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THE AURORAN



Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 13 No. 32 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of June 19, 2013



GIDDY-UP FOR ANOTHER 25 YEARS! The countdown is officially on for the 25th Wild, Wild West Hoedown hosted by Magna International. In this year, as they hit their quarter-century mark, 25 local charities and organizations will share proceeds from the annual event which last year alone raised over \$540,000. What started as a relatively simple backyard barbecue founded by Frank Stronach has grown into one of the Region's largest and most popular parties, raising over \$7 million since its inception. For more, please see Page 3.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

College, business advocates eye Old Library for "innovation hub"

By Brock Weir

Aurora could soon be an "innovation incubator", if the Town, Region, local educators – and potentially manufacturers and biotech engineers – get their way.

Representatives from Aurora, the Region of York and Seneca College will be meeting this week to discuss the possibility of building a "FabLab" (fabrication laboratory) in the heart of Aurora. The project, according to organizers, would be a hub for offering local businesses, students and inventors "the opportunity to develop and incubate new prod-

ucts and skills locally."

Promoters of the plan, including representatives from the Town and schools such as Seneca College, have been meeting over the first half of the year to look at the possibilities of creating such a FabLab in Aurora.

Seneca College, according to Anthony Ierullo, Aurora's Manager of Long Range and Strategic Planning, has shown an interest in operating a Fab Lab in Town to support their existing operations and programs, but also to "support local training and business development requirements."

"Senior leaders from

York Region, the Town of Aurora, and Seneca College met on May 17 to discuss the general parameters of a potential partnership and associated next steps," said Mr. Ierullo. "All parties involved agreed that we would continue to collaborate to close some of those gaps and continue answering some of those questions. The Region and the Town is collaborating on a business case to flesh those ideas out and Seneca is moving forward with producing some documents related to some funding opportunities."

Continued on page 16

A CRACKING GOOD TIME



A member of the Ritz Carlton Polo team, above, winds up at last weekend's Polo for Heart. Horse lovers, sportsmen, and even a few stompers gathered from across York Region, the GTA, and internationally last weekend for Polo For Heart, the annual event benefiting the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Stroke Recovery Centre at Sunnybrook Hospital. For more, please see Page 14.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, June 18	7 p.m.	General Committee *
Wednesday, June 19	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library Board
Thursday, June 20	7 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Friday, June 21	10 a.m.	Trails and Active Transportation Committee
Tuesday, June 25	6:30 p.m.	Special General Committee – Audit Committee
Tuesday, June 25	7 p.m.	Council
Wednesday, June 26	7 p.m.	Public Planning
Wednesday, June 26	7 p.m.	Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee

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

Kennedy Street

This photograph is of Kennedy Street west of Yonge Street. This street was named after William Kennedy who was one of Aurora's first settlers.

CELEBRATE AURORA 150



Celebrate Aurora 150 on Canada Day weekend!

Join us for great events celebrating Canada Day and Aurora's 150th birthday from June 29 to July 1:

June 29: Summer Celebration – Youth Music Extravaganza at Aurora Community Centre
Join us for a MuchMusic Video Dance Party, along with a Showcase of the Bands and a live presentation by Canadian singer Tyler Shaw. Proudly sponsored by State Farm.

June 30: Celebrate Canada – Dance in the Park
Licensed with live entertainment! Juno-award winning Canadian rock band **Lighthouse** will perform.

July 1: Canada Day
Join us for a parade on Yonge Street, family activities at Lambert Willson Park and evening fireworks! Parade sponsored by State Farm.

Sign the Town's Memory Book

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

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

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

Aurora Collects: Remembering 150 Years of our Shared History

From its modest beginnings as a small hamlet centered around Yonge Street and Wellington Street, The Town of Aurora has grown into a prosperous, diverse community. With each passing year, Aurora continues to evolve and change. Who remembers Ardill's Department Store, Cousin's Dairy or Sisman Shoes? Did you know that Canada's first pet cemetery is located in Aurora?

A collaboration between The Town of Aurora, the Aurora Historical Society, community groups and individuals, *Aurora Collects* sheds light on the people, events and ever-changing landscapes that have shaped The Town of Aurora. Through a sampling of objects, photographs and documents, visitors are invited on a journey from the distant to near past and are encouraged to add their own experiences to the visual timeline in the exhibition. *Aurora Collects* opens on **Monday, July 1** in the Aurora Room at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Admission is free!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Red Light Cameras

Residents are advised that The Regional Municipality of York is installing 20 red light cameras at intersections across the region in an effort to reduce serious collisions.

York Region is installing one of these cameras at Yonge Street and Wellington Street.

For more information on the Region's red light camera program, please visit www.york.ca

Seeking Citizen Members for The Town of Aurora's Committee of Adjustment/Property Standards Committee

Town of Aurora Council invites you to apply to participate as a citizen member of the Committee of Adjustment/Property Standards Committee. Any members of the general public over the age of 18, residing in Aurora may apply. Applications, in writing, whether by email to cjanzen@aurora.ca, mail, fax to 905-726-4732 or hand-delivered, should be addressed to the Deputy Clerk, 100 John West Way, P.O. Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1 and received prior to **Wednesday, July 10**.

What is the role of the Committee?

To find out more about this opportunity, for the terms of reference, meeting times or to pick up an application form, please visit the Customer & Legislative Services department on the 2nd floor of Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way or the Town website at www.aurora.ca

For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4217.

UFORE Urban Forestry Study in Aurora

The Town of Aurora's Parks & Recreation Services 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 Services department at 905-727-1375.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dinner and a Movie

Oz the Great and Powerful

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: **Saturday, June 22** 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.

Student Membership Specials



Are you currently in college or university and home for the holiday break? Check out the Club Aurora Fitness Centre special seasonal student rates. Enjoy our gym facility which features an indoor track, free weights and quality fitness equipment. Special student membership pricing is as follows:

Special rate: Two-month special from **Saturday, July 1 to Saturday, August 31**
Cost Residents \$76 and Non-Residents \$91

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

Aurora Public Library Events



Polly and Her Puppet Friends

Join Polly and Her Puppet Friends on **Saturday, June 22** from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for a morning of free family fun at the Aurora Farmers' Market. Presented by the Aurora Public Library, kids big and small will enjoy stories, rhymes and puppet fun!

Feel the Moment Photography Exhibit

Greg King is well-known on the music and performing arts scene for capturing performers "in the moment." For part of this new exhibit at the Aurora Public Library, King turns his lens onto the audience to record their reactions to the performers. This Exhibit takes place in the Colleen Abbott Gallery at the Aurora Public Library until **Monday, August 19**.

Summer Reading Club

TD Summer Reading Club is back at the Aurora Public Library! Keep your children reading all summer with great incentives and fun! Children ages 12 years and under who are reading or being read to can sign up at the Aurora Public Library beginning **Friday, June 21**.

Optimist Club of Aurora's Bike Rodeo

Join the Optimist Club of Aurora for a free Bike Rodeo on **Saturday, June 22** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the GO Train Station parking lot (west side of Berczy Street). There will be bike decorating, a tune-up shop and an obstacle course to test your biking skills! For more information, please visit www.auroraoptimist.com



June is Recreation and Parks Month

The month of June is recognized as Recreation and Parks Month, with the goal of increasing public awareness of the value and benefits of recreation for individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities.

Water Games

Join us for a fun mountain climb and slide race at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on **Sunday, June 23**. Participants must be at least 48" tall.

Pedometer Challenge

The Town of Aurora's Parks & Recreation Services department invites your family to sign up for the Pedometer Challenge. Pedometers are available at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. Sign out your family's pedometer and get active! You will be provided with a tracking sheet to record your family's activity throughout the month of June. On **Friday, June 28**, return your pedometer and tracking sheet to be entered to win great prizes!

For more information on Recreation and Parks Month activities, call 905-841-7529 or visit www.aurora.ca

REMINDERS

Debris on Roads

Homeowners constructing pools or undertaking other building projects are reminded to keep roads, sidewalks and rights-of-way (the Town-owned section of property bordering the road) free of construction debris. Keeping these areas free from bricks, timber, soil and other materials is essential to pedestrian and traffic safety. Construction permits do not allow storage of these materials anywhere except your property.

Outdoor Water Use Bylaw

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

Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw

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 eight inches. Let's keep Aurora looking beautiful!

Fireworks Bylaw

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 regulations under this bylaw, please visit www.aurora.ca/bylawservices

For more information on these and other Town bylaws, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240 or visit www.aurora.ca/bylawservices

Magna kicks into high gear for Hoedown's 25th anniversary

By Brock Weir

If you ever set out to make \$7 million from your backyard barbeque, you better promise the public something they want.

Evidently Magna founder Frank Stronach had just the right recipe when he threw open his property over 25 years ago to lay the groundwork for what has become the company's annual Wild West Hoedown. Now entering its second quarter century this year, organizers are upping the ante to make this a Hoedown for the ages.

From its humble beginnings, it has spent the last 25 years growing to become one of York Region's largest and most popular fundraisers, raising over \$7 million since its founding – \$542,000 last year alone.

Each year, Hoedown partners with 20 community organizations, serving people from all walks of life and tapping into a variety of community needs – but 20 groups for their 25th anniversary didn't sound right. Organizers have now upped the ante, dividing proceeds from this year's ticket sales amongst 25 groups.

Among this year's groups – and your first point of contact for snagging the coveted event tickets before they are on sale

to the general public this August – include the Aurora Barbarians Rugby Club, the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, Autism Ontario York Region, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, Community Living Newmarket Aurora, Epilepsy York Region, Habitat for Humanity, Marquee Theatrical Productions, The Doane Georgina, Richmond Hill Hospices Collaborative, Safhaven, Welcoming Arms, the Women's Centre of York Region, Yellow Brick House, York Simcoe Minor Football Association, and York Support Services Network.

The yee-haws sounded by each organization on the Stronach farm, Adena Springs, on Friday morning signalled that they are very happy with the chance to take part and share the wealth.

"We have a very diverse group serving all sorts of organizations right across the Region and that speaks to a huge success, not only for organizations but for Hoedown," said Steve Hinder of Magna for the Community. "Hoedown is successful because we get great support from our community."

This support was echoed by Mayors Geoffrey Dawe of Aurora and Tony Van Bynen of Newmarket, who thanked the company for their ongoing support of

the community.

"Putting this together, you enable our community organizations to build better communities, to make life better for somebody else, and that is an important part of the Magna commitment to their community and that is something we sincerely appreciate," said Mayor Van Bynen.

Magna CEO Don Walker attended Friday's launch riding high on company pride. The previous afternoon, the Company's stock, he said, closed for the first time at over \$70, and he noted as long as Magna continues to be a profitable group, the annual party will continue.

"It is quite amazing that this has been going on for 25 years," he said. "I remember the early days and it has been fantastic to see it continue to grow. We have a criteria for what we do for charitable events and it is really nice to be doing the Hoedown every year because it is in our hometown. We have a lot of great people, it's a great cause and it is really nice to see the community grow together."

Over the past two-and-a-half decades, organizers have learned, for better or worse, that the show must go on. While they are undoubtedly hoping for good weather by the time people start filling the tent

September 14 dressed in their best western duds, questionable weather has forged some of the strongest Hoedown memories.

"I think my favourite year was when we had multiple tents put together and it was raining – it was like a waterfall coming down into Hoedown every place where the tents joined and people were walking around in six inches of mud," Mr. Walker told The Auroran with a laugh. "I think by the end of the night people were running and sliding and diving into all the mud piles."

Mayor Dawe's first Hoedown memories were forged at the very first outing, but mud too plays a part in the years that followed.

"The one that sticks in your mind was the rain bowl," he said. "The fields where people were parking were so muddy they couldn't get their cars out. They brought a tractor in to pull cars out. Friends of ours were covered in mud trying to get their car out. It was just a fun, fun night."

This year, as it is every year, the entertainment lineup is Magna's best kept secret. One sure thing, however, is Hoedown-goers will be treated to songs from this year's winner of the Hoedown Showdown, a



HELLO DOLLY! Kenny Rogers (Jill Aitchison) and Dolly Parton (Sheryl Thomas) represented Marquee Theatrical Productions at the official Hoedown Launch on Friday. Marquee will use their share of the Hoedown proceeds to create new auditorium and rehearsal space at their Industrial Parkway N. studio.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

returning tradition from years past. Local songsters are encouraged to warm up their vocals and head over to www.hoedown.ca to apply. Selected applicants will be able to show off at Aurora's RibFest at the beginning of September.

This year's annual Wild West Hoedown gets underway Saturday, September 14, at "The Magna Corral" (Stronach Boulevard and Wellington Street East) at 5 p.m., running to midnight. Tickets are \$75 each and available for sale

from the party's 25 community partners. Proceeds from ticket sales, raffle sales, silent auction, and other event festivities are shared amongst these organizations. Tickets will also be for sale to the general public beginning August 10 and will be available from Neighbourhood Network and Jonathan's Restaurant.

Organizers promise a Texas-style barbeque dinner, cash bar, silent auction, Prospectors Raffle with a grand prize of \$75,000 and line dancing.



Celebrate Aurora's 150th Birthday on Canada Day Weekend



Saturday, June 29

Youth Music Extravaganza

4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Aurora Community Centre

Join us for a Showcase of the Bands contest (4 p.m.), along with a MuchVideo Dance Party (6 p.m.), and a live performance by Tyler Shaw (8 p.m.), the 2012 Much Covers Winner, plus free giveaways and more!

Extravaganza sponsored by State Farm

Monday, July 1

Canada Day Parade

10 a.m.

Parade travels south on Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive

Parade sponsored by State Farm



Sunday, June 30

Dance in the Park

2 p.m. to 11 p.m. Aurora Town Park

- Juno-award winning Canadian rock band **LIGHTHOUSE** performs at 9 p.m.
- Free park admission
- Beer garden
- Local entertainers including Glenn Marais and The Domino Show Band!

Presented by The Rotary Club of Aurora



Canada Day Celebrations

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lambert Willson Park

- Free Pancake Breakfast (while supplies last)
- Passport Activity for Kids
- Giant Petting Zoo
- Seedling Planting with RONA (while supplies last)
- Horseshoe Tournament (Register at 11 a.m., \$3 per adult)
- Free Swimming (Aurora Family Leisure Complex)
- Geocaching

Entertainment Lineup

Bell Canada Stage

11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Lambert Willson Park

- National Anthem Reaffirmation Ceremony
- Cake Cutting
- White Pine First Nations Presentation
- Birds of Prey
- 2013 Aurora Teen Idol Competition Finals
- The Koar
- The Welsman Brothers Band
- Fireworks

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The Town of Aurora wants to capture your family's stories along with photos of life in our Town as part of our 150th birthday celebration.

Like us on Facebook: /Aurora150

Follow us on Twitter: /Aurora_150



Share your memories at www.aurora150.ca

Letters to the editor

Spending doesn't reflect supposed constraints

(Re: 2014 Fire Budget should be tightened, June 12)

It was interesting to see how hardnosed Council gets with taxpayer funded items.

The Central York Fire Department's chief explained they need \$40,000 worth of water softener equipment within the new budget request.

The burning issue? Well, the firefighters are having trouble with water-spots after washing the trucks. Geez Louise, every taxpayer in our area has the same problem when vehicles get washed. The mostly deep well fed supply is full of hardness and, yup, water spots do result. But then that must be a good enough reason to spend \$40,000 on water softeners.

In the winter the Town of Aurora trucks away snow from Yonge Street.

It is not sponge like, but it does contain road salt that is part of normal winter safety measures. About 99 per cent of the remaining road salt used gets washed down catch basins and flows into Tannery Creek or similar water courses.

So, therefore, why are we spending \$900,000 or more likely a million dollars "plus" on a state of the art facility to remove the salt from the trucked away snow, whenever it melts?

It will most likely mitigate only 1 per cent of that road salt contamination problem.

Also, we hear about a permanent skateboard park near the Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway.

The portable Flipside Park was already a white elephant. How many users did it experience after set-up, especially after the initial hoopla wore off?

I just cannot get over how we are supposed to be in severe and desperate financial constraints, yet all this nonsense continues. A two-year pay-freeze for "most" government sector employees, but these goofy purpose and frivolous expense items continue.

Mike Gough
Aurora

Why should we foot the bill?

(Re: Morris launches lawsuit against Town over 2010 defamation case)

I'm curious if Ms. Morris would have shared her \$6 million with the tax payers had she been successful in her lawsuit. If not, why should we foot the bill? Perhaps I should start paying my taxes directly to Ms. Morris

Rob Knetsch
Aurora

(Editor's Note: Within two weeks of the 2010 lawsuit, Ms. Morris told The Auroran that any funds spent by the Town in the lawsuit would be reimbursed if the lawsuit was successful. She did not, however, elaborate on her intentions should any award have been higher than what the Town spent.)

THE AURORAN

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Machell's Corners

I HOPE THE ARTEFACTS TAKE UP LESS SPACE IN THERE WHEN WE UNPACK THEM.



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

Reality Check



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

There are a few times every year when one has an idea for a column and ultimately sets it aside for any number of reasons.

They find their way to a mental box of parboiled thoughts, loose strands, and leftovers, but every once in a while they come back to the forefront unexpectedly and it is time for these ideas to fully germinate.

I'm not yet grizzled enough at this age to park myself on the grass and give my best Clint Eastwood growl to tell the kids to get off my lawn, but I feel that creeping up a lot sooner than it should. And it would be misdirected.

This crossed my mind a couple of years ago when Council spent hours upon hours dealing with a laundry list of possibilities that could happen to little Bobby or Sally if they put a foot wrong on one of Aurora's venerable "two hump camel climbers." But that issue quickly went away.

Leave it to columnist Alison Collins-Mrakas to bring that subject back from the dead last week.

Then, this past Thursday, at a very productive Sport Aurora meeting, a conversation explored whether some parents might be stepping just a little bit close to coddling their children from the rough and tumble world out there, in the sports arena or otherwise.

I was not in a position to counter the argument. I was born in 1985 – a year whose children the fates decided must be the guinea pigs for any number of hare-brained schemes coming forward from the Common Sense Revolution.

Setting the stage for what was to come in the Harris government, shortly after stepping into Grade Two, it was ultimately decided Red Rover could cause the equivalent of a playground Iwo Jima, so that was quickly put to rest.

A few years later in Grade 6, the Harris government dictated that getting an F or an otherwise failing grade if we didn't do what was required of us would be too traumatic for our young minds to handle. So, "common sense" dictated that rather

one straight student over her own sexuality to the point where she takes her own life.

It is an interesting, and thought-provoking video – although critics argue it is far too simplistic – that turns stereotypes on their ears. One parent, however, claimed that their child was so distraught over the video that they had a medical episode – and the teacher was suspended as a result.

Had the child not passed out, the video still would have left a lasting impression on students and provoke more thorough and lasting life lessons.

Amid the bizarre educational experiments inflicted on our year, the Board started sending us these life lessons neatly bundled – with a particular police officer assigned to each school to come by on a semi-regular basis to provide guidance on health and safety issues they had seen on the field.

The officer assigned to our school told horrendously graphic details of his own father suffering alcoholism and cirrhosis. Details of doctors removing his rock-hard liver was something that traumatized us to the point where a few dumped the bulk of their parents liquor cabinets down the sink. Complaints were received at the school from those who reached out that night for a night cap, but they ultimately came to appreciate the message.

Parents in the Winnipeg community could realise the benefit of their kids being exposed to such a video, whether they are kinder to their fellow students, hesitate before doing anything that could be construed as bullying, or seek help if they ever find themselves considering ending their own life.

In this vein, parents should not be afraid to expose their children, even from a young age, to some of the less pleasant parts of their world out of fear it could scratch their innocence. That is good up until a point, but when kids are still wrapped up in foam rubber when they are into the double digits, that creates its own problems.

than a letter grade, we would receive a number between one and four. No zeroes were involved in case we developed an inferiority complex for inferior work, so there was the option of getting a much more palatable of "incomplete" or "not applicable."

I like to think this exercise in ridiculousness created a degree of strength of character, but that slippery slope has been increasingly greased.

We increasingly hear stories from across Canada of things going on in schools that we should apparently find outrageous and intolerable.

Locally, we had a mild case of protest with parents expressing concern about the possibility of some York Region schools instituting a uniform policy. Some families may not be able to afford meeting the requirements and that was something that needed to be addressed, but several parents were concerned uniforms somehow snuffed their child's individuality.

Previously, there was the Toronto teacher who was suspended for having the gall to give students who didn't do their work a grade reflective of their effort.

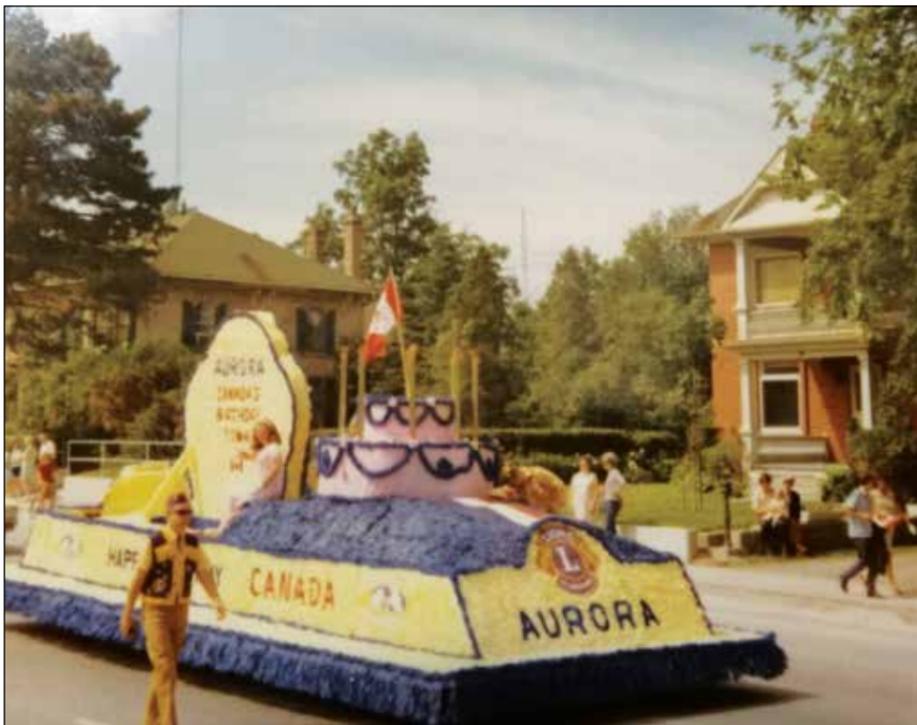
Just weeks ago, there was a controversy in Manitoba over a school showing an equally controversial video on bullying and teen suicide, a problem all-too-prevalent in today's schools. The video, which had already blown up on social media, depicts a world where the vast majority of people are gay and they bully the

AURORAN NEW POLL

Residents recently voiced their support for tearing down the old Aurora Public Library and Seniors' Centre buildings in favour of new multi-purpose space. What do you think should be done with Library Square?

- a) A new building for the community
- b) More parking
- c) A combination of both
- d) Restore the existing buildings

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!



We're less than two weeks away until Aurora's annual Canada Day Parade on Monday, July 1 – not to mention the host of other activities going on that weekend (please see Page 20 for a full roster!) – and we're taking a look at Canada Day parades of the past courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society. Here, a parade from the 1970s prepares to pass Hillary House. This float, sponsored by the Aurora Lions Club, bears the newly-minted "Canada's Birthday Town" moniker.

Image courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society

Ottawa Report



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Supporting and honouring our Veterans through the Last Post Fund

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm our government's full support for a program that is very important to Canadian veterans and their families, the Last Post Fund.

Canada owes an obligation to the men and women we place in harm's way. Every year, the Last Post Fund helps the families of veterans through a profoundly difficult and emotional time in their lives. In the past year, the funeral and burial program assisted more than 1,300 families. This is an obligation that transcends politics and one that has been met by our government and, indeed, by previous governments.

The government's most recent budget, Economic Action Plan 2013, increased the coverage of funerals from \$3,600 to \$7,376. This level had not been adjusted in many years. As outlined in our latest main estimates, the Government of Canada is planning to spend almost \$785 million more in Veterans Affairs compared to when we took office, which was the last year before the New Veterans' Charter was implemented. This is the most support for Veterans ever provided in Canada's 146-year history.

Simplifying the program for Veterans' estates, creating the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman, establishing

a Veterans' bill of rights, expanding the Veterans' independence program and restoring benefits for Canada's allied Veterans, are just some of the other improvements we have made for those who have served their country.

Making Drug Labels Easier to Read

The recently launched Plain Language Labelling Initiative will improve the safe use of drugs by making drug labels and packaging information easier to read and understand.

Every day, millions of Canadians rely on drugs to maintain and improve their health, but confusing, technical drug labels can lead to overdoses or other complications. It is a fact that 1 in 9 emergency room visits are related to drug adverse events, and as many as 68% of those are preventable. The new rules will allow health professionals, patients and consumers to more easily find out how to use the drug, how often to take it, and when it should not be taken.

Reducing Poverty and Promoting Global Prosperity

Canada is committed to assisting developing countries to harness

their potential and create economies where people can lift themselves out of poverty. Government assistance alone however, is not enough. In the 1960s, official development assistance represented more than 70 percent of total financial flows into developing countries. Today, it accounts for less than 15 percent.

Private flows, including foreign direct investment, portfolio equity and remittances, are now leading the way.

This is why Canada is supporting non-governmental organizations who partner with the extractive industry to leverage their resources for the benefit of local communities. Our assistance is not conditional on mining contracts or any other specific commercial interest for that matter. We are relentlessly focused on every ethical and effective avenue that makes a positive difference on the ground. In fact, it was our government that fully untied Canada's food assistance, removing conditional barriers to food distribution. This meant that food crops could be sourced where they are most cost-effective, and efficient to transport.

It is no secret that the world is shifting: developing countries are now

leading global economic growth. While this is reason for optimism, challenges still exist. The links between extreme poverty in the developing world and insecurity are clear. There is a greater need, in this context, to maximize the tools Canada has available to it. This is also why we elevated the position of development, placing it on an equal footing with trade and diplomacy. Canada's Economic Action Plan 2013, for the first time, enshrines the mandate of international development and humanitarian assistance into law. The new Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development will ensure that Canada speaks with one voice.

Canada has, and will continue to maximize finite taxpayer dollars to make a tangible difference in the lives of those most in need around the world. We will continue to support developing countries' efforts to create free markets, and stable business environments that enable long-lasting results. By combining our strengths, we can modernize traditional forms of assistance, and find new ways to help people pull themselves out of poverty.

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.

Transit Planning



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

For most of my business career, I have had quite a hike to get to work.

I would either make my way down Hwy 400 on the way to Mississauga or Etobicoke or, for the last eleven years, make the daily commute down Hwy 404 to the Don Valley Parkway to get to my office in downtown Toronto.

When going downtown I would leave my home around 5.40 a.m. to 5.45 a.m. and hope to get to the 401 no later than 6.15 a.m. so I would be in my office around 6.30 a.m. or so.

Then, on the way home, I would try to leave between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. because my usual trek would average about two hours during the school season and, in the summer, about one hour and twenty minutes.

My wife had asked me to take the GO Train, but with my job I never know when I will need to go to a meeting somewhere outside the GTA. Besides, I like being in my car and I really don't want to hear other peoples' business at 6 a.m.

I am like a lot of other Aurorans who make a living somewhere else but love living in this community, so we put up with the long commute.

But something has to give.

Over the last few years the traffic is

getting increasingly heavy even in the very early hours as other commuters also try to beat the traffic.

I am happy that the Toronto Board of Trade has championed the issue of transit in the media lately and it looks as though Premier Kathleen Wynne wants this to be her signature issue for the next election campaign – whenever it comes.

Kind of reminds me of Brian Mulroney in 1988 making Free Trade the centre point – really the only issue - during the federal election that year.

Ms. Wynne sure does need something to latch onto – to change the channel as it were, from the continuing power plant saga and the ORNGE debacle.

Everyone agrees that something needs to be done about our aging transit infrastructure in the GTA, but there is no such consensus when it comes to how to pay for the \$50 billion price tag.

The Liberals like to discuss the various revenue tools (i.e. mostly tax measures)

that they can use to raise the \$2 Billion needed annually. The Tories don't want to see any of these measures used until the Liberals get their own fiscal house in order.

And recent polls don't really point to a magic formula to raise the \$2 billion.

According to a May 31 Toronto Star news story, a poll by Forum Research showed that none of the four favoured new taxes recommended by Metrolinx to pay for transit into the Toronto region has more than 45% popular support.

Only 42% of respondents approved a 15% increase in the charges developers pay. 25% approved a 5 cent per litre gas tax. 43% approved a regional parking levy of 25 cents per space per day and only 27% approved a 1% sales tax hike in Ontario.

What is also interesting is the regional breakdown of the polling numbers. There is no consensus either in the 905 area, where we reside. 45% support a developer levy. 13% approve a gas tax and 33%

support a parking levy. 32% support a hike in the HST.

Looking at these numbers show that gaining the political support to do anything will be difficult for the Premier.

I can see the Premier starting to send up a lot of trial balloons over the next few weeks on different sources of funding and using different messaging and then vigorously polling to see if a clearer path will emerge before the fall.

The reason I say before the fall is that I believe the Premier will go the Lieutenant-Governor in either August (just before a couple of bi-elections need to be called) or just after Labour Day and ask for an election.

The Premier will be hoping that enough time has elapsed from the McGuinty scandals that she can secure her own mandate.

One thing is certain; raising the HST on a province-wide basis to help shore up transit in the GTA is a non-starter for those outside this area.

I am interested to hear the transit plan the Premier comes up with.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



SENIOR SCAPE

Jim L. Abram

Forever Young

Bob Dylan's 1974 album, Planet Waves, featured the song "Forever Young" and this is the song that popped into my head when I very recently had the distinct opportunity to interview both Tim Jones and Charles Sequeira, who are both "forever young".

If you look at the plaque commemorating the opening of our Seniors Centre in 2006, you will see their names, forever young, as they were in 2006 and continue to be in 2013.

I'm sure we all know and appreciate their efforts and tenacity, past and present.

These few years later, both Tim, then Mayor of Aurora and Charles, then and now President of the Seniors Association, continue to contribute to our community in a meaningful way. Today's column focuses on the good work that Tim and his team do through CHAT's for seniors in Aurora and throughout York Region because it is such a good news story and I like to tell it.

Help's Here!

I have a personal, first-hand association with CHATS. CHATS offer an adult day program that my mother-in-law participates in weekly.

The day program offers a variety of social and wellness activities, companionship and lunch. This has proven to be a convenient and valuable

support group that we as caregivers cannot do without. Also, my dear wife Susan, her primary caregiver, also benefits by attending a CHATS Caregiver Support and Education Group. These groups are specially designed to meet the unique needs of those of us who are caring for a senior-aged loved one. These group sessions are available free of charge to participants and are facilitated by a professional Caregiver Education Counsellor and feature workshops with regular guest speakers. Don't think you are alone. You are not alone!

CHATS support the health and wellbeing of seniors and Caregivers. CHATS stands for Community & Home Assistance to Seniors. CHATS was launched in 1980 by a caring group of community members and has grown to evolve to meet the changing needs

of more than 7,400 seniors and caregivers each year with the help of over 600 volunteers and 220 staff.

Their programs include in-home help and care, Meals on Wheels, transportation, hospital-to-home transition, caregiver support and education, home medical equipment, seniors' social/wellness programs and much more. I'd like to elaborate on a few of the many support programs CHATS offers.

The Home at Last program helps patients transition from hospital to home easily and comfortably. This service is a home referral program referred to CHATS at the time of discharge and provides a trained and caring personal support worker who will stay with the patient until they are settled, transportation and a small meal or snack on the day of discharge plus pick up groceries and prescriptions if necessary. There are no charges to patients for

participating in the program. The Meals on Wheels program allows you to enjoy a selection of more than 100 tasty, nutritious soups, entrees, breakfasts and desserts. All of this for a low price of \$5 to \$6 per entree and \$2 to \$3 for a dessert, including delivery and there are no additional costs for dietary accommodations.

CHATS is currently offering a free workshop on THE AGING BRAIN: This free workshop series has only the June 21st session remaining on seniors' cognitive and mental health. Learn and share information on the facts about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias,

understanding how the brain works and assessing brain functions as we age.

To find out more about participation in CHATS programs or becoming a valued CHATS volunteer or donor just call them at 905-713-6596 or 1-877-452-4287. CHATS has recently relocated to new offices at 240 Edward St., Aurora to better serve their many clients.

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



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Letter to the editor

Traffic cameras are a cash grab

I've been reading about red-light cameras and how some intersections within our region will have these devices installed.

I believe this initiative to be little more than a cash grab as opposed to York Region's concern for road safety.

The US based National Motorists Association claims that the cities using the cameras have not shown any improved safety at intersections, in fact, in many cases rear-end collisions have increased, with panicking drivers slamming on the brakes to avoid getting a ticket.

They have urged some municipalities to increase the length of yellow light dura-

tions as a safety alternative but most have turned down the idea as that would reduce revenue. The National Motorists Association has also been made aware of a number of cities and counties in Florida that have actually reduced the yellow light duration to increase the number of drivers caught on camera, thus increasing revenue!

Before long, this type of "highway robbery" may be implemented here.

As the current provincial Liberal government has shown us, they will allow just about anything to dig deeper into our pockets. York Region tells us these cameras will generate little or no

profit after expenses, which I don't believe for a second. Statistics show that crime in general is down in York Region yet they have been hiring more officers.

Why don't they put one or two cops at these intersections and stop the red-light running drivers as the offence occurs? Receiving a ticket in the mail a couple of weeks later will not stop the dangerous driver from continuing to offend until that point!

I am disappointed that this plan is moving forward, but with the way things have been going in this province lately, not at all surprised.

Mark Chisholm
Aurora

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Aurora plans to tighten up communications after Cell Tower issue

By Brock Weir

Communication errors were made, helping pave the way for the controversial cell phone tower in King that caused protests among adjacent Aurora neighbours, according to municipal staff.

That is the message due before Councillors this week from Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. Mr. Ramunno's report responds to calls made by Council in April to review how the Town's management handled Bell Canada's application for the tower and why they simply responded "no comment" to Bell Canada seeking input on the proposal.

In his report, Mr. Ramunno says the Town of Aurora received an email from consultants on behalf of Bell on May 11, 2012, outlining Bell's proposals for the Bathurst Street tower. Four days later, however, a planner within his department acknowledged the email by stating Aurora had "no comment" on the proposal.

"This email response was not sent by the Department Head and should not have been considered as a final comment," said Mr. Ramunno. "Official comments sent on behalf of the Town in response to a request for comments happen under the signature of the Manager or Director.

The email sent did not conform to the practice and should not have been considered a formal response from the Town. However, the receiver was not aware of this and took the comment as a formal response.

"It should be noted that Bell has stated that...it was not asking nor interested in comments on the matter from the Town as this was a matter for King Township to deal with."

Mr. Ramunno's report details what transpired since the initial communication from Bell's consultants - including a public consultation session which eventually took place after a false start and low attendance - up to

the fracas this past April where several upset Aurora neighbours bordering Bathurst Street, just north of Henderson Drive, came forward to express their concerns about the tower looming over their back yards.

As a result, Mr. Ramunno has recommended more stringent rules in how these matters will be handled in the future.

"As a result of the 'no comment' email sent by one of the Planning staff on this matter, the director has provided clear direction to planning staff that any formal comment from the Department on such sensitive matters are to be sent via letter and should be authored and co-signed by the director," says Mr. Ramunno. "The Town's current protocol requires a letter from the Director of Planning Services will be provided to the proponent and Industry Canada stating any comments or concerns, if any, to the proposed tower.

"In response to the dif-

ferences in the public consultation process followed by other municipalities, future applications for telecommunication towers from adjacent municipalities or within Aurora's boundaries will be presented to Aurora Council via the report from the planning department with a formal recommendation of Council. The report will indicate the consultation process that was followed and comments from the Town and residents on the proposed Tower."

Regardless of what happens internally at Town Hall with these matters, more needs to be done to reach out to people within the community who might be affected by the tower proposals in question, Mr. Ramunno concludes. He notes that Kings' protocol in these situations requires them to host public information sessions to residents living within 250 metres of the proposed site. Only 10 Aurora property owners were "allegedly" notified of King's meet-

ing, Mr. Ramunno says.

Aurora should work with King to draft mutually beneficial - and complementary - rules to govern residential notification and cell towers.

In early May, following a motion from King Councillor Peter Grandilli, their municipal staff were requested "to work collaboratively with the Town of Aurora staff to draft a resolution and protocol to ultimately be forwarded to Industry Canada, addressing mutual concerns and impacts from communication tower installations within both municipalities."

Further suggested changes to the process coming from a report from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities up for Councillors' consideration at the committee level this week include written notice being more obvious to residents, including literally spelling out the purpose of the letter directly on the envelope, to ensure that such letters are not mistaken for junk mail.

Expanding local calls could come at a cost

By Brock Weir

Change could soon be in the air on what it means to make a local call.

Council voted to get the ball rolling on expanding Bell Canada's Local Calling Area for Aurora, following a motion from Mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

As The Auroran reported last month, Mayor Dawe put forward a motion asking staff to investigate starting the process to expand the parameters of how far a local call can get you in Aurora.

"Residents may call the City of Toronto without incurring long distance charges, but will incur long distance charges when placing calls to communities such as Maple and Markham which are physically closer," said Mayor Dawe in his motion.

He reiterated his position when it came up for discussion nearly a month later last Tuesday.

"I have had a number of people enquire as to why they can call The Beaches but can't call their friends in Markham," he said. "Council...directs the Clerk to start the process with Bell, and Bell comes back to the Town with a figure of what it would cost to change."

This cost to change could be key in future decisions when all the information is gathered by municipal staff and preliminary negotiations are made. Councillor Sandra Humfries, who works in the telecommunications business away from the Council table, cautioned this has played a factor in previous attempts to expand the area.

"This used to be a very big issue because

long distance was really expensive, but it is relatively cheap these days," she said. "When we get Bell Canada coming back to us to inform us of what those charges are, I would like to see the difference because they will raise the local rate."

These were concerns shared by Councillor Evelyn Buck, who said if this goes forward, people in the community need to be adequately notified of any changes that might result on their bills.

"People in the community were going to see their telephone bills increase and had to be informed that that's what Council was all about," said Councillor Buck of the negotiations which were made to provide direct telephone access to Toronto decades ago. "The reason Scarborough and Markham weren't included was it would have been even more of a cost to [users] so the option was just for the direct access to Toronto."

"It still cost us money. Telephone bills were higher and, at the same time, the community supported the motion. We must consult with the community, unless the [situation] has changed and it will not cost more money."

The Town of Aurora's relationship with Bell Canada has come under increasing scrutiny over the past two months, stemming from Bell erecting a new multi-storey telecommunications tower on Bathurst Street, about 100 metres into the King side of the street, looming over a west Aurora neighbourhood.

While talks between the Town and Bell to come

to a solution have come to naught, Councillor Chris Ballard said he saw an opportunity with talks to increase the local calling area.

"I am certainly in favour of this," he said. "I was going to make a bit of a tongue-in-cheek comment that given the need to refurbish the tarnished image in the Town because of the telecommunications tower, Bell might be wise to implement this at no cost to the good folks of Aurora."

One Councillor, however, disagreed with the comment, however tongue-in-cheek

"I don't think Bell has a tarnished image and I would like to distance myself as far away as possible to those comments that were just made," said Councillor Paul Pirri.

What do you think? As more and more people shift to cell phones over their land lines, or seek third party companies to come up with their long distance plans, do you welcome the chance to expand the local calling area? Would you be willing to pay a little more for your local calls for a wider local area? Send your thoughts to letters@auroran.com.

Bloating, Cramping, Constipation, Diarrhea? IBS or Digestive Upset?

Advertorial

Digestive problems are very common and include symptoms such as heart burn, bloating, burping, flatulence, constipation, cramping, acid reflux and diarrhea.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is a very common condition affecting nearly 20% of the population. IBS is commonly diagnosed through ruling out other possibilities.

Unfortunately, this is where the frustration mounts for most patients. Doctors struggle to treat the symptoms of IBS and many patients find it difficult to get lasting relief. This often results in a lifetime of medication for affected sufferers.

Because of a lack of options many patients find the need to resort to

finding information on their own. This often leads to misinformation and confusion. The discomfort and pain experienced usually affect many aspects of life including work, home and leisure activities.

Fortunately, there are additional options available outside of the standard medical approach. To help those suffering with IBS and other digestive problems an informative upcoming free workshop is scheduled.

"I got so much out of this workshop. Every sufferer with indigestion needs to hear this" TF

The workshop will explain why IBS and other digestive problems can be so challenging and how to take steps to feel better and take control of your

health. This surprising information has improved the lives of numerous sufferers.

This workshop will be held at the King West

There are other approaches, beyond the use of drugs, that have safely and effectively helped many digestive upset sufferers feel better.

Wellness Centre on Wed June 26 7:30 pm - 9 pm.

"This surprising information has improved the lives of numerous sufferers."

Seating is limited. To reserve your seat call: 877 334 2785.

Advertorial

Avoid 6 Costly Errors When Moving to a Larger Home and Save Thousands

Aurora - A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and costly mistakes that homebuyers make when moving to a larger home.

Unlike the experience of buying a first home, when you're looking to move-up, and already own a home, there are certain factors that can complicate the situation. It's very important for you to understand these issues before you list your home for sale.

Not only is there the issue of financing to consider, but you also have to sell your present home at exactly the right time in order to avoid either the financial burden of owning two homes or, just as bad, the dilemma of having no place to live during the gap between closings.

In answer to this issue, Industry Insiders have prepared a FREE special report entitled "6 Mistakes to Avoid When Trading Up to a Larger Home."

These six strategies will help you make informed choices before you put your home on the market in anticipation of moving to a larger home.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.AuroraHomeBuyer.ca and go to "Special Report"

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Former Mayor's lawsuit hits Council table

By Brock Weir

Aurora is preparing its case against claims made by former mayor Phyllis Morris in her \$250,000 lawsuit launched against the Town on June 7.

Councillors went into closed session at last week's Council meeting to discuss the ramifications of Ms. Morris' lawsuit, which claims \$250,000 in costs stemming from her \$6 million lawsuit against three local bloggers, among others.

Ms. Morris claims that in the discussions during the fall of 2010 which ultimately lead to her defamation lawsuit, she was "advised" that then Town Solicitor Christopher Cooper and Integrity Commissioner David Tsubouchi would be named as plaintiffs in the suit, and that around October 5 of 2010 Mr. Cooper advised her "that she would be indemnified for any legal costs that might be incurred in the pursuit of the Town Action." Her statement goes on to claim this was confirmed in writing.

The Town of Aurora told The Auroran on June 10 that Ms. Morris' claims were "without merit" and they would defend the action "vigorously."

Last Tuesday's Council meeting was the first time Councillors had a chance to tackle the issue, with the matter due to be discussed behind closed doors that evening. Before going in-camera, they tackled the issue with equal vigour.

Speaking to The Auroran on June 7, Steven O'Melia, lawyer for Ms. Morris, said that the lawsuit was the result of unsuccessfully trying to get the Town to "honour their obligations through communications." Communications on the part of Mr. O'Melia accounted for a significant chunk of the discussions both before and after Councillors went behind closed doors to discuss the specifics in the case.

"I am a little concerned that the Town has been taking some action and direction without Council authority in terms of the issue we're going in-camera with," said Councillor John Gallo, referring to earlier emails on the subject.

Warren Mar, Solicitor for the Town of Aurora, said that he was "disappointed in Mr. O'Melia's conduct" in contacting Councillors directly on the matter. He said he thought it was "inappropriate and a potential violation of the rules of professional conduct with the law society."

"My initial view at that point was I would let Mr. O'Melia know that this matter would be brought before Council for consideration," said Mr. Mar. "Upon my further review of the matter, I realised Council already made a very clear issue over two years ago about this and it would be inappropriate for me to bring that before Council and second-guess Council's decision two

years ago."

Councillor Gallo countered there have been many instances where solicitors have communicated directly to Councillors in regards to items such as planning applications, but Mr. Mar was adamant.

"It is in my opinion completely inappropriate for those solicitors to continue lobbying Council to get an answer, especially when those solicitors know that litigation is already commenced against the Town and may be setting a potential trap for Council to make prejudicial statements that would further expose the town to liability," he said.

"Councillors would have no idea of the claims made in the statement of claim. That is the particular reason why I have a concern about Mr. O'Melia's communication with Council because it was done inappropriately knowing that Council as a whole has sought my advice on this matter over the past two years and lobbying directly to Council was inappropriate."

In his closed session report, Mr. Mar outlined the particulars of this case, including the fact the Notice of Action was filed by Mr. O'Melia in December 14, 2012, in Kitchener at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice.

"At this time, the allegations made in the claim are unproven," said Mr. Mar in his report. "A full defence of the claim is recommended and it is the default po-

sition of the Town against all claims against it."

A statement of defence, he said, must be filed within 20 days of the statement of claim. Mounting a defence will involve "the preparation of numerous legal documents, the review of a great deal of information and a full evaluation and analysis of the allegations." He recommended hiring external legal counsel to represent the Town in the interests of limited staff resources at Town Hall.

The report also reminds Councillors of their duties to "protect the Town from suffering of any harm and not to expose the Town to any liability" in this case. There was also a further word of caution.

"In addition, Councillors must avoid communications with Ms. Morris and inform the Town Solicitor if Ms. Morris or her lawyer attempts in any way to contact them. If any Councillor becomes privy to information that may be of assistance to the Town, the Town Solicitor must be informed about this information as soon as possible."

Costs for the Town's defence, he added, will be covered by the external advocacy section of the Town's legal budget, but cost estimates are undetermined. Although they are still waiting to see if any of the costs here would be covered by the Town's insurance, they will seek to recover costs from Ms. Morris if they are successful.



Mayor Geoffrey Dawe flipped hamburgers and hotdogs at the first barbeque of the Aurora Seniors' Centre season. Their next barbeque will take place June 26, featuring Chef Kevin Linch of the Hollandview Trail Retirement Community, and July 17, hosted by Chartwell.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Question of confidentiality raises eyebrows at Council

By Brock Weir

Before Councillors went into a closed session meeting last week to discuss the ins and outs of former mayor Phyllis Morris' \$250,000 lawsuit against the Town of Aurora launched June 7, members had some hesitation discussing the matter while the cameras were not rolling.

The concerns, argued by Councillors Paul Pirri and Evelyn Buck, where whether information discussed behind closed doors would ultimately stay be-

hind closed doors.

Councillor Pirri was first to voice his concerns, saying he didn't feel "comfortable" going in-camera to discuss the latest lawsuit.

"I have grave concerns that what is being discussed in closed session is leaking out," he said. "I wouldn't want other members of council to have a false sense of security on this matter. I think if we're going to be discussing this, discuss it in such a manner that Mr. Mar is here to stop us in saying anything that could be damaging to

the municipality in case it does leak out."

In response, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said Councillor Pirri's concerns were "very serious" and pressed for specifics. Councillor Pirri agreed at the severity, and said his concerns were passed on "what has happened in the past", and his belief that what is said is leaving the confines of the closed room.

Speaking to whether or not his report could be discussed in public, Mr. Mar said his preference is to always go into closed session when it concerns litigation

or other legal matters. He added he would not be providing Council with any details regarding litigation advice, but simply what's next on the matter.

See "Comments" on page 21

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OPEN HOUSE

Town of Aurora Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review

The Town of Aurora is conducting a Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review.

The review applies to all lands within The Town of Aurora. An introductory Open House is scheduled to outline the Zoning By-law Review process and staff will be available to discuss the steps in the review process and to receive preliminary comments and input.

A second Open House will be scheduled in the Fall 2013.

Landowners, business owners, property developers and members of the public are invited to become involved and provide input into the review.

Background information is available on the Town's web site at www.aurora.ca/planningprojects

Date:	Monday, June 24
Time:	5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location:	Aurora Town Hall, Holland Room, 100 John West Way
Contact:	Town of Aurora Planning & Development Services Glen Letman at 905-727-3123, ext. 4346 Jeff Healey at 905-727-3123, ext. 4349

June 19, 2013

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www.aurora.ca/planningprojects | 905-727-3123 ext. 4346 or ext. 4349

Adventurous twosome awarded Duke of Edinburgh awards by L-G

By Brock Weir

One snowshoed through the Ontario wilderness, walked for Heart, and developed quite a beat on the drums.

The other taught others to streak down the ski slopes, and then went rustic on a nine-day canoeing and portaging trek, all the while kicking butt in black belt.

Both received special Silver Awards from Lieutenant-Governor David Onley on Saturday as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards.

Kyle Barber and Justin Ford, both graduates of St. Andrew's College (Ford as recently as Friday) received the penultimate awards in the youth program founded by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in the early 1950s, and established in Canada 50 years ago this year, at an impressive ceremony at Queen's Park.

Barber was singled out for his community service, participating in Walk for Heart and volunteering at the York Region branch of the OSPCA. For the

"adventurous" part of his program, he completed a four-day snowshoeing trek through the Haliburton Highlands while focusing on tennis, basketball, and squash in his spare time.

Ford took a different track; taking on the role as a volunteer ski teacher as part of his community service program, he journeyed into the wild for a nine-day trip of canoeing, portaging, and living off the land – perhaps being extra cautious with his body as he was also working (successfully) towards achieving his black belt in Karate.

While preparing to receive his award in Toronto, Mr. Barber told The Auroran that he was introduced to the program by one teacher at SAC who was a particular advocate for it.

"Snowshoeing came together with one person who was organizing the trip as a qualifier for his gold and we all came together for it," he said. "We were in a cabin for four days during the winter in Haliburton and then we spent a large chunk of one day making something similar to igloos and slept in

"I have gotten new passions and new experiences that I definitely would not have without [the program]."



those for one of the nights. Then a lot of the time was just dedicated to making food and keeping everything in order, and trying to keep the cabin warm while we were in there.

See "DUKE'S" on page 21

Aurora students Justin Ford and Kyle Barber received their silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards from Lieutenant-Governor David Onley at a ceremony at Queen's Park on Saturday.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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York marks Big Brothers Big Sisters' 100th anniversary

By Brock Weir

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York is about more than just mentoring and providing an ear and some guidance for today's youth – it is also about building healthy minds and healthy bodies.

For Sarah Dame, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of York (BBBSY), a little extra money will go a very long way in shaping the lives of local boys and girls, building healthy minds and bodies and providing much needed boosts in self-esteem and confidence.

The BBBSY community, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in Canada this year, is coming up with their game plan over the next couple of weeks to move the multitude of event and raffle tickets assigned to them as partners in this year's Wild, Wild West Hoedown, hosted by Magna International. The group, as one of 25 selected charities and community organizations this year, will get an equal share of all proceeds derived from one of York Region's largest annual parties.

This money, says Ms. Dame, will provide an always welcome jolt into their in-school programs Game On, which helps boys and young men "eat smart, play smart and live smart", and Go Girl!, focusing on giving girls and young women some guidance on "physical activity, balanced eating and self-esteem."

"One of the hardest things for us is funding some of the programs we currently have in play," says Ms. Dame. "We're looking to hoedown to continue their support in areas that have been most impactful for us. This year, because of Hoedown's 25th anniversary, we wanted to

continue to share those proceeds between our traditional matching program, which is our most costly part of the program, and the expansion of Go Girls and Game On in a number of new schools. That's what allows us to reach more children and more schools, and fight."

According to BBBSY, young men often struggle with body issues. The Game On program creates a dialogue to "discuss current and pressing issues facing boys and young men, builds an appreciation for the benefits of healthy eating habits, promotes physical exercise through the use of non-traditional activities, instills respect for socio-economic, ethno-cultural and racial diversity, and encourages leadership skills and independent thinking."

Go Girls!, on the other hand, also focuses on physical activity, balanced eating and self-esteem, but also supports the "development of leadership and life skills, offers guidance in establishing and maintaining friendships, and promotes the importance of positive mental activity and regular physical exercise."

Ms. Dame says being selected by Magna this year as one of the beneficiary organizations was not only a sign their application hit all the right marks, but also a renewed and continued vote of confidence in the services they provide within the York Region community.

"I often think Magna is doing so many incredible things in terms of the dollars they provide to the community, I am not sure we have done as much as we can to say thank you," says Ms. Dame. "It's tough – we don't have a building we can put something up front to acknowledge [support-

ers] but we're intending to have our first donor wall this fall.

"One of the things I am learning is [Magna founder Frank] Stronach was instrumental in this agency moving forward a full-time agency in York Region. He was a Big Brother, and we're honouring him at our gala this November. He has been an incredible supporter of this agency and Hoedown have often been a great source of support for us. We will be honouring him [for] his friendship and guidance. He really believes in the mentoring process."

In this milestone year, BBBSY is also focusing on increasing their volunteer base. The bulk of their programs are indeed volunteer driven and there are currently very close to 100 kids on the waiting list for a mentor, says Ms. Dame. In order to get them off that list, volunteers are essential.

They are more and more looking towards student placements from Seneca College and Humber college to get programs out into schools and into sites that are in need, and, eventually engage continuing volunteers.

"It's a big commitment we're asking for," she says. "When you're a Big Brother or a Big Sister, it's not just an hour or two once a year at an event."

For more information on BBBSY, visit www.bbbsy.ca.

This is the first installment of The Auroran's annual focus on organizations participating in this year's Hoedown. Our next installment will centre on the efforts of both Yellow Brick House and the Women's Centre of York Region to help make their clients, and area women, more money smart and financially stable.

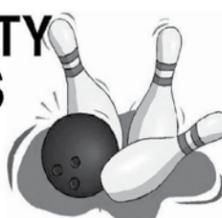


Sarah Dame, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, plans to expand existing in-school programs – Game On and Go Girls – focusing on building minds, bodies, and confidence of young men and women throughout the Region.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Canadian Idol winner Brian Melo, right, was joined by Habachat's Tim Newnham at the Aurora Street Festival June 2, where the singer heard auditions from nearly 40 aspiring Aurora singers. Select talent will appear at next month's Celebrate Aurora music festival, but this event will be preceded with a special celebration honouring local icons and heroes.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Awards will honour your local Legends & Heroes

By Brock Weir

Community icons and heroes will be honoured July 26 with a special awards dinner at Town Park.

The event, which will be hosted by broadcaster Christine Bentley and feature live entertainment and local food, will give Aurorans a chance to "toast Aurora's own."

Nominations are now open for residents to nominate local community members for "outstanding contributions to, and achievements in, various capacities of community involvement," according to Habachat, organizers of the Icons & Heroes Awards.

"Achievements could range from teaching excellence and creativity to local developments in civic

improvements to a youth ambassador philanthropist or sports team mentor or athlete, for example. Voting will be done online by Aurora residents to select the most notable Aurora Icons and Heroes in various categories of community contribution."

If you know someone who fits the bill, nominations are being accepted, along with a descriptions of their achievements and accomplishments at www.habachat.com/nominations until June 26. Categories will be created "based on submissions with a minimum of three nominations per category" and once the nominees have been tallied, the public will be able to vote for their winners online.

Tickets will be available online for purchase at www.habachat.com/iconsandheroes

for this dinner; billed as a joint production between Habachat and Farley Flex's R.E.A.L. Corp.

Following the evening of Icons & Heroes on the Friday, Town Park will be transformed into a musical mecca on Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28 for the inaugural Celebrate Aurora! music festival, featuring a wide array of local talent and some talent from farther afield.

Also organized by R.E.A.L. Corp and Habachat, Mr. Flex has assembled talent for Celebrate Aurora! with the assistance of Canadian Idol winner Brian Melo, who participated in this month's Aurora Street Festival, holding live auditions on the street near Cousins Drive tapping into

what just might be undiscovered local talent.

With nearly 40 auditions taken in, Mr. Melo said he was impressed by what he saw and heard.

"I did find a lot of interesting singers," said Mr. Melo as the Festival wrapped up on June 2. "I didn't know what to expect coming in, but there were definitely a couple that impressed me. I think we had about 35 singers today, I didn't know what to expect, but we weren't expecting that! There were probably a good four or five that really blew me away and any expectations I had.

"Aurora definitely has talent! A lot of great musicians are coming together and it is going to be a good wealth of talent once everybody gets here. I think it is going to be great."

Code of Ethics passes amid criticism over restrictions, lack of punishment

By Brock Weir

It is an issue that has been simmering on Aurora's backburner for the entirety of this Council term and a good portion of the last, but Aurora's Council Code of Conduct was formally replaced with a new Code of Ethics last week.

The new document, which combines key points from both the old Codes of Conduct and Ethics, was approved 5 - 3 with Councillors Chris Ballard, John Gallo, and Wendy Gaertner voting against the plan.

A key difference between the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct is there are no specific penalties should a Councillor be in contravention of the rules, rules which cover everything from harassment to hospitality.

This lack of a penalty, which some Councillors previously described as a

lack of "teeth", was once again voiced as one of the reasons the three Councillors voted against the new measures.

"There is no enforcement with a Code of Ethics," said Councillor Ballard. "The thinking is the electorate ultimately makes the decision [whether Councillors are ethical or not] and that is quite accurate with who they wish to vote for and who they believe exercised ethical behaviour."

"That was a good sentiment when Town Councils were elected for a one-year or a two-year term. Now we're in four years. Now a Councillor, if they continue to say things, or write things that damage professional reputations and the reputations of the Town and Council without risk of censor, can do an awful lot of damage over four years.

See "Voters" on page 21

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FREE Week of June 19, 2013



Aurora Special Olympian Mary Haberer, centre, along with Kim and Vadim of the York Regional Police, joined forces to whip up some tasty treats at the Superstore to raise some awareness – and, of course, some funds for the upcoming Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games. All nine York Region municipalities will host the Special Olympics and their sports as they start arriving next month for the games, running from July 11 to July 14.

Aurora will host Special Olympics soccer at the St. Andrew's College fields on Thursday, July 11 from 1 – 4.30 p.m., Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 3, both from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All competitions are free and open to the public.

Official opening ceremonies will take place at Newmarket's Ray Twinney Complex on July 11 at 7.30 p.m. Admission is free.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Rain thwarts home games, but Jays move into second place league tie

By Jeff Doner

The Jays only hit the diamond for one game this past week after yet another rain-out Tuesday, but managed to improve their win streak to six games by dominating the Angus Black Sox 12-1 on Sunday night.

The Jays got to the Black Sox often and early, tagging their starting pitcher for five runs in the first inning.

"We had the bats turn up on Sunday and that has kind of been the trend over the last six games or so that we've been on a bit of a streak here," said player coach Rob Wilson.

"The guys are more comfortable going deeper into counts and they're really getting a good look at a pitcher before instead of just going out there and hacking right away. The approach has been way better. Guys were waiting for their pitch and waiting for the mistake by the pitcher or taking their own opportunity and getting a piece of the ball."

Andrew Bukovec started for the Jays and pitched an effective four innings, before the dependable Zach Wiseman came in to relieve Bukovec and close out the game. The two pitchers limited the opposition to one run, two hits and nine strikeouts.

"I think the main story last night was our pitching," said Wilson. "We haven't had a whole lot of opportunity to

get Andrew Bukovec into the games, but last night he started for us and pitched really well and then Zach Wiseman can in to relieve for us and as he always does just shut the door – he is our lefty specialist – Andrew being a hard throwing righty and Zach a left handed junkballer; they're really effective when they go back to back."

Having been short a few players for Sunday's game, centre fielder Ryan Lewis was moved to second base to fill a hole and played well.

"I will say that last night he made several great plays," said Wilson. "He was challenged and they weren't making it easy on him. He really kind of propelled us into that rhythm to get our bats going."

Chris Rettie went hitless, but managed to score three runs and is amongst the league leaders in that stat.

The win gave improved their season record to 8-3 and moved them into a four-way tie for second place in the North Dufferin League standings with New Lowell, Orillia and Ivy. The Bolton Brewers still have a comfortable first place hold.

The Jays will get right back at it this week against Mansfield on Wednesday night. The Jays home games are every Tuesday night at Lambert Wilson Park in Aurora.

You can find the Jays schedule at www.ndbl.ca.

Sports Hall of Fame wants your nominations!

Here is your chance to honour your local sporting heroes – the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is looking for your nominations.

"The inaugural Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be hosted in November of 2013 and is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of athletes, coaches and builders/contributors in our community," says Sport Aurora.

The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and Board of Governors is now accepting nominations through June 28.

The mandate of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is to acknowledge the significant and exceptional achievements and contribution to athletics and sports within the Town of Aurora.

A recipient must have direct connection to Aurora as defined by the following criteria:

- Was born in Aurora; OR
- Was raised or spent

their formative years in Aurora; OR

- Achieved their athletic prominence in Aurora; OR
- Made their contributions to athletics and sports in Aurora.

A recipient may be inducted to the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame in one of three categories: Athlete, Coach, Builder/Contributor.

The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Board of Governors values the qualities of upstanding character and sportsmanship and reserves the right to reject nominations based on moral, criminal or ethical grounds.

For nominees in the athlete category, the athlete's sport must have a corresponding Provincial/National Governing Sport Body in Canada.

The nominee must have:

- Demonstrated outstanding achievement in their athletic field of endeavour; OR
- Brought honour and fostered pride in the Town

of Aurora through their athletic achievements.

- An athlete must have been out of competition in their acknowledged sports for a minimum of five years.

• Competition may be at the local, regional, provincial, national, international or professional level.

For potential coaches, the coach's sport must also have a corresponding provincial or national governing sport body in Canada. They must have:

- Made a major contribution to the development and advancement of sport locally, provincially, nationally or internationally.

• Compiled an outstanding career of coaching/managing championship teams and/or athletes.

• A coach must have been out of competition in their acknowledged sport for a minimum of five years or be over 50 years of age.

Builders/Contributors must have demonstrated outstanding service to the sporting community of

Aurora over a period of years in sports via:

- Contribution to sport in Aurora through philanthropy and/or leadership; OR

• Having been active in any capacity serving sport, such as: trainer; media, administrator, official/referee, sports medicine, or manager; OR

• Having made a significant financial contribution to the building of sport infrastructure in the Town of Aurora.

Nomination Forms are available on the Sport Aurora Web Site at www.sportaurora.ca or contact the Chair of the Induction Committee, Kate Collins at ashofnominations@sportaurora.ca.



Young Barbarians strong as host of U8 tourney
The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Minor teams hosted Under 8, Under 10 and Under 12 year old tournaments at Fletchers Fields in Markham last weekend. There were 58 teams that played in the three age groups. This is the start of a long season for these age groups which ends in September.
Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



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POLO FOR HEART

Zeroing in on their 35th year, Polo for Heart once again took over the Gormley Polo Centre in Richmond Hill for the popular celebration of the world's oldest team sport. The three day event attracted people from across Ontario, Canada, and internationally to see the teams in action and raise money for worthy causes, including a new MRI unit for Southlake Regional Health Centre. Enjoying not just the polo games themselves, boutiques, silent auctions, the traditional champagne divot stomp, and entertainment, kids village, and picnic offered something for everyone. (Left) Opening Day ceremonies featured horses and hounds from the Eglinton Caledon Hunt Club and the Toronto North York Hunt Club. (Centre) Crowds looked on as skydivers from Sky Dive Swoop tried to hit a target and touch down on the field. (Right) Players from the Ritz Carlton and BMO faced off in one of the first matches. Honourary event chair, broadcaster Lloyd Robertson, threw in the first ball.

Auroran photos by Jeff Doner

Grade 11 student earns spot on national golf team

By Cindy Veitch

Matt Yustin has been invited to represent the Canadian Junior Golf Association (CJGA) at the Dutch World Championships this summer in Amsterdam.

Matt, who enters grade 11 at SAC in September, received the exciting news this week while practicing on the range at his home

course, the Summit Golf & Country Club in Richmond Hill. He earned his spot on CJGA Team Canada after shooting 71 at a tough qualifying tournament played in hail and snowy conditions this spring, and will now travel to Breda, Netherlands, to play at the PonCat Dutch Junior Open July 17-20.

"It's going to be a great

opportunity for me to see other courses in Europe and compete with people from around the world," says Matt, a one handicap golfer.

The tournament is registered with the World Amateur Golf Ranking, and the winner of the Boys Division will receive an exemption into the KLM Open on the European Tour. CJGA Team Canada will also play

a friendly one-day match against the Netherlands National Junior Team prior to the tournament.

Matt is currently ranked #1 provincially and #3 nationally for the CJGA's Order of Merit for 15-19 year olds. The fifteen-year-old is committed to the sport, practicing most days and competing in several tournaments each season. As a

member of SAC's Varsity Golf team, he tied for the second lowest round with a score of 73 at the season opener at Deer Creek Golf Course in Ajax, and helped his team earn a silver medal at CISAA in May. His lowest score is 65 shot at Pheasant Run Golf Club in Newmarket.

With school over, Matt can now give full attention

to his golf game and next challenge: qualifying for the U.S. Junior National Championship. He will be attending a high performance golf camp and tournament at South Carolina's Clemson University June 14-19. Clemson is Matt's number 1 choice for universities so he says he'll be trying to his best to make a great impression while there.

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Just Announced - L.A.'s BUCKCHERRY along with our very own Simcoe County based band BLEEKER RIDGE perform live in Concert at The RANCH in Downtown Barrie, Thursday August 15. Both bands are touring in support of new albums just released! Buckcherry's sixth album titled, "Confessions" was released on February 19, 2013 featuring their first released single, "Gluttony" which was made available for streaming on December 7, 2012. In April 2013 Bleeker Ridge released their latest album titled, "FOUR" with "Last Cigarette" released as it's first single.

Ready to announce another Sold-Out Concert (Less than 100 tickets left), Impact Live is proud to showcase the HEADSTONES live in concert Wednesday June 26th At The RANCH driven by a #1 hit "Long Way To Neverland" on their new album release "Love & Fury". Front man Hugh Dillon of the Headstones successes include a notable Movie and Television Career, Record Producer, along with his long-standing musical career. The Headstones are supported by up and coming 4-Piece Toronto are based band RIDING SHOTGUN who have created a buzz in the industry in their short history opening for such acts as Gilby Clark (of Guns and Roses & Rockstar Supernova), Default and many more. Riding Shotgun's latest album is set to release sometime mid-2013.

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Barbarians womens' team fares better than men in away games

By Jeff Doner

Men's Barbs

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Club senior men's team hosted the Oakville Crusaders at Fletchers Fields in Premiership play for three games last Saturday. The Crusaders are the reigning McCormick Cup champions having won the battle for supremacy in Ontario men's rugby last October over London's St. George.

The Barbarians came into the weekend undermanned from player unavailability and injuries suffered in the previous week's games and the effects showed in the third team match with reserve players inserted as starters and out of their normal positions. The result was a lopsided win by Crusaders 67-10 over the local side. Scoring for the Barbarians was Derek Haines and Markus Steiner each with single tries.

The second team match was a well contested battle with lots of scoring and several lead changes. The game featured last minute heroics on both sides with the Crusaders eventually prevailing 39-34 - one try separating the teams. Scoring for the Aurora side was team captain James Coombes, Jason Ghuladi, Jordan Querino and Derek Haines each with single

tries. Kicker Mark Denton added a try of his own as well as three conversions and a penalty kick.

The first team encounter was evenly matched at the outset. Despite an 0-3 start to their 2013 campaign the Crusaders kept pace with the Barbarians. Aurora gained momentum midway through the first half and rolled up a 17-3 half time lead. Their success continued into the second half with an early score to make it 22-3 and seemingly out of reach. But two turnovers and a coverage miscue saw the Oakville team claw back to take a 24-22 lead with 15 minutes to play. Then it was the Crusaders turn to misfire and mistakes in their back line allowed the Barbs to score three more tries to take away a 42-24 win. Scoring for the Barbarians was Ciaran McSwiggan with two tries and singles going to Jesse Hayman, David Nielsen, Michael Neely and Sean Sinel. Kicker Josh Ferreira added a penalty kick and four conversions.

After the match head coach Ian McLeod said "It was exciting for the fans but clearly not the game plan we had in mind. Our collapse in the second half shows that that we must play hard for the entire 80 minutes of the game. We straightened things out in the final fifteen minutes and

deserved the win."

Men's rugby takes a break next week to enjoy the International match between Canada and Ireland at BMO Field in Toronto on Saturday June 15 at 8PM. The Barbarians men's team play next on June 22, when they visit Balmly Beach for three games.

Women's Barbs

The Aurora Barbarians senior women's rugby team was also in action last weekend, visiting the Oakville Crusaders as part of Ontario Women's Rugby season play on Saturday.

The Barbs second team fought to a well deserved 55-12 win, with nine tries and five converts. The Crusaders connected for two tries and one convert.

Caitlin Beaton and Nathalie Bendavid, both with national rugby experience, helped the second team to stay strong and beat out a very physical Crusader squad that helped draw a yellow card to the Barbarians.

The first team won their match, also scoring nine tries and added two converts in their 49-12 stomping of the Crusaders.

The Crusaders scored two tries and one convert.

"The Crusaders are a team that came up from the lower division this year, so we had to focus and play



Tis the season for spring fairs as schools and community groups wrap up the season. Before residents on the east side of Town descended on Ada Johnson Park for their annual block party on Saturday, students in the area got a head start to their celebrations at nearby Hartman Public School, joining their parents in a day of music, games, bouncy castles, hot dogs, hamburgers, and even cotton candy, which was a particular hit with Kadin and Sierra, above.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

our game," said player and team director, Gill Hall. "They put up a good fight, but our experience carried us through in the end."

Meg Lowry, Jacey Murphy and Gill Hall scored two tries a piece in the game. Tyson Bukeboom added many solid offensive and defensive efforts to help the Barbs keep their forward momentum.

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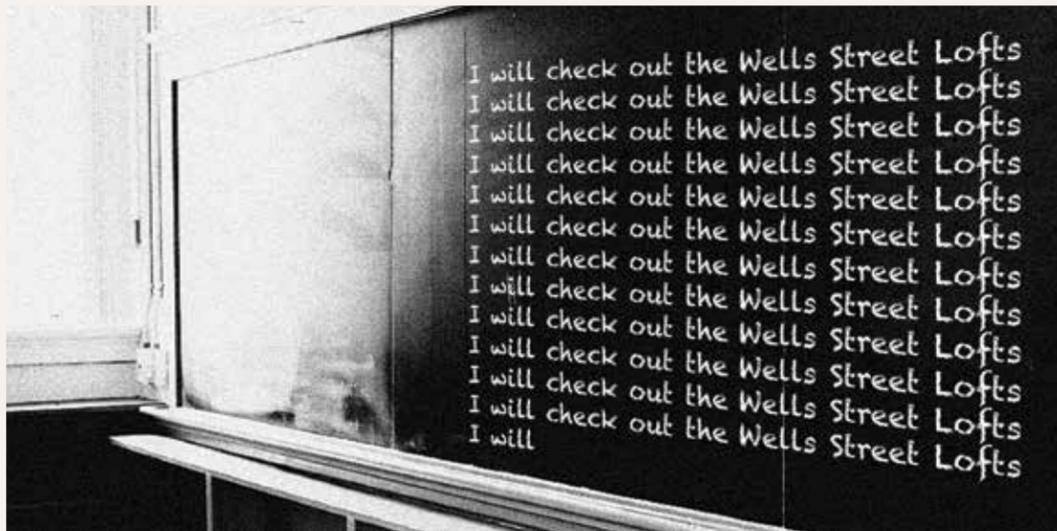
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Toys R Us' outgoing Chief Play Officer, Aurora's Julianne Bisnaire, pictured at the start of her term.

Submitted photo

Canada's "Chief Play Officer" hangs up Xbox controls

By Brock Weir

She didn't wanna to grow up—after all, she's a Toys R Us kid – but for Aurora's Julianne Bisnaire, all good things must come to an end.

Julianne, formerly a student at ESC Renaissance, was appointed nearly two years ago as Toys R Us' Chief Play officer. Thrilled with her appointment, being Chief Play Officer (CPO) gave her first crack at and a sneak preview of all the new toys the national toy retailer would have to offer in upcoming seasons. Given the chance to try them all out herself, she was able to then travel the country, appearing on national and local television and radio, to speak about the toys themselves and – especially helpful to parents – what teens, tweens, and kids really wanted.

"When I started as Chief Play Officer, I didn't really know what to expect," Julianne told The Auroran last week as her term came to a

close. "I was kind of afraid, but once I got started with everybody and travelled a bit, I loved it from the very beginning. I think it was a really great experience for me, so much fun, and I really enjoyed it. There were so many cool experiences."

Cool experiences came around fairly often, but many of these experiences will likely prove to be truly unforgettable. Throughout her term, the "CPO" got to record videos and interact with Canada's Olympic heroes, hosted events like a special launch party for Xbox 360, walk in the Santa Claus Parade in Toronto, and, of course, receive more toys than she ever dreamed of.

"All the toys are amazing," she said. "I had a lot of fun with them, but if I had to pick a favourite, I would have to pick Xbox360. It gets the family involved, you are up on your feet, and you are the controller, so it is not just sitting there playing a video game."

Receiving a new shipment of toys every month might be daunting even for the most ardent of toy and video game fans, but Julianne took everything in her stride. While she studied at ESC Renaissance, she recently shifted direction into the arts, redirecting her studies to Thornhill's St. Elizabeth Catholic High School. While on the road promoting the toys, if it infringed on her studies, Toys R Us provided her with a tutor to keep up, while the crew provided lots of laughs along the way.

"When I first heard about the job, I thought it would be really cool to be able to play with toys and being on TV all the time. It was beyond my expectations. It was so much more than I thought it would be – in a good way."

"I knew I would be talking about toys, but I think the most fun part for me was working with a lot of the fun people and just being at the various events."

See "CPO" on page 21

Staff recommend old library demolition

Continued from page 1

He added that all parties are moving quickly to submit letters of intent supporting the facility in order to take advantage of funding opportunities, applications for which would be due by the end of this month, that could come Seneca's way to make it a reality. A "clearer picture", he said, will be coming back to Council this fall recommending a path forward.

"I think the fact Seneca has signed off on the report and authorised them being named publically as a potential partner is a positive sign," he said. "This has been approved very high up in the chain and the Region is certainly with us and committed to bringing something like this to the Region itself."

Mr. Ieurullo presented his findings to business leaders last week. They voiced their support of the idea, saying it would be a "big opportunity" to attract manufacturers and biotech engineers to the area. Having such specialized programs close to home, they said, would do nothing but increase the number of trained professionals – trained in a variety of skills – in the area.

"We're trying to create a facility that is complementary to the incubator Southlake is putting together," said Mr. Ieurullo.

"These companies may be European based and, if they come here and send in a couple of people here to launch into this market and hit a design snag, it may bring a partnership with someone in this facility instead of sending it back to home base in Europe."

Getting support from the Town, the Region, and Seneca may be the easy part, but the real test will be to gauge the interest of manufacturers and engineers and convince them of the value of such a facility.

"That is the next step that will really make or break the project, but it is exciting to be able to explore the possibility," said Councillor Michael Thompson.

Mr. Ierullo noted that there has been some interest expressed by manufacturers in Markham who initially explored the possibility of a lab there, and feelers have been sent to companies in the automotive, biotech, and general manufacturing industries.

Location for a Fab Lab too might be a challenge. After looking at various industrial buildings around Town, proponents of the plan, have come to the conclusion that the old Aurora Public Library building on Victoria Street will be the best building for the job. They say it has ready access to public transit, could add to the revitalization of

the Downtown Core, and provide good "synergies" with surrounding organizations including the Aurora Cultural Centre, the Aurora Public Library, and even St. Andrew's College. Also in its favour? Size, reinforced floors, higher ceilings and office plans.

The future of the building is up for consideration by Councillors this week. They will be reviewing options brought forward by Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, both calling for the building's demolition. The first option would be to demolish the Old Library, and the adjacent building, formerly the Aurora Seniors' Centre and now home to Blue Balloon, to be replaced with a new multi-use community facility.

The second option is to demolish the two and build a parking lot and "urban square", which would provide 67 parking spaces for the Library, Cultural Centre, and surrounding uses.

"That square is coveted by a number of different organizations," said Councillor Michael Thompson at last week's meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee. "We have to arm wrestle some of the senior members of the Town of Aurora because different ideas are being proposed for that space and this needs to be considered as one of those ideas."



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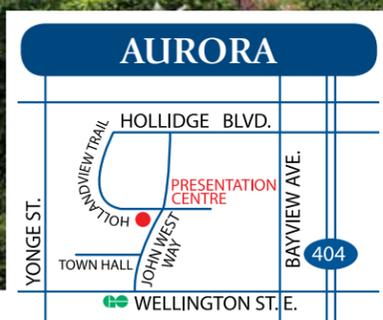
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Give Back awards honour 23 Grade 12 grads

By Brock Weir

Looking over at the group of graduating high school students this month poised to receive their Give Back Awards, organizers of the scholarship said they felt they really hadn't done much in their lives by comparison.

Nevertheless, students in York Region continue to surprise, producing outstanding individuals who give back to their communities year after year.

Now in its ninth year, the Give Back Awards, a scholarship program founded in 2004 by then Newmarket-Aurora MP Belinda Stronach with the money she earned in Parliament, has continued to reward students from Aurora and Newmarket who have shown leadership within their school and the wider community. Now administered by Neighbourhood Network, this program has expanded to East Gwillimbury and this year 23 students – and nine from Aurora – were honoured this year.

"It's a huge honour for me," said Saarah Khamissa, who graduates Aurora High School this year, bound for Ryerson University this fall for business management. "Over the years, my family has always been involved in the community. Being recognized for the work I put

in is a huge honour."

Saarah's family has operated Omar's Shoes in Aurora for over 40 years. Her grandparents and parents, she said, taught her early on it was good to become involved wherever she could.

"In the beginning, it was following in the footsteps of my family as being a part of the community and helping out," she says. "Then it just became really important to me. [After] university, the plan is to work with my parents and eventually

take over the family business and keep it running as long as we can."

Joining her from Aurora High School was Michael Nash, who will be heading to St. Catharines this fall to study accounting at Brock University. He was singled out for his volunteerism in the Scouts, particularly performing first aid through their Medical Ventures program. When he started, he was eyeing a career in medicine, but his experiences through the program turned his attention

towards accounting.

He says he still enjoys, however, being actively involved in the program.

"It is really good to go out and volunteer in your community," he says. "It doesn't matter too much what you do, there are plenty of opportunities to go out and volunteer around Aurora. It is a good time and you feel really good for being able to give back."

During the ceremony, which was held at Magna's headquarters just off Wellington Street, Mag-

na's Marc Neeb hailed the "outstanding achievements" of the students. While they are just a few of the seven billion people in this world, each does their part to make a difference, but the true volunteer is a rare commodity. If you convert that seven billion into a unit of 100, that translates to only 0.5 out of 100 being either willing or able to "volunteer their time, commitment, talent, experience and energy."

"You're in a very distinguished club," he said.

"Giving back is really an extraordinary thing on this planet to do."

Also honoured through the program was Sarah Osmond, a student at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, who was heralded for her leadership in the Girl Guides of Canada, the Terry Fox Run, and Cardinal Carter's Leadership Council, as well as her fundraising work with Rose of Sharon, a York Region charity helping young and/or single mothers.

Continue on page 22



Give Back recipients from across York Region had a group photo taken after receiving their awards at the Magna Campus.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

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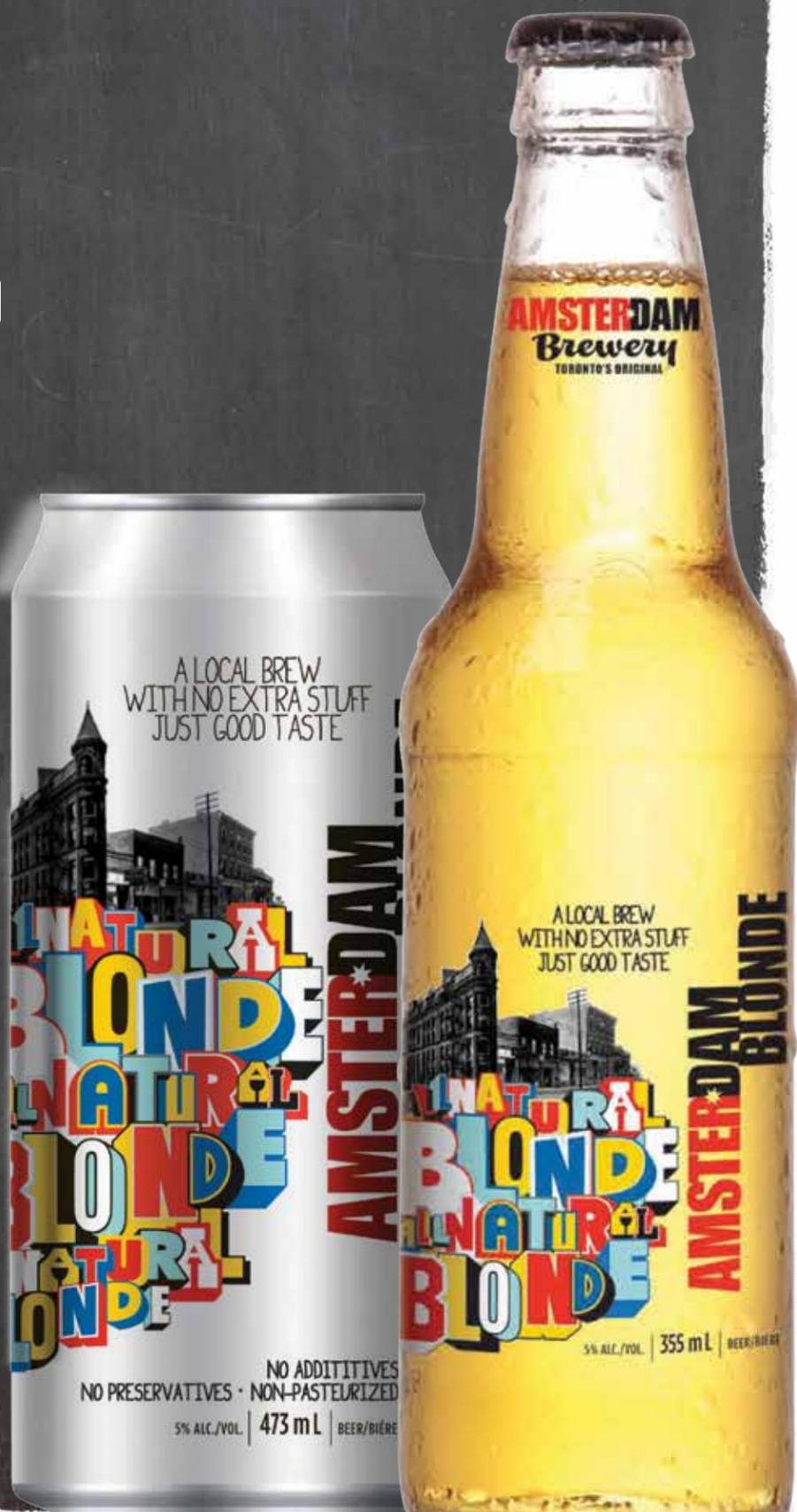
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POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Triple Bottom Line

Political ethics, or the lack thereof, has been much in the news as of late.

To many, the mere concept of political ethics is oxymoronic. How could it not be? Politicians are routinely lampooned for their lack of character, their hard but shiny veneers that hide a multitude of sins.

Frankly, we're no better here in Canada. With the now-alleged connection of the Mayor of Toronto to the pre-dawn raids in Toronto to find drugs and guns and illegal stashes of cash, to the RCMP investigation of a Senator and the former Chief of Staff of the PMO no less, the public's confidence in elected officials has been shaken to earthquake proportions.

The fallout of these two looming crises is yet to be seen, but it is clear that the worst is still to come, and that will have a detrimental effect on whatever remaining faith we have in our elected officials that they will do their jobs with some measure of integrity, no matter how small.

So it is within this larger context that I watched with some bemusement, the Aurora Council's deliberations on yet another iteration of the Town's Code of Ethics. Given what has transpired in Aurora over the last decade or so, I think it is safe to say that this policy has had, and will continue to have, little or no relevance to the actual workings of municipal office.

It certainly hasn't affected how some who hold or have held office discharge their responsibilities.

Full disclosure here – my day job is oversight of ethics and regulatory compliance and conduct within the context of research conducted in a post secondary institutional environment.

Clearly, I am not against ethics codes or regulations. I think professional codes of ethics are a vital check and balance for those professions they govern. If that represents a bias, so be it.

With that in mind, I will say that I have always found the creation and, worse, the adoption of codes of ethics

for politicians to be highly problematic for two main reasons: lack of objective criteria and potential for abuse.

A code of ethics presumes there is a common standard of "practice" for the profession or association. It is predicated on the assumption that there is in fact an agreed upon set of known metrics against which a politician's actions will be measured.

Just who decides the metrics? Who is the arbiter of "appropriate" actions? We have heard some politicians state categorically what is and is not "allowed" in terms of fellow politicians' conduct. Really?

And what skill set do members of Council, by virtue of just getting elected, bring to the table that affords them the ability to make that judgment?

The language of political codes of ethics is so vague, so broad, that frankly anyone can be accused of violating them and virtually anyone can argue that they have breached nothing.

The second? Politics is a very dirty game and the availability of laying such a juicy charge as being "unethical" against a political foe is almost too much for opposing parties, or politicians to resist.

We have seen it at virtually every level of government. Charges of breaching the code of ethics are shouted out in the council chambers, and legislatures and House of Commons of the nation, and salaciously covered in virtually every newspaper. Facts don't matter. Implication is everything.

As someone who regularly deals with issues of ethics compliance and non-compliance, I can tell you that such allegations are always handled confidentially. Why? Because you can't un-ring a bell, that's why.

Laying a charge isn't the same as being found guilty of a charge. Yet, in political circles, all that matters is laying the charge – loudly and publicly – knowing full well that the allegation alone is often enough to do significant reputational damage.

It abuses the very purpose of the code of ethics in the first place – to be educational. The code is there to act as a guide for appropriate actions while in office – not act as a sword of Damocles ready to slice you in two whenever your opponent feels the need – or sees the advantage.

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

ON NOW 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. You will learn how to challenge and change unhelpful thoughts and behaviours. Location: 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 1. Cost: \$60 for six weeks. Registration: edoyr.com/support-groups.html.

JUNE 5 - SEPTEMBER 5

Women's Centre of York Region is collecting Personal Care Products (ex. Shampoo, shower gel) to support financially vulnerable clients. If you would like to participate in this drive, please drop off your new/unused donations at 120 Harry Walker Parkway, Newmarket, Monday to Friday, 9-4.30 p.m., or call/visit us at 905-853-9270 or www.wcyr.ca.

JUNE 18 – JUNE 28

The inaugural Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be hosted in November of 2013 and is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of athletes, coaches and builders/contributors in our community. The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and Board of Governors is now accepting nominations through June 28. The mandate of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is to acknowledge the significant and exceptional achievements and contribution to athletics and sports within the Town of Aurora. For a full list of criteria and to download nomination forms, visit www.sportaurora.ca, or contact Kate Collins at ashofnominations@sportaurora.ca.

JUNE 18 – JULY 20

The Aurora Cultural Centre welcomes back the York Region travelling portrait presentation, Portraits of Giving by Karen Merk for Portraits of Giving. Each portrait is accompanied by a story of their inspirations for giving back by writer Cindy Shaver Vargas. Each year eight individuals are chosen to be celebrated for their contributions to the York Region community. This year celebrates Stewart Maclaren, Jennifer Ettinger, Brooke Harrison, Mike Smith, Wes Pleyter, Don Cousens, Mark Herbert and Glemena Bettencourt.

JUNE 19 – SEPTEMBER 3

The Aurora Cultural Centre will host MY AURORA! 150 youth/150 years Photo and

Coming Events

Creative Writing Exhibit in honour of Aurora's Sesquicentennial. Aurora youth have been invited to support the creation of a community art project celebrating the Town's 150th anniversary - through their distinctive words and images. What does Aurora mean to you? Where is your favourite space/place in Aurora? If you had a wish for Aurora, what would it be? In 150 years, the future youth will be able to see your images and read your words - what you like them to see & read? Participating youths have submitted their poems, stories and messages or have created a visual answer to the questions "what is your Aurora?". The submissions are printed and are now waiting for the rest of the community to join in the celebration! The words and images are waiting to be experienced in the Great Hall Gallery - come and enjoy!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

Chartwell's Annual Senior Star signing and musical competition will take place across Canada and Regionals will take place at the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion this afternoon from 2 – 4 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend and be entertained as local contestants 65 and older compete for the opportunity to participate as a top 10 finalist in the annual Senior Star National Final, taking place in November 2013. For more information on Senior Star and the National Final, please visit www.chartwell.com or call Maureen O'Leary at 905-727-6975 x.122. Location: 105 Industrial Parkway North.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

The Aurora Historical Society presents Let's Talk! Arche-

ology Under Aurora at 7 p.m. Free admission. Location TBD. Please visit aurorahistorical-society.ca or call 905.727.8991 to confirm. Hear guest speaker Dr. Katherine Hull of Archaeological Services Inc. discuss recent digs in Aurora and what they reveal about the history of the area. AHS Curatorial Assistant Nicola Jago will speak about finds on the Hillary House grounds.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

This is a special event day at the Aurora Farmers' Market featuring their annual strawberry festival, and participation from the Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Cultural Centre. The morning-long celebration will feature art in-

structor Helen Rodrigues from 10.30 – 11.30, a free puppet show hosted by the Aurora Public Library at 10 a.m., and "mystery" artefacts courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society. The Farmers' Market is located on Wells Street at Town Park and is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Discovery Days for Kids at Hillary House. Kids will participate in a mock archaeological dig. The archaeologists in training will explore the methods used by archaeologists while uncovering exciting artifacts. Participants will take measurements, record information, and make in situ drawings of the items they uncover. Free with admission, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Continued on page 26

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Voters are final judge on ethics, say Councillors

Continued from page 12

"That is why I was in favour of a Code of Conduct because Councillors could be held more accountable. The Code of Ethics, we don't sign it and nothing happens."

Councillors, however, voted for the new Code as a step forward. Speaking in favour of the motion, Councillor Michael Thompson questioned whether any good came from the Code of Conduct, and its penalties, including a review of Code of Conduct complaints by an appointed Integrity Commissioner.

"I would like to hear from those members who sat last term what positive effects they had on the behaviour of those who sat around the table," he said. "The Code of Conduct does not correct the behaviour of others."

While Councillors Evelyn Buck, Gaertner and Gallo, were the three Councillors left standing after the last municipal election who could speak to whether any positives came out of it, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe cut off that trail of thought, arguing it was not relevant to the discussions around the table.

Councillor Buck, however, spoke earlier in the discussions about some of her reservations surrounding the matter. Of particular concern, she said, was the provision that Councillors communicate the majority decision of Council. She said she felt that would infringe on her right to speak freely on Council's decisions whether she agreed with them or not.

"I have no reservations about majority rule," she said. "But I do object to [surrendering] my opinion if it is in the minority and protect the rules and attitudes of the majority. Why should I be expected to understand, if I am so utterly opposed to something, why someone else is voting in a particular way – not only understand it, but convey it to whomever I am speaking to?"

Mayor Dawe and Councillors such as Councillor Gaertner, disagreed with Councillor Buck's interpretation of this section, with Councillor Gaertner arguing it is simply there to ensure "Respect for the decision making process."

"I think you're allowed to disagree," she said. "What you're not allowed to do is trash the decisions of Council because it is all

out of respect for the democratic process of Council. That is the way I am reading this section and to me it seems fine."

Ethics, added Councillor Buck, are a "matter of conscience" and something to which everyone has a personal definition. What might be considered ethical to some, might be wide of the mark to others. Nevertheless, Councillor Buck voted in favour of the new Code.

"This is where I find the business of putting into writing certain goals that should be common goals that should be achieved by nine people sitting at the table, [is unreasonable]," she said. "I think it is a sham and I think it is misleading to the community. Furthermore, I don't think the average person in the Town of Aurora expects any more of any of us other than we will do our best."

"The knee-jerk reaction against anyone who would vote against the Code of Ethics is to say, 'alright, you're not in favour of being ethical.' Not so. I am very much in favour of being ethical, but I don't see a document being written like a catechism that everyone puts

their signature on it creating ethics. It has not been my experience."

At the end of the day, Council decided to go chart a new course with a new set of guidelines which were, essentially, a blast from the ethical past. Nevertheless, some

viewed it as a positive step in the right direction.

"It is not for each of us to stand in judgement of one another," concluded Councillor Thompson. "I think that is best left up to the residents. If you have not conducted yourself properly during your term

of office then the issue of punishment, reprimand and consequences will take up the form of them casting a vote beside someone else's name. They are going to choose someone who will conduct themselves to the highest standards ethically."

Duke's Awards mark 50 years in Canada

Continued from page 9

"The main lesson we learned was everyone needs to help out and lend a hand to keep everything running properly. When we got there, it was kind of a mess until people started taking charge in different areas. [The program] gets you to try out a lot of new things and helps you get out of your comfort zone."

Ford started the Duke of Edinburgh Award with the gold firmly in his sights and is now just 10 community service hours away from his personal golden finish line. Over the time it has taken him to get this far, he has not only helped teach countless youngsters how to hit the slopes, learned how to play the guitar, but also

paddled over 100 km and undertaken over 30 portages during his nine day canoe trek.

"The program taught me how much I can accomplish," said Mr. Ford. "It was probably the first real challenge I have had in my life. I was carrying these heavy boxes around my neck while portaging a kilometre and a kilometre and a half. It was pretty tough. There were times where I felt pretty exhausted and ready to call it quits, but when I came back from it I felt I could really achieve most things I set my mind to and I have gone on to try some very challenging things. I know through my experience with the Duke of Ed really helped me pull through them."

"I have gotten new pas-

sions and new experiences that I definitely would not have gotten without it. I have a new love of canoeing, I learned how to play the guitar, I took leadership credits and it was amazing experience."

76 recipients in all from across Ontario received their Silver awards from the Lieutenant-Governor. The program is open to youth ages 14 to 25 and focuses on challenging youth in community service, skill development, physical fitness and adventurous journey.

Since Prince Philip established the Canadian offshoot of the program in 1963, over half a million young Canadians have taken up the challenge, earning their bronze, silver, and gold awards.

Comments raise ire of Councillor

Continued from page 8

"If we are in open session, that will limit my conversation at this stage," he said. "[In the open] I will answer questions to the best of my abilities if I feel comfortable with it, depending on how the nature of the conversation goes."

Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, said she did not believe it was fair to put Mr. Mar in this position to answer to whether or not he could speak to discussions that might take place because he would have no idea of the questions that might be asked behind closed doors. Nevertheless, she said she shared Councillor Pirri's concerns about closed session confidentiality.

"I find myself between a rock and a hard place," she said of the origins of the lawsuit, which can be traced back to the now infamous closed session meeting in September 2010 which authorised Council to take "any and all" measures to address anonymous comments made on the Aurora Citizen blog which Ms. Morris claimed were defamatory. This decision ultimately led to the aborted \$6 million suit against three local bloggers, among others.

"This problem started not in this [Council] term but in the previous term when matters that had no business being discussed by Council were taken behind closed doors [and]

were none of the Town's business, yet were taken behind closed doors and decisions were made. We now have two Councillors who participated in making a decision, which, in my opinion, they had no authority to make.

"They are now part of the whole Council and I have no confidence that what gets discussed stays behind closed doors."

Of the three remaining Councillors left standing from the previous term, including Councillor Buck, only Councillors Wendy Gaertner and John Gallo participated in the September 2010 closed session. Although Councillor Buck did not mention any of her fellow Councillors by name, the implication was clear to Councillor Gaertner, who called a point of privilege to her comments.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said Councillor Buck "expressed a general concern", but she disagreed.

"She expressed a very specific concern that Councillors who were on the last Council and she therefore does not trust them to keep information confidential," said Councillor Gaertner. "I find that completely insulting."

"I have been insulted many times, Mr. Mayor," said Councillor Buck to Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "And I don't have a solution to offer. I share Councillor Pirri's concerns."

Mayor Dawe found in favour of Councillor Gaert-

ner, saying that was not a comment for the table, but Councillor Gaertner pressed on, asking for an apology.

"Councillor Buck, I feel, disparaged my character, my honour, and I want an apology," she said. "That question cannot just be left like that."

Mayor Dawe once again found in favour of Councillor Gaertner and, with Councillor Buck refusing to apologise or withdraw her words, was not recognized for the rest of the evening. She had one parting comment.

"There isn't any neat and tidy way of stating what my concern is and it is not a reflection on Councillor Gaertner's integrity," she said. "They made a decision, they stuck with a decision, they persistently have held to that decision. We have gone in a different direction. It is a concern I have. I am certainly not going to apologise for being concerned."

"CPO" had "amazing experience"

Continued from page 16

Julianne snagged the CPO post in an unusual way. She submitted, as all applicants did, a video for consideration, but rather than explain why she would be the right girl for the job, she sent in a spoof of how "ridiculous" the position was from the perspective of a pompous business tycoon.

She tried to make it as "different" as possible to stand out from the crowd and evidently that did the trick."

As she turns 15 this November, Julianne says she and Toys R Us came to the mutual decision it was time to pass the torch to someone younger. From a personal perspective, as she has aged through the program, her own interests have shifted slightly away from toys – and more towards the arts at St. Elizabeth, where she is studying their vocal program and while she has had a slight change of interests she says her interest in toys remains as healthy as ever.

As her term wraps up, and hopefuls wait to see if their

videos also capture Toys R Us brass' imaginations, she passes on advice received from her immediate predecessor:

"Love every second of it

and enjoy the moment," she said. "A year goes by pretty fast. Like Daniel Wilson, the previous CPO said to me, it is an amazing experience. Just love every second of it."

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Michael Nash and Saarah Khamissa, both students of Aurora High School, and Donna Nguyen of Newmarket's Dr. John M. Denison High School, received their Give Back Awards Friday at Neighbourhood Network after prom and other school commitments made them unable to attend the previous week's ceremony.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Winners have worked locally and overseas

Continued from page 18

Ricardo de Sequeira was noted for his "discipline, commitment, and integrity" in his drive to make a lasting impact on local and international communities. His efforts with Special Olympics, Markham Stouffville Hospital, and working overseas to help refurbish school rooms in Tanzania have combined with his musical gifts to make a well-rounded citizen.

Ricardo is a graduate of St. Andrew's College, as is fellow recipient Jason Lo, whose work with his church summer camp as a volunteer-counselor and coordinator made him a standout recipient.

Representing St. Maximilian Kolbe was Daniel Gary, who was noted for being a "motivational leader" within the St. Max community. As Director of Communications for the York Secondary Catholic Presidents' Council, he has taken it upon himself to find grants to improve the school community and students alike.

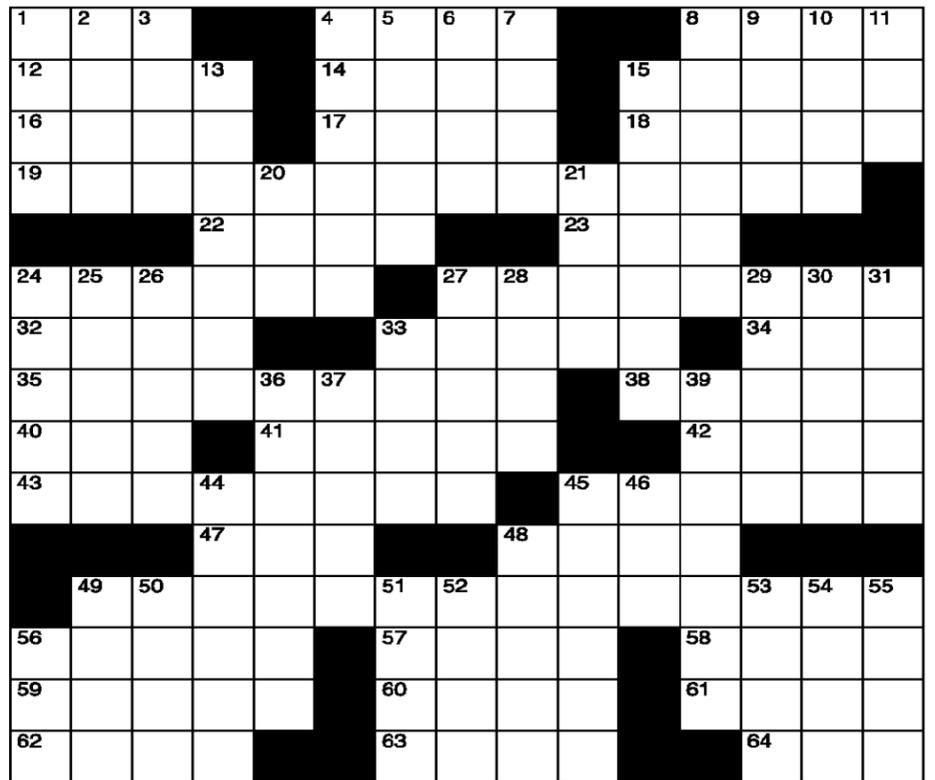
Kara Waites was another recipient from St. Max. Organizers hailed her for her ability to work on a local and global scale, volunteering at Sunrise Senior Living in Aurora, assisting the homeless, and venturing to Ethiopia to teach English.

Laura Bondi and Glenda Willcock, two upcoming

grads at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, ably represented their schools. Laura, organizers said, "seems simply able to do it all" as a member of the school's Best Buddies chapter, active in autism awareness, as well as spearheading initiatives for LGBT equality.

Glenda also has exhibited a bit of an international streak. Active within her church, she is a volunteer with their Children's Clothes Closet and vacation Bible camp, teaches Sunday school, acts as a nursery helper and librarian assistant, and volunteered in both China and Costa Rica, the latter of which had her protecting turtle nests, canal widening, and community beautification.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. ___ Dhabi, Arabian capital
- 4. Invests in little enterprises
- 8. Stalk of a moss capsule
- 12. Beach material
- 14. Maneuver in a game
- 15. A castrated male chicken
- 16. Write bad checks
- 17. Sewer inhabitants
- 18. Farewell (Spanish)
- 19. Player makes 3 goals in one game
- 22. Greek rainbow goddess
- 23. Tax collector
- 24. Make unhappy
- 27. Hygienic
- 32. Double-reed instrument
- 33. Beetle Bailey's dog
- 34. Fee, ____, foe, fum
- 35. One dish meal
- 38. Goatlike antelope
- 40. Consumed food
- 41. Peels
- 42. Emerald Isle
- 43. Duties helpful to others
- 45. Fragments of cloth
- 47. Frozen water
- 48. Spanish river
- 49. Stated an inquiry
- 56. Laid-back California county
- 57. Fearless and daring
- 58. Sound after its source has stopped
- 59. Blackboard rock
- 60. A domed or vaulted recess
- 61. Six (Spanish)
- 62. French city
- 63. Herringlike clupeid fish
- 64. Oriental sauce

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Requests
- 2. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan
- 3. Up to the time of
- 4. Common ankle injury
- 5. Tedium
- 6. 9th Greek letter
- 7. Abnormal closed body sac
- 8. One who obtains pleasure from other's pain
- 9. Long narrative heroic poem
- 10. Possessed by force
- 11. Autonomic nervous system
- 13. Treats with contempt
- 15. Bears
- 20. Before
- 21. Light ringing sound
- 24. Blends of soul and calypso
- 25. Fall off in intensity
- 26. Gives medicine
- 27. Gross receipts
- 28. Square measures
- 29. Ablaze
- 30. Incapable of flexibility
- 31. Bears, sheep or goats
- 33. An open skin infection
- 36. Effeminate
- 37. Competed in a speed test
- 39. Supplies with air
- 44. Short stays
- 45. Sown a lawn
- 46. 60 min. units (abbr.)
- 48. Second largest Oklahoma city
- 49. Fence picket
- 50. 2nd largest Algerian port city
- 51. Camel or goat fabrics
- 52. 19th Hebrew letter
- 53. Frosts
- 54. 17th state
- 55. Inquisitorial
- 56. Manuscripts (abbr.)

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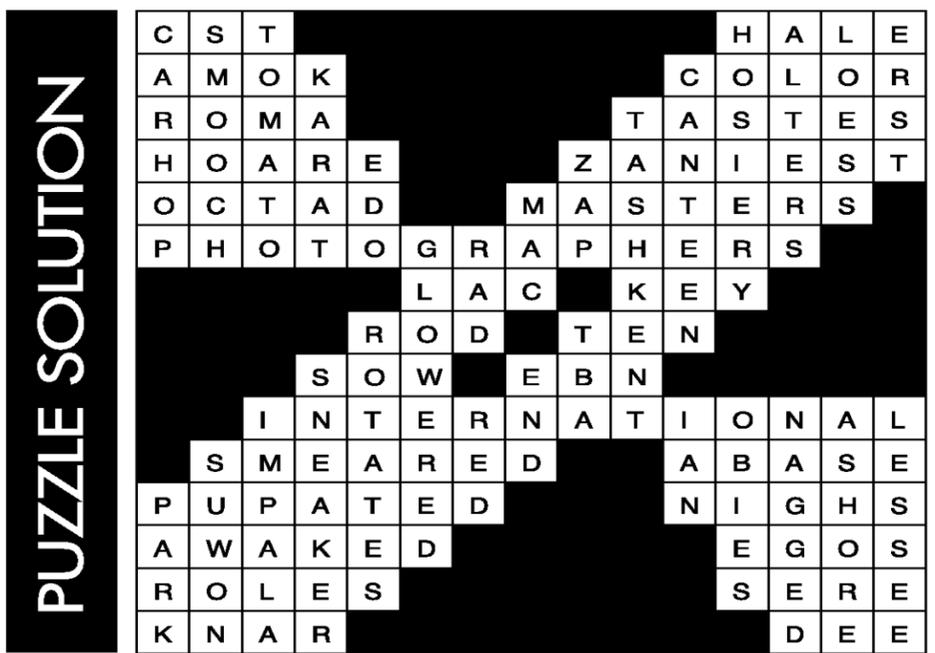
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Last Week's Puzzle Solution



Doors Open at Merlin's Hollow

By Dierdre Tomlinson

Don't miss your chance to visit Merlin's Hollow on Saturday, August 17 as part of the 8th annual Doors Open Aurora event.

It is the first time since 2008 the public will have an opportunity to explore this magnificent garden. Be sure to drop by between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 181 Centre Crescent.

The garden first opened to the public 32 years ago in 1981, after David Tomlinson, the sole builder and landscape architect, created a series of gardens within a garden from the square of grass on the property when it was purchased in 1978.

Enclosed by high cedar hedges, each garden has its own distinct character.

As you enter the winter garden in front of the house you will see handsome snake sculptures by Ron Baird. This leads into the main garden where beds are filled with perennials from twelve inches to eight feet high.

A series of arches invite visitors from one garden to the next. There is a frog pond surrounded by bog beds and extensive rock gardens holding a multiplicity of tiny alpine plants and bulbs.

A quarter-acre fragrant

garden, full of many scents, has a thyme lawn and mauve and white flowers in June. Before the hedges had grown, a friendly neighbour used to look across and say, "Ah, Adam and Eva in the Garden of Paradiso."

This inspired the stained glass window in the gaze-



bo.

The garden is filled with a huge range of plants, most of which were grown from seed. Until recently, 1,000 packets of seeds were sowed each year from different parts of the world from areas of China, New Zealand, the Middle East, Europe and South America.

Each year, 130 bags of leaves are placed on the garden beds, other than the sandy and rock garden areas.

The diversity of flowers in the garden attracts a number of different insects, including many spe-

cies of bees and Mourning Cloak, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Tortoiseshell, Mustard White and Azure Blue butterflies.

More than 90 different species of birds have been seen in the garden, from red and white-winged cross bills, nuthatches, sharp-shinned hawks, wild turkeys and ruffed grouse.

Frogs, toads and fish breed in the pond as well. Bats fly in a lazy figure eight over the garden, hunting insects in the evening. The insects themselves have become as diverse and fascinating at the plants.

The garden is thought by some as a sanctuary for people, who enjoy and learn from what they see. It is good to see familiar faces returning to the garden year after year as well as new visitors.

The garden has attracted many photographers who take incredible photographs of plants, insects or scenes of the garden. Many of these are posted on websites, telling the world what the garden has to offer.

Come and enjoy Merlin's Hollow with family and friends. Be sure to attend the two guided tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Many more sites are also participating this year, including: the Au-



David and Dierdre Tomlinson in their "garden of paradiso", otherwise known as Merlin's Hollow, at their recent public opening on June 8. The Tomlinsons will open their gardens to the public as part of Doors Open Aurora, a returning tradition after taking a few years off.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

rorra Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, the Benjamin Stephenson House, Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora United Church, the Au-

ra Armoury, the Absalom Blaker House, Wells Street Lofts and Horton Place.

For more information about Doors Open Aurora

or to volunteer for the event, please visit www.aurora.ca and click on the Doors Open icon on the front page. We hope to see you there!

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Perhaps you have moved into a new home and are overwhelmed with where to start, or you are downsizing and don't know how to incorporate your existing furniture into your new surroundings. Maybe you have decided to renovate your existing home and the endless decisions are stressing you out. Or could it be you just want to update your home and freshen things up?

The eyes of a qualified, experienced decorator can quickly help you peel through the layers and provide solutions, that will help you achieve the space you desire.

Here are the BENEFITS of enlisting a decorator's services:

1) SAVE YOU MONEY - It may sound strange but hiring a decorator can actually save you money. Think about your time and what it is worth to you. Because of a decorator's experience and contacts, he/she can efficiently do all the sourcing and research for you. Fabrics, furniture, flooring, drapery, lighting, accessories: these are all at our fingertips!

We make sure that the selections we pick for you fit your space and style, and are from reputable suppliers. Have you ever brought home a piece of furniture that was too big or just didn't look right? Ever regretted compromising on quality? These expensive mistakes can be avoided when hiring a decorator.

2) INCREASE HOME VALUE - A home that is professionally decorated can bring you a higher selling price, putting more dollars in your pocket.

3) BUDGET - We work within your budget with access to a wide range of suppliers. It is our job to help you direct

your dollars where you will get the best value.

4) CREATE OVERALL VISION & PLAN - A good decorator can help provide you with an overall plan for your home, so you can do it in stages, as your budget allows.

5) YOUR DREAM HOME - That's what it's all about...utilizing our creative talents, experience, and resources to provide you with a home that you can be proud of. A home that you, your family and friends can create memories in.

How do you decide on a decorator? Ask your friends who they recommend. Some decorators may not be the right fit for you so always feel free to interview him/her to get a sense of their personality and how they like to work. If there is a showroom or store, go have a look and see if the style feels right for you.

Niche Decor's senior designer and owner, Jean Bisnaire, sincerely believes that "as a decorator/designer it's important to listen - all clients have a clear idea of what they don't like and what they do like - when listening you can get a sense of what is important to them: is it entertaining? Is it family time? Is it eating at the kitchen island or the formal dining room every night?" The answers to these questions play an important part of the overall design concept to make sure it works for the particular client.

We at Niche Decor, would be happy to sit down with you and discuss your decorating needs. With friendly designers and decorators on staff feel free to visit either location to get a sense of who we are and why we've been around for over 18 years! It is our goal to create a home that is right for you and your family.

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THE AURORAN



Arts & Culture

Songs of wartime prompt floods of memories

By Brock Weir

Joy Gannicott was just a little girl growing up in Bristol, England during the Second World War.

When the Aurora pianist hears and plays the songs of the era, vivid memories of the trying time come flooding back.

As the Aurora pianist lent her talents to the voices of Aurora's Senior Stars as they took over the Aurora Cultural Centre's Brevik Hall for "We'll Meet Again" – an afternoon of vintage and patriotic music – she was not alone.

"I was a young girl during the war in Bristol, but I also spent many nights in an Anderson shelter and we had many, many nights gathering together and singing to keep our spirits up," she recalled. "I had one little blanket that I took with me when the air raids came and we were out in the shelters.

"It was actually quite a lot of fun. I don't think we realised the danger of it, but these songs are what we did sing."

The songs offered up to the packed crowd, she said, resonated with many of the people because they had lived it themselves. They are songs very "specific" to the period with a patriotism that might be more prevalent and relevant to different generations.

"And did those feet in ancient time?" she pondered of Jerusalem, a favourite with the audience. "Well, do we know? Probably not, but these songs are very connected with the English and everything they went through in the war. It was such a joyful sound today."

For Royal Navy veteran Cliff Davies, singing a cappella is a particular joy. One of the loudest and most enthusiastic members of the group bringing the venerable tunes to life, he said the songs also reminded him of those tentative days.

"The Anderson shelters were in most people's gardens and 90 per cent of the people in the south of England had them," he said. "It was a hole dug in the garden and then corrugated iron put in the shape and they got a double bed in there. Mum and Dad slept in the chairs and the kids slept in the bed. That is what these songs bring back to me. These are about freedom and why we carry the torch."

These songs conjured up different sorts of memories for Dorothy Gummer-sall, an active volunteer in the Aurora Community. Growing up during the war with two elder brothers who had enlisted or were on the cusp of enlisting, she was 10 when the war ended. Known to her eldest brother as "Dot", she almost caused an international incident when she sent him a letter in mock Morse code.

She remembers the air raids overseas and being instructed by soldiers going door to door to put blankets in their windows – cautioning that even the slightest sliver of light that got out from the window panes could be a signal to enemy aircraft above that people were living down below and would drop the bomb.

"That scared the life out of me," she said. No surprise there.

Inspired by the service of her siblings, she joined

the Royal Canadian Navy as soon as she could, serving in various posts and on various ships during the Cold War, including stints on HMCS York and HMCS Esquimalt. Very proud of her service, Ms. Gummer-sall is a familiar fixture at local military and Remembrance Day services, proudly donning the vivid and dramatic caped uniform of a Royal Canadian Navy Medical Nurse.

Among her favourite songs of the era are The White Cliffs of Dover and We'll Meet Again.

"I ended my career after three years, came home, and married the boy I left behind," she said.

Near the end of the recital, some of the more rousing numbers were conducted by Brian Sperry, an active member of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, Senior Stars, the Northern Lights Barbershop Quartet and, as he said, an all-round "general rattle-rouser."

Mr. Sperry first became interested in music of the very early days of his youth and the music of his parents' and grandparents' generations about 40 years ago when he saw an American group tour England offering the lost art of Barbershop, and also the music that led to its demise – the British Music Hall tradition.

"In the year I was born, a society was formed to preserve Barbershop and



Aurora singer Brian Sperry leads the Silver Stars and other songsters at the Aurora Cultural Centre this month in a round of "We'll Meet Again" and "Tipperary." Mr. Sperry and the Silver Stars led the community with "We'll Meet Again" a celebration of music from the 1910s – 1940s.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

we sing only songs that are tuneful, and music that means something," he said.

"Songs that have a message carry people back and it is amazing how many people here didn't have to look at the words because they were embedded from their childhood."



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