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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 13 No. 41 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of August 21, 2013



Students from Aurora's Northern Karate School showed off their moves at Town Park during Saturday's Doors Open Aurora. The eighth annual event saw hundreds of people from around Ontario take in over 20 different buildings and activities across town including (inset) the Aurora Public Library where people, including Miranda Szuberwood and Ann-Bernice Thomas, were encouraged to leave video memories of Aurora with Cindy Shaver for the Town's 150th anniversary. For more on Doors Open Aurora, please see Pages 18 and 19.

Auroran photos by David Falconer and Brock Weir

"No realistic option" in cell phone tower dispute: lawyers

By Brock Weir

Aurora is left with "no realistic option" over the controversial Bell Canada tower just over the border in King Township, according to legal experts.

Council released the legal opinion last week of outside legal counsel hired to investigate the possibility of undertaking a judicial review over the tower, which looms over an Aurora neighbourhood from the west side of Bathurst Street.

After lengthy debates at the Council table throughout the spring, including cursory discussions with Bell Canada, investigations over a legal injunction, and an overhaul of how notifications and approvals over communications towers are handled by the Town, Council took one last shot at doing something about it by seeking legal advice on June 25 on the feasibility of a judicial review.

"A judicial review to cease Bell's use and operation of the cell phone tower is extremely unlikely to succeed, and the expenditure of Town funds on such a fruitless endeavour is not recommended," said Town Solicitor Warren Mar in his report to Council. "Unfortunately, it appears that the Town is left with no realistic legal options regarding the removal of the cell phone tower or stopping its use by Bell Canada."

In his report, Mr. Mar cites the legal opinion retained from Bruce Engell of WeirFoulds.

"Mr. Engell verbally noted that proceeding with a judicial review in this matter (while extremely unlikely to succeed in having the cell phone tower removed) would cost in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 to \$100,000 – and likely to be much closer to the higher cost since any lawyer who takes on the case will have to do more work, and

Continued on page 6

ROWING FOR A CAUSE



The Aurora Avengers get ready to set off in the annual Toromont CAT Dragon Boat Race Saturday morning at King's Seneca College Campus to raise money for the United Way. There, members of the United Way of York Region launched a very ambitious goal for the 2013-2014 year. For more, please see page 14.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

MOVIES IN THE PARK – Aug. 27, 28 and 29



Tuesday, August 27

THE CROODS
 Hickson Park
 - Borealis Avenue
 and Conover Avenue
 Generously sponsored by



Wednesday, August 28

BACK TO THE FUTURE
 Aurora Town Park
 - Wells Street
 and Mosley Street
 Generously sponsored by



Thursday, August 29

X-MEN: The Last Stand
 Norm Weller Park
 at McClellan Way
 Generously sponsored by



Movies begin at dusk.

For more information: Visit www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762

ANOTHER EXCITING
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Please bring your own
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 **We will gladly accept
 non-perishable food items for the
 Aurora Food Pantry**



COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thursday, August 22	7 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 3	10:30 a.m.	Joint Council Committee
Tuesday, September 3	7 p.m.	General Committee*
Wednesday, September 4	7 p.m.	Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee
Thursday, September 5	7 p.m.	Environmental Advisory 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

*General Committee meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream

AURORA 150 FACT:



Image courtesy of Aurora Historical Society

Morris Butcher Shop

The Morris Butcher Shop was located on Wellington Street, east of Yonge Street. The shop was demolished in 1964. This photograph was taken circa 1920.

CELEBRATE AURORA 150

Aurora's Community Cultural Celebration

On Saturday, September 21 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., bring your family and friends to Ada Johnson Park for a celebration of Aurora's cultural heritage! Enjoy an exciting entertainment line-up featuring mystic drums, Bollywood dancing, a First Nations presentation and kids' activities! The evening comes to a close with a feature film, *Cirque Du Soleil: Worlds Away* at 7:15 p.m. For more information, visit www.aurora150.ca or call 905-726-4762.

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!

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

e-PLAY is now free!

As of July 16, the Town's e-PLAY online registration system became free of charge, with no user fees. As part of this change, the Town retired the telephone-based system, Tele-PLAY, on July 19.

For your convenience, program registration remains 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.

WEEKLY NOTICE BOARD

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Aurora is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Labourer/Seasonal (Roads)
Application deadline is Friday, August 23
- Program Manager, Records Management
Application deadline is Thursday, August 29

For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/employment

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Concerts in the Park

Bring your family, friends and chairs or blankets to Aurora Town Park (Wells Street and Mosley Street) and enjoy the last performance of the 2013 Concerts in the Park series!

On Wednesday, August 21 join us as Jeff Brewer performs A Tribute to Billy Joel. Listen to "The Piano Man's" music as this series comes to a close.

The show begins at 7 p.m. and goes until 9 p.m. Although this concert is free of charge, we kindly ask that spectators bring a donation to the local food pantry. For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/specialevents or call 905-726-4762

2014 Skylight Gallery Draw

Located on the third floor of Aurora's Town Hall, the Skylight Gallery is an open space with a dramatic skylight dedicated to featuring exhibitions by local artists. Backboards and track-lighting are set up to display artwork in a striking setting and access to this ever-changing art gallery is free to the public.



Each month, the work of a different artist is featured. The draw for those who will exhibit in 2014 will be held this year on Wednesday, September 4. Application forms are available at www.aurora.ca/skylightgallery

The 12 artists chosen will represent one month during the year. Artists within York Region and beyond are invited to enter the draw. The featured artist also has the opportunity to host a reception in the Skylight Gallery during his/her chosen month.

For more information, please contact Laura Malone, Special Events Co-ordinator, Town of Aurora at 905-727-3123 ext. 3132 or lmalone@aurora.ca

REMINDERS

Debris on Roads

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

Outdoor Water Use Bylaw

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

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

WEEKLY NOTICE BOARD

ANOTHER EXCITING EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY



MOVIES IN THE PARK

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

THE CROODS (rated G)

Hickson Park - Borealis Avenue and Conover Avenue
Generously sponsored by

CINEPLEX ODEON
AURORA CINEMAS

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

BACK TO THE FUTURE (rated PG)

Aurora Town Park - Wells Street and Mosley Street

Generously sponsored by

RONA

Thursday, August 29, 2013

X-MEN: The Last Stand (rated PG)

Norm Weller Park - at McClellan Way

Generously sponsored by



For more information:

Visit www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762

Movies begin at dusk. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

** We will gladly accept non-perishable food items for the Aurora Food Pantry**

Film ratings courtesy of the Ontario Film Review Board, 1075 Millwood Road, 1-800-288-6024, www.ofrb.gov.on.ca

AURORA'S RIBFEST

SEPTEMBER 6 TO 8, 2013

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Fantastic Lineup of Entertainment All Weekend Long

Friday, September 6

Tribute to Bruce Springsteen – Glory Days

Saturday, September 7

The Carpet Frogs and Honeymoon Suite

Sunday, September 8

The Mud Men

Children's Activity Zone Free!

Friday, September 6 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 7 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Griffiths' century has taken him from the high seas to the silver screen and back again

By Brock Weir

Swathed with scarves around his head and neck, soot strategically placed on his face and arms, and brandishing a sword like a self-described "vagabond", Allen Griffiths found himself on shipboard amongst the enemy.

It was the late 1930s, the Spanish Civil War was still raging, the Germans were interfering, but the Second World War had yet to break out.

As a stoker on board the ship, he clearly remembers popping out of his hold and exclaiming, "Cookie, have you heard the buzz?"

Undoubtedly it's a quote that would not be out of place in the middle of a 1930s sea battle and indeed the ship was going down. Water was coming on board and his fellow seamen were quickly jumping overboard to save themselves.

They were not, however, in danger just yet.

While Mr. Griffiths was indeed a stoker on board the ship, actively serving with the navy, this was all in good fun. The filmmakers who had drafted him and many of his other shipmates into "extra" roles in the 1937 film "Our Fighting Navy" (later re-titled "Torpedoed!") had taken over the HMS Royal Oak and turned it into one of the "enemy" ships in the film.

To create the illusion of the ship sinking into the abyss, director Norman Walker had all the guns moved to one side of the ship to create a natural tilt. That's when the magic happened, joined by stars Richard Cromwell, Hazel Terry, and Noah Beery (brother of Wallace).

Their names may have started to fade slightly into the Hollywood ether, but memories of the filming are still vivid for Mr. Griffiths, an Aurora resident who celebrates his 100th birthday this Saturday.

"When we got cleaned up after the filming, they kept me on for a couple of weeks," says Mr. Griffiths. "I remember the guy who was looking after the uniforms and costumes and in the evenings he was supplying the girls with silk stockings. They had just come out then and were very rare."

"We were all going back to the hotel and there was Beery going up the stairs,

drunk as a skunk with these two girls. The fellow I was working with said, 'there go my stockings!'"

Memories around the filming of "Our Fighting Navy" are some of the happier ones associated with the HMS Royal Oak. Shortly after he moved onto another ship, the Royal Oak was torpedoed by the Germans in the early days of the Second World War, killing 833 people on board.

"She never fired a g-damned shot," says Mr. Griffiths. "She was lying up in the north of Scotland supposed to be safe as nobody could get in because of the rocks and the sand, but that all disappeared over the years because nobody had surveyed it. The German submarine came in just as smooth as you like at midnight, fired five or six torpedoes on it and she went down all hands."

The name of the HMS Royal Oak has pride of place on a special shirt Mr. Griffiths wears to this day. What he calls his "personal Mona Lisa" as there is only one shirt like it in the world, it lists all the ships, submarines and vessels he served on over his 13-year stint with the Royal Navy.

While their German and Italian counterparts ensured each of these vessels met their own grizzly ends, they were unable to get the better of Mr. Griffiths.

He was born on the border of England and Wales in 1913, less than a year before the outbreak of the First World War.

His father was a policeman who served in the Boer War, while his mother served as a nurse, treating some of the names that would have filled the newspapers of the day. When war eventually broke out in Europe, it was a break felt very much on the home front.

His father was back in service, heading overseas with his wife, back in her nursing uniform. While they served, their sons were taken into an orphanage under the auspices of the local police authority where they were treated to conditions which were commonplace at the time, but would be shocking to today's society.

"I was a bed wetter," he says with a laugh. "This Mrs. Murray used to come to us, get me by the hair and shove my nose it, then lock me in a cupboard while she made the

beds. I got so scared of going into bed that I would lay on the floor. I would get so cold, I would have to jump back into bed and then wet the bed again."

Relief finally came with the Armistice in 1918. When peace was declared, he remembers celebrating by getting dressed up as a soldier, complete with his arm in his sling, to parade for Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, one of Queen Victoria's more eccentric granddaughters who was visiting the village.

Lining up to meet the dignitary, the Princess presented each of them a prayer book, which remained a prized possession for decades.

Finally, their mother came to pick them up, but she was not accompanied by their father. He was felled on the field in 1916.

"When he was shot, they sent his clothes home in a coffin," says Mr. Griffiths. "Three or four coins fell out of his pocket. I still hang onto the farthing. The penny with the bullet hole in it was given to my brother, Jack."

Settling back with his family, Mr. Griffiths' story turns to village life, heading to his grandfather's tenant farm, which his family had on a 99 year lease from the local "squire." From cleaning the squire's boots, he eventually rose through the ranks to become a groom, preparing horses for the local hunts.

They are iconic scenes, with the young groom preparing the horses while generations of ladies prepare the sandwiches, cakes, beer and cider for the well-heeled men and women riding.

With a twinkle in his eye, he recalls greeting Lady Lubbock, an old acquaintance and scion of the Bonham Carter Family, who crossed paths with him on a very hot horse.

"Lady Lubbock had a big black horse and I knew her well," he says. "I said, 'Lady Lubbock, your horse is sweating pretty bad, can I give him a rubdown?' She said, 'So would you sweat if you were between my legs for two hours?'

Obviously that left a lasting impression on a 14-year-old boy, but those halcyon days came to an end with the death of the squire. Looking for work, he got a job as an errand boy for a wholesale grocer, eventually

delivering sugar throughout the Welsh valleys before he joined his young friends in looking for work with the Navy.

Initially starting work as a fitter, he wasn't quite tall enough for the marines but found good paying work as a stoker below deck. It paid well, but it also required a longer commitment – 12 years rather than the customary five.

It was at a time when Hitler wasn't yet seen as the threat he would soon be.

After one of his first missions, he and his crew were greeted back in Plymouth in a public celebration by King George V, accompanied by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor), who inspected the ranks. It was a very big deal and looking back, he suspects it was all part of the propaganda machine to face the challenges ahead.

And as someone who had just finished laying a minefield on the seabed with his crew as Neville Chamberlain triumphantly flew back in England waving a piece of paper declaring "peace in our time", there were certainly many challenges awaiting Mr. Griffiths.

Next week, The Auroran's interview with Mr. Griffiths will continue with a closer look at his service during the war, and his Canadian journey, which began in 1951.



Allen Griffiths, who will turn 100 this Monday, proudly shows off a personalized shirt on Friday, emblazoned with the ships and submarines he served on during a long career in the Royal Navy. He is due to celebrate his milestone birthday with family and friends at the Royal Canadian Legion this weekend.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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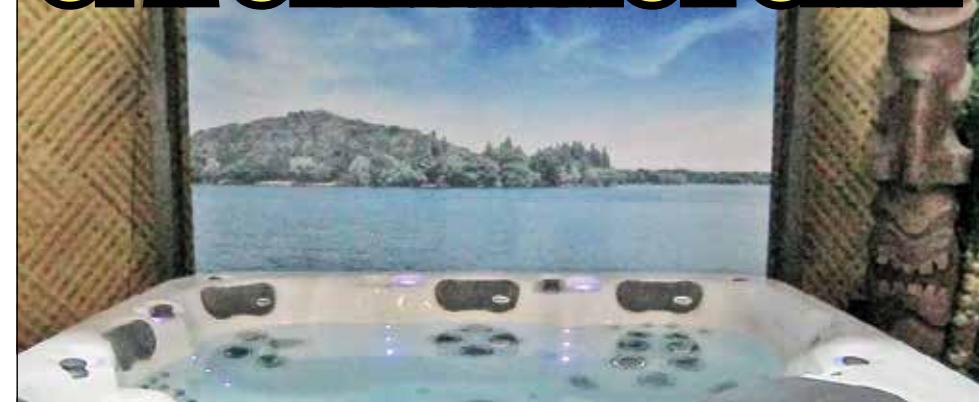
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Letters to the editor

Regulation is well-meaning, but flawed

(Re: Ottawa Report, August 14, 2013)

Last week's Ottawa Report tries to provide some rationale for the Conservative's telecom regulatory process which is well-meaning but badly flawed.

In a nutshell, the Industry Ministry has allowed a loophole for a monster American Wireless operator - Verizon - to purchase smaller carriers and new wireless spectrums while barring or limiting Canadian companies under the pretense of creating greater competition and lowering prices.

In fact, Canadian wireless prices have come down 18% in the last four years and while there is room and support for more reductions, Verizon isn't the likely saviour. Its prices are on the high end of US suppliers while customer service is rated poor. Canadian prices for all levels of wireless service are on average lower than American providers as of 2013.

So, Verizon can essentially piggyback on the billions of infrastructure dollars provided by the Canadian companies over the past 20 years, provide poorer service, few(er) jobs, at higher costs and be welcomed with open arms by our Federal Government (hoping to generate additional spectrum auction dollars).

Try getting a deal like this in US territory!

If the consequences to Canadian jobs, pension plans and shareholder values weren't so potentially drastic, this regulatory miscue and government intransigence would be laughable.

Brian Horton
Aurora

Council "blew it" on music fest

(Re: Newmarket welcomed St. Kitts for Festival, August 14, 2013)

I just had to endorse the sentiments of P.C. Smith last week with respect to the Newmarket jazz+ Festival.

George and Sher St. Kitts provided just the right blend of both local and international talent for this show to make it an outstanding event. I will venture to say the best event in York Region this year, including all of the celebratory events that have been put on by the Town of Aurora to promote their big anniversary this year.

What a wonderful experience to enjoy such talent at our doorstep.

The venue was easy to move around in, and seating was great. I attended the Saturday evening and night show and was blown away.

A big thank you to the Town of Newmarket and their Town Council for showing how to support local talent and showing them the respect and encouragement that they deserve.

We are truly blessed to have such a professional and capable organization as St. Kitts' Music within our midst to entertain us in such a wonderful fashion. My only complaint is that the admittance fare was far too low. I would have been willing to pay three times the amount and would still have considered it to be underpriced.

Kudos Sher, fabulous job as usual.

Oh, and by the way, Town of Aurora Council, hang your head in shame. Small town minds, small town prejudices obviously still plague our council. You really blew it this time.

Nora McNellis
Aurora

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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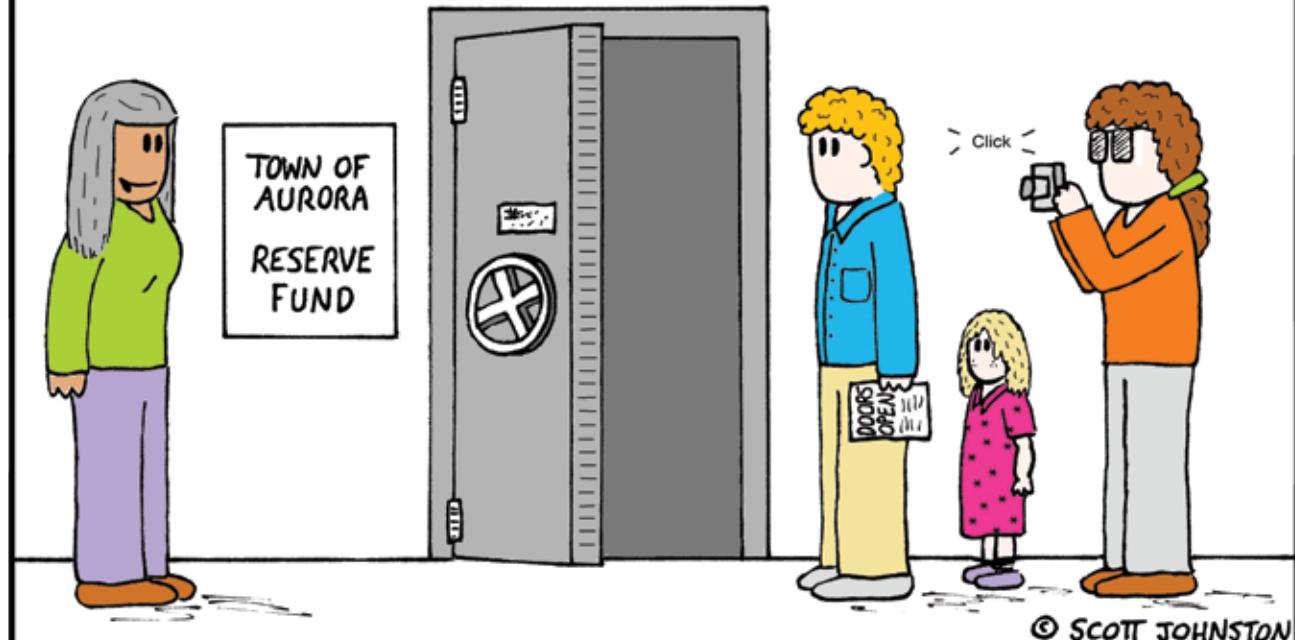
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Machell's Corners

IT WAS AN OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR 'DOORS OPEN' AS COUNCIL IS INTO IT SO OFTEN THE VAULT DOOR'S RARELY CLOSED.



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

Raw Materials



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

The plans are there, the raw materials are there, but now it is time to focus.

This past weekend was as strong an indication as any that it is possible.

It was, of course, the eighth annual installment of Doors Open Aurora. Rescheduled for August this year, rather than July or September, the organizers' objective was to bring out more people from Aurora and bring in more people from surrounding areas. The change seems to have done the trick with many stops along the way noting huge increases of people turning out – some with numbers twofold over 2012.

misfortunate of being turned away from a Black Sabbath concert.

Then there is the thorny issue of the Hillary-McIntyre Heritage Park.

Now, let me just say on the outset to clear up some misconceptions that have popped up in the community, that I am not opposed to the park idea itself. I think, if done right, it could be a huge boon to Aurora and something that could be enjoyed by generations to come. That being said, I think considerable time and money was wasted in order to get to where the plan currently stands.

Those who support the idea argue that it will be, yes, a "destination" for people within the Town, a "destination" to get people to stay in Town, and a "destination" for people looking to spend the day moseying around town, shopping and, in turn, invest their hard-earned dollars into the municipality's economy.

That, however, will still be a long time coming if indeed it is brought to fruition at all.

The problem is we have, at the absolute barest of minimums, three distinct groups with three distinct projects, three distinct plans to realize their dream but, at the end of the day, they only have one ultimate objective: creating a destination.

While Aurora focuses on master plans coming out the wazoo, ranging from the Aurora Promenade Plan to the incubating Cultural Master Plan, both documents which will ultimately have plenty of crossover potential, perhaps it is now time to merge all associated plans into one to ultimately focus on making the Town a destination.

Nearly every single person on my highly unscientific poll expressed pleasant surprise at just what Aurora had to offer. One woman I spoke to, who was taking in the Doors Open tour while taking a much needed break from house hunting, said on Saturday morning Aurora wasn't even on her shortlist of places to move, but was quickly rising through the ranks.

If Aurora's future is contingent, at least in part, over finding something – anything! – to make the town a "destination" for people far and wide, it is time to stop looking at things solely from an economic perspective, solely from a heritage position, and certainly not as personal hobby horses, to have a plan that would serve all these competing interests for the greater good.

Last week to vote! AURORAN POLL

Do you support building a Youth Centre at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex along with the increased price tag?

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

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!



Chuck Jackson and the All Stars brought their own blend of blues and classic rock to the Town Park Band Shell last week as the penultimate act in 2013's free Concerts in the Park series. This year's roster concludes this Wednesday, August 21, with a Tribute to Billy Joel. This salute to the Piano Man features Jeff Brewer and gets underway at the band shell at 7 p.m. Donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged.

**Auroran photo
by David Falconer**

In my last column, I took the risk of expressing what I believe every member of the PC Party was thinking. How was it possible that given the scandal-ridden record of the McGuinty-Wynne Liberals, the PCs could only manage to win one of the five recent by-elections?

I asked you to send me your advice on what the PC Party needs to do to win the next election. Your response was overwhelming and the emails continue to come. For that I thank you and, as promised, I will be compiling that advice for the benefit of my Caucus colleagues and Party Leader, Tim Hudak.

Recall the following paragraph from my last column:

"...the term 'shooting the messenger' comes from the fourth-century B.C. play Antigone by Sophocles, in which the perils of speaking truth to power is the major theme. Nothing has changed over the centuries. It is difficult for any organization – political or otherwise – to deliver the hard news to their leadership. Those who risk doing so will inevitably be labeled as disloyal and will suffer the consequences."

Indeed, nothing has changed. Following my defence of the right of party members to bring forward an amendment to the party's constitution at its September convention, have it debated and put to a vote, I became the target of that timeless sport: shoot the messenger.

I have more than a few years to go before I will become a senior citizen, which is a good thing in a way, as I don't think I'm ready to be one in Aurora.

As we advance in years, we all start to slow down a bit, and take it easy, both mentally and physically.

At least, that's the theory.

Well, from what I can see of our seniors by reading the weekly Senior Scape column in The Auroran, that's not what's happening.

Despite earning some well-deserved down time, our seniors are not collectively sitting around on the porch in rocking chairs watching the world go by.

On the contrary, they're dancing, playing pickle ball, going on trips, singing, playing bocce, woodworking, and hosting BBQs.

It's exhausting just trying to follow it all.

Sometimes I feel like I need a break after just bringing the groceries in from the car. I'm not sure I could handle all the stuff they do over there on John West Way.

Speaking of their local haunt, they even helped to finance it. Through

After more than a week of misleading headlines and media reports, less than honourable accusations by friends and foes alike, I felt compelled to issue the following statement. I welcome your thoughts.

KLEES STATEMENT REGARDING GRASSROOTS MOTION FOR LEADERSHIP REVIEW

For the past few days much has been made of a resolution filed by a group of Ontario PC members that proposes an amendment to the party's constitution that would allow for a leadership review vote to be held at times other than following a general election.

What would normally have been a matter-of-fact agenda item at the party's September convention, has now become contentious, to the extent that signatories to that resolution have received intimidating phone calls from senior members of the party demanding that they withdraw the resolution.

This is completely unacceptable and is contrary to everything I believe our Party stands for.

When asked by Sue-Ann Levy of the Toronto Sun what I thought of those intimidating tactics, I told her that I find it offensive. I went on to say that "one option available to the

FRANKLY SPEAKING

MPP Newmarket-Aurora

Frank Klees



leader is to preempt the petition, and to voluntarily direct and welcome a confidence vote at the convention. If he does that, it would be a very powerful signal to the party... and would silence a lot of naysayers". (Sunday, August 6, 2013).

I went on to say that party members have a right to express their views and that I would always defend that right. Unfortunately, in recent days my defence of that right has been characterized as treasonous and has been misrepresented as self-serving and disloyal - not only by the headline writers but by some of my honourable colleagues as well.

Here are the facts:

I have not called for a leadership review and would never do so. I first became aware of the proposed resolution when Sue-Ann Levy called me for my comments.

I did, and continue to defend the right of party members to have their concerns heard in accordance with the provisions of our constitution that allows for amendments to be filed, debated and voted on.

I have stated to media that rather than allow this issue to fester, one option available to the leader is to voluntarily have a confidence vote added to the September convention

agenda so as to put an end to the petition controversy.

I have been clear that I will not be running for party leader again. My defence of the rights of party members to bring matters forward for debate is not about me, it is about defending the long-standing democratic principles of our party, of which I have been a member for almost 40 years. To suppress that right, only adds to the cynicism towards the political process, party politics and politicians.

For a balanced report on this issue, I encourage you to visit my website to review the following media reports:

1. Sue-Ann Levy's article in the Toronto Sun dated August 6
2. Brock Weir's article in The Auroran of August 7
3. Sean Pearce's Era Banner article of August 9
4. Christina Blizzard's Toronto Sun article of August 15
5. Listen to my radio interview with Bryan Allen on AM920
6. Watch my interview with Lawrence Diskin on the CHCH TV Show "Square Off"
7. Sue-Ann Levy's Toronto Sun article dated August 16

**As always, I welcome your comments.
www.frankklees.com**

I'm Not Ready



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

theatrical work. At least, not every week.

But it's obvious from their evident interest in all these things that they're a lively and creative bunch.

And they don't restrict their activities to the Centre. You'll see them manning booths at the Farmers' Market, Street Fest, and other special events in town. The always creative floats they build and participate in at the Canada Day and Santa Claus parades every year usually result in a prize or other nod of recognition.

And they regularly bring home a bunch of medals from various Seniors' Games and other regional and provincial tournaments in which they compete.

Their woodworkers have also produced for the town everything from nesting boxes to props for the Haunted Forest at Halloween.

For several years they have even written a weekly column in The Auroran.

At least by writing every other week I'm halfway to keeping up with them.

Sometimes they even invite the town to see them, such as when the Centre plays host to the town's annual Easter Egg hunt.

I'm not sure where they get all this collective energy. If it's something in the town's water, I'm not feeling a similar boost.

Although a ways off, it is an exciting prospect to anticipate being able to participate in so much evident camaraderie and in so many interesting activities, which by the time I'm ready to join them will probably include bungee jumping, advanced calculus and rock climbing.

So, if I'm going to become a senior one day in Aurora, and want to try to keep up with my fellows, it's obvious I'm going to have to start working now to get in better shape, improve my mental acuity and increase my energy levels.

Otherwise, I'm going to be the only one out there on the porch in a rocking chair.

**Feel free to e-mail Scott at:
machellscorners@gmail.com**

Last week, Jim posted this: "After the age of 50, the human body naturally begins to lose muscle strength. By the age of 70, most people have lost an average of 30 per cent of their strength. If you don't use it, you lose it."

While there are truths in that statement, it's not entirely correct. Even if you use it, you can still lose strength which also directly links to stamina.

Let's face it. Our bodies become tired from decades of wear and tear. This is especially true if you repeatedly force your body beyond its capabilities.

If you didn't seriously damage your body over the years, you're lucky. No doubt you will feel some aches and pains that limit your ability to do that heavy lifting, bending and kneeling that you once did.

Doing home renovations and even

general upkeep can become a daunting task the more your body has suffered. For some, disease and unrelated accidents make such challenges difficult if not impossible.

What are your options at that point?

Well, you can just let your home go, which is not the best choice, but sometimes the only one. You can find someone to help you, such as a friend, neighbor, family relation or sometimes churches and other community groups can help. The thing is, they don't necessarily have the time or the skills to do the work that is required.

Your last option is to just sell up and move into a condo or other accommodation that does not require any physical work by you. If you're accustomed to living in your own home, this might be the least desirable

option.

Fortunately, there is one more option if you have an age-related condition that interferes with your ability to look after your own home.

If you have a permanent disability or diminished ability brought on by aging and are living on a low to moderate income, you could qualify for a Home Repairs for Independent Living grant of up to \$5,000 offered through York Region. It is designed to help seniors stay in their homes. The catch is that there are only enough grants for 100 households. The money can go to minor renovations, modifications, urgent

repairs such as ramps, handrails, visible fire alarms, grab bars, raised toilets, bathtub conversions, lighting improvements and other repairs.

The deadline for applications is August 30, 2013.

For more information call 1-888-256-1112, or TTY 905-762-0401 or download an application from their web site: <http://www.york.ca> - Housing and Long-Term Care section.

Stuck in the black-phone era?

Have you decided that you do not need to know how to use a computer?

If so, you remind me of one of my old bosses. He was so reluctant to learn a new technology that he decided he couldn't learn.

He was the vice-president who was very comfortable with the black rotary phone, until the other boss decided to upgrade and add two extension lines. This required adding three buttons to the bottom of the phone: one for hold and two external lines.

No matter how much you instructed him, he would become flustered and plead to have the old phone back. Imagine how lost he'd be today with all our high tech items: computers, iPads, blackberries, cell phones, etc.

Are you still in the black phone single line era?

Computers offer so much. For me, I love the creativity that it inspires, both in writing and designing web sites and handouts. I love working with images, removing background distractions from photos and fixing the quality.

It's understandable that you would be apprehensive about using a computer. Everyone felt

that way when they first came on the market. It's even more intimidating as we get older and set in our ways. I learned computers a bit at a time, first a word processing program for writing and over the years, gradually added new skills. To me, this is the best way to learn as there's less to remember at a time.

The Computer Club starts its new season on Tuesday morning, September 10. This will be a Q&A session where you can ask questions and also answer questions posed by the trainers. They're interested in knowing what are your interests regarding computers and related paraphernalia: tablets, mobile computing devices and other technology.

The computer basics class is ideal to get you started if you have no experience.

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.

Public meeting for new cell tower set for September 3

From page 1

bring in a wide variety of evidence to even begin building the case.

"[He also noted] the Town would be exposed to a cost award should its judicial review application be dismissed."

In his letter to Mr. Mar dated August 8, Mr. Engell said the only issue with a judicial review is whether the ultimate authority in this case acted properly within its power. In his review of the case, he said procedural irregularities in this instance were "relatively minor" and unlikely to have much weight in the outcome and a lack of "substantive violations of the protocol."

In his opinion, the Town received notice Bell was putting a cell tower up on the land, "as did some residents, whereas some of the residents appear to have not received notice at all."

The watershed moment, however,

happened when the switch was flipped and the cell tower was put into operation.

"Both King Township and Industry Canada have decision-making power with respect to the consultation process," Mr. Engell concluded. "Accordingly, both are potential 'decision makers' whose role in the public consultation process may be subject to judicial review."

"If it is the specific procedural failings of the process that the Town (or the ratepayers) wish to pursue, it would seem the appropriate respondent is King Township, which had the delegated authority to oversee Bell in this case."

"We do not see that the Town can raise any substantive concerns with the locating of the cell phone tower, as there is no evidence of visual or health impact rising to the level that would be seriously considered by a judge on judicial

review. Meanwhile, the procedural irregularities do not appear to rise to the level of seriousness which is required by the courts on judicial review... Given how challenging mounting even a credible case would be, the Town would incur significant legal expenses to bring one. It would also be exposed to costs awarded against it if the court dismissed the application."

With the King tower fully operational, Aurora residents can now turn their attention to another cell phone tower proposed for Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East, slated for just behind the Longo's supermarket.

A public meeting on the proposal is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library. The meeting will be

facilitated by the Altus Group on behalf of Bell Canada.

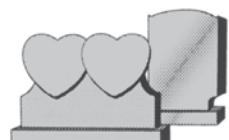
The proposal comprises of a 29.9 metre flagpole style tower with an equipment shelter and perimeter fencing, just meters between the grocery store and the residential development stemming from John West Way.

To make written submissions to the consultant on the plan or to obtain further information, one can contact Alexandra Schaffhauser by citing file number "d11-(ex)04-13" at comments.agi@altusgroup.com, over the phone at 416-204-5141, by fax at 416-641-9507, or by writing:

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As teachers and staff return to schools this week to prepare for the 2013 – 2014 school year (sorry, kids!), Ken Thurston, Director of the York Region Board of Education, shared his goals and vision for the upcoming year with The Auroran. Mr. Thurston is pictured above in May celebrating the 125th anniversary of Dr. G.W. Williams High School.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Education Director outlines plan for new school year

By Brock Weir

Digital learning and harnessing students' passions will be some of the top priorities on the bill as the York Region District School Board gears up for the 2013-2014 school year.

Ken Thurston, Director of the York Region District School Board (YRDSB), shared his goals and objectives for the year to come with The Auroran, ahead with meetings with trustees and leaders within the school network next week.

His plan builds on the goals and objectives of last year, building on student achievement and success, but also focusing on their wellbeing. "Student Achievement and Wellbeing" is priority number one for this school term.

"The YRDSB is a very high performing board," says Mr. Thurston. "We need to continue to dig deeper and make sure we have identified those students who can achieve at even higher levels and, for those who are still struggling, find innovative ways to support their continued enhanced achievement."

Last year's five priorities, he says, have been taken apart, dissected, and now it is time to "put them back together" to find and enhance "engaging programs" for students in all schools across the board. It is particularly important to make these programs "meaningful" to students and tailored both to their interests and learning styles.

"It is about being hands-on," he says. "For many students, it is about ensuring use of digital literacy and digital means of learning. That's the way of the world our kids are living with. [It's about] bringing the environment into

the classroom, but also taking the kids out into the environment, as well as things like social justice.

"Today's youth are so animated and turned on by doing 'good' for those around them and around the world. We so often find you can use that kind of engaging activity to motivate them to learn just about anything."

As the board focuses on student interests to help them achieve their full potential, they are also focusing on their "wellbeing." That, he says, has been a significant shift over the past few years with the Board in that they not only want students to read, for example, but also *want* to read.

It is all part of a "renewal" of their mission, vision and values, which is priority number two for the 2013-2014 year. The objectives of the school board were drafted in 1998 and implemented in 1999 and, since then, Mr. Thurston says the school board and the extensive community in which it serves have both become very different.

The revised "mission, vision, and value statement" will have "widespread" public input from students, parents, and staff and that will be drafted and honed over the next 12 months. They will also focus on making sure these new visions are actually implemented across the board.

"When I take a look at the words of our mission statement, it has served us very well," says Mr. Thurston. "Words around equity and engagement of everyone within our system – that didn't get as much attention in 1998 as it does now. Driving around York Region, communities, our families and schools are quite different

than they were 13 or 14 years ago. It is [about] capturing the essence of what the public can count on in the York Region District School Board."

The third priority is to re-engage the community. It is a third priority identified at least in part by the troubles that plagued the education system across Ontario last year with labour battles between teachers' unions and the Province of Ontario.

For Mr. Thurston, it is about building relationships with staff, parents, and communities. The fact the ultimate say in the labour dispute rested between the unions and the province was something which wasn't always "interpreted" as such within the York Region Community, but compared to other jurisdictions, York Region was relatively unscathed. Tensions grew, he said, when extracurricular activities were axed, and those concerns were uppermost in the minds of students and parents.

"We came through last year, relative to many other boards, very well in terms of the labour stresses in particular and the stresses that created for our parents and our families," he says. "Aside from one day we were able to keep our schools open and our programs running and maintaining pretty positive relations, relatively speaking with our employee groups.

"However, we want to build on that. We want to make sure that we rebuild any of those strained relationships and also reach out and make sure we rebuild any concerns and any weaknesses that developed with our communities and parents. We're building on an asset here."

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So you go back, again and again, and get the same or different drugs to make you feel better. Your doctor may eventually say.... "I've done all I can do - use the drugs to cope with the pain". Alternatively, the doctor may refer you to a specialist who may tell you that surgery is needed or is an option for you.

However, many people are hesitant to have surgery given its invasive

nature. It is important to know that although surgery is sometimes necessary, it is considered a last resort in most cases.

You are likely frustrated by having to suffer with the come and go pain but may also be concerned on your dependency on the pills and their possible side effects. You may have heard that there are serious health risks associated with chronic use (or overuse) of pain pills or anti-inflammatory drugs that include damage to the liver, kidneys and gut.

Although the pain killing or anti-inflammatory drugs are designed to numb the pain they do not correct the underlying root causes of the pain.

The most common underlying causes include nutritional problems, postural problems, infections, chemicals and immune system problems.

Medical doctors largely focus on medications to give relief but sufferers need to be aware that there are additional choices available for many cases of arthritis that are effective and safe. These natural approaches have

helped many sufferers improve their lives dramatically.

To help sufferers an upcoming workshop is being provided on Arthritis relief. This eye opening information has helped countless sufferers to feel better, have more mobility, increased flexibility and vastly improved function.

Many sufferers have found the information has led them to remarkable improvements in performing daily activities that include sports and athletics, leisure activities, housekeeping tasks, work duties and taking care of their kids.

"These natural approaches have helped many sufferers improve their lives dramatically".

In many cases, sufferers have found that they been able to avoid unnecessary surgery. As a community service this workshop is free. The workshop will be held on Wed Aug. 21, from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd., Unit 10, Richmond Hill. Seating is limited.

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Councillors have mixed messages on state of reserves

By Brock Weir

Councillors have approved a new strategy to tackle Aurora's reserve accounts — the funds tucked away to make sure enough money is on hand to cover "bumps in the road."

But while Aurora Treasurer Dan Elliott's 10 year plan to make sure reserve accounts are healthy was passed, debates indicated differing perspectives on whether the accounts are half-empty or half-full.

Talks centred on Mr. Elliott's 10 year Capital Plan for the Town. Over the next decade, the plan has a \$151 million vision for Aurora including keeping what Aurora already has in check and significant investment in new infrastructure.

Reserve funds are not simply dollars stashed away for a rainy day, but are there to provide a buffer so any unexpected costs are not a direct hit on taxpayers. He proposed a number of strategies for the decade ahead.

The first is to avoid going into debt for

repairing or replacing existing capital assets which could be funded through development charges. The second strategy is to have double what you actually need stored away for repair and replacement — two times the average 10 year requirement.

The third option is to divide cash to capital in proportion to needs, and the fourth is keeping cash-to-capital contributions, which is hammered out during each year's budget process — on an even keel, keeping pace with inflation.

But before the plans were approved at last week's Council meeting, some members of the table wanted everyone to be on message about the state of the reserves, which are each in varying states of financial health.

"We need to be very mindful of the message we send out to residents because [a negative message] leads them to believe there's a cause for concern," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "Yes [Mr. Elliott] is concerned, but that is why he has

put together the 10 year plan to not only meet the needs we have identified, the infrastructure that we need to build in the community to repair the growth related infrastructure and to address those issues with our reserves so we can feel very proud we have managed those finances well and we have a plan in place.

"I think we all need to be on the same page in terms of the message."

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel were just two of the Council members who expressed similar sentiments. Councillor Abel, for instance, said he was appreciative of Mr. Elliott's plan in that it puts forward a solid plan to address some of his previously noted concerns, particularly deficits in Aurora's Repair & Replacement and Development Charge reserves.

"This [plan] is something we have needed in this Town for a long time," said Mayor Dawe. "It is forward thinking. We're not a

small town anymore. We are a multi-million dollar business and we need to plan accordingly. [This] puts us in a better position to manage where we're going and, in the long run, provide far more value to the residents in the Town of Aurora."

Other Councillors, however, were not as eager to get on the same page. Councillor Evelyn Buck, for instance questioned the plan of putting money away from the taxpayers of today to help pay for infrastructure and buffer the tax hits of the residents of tomorrow, whether five or 10 years down the road.

"I am not sending the same message to the community," said Councillor Buck of Councillors Thompson and Abel's support of the plan. "I think [residents] should be concerned. We are accountable for each 12 months of the amount of money we take out of the pockets of the people who live in this Town. I am not interested in taking money out of the pockets of the people who live here today to save or

protect the people who may live here five, six, 10 or 20 years down the road.

"It is a matter of principle, and I hope that people are listening and will understand there is a difference of opinion and principle and I would like that to be known I am not sending that same message."

Councillor Chris Ballard expressed a similar view. He said while it might be good politically to address "big bumps" that might come out around budget time through these reserves, he

questioned the wisdom from a "philosophical" perspective.

"That might make life easier for the politicians, but I am also drawn to the point of view that it is our job to explain those bumps and to justify those expenditures as they happen," he said. "I still struggle with that philosophical difference that taxing the residents today for assets of the future is a good thing.

"It might be a good thing politically because it gets rid of those bumps, but I struggle with it."

Parking restrictions on Stone Road could be fine-tuned before approval

By Brock Weir

Stone Road residents have won a temporary reprieve on a possible partial parking ban on a stretch of their street.

Councillors voted last week to hold off on a plan to place a parking ban in the vicinity of Holy Spirit Elementary School and reduce speed limits in the area from 50 km/h to 40 km/h. Following debate and correspondence from neighbours, a final decision was held off until September to see if a parking ban only at certain parts of year — such as during school months — would better serve residents.

"The recommendation is parking be prohibited in the school area and I agree with that," said Councillor Evelyn Buck. "There are a lot of weeks like now in the summer when the school is not operating. There are evenings and weekends and I would like to ask if it is not possible to have parking prohibited at certain hours during school operations and then residents be permitted the freedom to park outside those hours?"

Although no residents from the Stone Road area came forward during the Council meeting either during Open Forum or as delegations, the handful in attendance for the debate last week to hear the outcome nodded their heads in agreement with Councillor Buck's comment.

Added onto the meeting's agenda was

a letter to Councillors from resident Dora M. Robinson. In the letter, she opposed all restrictions on Stone Road and voiced her support for on street parking given limited space in their driveways. She added the proposed parking ban of from 44 metres north of the school limit to 138 metres south of the property were unclear and residents' "concerns" over sight restrictions posed by on-street parking were not shared by the rest of the neighbourhood.

"What rankles me the most about this issue is that it is my understanding that one individual resident of Stone Road started this action and that the recommendation is meant to placate this individual," Ms. Robinson wrote. "It should be noted that this person did not attend the June 10 resident meeting at Town Hall, nor did this person extend regrets.

"One individual should simply not have the clout, without the support of the other residents, to effect changes, substantial changes, to neighbourhood interests. I believe that

at the June 10 meeting, it was clear there was no appetite for parking restrictions from the group in attendance [and] the resulting recommendation is very perplexing."

She did, however, note her support for the speed reduction.

Responding to Councillor Buck's suggestion, Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, said making parking restrictions dependent on school hours was something they could look into, but the underlying issue was not that parking was taking place in the school area itself.

"It isn't specifically related to the school periods as much as it is related to the sight lines around that corner," said Mr. Simanovskis. "The additional traffic during school hours does exacerbate the issue, but part of the challenge is the sight lines.

"That is something [for which] we would probably want to go back with the residents because the current recommendations are based on some input from the community and I would not

want to modify the recommendations too drastically without any further consultation."

With Council's approval, however, it is back to the drawing board.

"I am not in favour of taking people's amenities away from them unless there was a good reason for it," Councillor Buck concluded. "If there is a possibility of refining that parking restriction to the point you can take care of the problem and leave the amenity at the same time during the hours where it wouldn't be a problem then I would like to see that happen."

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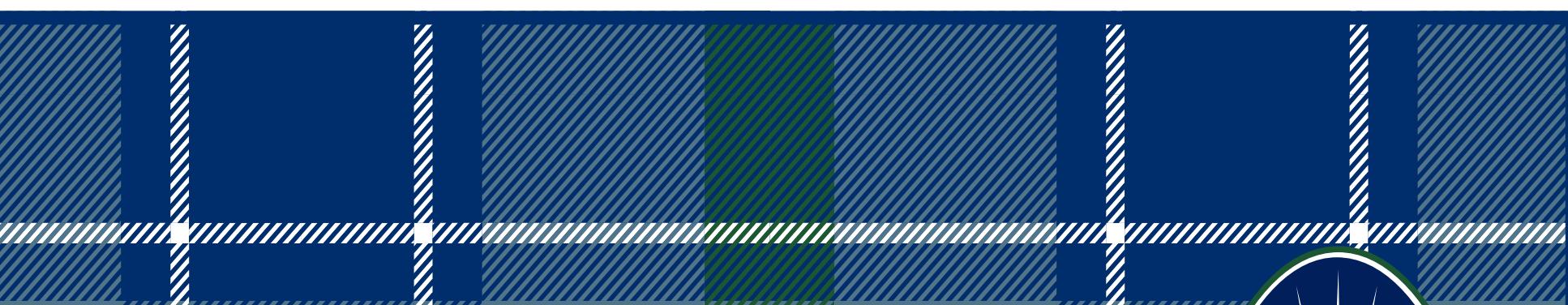
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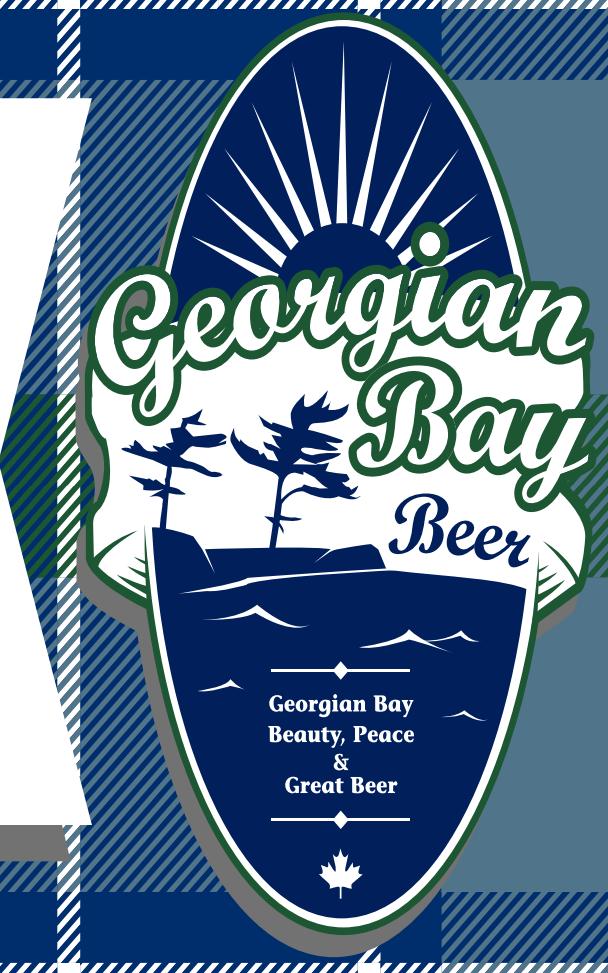
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Joint Ops and youth centres could be built borrowing from Hydro fund

By Brock Weir

Aurora's joint operations centre and youth space could be financed by borrowing money from the Town's Hydro Reserves, following a decision made by Council last week.

Council approved borrowing from the Hydro Fund to finance the \$17.5 million Joint Operations Centre, slated to be built on Industrial Parkway North combining the operations of the Parks and Works departments, and nearly \$5 million of the \$7 million price tag for the planned youth space at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, following Council's approval, will seek funding for the Joint Operations Centre

through various grant programs, including the Green Municipal Fund. All other avenues, he added, would be looked at for financing these plans but if nothing more "attractive" comes forward, financing these things internally with their own detailed plan on payback, would be more beneficial than going through the banks and other lenders.

"The hydro funds are in reserve for no specific planned purpose at this time," he said. "It does not make sense for us to, with money in the bank, go out and borrow money. It is not tax deductible when we do that...so it makes more sense to borrow from ourselves when we have the cash unless I can find a better deal."

Mr. Elliott's plan

includes repaying the debt to the Hydro Fund as money rolls in from an anticipated \$20 million sale of municipal lands near Leslie Street over the next decade, as well as funds that can be generated from the sale of the current site of the works department on Scanlon Court, just off Industrial Parkway near Wellington Street.

While the plan was ultimately approved by Council, it was passed just 5-4 with Councillors Chris Ballard, Evelyn Buck, Wendy Gaertner, and John Gallo objecting to the change of course.

Councillor Gaertner, for instance, a strong opponent to the community space for youth (otherwise known as "Youth Centre") plan reiterated her objections

over financing a space which, she says, actually contains comparatively little space for youth. She also expressed doubts that all money anticipated from the sale of Scanlon Court could be realised because money out of that sale would need to be used for cleaning up the land.

Councillor Ballard, on the other hand, said he viewed the plan as a "workaround" to the strict rules put in place to govern how the Hydro money is spent.

While Mr. Downey said if and when the time comes to borrow this money, the rules regarding public consultation and hearings over its use would still be enforced.

Councillor John Gallo argued that had financing both facilities from the Hydro Funds been on the table when Council originally considered the proposals, it could have resulted in a very different outcome.

"This is not a novel concept," he said of financing. "This is not something that came about that we didn't know about. It is frustrating to see a funding model after we have already approved it to the tune of \$21 million."

Councillor Buck said while she was disappointed the Hydro money has languished in a bank account accruing very little interest while

it was intended to replace Aurora Hydro with "an asset of equal value" to the community, she objected to the money being used in this way.

"I'm not happy the money is sitting there in a reserve fund all these years later and I am less happy to find Council contemplating borrowing the money," said Councillor Buck.

"I am less happy when the last Council couldn't bring themselves to make a decision and improve the quality of life for everyone in the Town of Aurora by providing an asset that would make a huge interest in the daily life for all generations.

That hasn't happened yet and it is a serious disappointment to me, and I am sure, many people."

Nevertheless, the plan was approved 5-4. Speaking in favour of moving forward, Councillor Michael Thompson said internal financing made sense because it would

ultimately result in lesser costs than going outside.

"We are the banker, the lender and the borrower all at the same time, he said.

From the perspective of Councillor John Abel, the "vision" of doing something special with the \$33+ million Hydro Reserves has met with very little discussion so far, so using it as a "revolving fund" to finance things that would benefit the community was something that should be considered.

"I would rather see these facilities done now," he said. "We are well committed to doing them and we're fortunate to have the hydro fund and we have assets in land. I am very comfortable with what is before us. We have to commit and address those issues. If we wait for 12 years for all the funds to come in, the costs could easily double and that is not serving our community."

"That is part of our job to evaluate that."



Three year old Rachel got a kick out of "spinner art" at the Aurora Farmers' Market on Saturday afternoon. Helping Rachel find her inner artist was Natalie of 4 Cats Art Studio. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

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Library Square's future waits on support for "Fab Lab"

By Brock Weir

When it comes to the future of Aurora's Library Square, the ball is now in the court of the Region of York and Seneca College.

Council made the decision last week to hold off on making a final decision on the future of the lands on Victoria Street currently occupied by the former homes of the Aurora Public Library and Seniors' Centre pending further information from the two parties.

Representatives from the Town of Aurora, the Region of York, and Seneca College have been in talks over the use of the old library building as a possible site for an "innovation incubator" or "Fab Lab" which could be used for research and development in partnership with the college.

The idea was first floated at Aurora's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). Councillor Michael Thompson, chair of EDAC, asked his fellow Councillors to defer the decision until at least October.

"We continue to discuss the use of an innovation hub and a Fab Lab and are currently waiting to hear back on the grant application that has been submitted to move this concept forward," said Councillor Thompson, noting staff estimated news would be forthcoming between September and October.

"The Region would like to make a presentation based upon that. It would be in everybody's best interest to delay it just a little longer to get confirmation back on what is happening with regards to that grant funding, and the ongoing discussions...on developing something on that site."

While the motion to delay ultimately passed the Council table, not all Councillors saw the value in holding off on a decision. Councillor Evelyn Buck, for instance, questioned whether their vision of a Fab Lab would be allowed in what is on the edge of a residential area.

"We have several industrial parks, which is the logical place for such a use," she said. "The old library is not a use for that and I will not support any further deferral for [what] the committee is thinking regarding this building. If you think you have seen controversy over the potential use of these buildings when all you have been talking about is replacing them with something similar, you ain't seen nothing yet from the people who live in that community about that proposal."

Some of her concerns stemmed from

the potential use of machinery in the building. In previous reports both to Council and EDAC, municipal staff said one of the reasons Seneca College and the Region of York were interested in using the old Library building was the thick, sturdy floors built to withstand the weight of stacks would be able to accommodate machinery.

She also questioned the success of similar projects already brought to fruition in communities such as Markham and said staff had been directed to go to the community to look for possible future uses of the land, not entertaining preliminary proposals from the Region and Seneca.

The idea also failed to get the support of Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

"I think the idea of a Fab Lab is fascinating and I would love to see it in Aurora, but I consider this the community's land and, therefore, it needs to be public space," she said.

Speaking in favour of the motion and, in turn, the possibility of a Fab Lab, Councillor Paul Pirri said that machinery does not necessarily equate to "loud". One of the uses being investigated is 3D printing, a relatively quiet process using layers of plaster and other materials to create the end product. The Councillor said that was a viable use and something deserving serious consideration.

"This is an opportunity for people to come in, work together, work collaboratively on something," he said. "When you look at the Cultural Centre and the Library, those are institutions to one extent or another. To have another facility where people can come in and work together creatively to do something outstanding I think is extremely important."

Councillor John Abel expressed a similar view. Creativity, he said, would thrive in a place like a Fab Lab where people can come in and get the chance to develop unique and innovative ideas, engage youth with their ideas and provide opportunities for them as well. While he was supportive, he said he hoped there would be a way to bring in not only a Fab Lab but coordinate it to some of the other ideas gathered in public meetings, ranging from knocking the buildings down to create parking to a multi-use building.

"This is an opportunity to put something on the map, something stunning in that area architecturally [that is] also functional," he said. "I want [the future] report to outline what we have envisioned, along with the Fab Lab, along with



Bocce, anyone? While local seniors have been sneaking in a few games over the last few weeks, the new bocce courts at the Aurora Seniors' Centre were officially opened last Tuesday. Joining Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, centre, for the ribbon cutting were Frank Leone, Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey, Aurora Seniors' Association president Charles Sequeira, and Senior Scape columnist Jim Abram.

Auroran photo
by David Falconer

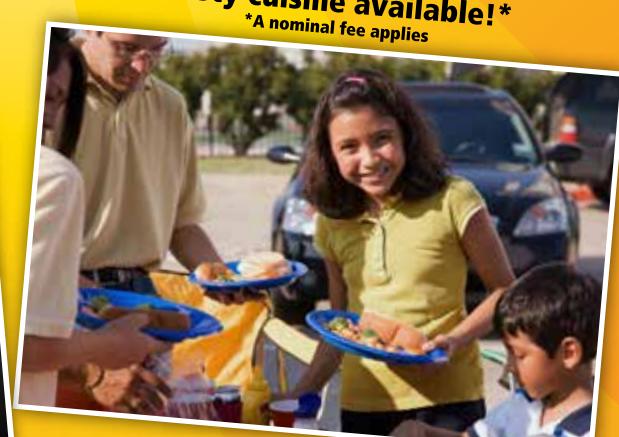
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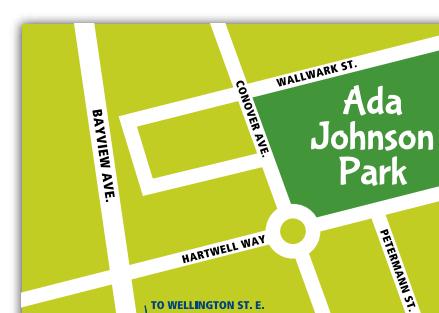


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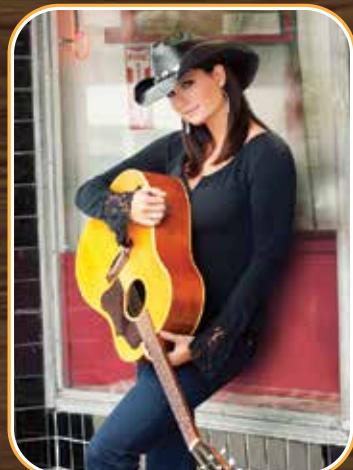
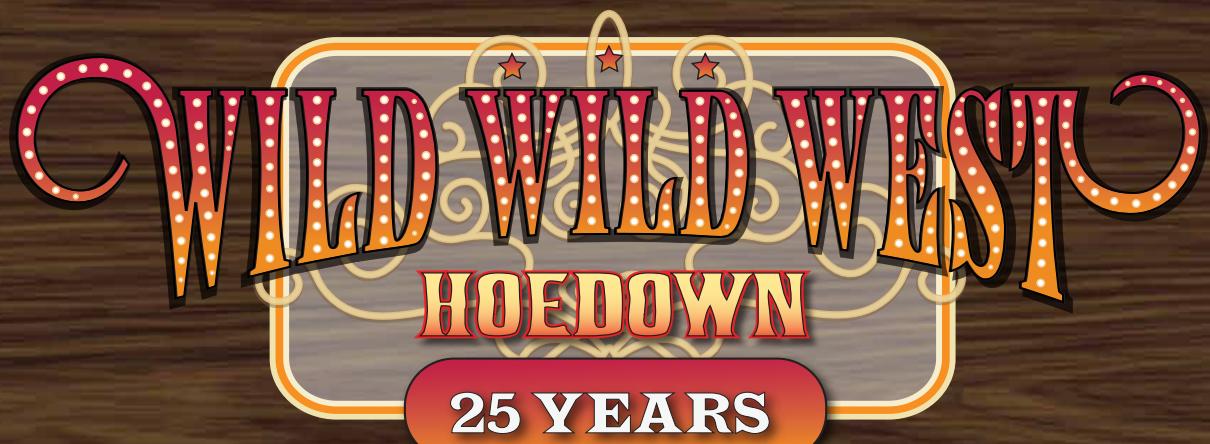
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Arts & Culture

Monster of a gift lands Aurora student writing prize

By Brock Weir

Looking for just the right gift to give to her infant cousin, Morgan Giamov wasn't interested in a rattle or a onesie.

The St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School student got her creative juices flowing and set pen to paper to make the perfect creation.

Delving deep into her imagination, Morgan found a fun little monster and spun a tale of a frustrated creature getting sick of his parents not believing his tall tales and setting out into the world on his own.

"Monsters can be silly or scary or just about anything," says Morgan. "I never wrote a story before, but I just felt like writing something."

Her efforts caught the imagination of her teachers over at St. Joseph's. When she told her teacher, Kathleen Baldwin, she had written the story as a Christmas present for her cousin, she asked her to translate it into French. This was an easy request for the French Immersion

student, and when she read the finished product to her class, she was encouraged to enter it into the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Federation's annual Young Authors contest.

The awards herald the talents of students in the Catholic stream, be it in the form of plays, poems, articles, essays, or short stories in either official languages. After a series of evaluations, Morgan's "Mon Bebe Monstre" received top honours as Best French Short Story in the Grades 3–4 Category.

Morgan is one of seven students from the York Catholic District School Board to take home honours in the annual contest, and one of two Aurora students. Kara Waites, a student at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, was awarded Best Poem in the Grade 11–12 Category for "What Do You Do?"

"I was really happy!" said Morgan. "My dad printed out a bunch of copies to give to people."

Her parents, of course,

are exceptionally proud of their daughter.

"We thought it was so sweet," said her mother, Denise, on Morgan's idea to create a gift for her cousin. "She wrote it at home and just knocked it out in a day. She took it up north and showed everybody at Christmas, then she showed it to her teacher and she was just so excited.

"I got a phone call one day from her teacher and principal and they were just jumping up and down that [she had won] and then I was jumping up and down. They told her and she was so calm and humble, and here I am freaking out!"

Building on her success with "Mon Bebe Monstre", Morgan has already penned a second installment featuring the monster in question, this time with her own illustrations.

"We had to write a story about urban and rural communities, so we had to write a story about people switching and going to different communities," she says, with both she



St. Joseph student Morgan Giamov is pictured with her award at her tidy desk.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

and her mom noting her stories always come with a lesson. "Even if people don't believe you, you know the truth and you don't have to run away. You could run into some trouble and realize you need that person and you miss them."

To download your copy of the winning entries in the OECTA's Young Authors Awards, visit www.tinyurl.com/ycdsb-authors.

Legion members have a got ticket to ride

By Brock Weir

Members of the Royal Canadian Legion now have a ticket to ride.

Ontario bikers – many of them veterans of Canadian deployments overseas – descended on the Aurora Legion on Friday to support the new Legion Riders program.

The initiative was launched by the Legion's Dominion Command last month to capture the attention of members who are also motorcycle enthusiasts to help generate awareness and raise the profile of the Legion across the country.

The idea was first floated by the bikers themselves,

looking for a way not only to share their love for motorcycles within the group, but also promote Legion work throughout their communities to generate vital new support for the veterans' service group.

Adjacent to the Aurora Legion on Industrial Parkway North is the Legion's Ontario Command. There, the provincial body shared its enthusiasm for the new program.

"Based on popular demand from our Legion members, Dominion Command has...created the motorcycle group to help generate awareness about the Legion, its community engagement across the country and its services to our serving and retired veterans, RCMP personnel and their families," said provincial president Bruce Julian. "The Legion is an iconic cornerstone of Canadian communities at the forefront of support for

the military and the RCMP members and their families. Many members of the Legion are also motorcycle enthusiasts. Until now, this aspect of their Legion service has not been addressed.

"[This initiative will] help generate awareness of the Legion, its community engagement across the country and its services to our serving and retired veterans, RCMP personnel and their families. The Legion riders are now able to mount up across Canada and you will start to see them forming at Legion branches from coast to coast. For many members of the Legion, the Legion riders will allow them to be a part of a group of motorcycle enthusiasts and provide them with a great way to enjoy and share one of life's great passions."

Speaking after the event, Mr. Julian said the Legion is always looking at new initiatives to satisfy

See Riders on page 22



Sharon McKeown and Bruce Julian of the Royal Canadian Legion's Ontario Command welcomed veteran bikers and their motorcycles to their headquarters on Industrial Parkway on Friday to kick off Legion Riders.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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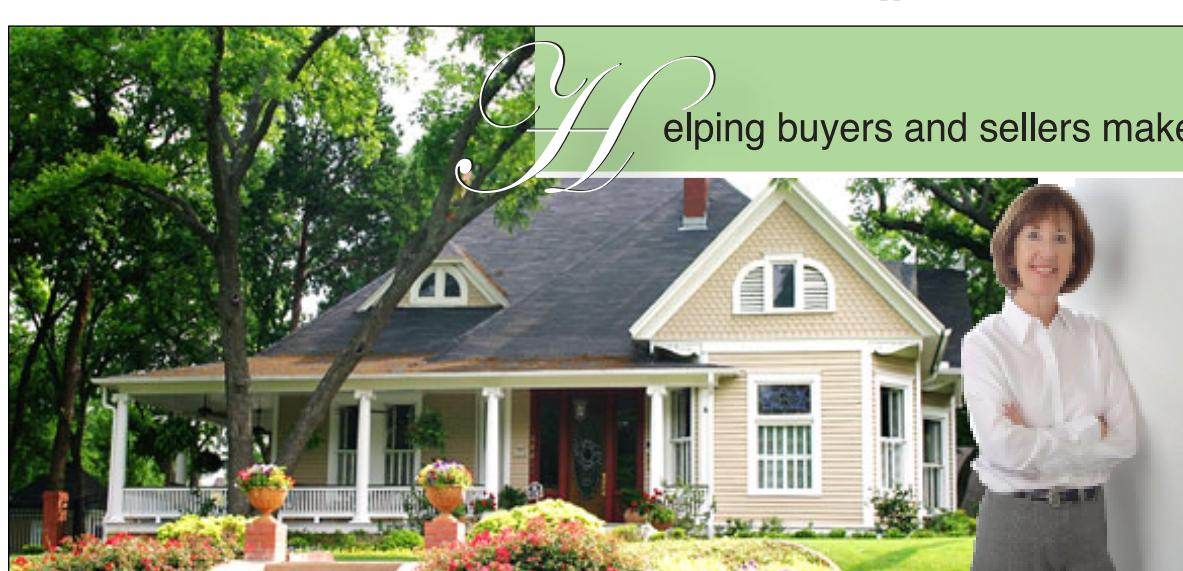
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United Way launches “scary as heck” goal for 2013-2014



Last year's Municipal Cup champs, the Aurora Avengers, will have to live up to their name next year as they try to win the cup back from Newmarket.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

By Jeff Doner

Hundreds of amped up and enthusiastic participants and spectators were out for the Toromont CAT Dragon Boat Festival for the United Way York Region at Seneca College King Campus last Saturday.

An impressive 28 teams representing different municipalities, community groups, sponsors and businesses dug deep and frantically paddled their way to the finish line to help raise \$120,000 in support of United Way in the community.

But it's just the start of a much larger campaign that has many excited

about the challenge, as United Way York Region CEO Daniele Zanotti enthusiastically announced a three-year campaign goal to raise \$30 million in three years.

“Historic, bold, ambitious, never been done before and scary as heck goal, but so necessary in our growing region,” Zanotti said to a raucous crowd before the races. “We have an unprecedented opportunity to change lives in our neighbourhoods, not only for this year, but for decades to come.”

“Imagine a network of care and support in every neighbourhood – Vaughan or King, Whitchurch-

Stouffville, Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill or Aurora. In three years we will know we have succeeded when people and families in municipalities across this region can say, ‘there is help in my neighbourhood.’”

According to the United Way, last year they helped 28,557 children and youth with educational and recreational supports, after school programs, leadership counseling and more. These programs assisted 12,523 people find jobs, access housing, and secure food and helped 40,014 people access essential services in their own neighbourhood.

On hand for the event was the Aurora Avengers team that was eyeing a repeat win of the municipal cup, but their Yonge street rivals from Newmarket edged them in the race to take the title.

Mara Gromacki has been captain of the Avengers team for three years running and said there was definitely some pressure to repeat as municipal cup winners in the friendly race.

“I think we did great, wish we could have walked away with the trophy for the second year running, but we still have two more races,” she said. “It’s kind of like proud mama moment. We won last year, so there was kind of a lot of pressure to win this year too, but I’m so proud of the team and all of the work we’ve done so far.”

Gromacki also said the event is great for bonding the region together for a great cause.

“It goes a long way. We had a lot of response even from just patrons at the facilities who saw the posters asking to come out and cheer, it has been a lot of fun.”

The Aurora team will begin their corporate fundraising campaign in the fall to help the United Way reach its goal.

Although the day’s events were about having fun and raising awareness, Zanotti reiterated the dire need for services and help within York Region.

“The demand for social services is outgrowing the supply,” he said. “What makes a neighbourhood great, more than roads, sewers and stores are places

where people can go get involved and find the help they need. We know that communities with formal and informal support have better health, higher educational achievement, better economical growth and lower crime rates. We know that with friends like you, we can make our great neighbourhoods in this region even greater for all.”

News on grant due this fall

From page 11

the common area and parking.”

Speaking to the success innovation incubators in southern Ontario, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor Thompson said it would be “well worth” the time to allow for further consideration.

“[The site] borders on the Library and the Cultural Centre and they see it as a learning hub,” said Councillor Thompson. “They see connectivity [with the neighbours] and it borders on Yonge Street and that location is one of the key drivers to it all.”

“We need to wait until Seneca comes back to us with a sense and understanding of their approach in terms of what phase and how to move forward before we incorporate it into any design elements or additions to the space. [Once] the information around the grant is known, then we can make more concrete decisions and actually deal with this space and make a determination once and for all what the future holds.”

What do you think? Would you like to see a FabLab in the old library building, or do you support another use of the land? Send your thoughts to letters@auroran.

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Youth take second crack at new skate park design

By Jeff Doner

Some very enthusiastic young members of the community turned up to voice their opinions, views and ideas for Aurora's new proposed skateboard park at an open forum last Thursday.

Representatives from the Canadian Ramp Company, which is designing and building the park, showed those in attendance an artist's conception of the proposed park thus far.

After getting a good look, the youngsters sounded off on what they wanted to see.

Brandon Robinson, a skate park specialist from the Canadian Ramp Company, said he was happy with the turnout and that the forums have been helpful in finding out what skaters, BMX bikers and scooters in Aurora are looking for.

“It's actually really good that we had this second meeting because we were kind of going in one direction and now we know we have to go to the other side a bit,” he said.

“We always try to incorporate as much of all worlds as possible, but when you hear one thing so much at one meeting, we decided this is going to be a plaza style park, but now we're hearing a completely different thing, so it's really good we have this. I like the interaction.”

During the presentation, Robinson said the current template was driven from feedback from many skateboarders. That inspired two shallow bowls and a more “plaza” theme, which mimics a street-like experience.

The park is also expected to be diverse for all needs and skill levels and this includes features for skaters, bikers and scooters.

“It's going to be a balance,” Robinson explained. “Right now we're very heavy plaza, because that's what we heard first, but it's one of those things that it's going to have to be where we step back a bit and push a little more on the transition.”

Despite the fact that a first draft is complete, Robinson said there was still a lot of work to be done and everyone's suggestions will be taken into serious consideration.

“This is a conceptual design and we came in with the pure intention of creating a skate park that was meant for Aurora,” he said. “We do every build method and the reason we do that is every community has different needs and desires. Some have more skaters, other BMX bikers.”

Jordan Connell, 12, is thrilled about the new park and suggested features that make the park more suitable for scooters. He also voiced concerns about keeping it well lit and deterring graffiti and

vandalism.

“I feel like the park is going to be more molded to creation of flow and I like that,” he said, citing other parks around the country in reference.

Noah Cowan, also 12, chimed in numerous times with ideas for features that would be appealing to BMX bikers and received a couple “good idea” comments from the presenters.

“I just go to skate parks all around and I think, ‘oh, that looks like a pretty popular set up, why don't we have that in Aurora, that would be so cool,’” he said.

Coming out and having his voice heard was important to him.

“You've got to come and tell these guys and help them understand that a lot of people would like different things and tell them your ideas.”

Justin Foster, 12, was also enthusiastic about the project and hopes the new park will be properly designed.

“It's good, because that way it hopefully won't turn out like the other Aurora one that was not much of what we wanted, but now we can help make it so that it's better.”

Foster also pointed out that a quality facility will keep bikers, skaters and scooters off the roads.

Robinson said he wasn't surprised about how involved today's youth has become in advocating for skate parks.

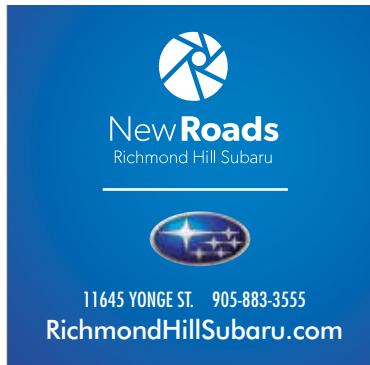
“I'm not surprised at all because skateboarding is one of those sports that has really been overlooked,” he said. “Skaters, they're not heard most of the time in the community and so Aurora is doing something great by listening to their skaters and bikers and creating something that they want.”

He also said the public at large is starting to take skateboarding seriously.

“We're really transitioning to a growing, accepted sport and it might even make the Olympics in eight years, that's really being pushed. It's becoming a mainstream sport and it needs to be treated like a mainstream sport.”

“Aurora is going to have great skaters, bikers and scooters in 15 years time,” he continued. “They're passionate about it and it's great. Skating is more than just a sport and a physical activity; it's a livelihood for some people. This is what they do and it gets their name out there.”

In a few weeks a new draft will be completed, followed by some more public and town input. The Town is eyeing a tender for the park this October with construction beginning sometime in November.



— THE AURORAN —

SPORTS



Vol. 13 No. 41 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of August 21, 2013

Jays push through to second round of playoffs against Orillia

By Jeff Doner

They were pushed to the limit, but the Aurora Jays men's baseball team dug deep and came out on top of a do-or-die situation in game five against Clearview last week.

The 9 – 5 win moved them on to the second round of the North Dufferin Baseball League's senior men's playoffs against the Orrillia Majors.

After forcing the Clearview Orioles up against the ropes early in the series with wins in games one and two, the Jays got complacent and allowed the Orioles to come back and tie the series.

But, after two consecutive losses, the Jays found life and were jolted for a big performance in game five.

Buoyed by a stellar

performance from starting pitcher Brent Owen, the Jays rallied around their pitcher and everything seemed to fall into place.

After a tough loss in his last outing against the Orioles, Owen said there was no other option but to win.

"It felt awesome to get back on the horse," he said postgame. "It really sucked losing last game. It hurt. So, it was a tough loss, which made it feel even better to get this win. I pumped myself up before the game. All I wanted to do was get here and throw some strikes."

After giving up one run in the top of the first, Owen settled in and made short work of the Clearview batters.

But it wasn't until the bottom of the second that a raucous Jays squad got the run back and took the lead.

Catcher Chris Fafalios walked and was driven in by Chris Rettie for the Jays' first run.

The one-two punch of Stephen Vallee and Chris Bloom were once again dynamic for the Jays at the top of the batting order and were catalysts in the Jays taking a 4 – 1 lead in the inning.

From then on, Owen added to his strikeout total and kept the Orioles at bay.

Fafalios and his hot bat kept things rolling for the Jays in the bottom of the fourth inning by turning a single into a double on one of many throwing errors by the Orioles. Vallee would drive in Fafalios soon after to increase their lead 5 – 1.

Then the bats came out again in the bottom of the fifth, to help the Jays jump out to a 9 – 1 lead.

In the top of the sixth, Owen got himself into a

bit of trouble, giving up four runs to Clearview, but he managed to escape the inning with a four run lead.

With the game almost in the bag, dependable closer Zack Wiseman relieved Owen to save the game and lock down a 9 – 5 win.

"We all hit, the defence was good for the most part, which helped us come away with the series," Vallee said. "We're definitely feeling good about things right now. The biggest thing tonight was that we saw a lot of positive energy that we didn't see in games three and four when we were flat. Tonight everybody was cheering and on their toes."

Vallee said even though his team were the favourites heading into the series, the Jays were pushed by the Orioles.

"I definitely give kudos to Clearview for playing really hard. They caught us off-guard in game three and pushed really hard in game four, but I think tonight we all proved that we are the better team," he said.

Added Owen: "Tonight



The Jays celebrate after their all-important win against Clearview.
Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

things went well. The guys were pumped and good things are happening," he said. "If we keep our energy up like it was tonight, we're unbeatable. That's just how it is. The last two games have been flat, so we just need to keep the energy in it and we'll be fine."

They're now looking ahead to their next series against Orillia, the Jays will look to keep the momentum going and the intensity at a high against a team that the Jays were unable to beat in the regular season.

"It's going to be a tough series," said Mike Keon. "Orillia was one of the

top teams all year long. The schedule is a little unusual as Orillia has home field advantage, but the first two games are in Aurora. With that it will be very important to play well in those first two games."

Round two schedule against Orillia is as follows: Game one – Lambert Willson Park in Aurora on August 20 at 7.30 p.m., game two at Stewart Burnett Park in Aurora on August 22, with the following three games slated to be played in Aurora.

Visit www.ndbl.ca for stats, scores and schedules.



Breakfast of Champions Spotlight



There is no stopping the Aurora Barbarian Senior Women!

By Gill Hall

In 2012, the Aurora Barbarian Senior Women saw their most successful season to date winning the Ontario Women's League (OWL) championship.

This is an outstanding accomplishment for the ladies that is made even more impressive as they did it with a perfect 12-0 record, and 10-0 in the regular season combined with two playoff wins.

After narrowly losing in the final the previous year to the Toronto Scottish, the women were hungry for another shot at the title. With hard work and determination, the Barbs won game after game throughout the regular season and continued to push straight through to

their second championship game in as many years; however 2012 would be different.

Facing a very physical squad from Waterloo, the Barbs were able to work together and push through

previous year was no fluke and that they were still a force to be reckoned with.

The Barbs finished the regular season with a 9-1 record, falling only to the team from Waterloo who, no doubt, is looking to prove something after their loss in the 2012 final.

This record is good enough for the Barbarians to secure first place in the OWL and for a second consecutive year claim the league title.

Sport Aurora congratulates the Aurora Barbarian Senior Women on their success and wishes them all the best in the playoffs!



Photo by Leighton Chong

to their first OWL title in club history!

With the bar set high, the Barbs Women came into the 2013 season determined to show everyone that the

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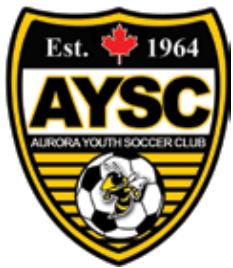
PROUDLY SUPPORTING LOCAL SPORTS

New Roads
Automotive Group™



Aurora Youth Soccer Club

HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS: August 12 - August 15, 2013



The Stingers are truly blessed to have Carter as a Teammate. Speaking on behalf of the Team, Coaching Staff and Parents it was an honour and pleasure.



"Pink" Campaign At Stinger Cup: Saturday Aug. 24th 10am-noon. Please look for the 1998 Girls in their pink jerseys at Sheppard's Bush and Magna Fields. They are winding down their season-long fundraising for Southlake Hospital's Images for Life campaign through the sales of pink and black AYSC caps. Please help support our hospital and purchase a cap for \$15. Thanks!

OLE International Tournament Champions!



We are proud of our U12 Team Girls who won the OLE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT in Fort Ann, New York on July 20/21, 2013. The competitive teams were from the eastern USA. The girls played hard and came away with 3 wins and a tie to finish in first place in the tournament. Coaches Paul Waddell and Christine Fraser were impressed with the great effort and team work from all the players. This is the second tournament win of the season for the team after winning the AURORA CANAM TOURNAMENT on June 23, 2013.



Aurora
Stingers
U13 Girls
Team 2-
Win 2013
McGarrigle Cup



*Scores
compiled
by Virginia*



Serpa BMW
Respect. Trust. Enjoy.

GIRLS

U13

Lifestyles Home Creations, Maroon 3 - G. Bennett, C. Kenwell, P. Semple. Guaranteed Roofing, Emerald 3 - T. Britton, T. Vierling.

U13
Scotia Bank, Scarlet 0

CGI, Black 4 - V. Carriere 2, S. Naumoski, A. Maugeri.

U13
Sky 1 - A. Therkildsen. Home Hardware, Gold 5 - C. Brown 2, A. McGregor, J. Sproul, B. MacFarlane.

BOYS

U12

Wilson Baliff, Scarlet 2 - E. Krawczyk, G. Gatzopoulos. Micronex, Gold 7 - C. Williams 4, A. Miranda 2, E. McGill, W. Sherman.

U16-18
Upper Canada Mall, Silver 1 - F. De Buono. Upper Canada Mall, Gold 6 E. Balkovec 3, M. Smith 2, A. De Roos.

U16-18
Upper Canada Mall, Emerald 2 - A. Marsland, T. Kiriakakis. Upper Canada Mall, Scarlet 6

Sponsored by:

This is a great time at the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair. Our talented artisans have had several months to design and create their stunning, one of a kind pieces and have a variety to choose from.



MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

of you or your dog right on the spot. Or you can send her an email with a picture of your pet(s), or she can take a photograph, and from that, produce a detailed work in acrylic on canvas within a few weeks.

Sharon grew up eating delicious Jewish food made by her Mother and Grandmother. This is one of the recipes they all loved.

CABBAGE BORSHT

*2 lbs. soup meat (brisket or flank) cut into cubes
2 - 3 soup bones
3 qts. Water
½ head of green cabbage - chopped*

*28 oz. can of tomatoes
Tomato paste to taste
½ cup brown sugar
2 tsp. lemon juice*

Salt and pepper to taste

Cut up the meat into cubes. Add the meat and the soup bones to the water.

Bring to a boil and skim off the foam.

Reduce the heat and add remaining ingredients. Cover the pot and simmer for 3 hours.

You could add more sugar if a sweeter soup is desired.

This soup freezes very well and serves 8-10 people. It is taken from the cookbook, "Second Helpings Please".

The next special event at the Market is our Community Corn Roast next week on August 24. We will be grilling large quantities of local corn from our farmers with the proceeds going to the Food Pantry.

As our entertainment for that day, we will be presenting Town Council's very own Kouncil Kritters and also the Thursday Night Jam Band. The latter band always requests that people bring donations to the Food Pantry whenever they play-in a truly community-minded and generous spirit.

It promises to be another wonderful day at the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair, so plan to join us.

In her teens, Sharon won a scholarship to study art on Saturday mornings at the Ontario Art Gallery. Later she continued her studies at Three Schools of Art in Toronto, at an art college in the Netherlands and at the Ottawa School of Art. She worked as a caricature artist in the Ottawa Market for many summers, where she honed her drawing and people skills.

She loves having children watch her at work and especially loves to see the smiles on people's faces when they receive their caricature or portrait.

It was through her work as a dog walker that she came to understand and appreciate dogs, in all their wonderful varieties. Her own two dogs are her pride and joy. She wanted to try to paint dogs and started with a small painting of a friend's two cocker spaniels. Encouraged by the result, she continued. When she moved to Stouffville, she began to paint animal portraits in earnest. When you look at her work, you can readily see how well she captures the likeness of the animals she paints.

Sharon's Yellow Studio is new to the Market this year.

At her booth you'll see her beautiful portraits of dogs, cats and horses in acrylic on canvas and sometimes in watercolour. She also paints horses in the landscape around York Region. She can create a quick watercolour sketch

of you or your dog right on the spot. Or you can send her an email with a picture of your pet(s), or she can take a photograph, and from that, produce a detailed work in acrylic on canvas within a few weeks.

Sharon grew up eating delicious Jewish food made by her Mother and Grandmother. This is one of the recipes they all loved.

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Theatre Aurora presents Tuesdays With Morrie, the acclaimed play based on Mitch Albom's bestselling memoir of his relationship with his college professor. Sixteen years after graduation, Mitch happens to catch Morrie's appearance on a television news program and learns that his old professor is battling Lou Gehrig's Disease. Mitch is reunited with Morrie, and what starts as a simple visit turns into a weekly pilgrimage and a last class in the meaning of life. For show times and ticket information, visit www.theatreaurora.com.

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 would 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 25 – AUGUST 29

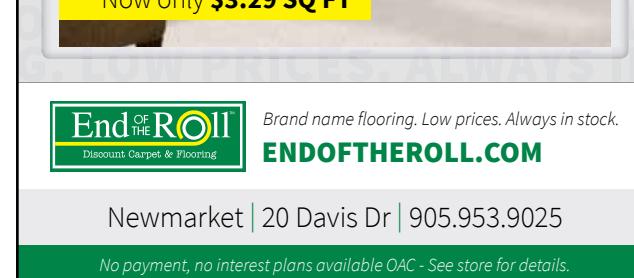
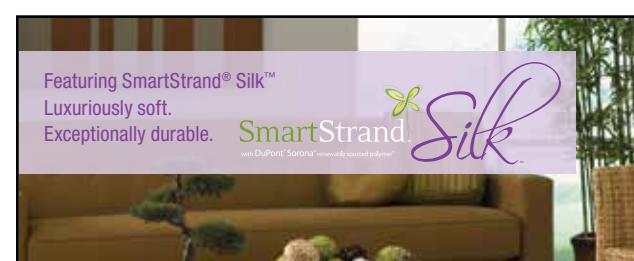
Eating Disorders of York Region presents a new yoga program; a gentle form of stretching and physical activity facilitated by Natalie George, a certified yoga instructor. Six Thursdays beginning July 25, \$60 for six weeks. Sessions begin at 6:15 p.m. at EDOYR's headquarters at 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 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.

AUGUST 14 – 24

Theatre Aurora presents Tuesdays With Morrie, the acclaimed play based on Mitch Albom's bestselling memoir of his relationship with his college professor. Sixteen years after graduation, Mitch happens to catch Morrie's appearance on a television news program and learns that his old professor is battling Lou Gehrig's Disease. Mitch is reunited with Morrie, and what starts as a simple visit turns into a weekly pilgrimage and a last class in the meaning of life. For show times and ticket information, visit www.theatreaurora.com.

ONGOING

Women's Centre of York Region is collecting Personal Care Products (ex. Shampoo, shower gel) to support financially vulnerable clients. If you would like to participate in this drive, please drop off your new/unused donations at 120 Harry Walker Parkway, Newmarket, Monday to Friday, 9-4:30 p.m., or call/visit us at 905-853-9270 or www.wcyr.ca.



Coming Events

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Come out to Town Park tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for A Tribute to Billy Joel. Close your eyes and you're at a performance of The Piano Man himself. It promises a great night of music featuring Jeff Brewer. This is the eighth and final event 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, AUGUST 22

EVENING WITH THE CURATOR AT HILLARY HOUSE - Caring for Ceramics: Learn about the types, handling, conservation, care and preservation of ceramics in this hands-on workshop. Running from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Nicola Jago will teach participants to apply the conservation methods they have learned to their own precious ceramics at home. \$20 general admission, \$15 for AHS members. Call 905-727-8991 to register.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

York Support Services will be selling tickets for the Magna Hoedown today at the Aurora Car Wash (Aurora Plaza at the northwest corner of Yonge and Murray Drive) today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Buy three raffle tickets for \$20 and receive a free car wash!

Come out to the Aurora Farmers' Market today for the Community Corn Roast starting at 11 a.m. All are welcome to celebrate the fabulous crops of corn farmers have been diligently growing and harvesting. Entertainment will be provided by The Thursday Night Jam Band and the Kouncil Kritters. All proceeds from the Corn Roast will be donated to the Aurora Food Pantry.

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 fulfilled 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.

Beacon Hall Golf Club celebrates its 25th anniversary this evening. Opening ceremonies get underway at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

"Walk Across Canada" today to help raise awareness of eating disorders. Enjoy a fun-filled family event from 10 a.m. to 12 noon with a 2km stroll along the river at the Tannery in Newmarket. Live music, geocaching and prizes. Visit www.edoyr.com for details and downloads. The "Remembering Renata" walk begins at 10.00 a.m. in Newfoundland, continues at 10 a.m. in Newmarket and concludes at 10 a.m. on Vancouver Island. Enjoy a fun day and show your support! Tax deductible donations may be made online.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

The Aurora Public Library presents "Money Talks: How to Select Investments." This is a free monthly discussion and education group to share unbiased experience and knowledge in financial planning. The presentation will be followed with a Q&A. The informal group is dedicated to help people start investing or become better investors. Beginners and experts are invited. No products or services will be offered or sold - directly or indirectly. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Library's Magna Room. To pre-register, call 905-727-9494 x.275.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

The Aurora St. Andrew's Scottish Dancing Group kicks off the dancing season at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Hall on Victoria (at Mosley) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Come out to dance Reels and Strathspeys. You don't have to be Scottish and you don't require a partner. For more information, call Agnes at 905-841-2747

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

"Local Colour" promotes local visual artists in the community. Join us for this unique art show and sale being held at the Sherman J. Studio. Explore the studio and the grounds where the artists work while viewing paintings created by emerging and established award-winning artists. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 89 Temperance Street. For more information, call 905-726-8883.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

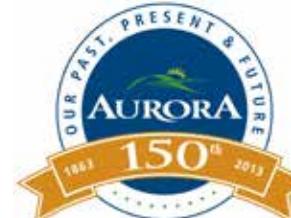
The Aurora-Newmarket Parkinson Superwalk will take place today at Newmarket's Fairy Lake. Registration, speeches and a yoga demonstration by The Royal Pathways, Inc. get underway at 9:30 a.m. under the main pavilion closest to the Water Street Entrance. Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information, or to volunteer, please call Kim Rouse-Parypa at 905-713-0774, or email kimrp@sympatico.ca. For more information on Parkinson's or to register online, visit www.parkinsonsuperwalk.ca.

Local cyclists will be hopping on their bikes for the long haul for the annual charity bike ride Ride for Karen. The Ride is held each year as a tribute to the life and legacy of Karen Tobias, who passed away at 53 after a battle with breast cancer. As a tribute to her commitment to helping others, her sons created this premiere cycling event. Now in its 12th year, the event has raised over \$1.8 million, with 100% of the proceeds donated to help send children with cancer to camp. For routes and to take part, visit www.rideforkaren.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Garden Aurora! The Aurora Garden Club invites you to hear Tom Brown and Susan Meisner speak on the Making Of Spindle Tree Gardens, a breathtaking labour of love spread over 20 acres. Be inspired by 1000's of bulbs, perennial walks, rose gardens and a unique walled kitchen garden at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. For more information, visit www.gardenaurora.com.

ANOTHER EXCITING EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY



MOVIES IN THE PARK



Tuesday, August 27, 2013

THE CROODS (rated G)

Hickson Park - Borealis Avenue and Conover Avenue
Generously sponsored by



Wednesday, August 28, 2013

BACK TO THE FUTURE (rated PG)

Aurora Town Park - Wells Street and Mosley Street
Generously sponsored by



Thursday, August 29, 2013

X-MEN: The Last Stand (rated PG)

Norm Weller Park - at McClellan Way

Generously sponsored by



Robinson's Karate School

www.teamrks.com

For more information:

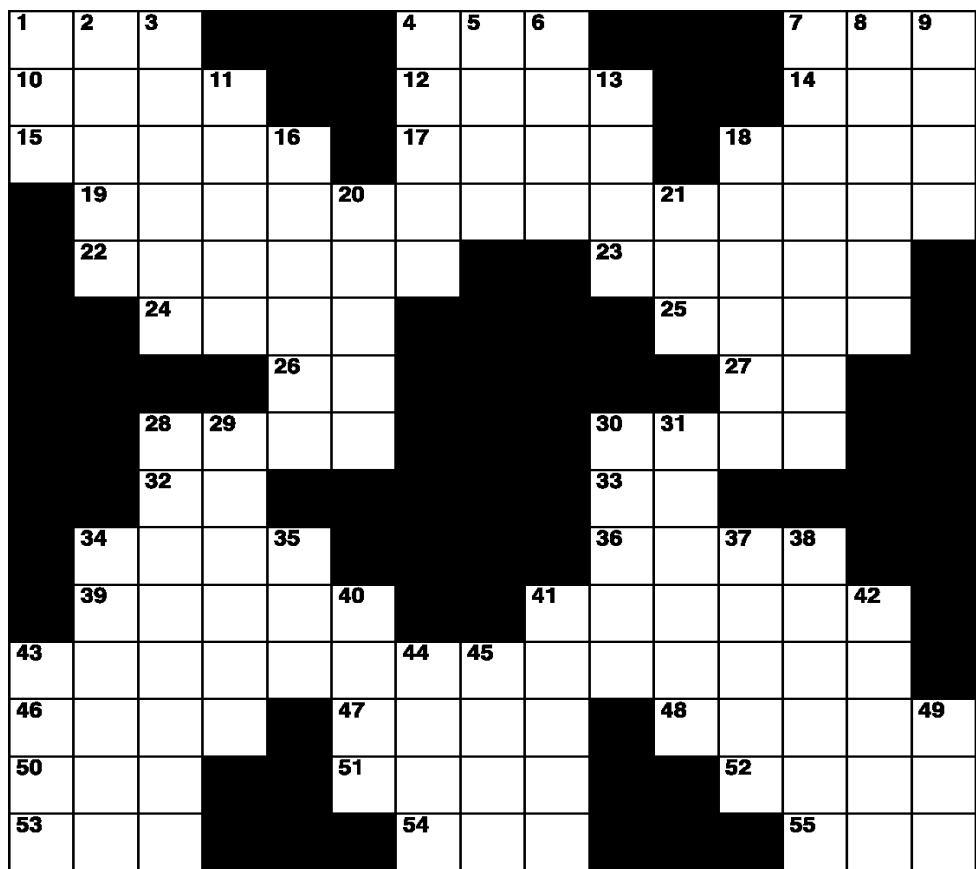
Visit www.aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762

Movies begin at dusk. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

** We will gladly accept non-perishable food items for the Aurora Food Pantry**

Film ratings courtesy of the Ontario Film Review Board, 1075 Millwood Road, 1-800-268-6024, www.ofrb.gov.on.ca

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Current unit
4. Antidiuretic hormone
7. "What's up?"
10. A female domestic
12. Animal catching device
14. Large tailless primate
15. Forearm bones
17. Agarwood oil
18. Japanese waist pouch
19. 36th President
22. Largest Mediterranean island
23. Nicklas Grossman's birthplace
24. Point that is one point E of NE
25. 1841 Rhode Is. rebellion
26. Largest CA city
27. Michigan

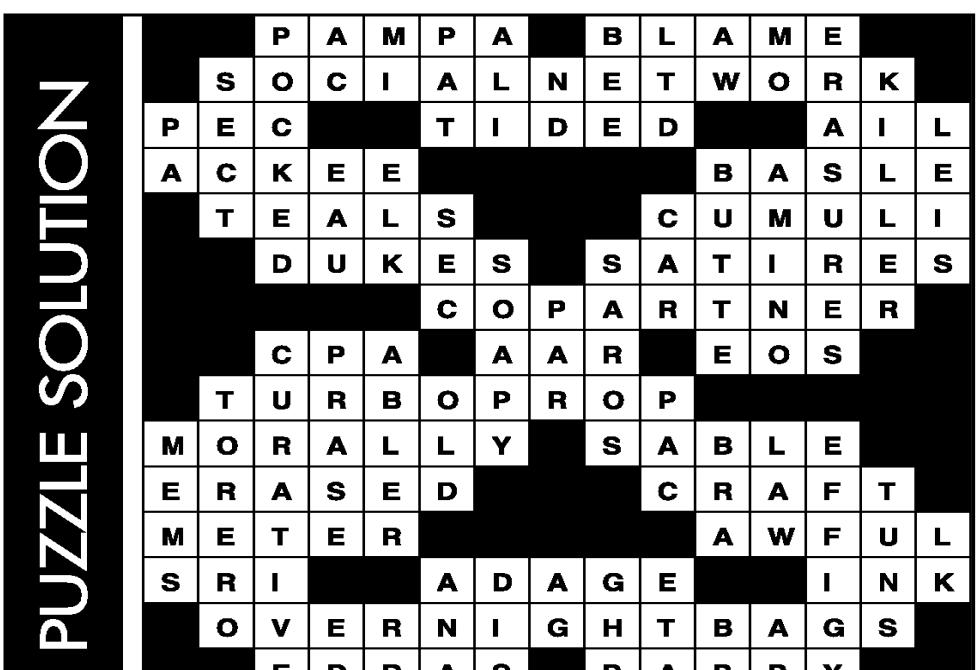
28. Visualized
30. Remain as is
32. The Volunteer state
33. Chinese painter Zhang __
34. Small young herring
36. Reverences
39. Cape Verde capital
41. Optically formed duplicates
43. Travel around the world
46. Chills and fever
47. Tennis player Erlich
48. Elicit or derive
50. Small scissors cut
51. Thin continuous mark
52. Prevents harm to creatures
53. Belonging to a thing
54. A boy or youth
55. Old small French coin

CLUES DOWN

1. A Dalton (physics)
2. Shopping complexes
3. Chinese transliteration system
4. Lack of normal muscle tone
5. Clobber
6. Pilgrimage to Mecca
7. Divine language of Hinduism
8. A sudden outburst
9. Laborer who does menial work
11. Move to music
13. Unit of loudness
16. Suitable for use as food
18. Financial gain
20. 14760, NY
21. Possessed

28. Saddle foot supports
29. Encircle with lace
30. Hindu religious teacher
31. Haulage
34. Faucet
35. 1509 Portuguese/Indian battle
37. Good Gosh!
38. Frame-ups
40. Penty
41. Covered with ivy
42. Painting on dry plaster
43. Colombia's 3rd largest city
44. Short fiber combed from long
45. Tolstoy's Karenina
49. Cologne

Last Week's Puzzle Solution



PUZZLE SOLUTION

Another great year for Doors Open Aurora

thanks to Community Volunteers

By Vanessa Hicks
Program Manager, Heritage Planning
Town of Aurora

everyone entertained with a variety of fun activities which included croquet and lawn bowling.

At the Charles Henry Sheppard House, visitors toured the grounds of the estate and learned about the Windfall Ecology Centre while appreciating the picturesque forest landscape.

The Aurora Public Library participated this year by featuring displays that highlighted the different buildings that the public facility once occupied.

Visitors here also heard from Jacqueline Stuart, who shared her knowledge of historic artefacts. At the Aurora Cultural Centre, guests were invited to explore the various art displays and learn the history of the former Church Street School building.

The Town of Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee would like to extend their gratitude to The Auroran for featuring all of the Doors Open Aurora articles over the past few weeks.

Sincere thanks also to everyone who opened their homes, businesses and institutions to the public and encouraged the community to experience Aurora's rich cultural heritage.

Most of all, thank you to the volunteers who assisted in making this year's event such a resounding success!



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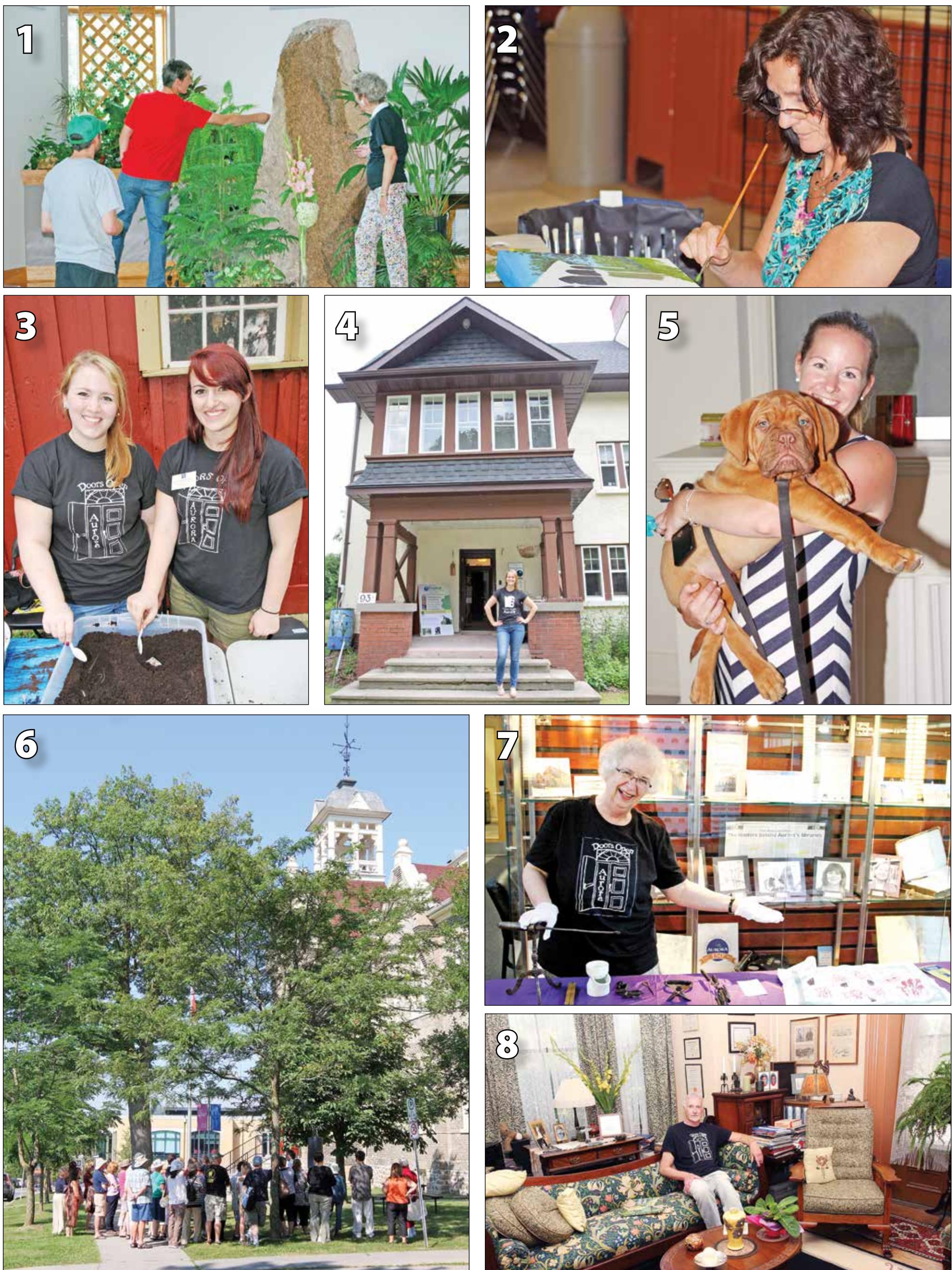
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DOORS OPEN ACROSS AURORA



1. Will L'Heureux of Stouffville is invited by Beverley Wood to take a closer look at Trinity Anglican Church's baptismal font as Dan Schreim looks on. 2. Susan Walker-Ing of SOYRA paints Hillary House from Victoria Hall. 3. Over at Hillary House, Sian and Claire Layton of the Aurora Historical Society helped simulate an archeological dig. 4. Taking a break from coordinating Doors Open, Vanessa Hicks of the Town of Aurora stops by Windfall Ecology Centre at Sheppard's Bush. 5. Prospective tenants of the two-legged and four-legged variety – Julie and "Goliath" Powell – were eager to check out the Wells Street Schoolhouse Lofts. 6. Historian David Heard lead a packed crowd on a walking tour of points of local interest, including the Aurora Cultural Centre. 7. Next door at the Aurora Public Library, Jacqueline Stuart let people take a closer look at significant local artefacts. 8. John McIntyre offered Doors Open-goers a rare glimpse inside his landmark Horton Place Home.

Auroran photos by David Falconer and Brock Weir

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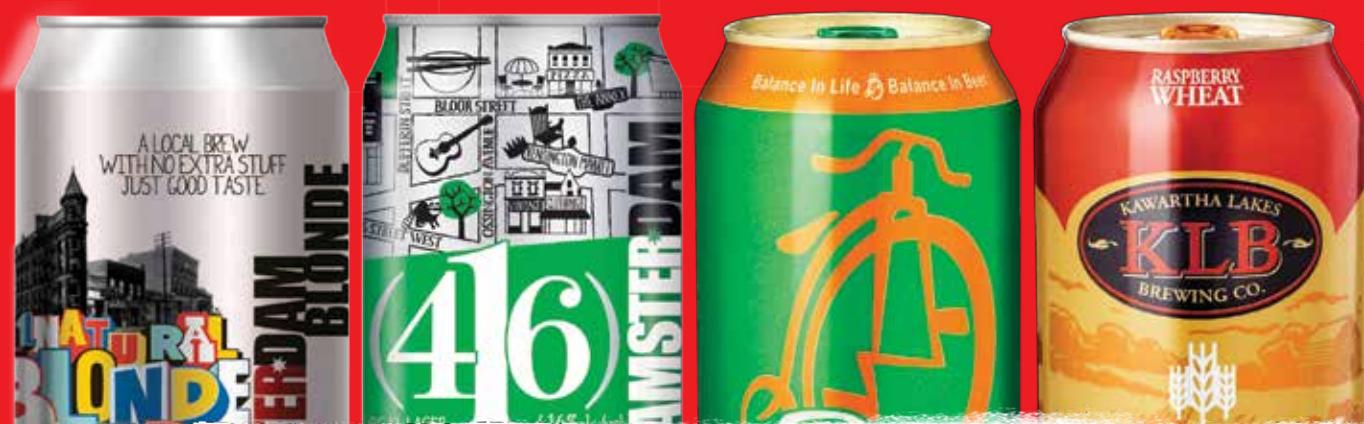
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This week it was difficult to choose just one topic from the veritable smorgasbord of political stories currently dominating the headlines.

At the Federal level, we have the ongoing Senate shenanigans that have certainly heated up substantially with the Wallin audit revelations. I am glad that the government has decided to audit all Senators' expenses. I have long thought that it was a bit unfair to focus on the four boldface Senators (Duffy, Brazeau, Harb, Wallin). Yes, their expense account abuses do appear to be egregious. And the Keystone Cops-like approach to managing the scandal does not help the situation. It doesn't take an IT genius to figure out when you've altered your e-calendar for example. And "secret" cheques don't stay secret for very long.

However, regardless of how one feels about the antics of the four named Senators, I would hazard a guess that they are not alone in their "misinterpretation" of the rules.

Either everyone is audited, or no one.

Singling out a few for inquisition and slaughter as sacrificial lambs does nothing to improve the public's opinion of the house of sober second thought. It does the exact opposite, in fact.

It gives the impression that their antics are merely the tip of the iceberg.

By reviewing every Senator's accounts (something that should be done as a matter of course on a fairly regular basis), it will be demonstrated, hopefully, that the vast majority of Senators are not abusing the public's purse.

At the provincial level, we have the continuing debacle of the gas plant cancellation investigatory committee meetings. Senior staff from former Premier McGuinty's office are now being paraded in front of the committee to answer for their roles in the whole mess.

Well, "answer for" may be too strong a descriptor of their appearances before the committee as, from what I have read and seen, they've answered very little. The verbal gymnastics of the folks before the committee is quite extraordinary.

Non-answer answers seem to be the order of the day. It has become an absolute circus. The purpose of the meetings seems lost amidst the partisan political posturing and pot-shot taking across the table. Regardless of one's political stripes, one would have to agree that as an exercise in transparency, these hearings have failed completely.

Nothing of substance about how this happened,



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

The Summer Doldrums?

in our fair province?

The City of Toronto stumbles on amidst yet more allegations swirling around their Mayor. In York Region, we have front page news in the Toronto Star about a Markham Councillor walking out of a "secret" meeting to discuss the controversial Arena deal. With hundreds of millions of dollars at issue, the Arena brouhaha will only get worse in the months to come.

And, closer to home we have our own controversies brewing. Not least of which is the now approved Council motion to use the Hydro reserve fund as an "internal loan" or debt financing source.

It is to be used to partially fund the cost of the Joint operations centre and the youth centre – the cost of which is over \$21 million dollars. What to do with the substantial monies in the Hydro reserve has been a controversial subject for years now and using it to cover debt – albeit temporarily – is sure to ramp up the rhetoric considerably. When folks get back from vacation and start paying attention again, that is.

Anyway, there you have it. Politics at all levels is as engaging and frustrating as always...even in the doldrums of summer.

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

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and how it can be prevented in the future, has been revealed. What has been revealed? The skilful way politicians and political staffers alike can avoid answering straightforward questions. It's pretty disheartening.

And at the municipal level? Well, what can one say about the goings on in the council chambers of the towns and cities

Director gets back to the heart of the matter at Theatre Aurora

By Brock Weir

In his professional career, Dale Sheldrake spends most of his time either behind the camera or in the darkness of the editing booth.

A few years ago, however, the Aurora resident started making inroads into the theatre world and now his neighbours can see the fruits of his labour.

Mr. Sheldrake directs Mitch Albom's "Tuesday's With Morrie" at Theatre Aurora, a show which runs at select dates and times through Saturday.

Prolific in the film industry, he is comfortable in a world where the story is put together in tiny pieces and then stitched together into some semblance of order through the magic of editing. Having a story unfold as it should, in the right order, with actors giving it their all in a live environment is a very different environment all together and Mr. Sheldrake was more than ready for the challenge.

"Live performance is always special," he says. "It is a very human connection in a live performance, whether you see a guy playing in a local bar or a busker. There is a real community and social aspect to it. With any social media today, any opportunity to be involved in something community-based or socially-based is a plus.

"Having a real-time story with drama as an emotion is another key thing. The audience is experiencing the emotion immediately from what they are watching. The emotion is coming from the actors and the staging and all their choice. You can be effected by watching a movie, but it is different when you're up there and you see a real person who is eliciting

that emotion from you."

"Morrie" follows the story of Mitch, a 40-something who reconnects with his favourite college professor, Morrie, who is in the late stages of ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease. As the two men discuss life and death, they learn about themselves and each other in ways that tug on the heartstrings but can also make you laugh.

For a two-person show, there is no shortage of emotion coming from the actors, and that is part of what appealed to Mr. Sheldrake when he applied to direct the play. Storytelling was what attracted him into the media and entertainment industry in the first place although, he says, it took him some 20 years to realise that.

"Even in the film work I do, the post-production is often about the story and the characters and trying to have the arc of both of those make sense for the stories, the characters, and the audience," he says. "[In this play], Morrie starts off as a very active and vivacious personality and by the end he is, of course, practically an invalid.

"Mitch's evolution in the story is more towards those things that Morrie has already understood. In a subtle way, he is trying to pull Mitch along in the direction he knows he should go to become a better person,



Dale Sheldrake directs Theatre Aurora's current production of Tuesdays with Morrie, a play based on the autobiographical bestseller by Mitch Albom.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

a real person, and a more authentic self."

When people head home after seeing the play, Mr. Sheldrake says he hopes they leave with a sense they should do something in their lives that has meaning to do and is worth the effort to get there.

"I hope they walk out and say, 'I am going to

do that thing I always wanted to do and I don't care how long it takes me and I don't care how much time I have left. I'm going to try it because it will give me some satisfaction in my life.'"

For tickets and show times, visit www.theatreaurora.com or call 905-727-3669.

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This week, I am going to discuss how to replace the most important feature in your home: that's right, the King's throne, the humble toilet.

This is a relatively easy job, but it must be done correctly.

There are many reasons to change your toilet: it could be cracked, could be leaking around the base, normal means of unclogging it just won't do, you are looking to upgrade to a water saving toilet, or you simply want a more modern looking throne.

All good reasons to change it!

The first thing you do, before you go out and buy the new one, is to do some measuring. You need to

measure from the back of the wall to the bolt on either side of the toilet that holds the fixture in place. This will give you your rough measurement and the size of toilet you can install in this space.

You must do this step otherwise you will end up buying a toilet that just won't fit!

Once you have finished measuring, there are three things you will need to do the actual replacement:

1. a toilet!
2. a wax ring with bolts, and;
3. a braided flex hose.

With those materials at hand, it is on to the job of replacing the toilet. You first turn off the water from the valve on the left-

hand side of the toilet. Then, flush the toilet (this will get rid of most of the water left in the fixture). You can use a small cup or sponge to remove any remaining water in the bowl and tank.

Once all the water is removed, the next step is to remove the hose that is attached from the toilet to the water valve. Then remove the bolts that hold the toilet in place – the bolts are on either side of the toilet.

Once that is done, you



ASK TOM

Tom Mrakas
Game of "Thrones"

are ready to remove the toilet itself. Lift from the bowl, not the tank, and straight up once the seal has been broken. Then take that old thing outside and get rid of it!

Once that is done, and while you are working on replacing the toilet, make sure to take a cloth (a clean cloth!) and put it in a plastic bag and plug up the drain hole so no sewer gases escape. Then, clean up the area, remove any and all of the old wax, and clean up the floor.

Once you have a nice clean area to work with, you are ready to put in that new toilet. Installing the new one is like removing the old one but in reverse. First remove the bag with the cloth in it from the hole, then take the new wax ring and place it around the hole at the bottom of the toilet (it will stick there while you put the toilet in place).

Next, have the bolts ready on either side of the flange and then pick up the toilet (from the bowl again not the tank!) and drop the bowl in place – slowly! – making sure the bolts are lined up with the holes in the toilet.

When the toilet is down, give it a slight turn (and I mean slight!) to make sure

the wax ring has made contact. Then, you tighten the bolts. Make sure you hand tighten them, but not too tight as you will crack the porcelain. When that is all done, you are ready to hook up the water with that new flex hose.

Turn the water on, flush it to make sure it is working, check for leaks and voila! You are good to go and enjoy your throne!

Until next week, remember a good job, is a job well done!

Also, if you have any questions you can reach me at www.facebook.com/anastasisdesign or on twitter, @ADesign_build and email, of course, at Anastasis@anastasisdesign.ca.

—THE AURORAN— CLASSIFIEDS

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Sweet deal for students at Staples

By Brock Weir

Staples and the Optimist Club of Aurora are helping you gear up for the new school year with a special evening this Wednesday, August 21.

The Optimists will be at the Aurora Staples location at Yonge Street and Murray Drive, from 6 – 8 p.m. to boost Staples' annual School Supply Drive, collecting both supplies, and money for supplies, to help low income families.

All cash and supplies collected during the initiative will be donated directly to the Optimist Club for distribution.

To sweeten the deal, Dairy Queen will also be on hand to

distribute ice cream coupons for their Yonge and Edward Street location to everyone who comes in to make a donation.

"Although Aurora is a wealthy community, there are people who are well off and there are people who are struggling," said Kevin Elliston of Staples Aurora. "If you are one of those in need of help, please don't think you can't talk to the Optimist Club. That's what they are here for."

For more information on the initiative, contact Staples at 905-713-0367 or the Optimists at 416-315-7368.

RIDERS

From page 14

the needs and interests of their members, while also generating new members at the same time. To this end, the Legion Riders will increase the visibility of the Legion wherever they ride.

"Nothing is more visible than these things rumbling down the street to an event," he said, pointing to the sea of motorcycles parked outside the Aurora Legion which paraded onto the grounds with the colour party. "It's a good thing for everybody. It gives them an outlet for activities, to volunteer; and it gives us the benefit of that."

Briefly

KING HENRY'S CLOSURE

Aurora residents looking to kick back at King Henry's Arms this week will find themselves disappointed. The popular pub on Yonge Street just south of Orchard Heights Boulevard was shuttered last week after being served with an eviction notice for non-payment of rent. The Notice of Termination was issued by bailiffs on Saturday. Restaurant owners were given until Wednesday to move out of the unit, but calls to King Henry's to see if a deal could be reached had not been returned at press time.

ROBBERY SUSPECT IN COURT

49-year-old Leroy Robinson is expected to make a video appearance in a Newmarket court this Thursday. Robinson was arrested last Tuesday as the suspect in an early-morning robbery with a hatchet at Mac's, a convenience store located just east of Yonge and Wellington. The altercation in which the suspect is alleged to have made off with food and lottery tickets left a 73-year-old man in hospital. The victim has since been released.

SMASH A POT AT HILLARY HOUSE

There are still limited tickets available for this Thursday's "Evening with the Curator" at Hillary House. "Caring for Ceramics" will be led by archeologist and curatorial assistant Nicola Jago as she teaches you how to handle, repair, and conserve ceramics. Tickets are \$15 for AHS members and \$20 for non-members. Bring an old pillow case and a small ceramic flower pot. The pots will be smashed and Ms. Jago will teach you the best ways to put them back together. To book the session call the AHS at 905-727-8991.

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