalities in the Northern Six – Aurora, King, Whitchurch-Stouffville, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury, and Georgina – went cap in hand to the province to ask for further Regional representation, the Region did get extra members, but only benefiting the southern tier of the region.

“Since the Region was created, our representation has not changed,” she said. “On the other hand, the Regional Council has expanded substantially with all the extra members from the south end. As long as they keep getting more we're at a greater disadvantage every time.”

If Aurora and the other two municipalities have any shot of another member, Councillor Michael Thompson argued it is beneficial to present a united front.

“The best way of approaching it is to tackle it together [but as] we have seen with our requests

with the Federal Election boundaries and Canada Post, the message doesn't always get heard,” he said. “Hopefully we will have better luck next time.”

One York Region municipality which did have considerably better luck was the City of Vaughan. Regional Council voted to recommend to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, that they gain an extra seat at the Regional table.

“It's about fair representation at Regional Council,” said Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua. “I think we have been underrepresented for a while and this issue will allow us to bring fairness to Council and the City of Vaughan.”

While Regional Council passed the motion unanimously, Georgina Mayor Rob Grossi ventured that this principle of “fairness” should be extended to others.

“If the good mayor from Vaughan is talking about fairness then I am sure he would be willing to add an amendment that it would be conditional on elected representatives be added to the other four municipalities that only have one,” he said. “Fairness means that Aurora, East Gwillimbury, King and Whitchurch-Stouffville should have an additional member.

Leaders don't see tax hike as a transit solution

From page 1

existing road and highway system, and increased growth and urbanization.

Their 25-year vision for local transportation focuses on providing a wide range of options for people and expanding to places not already or sporadically serviced, and more for children and seniors, increased frequency and reliability, with a boost to active transportation in making it easier for people cycle or walk.

This will be carried out through nine goals, ranging from stepping up efforts for an efficient rapid transit network throughout the region, walking and cycling networks with bike sharing, an integrated transit fare system, a better system of “connected mobility hubs” and instituting stable and predictable transit funding throughout the province.

But all this, of course, comes with a price, and that will be shouldered by the people, whether users, the people most effected by the current problems, or the taxpayers in general. While they propose a number of ways (taxes) people can fund the big move, dubbed “revenue tools”, one thing Aurora lawmakers and business advocates agreed on was increasing property taxes to make it happen was not an option.

“High potential options would be highway tolls and a fuel tax,” said

Judy Marshall, Chief Executive Officer of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, which worked in conjunction with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to make a number of recommendations on what will work best for local business communities. She noted times spent waiting in traffic gridlock for deliveries and other problems have an economic hit in the tens of billions.

“When we looked at some of the other ones like a commercial parking levy or a high occupancy toll [for non-high occupancy drivers], to put a process in place to gather the tax would be horrendous.

“In terms of the non-starters, we looked at property tax, payroll tax, vehicle kilometres travelled. Again, it was just too hard to implement. Putting on an employer payroll tax would impede employment when it is so important right now.”

Highway tolls and fuel tax, she told The Auroran, wouldn't be a strain on local businesses and those rose to the top.

“We don't want to put another tax on the actual employer and if the riders are going to use it, they're going to have to pay as well,” she added.

Potential new taxes were also a hot button issue when Regional Council met Thursday in Newmarket.

Many around the table

agreed it was time to take a harder position on the types of “revenue tools” they would like to see implemented. Various opinions on the issue were put out there including concerns whether giving commuters the option to take underused HOV lanes for free would defeat their purpose and compound problems for commuters; making sure any financial burdens are shouldered by drivers and not transit users; re-opening laws pertaining to development charges so they can be used towards funding transit development due to growth; and from Georgina Mayor Rob Grossi, a 1 per cent province wide sales tax dedicated specifically for The Big Move.

“We need to stop using the term ‘revenue tools’ and call it what it is – taxes,” said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe at the meeting. “Let's stop gilding the lily. We all know it is going to come from one place. I am happy to second Mayor Grossi's motion for a province-wide sales tax.

“The regions outside Hamilton and Toronto agree that we need to do something and we know it is going to benefit our residents as well as benefit their residents, but we can't be stepping up to anything until Toronto and Hamilton say we are a part of this as well, then we can truly say we all agree something needs to be done.”

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FREE Week of May 21, 2013

Southlake Run results have everyone "over the moon"

By Jeff Doner

After weeks of fundraising and canvassing, the final numbers are in for the Nature's Emporium Run or Walk for Southlake and they have everyone over the moon.

In total, \$226,000 was raised for priority healthcare needs at Southlake Regional Health Centre, which was nearly 10 per cent higher than the original goal of \$206,000.

"To know that our community rallies around such an important cause is truly inspiring," said Nature's Emporium Run or Walk for Southlake Chair, Steve Hinder. "Supporting quality healthcare close to home is a cause that everyone can relate to."

The walk/run took place a few weeks ago, but fundraising continued until May 15.

Spearheading the town of Aurora's fundraising efforts were Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor Sandra Humfries, who helped raise \$9,735 for Southlake.

Of the "northern six" municipalities of Aurora, King, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Georgina, Aurora's total won them Mayor's Cup for this year. This is a friendly competition between the

six municipalities, in which the top fundraising municipality wins the cup. Last year King Mayor Steve Pellegrini won the distinction.

"It's just terrific. We have great relationships between "the northern six" [municipalities], but that's not to say there isn't just a wee bit of rivalry," said Mayor Dawe with a laugh. "So it's just fun, but I think obviously the more important part was putting the challenge out there to the municipalities to get a few more bucks in the door."

Councillor Sandra Humfries was also thrilled that the Town of Aurora was able to raise so much for a good cause.

"We're so excited. The majority was raised by Mayor Dawe; he got out there the last two weeks and said we've got to work hard at this. Everyone did. And it's all for such a great cause - for our local hospital," she said.

"To host the event here this year was an honour itself and then to be the winners is just a great feeling. And I can't wait to get the cup into Town Hall," she said with a laugh.

Even though this year's fundraising has come to a close, Councillor Humfries is already looking ahead to next year, adding that she hopes the event will continue to

grow each year.

"I believe the funds raised are over \$225,000, which was over the goal for this year, and was 24% more than we raised last year," she said.

"Our target is to get to 5,000 walkers and maybe even bigger than that in the next few years, so we're really working hard to get more participation out there for a great cause."

With roughly 1,500 participants this year and 2,343 donations on total, Mayor Dawe added that the event is important in many different ways.

"It's just a great community event that brings people together. It's fun to have all those people come out to support the hospital, we all use it," he said.

"It's extremely important. Before I got in this business I didn't really understand the funding formulas and a substantial component of the funding model for hospitals is local engagement. If you want to put equipment and things like that in the hospital, you're on your own, which is why the Southlake Foundation has really engaged in fundraising for all sorts of equipment. People should really understand that the money is going to a service that really benefits us all."



Runners and walkers geared up to take part in the Nature's Emporium Run/Walk for Southlake on Saturday, April 27. Through the fundraising efforts of municipalities across the Region, hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised for the local hospital, with Aurora finally capturing the Municipal Cup after previous losses to Newmarket and, most recently, King.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2013/2014 REGISTRATION

On-Line Registration begins: April 1, 2013*

In-House Registration dates: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (6 - 9 pm)
May 4, 11, 18, 25 (10 am - 1:00 pm)
AMHA Office at ACCI

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Aurora Sport Hall of Fame approves official logo

As May 1 kicked off the nomination processes for the Inaugural Aurora Sport Hall of Fame Inductions, the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame (ASHoF) also unveiled their new logo.

Designed by local graphic designer and Auroran, John Stephenson with collaboration by Peter Billings, the logo was presented to the ASHoF Board for approval and the Board was unanimous in their support of the design.

"This logo is the result of a number of meetings with the designers, where many different concepts were discussed and presented," stated Ron Weese,

ASHoF Chair. "Our Board felt this design was simple and elegant and not only celebrates our proud sport history but also connected that history with the excellence we see developing every day in our Community," he added.



"We think it will be recognized in our community and will come to represent excellence and the celebration of sport." Mr. Stephenson explained the logo concept as inspired by the Greek sculpture, The Winged Victory of Samothrace, "with spreading wings, reaching upwards around a human figure, denoting the true meaning of sport and competition,"

Continued on page 22



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(Left) York Region Special Olympics athletes celebrated Painting the Town Red at York Regional Headquarters on Thursday afternoon. (Right) Stephen Petrucci and Brent Hoey compared red shoelaces, sported by all Olympians,



local politicians, police, fire, and EMS responders, and transit drivers on the day. (Centre) York Regional employees, such as Andy Lee, had no shortage of fun and creative ways to sport their red laces. Auran photos by Brock Weir



Special Olympics doubles fundraising after huge response

By Brock Weir

Local Special Olympians, public employees, and politicians teamed up Thursday to paint York Region red in celebration of the upcoming Special Olympics Summer Games, which hits York Region in July.

The event, organized by York Regional Police, will bring together hundreds of Special Olympics athletes, their families, and countless people to cheer them on in locations spanning all nine York Region Municipalities.

Aurora, for instance, at St. Andrew's College, will be the Games' soccer venue, while a portion of the athletes set up camp in their dorms for the duration of the period.

The Region initially set up a fundraising goal of \$500,000 supporting the games through the sponsorship of individual Ontario athletes, and the sale of red shoelaces which were worn by athletes, politicians, police and first responders, and all York Region Transit drivers on Thursday. This fundraising, however, has exceeded their expectations and they have now upped the ante - making it a true Daily Double of fundraising to \$1 million.

Olympians descended on the York Regional Headquarters in

Newmarket for a celebratory barbeque to raise even more money to support the athletes, meet local dignitaries, and lay some of the groundwork for the upcoming games.

"We're going to have over 900 athletes, coaches, and loved ones of our athletes across Ontario to York Region," said York Regional Chair Bill Fisch. "I am very proud to say we have these games, we fought for these games, and we're so pleased to have all of you be in your hometowns to do that."

York Regional Police Chief Eric Joliffe spoke of his pride not just for the athletes but the various people in his department, including Games Coordinator Karen Richards, that have gone beyond the call of duty, particularly this early in the game, in ensuring the success of July's celebrations, and their proud history of supporting the games, which goes back over 25 years. In this time, including 2013, the York Regional Police is the only police service to host the games twice.

"It is through the entire team's dedication that athletes will have an unbelievable experience in July," he said.

Athletes also had the chance to meet Dr. Frank Hayden, founder of Special Olympics Canada. In his remarks to the Olympians and their

families, he highlighted the history of the games, which had its humble beginnings in a study he undertook researching activities and movement for children with intellectual disabilities in the 1960s.

At that time, that was a particular area where little had been written and he said it quickly became clear how "unfit" the children were. The writings of he and his team took off, proving there was a market and an influence to do something about it, and his work caught the attention of the U.S.-based Kennedy Foundation including Eunice Kennedy and her husband Sargent Shriver.

Dr. Hayden spoke of its early roots in organizing a precursor to the games as a Centennial Celebration and the Shivers encouraged him to come down and get the ball rolling for a similar initiative south of the border. Although reluctant at first, the persistence of "Sarge" paid off and the rest is history, spanning the globe, including the recent World Winter Games in South Korea where York Region athletes fared so well.

This is a testament, said Dr. Hayden, to the universality of the games in breaking down barriers of race, culture, and religion.

Continued on page 20

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THE AURORAN AURORA 150th ANNIVERSARY

Arts & Culture

Disappearing acts and a good dose of humour offered by Aurora filmmakers

By Brock Weir

Disappearing acts abounded at the Aurora Cultural Centre Thursday as local filmmakers showcased their works in the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region.

There were the comic disappearances of the most popular girl and hamster in school, in "A Guessing Game" by Aurora's Josh Conley and in "The Professional" respectively; disappearing from one world into an idyllic dream in "Kazu and Azul" brought by Aurora producer Alex Broughton; disappearing from the connected and co-dependent technological world we live in and reconnecting with nature in "A World Out There" directed by Aurora's E. Bozhori; and retreating from worlds of bullying and social stigma in "Type Away My Pain" and "Reversible."

While these films provided food for thought for the small but dedicated film-going crowd that filed into Brevik Hall last week, it was not simply a sea of deep thought. Laughs were provided in "Piece of Cake", a film producers described as an "I Love Lucy-inspired take" on TV cookery, a scent-free whiff

of "teen spirit" in "Youth", an epic chess battle royale in "Checkmate" by Aurora's L. VanderPloeg, and in the tender love story "Samantha" which turns into something completely different by the time the credits roll.

Whether filmmakers set out to entertain, or find a voice, there was something for everyone. For Festival coordinator Mona El Baroudi, whether people are looking to be entertained, moved – or both – the reception to this year's crop of filmmakers by the public has been very encouraging.

"I think people have been really astounded by the production quality, but I think it is the stories that are really something different and make the screening," she says. "When you find what the [film] adjudicators see in a theme which is just a little bit different and unexpected, we find the audience responds in very much the same way."

The wide scope of filmmaking beyond the confines of Toronto is also something she says resonates with the people who come to the screening, raising questions about the filmmakers in their own back yard.

The York Region Multimedia Film Festival was originally founded to give youth a voice and an outlet for their creativity. In the common themes exhibited at Thursday's screening, such as bullying,

"When we're getting to our youngest filmmakers, you're looking at what's important to you in your life," she says. "We're asking people to speak from their hearts because the more personal something is, the more universal it is. The films that have really touched people is where we have gotten our filmmakers of all ages to be courageous and daring in telling a story that means something personal for them."

Attending last week's screening were Mr. Broughton and Mr. Conley. Mr. Conley's offering covered the disappearance of the most popular girl in school, a story brought to life with humour and cinematic inspiration by him and his fellow St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School students. Mr. Broughton's efforts were a visual-effects heavy concoction of stop motion animation and live actors green screened into the action. The result was a dreamlike experience as



Aurora filmmaking talent was well represented at the local screening of the York Region Multimedia Film Festival at the Aurora Cultural Centre Thursday by Tomas Slapsys, Alex Broughton, and Josh Conley. Conley and Slapsys' "A Guessing Game" and Broughton's "Kazu and Azul" are up for top honours at the Festival's closing night gala next Wednesday. Auroran photo by David Falconer

a fisherman heads out to encounter his own mermaid.

While the two filmmakers took vastly different approaches to their work, creativity won the day and they came to a meeting of the minds.

"Those guys obviously have some pretty good talent with the writing and pacing," said Mr. Broughton of his fellow Aurorans. "I am writing a sitcom right now so I am taking classes on acting, writing, and producing so I would love to work with those guys on doing a comedy."

"I think they would

really kick ass at writing comedies."

Both men and their films will be vying for awards at May 29's Closing Night Gala and Awards Ceremony. The event will take place at

Newmarket Theatre – doors open 5.30 p.m. – and tickets are available for \$35 for adults and \$25 for seniors and students from 905-953-5122 or by visiting www.yorkregionfilmfestival.com.

Music Fest organizers begin talent search

By Brock Weir

The hunt is on for local talent for the Celebrate Aurora Music Festival.

As The Auroran reported last week, organizers of the festival, slated for Town Park for July 27 – 28, are collaborating on the event, bringing together established performers and fresh local talent. A collaboration between Habachat, a local social media company, and Canadian Idol judge Farley Flex and his R.E.A.L. Corp, they aim to showcase over 20 local band and musical acts – and any band, musician, or entertainer from Aurora and York Region will be given a fair shake at auditioning.

Submissions and applications are now being accepted through June 7 at www.habachat.com/entertainment.

Younger Aurorans will also have a chance to showcase their moves with So You Think Aurora Can Dance? hosted by So You Think You Can Dance Canada finalist Miles Faber, as well as "Aurora's Got the Voice" with Farley Flex. These competitions will be two-tiered, with one for the 14-18-year-olds and a category for singers and dancers 13 and under.

If you think you have what it takes, applications for the competitions are also being accepted through www.habachat.com/talentcompetitions. All you need to do is fill out your application

and submit a link to a 30 second dance video or one song verse by June 7.

"You would be amazed at the level of talent that is hidden within communities like Aurora," said Mr. Flex in a statement. "We have already identified some amazing local talent that will be featured and are looking for more hidden gems."

Other attractions slated for the festival include food and drink provided by Aurora restaurants and a chance for attendees to try to break the record for the world's largest Harlem Shake on the Saturday at 4.30 p.m.

R.E.A.L. Corp. stands for Reality, Education & Applied Life skills, a

concept developed by Mr. Flex to give youngsters with artistic aspirations well-rounded exposure not just to the arts and entertainment industries, but also providing leadership skills and a taste of all the various facets of the business so people can find their true career paths.

Mr. Flex initially submitted a proposal for a music festival for Machell Park for the last weekend in July at the same time Tim Newnham and Debbie McGrath of Habachat proposed a similar music and cultural festival for the same weekend at Town Park. The two groups have put their unique skill sets together for one big bash at Town Park.

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My last column spoke of the need for politicians to be a force for positive change – and specifically commending Aurora’s Council for its recent stance on a painful chapter in Aurora’s history and offering a sincere apology to those affected.

It was, and is, a positive and welcome decision by the majority of Council. Again, it is truly unfortunate that not all Councillors could see the value – or the need? – in apologizing to the three families victimized by the fruitless, futile lawsuit. However, it is heartening to know that the majority wanted to do their part in affording all of us the opportunity to move forward.

We saw a similar stance this week from Premier Wynne who apologized unequivocally for the Ontario Liberal government’s cancellation of the gas plants during the recent hard fought election.

Despite claims to the contrary, there’s no question that the decision to cancel the wildly unpopular gas plants was an entirely political one given that they were sited to be located in two ridings that were up in the air, so to speak electorally. (By the way, why they were sited there in the first place is a matter that should also be examined. It isn’t mere nimbyism on the part of the residents. The locations were not ideal.)

Premier Wynne stated that she took “personal responsibility” for the significant costs borne by the taxpayers of Ontario. Personal responsibility. How extraordinary.

She is being both lauded and lambasted for the apology – a not unexpected outcome. Comments from those in the house were along the lines of “hollow apology” and that it was all “...too late”. The chattering classes feel that an apology is not enough, while others question why an apology was offered by the Premier at all – given that it wasn’t her government or her choice to cancel the plants.

Leaving aside the other parties’ calls for investigations, inquiries and a visit perhaps by Torquemada, I will say that in my personal opinion



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

A force for change

there does need to be some kind of formal review of the manner in which the plants were cancelled and the method by which the costs of the cancellations were calculated and disclosed and the disparity between figures provided before and after the election.

Quite frankly, a jump from 40 million to 310 million in costs to the taxpayers of Ontario deserves more than a mere *mea culpa* and “let’s move on now.” You can’t preach openness, accountability and transparency and then fail to address a quarter billion dollar “oopsie...”

But an imminent inquisition notwithstanding, focusing on the apology itself, I think it was extraordinary. The naysayers and righteously indignant are missing the point entirely by characterizing it as a cravenly political act.

Call me naïve (and one reader stated as much after last week’s column) but I think the apology was genuine. She recognizes that as Captain of the ship, she is responsible for all decisions made regardless of whether she made them herself or not. To quote Premier Wynne (via the Globe and Mail), she said, she felt that residents wanted a “personal apology” “...if there’s a possibility for (residents) to have a trusting relationship with politicians” an apology was necessary.

Trust in our politicians is hard to come by these days, as I stated last week. In just the last three days alone we’ve had reports of a \$90,000 “gift” to a Senator from a senior staffer in the PMO to pay back funds owed to taxpayers, bizarre allegations of a crack

smoking Mayor; and a very, very late recollection of a potential bribe offered to the now leader of the Opposition.

I am sure we will have the requisite statements of regret from the parties concerned for the errors of their ways. But to paraphrase Premier Wynne, regret affords one a certain distance from taking responsibility. It’s a qualified apology. It’s a non-apology apology. Which makes the Premier’s statement all the more extraordinary – it is recognition that when a mistake has been made (especially a rather colossal one) nothing short of an apology will do.

Something our Aurora Council has similarly recognized.

Happy long weekend everyone. I hope you had a relaxing unofficial start to your summer.

That’s all for this week. Until next week, stay informed, stay involved, because this is, after all, Our Town

Jana will live out her dream in New York City

From page 3

represent a Town with so many incredible students.”

When asked some of her influences in being proactive within her school community, Megan says it just happens when she finds something she’s passionate about. Not really getting a sense there were all the artistic opportunities there could be within her school environment, she set out to do something about that.

“I thought, ‘You know what? There’s no reason why I can’t start something new,’” she says of her first inspiration. “The teachers at my school are incredibly supportive and they backed me up through the whole thing. Getting something started was a big challenge but once you get support from your peers just seeing their enthusiasm is what kept

me motivated and seeing everybody get excited.”

Since then, she says there has been an “incredible” response from her fellow students. With a healthy turnout in their first year, they spearheaded gallery events within their school, as well as at the Aurora Public Library, celebratory evenings at the school bringing together music and visual arts programs, and it has gained momentum.

Now as she prepares to leave the legacy behind, she is talking to younger group members to see who wants to step up to a leadership role. The candidates will be elected by their peers, but she says if the need every arises, she’s only a phone call away. A long-distance call.

Upon graduation, she is tackling Advertising and Marketing Communications at New

York’s Fashion Institute of Technology, a dream she has harboured since Grade 6.

“The first thing I did was jump around my mailbox when I had my acceptance letter and I was just on top of the world. I think the most exciting part was to share the news with the people who have been there with me on the whole journey – my teachers, my parents, my friends. They have been there through all of the struggles and all of the hardships and it has meant a lot to me. I think that was the most enjoyable part of it.”

Her first goal? Meeting fellow Canadian Joe Zee, managing editor of Elle Magazine.

“He’s from Toronto and that’s how I found out about the school in grade 6,” she says. “I want to go up to him, shake his hand, tell him my story and say, ‘I want to be you!’”

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FRESH LOCAL ORIGINAL

Students plan road hockey game to remember

By Jeff Doner

Local high school students Ben Hankins and Liam Devlin are looking to raise some funds and awareness for Alzheimer's and need your help.

As part of their Grade 12 Sports Management class at Aurora High School, Ben and Liam are responsible for planning and putting together an event, a road hockey game, on their own.

"At first we were having trouble picking a charity, but then we looked at a lot of charities and narrowed it down, we talked about how big of a problem Alzheimer's and dementia is and it's not something you see and hear about all the time," said Liam. "It would be nice to try and help someone who isn't getting as much exposure and help them get some money and just try and help out."

The event is set to take place on Saturday, June 1 from 12 to 5 p.m. at a location in Aurora still to be determined. Anyone can sign up to participate for \$10 per person.

"We're looking for eight to nine teams consisting of six to eight people and then we're going to play a lot of games and most likely run it from 12 to 5 p.m., depending on how long it takes," said Ben. "If people want to join as a team already, that's great."

Ben and Liam have also put out a call to those interested to bring some hockey sticks, goalie equipment and nets if available.

With so much planning, time and work going into the project, both admitted to being excited to see it all starting to come together.

"Right when Mr. Lau mentioned that there would be a project like this that we would be working on all semester, Ben and I instantly came together and wanted to actually make some real money and make a difference," Liam said. "It has actually been a lot of fun. We got in contact with the Alzheimer's Society right away and we thought instantly a road hockey game would be perfect, because it's not just a way to make money, but it's also perfect to get people out and have a good time."

Added Ben: "We were given the project in the middle of March and to see it finally unfold is great because we have been waiting to run this event for months and now that it is only two weeks away we are more excited than ever, for both the event and to help the Alzheimer Society of York Region."

The 18 year olds, who are both leaving for university in the fall, are happy to close out their high school years planning an event for such a worthy cause.

"I want to go to school for physical education so that I can be a gym teacher, but if there's ever anything like this for charities, I will definitely always participate and donate to it," said Ben, who is heading to Nipissing in the fall. "Anything with sports I love to do and

especially if it's for a charity and a good cause."

Liam, who has chosen to study marketing at Guelph next year, is equally excited and said planning the event has been a valuable experience.

"I would have to say it's really amazing to see just a few small ideas that we wanted to do for fun become something where tons of people and friends want to

come out, raise money, and have a good time. Before, when I wasn't in this class, I wouldn't have thought I could contact a charity and put together something like this, but now it's all happening and it looks like it is going to be a great day."

For more information or to register for the event, contact Liam or Ben at liam9649@hotmail.com or hankins_ben@hotmail.com



Liam Devlin and Ben Hankins are students at Aurora High School. Supplied photo

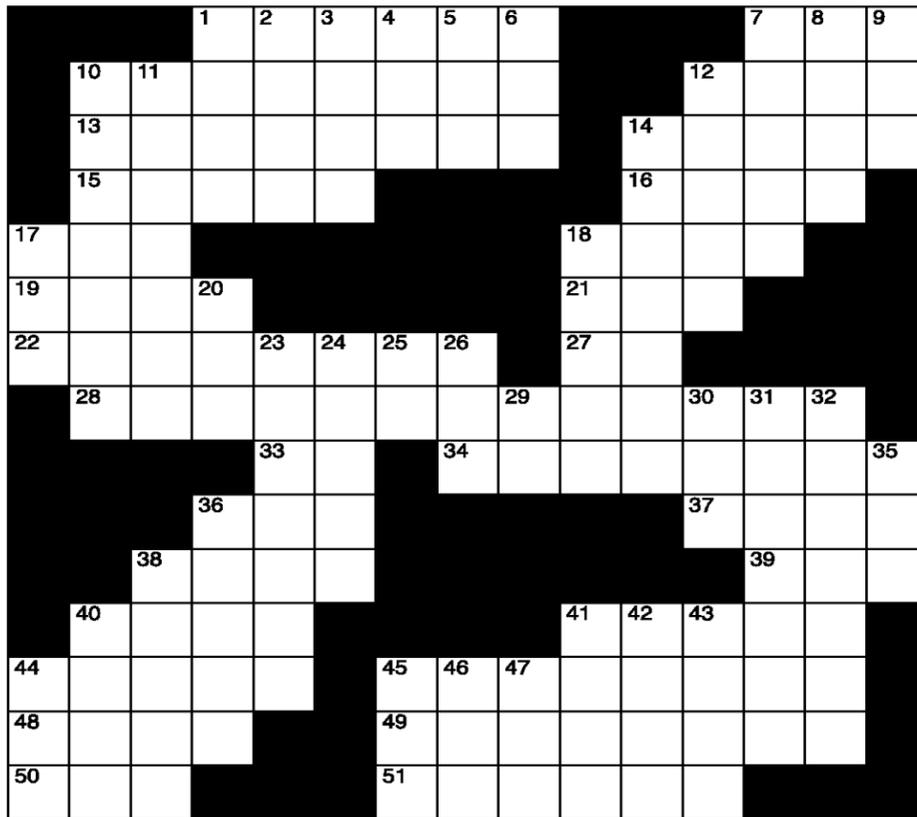
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- 7. Maple fluid
- 10. Most saponaceous
- 12. Icelandic island
- 13. Stressed pronunciation
- 14. Ginseng genus
- 15. Seizes
- 16. Loose Arab garments
- 17. Title of respect
- 18. Operatic solo
- 19. Fleur-de-lis flower
- 21. Pad used as a floor covering
- 22. Sine curve
- 27. In the year of Our Lord
- 28. Day or sleep away supervisor
- 33. Carrier's invention
- 34. Infant bed
- 36. Fiddler crabs
- 37. English monk 672-735 (alt. sp.)
- 38. Precise and prudish
- 39. The beak of a bird
- 40. Point that is one point N of NE
- 41. Blighia sapida
- 44. Russian political prison camp
- 45. Unselfishness
- 48. Arabian Gulf
- 49. Unsupported
- 50. Thieving bird
- 51. Alarm and dismay

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cigarette bundle
- 2. Fencing sword
- 3. Cannisters
- 4. A way to drench
- 5. Point midway between E and SE
- 6. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 7. Yemen capital
- 8. Actresses Ortiz & Alicia
- 9. Photographs
- 10. Exposing folly to ridicule
- 11. Egg-shaped instrument
- 12. Established custom
- 14. St. Patrick's, Macy's or Rose
- 17. Female sibling
- 18. Gather lots together
- 20. Total
- 23. Allowance for intervals
- 24. Medieval philosopher
- 25. Jupiter satellite
- 26. Invest with knighthood
- 29. Sodium
- 30. Women's __ movement
- 31. Singleness
- 32. Saves or delivers
- 35. The bill in a restaurant
- 36. Of a city
- 38. Former name of Belau
- 40. Class of comb jellies
- 41. Height x width
- 42. Pick out from others
- 43. German port, bay and canal
- 44. Jacob's 6th son
- 45. Goat or camel hair fabric
- 46. One circuit of a track
- 47. 3X = 1 TBS

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Council to take another shot at securing historic collections

By Brock Weir

Buyer's remorse doesn't typically come into play when people have delayed a bill of sale, but Councillors will have a shot this week at reconsidering their delay of acquiring the historic Aurora Collection for the Town.

Reconsideration was brought forward by Councillor Sandra Humfries last week. Passed by Council, this week will afford them another kick at the can in acquiring the large storehouse of historic artefacts currently owned by the Aurora Historical Society (AHS). Earlier this year, Councillors voted to delay discussions about acquiring the museum

pieces until the completion of a Cultural Master Plan.

The Cultural Master Plan, which could be completed as early as this fall, but most likely no earlier than January, is due to put together strategies to chart how Aurora handles "culture" in the future, including the Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Cultural Centre, but also related bodies such as the Aurora Historical Society.

Having a clear understanding of how everything fits together was important before taking such a costly step as acquiring the collection and paying for its upkeep, Councillors argued at the time, but Councillor Humfries maintains that time is of the essence.

"I was disappointed with the way things turned," she said. "We provided staff direction to work with the AHS, there was a framework delivered to us with a really great plan with timelines throughout the whole process, and everything was delivered as per committed by staff. Everything looked great and at the last minute some members of Council decided it would be more appropriate to wait for the Cultural Master Plan to get a strategy that we would pursue moving forward with a museum."

"A Cultural Master Plan is a very high level scope of work that provides a vision. It gathers information from the community, demographic changes, and

it suggests where we want to see ourselves in the next year and in 20 years. It is critical, it has to happen, but getting down to the details of putting a museum together, I don't see any impact at all."

Under the terms of the Town's new Cultural Services Agreement between itself and the Aurora Cultural Centre, the Town is due to get the Aurora Room at the Church Street landmark. Council recently approved a nearly \$50,000 plan to outfit the room with an exhibit to mark the Town's 150th anniversary by July 1. This exhibit will have to be taken down by late fall to make way for one last Cultural Centre exhibition before the room formally becomes museum space on

January 1, 2014.

Before Council made their decision to hold off on acquiring the collection, they received a presentation from auditors hired to evaluate the value and condition of the collection. While they said they were impressed by the variety of things in the collection and largely with how they were stored within the Cultural Centre, there were also several issues that needed to be addressed, particularly carpet beetle infestations in portions of the textile collections.

"For me, it is about protection and moving it forward without any further

delay," said Councillor Humfries of the importance of getting the collection, addressing the concerns, and making sure all ducks are in a row for the museum space in January.

"I am honoured that Council is giving me the opportunity to plead my case and hopefully they will find it when they realise from a business perspective that if you believe in having a museum and having artefacts back and cared for safely that you would know that a strategic cultural plan is not going to be the answer for a museum. We're almost ahead from that perspective."



Shoppers were able to take a step back in time Saturday morning in Shop, Walk & Talk: Memories of a Shopaholic (1863), a walking tour of some of Aurora's historic businesses, with a splash of contemporary art thrown in for good measure. (Left) Artist Judy Sherman painted Aurora United Church outside of Table for 2 & More while (right) a musical interlude was provided by David Rankine and Bob Leonard, pictured here with tour organizer Katherine Belrose and William from Bonsai Hill Tea House. Auroran photos by David Falconer





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All nine York Region municipalities will host Summer Games

From page 15

"We're all the same and it is really you folks who come together, work together, get to know each other, and bring your communities together," he said. "That's what made me what I am today - it is by you folks and not by me."

Representing the athletes on stage with the dignitaries was Matt Nightswander, one of the members of the Newmarket Ringers floor hockey team which returned from South Korea with medals around their necks. He said after going across

Ontario, Canada, and to the other side of the world for the Special Olympics, he was looking forward to welcoming athletes from across Ontario to their home turf.

"When I was in school I didn't have a lot of friends,

I was picked on a lot, and all I ever wanted was to fit in," he said. "I found Special Olympics and it was a true blessing because Special Olympics is not only about sports, it is building confidence, friendship and learning new skills.

"Special Olympics taught me I could live my dream and I know it can create the same for others."

For more in the Ontario Summer Games or to support athletes, visit www.specialolympics2013games.com.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

ALL PERSONS having claims against the estate of HILDA ALLEN, late of the Town of Aurora, in the Regional Municipality of York, deceased, who died on or about the 14th of December, 2012, must file proof of same with the undersigned on or before the 4th of June, 2013, at which time complete distribution will be made by the Executrix/Estate Trustee having regard only to the claims so filed.

DATED AT PETERBOROUGH this 10th day of May, 2013.

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Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to

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Simcoe-York Group of Newspapers

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

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- Show proficiency at using social media, Mac computers, and QuarkXPress, InDesign, Photoshop and other programs necessary for the publication of a weekly newspaper
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

Qualifications:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
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- Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle

The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover both community events, local politics, and be able to work in a team-oriented yet self-motivated environment.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to

rs@simcoeyorkprinting.com



ASK TOM
Tom Mrakas

Lawn Tips

As this was the long weekend and the first real opportunity to do a proper yard clean up, I thought I'd write about something that's an important part of home maintenance but that is not really a strong suit of mine: lawn care.

I have had a number of readers ask recently about lawn care and given that we are now in the annual phase 1 water ban – how to keep the lawn looking full and green in Aurora.

Well, just like most things in life, success depends on preparation.

The first tip I have to offer is a bit late, but keep it

in mind for next year. Get the right fertilizer to use in the fall, and use it liberally but not as liberally as the manufacturers promote. Put too much down and you'll end up with a burnt lawn, not a prepped lawn.

Also, as fertilizer promotes rapid growth if you use it improperly - too much or too often - that can lead to more problems with your lawn and shrubs, such as disease and insects. A fall fertilizing is all that is needed.

What you can do right now and have an immediate effect on the look of your lawn is to

resist the urge to mow it right down to putting green height and instead start mowing your lawn at a higher setting such as 3.5 inches to 4 inches.

Tall grass shades out weeds, keeps soil cooler and moist longer and it also promotes deeper root penetration.

The biggest issue most have is watering – too much, not too little! Unless it's newly laid sod or shrubs, a healthy lawn only needs to be watered once or twice a week at the most for one hour a time! Honestly, that's all that's needed. Watering it every day just

isn't necessary.

Another trick I use in keeping the lawn looking nice and green (and yes, it is a "sustainable landscaping" trick that my other half suggested) is to use clover seed.

Clover grows quickly and easily. Once grown, it can be cut like grass. It makes the lawn look full, it stays green and doesn't need much, if any, water to grow.

Even in the midst of a mid-summer phase II water ban, with a lawn full of clover it will still look green while your neighbors' all turn brown –

and they turn "green" with envy!

These are a few quick tips for you to make your lawn look great.

If I missed something or someone with a green thumb has something to add let me know. I'm always happy to learn something new!

Until next week, remember a good job, is a job well done! Also, if you have any questions you can reach me at www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign or on twitter, @ADesign_build and email, of course, at anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca.

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COMING EVENTS

To submit your event, email details to letters@auroran.com with the subject line "Coming Events"

ON NOW

APRIL 23 – JUNE 4

Eating Disorders of York Region presents "On the Road to Recovery" Support Group with Flora Svinarenko. The Recovery group is intended for those who currently are actively working on maintaining changes which they have made in regards to their eating behaviours while attending other group programs through EDOYR or participating in eating disorder treatment. The road to recovery is challenging sometimes and emotional support is necessary to overcome or prevent lapses. In a safe and empathetic environment this group will provide you with coping tools and support needed to address complicated emotions, unhealthy behaviors or unhelpful thoughts. Cost is \$50 for the four weeks. To register, please visit <http://www.edoyr.com/support-groups.html> or email info@edoyr.com.

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Stonach Regional Health Centre presents Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: Smoking – A Love/Hate Relationship. Presented by Rosemary Lamont, clinical nurse specialist, this is part of an ongoing Cancer Education Series presented at Southlake. Seminar runs from 5.15 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. in the Cancer Centre's main floor: 506 Davis Drive. Free. For more information, please visit www.southlakeregional.org and click on "Southlake Events."

Dawson Dental will mark Canada's first National Smile Day with "Teeth in a Day". An innovative dental implant solution, Teeth-in-a-Day is designed to provide efficient service so patients can walk into Dawson Dental's office and walk out the same day with permanent teeth. This service uses an All-on-4 solution that requires only four implants to support an immediately-loaded, full-arch prosthesis—or, a smile from ear to ear. For more information, visit www.teeth-in-a-day.ca.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Garden Aurora! The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society invites you to hear Leonard Teengs, award winning floral designer and special events coordinator speak on the elements of design. Leonard will also demonstrate several spectacular arrangements, providing inspiration for your next special event. Meeting starts at 8.00 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway

North. Further information at www.gardenauroora.com or call 905-713-6660.

Eating Disorders of York Region (EDOYR) invites you to a cozy "Fireside Conversation" this evening from 6 – 8 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Public Library. Members from the "Faces of Recovery" campaign invite you to join with them in conversation, together with guest speaker Naturopath Dr. Lorenzo Diana from Markham Natural Health Centre, to speak about recovery and to answer questions that may arise concerning physical wellness in the recovery process. This event is free of charge, but registration is required. Please register online at <http://www.edoyr.com/upcoming-events.html>. Call 905-886-6632 or email info@edoyr.com for more information.

LifeSpring Clinics hosts an osteoporosis info night this evening from 6–7 p.m. Discussions will cover what the condition means, how it may affect you or those you know, and what you can do about it. Topics include prevention, diagnosis, nutrition and exercise. They will also introduce OsteoCircuit, a physiotherapy and education program designed to safely and effectively decrease your risk of fracture while increasing your physical ability and fitness. Space is limited. For more information, call 905-713-2427 or email info@lifespringclinics.ca. Located at St. Andrew's Village Plaza at Yonge and Orchard Heights.

MAY 23 – 25

Theatre Aurora's Youth Company will present "Something Wicked" at the Factory Theatre. For more information, visit www.theatreaurora.com.

MAY 23 – JUNE 27

Life Without Eating Disorders, a group based on the Cognitive Behavioural Therapy techniques, is hosted by Eating Disorders of York Region. Each Thursday for six weeks. During this group, participants will learn about various factors that contributed to the development of disordered eating and later serve as maintaining mechanisms. We will construct a model of your eating disorder, identifying and targeting the processes that are maintaining the disordered eating. We will discuss how perfectionism, self-esteem, and interpersonal problems connected with your eating habits.

The Sharon Temple National Historic Site will present professional and emerging artists showcasing and selling their original artwork with the Sharon Art Show and Sale today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission by donation to the Sharon Temple. Open to the public. Welcome to all lovers of art. Art mediums include fused glass, jewelry, paintings, pencil sketches, photography, pottery, scratchboard, stained glass, metal work, and wood carvings. For more information, visit www.sharonartshow.com.

The York Symphony Orchestra welcomes back Brazilian conductor Rafael Luz to the podium celebrating "French Impressions." The concert will feature a YSO favourite, York region native Andrew Ascenzo, to play Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto #1. In addition to the concerto, Maestro Luz will lead the orchestra in one of the best known "impressionist" pieces in the repertoire, Debussy's dreamlike "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun." Concert begins at 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church. For more information and for tickets, call 416-410-0860.

West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

SENIOR SCAPE

From page 6

and pressed. After the tour, you can head over to the complimentary tasting bar to sample a few of Magnotta's world class wines. Then off to the Peach Festival for fun, laughter and small town country fun. The day's activities include a fife and drum procession, live music and more. Antique steam tractors celebrate the history of farming, a classic car display, a sidewalk sale by local merchants, a peach pie baking contest and fresh steamed corn on the cob! Don't miss out on this great day trip!

And finally ...: The last time the Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup, most of their fans were in diapers. Coincidentally, the next

time they win it, those same fans likely will be back in diapers, again!

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John

Nominations open for Hall of Fame

From page 14

he said. "The Aurora Town colours of green and blue are seen in the wings plus gold to represent the highest perceived value. The classic type style is to provide honour and reverence to each Inductee, and of course, we needed to have the maple leaf in red to ensure that this represented Canadian sport" he concluded.

The ASHoF is now seeking nominations for the three Induction Categories of Athlete, Coach and Builder/Contributor. All nomination criteria are posted on the Sport Aurora Web site at www.sportaurora.ca. Nominations close June 28th for the first-ever Induction of Members into the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame to be celebrated in November of this year.

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The hunt is on for Aurora's next Teen Idol

By Brock Weir

Do you have what it takes to be Aurora's next Teen Idol?

The hunt is on for Aurora's 2013 Teen Idol, who will be crowned during this year's Canada Day Celebrations. If you're between the ages of 12 and 17, and have a penchant for singing – whether before large crowds or even in the shower! – you just might be the right person for the job.

Few people know this better than Taylor Mansillo. Taylor, a Grade 12 student at Aurora High School, was crowned 2012's Teen Idol at Lambert Willson Park on July 1, after making her way through a series of preliminary rounds. Sealing her victory with a stirring rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah", she has been a mainstay at Town events throughout the year, recently performing God Save The Queen at the Aurora 150 Tattoo, held at the Aurora Community Centre on May 5 to mark the Town's sesquicentennial.

Over the course of the year in performing at awards ceremonies to large scale events, it is this last one she feels is probably going to be the pinnacle of her reign.

"This has been a really good year," she says, noting a year of firsts, including taking a chance as the emcee for the ice carving events held at this year's Arctic Adventure on Family Day. "I liked being a presenter

and I enjoyed singing for the Tattoo as it was such a big event.

"When I am singing, I am a bit different. I like singing in front of bigger crowds; I am more intimidated singing one on one."

This is no exaggeration. Before plucking up the confidence to take another shot at becoming Aurora's Teen Idol – after making it through a number of rounds in the 2011 competitions – she considered her singing primarily a hobby, bringing out her talent primarily at school events. It was not something she did in her spare time at home.

"[We were surprised] because we never hear her sing in our household," says her mother Debra, with a laugh. "She had a kindergarten teacher named Mrs. Winters, and I remember her saying, 'Taylor can really sing!' and we were like, 'I don't think so!' We were pretty happy with it and this has been a good experience."

Over the course of the year, the events at which Taylor has been asked to perform have afforded her a unique insight into many areas of Town. She says she has learned about many events you can get more involved with and encourages other people to follow suit, get out, and explore Aurora.

"I was able to actually live in more of the community, especially as I am going away this year," she says. "I got to know Aurora a lot

better and I got to know Aurora as my Town."

By going away, Taylor is only going as far as Kingston, beginning her first year at Queen's University this fall with an eye towards psychology. Although she has until the end of her first year to declare her major, her strategy is to keep her options open with psychology, which will give her the option of deciding whether to go in the direction of law or medicine. As she prepares to hand over the reins as Aurora's Teen Idol, she has a few more things to do, including enceeding the final round on July 1 and possibly some of the preliminary rounds. As application forms, available at www.aurora.ca, must be received by Tuesday, June 18, she encourages everyone to come out and give it a shot.

"Don't just sing and go out for it as it is a competition; do it because you love to sing," she says. "It's a good experience and going through it, even if you don't win, it is just something to be proud of because you had the nerve to go out and do it in front of people. It is just a new step in your singing career and anything you want to do."

"I would be looking for confidence. It is not whether someone can sing, it is whether someone can perform. If you have confidence while you're up there, and you're happy to be up there, it just changes the performance."



As her reign as Aurora's 2012 Teen Idol draws to a close and singers get ready to vie for the 2013 crown, Taylor Mansillo reflects on a momentous year as the Voice of Aurora as she prepares to embark on her postsecondary career at Queen's University. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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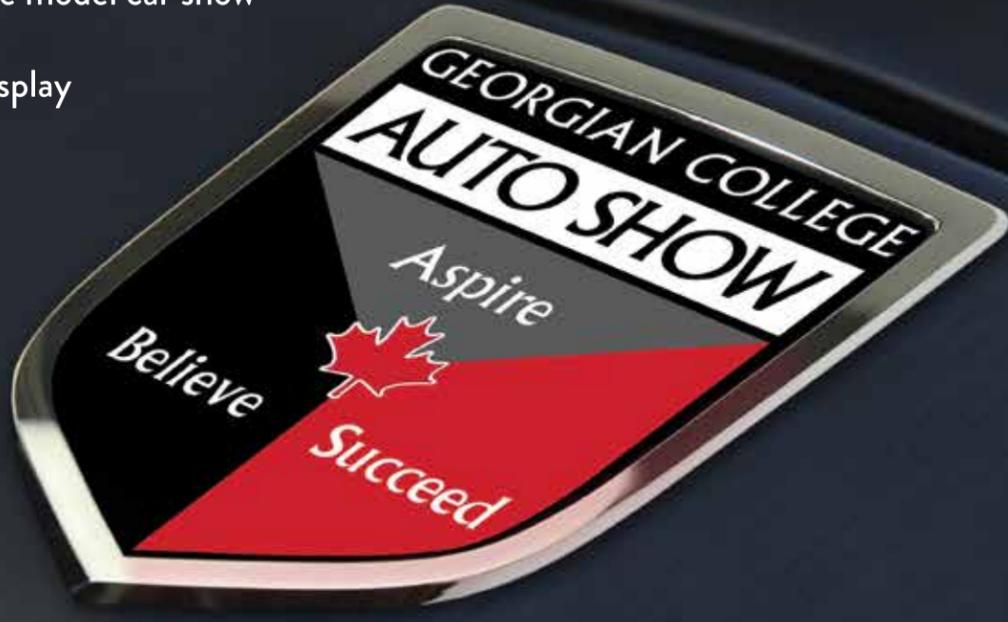
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