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Aurora was well-represented in the Special Olympics Ontario Summer Games over the weekend. (L) Aurora soccer player Gregory Theriault's Barrie-based soccer team took home the Bronze medal, as he hosted them on home turf at St. Andrew's College. (C) Softball star Mary Haberer was thrilled to light the ceremonial torch with York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe at Thursday's opening ceremonies. (R) Isaac Charles kept his eyes firmly focused on the ball, in the softball championships held in Richmond Hill.

Auroran photos by Jeff Doner and Brock Weir

Special Olympians carry the torch with pride

By Jeff Doner

The 2013 Summer Special Olympics went off without a hitch in York Region this past weekend, with athletes from all over the province visiting to participate in a variety of events.

There's no doubt the games provided a lift to York Region, with strong friendship, camaraderie, sportsmanship and teamwork front and centre throughout the weekend.

The games officially opened on Thursday night as athletes were treated to a dinner and opening ceremonies.

St. Andrew's College in Aurora hosted the soccer tournament, welcoming over 230 players for tournament play throughout the weekend. Teams from all over Ontario took part, including teams from Toronto, Brampton, Vaughan, Barrie and as far away as Thunder Bay.

Even though Aurora didn't have its own soccer team, it was well represented by a cast of stellar athletes.

Playing soccer for the Barrie squad

was Gregory Theriault, whose hard work and sportsmanship was welcomed by his teammates and coaches.

"He is just a pleasure to have on the team," said one of the Barrie coaches. "He is an amazing teammate and player and is integral to the team."

Also representing Aurora were Isaac Charles and Mary Haberer, who play softball for the Newmarket Challengers.

Haberer was lucky enough to carry the torch in the opening ceremonies on Thursday and said it was one of the most exciting times of her life.

"It felt so good," she said about the opening ceremonies with everyone cheering her on.

Haberer is no stranger to softball, as she has played roughly 14 years in the outfield and said the team had a blast playing at home in York Region.

"It was good, except we came in fourth place," she said. "But we still had fun. We were dancing on the baseball field before the game. We did the Gangnam style dance. It was so funny; my mom was laughing and

Continued on page 11

Youth Centre could need extra \$2.6 million

By Brock Weir

Aurora's teens and tweens will soon get a better idea of what their Youth Centre will look like.

Architects tasked with designing the Community Space for Youth, which will be tacked onto the south end of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, are expected to present their designs for Council's consideration this week.

But as designs and plans change and evolve, so does the price tag to meet challenges encountered at the Complex.

A report from Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, pegs the new price of the Youth Centre at nearly \$3 million more than previous estimates. \$1 million more will be needed to complete the works originally envisioned for the youth space, while a further \$1.6 million will be needed to address the extra issues, and a possible further new addition to the Complex site.

The price hike, said Mr. Downey, can be attributed to unexpected conditions found when his department and architects took a closer look at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC). The funds are recommended to come out of the Town's Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland reserves.

"During the design process, a major focus was to ensure costs were minimized while delivering the program elements requested by the Steering Committee," said Mr. Downey in his report to Council. "Early in the process, the architect suggested that it would be more cost-effective to construct a one-storey addition to the complex to accommodate a new Fitness Centre and return the existing Fitness Centre back to a gymnasium. It will also provide a better scale to the entrance as opposed to a

Continued on page 7

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TOWN OF AURORA Weekly Notice Board

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thursday, July 18	7 p.m.	Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee
Thursday, August 8	7:30 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment
Tuesday, August 13	7 p.m.	Council
Thursday, August 15	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

AURORA 150 FACT:



Image courtesy of Aurora Historical Society

Tyler Street

This photograph shows Tyler Street during a flood in 1945. Tyler Street was named after William Tyler, one of Aurora's first settlers.

CELEBRATE AURORA 150

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

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

Hoedown Showdown Talent Competition

Magna International is celebrating the 25th year of the "Wild Wild West" Hoedown with a Showdown talent competition at this year's Aurora Ribfest. The Hoedown Showdown is a talent contest that aims to promote aspiring Ontario country singers. The winner will receive a grand prize of \$1,000 and the opportunity to perform in this year's Magna "Wild Wild West" Hoedown on **Saturday, September 14**.



The Hoedown Showdown competition application along with the rules and regulations are available online at www.hoedown.ca with an entry deadline of **Wednesday, July 31**.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Service Disruption

Residents are advised of a scheduled service disruption at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) and Aurora Sports Dome, located at 135 Industrial Parkway North, as the Town repaves the parking lots. Paving will be phased-in to help accommodate resident parking demand.

The disruptions include:

- No parking in front of the AFLC from **Monday, July 8 to Saturday, July 27**
- No parking along the side and rear parking areas of the AFLC from **Thursday, August 1 to Friday, August 9**

Thank you for your patience as these improvements are undertaken.

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 is taking place in June and July.

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

Emerald Ash Borer Update

The Town has contracted with Green Lawn Limited to provide treatment services to combat the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), an invasive insect that kills healthy ash trees.



The contract will provide for the preventative application of TreeAzin, a pesticide approved in Canada that has shown to protect ash trees from the EAB. Approximately 2,000 publicly-owned trees along boulevards and rights-of-way have been identified in the Town's street tree inventory as potential candidates for treatment. Trees meeting the treatment criteria will be marked by Town staff with a small but highly-visible painted dot.

Also, through the terms of the contract, residents who wish to protect ash trees on their property will have the option to contract with Green Lawn for the same price as the Town. Property owners wishing to have their own trees treated using the Town's contractor can contact the Parks & Recreation department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3223 or email stienkamp@aurora.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Concerts in the Park

Bring your family and friends each Wednesday to Aurora Town Park for a live performance. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. Please bring your own blanket and lawn chairs.

Wednesday, July 17 – United Soul Nations
Wednesday, June 24 – The Mud Men

See our Concerts in the Park advertisement for full concert listings.

For more information, contact our Special Events Coordinator at 905-726-4762 or visit us online at www.aurora.ca/specialevents

Summer Youth Drop-In Programs

Monday to Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. until August 16

Youth ages 12 to 16 are invited to Aurora Senior Public School located at 125 Wellington Street West, for exciting drop-in activities including basketball, badminton, arts and crafts, volleyball and movies. Cost is \$3 per activity.

For more information, visit

www.aurora.ca/youthprograms or call 905-841-PLAY.



Movie Madness Fridays

Hotel Transylvania

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: **Friday, July 19** from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Rating: Rated PG

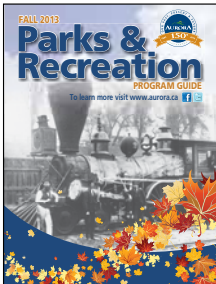
Ages: 12 to 16 year-olds

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

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

2013 Fall Parks and Recreation Program Guide

Look for your copy of the 2013 Fall Parks and Recreation Program Guide being delivered in *The Banner* newspaper on **Sunday, July 21**. Copies will also be available for pick-up at Town facilities and on www.aurora.ca as of **Monday, July 22**.



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!

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

Smoke Alarm Campaign

The campaign is back this summer to serve Newmarket and Aurora residents. Service includes the installation and replacement of smoke alarms, batteries, as well as providing household fire safety knowledge. For more information, or to arrange an appointment, please call 905-895-9222.



e-PLAY is now free!



EFFECTIVE JULY 16, 2013

Effective July 16, the Town's e-PLAY online registration system will be free of charge, with no user fees. As part of this change, the Town is retiring the older Tele-PLAY, telephone-based system as of July 19.

For your convenience, program registration will remain available by mail, fax or in-person at our recreation centres.



For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/e-PLAY or call 905-726-4770.

The Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Aurora ON L4G 6J1



Stop Work orders issued over “illegal” tree cutting, filling in south end

By Brock Weir

Stop work orders were finally hammered into the ground Friday on a property in south Aurora subject to “illegal” clearing and cutting.

Signs were posted and municipal vehicles were placed in front of the entrance of the property on Yonge Street near Vandorf Sideroad. As The Auroran reported on Wednesday, the subject had been in the centre of a storm after 1.5 hectares of trees were removed from the Oak Ridges Moraine property.

The tree clearing is subject to bylaws at the Region of York, while the subsequent dumping on the site is under the jurisdiction of the Town. Both offences are currently under investigation.

In a joint statement released Friday, both the Region of York and the Town of Aurora said they are “reviewing legal options” over the “illegal tree-cutting and illegal fill operation” at the south end of Town.

“After Regional and Town staff was alerted to illegal tree cutting that had already occurred, York Region Forestry staff confirmed the woodland is located on the Oak Ridges Moraine and falls under the jurisdiction of the Regional Forest Conservation Bylaw,” reads the joint statement. “Additionally, illegal placement of fill and site alteration appears to be continuing in contravention of the Town of Aurora fill and zoning bylaws.”

“The owner of the property is 1605772 Ontario Limited; a corporate search has revealed the principal is Stana Strmota. Allcon Concrete and Haulage Ltd. Together with All Bins Inc, operated by Robert Strmota, appears to be conducting the work on the site. Stana Strmota, Robert Strmota, the property owner, and All Bins Inc. have been served notices of violation by the Town of Aurora. To date, the Notice of Violations continues to be ignored.”

According to the Region, staff had previously met with the property owners last year to provide information on their forestry bylaws and application process, but further requests for meeting with the owners were not acknowledged.

Regional Chairman Bill Fisch said the tree cuttings on the land were “devastating”.

“The property owner has knowingly disregarded Regional and municipal bylaws and processes,” he said in a statement. “The removal of mature trees has impacted the forest cover for the Town of Aurora and for the Region as a whole. It is devastating to our environment and, together with the Town of Aurora,



A truck from the Town of Aurora’s Public Works department blocks the path of any further work on a site in south Aurora on Saturday. Municipal bylaw officers hammered in Stop Work orders on Friday evening after an outcry from residents, politicians, and public workers alike for tree clearing and filling without a permit on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

we are sending a clear message that this activity will not be condoned.”

Alarm bells were raised also by Ratepayers of Aurora Yonge South (RAYS), a group which has been very vocal about developments in the Town’s southern quadrant, particularly when it concerns construction on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Speaking about the site on Friday as the Stop Work orders were put in the ground, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, said the whole situation had been handled “very badly” by the property owners. When asked whether an “act now, pay later” could be attributed to the problem, whereby some landowners may see it as more cost effective to violate the bylaws and simply pay the penalty later, he said it is “unfortunate but true.”

“There is just no way to be proactive because you don’t know who is going to go in and do that kind of thing,” he said. “These people are not respecting the rule of law and have been told on a number of occasions to stop doing it and they haven’t stopped.”

Looking ahead, penalties in the offing could include substantial fines both from the Region and the Town, which could ultimately be up for the courts to decide.

“We could get an injunction...but I think, unfortunately, most of the damage has been done,” added Mayor Dawe. “I am not sure what an injunction would get us to do.”

Briefly

SECOND CHANCE TO SEE STANLEY CUP!

Residents will have a second chance to see and touch the Stanley Cup as it makes a return visit to King Township this Sunday, July 21 in Schomberg. Chicago Blackhawks assistant coach – and Aurora native – Mike Kitchen – will bring the cup to Schomberg’s Trisan Centre from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. With a long playing and coaching career on his resume, this is Kitchen’s first Stanley Cup win! You can have your photo taken with Kitchen and the Cup.

ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT FOR HOEDOWN SHOWDOWN

Aspiring local musicians take note – there are only two weeks left to get your applications in for the revived Hoedown Showdown competition looking for “country music’s rising star.” Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on July 31 at www.hoedown.ca. With a grand prize of \$1,000 cash and the right to perform at Hoedown on September 14, preliminary rounds will take place the last week of August and a winner selected September 8 at Ribfest.



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in the PARK

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7, 14, 21, 2013
7 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Town Park (Wells Street and Mosley Street)

Food donations for the local food pantry are greatly appreciated

Charitable barbecue by M&M Meat Shops and Poppers Popcorn on site!

All concerts are FREE!

Concert Line-Up

July 3 - Erick Traplin
A non-stop fun-filled music show for children of all ages! Dance, sing and break some bubbles with Erick to kick-off the summer.

July 10 - The Hip Kings
A high-energy night of jazz-rock and R&B classics played by this great Canadian group.

July 17 - United Soul Nations
One of Toronto’s most versatile bands, United Soul Nations will “play that funky music” and pull you to your feet to dance the night away. Great summer music to groove to!

July 24 - The Mud Men
Fabulous celtic rock like you’ve never heard it before! Join us for a great night of pipes, voice, guitar and fun!

July 31 - Marshall Dane
Marshall’s music is an infectious blend of country and rock which is set to blaze a trail right to your heart. Don’t miss this terrific talent!

August 7 - Neu Jenarashun
Celebrate Caribana in Aurora! For a night to party, come out to hear the irresistible rhythms of this hot soca group.

August 14 - Chuck Jackson and the All Stars
For a hot night of blues and early rock and roll, come out to hear legendary Canadian blues crooner, Chuck Jackson. Chuck is an award-winning singer and one of Canada’s most revered blues vocalists.

August 21 - A Tribute to Billy Joel
Close your eyes and you’re at a Billy Joel performance. A great night of “the piano man” music featuring Jeff Brewer.

Entertainment Sponsors:

Associate Sponsors:

For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.
For more information, visit www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762.

* A nominal fee applies. Concerts are weather-permitting. We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

OUR PAST. PRESENT & FUTURE

Celebrate Aurora!

Mark your calendars for our
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Saturday, September 21!

Are you planning an Aurora 150 event?
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and we will help promote it through social media!

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.

Share your memories at
www.aurora150.ca

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Follow us on Twitter: /Aurora_150

Letters to the editor

Strawberries in bloom at Market festival

Despite the spattering of rain, the strawberries were in full bloom on Saturday June 22 at the Aurora Farmers' Market's Strawberry Festival!

We ate cake and fresh strawberry skewers; we danced to the music of the "Strawberry Jam" courtesy of the Manatee Band- Aaron, Paul & guest bassist, Steve-O.

Thank you to our sponsors who made the special event and band-shell use a reality. Also, thank you to the "Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation" for their generous support towards the success of our event!

Thank you to our brilliant and generous farmers – 19th Avenue, Coopers & Willowtree – who donated 80 quarts of strawberries so that we were able to give out a total of 572 skewers!

And, as you know, berries don't skewer themselves - so three cheers to our volunteers: Issie, Amanda, Bailey and Paniz, who tirelessly washed and skewered berries all day! Thanks as well to Ilia – our volunteer who graciously served trays of berries to our customers.

In keeping with the strawberry theme, many of our vendors offered strawberry-themed products for the day – from fudge to jewellery, to jam and treats. I'd like to especially thank a few of our vendors who kindly put in some extra hours in the kitchen to provide complimentary sweets for the Strawberry Fest – Nicole (Nicolle's Cookies) for crafting the three dozen beautiful cupcakes, and Cathy (Catarina's Kitchen) and Joe (Toscana Bakery) for their delicious strawberry cakes.

It was great to see all of our "regulars", and we loved welcoming new people who came out for the first time to experience the extra features offered by the Aurora Public Library and the Optimist Club that day.

We hope that the three winners of the Market Bag raffle are enjoying their lovely treats, and special thanks to our Market Manager who donated five free passes to Pioneer Village for a lucky raffle winner!

Thank you for helping us celebrate fun, sun and STRAWBERRIES!

We look forward to seeing you at the Market any Saturday!

Sarah Sparks-Pallett
Director, Special Events
Aurora Farmers' Market

Aurora Relay for Life raises nearly \$140,000

On behalf of the Aurora planning committee, we would like to congratulate all who participated in the 7th annual Aurora Relay for Life.

With the theme of Super Heroes Unite, we saw 45 teams, and over 400 participants ranging in age from 13-82 years young, come together to raise over \$139,000!

We honoured our survivors and their caregivers, fought cancer (in Sumo suits) and walked the evening away to great entertainment. To everyone who volunteered their time, came up with creative fundraising ideas, and to those who gave one night to honour those who give so many nights in their personal battles with cancer, we thank you.

Lynn Pearson
Event Chair, Aurora Relay For Life

THE AURORAN

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Machell's Corners

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

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!

A good section of the Commonwealth prepared to get comfortable this weekend, fire up their 24 hour news channels, log onto the internet for one of the invariable web feeds outside of the hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge is due to give birth (and still due at press time) to a future King or Queen.

Womb watch was in high gear, but at least three individuals in Toronto courts last week might have been wise to swing by eBay to pick up the newly designed Royal Baby Barf Bags.

It is a very Canadian scene, so familiar to everyone on Canada Day, seeing people from all corners of the world, right hands raised as one, and pledging allegiance to a country they have now come to hold dear. Amid the group of impending Canadians are many people for whom Citizenship has been theirs since birth, something they may have taken for granted, but feel compelled to also raise their hands to renew their commitment to their country.

"I swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen."

This is what is repeated in either official language in unison as the time-honoured ceremony unfolds. For people looking on, it might seem like a simple recitation but in talking to those who have come from many other parts of the world, some leaving countries in turmoil, others looking for better jobs and an improved quality of life, or often simply following their hearts in obtaining citizens enjoyed by their spouse and/or their children, they are not mere words.

It is the beginning of a new relationship with a country where they have chosen to plant roots, raise a family, and carve out a better existence.

For the Toronto Trio, however, this oath is "the antithesis



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

of democracy", "repugnant", "anachronistic", "repulsive", and, for a man of Irish heritage, a "betrayal" of his republican roots.

Although I don't personally share their views, I am not without a degree of sympathy. I can see some of their arguments, and a couple of them are not necessarily invalid. In my view, however, a *constitutional* monarchy such as ours works quite well within our democratic principles for the checks, balances, and cultural perspective that comes with it as an institution.

Being forced to swear allegiance to a principle they do not believe infringes on their human rights, they argue, and their "inability" to undertake the Oath of Allegiance keeps them from receiving a Canadian passport, voting, or any of the other privileges that come with being a Canadian citizen. At the risk of pointing out the obvious, that is, quite frankly, the point.

People vying for citizenship are given rigorous and comprehensive guides on what it means to be Canadian, our parliamentary democracy, and all other aspects of Canadian identity. It seems unlikely they've only now started to crack the books, seen the Queen's face pop out of an ATM, or flipped a coin.

Yet, Citizenship is a road they've decided to embark on despite knowing the process is anathema to them.

It is, in my view, political grandstanding at best and grandstanding in a time honoured form. This is not the Ontario

Courts' first time to this rodeo. As long as the rights of Canadians are maintained and enshrined into law and maintained by our institutions, it will not be the last.

The fact people have a voice in this matter, a principle also enshrined in our culture, is a good thing. But can we have too much of a good thing?

South of the border lies a republic where rather than swearing allegiance to their President as head of state, they vow to "support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic."

If I fell in love with an American, followed my heart into the States, married, started a family, deciding to share the same citizenship – and all the privileges that come with it – of my wife and children would not be unreasonable.

Would I have the balls to go to the highest court in the land to argue the Oath violates my human rights as I'm vehemently against the Constitution's Second Amendment protecting the right to keep and bear arms? I think not.

Would I go to court and say I couldn't take the Oath of Allegiance because 'all enemies foreign and domestic' is vague and I'm a firm believer in 'know thine enemy'? Probably not.

Would I write to President Obama that before he can enjoy the privilege of my citizenship, an executive order changing the orientation of the American Flag is necessary as I'd like to wear patriotic t-shirts on July 4 and horizontal stripes make me look fat?

Certainly not – although that, again, might be due to a hesitation to state the obvious.

Canada's Oath of Citizenship is not a collection of mere words and not something which should be taken lightly. Nor should it be something that can be easily tinkered with to bend whichever way the political winds are blowing.

AURORAN POLL

Aurora has been presented with an idea to turn three Yonge Street properties, including Hillary House, into a \$10 million heritage park. Would you like to see it become a reality?

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

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!



Things got heated in Theatre in the Park, which was held at Town Park on Friday and Saturday. DUKING it out here are players from the Humber River Shakespeare Company who brought their production of Shakespeare's As You Like It to the bandshell as part of a tour of southern Ontario. The bandshell will be back in action this Wednesday for the third installment of Concerts in the Park, featuring United Soul Nations.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Ottawa Report

The Legacy of Terry Fox

The Government of Canada has announced a new partnership agreement between the Friends of the Terry Fox Collection and the future Canadian Museum of History.

The story of Terry Fox and his “Marathon of Hope” exhibit will open in 2015 in conjunction with the 35th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope.

The exhibit will feature some of the key artifacts from Terry Fox’s Marathon of Hope, which he undertook in 1980 to raise funds for cancer research after losing his leg to cancer at age 18. That journey began in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, on April 12, 1980 and ended 143 days later in Thunder Bay, Ontario, when his cancer returned.

He had completed 5,373 kilometres of his remarkable journey. To date, more than \$600 million has been raised worldwide for cancer research in Terry’s name through the annual Terry Fox Run, held across Canada and around the world, including the Aurora Terry Fox Run which this year takes place September 15 at Sheppard’s Bush.

The Marathon of Hope inspired millions worldwide and this exhibition will ensure Terry Fox’s legacy continues and that as many Canadians as possible learn the story. For more information on Terry Fox visit TerryFox.org.

New option for Old Age Security available

Effective July 1, 2013, seniors can now choose to delay receiving their Old Age

Security (OAS) pension for up to five years, allowing them to receive a higher monthly amount in the future. For every month they delay receipt of their OAS pension, they will receive an increased monthly benefit of 0.6 percent per month, up to a maximum of 36 percent at age 70.

People can defer their OAS pension for as little as one month, or as many as 60 months. For example, if you were to turn 65 today and decided to delay receiving your OAS pension for one year, your monthly amount would increase by 7.2 percent (0.6 percent x 12 months).

The OAS is funded through general tax revenues and is indexed to the Consumer Price Index. It enhances the quality of life of Canadian seniors by providing a modest base upon which to build additional income for retirement. In 2012–2013, it provided 5.2 million seniors with an estimated \$40.4 billion in benefits.

People should consider their personal situations when deciding when to start receiving their OAS pension, including their financial status, life expectancy, and wants and needs.

It is important to note that if people delay their OAS pension, they will not be eligible to receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement and their spouse or



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

common-law partner will not be eligible to receive the Allowance until their OAS pension begins.

For more information on voluntary deferral and how it may affect your retirement plans, visit: www.servicecanada.gc.ca/oaschanges.

Reducing the costs of wireless services

I am pleased to report that our government’s actions to increase competition in the wireless sector and to deliver lower prices are working. Last week CRTC released a comprehensive report showing that the average price of wireless services has decreased by 18 percent since 2008.

In order to provide Canadians with access to the latest technology at better prices, our government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, has:

Set aside Advanced Wireless Services for new entrants to help them break into the market.

Provided new entrants with access to capital by lifting foreign investment restrictions for companies with less than a 10-percent market share.

Introduced strong roaming and tower sharing policies to limit tower proliferation and deliver better services to consumers.

Ensured that at least four players in

every region would be able to acquire spectrum in the upcoming spectrum auctions.

Put in place clear rules to govern the transfer of spectrum licenses with the objective of promoting a more competitive environment by limiting undue concentration of spectrum.

Rest assured we will not let this progress be lost or undermined and will continue to protect consumers and promote wireless competition in every region of the country.

Travelling? Check out Travel.gc.ca

Summer is in full swing and so is the travel season. The newly revamped Travel.gc.ca website provides you a single, authoritative and comprehensive source for all government-related travel information—from smart packing tips to Canada-United States border waiting times, and from travel advice and advisories to fact sheets on health and more.

Travellers also have access to a new mobile application called Travel Smart, enabling you to find Government of Canada information and services related to international travel from anywhere in the world. This year before you travel, check out Travel.gc.ca to help ensure a safe and rewarding travel experience.

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

Summer Musings 2013

Before this column returns (after a short hiatus due to a summer vacation) to the local themes of people, politics and public affairs, below are some unconnected, stream-of-conscious and (most likely) incoherent musings and observations regarding the spring and early summer season in Aurora.

First, I thought that energy policy would have been a very important part of the public discourse during the fall 2011 provincial election, and except for the issue of wind turbines in a couple of the rural ridings, it was not.

The last time energy was even spoken about was in 2003 when the provincial Liberals promised to close the coal-fired plants in the province by 2007 (this is now scheduled to happen by the end of 2013), but this issue was not front and centre at the time.

I do expect that energy policy, and specifically the issues of pricing, supply mix, siting of gas fired and wind generation, plus the continued roles of nuclear generation to be part of the electoral equation come the next provincial vote.

But I don’t believe it will be the major issue.

I think the next provincial election will be this fall and the Liberals will want it to be about transit.

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.

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

Second, Ron Wallace, the former editor and publisher of this newspaper, has been announced as the Aurora Citizen of the Year.

Certainly well deserved.

I was disappointed that I was not available to see Ron eventually receive his award. I am indebted to Ron for giving me the opportunity to begin penning this column over seven years ago.

Besides being a reporter, politician, and entrepreneur, part of Ron’s legacy will be that he has brought this community closer together and improved our democracy with this newspaper.

Although the population of Aurora is not



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

that large at around 55,000, and although the physical dimensions of the town are not that vast, everyone is very busy trying to raise families, and to pay the bills. Ron’s newspaper has made us feel closer by covering a large amount of community events and giving people the opportunity to air their views on

issues of the day.

I wish Ron and Patti all the best!

The third item concerns my son.

Ryan finished grade four on June 28th. I was going through a folder of the work that he has been doing in various subjects over the past few months. It was interesting reading his short stories and the types of lessons that his class is being taught.

But what really caught my eye was a blue folder. Inside the folder was a section entitled, “Eating healthy with Canada’s food groups.”

After reading the materials, my rhetorical question is this: since Ryan seems to know all about the food groups, why does he consistently persist in stating that ice cream and Pringles chips are one of the basic food groups and should therefore be consumed on

a daily basis?

An appropriate way to end this rambling soliloquy would be for me to make three of my patented, dead-on and fearless election predictions for the next few months. Here goes.

First, the provincial Tories will squeak through with a two seat minority in the closely and hotly contested ensuing election to be held this fall. The Liberals will finish second, five seats ahead of the NDP in the one hundred and seven seat Legislature.

*Second, Tyler Bozak will resign with the Toronto Maple Leafs while Mikhail Grabowski will be traded in July. Phil Kessel will sign a long-term contract with the Leafs before Christmas, but Captain Dion Phaneuf will not.

And last, the Toronto Blue Jays will finish the year with 91 wins and be awarded one of the Wild Cards. They will then win the AL Crown and go to the World Series where they will lose to the “my” Cincinnati Reds in six games.

Have a happy and safe summer everyone!

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

**Editor’s note: Written before Stephen’s vacation, he might now be on a hot streak with his predictions.*

York Region faces human trafficking problem

By Peter Davey

Although not illuminated by red lights or marked by scantily clad women standing on street corners, York Region faces the disturbing and worldwide problem of human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

According to the York Regional Police Drugs and Vice unit, there have been 18 reported cases of sexually exploited trafficked women in the region since 2009.

According to the U.N., human trafficking is the exploitation of a human being and, every year, thousands of men, women and children globally, fall prey to traffickers. In Canada and York Region, victims of traffickers are not smuggled across borders, said Detective Rebecca McGregor, but come from small towns and different regions.

Since 2007, Canada has had 111 reported cases of Canadian females and children being trafficked, said Detective Constable McGregor. 90 per of those were domestic.

York Regional Police detectives McGregor and Thai Truong presented the Drugs and Vice Unit's strategy for combating human trafficking at the police services meeting last month.

Inspector Keith Merith, who introduced the presentation, said a switch in practice in 2008 has made the YRP progressive in combating trafficking and assisting the victims. He also said the police had made a mistake with their

previous policy.

"Looking back, we had it wrong. We did it wrong," he said. "We saw victims [prostitutes] back then as willing participants in the matter. Looking back, we made a critical error in the way we were policing."

Det. McGregor noted that no one should think that this could never happen to them or someone they know. Anyone can be a victim. However, traffickers prey on girls with vulnerabilities.

"Low self-esteem, the need to be loved, or from a broken home and looking for a better life, are all vulnerabilities preyed upon by predators," she said. "Even girls in schools can be seeking money to continue their education."

After luring girls into thinking they are loved, or showering them with gifts, they isolate them from their family and community and begin the abuse and exploitation. The average age of entry into prostitution in York Region is between 14-16 said Detective Truong.

While a horrendous violation of human rights, trafficking is a difficult matter to investigate and police, said Det. Truong. During the presentation, a surveillance video was played in which a trafficked woman fled her captor. Not shown on the screen, was a police car parked in an adjacent lot, opposite from where the women fled.

"As investigators, we know what to do when someone calls 911 and says 'I need your help,'" said Truong, but its complicated when the case is a trafficked person.

"We know she is a victim, but she is not calling us or her community or coming into a police station."

Suniana Mannan, a social worker with the Women's Support Network of York Region, says it is still unclear how the police will approach trafficked prostitutes and this leads many to avoid them.

"It is not clear enough on how, or if, they will charge sex workers," said Ms. Mannan. "This means more people are going to networks as opposed to the police."

McGregor said that courts are starting to recognize that girls facing prostitution charges were vulnerable and that it was the pimps who were preying on them. However, it remains difficult to tackle.

"We have an uphill battle in our communities of trying to offer assistance to some of these girls and some of these victims," she said.

York Regional Police are combating this problem through awareness and aggressive enforcement. A main aspect is teaching social assistance workers and hotel staff about trafficking red flags. Seeking a cheap and low-risk place to do business, many pimps use hotels as venues. Signs such as consistent refusal of maid service, a third-party checking in, limited personal belongings and frequent requests for fresh towels are signs which the police say may indicate prostitution is taking place.

"We are a very aggressive team. We go out looking for our victims," said McGregor. "Our victims don't come looking for us, we actively

look for our victims." The police look for violent pimps and juveniles, taking the pimps into custody and rescuing the victims.

The Women's Support Network fights to reduce and prevent sexual assault of women in York Region, said Ms. Mannan. They launched an anti-trafficking project in 2011 and have received 40 calls from women being trafficked in the Region.

Their 24/7 crisis line puts women in touch with legal support, employment, medical care and immigration help.

"Education is huge as a lot don't have high school diplomas or any work experience," said Ms. Mannan. "Because the age of targeted girls is so

young, they miss out on the education and experience requisite for any sort of employment."

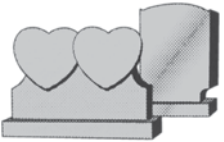
The network's next step

is forming an advisory group from women who have escaped trafficking and are looking to help others and move forward.

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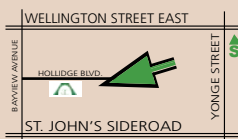
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New sidewalk could make things easier for shoppers

By Brock Weir

Pedestrians could soon have an easier way to access shopping and services on Earl Stewart Drive.

Council is set to approve a new sidewalk project for the east side of Earl Stewart Drive this week which would provide shoppers on foot with better access to local businesses, and destinations such as Superstore, an LCBO and The Beer Store.

A sidewalk is currently on the west side of the street, allowing foot traffic from the residential neighbourhood at the northwest corner of St. John's Sideroad and Bayview Avenue near St. Andrew's Valley Golf Course, but Aurora's Accessibility Advisor recommended a sidewalk on the east side from St. John's to Pedersen would be in order.

If approved, the project comes with a nearly \$116,000 price tag.

"The need for the proposed sidewalk on the east side of Earl Stewart Drive...was identified resulting from concerns from residents attempting to access the Superstore from St. John's Sideroad," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in a report to Council. "The proposed sidewalk will provide safe pedestrian access to the Superstore and the surrounding businesses that complies

Continued on page 13



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Cost increase attributed to bringing Complex up to code, infrastructure

From page 1
two-storey gymnasium.”
A Youth Centre has been considered for the Town of Aurora for nearly 12 years. After years of debate, master plans, and going back to the drawing board, the wheels were finally put truly in motion last fall. In addition to getting Council’s approval to move ahead with the plan, the Parks and Recreation Department also took their plans to public meetings held at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School to gauge the interests of local students.
While they had many ideas of what they would like to see in a youth centre, including a skate park, which is currently

being designed by the Canadian Ramp Company, a key message staff and Councillors took home with them was that the youth wanted to be fully involved in steering what will ultimately be a space for them.
In addition to the architects, Williams student Kyle Nice has been part of the Youth Committee bringing this into fruition, as have Hanna Thiessen and Kristina Reed of Aurora High School, along with Courtney Collard, Alessia Chisena, Leandra Scaccia, Jason Kwan, and Sharif Mansour, all students at St. Max.
Designs put forward this week are expected to include distinct fitness and

aerobic areas, five activity rooms, a climbing wall, new change rooms, a teaching kitchen, a “dedicated youth space”, a snack bar, a running track, and a full-size gym.
“Renovations have been more extensive than first envisioned in order to address the program needs of the Steering Committee,” Mr. Downey notes in his report. “The design concept, as presented, will require an additional \$1 million in order to complete the works.”
When the plan to build the Community Space for Youth onto the AFLC came up for approval by Council earlier this year. It was met around the Council table with mixed reviews with some, such

as Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel, supporting the concept, stating it was the right choice and the right location.
Others, such as Councillor Wendy Gaertner, voted against the plan, not only because it is not central and easily accessible by Aurora’s youth, but also because, in the off hours, this youth space would be available to other community programs, such as popular seniors’ activities. Therefore, in her view, the proposal was not truly a “youth centre”.
Earlier discussions were also cited in the debate where Councillors mulled tearing down the AFLC altogether and starting fresh, arguing it was a poorly constructed “white elephant.”
Additional costs to the Youth Centre project have been found because of the building’s current condition. According to Mr. Downey’s report,

previously questioned soil conditions in the area have proven to be a problem requiring additional work, and a previously unidentified storm sewer pipe was found in the way.
Several additions and further modifications to the building made since its construction do not meet the building code, including change rooms, and the running track. \$200,000 will be needed to replace the track.
Despite the cost setback, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe says he continues to back the youth space at the AFLC.


“I still think it is the right location,” he says. “There were suggestions that maybe we should just tear it down and build a new one at the other side of the parking lot. You’re into very substantial building costs. This will extend the life of the building by a substantial percentage.
“Was it a white elephant? There were parts of it that weren’t built well, which was proved, and quite frankly that is one of the problems with going to the lowest bidder. You mostly get good work but that is not always the case.”

Three options to be presented for Aurora Collection’s future

By Brock Weir
Select pieces from the Aurora Collection, a large group of artefacts which tell the story of Aurora’s past, are now on display at the Aurora Cultural Centre --- but while these artefacts show where they have been, there might be a clearer sense of where they are going this week.
Councillors will consider three options on the future of the Aurora Collection this week. The options follow direction given by Council last month to allocate up to \$100,000 towards the collection along with a report on how historic pieces can be managed and conserved.
Since that time, further discussions have taken place between Al Downey, Aurora’s Director of Leisure Services and Catherine Richards, Curator for the Aurora Historical Society, charting the way forward.
“We [were] concerned that the funding provided was not clearly stated as one-time or base funding,” said Mr. Downey in his report, which hopes to clear up some of the uncertainty.
The first option is to provide base funding of \$100,000 for the collection, hiring a full-time curator to oversee matters. This person would handle much

of the administration surrounding the Aurora Collection, which will become property of the Town of Aurora should this go forward. They would also coordinate exhibitions, activities, and conservation efforts.
“The position’s primary responsibility will be focused on the collection and no exhibition of the collection is anticipated, with the exception of developing the inaugural Aurora Sports Hall of Fame exhibition, in the event Trillium funding is secured, and continuing the loan and material for display at the Aurora Public Library,” says Mr. Downey in his report.
Adding a part-time curatorial assistant under the \$100,000 would help maintain public access to the collection, he notes.
The second option would be to provide a one-time-only cash infusion of \$100,000 into the collection, which would include the hiring of a curator for a one year period. This accounts for one full-time position, without support staff, which would include responsibilities such as asset management, administration, conservation, and organization. \$60,000 would be allocated for the new curator, while the

balance would go towards office expenses.
The third option would outsource operation of the Aurora Collection, with an undetermined price tag.
“A reduced funding model from the report presented to Council in February 2013 would permit the care and management of the Collection, a primary concern identified in the report,” said Mr. Downey. “The reduced funding, however, does not allow for the opportunity to provide exhibition of the Collection, as well as the development of sponsorship, partnership or grant programs to help sustain the Collection, with the exception of the Sports Hall of Fame.
“Staff are confident that this initial funding will enable a successful transfer of the Collection to the Town.”
The success, however, depends on a meeting of the minds.
Speaking ahead of this week’s Council meeting, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said he was in favour of the third option. Putting the word out there that having a third party do it would be a good first step in determining the best financial course of action,” he said.
“[We would] find out
Continued on page 17




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The doctor eventually may say... “I’ve done all I can do, you just need to learn to live with it...”
After exhausting the list of medications you may also be told it’s “all in your head” and they may even send you to a psychiatrist for anti-depressant drugs.
You may have gone through months, if not years, of grueling tests and drugs with horrible side effects.
It is clear that sufferers need much more information on what Fibromyalgia really is and how they can help themselves.
There are other approaches, beyond the use of drugs, that have

safely and effectively helped many Fibromyalgia sufferers improve their lives dramatically.
To help sufferers, a workshop is being offered to reveal effective ways to feel better; increase energy, improve sleep and improve quality of life. The workshop is at no-charge as a community service.
There are other approaches, beyond the use of drugs, that have safely and effectively helped many Fibromyalgia sufferers feel better.
The workshop will be held on Wed July 24, 7:30 pm - 9 pm at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd Unit 10, Richmond Hill. Seating is limited.
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Doors Open Aurora Welcomes New Sites

By Vanessa Hicks, Heritage Planner
The Town of Aurora

The 8th annual Doors Open Aurora event takes place on Saturday, August 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is your chance to become a tourist in your own backyard. Participation is free; no tickets or reservations required! Come out and join thousands of visitors exploring Aurora's hidden treasures, many of which are not normally open to the public. Doors Open Aurora welcomes back community favourites such as the Aurora Public Library, the Aurora Armoury, Hillary House & Koffler Museum of Medicine, Aurora United Church, Merlin's Hollow, the Benjamin Stephenson House, and the Charles Henry Sheppard House. This year, Doors Open features a number of exciting new sites including Horton Place and the Tailor's House. Horton Place, located at 15342 Yonge Street, is an extremely well-preserved example of the

Italianate architectural style, built for Dr. Alfred Robinson and his family and named after their ancestral home in Yorkshire, England. Dr. Robinson was a dental surgeon who worked throughout York Region. The building was purchased in 1901 by the Webster-McIntyre

has only 500 sq. ft. on each floor and was constructed by Edward Andrews for his family which included his wife Mary and eleven children. The house was owned by the Andrews family for 116 years. The building was renovated for various commercial uses starting in 1988. Today, the Tailor's House now houses a boutique-style bridal shop known as "The Gown." Don't miss your chance to tour each of the new sites participating in this year's 8th annual Doors Open Aurora event and enjoy our local heritage. Stay tuned for more information on Doors Open Aurora 2013 in The Auroran in the coming weeks! For additional information about new sites featured at this year's Doors Open Aurora event or to volunteer, please visit www.aurora.ca/doorsopen2013. Download the Volunteer Application Form and send it to us! Contact information is available on the Application Form.



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As the GTA recovers from its recent face to face encounter with the fury of Mother Nature, I think it is high time that our elected officials deal with a serious issue that was laid bare by the storm and its aftermath – our fragile, critical infrastructure.

Yes, road repair and sewage maintenance and bridge building isn't sexy. No Council wants to blow its entire capital budget on fixing the roads. However, just like you don't install a \$20,000 gourmet kitchen when what you need is a new roof, sometimes the bright and shiny toys of grand municipal projects need to be mothballed and funds invested instead in the maintenance and planning of our critical infrastructure – the things you don't see until they fall apart.

Repair and Replacement (R&R) has languished on the sidelines of budget deliberations for so long that we are now at the stage where patchwork repairs might no longer be possible; whole-scale replacement of key pieces of infrastructure will probably be needed in the very near future in Aurora, as it will be in many communities.

Aurora is not there. We do not have our own mini-version of the crumbling Gardiner Expressway in our midst. We have many, many roads that need repair and resurfacing. We have aging sewage systems that need relining, repair or just replacement. We have culverts and swales and other water management systems that similarly



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

It Ain't Sexy

need updating, repairs or replacements.

With regards to the threat of flooding in particular, there are, of course, the hydrogeological realities of the Town of Aurora.

As most people are aware – certainly those with active sumps in their basements – we sit on top of a very high water table. Aurora has a number of watercourses, both surface and buried, that crisscross the municipality. This can pose significant risks to both infrastructure and residential dwellings alike during substantial rains.

With heavy downpours, the ground becomes super-saturated and, combined with the existing high water table, there is literally nowhere for the water to go.

The fact that more and more of our community is being paved over and covered with impermeable surfaces exacerbates this problem.

But what can be done? It comes back to the decision-making processes themselves. Budget deliberations are only part of the issue. How many years have we watched as Council after Council

shaved percentage points off the funds going into the Capital Reserve fund – literally the Rainy Day Fund – to bring down the tax levy despite the pleas from our Treasurer to do otherwise?

When the day of reckoning comes and a major piece of infrastructure fails, will we have the funds necessary to address the problem? If we are like most of the municipalities in our fair province, I believe the answer is "no".

Budget decisions are only part of the problem. It is the cumulative effect of planning decisions and budgeting decisions that pose the most serious risk to future infrastructure functionality and viability. Decision-making processes at the municipal level are undertaken in isolation.

Councils are forced to look at what's on the table rather than how the decision before them is impacted by previous decisions and impacts future decisions – planning, budgetary or otherwise.

I mentioned the concept of triple bottom-line analysis in a column a few weeks back. This concept speaks to the need to consider the social, environmental and financial implications of any decision made. Yes, it is complicated. Yes, it is often time consuming... and yes, on its face it often leads to a more "costly" decision – at least at first.

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

I spent this past Tuesday at the Aurora Seniors' Centre and what a full day of activities it was.

My day started with a game of Bocce on the new Bocce Courts. Organized play for all members of the Centre is scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10, weather permitting. The Bocce Courts are available for ASA member use only Monday to Friday from 9 to 4 on a first come first served basis. This Tuesday was the day after the "big rain" but the courts were well drained and well constructed and therefore good fun and good sportsmanship was the order of the morning. Nobody got hurt.

Following Bocce, I joined the very social Bid Euchre activity.

There was a great turnout and fun was had by all. Bid Euchre is also organized and run by dedicated volunteers like Lee and Luba (I call her Luba because she is so nice and so helpful) who do a great job of ensuring fair play, good fun and consideration for all players. If you want to play Bid Euchre you can arrange for lessons at 10 am on Monday mornings. Just telephone the Front Desk ahead of time and they will arrange the instruction for you. If you already play Bid Euchre you can join the other enthusiasts each Tuesday and Thursday at 1.00 p.m. in the Card Room of the Seniors' Centre.

Remember, Bid Euchre is GOOD FOR YOU! It stimulates the brain, and makes you think.

You'll also meet some



SENIOR SCAPE

Jim L. Abram

Totally Tuesday!

very nice people and have lots of laughs.

"OLD AGE IS NOT FOR SISSIES"

As if that wasn't enough activity for the day, I stayed for Tuesday Movie Night. This special evening began with some complimentary snacks, popcorn and a cash bar with wine, beer and pop available.

The audience members then moved into the West McKenzie Room which was set up for 100 persons to enjoy the popular comedy, "Quartet" on the big screen. ASA volunteer, Mike Ilkiw, does a great job selecting the movies and running the event.

Mike welcomed the audience, drew lucky draw tickets then showed the Bugs Bunny – Yosemite Sam Looney Tunes cartoon "Bunker Hill Bunny" to the great amusement of the crowd!

The directorial debut of Dustin Hoffman, "Quartet" is a comedy starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Michael Gambon and Pauline Collins.

"Quartet" tells the story of Reggie (Courtenay), Wilf (Connolly) and Cissy (Collins) who reside in

Beecham House, a home for retired opera singers. Each year they stage a concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday, which also raises funds for the home.

Reggie's ex-wife Jean (Smith) arrives at the home and creates tension, playing the diva part but refusing to sing in the concert. "Quartet" was written by Sir Ronald Harwood. Every Diva deserves an encore.

Tuesday Night at the Movies starts at 6.30 sharp and is restricted to the first 60 people. The cost is \$1.50 for ASA members and \$2.00 for their non-member guests.

The price includes the movie, refreshments and popcorn.

SUMMER BBQ CONTINUES

Our thanks to Councillor John Abel for being our guest-chef on the BBQ on Wednesday and all the volunteers that assisted. Come and enjoy a special summer BBQ hosted by the Chartwell Retirement Residences at the Aurora Seniors' Centre on Wednesday, July 17.

Reservations are required. The cost is \$5 per person. The proceeds from this event will be generously donated to the Canadian Diabetes Foundation.

My Final Word: Happiness has no limits.

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.

Stinger Girls celebrated for BMO win

By Brock Weir

They’ve “got a passion in their team and they ain’t afraid to show it.”

That’s the cheer of Aurora’s U9 Stinger Girls. As they were celebrated as the Bank of Montreal’s Team of the Week on Friday evening, their passion for their team and their passion for the community was reflected right back at them.

The soccer team was named the Bank of Montreal’s Team of the Week in the lead-up to Canada Day. One of just 15 teams which will be selected throughout the summer from well over 400 entries, BMO celebrated their achievements with a special party and celebration at their Bayview and Wellington Branch.

There, they not only celebrated their team, but they also received some nifty BMO Swag and \$500 for their charity of choice – the Aurora Food Pantry.

“You guys were a highlight to us from the very beginning,” said Katelyn May, Ontario representative for the BMO Team of the Week Program. “The things you have been doing are absolutely incredible and we want you to know we appreciate it very much and you deserve to be recognized as one of the top 15 teams in all of Canada.”

Friday’s celebration was also attended by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, who paid tribute to the girls, the coaches, and their efforts lending a hand to the Mayor’s Anti-Litter Day in April, along with Aurora Food Pantry chair Lorna Rummenie and treasurer Monica Day.

“The money will go to buy food for the need of Aurora,” Ms. Rummenie told the girls. “Each week we buy milk, margarine and eggs and some hamburger these days when we get extra money. We get vegetables. Some have community gardens and supply us with vegetables and we are so thankful.”

Gathered outside the bank were not only the Stingers girls, but Bank of Montreal employees, and a flood of proud parents, grandparents, team supporters and, of course, coaches.

For Coach Christine, the easiest thing to say about the Stinger Girls is they were a team from the moment they stepped onto the field, and that has continued well off the grass. They seek out opportunities to spend time together outside of the beautiful game, she said, and, all importantly, they actually enjoy it.

“We’re a team that genuinely cares about and gets involved in our

community,” she said. “From participation in the Aurora Santa Claus and Canada Day Parades to the 1 kilometre race we did raising funds for Strides for Stroke, to attendance at the Mayor’s Anti-Litter Day, to sponsoring a family through the holiday heroes program, the best part is we’re not done getting involved.”

The Stingers’ support has not been limited to runs, picking up litter, or volunteering at local parades. They have also given back on the personal level to Carter, a Newmarket boy who, they say, is “braver than any person they have ever known.” Made an honorary Stinger after the girls decided to dedicate a season to them, they now wear his name emblazoned on their jerseys and he affectionately calls them “his team.”

The mere mention of his name brought forward grins and enthusiastic applause from every U9 Stinger.

“We understand that our success does not come easily,” said Coach Christine. “It is our effort and our attitude that get us there. Soccer is what brought us together, but it is kindness, compassion, and commitment that keeps us glued. Talent is what got us where we are, but character will keep us here.

“They say it takes a village to raise a child, so I am going to say it takes a community to raise a team. In our community, we have 12 delightful, spunky, and hardworking girls. We have committed families, supportive siblings, technical direction and leadership, club support, sponsors who help to fund what is surprisingly not an inexpensive sport.

“What’s different for these girls is in a world that is seemingly egocentric and fixated on image there are memories we are creating as a team when they are not kicking the soccer ball around. The memories of sponsoring and honouring a little boy whose battle is far more important than any soccer battle they are ever going to face; the memory of sponsoring a family that wasn’t quite as fortunate as we are; buying boots, and hats, and snow pants, rather than toys and the latest electronic device; imagine the impact these memories are going to have on their own children one day and perhaps even a sports team they have the privilege of coaching.”

Looking out into the collection of parents either beaming or dabbing their eyes in pride, Coach Christina said the biggest pride parents see when

looking at their daughters is “the kind, caring committed little girl they are raising.”

“It’s easy to say we’re a team on and off the field, but we’re so much more than that – we’re a life team.”

If it takes a community to raise a team, you can help raise your local team to be the grand champions in BMO’s Team of the Week by logging onto bmosoccer.com, clicking ‘Find a Team’ and searching for Aurora. Your support to push them over the top, will not only land the Stingers the ultimate glory, but a significant investment from the Bank in Aurora’s own sports fields.



The spirited Aurora U9 Stinger Girls let out a very enthusiastic cheer on Friday night at the Bank of Montreal at Yonge and Wellington. The Girls were honoured by the Bank for being selected BMO’s Team of the Week in the lead-up to Canada Day, and they are continuing to vie for community support for the ultimate prize.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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(From Left) Mayor Geoffrey Dawe is hugged by an athlete as he presents gold medals in soccer at SAC on Saturday. Glass Tiger had the crowds up on their feet at Thursday’s opening ceremonies in Newmarket. Medals awarded, the less formal closing ceremonies on Saturday had a party atmosphere. Isaac Charles was one of two participants who took the Athletes’ Oath on behalf of all.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir and Jeff Doner

York’s athletes had home field advantage – and liked it!

From page 1

crying.”

Isaac Charles, a six-year veteran of the Special Olympics, also plays basketball and soccer.

In total, York Region welcomed over 1,000 athletes, making it the largest provincial games yet.

The athletes competed in softball, soccer, rhythmic gymnastics, golf and track and field, with each sport being held at different venues across the region.

Athletes show dance moves at Closing Ceremonies

On Saturday night, over 1,000 athletes and 500 volunteers took to the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket to take part in the closing ceremonies where the athletes were celebrated before the event turned into an all out dance party.

Regional Chair Bill Fisch said the games were a resounding success.

“Over the last four days, York Region has been transformed,” he said. “I’m so proud our community came together. Everyone here is a winner...I have never enjoyed myself so much.”

Police Chief and co-chair Eric Jolliffe was equally proud of the Special Olympics and all the athletes.

“It’s been a great three days here in York Region,” he said to a raucous crowd. “The level of sportsmanship has been truly incredible. We have truly enjoyed being a part of these games. Athletes, you are truly inspiring.”

York Regional Police hosted the event for the second time and officers joined civilian volunteers to make the event possible.

CEO Special Olympics Ontario Glenn MacDonell praised York Region and the York Regional Police for their hard work.

“If the primary benefits of these games is only to be a fun-filled three day event, then we’re doing something

wrong. Not so this time, the people of York Region began planning a legacy for these games long before the games even started and we’re the ones who are awarded for it.

“The Special Olympics will be stronger and our program will be bigger in York Region and across the province because of the vision of this region, this police service.”

Two of Newmarket’s athletes were given the honour of helping out with the closing ceremonies. Dana-Michelle Damiani carried out the torch and was amazed by the crowd.

“I was so happy to do it and we’re all stars here now. I feel great,” she said.

Her husband Ryan Damiani carried out the flag and was thankful to be able to take part.

“It feels really awesome,” he said. “That was the first time I have done that, so it was really nice. The police were really nice; the whole crowd here was awesome. We couldn’t have done it all without all the help.”

Stouffville’s Matthew Nighswander made an inspiring speech that roused the crowd before the dance party.

“I just feel privileged, because I’ve always wanted to do this in York Region and just making our dreams come true,” he said after the ceremony.

“It’s amazing that they chose me to speak on everyone’s behalf and when I heard the cheers I was very happy that they liked what they heard.”

He was also proud of his home York Region for hosting such a great games.

“It was just amazing. Not just the competition, but just being able to say you’re in your own backyard playing the game you love in the sun. We just tried our best.”

Special Olympics Ontario is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit by offering year-round training and competition in 18 core sports.

More than 18,000 athletes in 1,700 clubs across the province reap the

benefits of participating in Special Olympics, which include improved fitness levels, self-confidence, an opportunity to experience and succeed in sport and understand teamwork and leadership.

For results and more information, visit www.specialolympics2013games.com.



Breakfast of Champions

Spotlight



Portrait of a Champion

By Sarah Smith, Evolution Gymnastics

This summer, Evolution Gymnastics Aurora Men’s Artistic (MAG) gymnast Brendan Canning is training twelve hours a week in preparation for the next season of Provincial-level competition.

Just shy of his 15th birthday and six years into his gymnastics career, Brendan is riding a wave of physical maturation that is helping him succeed in a sport that requires above-average strength, power, flexibility, agility, spacial awareness, and balance. Now that’s cross-training!

Brendan says he was attracted to gymnastics because of the increasingly difficult progression of the skills. In gymnastics, it’s never boring, because once you master one skill, there’s a more complex version waiting. Plus MAG athletes train & compete on six different apparatus: Floor Exercise, Parallel Bars, High Bar, Rings, Vault & Pommel Horse.



Brendan credits his “excellent & knowledgeable” coaches (currently Sean Heaslip and Warren Bisbee) for teaching him the benefits of constructive criticism, and as the current “senior” in his program, he now provides this same kind of feedback to the younger boys training with him.

During the 2012/2013 season, Brendan earned medals at every competition he attended, including a gold medal on Rings & a silver medal All-Around. At Ontario Championships, Brendan was awarded the silver medal on High Bar & Rings, and a bronze medal on Parallel Bars.

Even so, his favourite event is Floor, where he is now conquering a variety of complex tumbling lines, including saltos (somersaults in the air).

Following in the footsteps of Alex Pritchard-Oh & Kieran Sutch, it’s now Brendan’s turn to lead and inspire Evolution’s growing team of MAG athletes.

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Chicago Blackhawks' Daniel Carcillo brought the Stanley Cup home to King City for a public celebration on Sunday. Hoisting the cup above the crowds from a fire engine, he was joined on stage by King Mayor Steve Pellegrini and Councillor Avia Eek. Auran photos by David Falconer.

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Barbarians U18 had a taste of international play as they welcomed the U18 rugby team from Churcher's College, Petersfield, United Kingdom for a friendly match on Sunday.

Both teams braved the stifling heat and headed out to St. Maximilian Kolbe for the game.

"Besides having a really hot day, we had a good field," said Tim Brochu, president of Aurora Barbarians rugby. "The advantage of having these incoming tours is the cultural exposure, but also the different style of play, so the benefit for our guys is seeing any different tactics that they have or a different style."

Bill Baker, tour director for Churcher's, said the match against Aurora was just one stop as part of a Canada/US tour.

"We do a senior tour every two years and it's very much a developmental tour for our domestic season that starts in September, and we have some tough early [games] so this is about trying to get two different groups playing together," he said.

"We did South Africa two years ago and our head coach...fancied coming and having a look around Canada and the United States. He heard there was some good hard rugby going

on over here, which there is."

Throughout the game, it became increasingly evident that Churcher's was kicking the ball a lot and sending the Barbs downfield to tire them out.

Eventually that strategy began to work as Churcher's jumped out to an early lead.

“The big difference really is a lot of the teams we’ve played in America and Canada are physically much bigger,” he explained. “What we’ve tried to do is negate that by hopefully having a better technique and a little more understanding of the game. Today, for example, the tactic was to try and kick the ball over the top, turn their backs and get them running and moving around the field. When you’re tiring the spaces become available.”

Barbs associate coach Ryan Stickle said Churcher's brought a well-balanced and organized strategic attack.

"I think their players have been playing rugby for a lot longer than our guys have, so they're a little bit more organized and natural as rugby players. In Canada we've got a lot of natural athletes."

In the end, the Barbs succumbed to a relentless attack and lost the match 27-5.

Tom O'Kelly, Churcher's team captain, was a vocal and motivating force for his team that was banged up

from a previous match in Cleveland.

"It went really well today," he said. "We had a long day and were really hot, but it was a great effort from the guys in these conditions. It was really good."

O'Kelly gave kudos to the Barbs players after the game.

"They had some really good runners, especially their full-back; he was a brilliant runner and very tough to tackle," he said.

Kieran Joyce, a fly-half on the Barbs, said the Churcher's plan of attack took them off their game.

"Canadian rugby is usually a bit more physical, we just lost the ball a lot more – a lot of turnovers – they used it when they had it and they liked to kick it past us and have us chase it. They definitely got us a little fatigued. They were down on numbers, but they made us run."

After the game, both agreed that the match was beneficial to team development.

"We've got a big, long season ahead of us and this is when we can gel as a team and get ready for the real season," said O'Kelly. "It's fun to come here and win as well."

Joyce agreed: "It's great to meet these guys and it's cool to have them over at your house. It's a social thing as much as it is part of the game."



Aurora's U18 Barbarians had a taste of international play on Sunday as they hosted the U18 rugby team from Churcher's College in Petersfield, England. The visiting team is on a North American tour. Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



Aurora Youth Soccer Club



Support your team with a vote.

Congratulations Girls U9 Aurora Stingers of Aurora, ON for being named BMO® Team of the Week. Vote for this team online between August 5-19 to be named BMO Team of the Week 2013 Champion!

If they have the most votes, their community will receive \$125,000 towards refurbishing their local soccer field, a \$5,000 donation to any Canadian charity and a trip to watch a Canadian Major League Soccer or a Canadian National Team home match.

Vote at BMOsoccer.com



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TEAM OF THE WEEK

Any person necessary to open a bank account in Canada that has reached the age of majority and is a coach or parent/guardian of a player on a Canadian youth team registered with a soccer club or school league. Entrants are responsible for ensuring that personal information is kept confidential and that the information is not shared with anyone other than the person(s) who provided it. The information has been obtained from the parents and/or legal guardians of all team members depicted in entry materials. Multiple entries for the same team are not permitted. Contact submission opens at 9:00 a.m. on April 1, 2013 and April 2, 2013, and closes at 12:00 p.m. EST, 2013. All eligible entries will be posted on IMBO.com and visitors to the site may register to vote. Limit of one (1) vote per person per day. Voting Period is between August 5, 2013 and August 19, 2013. PRIZES: one (1) Grand Prize (BMW 115500.00 CAD, and \$5,000.00 cash and merchandise), thirteen (13) "Goofers" (Prize: BMW 52000.00 CAD, and \$500.00 cash and merchandise), and twenty (20) "Goofers" (Prize: BMW 11500.00 CAD, and \$500.00 cash and merchandise). The chosen method of redemption and available reward options at the time of redemption. Correctly answered skill-testing question required for Early Bird Prizes, "Stiller" Prizes, "Torneo" and "Goofers" Prizes. Online entry, odds of winning each prize and full contest rules are available at IMBO.com/entry.

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Long-time community volunteer Dorothy Gummersall cuts the cake at Town Hall on Wednesday afternoon as Info Aurora, the volunteer group which services Town Hall and other municipal services, draws to a close. After 12 years of service, the group was wrapped up as Town Hall prepares for first floor renovations. Info Aurora will be replaced with Access Aurora.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Proposed sidewalk near Superstore, LCBO

From page 6

with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.”

The proposal came forward for Council approval at the end of June, but Councillors voted to hold off on a decision until July 16 pending further information after some Councillors objected to the plan.

“I recognize that the east side of Earl Stewart Drive is dangerous,” said Councillor Chris Ballard, noting two major entrances to Superstore and the surrounding area. “It is a crazy place to try and walk and

AHS questions third Collection option

From page 7

what other ideas are out there in the community for moving forward,” he said. “We are all very keen on moving it forward. I don’t think we’re all necessarily on the same page as to how to do that, but... maybe this will give us new insight on how to put this together and be efficient and cost-effective at the same time.”

The Aurora Historical Society Board, however, favours the third option of \$100,000 being the base funding for something more. Bob McRoberts, who was slated to make a delegation to Council Tuesday evening in favour of the option, said Option 3 was added to the report last week after the first two options were submitted.

“The Board has not had any deliberations on that,” he said. “When we brought the whole [idea to take over the collection] to the Town at the end of 2011, it was with the idea the Town would take things over, not necessarily a third party. I don’t think it is as simple as some Councillors have in mind.

“There are a lot of new duties and responsibilities. One might wonder who on staff currently for the Town would judge the abilities of a third party to do the work.”

ride a bike. If you have a mobility challenge, it would be even more difficult. However, there is a sidewalk all the way down the west side, so I don’t know why we wouldn’t simply have one or two places between St. John’s and Pedersen and put one or two crosswalks to allow people coming from St. John’s to travel along an already existing sidewalk and not cross over these driveways.”

While Councillors ultimately supported deferring the project pending further information because it wasn’t necessarily urgent, others, however, wanted to see more immediate action on the site.

“We have heard stories last year of individuals trying to cross the street with kids, like a lot of people on the north side [of St. John’s] have, and they aren’t able to get to the Superstore,” said Councillor Paul Pirri of the intersection. “This isn’t the first time we have seen a report or have emails on the same subject, so really this is a safety issue.”

Going ahead was also

supported by Councillors Evelyn Buck and John Abel. Both highlighted the safety issues in the area and their stance was, ‘just get on with it.’

“It is a high traffic area,” said Councillor John Abel. “Just do the sidewalk that has been identified. I don’t see any need to defer it.”

In a further report before Councillors this week, Mr. Simanovskis said crosswalks over from the sidewalks already installed on the west side would be impossible unless at an intersection.

“Mid-block crossing can only be provided at intersections in conjunction with intersection pedestrian signals or stop signs where motorists need to come to a complete stop before pedestrians safely cross the road,” he said. “Considering the distance from intersection to intersection, providing any other type of pedestrian crossing outside of these areas would not provide any more convenience or safety compared to completion of the sidewalk along the east side.”



Aurora Chamber of Commerce Event Manager

Are you an Event Manager looking for a change? The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is searching for you! This is a busy position requiring someone with a post-secondary education and a minimum of two year’s relevant experience. You must be very motivated, organized and detail-oriented as well as committed to excellence in customer service. You must be mature and able to multi-task, take pride in your work and have a professional and positive attitude.

Superior verbal and written skills as well as a selling aptitude are vital to the position. Working with a non-profit organization or as a volunteer on a committee would be a definite asset.

Some evening and weekend work is required as well as daily use of a vehicle.

Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, August 6, 2013. Please apply to the Aurora Chamber via email at eventmanager@aurorachamber.on.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization with a membership of over 700 businesses. The Chamber facilitates ongoing learning, networking, and advocacy at all levels of government and much more. The Chamber is an equal opportunity employer.

Please visit us at www.aurorachamber.on.ca for more information about the organization.



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“Radical Roots” drive Black’s desire to make a difference

By Brock Weir

Annabelle Black has never been one to shy away from speaking her mind.

Admittedly, she is a big talker, and that’s exactly the way she likes it.

Sometimes, however, it can get her into a spot of welcome trouble – such as the time she voiced an idea on how Aurora should celebrate its 100th Anniversary 50 years ago.

In 1963, she was a relative newcomer to Aurora. The Saskatchewan native was one of the first waves of women to make their way through Canadian schools in the mid-1950s studying the fledging word of dental hygiene.

It was there at the University of Toronto she met dental student Wilf Black and wrapping up their respective courses, she and Dr. Black set up practice in Aurora in 1961.

“He wanted to practice and the dental climate here in Aurora was really good because the population had doubled in a very short period – from 3,000 to 6,000 – but the population of dentists had stayed the same,” she recalls.

Settling into Aurora, first in a series of rented homes before they bought one of their own, Annabelle decided that if this was going to be her community, she was going to get the most of it. Becoming involved in a myriad of projects which came her way, she decided to help build the kind of community she wanted to live in.

One of the first steps was becoming involved in Aurora’s 100th anniversary. For the

young woman who grew up in a province which was not yet 60 years old at the time, the occasion was something of a novelty.

“I went to the meeting and made a suggestion, which was a big mistake because they say to you, ‘Well, why don’t you do that?’” she says with a laugh. “I wanted to get involved because this was going to be my community.”

It was the start of a love-affair with Aurora, which grew through the 1960s and early 1970s, where she and her husband became very active members of Trinity Anglican Church, the Beta Sigma Phi sorority, the Senior Citizens Friendship Circle, the Canadian Cancer Society, March of Dimes, Canadian Mental Health Association, the Community Junior Auxiliary, and spearheading the local – and first – Conference on the Troubled Child.

For her efforts, Ms. Black was named Aurora’s Citizen of the Year in 1971 – only the second recipient of the prized honour and the first woman. The late Bob Blick was awarded the inaugural honour in 1970 for his work with minor hockey and Ms. Black jokes that if they ever named a street after her, she would love an intersection of “Blick and Black”.

“I talk a lot and they told me not to tell anybody and that was hard,” she says, noting in those days when Aurora’s Canada Day parade flowed from south to north ending at the Aurora Community Centre, the Citizen of the Year was awarded as one of the final parts of

Canada’s birthday bash.

“We always had a big party on July 1 and I told my guests I had a nomination for Citizen of the Year, so come and it will either be a celebration or we can cry into our beer. I was thrilled, of course. It was a great honour to receive it.”

For several years, Ms. Black said she almost relished being the lone woman in the Citizen of the Year award until Nora McRoberts received the nod a decade later.

“I always said I feel like throwing a party for all the Citizens of the Year because there would be 10 men and me at it! Doesn’t that sound like fun?”

Receiving the award 10 years after her arrival in Aurora was a signal of how far she had come. When she first arrived, she says she felt she had moved into a somewhat insular community; a very small town where everyone knew everyone’s business and were slightly wary of newcomers such as herself.

“They knew everything about me,” she says of her neighbours. Did any of them ever call or knock on the door and say I was welcome in the community? Never. That’s the kind of Town that I moved into. Being the radical westerner that I am, I thought, ‘I’ll fix ‘em! I’ll change this place.’”

Evidently she made true of her word.

One of the key areas she thought needed improvement was building an inclusive society for kids with intellectual disabilities. An active local volunteer eventually knocked on her door, hearing through

their mission is to help people live to their fullest potential within “an informed community.”

This year, Community Living will be able to expand both their support and outreach as one of the participating community partners in Magna’s Wild, Wild West Hoedown. In honour of the 25th anniversary of one of York Region’s biggest parties, 25 local charities and community groups were selected to divide all proceeds raised through

Continued on page 19



Annabelle Black, pictured this summer at her Aurora home, proudly displays the plaque awarded to her as Aurora’s Citizen of the Year in 1971. She was only the second recipient, and first woman, to receive the honour, an enduring tradition for over 40 years.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

the grapevine that she might be a good person to knock on some doors on behalf of the precursor for Community Living, and sit on their board. She was elected on her first crack.

“I raised an awful lot of money for the association and I was pretty good at it because I was ruthless!” she says with a laugh. “If anyone owed me anything, I would get back to them right away!”

Her interest in the treatment of children stemmed from her early years in Saskatchewan watching her nurse sister worked with intellectually challenged children when institutions were commonplace.

Inspired by the first Conference on the Troubled Child in Toronto spearheaded by journalist June Callwood, she believed having one locally was just what York Region needed.

“The schools were involved and all these agencies, but they didn’t talk to each other [to pool their resources and knowledge],” she says. “We had a good response from all over the place and it really made some changes in how social services develop in York Region.”

While her work on the Conference on the Troubled Child left a lasting impact at a high level on generations of kids in York Region, through her work and her faith, Ms. Black closed the 1970s making a very direct impact on a single family in desperate need of help. For the continuation of Ms. Black’s story, please see next week’s edition of The Auroran.

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59					60						61			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Part of a deck

5. Georges, French philosopher 1847-1922

10. Winglike structures

14. Swift Malay boat (var. sp.)

15. White poplar

16. Ripped

17. Dog: ____ best friend

18. Grimes

19. Goods carried by a vehicle

20. Freestanding cooking counter

23. Apiary residents

24. Mains

25. Paved outdoor space

28. Colonic irrigations

32. __ Ladd, actor

33. Point that is one point E of SE

34. Fixed boring routine
35. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

36. Burrowing marine mollusk

38. Walk heavily

39. Capital of Zimbabwe

42. Levity

44. Hoover and Aswan

46. Administrative division of a county

47. Klum reality show

52. Doyen

53. One who converts skins into white leather

54. Iridescent silica gem

56. Longest river in Albania

57. Homer’s epic poem

58. White, brown or wild

59. Booby bird genus

60. Pennies

61. Create

CLUES DOWN

1. Cycles per minute

2. Traditional Iraq liquor

3. Wife of a rajah

4. Holds rubbish

5. Ribbon belts

6. Double-reed instruments

7. Strap used to control a horse

8. Schenectady, NY, hospital

9. Leaseholder

10. Books of maps

11. Bird with a laughlike cry

12. Little Vienna on the Mures

13. The termination of a story

21. Executive responsible for operations

22. Local area network

25. Make thirsty

26. Spurious wing

27. Invader of 13th-C Russia

29. Country legend Haggard
30. Superior of an abbey of monks

31. Worn and shabby

37. Louise Ciccone

38. AKA threadworm

40. British rule over India

41. Induces vomiting

42. Hard rind vine fruits

43. Grass bristle

45. Instrument for weighing

46. Source of a special delight

47. South American country

48. Track for rolling vehicles

49. One of two born at the same time

50. Samoan capital

51. Noisy talk

52. Tooth caregiver

55. Side sheltered from the wind

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION	C	A	M			T	A	B	E	S			B	B	C	
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Coming Events

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 Playter, 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 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!

JULY 8 – 22
Registration is now open for CAMP EYR (Epilepsy York Region). The inaugural day camp for children with epilepsy ages 6 – 12 and their siblings and friends will operate out of Richmond Hill’s Loyal True Blue and Orange Home Monday through Thursday for two weeks starting July 8. Camp EYR is about more than just arts and crafts and simple nature walks. \$50/week for EYR members and \$100/week for non-members. For more information, contact 905-508-5404.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17
Come out to Town Park tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the music of United Soul Nations, one of Toronto’s most versatile

bands. They will “play that funky music” and pull you to your feet with music to dance the night away and great summer music to groove to. This is the third in this year’s Concerts in the Park series offered by the Town of Aurora. Don’t forget to bring a donation to the Aurora Food Pantry!

THURSDAY, JULY 18
Artist’s Panel: Art at the Manor Revealed: Free event! 7 p.m. at Hillary House. Aurora Historical Society Curator/ Manager Catherine Richards will moderate a discussion with the artists from the Art at the Manor 2013 exhibit. Hear about the experience of working with medical artefacts to inspire their work, the stories behind the original artwork created for the exhibit, and more. Join the question and answer period after the discussion! More info: aurorahistoricalsociety.ca

SATURDAY, JULY 20
Book a session for a family portrait to remember at Hillary House today with a one-of-a-kind opportunity with photographer Karen Merk. Capture and preserve memories of your fun filled morning at the beautiful National Historic Site. Karen will make your family feel at ease while the unique images will forever connect you with your town’s heritage. Plus, you can feel good knowing that some of the proceeds from the session will help support the ongoing restoration of the site. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991.

SUNDAY, JULY 21
The Annual Cruise for the Cure will be held today at 13200 Weston Road in King Township. Doors open at 9 a.m. with a \$10 admission for parking. This is the third event hosted by Tim and Brenda Schmidt, in association with ABC Group to raise money and awareness for prostate cancer and the Shriner’s Hospital for Children. As a child, Brenda benefited from their treatment and they now have a special place in their heart. Last year’s fundraiser brought out 4,000 people and raised over \$70,000. This year’s entertainment will include live entertainment from Alan Frew of Glass Tiger, the Carpet Frogs, a kids mini-carnival, giant Ferris wheel, pony rides, lots of food, and an appearance by the Toronto Argos. For more information, visit

www.timandbrendasplace.com.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24
Come out to Town Park tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the music of The Mud Men – an evening of Celtic rock like you’ve never heard before. Join the gang for a great night of pipes, voice, guitar and fun. This is the fourth in this year’s Concerts in the Park series offered by the Town of Aurora. Don’t forget to bring a donation to the Aurora Food Pantry!

Garden Aurora! The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society invites you to hear Oliver Couto, Beekeeper, speak about the importance of honeybees to human survival. “All About Honeybees” is presented at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 8 p.m.

JULY 25 – AUGUST 29
Eating Disorders of York Region presents a new yoga program; a gentle form of stretching and physical activity facilitated by Natalie George, a certified yoga instructor. Six Thursdays beginning July 25. \$60 for six weeks. Sessions begin at 6.15 p.m. at EDOYR’s headquarters at 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15 in Aurora. No previous experience is necessary. Yoga mats will be provided, or people can bring their own. For more information, visit www.edoyr.com or call 905-886-6632, or email info@edoyr.com.

JULY 26 – 28
Music will be in the air at Town Park with the Celebrate Aurora Music Festival. Festivities will get underway Saturday with a showcase of new and established local talent on the main stage, a “So you Think Aurora Can Dance?” youth competition with “So You Think You Can Dance Canada” finalist Miles Faber, and “Aurora’s Got The Voice”, a search for young singers hosted by Canadian Idol’s Farley Flex, and an attempt to set the record for the world’s largest Harlem Shake. For more information, visit www.habachat.com/auroramusicfest2013.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31
Come out to Town Park tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for the music Marshall Dane. Marshall’s music is an infectious blend of country and rock which is set to blaze a trail right to your heart. Don’t miss this terrific talent. This is the second in this year’s Concerts in the Park series offered by the Town of Aurora. Don’t forget to bring a donation to the Aurora Food Pantry!

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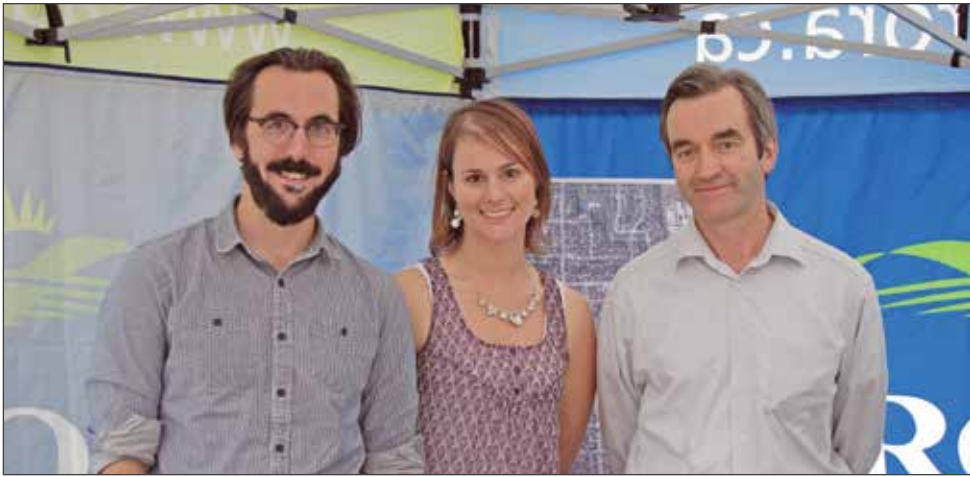
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Consultants for Bray Heritage joined Vanessa Hicks (centre), Heritage Planner for the Town of Aurora, at a recent Aurora Farmers' Market to begin to get a feel on what the community thinks about a second Heritage District in Downtown Aurora.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Second Heritage District plans get public roll-out

By Brock Weir

People want to see the communities they bought into and love evolve, yet still retain the same character.

That is the message being heard by consultants looking into establishing Aurora's second "heritage conservation district" in southeast Aurora.

If brought to fruition, the new designated community would build upon the success of the Town's first Heritage Conservation District

formed nearly 10 years ago in Downtown Aurora and stretching northeast from the corner of Yonge and Wellington.

The proposed boundaries for the new heritage district is roughly bordered by Yonge Street in the west, the north side of Wellington Street East in the North, Centre Crescent at its most easterly point, and Kennedy Street East in the south. The area includes such landmarks as Town Park, the Aurora Cultural Centre, multiple churches, and, of course,

several historic homes.

"It is a chance to enhance their lives, improve quality of place, to either stabilize or increase their property values, to encourage economic development in this fair burgh, and just keep what they like and manage the change they might not like," says consultant Carl Bray, whose company Bray Heritage, is overseeing the project.

Mr. Bray recently spent the morning at the Aurora Farmers' Market with other municipal

staff, including Heritage Planner Vanessa Hicks, to begin to engage – and gauge – the public's interest in the plan.

Change people might not like, adds Mr. Bray, include "monster homes" and other buildings which might not be in keeping with the surrounding architecture.

"That has been one of the main things," agrees Ms. Hicks. "They want to see a lot of the mature trees that are here kept. They want to make sure houses fit in and are complementing the area. They really like that all of the houses are unique and it is not like looking into those new subdivisions and just about every home is the same."

That, adds Mr. Bray, is representative of the feedback they have received so far.

"If you've invested in a property that is kind of like a little bit of insurance that something crazy is not going to happen here or across the street," adds Mr. Bray of a historical designation.

While their initial inroads in engaging the community were deemed to be a success, there is still a lot of work to do, they agreed. "Push back" will be inevitable, concludes Mr. Bray, but that is par for the course. Likely concerns include

possible restrictions on what a property owner can or cannot do with their homes, and red tape. Then there is the challenge of keeping everyone happy in an area, such as Town Park, which has so many historical and emotional connections to so many longstanding residents of Aurora.

"It's not that someone is going to buy the park and build condos here, but the notion that we would like to keep what works," he says. "Part of our job in this phase is to find out what works."

If it is a small town atmosphere, what can we define that as? What are the components of that? If those components can be written down, then you have some chance to discuss them in a rational way and you can put some policy and guidelines around that.

"If change is coming along at Town Hall and they have some notion of how they can control it, you can have the same notion about it and it is not seen as being subjective or a NIMBY reaction."

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As everyone is probably outside and enjoying the beautiful summer weather, I thought I would answer a question this week from a reader about his deck.

He has taken down his deck and is preparing to build a new one and asked which type of material is best when building.

There are generally three different types of materials you can use to build your residential deck - pressure treated wood, cedar and composite (trex). If you want bang for your buck, pressure treated wood is the best option. It is definitely the cheapest solution and will last about 15 years with a regular water sealing every two years.

Maintenance is key, however. Pressure treated wood will grey if not treated on a regular basis and, despite even the best efforts, it still tends to splinter and warp over time.

Cedar is more expensive, but looks better, and can last up



ASK TOM

Tom Mrakas

Hit The Deck!

to 20 yrs even when left untreated.

Now the composites are the most expensive option and they look quite nice, and need no maintenance (another bonus). The one drawback – and a complaint – I have heard from a number of folks who have used the composite for their deck or porch, however, is it can be a little hot on your feet.

That's not great for those who like to go shoeless.

I even had a client with a composite deck who decided after two years to transform the deck back to cedar because of how hot the surface got in the sun.

My personal preference is cedar since it has that elegant, Canadian kind of look and it lasts a very long time with no maintenance.

I do advise that a water sealer is still a good idea given our harsh winters and will keep it looking new.

If you are planning a deck, consider using cedar. I would! And remember, according to the Annual Remodeling magazine Cost vs. Value Report, "...you'll get back nearly 75 percent of what you pay for a deck if you sell your home within the first year after the deck is built".

Invest in your deck wisely!

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

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Growing Together – The Aurora Cemetery

By Brock Weir

The Auroran continues its series of some of Aurora’s oldest businesses with a look at the Aurora Cemetery Corporation.

As a child, April Ross always told her mother that when she grew up she would be “running the elevator to heaven.” Perhaps it goes without saying that her parents didn’t take what she said literally, but Ms. Ross took her childhood aspirations as literally as possible. Ms. Ross now runs the day to day operations of the Aurora Cemetery, one of Aurora’s most venerable businesses.

Founded in the southern end of Town in 1869, the original plot of land has served generations of local families, and continues to do so to this day.

For Ms. Ross, and the Cemetery’s administrative assistant

Cindy Angers, it is a place of serenity and tranquility in an increasingly bustling community. It’s not rare for Ms. Ross to be found at the peak of the cemetery’s highest hill looking down at the history around her. It also affords her the opportunity to see every corner of the property in the quickest of glances.

Considering Aurora Cemetery is the only game in Town, it almost seems counterproductive to ask why April and Cindy think their company endures, but they nevertheless have a few insights.

“It’s all in how you deal with people,” said Ms. Ross. “Cindy and I work with people who have lost loved ones and are often very angry. We get people in here who accept it and they are easy to deal with, but we have to wear many, many hats.”

“A gentleman said to me on Tuesday when

he came into purchase that one thing about this cemetery after looking at others, they are just flat, but here it has hills and is more in keeping with a beautiful cemetery atmosphere,” added Cindy. Indeed, Aurora’s early settlers and contemporary notables



Cindy Angers and April Ross oversee the day to day operations of The Aurora Cemetery Corporation, a local business first established in 1869.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

have chosen the Yonge Street location as their final resting place. Beyond the buildings many people are familiar with, particularly the

octagonal white and green “Dead House” – which was once used to store the remains of people who died over the winter before the thaw – is the well-loved monument to John W. Bowser, Construction Superintendent of the Empire State Building. His tombstone can be

landmarks and streets throughout the Town.

Many of the historical figures are buried in the north end of the cemetery. But with these plots maxed out in interment rights, the Cemetery recently opened up their south end for internments. Ms. Ross estimates this will continue to serve the community for the next 60 years.

“There is a lot of historical interest with the people who come here,” she says. “They like to walk around [looking at names] and also whole families being wiped out in the early 1900s from smallpox.”

Those, however, were very different days and challenges facing the Aurora Cemetery today include ensuring each interment is handled as sensitively as possible, but also addressing people’s changing perspectives of what they want to get out of their cemetery.

These include increased desire for more individual and distinctive monuments, as well as areas serving distinct nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, such as cemeteries marketed towards people of specific religion and ethnicities in the Greater Toronto Area.

“That won’t happen on my watch,” says Ms. Ross with a laugh. “Everyone is welcome because we’re all equal. It doesn’t matter where we’re from or what colour we are, everyone goes together.”

“I used to tell my mum I would be running the elevator to heaven – and I am! God put me here for a reason and everything does happen for a reason.”

Next week, The Auroran goes into Caruso & Co in the heart of Downtown Aurora, which celebrates its centennial this year.

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Community Living is one of 25 community partners for September's Hoedown

From page 14

the annual Hoedown push. The 25 groups will be tasked with selling raffle and event tickets and last year these efforts raised over \$540,000 split amongst 20 groups.

With their share of the pot, Community Living plans to build upon their mandate, but also expand sensory art programs, literacy initiatives, and employment skills.

"Our goal in having

a community where everybody belongs is to give people an outlet," says Colleen Zakoor, Executive Director of Community Living Newmarket/Aurora. "It is for using it for activities, it is about removing barriers, particularly the financial barriers to things like cooking groups and learning to make healthy lifestyle choices too. We're going through a program about living well and we also have a lot of people

who want to be in the community. It is about individualized support, music lessons, dance lessons, and things that are over and above what we take for granted."

Ensuring their clients have an outlet extends far beyond simple community programs. They recognize that everyone needs a bit of a chance once in a while from their regular environments and providing this outlet is something they continue to

take on.

Community Living focuses on adult clients, but they are often there to tackle youth making that transition to adulthood, such as intellectually disabled students who come out of the high school stream often in their early 20s.

"That is a big area which needs specialization," says Ms. Zakoor. "We have some folks in that youth area who are not fitting in anywhere."

In these cases, even the little things, such as providing their clients something as simple as the latest pair of ear buds or something trendy, can go a very long way in fostering a sense of belonging. So too can going the extra mile to ensure their clients have access to accessible vehicles to help them get around the community, something that is often out of reach to local families financially.

"Families have a terrible

time trying to figure that out," she adds. "Who has the means to provide a vehicle where you are able to get a wheelchair in and out that is not mobile? It is about accessibility. It is about including folks you may not think of, or you might think are being taken care of."

For more information on how to support Community Living through ticket sales, visit www.clnad.com. For more on Hoedown itself, visit www.hoedown.ca.

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A directory of who does what in your community

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