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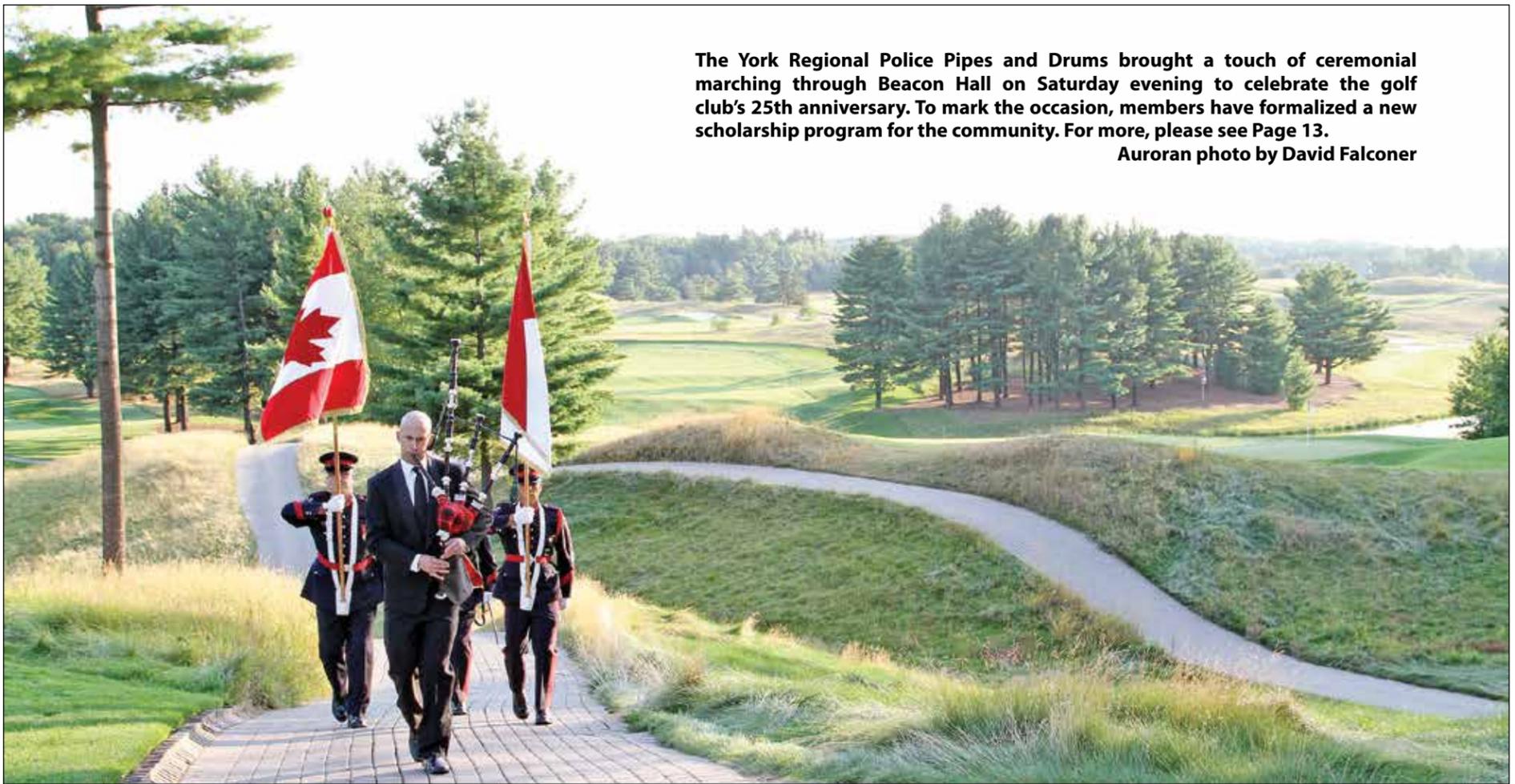
Aurora's Community Newspaper



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theauroran.com

FREE Week of August 28, 2013



The York Regional Police Pipes and Drums brought a touch of ceremonial marching through Beacon Hall on Saturday evening to celebrate the golf club's 25th anniversary. To mark the occasion, members have formalized a new scholarship program for the community. For more, please see Page 13.
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Town, Society set to ink "historic" deal on collection's ownership

By Brock Weir

The drive to re-establish a permanent museum in the Town of Aurora is expected to take a "huge step forward" this week.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Aurora Historical Society (AHS) president Suzanne Reiner are due to ink a deal Wednesday afternoon transferring ownership of the thousands of artefacts donated and otherwise acquired by the AHS to the Town of Aurora.

Council authorized the transfer of the Aurora Collection this spring, while questions remained on how exactly the artefacts would be managed.

Last month, Council supported looking to third parties to maintain and manage the collection on behalf of the Town. Although this move caught the AHS off guard as something they hadn't anticipated coming forward, they ultimately opted to move ahead.

"Council wanted to tackle the transfer and not have to deal with the management [at this point] so we said we would separate the two and deal with the management later," said Ms. Reiner. "This is a good starting point for the Town, for Parks and Recreation, or whoever is going to be looking at it."

"The time has come for AHS. We have been stewards of the Aurora Collection for 50 years and we have been challenged financially for years. We see other municipalities that started out with their respective local historical society owning the collection and then it eventually went through to municipal ownership and we see that this needs to be done. If we want an Aurora museum to grow and to be sustained, this is the first step in the right direction."

For Ms. Reiner and the AHS, it is not a matter of who ultimately owns the Aurora collection, but who can best see it through over and beyond the next five decades. They

Continued on page 8

ROYAL SALUTE!



Allen Griffiths, who turned 100 on Monday, got a head start on his centenary celebrations on Saturday afternoon among his fellow veterans, family, and friends at the Royal Canadian Legion. To mark his birthday, the colour guard of the Legion's Ontario Command paraded into the dining room to give Mr. Griffiths a rare royal salute, which was duly returned. For the second part of The Auroran's interview with Mr. Griffiths, see page 18.
Auroran photos by Brock Weir

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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
Monday, September 9	7 p.m.	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 10	7 p.m.	Council
Wednesday, September 11	7 p.m.	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, September 12	7 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday, September 12	7 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment

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

The Creamery

Owned by Charles Campbell of Toronto, The Creamery produced butter for families. Pictured here is William Osborne, a manager of the facility. This photograph was taken circa 1905-1910.

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 lineup 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.

YRT/Viva Service Changes



Effective Sunday, September 1 York Region Transit (YRT)/Viva is adjusting select services operating in The Town of Aurora.

Revised routes/schedules

Viva	blue "A"
22/22A	King City
31	Aurora North
32	Aurora South
98	Yonge

High School Specials and services

High School Specials (400 series) and most routes with diversions to schools will resume with the start of the new school year.

426	Dr. G.W. Williams
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Statutory holidays

Sunday/Holiday service for all YRT/Viva services and TTC routes operating in York Region:

Labour Day	Monday, September 2
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 14

Visit www.yrt.ca for complete details or call 1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978) to speak with a Customer Service Representative.

Aurora Public Library

The Fall edition of *Borealis Magazine* is now available for pick-up at the Aurora Public Library. You can also read this edition online at www.library.aurora.on.ca APL's event and program lineup includes award-winning authors, film nights and much more! Also featured is the Human Library, the Amazing Art Workshop and plenty of volunteer opportunities for teens. Program registration begins Saturday, August 31.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Movies in the Park

From Tuesday, August 27 to Thursday, August 29, take in a movie outdoors at the park! Movies begin at dusk. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.



Non-perishable food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry are gladly accepted.

Tuesday, August 27 at Hickson Park (Borealis Avenue and Conover Avenue)
The Croods (rated PG)
Generously sponsored by Cineplex Odeon Aurora Cinemas

Wednesday, August 28 at Aurora Town Park (Wells Street and Mosley Street)
Back to the Future (rated PG)
Generously sponsored by RONA Aurora

Thursday, August 29 at Norm Weller Park (McLellan Way)
X-MEN: The Last Stand (rated PG)
Generously sponsored by Robinson's Karate School

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Aurora is accepting applications for the following position
Senior's Program Assistant Application deadline is Monday, September 2

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

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

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Saturday, September 7
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Sunday, September 8
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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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Cardinal Carter swimmer takes on Deaflympics in Bulgaria

By Jeff Doner

Damiano Panetta is no regular 16-year-old.

Instead of lounging around and sleeping in, he spends his time at the gym, going for a run and, most importantly, in the pool.

Damiano recently competed in the 22nd Deaflympic Games in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he managed to break his personal best times in all 10 swimming events he participated in.

A Grade 11 student at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School in Aurora, Damiano said it was an honour competing at the Deaflympics and that it's just one step in achieving his goals.

"It was nice; it was a really good experience," he said. "It was really cool being there and to meet all the other deaf athletes and be able to experience that, as well as being with the Canadian team."

With over 4,000 athletes from 67 nations, he admitted that it was the biggest and toughest competition he has been in thus far.

As the only representative from Ontario, he said it was an honour to compete with the Canadian team.

"I went into the finals with the Canadian relay team and we placed seventh," he said, adding that the group got to spend a little time together on the trip.

"We didn't have a whole lot of time to travel around, but the swim team went out on a couple walks around Bulgaria and the city. It was really cool, but it's different."

Back at home, both he and his swimming aspirations have outgrown his childhood backyard pool, so the Vaughan Aquatic Club has been his home outside of home for the past five years.

This is where the budding star has been honing his swimming skills with the help of both his coaches and teammates.

"If you have someone that is close to your times, you can compete with each other and try to bring out the best in each other," he

said of his teammates.

Outside of the pool, Damiano has Cochlear implants that help him hear. Combined with his ability to read lips, he has no problem understanding what people are saying.

plan on trying to get myself to the Olympics. This year I've got to make it to provincials, then the next year the next level and just keep going up."

As for right now, Damiano is eagerly

just wants to keep the momentum going forward and continue to knock some time off his personal best.

"It's going to be a big step, but I'll keep working at it," he said.

His mom is no stranger to his goal setting and steadfast work ethic and said she isn't surprised about how far he has come in five years.

"I think it's amazing. It's inspiring for me," she said. "He has definitely surpassed everything I expected with the swimming. He always meets his goals; he sets them for himself and meets them and I think the whole thing with the Deaflympics in Bulgaria was just amazing. It was just mind-blowing to see him with all the other deaf athletes and how they just gelled. It was really incredible."

Listing American swimmer Michael Phelps as a role

model and source of inspiration, Damiano will continue to take things one step at a time.

"The Deaflympics was for sure my biggest achievement so far," he said. "I just like being in the water and to swim fast."



16-year-old Damiano Panetta, a student at Cardinal Carter CHS, recently returned from Bulgaria where he completed in the Deaflympics, an international sports competition for the deaf and hearing impaired. Submitted photo

However, in the pool it isn't so easy.

"It does affect his swimming because he is on an all hearing team, so the coaching is a bit different because when his implants are off he can't hear anything," said his mom, Wendy.

But at the Vaughan Aquatic Club, Damiano said his coaches and teammates are a huge help.

"Normally I will just keep asking my coach to repeat instruction, because I can read lips, and I'll ask the other swimmers to repeat things. They are all pretty helpful," he said.

When asked about a potential career path, the honour roll student wasn't so sure about what might be in store, but he was clear and concise about his plans for swimming.

"This year I want to make provincials and then by the end of high school I want to make the senior nationals," he said.

"Then it would be to try and get into the actual Olympics. I've got a whole

awaiting the start of a regular season in September, which he is hoping will turn out to be a big one for his development.

Like most athletes, he has set his goals and has his eye fixed on meeting them one at a time and

Briefly

ROBBERY SUSPECT HEARING DELAYED

49-year-old Leroy Robinson will be in court again next Thursday, September 5, in a hearing related to the robbery at Mac's, the convenience store near the northeast corner of Yonge and Wellington on August 13. Mr. Robinson is charged with aggravated assault, robbery and resisting arrest stemming from the incident which left the 73-year-old clerk in hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries. He has since been released from hospital. During a brief video appearance in the Newmarket Courthouse last Thursday, the suspect holding a piece of paper said he wanted to say something before the hearing took place, but the comment was taken over the phone by his counsel.

MOTHER BACK IN COURT IN OCTOBER

An Aurora mother charged with child abandonment after her two-year-old daughter was found locked in a car parked in a Markham lot during a heat snap will be back in court October 24. Lawyers for the woman were in court Friday for another hearing in the case, which has been pending since June. Counsel requested a further delay due to a pending resolution meeting.

MOVIES CONTINUE THIS WEEK

Movies in the Park continues this week with Back to the Future and X-Men Last Stand. The screening series kicked off Tuesday night with The Croods. Back to the Future screens this Wednesday, August 28 at dusk at Town Park, sponsored by RONA Aurora. The fun continues Thursday at Norm Weller Park with X-Men The Last Stand unspooling at sundown. This third and final installment is sponsored by Robinson's Karate Studio.



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Holiday Service Schedule Labour Day Weekend



MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way) will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 2 for Labour Day. Regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, September 3.

If you would like to pay a water or tax bill, payments can be placed in the drop-off box 24 hours a day outside of Town Hall. Please do not place cash payments in the boxes and remember to include your payment stub along with your payment. Alternatively, you may pay your bills through your ATM or through your bank's online banking service. Parking tickets can be paid online at www.paytickets.ca



LIBRARY

The Aurora Public Library will be **CLOSED** on Monday, September 2. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 3.

For more information, please visit www.library.aurora.on.ca



WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection is **NOT AFFECTED** by the Labour Day holiday.

For information on waste collection in Aurora, please consult your 2013 Community and Waste Management Calendar.



RECREATION CENTRES

Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex | 1400 Wellington Street East
Saturday, August 31 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, September 1 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, September 2 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Aurora Family Leisure Complex | 135 Industrial Parkway North
Saturday, August 31 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Pool is **CLOSED**)
Sunday, September 1 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Pool is **CLOSED**)
Monday, September 2 **CLOSED**

For swimming, skating and Club Aurora fitness schedules, please visit www.aurora.ca/holidayrecreation

EMERGENCY SERVICES

As always, the Town will continue to provide essential and emergency services.

For Town-related emergency situations, please call 905-727-1375 or 905-727-3123 and follow the voice prompts.

FOR ALL OTHER EMERGENCIES, CALL 9-1-1



The Town of Aurora wishes you a safe and happy holiday!

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Letters to the editor

Councillor responds to jazz

(Re: Council "blew it" on music fest, August 21, 2013)

In her letter to The Auroran on August 21, Ms. McNellis mentioned she enjoyed the jazz+ Fest when it was hosted in Aurora.

I too enjoyed jazz+ Fest, attending each year. The festival was a great success, in no small part to the talent assembled and the many volunteers who participated.

Ms. McNellis and others are disappointed that the jazz+ Fest chose to leave Aurora and they are not alone. However, it needs to be clearly stated that they left Aurora of their own accord.

The Town has always shown interest in partnering with businesses and organizations, to promote and participate in community events. jazz+ Fest was no different.

Our Council does not waive permit fees for individuals, charities or businesses, but provides support through "in kind" donations.

Service "in kind" provides valuable assistance to event organizers by assisting with overall funding. In 2012, as in previous years, the Town provided extra benches, garbage receptacles, extended venue space to include the ball diamond, approval of the exterior fencing, extra staff to maintain waste and the washrooms, traffic barrier fencing, lighting of the ball diamond, public notification on the Town web page and notification boards, signage approval on the streets and the use of the Town logo.

This represents thousands of dollars of support to an event.

Further, in 2011, Town Council provided \$5,000 to assist jazz+ Fest. Not an insignificant sum!

With this level of assistance, it is curious that jazz+ Fest further asked the Town in 2012 to waive fees. Under the circumstances, this was an inappropriate request, which was rightfully rejected by Council.

Despite a history of support, jazz+ Fest took the Town logo off their promotions, severing the relationship with the Town. These actions were followed by a series of ill-advised comments from the organizers after last year's event, suggesting that both Mayor Dawe and I should not attend for fear of being rude to senior members of government who were invited.

Despite these actions, Council approved a motion to tender for a music festival in 2013, inviting any group – including jazz+ Fest – to submit bids. jazz+ Fest ultimately declined to bid, and another group came forward to host a festival.

Throughout this process, acrimony seems to have abounded. Many residents whom I respect and admire have asked why I didn't do anything to try and resolve the situation. I think the comments made publicly in the pages of this newspaper by the event organizers speak for themselves, in working to exclude me from any potential solution despite a history of support for their efforts.

I understand that the larger venue in Riverwalk Commons in Newmarket worked very well for jazz+ Fest this year. I am very pleased that this excellent music festival continues to flourish.

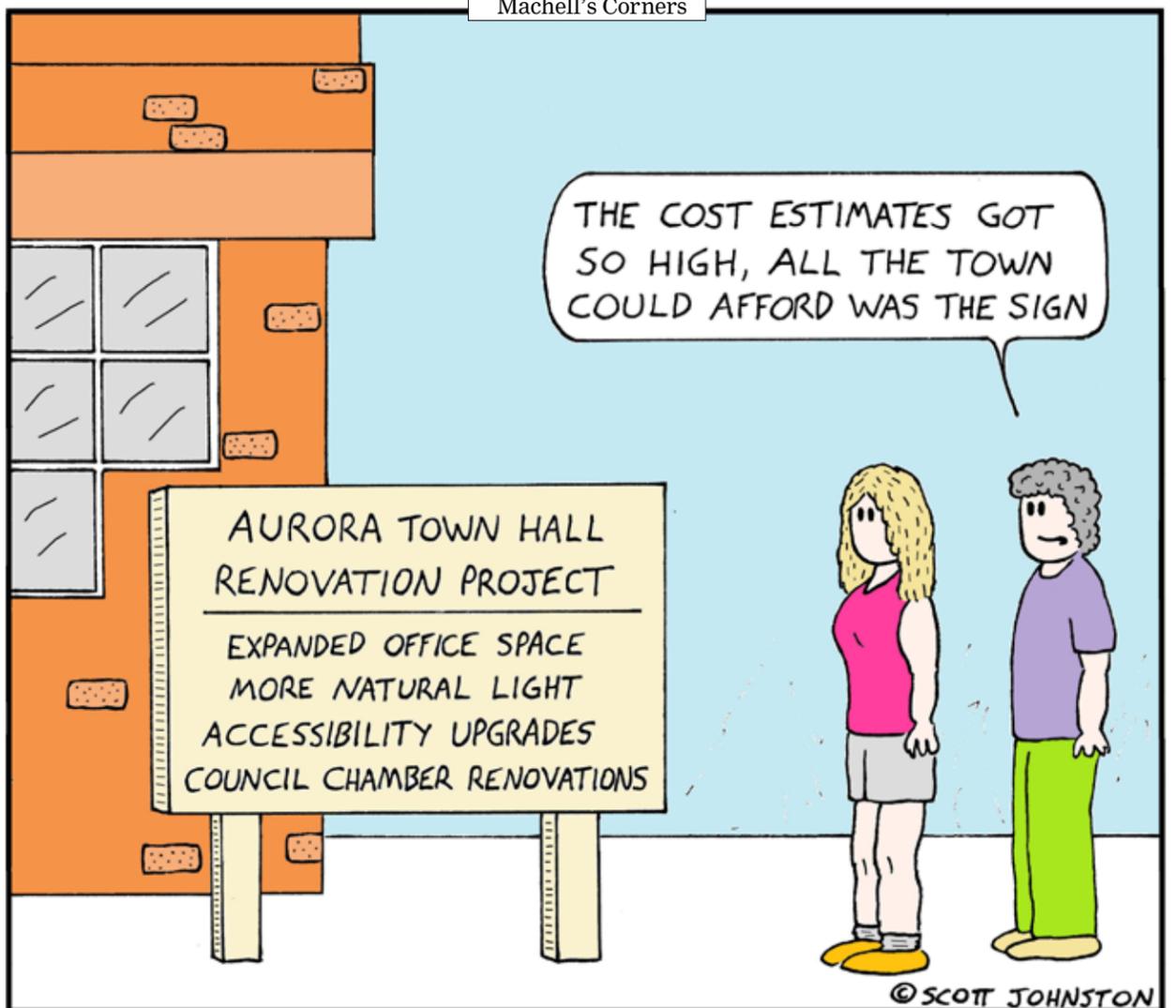
I should point out that it was not with assistance from Newmarket Council but the Newmarket Business Improvement Association that jazz+ Fest found success in their new venue. They did not ask the Town of Newmarket for funding but only for the Mayor and Council to attend the ribbon-cutting.

Apparently they didn't feel that they would be rude.

For those who suggest jazz+ Fest's relocation has anything to do with Aurora Town Council, our well-documented history of ongoing support clearly suggests otherwise.

I am glad we had several years of hosting jazz+ Fest and I wish the organizers continued success in their new location.

Councillor John Abel
Aurora



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

Truth Amid the Smoke

The Canadian political system has gone to pot, or so pollsters would like us to believe.

But, perhaps this isn't really the case.

Take, for example, the collective shrug that went up when Liberal leader Justin Trudeau "admitted" that while hosting a dinner party for friends since becoming an MP, a guest brought a joint over to dinner and they passed it around.

This, in and of itself, is not a surprising revelation. After all, Mr. Trudeau's views on marijuana are clear and on the record. What surprised me, however, was not just the blasé reaction that greeted it in most quarters, but the candor in which he addressed the issue.

There is little doubt, however, regarding the spontaneity of the revelation. The pros and cons were certainly weighed, knowing full well that even if the comments generated little more than a titter or a tweet at first, battle lines will almost certainly be drawn on the issue.

It will not, however, become a wedge election issue; something which will bring people to the polls in droves to vent their collective spleen about, but it could very well bring that elusive younger demographic back into the civic sphere.

Personally, I would not be surprised if it did. In a world where we have cabinet ministers admitting to using pot, albeit in any variety of baked goods, and while memories of US President Bill Clinton admitting to taking a toke or six with the caveat he never inhaled, this might be a brave new frontier. However calculated, the "admission" (that word does have its own particularly negative connotation, doesn't it?), it was a refreshing bit of honesty that is going to resonate with younger voters.

Failing that, it will make the battle lines between "young" and "old" even more apparent for the limited sector of post-boomers that still turn out to the voting booth.

When asked about Mr. Trudeau's drug use in a scrum on Thursday, the Prime Minister said that the admission "speaks for itself." Let's see



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

how long that lasts.

While any jabs at his opponent's character might not emanate from his lips for the time being, it should be no time at all before this is added to the litany of attack ads on Trudeau's character which seem, in an affront to arts-minded people across the country, to suggest that no former drama teacher has a right to walk in the corridors of power. Although my personal experience with high school drama teachers actually suggest the Prime Minister might have something there, that is, of course, beside the point.

It will be very tricky to mock Trudeau's admission which might alienate significant potential voters. Pot users are probably the least likely to vote Conservative, but who knows what goes on in the bedrooms and man caves of the nation.

Recent polls have indicated voters are softening in their stance towards marijuana use. Of course, this is particularly prevalent amid that coveted demographic, a group in which many politicians would sell their left arm and right index finger to strike a chord, or make the most tenuous of connections.

Occasionally, political attempts to reach this audience can be embarrassing, or uncomfortable at the very least for everyone concerned. Young voters, or potential young voters, are not an audience largely susceptible to snow jobs. In my experience, they have built-in, ultrasensitive bull-o-meters.

I'm not going to take this opportunity to take a jab at any particular municipal examples

that have taken place over the last few years, including the present administration. Those should still be all too clear and, unfortunately, all too real.

With Trudeau being so straightforward about his marijuana use, some of the skeptics will question whether it was simply a cynical ploy to appeal to this ultra-elusive youth crowd, or whether it is the start of a different kind of political environment.

As the Conservatives – aside from Stephen Harper at the moment – all too eager to make hay and score political points over Trudeau's apparent "irresponsible" example (a word used by Peter McKay in Thursday's online edition of The Globe and Mail), it will be interesting to watch how it shakes down.

Will the Conservatives come out unscathed as the moral bastions for today's youth? Will the Liberals come out on top with a leader that is seen more in touch with society?

Proceed with caution. A misstep could put any and all parties on the wrong side of the age divide. Will all parties tread carefully, cautious that however they respond could run the risk of putting their party either on the side of the age divide?

Perhaps, in the end, it will usher in a new age of politicking where politicians aren't as cautious on what sound bites will cause the least amount of ripples and actually say what is on their mind, what they have done, and life experiences that have informed who they are which might not necessarily fit the Hallmark template.

It might be a refreshing change from politicians either afraid or unwilling to go off script, even for a moment. It will certainly make things more interesting.

And, of course, this burning issue and Monday's out-of-left-field talk about Canada possibly making a moon landing over the next three decades, certainly took your mind off yet another prorogation of Parliament just as opposition parties were revving up for a September scrutinizing Senate spending, didn't it?

THE AURORAN

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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

NEW AURORAN POLL

Are you in favour of Aurora borrowing from the Town's Hydro Reserves in order to fund the new Joint Operations Centre and Youth Space?

(a) Yes (b) No (c) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

FINAL RESULTS OF PREVIOUS 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) Unsure

RESULTS August 27, 2013	A	B	C
	12%	83%	4%



Humphrey "The Twisted Cowboy" Tan and Kevin Elliston of Staples Aurora joined the Optimist Club in welcoming customers to the store on Wednesday night. They were on hand to collect donations for their School Supply Drive, which continues through September 7. All donations received will be distributed by the Optimists to underprivileged Aurora schoolkids.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Ottawa Report

Protect yourself when shopping online

I recently helped a constituent who was a victim of internet fraud involving Craigslist.

We forwarded her complaint to York Regional Police and encouraged her to file an internet fraud report with the RCMP through www.antifraudcentre.ca. She also requested that I help raise awareness of her story so that others may avoid becoming victims like her.

I appreciated her selflessness and am pleased to offer the following tips from www.GetCyberSafe.gc.ca to help you shop safely online. Remember, surfing safe means surfing smart!

When using online services such as PayPal, eBay and Craigslist, double check the web address to ensure you haven't been directed to a phishing scam (a way of attempting to get sensitive information by disguising as a trustworthy source).

Double check that the website address begins with <https://> ("s" is for "secure") and has a lock icon or unbroken key in the bottom right corner of the screen.

Pay by credit card if you can. Do not send cash.

Be on the lookout for prices that are too good to be true. They're likely counterfeits.

Don't use public Wi-Fi to shop online.

Read the privacy policy and find out how your information will be used.

Don't respond to an email or pop-up message that asks for financial information. Legitimate companies don't ask for this information this way.

Read your credit card statements and check for unauthorized charges.

Make sure your firewall is "on". For example, Windows Firewall is on by default on the latest version of Windows, but make sure it isn't turned off.

Don't allow auto fill for your passwords or personal information, like your address, and never allow a site to store your credit card information.

Open Government Data Portal – Year 1

As the first year of Canada's Action Plan on Open Government draws to a close, the federal government is taking stock of Canada's progress in implementing the Year-1 deliverables of the plan.

The new Government Open Data Portal, www.data.gc.ca, provides Canadians with unprecedented access to government data and information. On June 18, 2013, in support of the Government of Canada's policy direction for open government, the Prime Minister formally announced Canada's adoption of the G8 Open Data



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Charter and committed to the proactive release of high-value data, and to setting standards for data quality, interoperability, and comparability.

Datasets already accessible to the public via the Portal include information in the areas of housing, health and the environment. More datasets will be accessible through the Portal as they become available.

The next-generation Open Data Portal will be based on leading-edge collaborative open source technologies, and will include new interactive features and search capabilities that will make finding and using government data easier and more user friendly.

The Government of Canada's commitment to Open Government and Open Data are in keeping with Canada's Open Government Action Plan, and Canada's participation in the Open Government Partnership, a global initiative to secure concrete commitments from member countries to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

To let us know how we are doing, please visit www.data.gc.ca.

Respect for Taxpayers

The Harper Government has demonstrated a firm commitment to support taxpayers in their dealings with the CRA by creating the Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman in 2007. The office operates independently from the CRA and was established to uphold taxpayer service rights and to provide an impartial review of unresolved service complaints from taxpayers.

In June 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the addition of a new right to the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Under the new right, if taxpayers lodge a service complaint or request a formal review, they can be confident that they will be treated impartially, receive the benefits, credits, and refunds to which they are entitled and pay no more and no less than what is required by law.

This new right reflects the government's commitment to taxpayer fairness and to further strengthen public confidence in the tax administration. It provides Canadians with added assurance that they can bring their concerns to the CRA and trust that they will be investigated fully and impartially.

For more information about the Office of the Taxpayers' Ombudsman, go to www.taxpayersrights.gc.ca.

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

Power projects - responsibilities and cost allocation

In my last two columns I dealt with the siting of large power projects in the province.

Loyal readers will recall that the Minister of Energy tasked the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) back in mid June with leading public consultations into the siting of large energy infrastructure projects in Ontario. The OPA and the IESO were to make recommendations to the Minister by August 1.

The forty-five page OPA/IESO Report, entitled, "Engaging Local Communities in Ontario's Electricity Planning Continuum" was made public on August 5.

All in all, not a bad effort as the OPA/IESO was under a short turnaround time and they had to balance the expectations of a large number of stakeholders with often competing electricity notions.

There are three core recommendations outlined in the Report

Strengthen processes for early and sustained engagement with local governments and the public;

Provide local governments and communities with greater voice and responsibility in planning and siting; and Support inter-ministerial coordination.

While the report did recommend giving local communities a seat at the regional electricity planning table to ensure that

their interests are included, the OPA/IESO did not promise to provide them with an outright veto over the siting of new generation in their community.

This is a key point.

We are seeing a rural versus urban divide in the province regarding power projects. Most of the new electricity need is in the major load centers, like the GTA, while a bunch of generation projects (and especially wind) are in rural communities. A number of local governments in these rural communities are either trying to slow down or halt wind project development.

In some instances the opposition is due to NIMBY – which stands for "not in my backyard"—while in other cases it is NOPE, which stands for "not on planet earth."

For some folks, it does not matter what type of generation technology is employed; they will always be against it, be it nuclear, wind, tidal, coal, natural gas, hydro, biomass, biogas, geothermal or solar.

Aside from NIMBY or NOPE, there are legitimate concerns associated with siting of power projects in communities and these concerns need to be addressed early in the planning and development stages.

What both NIMBY and NOPE reveal



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

is the critical issue of balancing larger community interests vs. local interests – that is the provincial government mandate of ensuring that the lights stay on vs. local governments right to say no to a particular power project.

It is a delicate balancing act.

Another issue is that of cost, and who should be responsible for the costs of new generation and transmission.

The group at the public consultation that I attended thought that if a community takes on the burden of generation to meet a system wide need and not to meet a local reliability need, then that community should receive some type of benefit like reduced energy bills for residents or the community should be provided with a community vibrancy/benefits fund.

The Report issued by the OPA/IESO does not make a recommendation regarding cost responsibilities.

Instead, it just re-states what was heard at the public consultations.

Page six of the Report states, "If a local community's preferences result in a more expensive solution, many felt that the community should bear the incremental

cost; where the benefit is provincial, most felt that the cost should be socialized."

Hypothetically, if in the future a generation facility of a reasonable size could not be sited in close proximity to the current Aurora transmission line, who should pay if the ultimate decision is to go with an underground transmission line upgrade?

Should it be Aurora homeowners or York Region ratepayers or provincial taxpayers as a whole? Individual costs will be reduced the greater the area this concentric cost ring becomes.

The bottom line to me is that communities cannot and should not grow unless energy needs are part of the equation. Just as we would not allow homes to be built without adequate provisions for water, sewage, schools and roads, nor should we allow development without a real plan for our power needs.

Further, in the future when a local electricity need is identified, the provincial government and its energy related agencies need to communicate early on to locally elected officials what the various energy options are (be it generation or transmission), the costs associated with the various alternatives and clearly communicate who is responsible for the cost under each of the scenarios.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

After presenting the idea to the Town in the spring of 2012, and having the concept reviewed and discussed for countless hours in many meetings, the fruit of the process is alive and well in Aurora.



SENIOR SCAPE

Jim L. Abram

Senior Bocce Is Now Official

The Town of Aurora, in partnership and cooperation with the Aurora Seniors Association can now boast of having two new bocce courts.

The Aurora Seniors Association with the Town of Aurora held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday, August 13 marking the opening of the new Bocce Ball Courts at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Director of Parks and Recreation Al Downey, ASA President Charles Sequeira and Bocce Committee Chairs Frank Leone and me were on hand to cut the ribbon as Town dignitaries, staff and ASA members looked on.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening and successful completion of the first Bocce Courts in Aurora.

This is a successful collaboration between Aurora and the ASA, a community organization whose members' purpose is to bring together Aurorans interested in fellowship, socializing, charitable and seniors lifestyle enhancement focusing on the participation and well-being of residents over 55 years of age.

The ribbon-cutting event was also attended by ASA bocce players, members and volunteers as well as residents of the community of Aurora. The ceremony was highlighted by speeches by the Mayor Dawe and Mr. Downey who made special reference to the great ongoing relationship the Town of Aurora has with the Aurora Seniors Association and its membership.

ASA President Charles Sequeira followed by acknowledging all those who attended with special thanks to the town staff and ASA volunteers who work so hard every day to make initiatives like the Bocce Club possible on a continuing basis.

The ceremony was followed by a reception on the outdoor patio of the Centre with food and refreshments and good conversation for

all. The Bocce Committee wish to express a special thanks to those ASA volunteers who made this event a great success. Special acknowledgement goes to the following ASA volunteers:

The flower arrangements were provided by Terri Pressmar who also helped with the reception set-up. The baked goods and sweets were provided by Rene Batchelor; Ilka Tews, Renate Goesl, Susan Abram and Pat Adare. Snacks were provided by Yvonne Lewis and Joyce Bannon. The Cheese tray was provided by Pat Adare, who together with Marie Leone, led the planning, set up and take down for the reception. Cash Bar Service was provided by Bill Moore and Maureen Munsch.

DON'T FORGET PICKLEBALL!

Here are the results for the Aurora Seniors' Centre members that played in the Ontario Pickleball Association Tournament on Aug 14 to 16 in Oshawa. Men's double 70+ James Alberga wins gold. Ladies double 70+ Annette Gagne and Joanne Keates win silver. Mixed double 60-64, Denis Carter and Jeannette McGuire win bronze. The competition was very strong, but ASA members succeeded in claiming medals. Congratulations to all who participated.

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My Final Word: Let the Bocce Games Begin!!!

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.

More is less for Town Hall renovation plan: Councillors

By Brock Weir

Renovations for Aurora Town Hall have been delayed once again amid concerns Aurora would be getting less for a whole lot more.

Last winter, Council approved nearly \$843,000 to renovate the ground floor of Town Hall to create additional office space, a more accessible entrance, and a new customer service centre to accommodate future "short term" growth.

Going out to tender, however, it was found the estimates severely undershot the mark. Bids before Council this month from five construction companies hovering in the neighbourhood of \$1.1 million. This was after the initial tender was recalled after bids came in significantly over budget. These bids were much reduced from their original scope to nix plans for more office space, to focus primarily on the customer service area.

"Renovations are always difficult to put an estimate to and the consultant working with staff are making their best efforts to have an accurate budget," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, responding to questions on how the results could be "so out of whack" with what was originally budgeted for.

"The reality is when the contractors came in and made their evaluations, they are factoring risks that consultants may not have been sensitive to. It suggests the contractors were very familiar with the work that needed to be done to meet our specifications. Unfortunately, with that confidence, came that higher price."

For many Councillors, the increased price for a decreased amount of work missed the mark. Councillor Evelyn Buck, for instance, said she was concerned there was nothing in the plan to address "horrendously overcrowded" workspaces at Town Hall.

While Councillor Michael Thompson said he was concerned the window had passed to tackle the renovations

during the summer while Council and committee meetings were largely on hiatus during the summer months, he also criticized the plan moving forward.

"The [old report] asks for \$842,000 for the renovation of the entire ground floor," he said. "[An alternative] was a reduction in scope and that spoke poorly to that because it would cause some displacing of staff and it wouldn't necessarily resolve the issues we have."

"Now we have a report before us saying, let's go forward, and I don't see anything in this report currently that speaks to those concerns. What is it going to cost us to fix the rest of the ground floor? The reason we were going to do the ground floor was that it would give a three to five year window so that corporate and finance would have that space to grow. Now we're taking little jigsaw pieces out of it and I have lost the big picture."

Aurora CAO Neil Garbe said it was ultimately his call to reduce the scope on the project. When the tenders came back far above what was budgeted, he said he was not "comfortable" asking Council for increased funds.

"The direction was to reduce the scope to fit in the budget that we have and we felt that the most significant aspects of this, if we had to reduce something, staff would live with what we've got for a number of years until the joint operations centre is done and we would then rethink our plans," he said.

"It is not ideal by any stretch...but looking at our staffing forecast for this building over the next couple of years, it is not anticipated to change greatly."

When the Joint Operations Centre is built on Industrial Parkway over the next three years, Council approved laying the ground work for the potential of adding

more office space in the building should the need arise.

Councillors, however, asked for the report to be sent back to staff for further information addressing their concerns.

"We need an overview of where we're at and what this is going to buy us and what the benefits are," said Councillor Sandra Humfries. "I need to visualize what it buys us and what the next steps are to get us where we thought we were going

in the beginning of the program."

Staff nevertheless had concerns about any further delays. Mr. Simanovskis said they have worked to move this through, addressing concerns as quickly as possible, and delays would "jeopardize" other schedules in the mix. That could come as early as next month.

"The information is not there, so I need all those other pieces even though it may jeopardize the project," said Councillor Thompson.

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(L) Brooke and Hayley helped kids score in a bean bag toss while (R) 2013 Give Back Award student Doaa received a bouquet of appreciation from Lizbeth of Neighbourhood Network. Auroran photos by Brock Weir

It's back to school time for students and volunteers

By Brock Weir

As school gets back into high gear next week, incoming Grade Nine students and Grade 12s going into the home stretch will be thinking ahead to those 40 hours of community service standing between them and their diploma.

Some of these new students will be eager to get them done right off the bat, while others will be scrambling to get them all in as the clock ticks down to June. Whatever your situation, one Aurora organization wants to help you keep on top of things.

That has been a key mandate for Neighbourhood Network, the Aurora-based volunteer group, since its inception six years ago. As they continue to expand, it remains one of their cornerstones, despite some recent challenges.

"Last year was a bit of a struggle in the school system," explains Steve Hinder of Neighbourhood Network of the labour issues which disrupted the 2012-2013 school year. "Our goal now is to get out into those schools. We're in the middle of creating a link on our website where students can actually track their 40 hours of community service and we're trying to find easier ways."

"We have made huge leaps forward in our social media profile knowing that is the way it is done and listening to students in how they communicated."

It might seem like

a simple step for an organization which focuses on connecting people in the community with groups, services, and individuals best suited to their tastes and interests. When the new website launches, it will be just one way in which Neighbourhood Network has grown over the course of the past 12 months.

On Thursday, the group welcomed a few hundred of their closest clients to Newmarket's Riverwalk Commons for their annual Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque. It is, of course, a yearly affair but there was a new addition into the mix representing Aurora, Newmarket and, most recently, East Gwillimbury.

"We continue to develop our plans to grow Neighbourhood Network across the Northern Six municipalities," said Mr. Hinder of efforts to expand throughout York Region's upper tier.

"Over the past year we have been in East Gwillimbury and earlier this month we made a presentation to Council in Georgina."

Georgina, the northernmost municipality in York Region's N6, was very receptive to the idea, and they aim firmly bring the Town into the fold by the end of the 2013-2014 school year. They have already got their Georgina ambassador in Jennifer Anderson, the Executive Director of Georgina Cares.

Once that is in place, they are next targeting King and

Whitchurch-Stouffville.

"It's all based around Magna's desire to make communities stronger where their employees live," says Mr. Hinder. "I think we have proven now that Neighbourhood Network is very much a grassroots organization, very much in touch with the needs within each local community with volunteers on the ground. Yes, we have our solid volunteer component and our relationship with partners, but it is now about identifying a community need, reaching back into the network we have and knowing who we need to connect with, whom to address that need."

For Neighbourhood Network, it is all about communities working together. Businesses within the community, says Mr. Hinder, often see "corporate social responsibility" as writing cheques, but more and more they are turning around to see it also means engagement and employees giving back.

"We have been truly greeted with open arms," he says of the communities they have visited. "Municipalities understand the strength volunteerism brings to the community and I think they are looking for opportunities to enhance it and that is what Neighbourhood Network can do for them."

"I think we have to simplify the process for municipalities and residents so that we become the go-to for volunteerism

and linking and networking community groups who are struggling, who are working towards similar goals, while trying to good, but are unsure what the road ahead looks like."

When Sir William Mulock Secondary School Student Doaa Abou Hussein wanted to become more involved with her community, she was getting out of her own comfort zone, unsure of what that road ahead would look like. After becoming involved with initiatives within her school to challenge discrimination and combat intolerance, as well as becoming involved with numerous groups within her school community, she found herself one of over 20 students from Aurora, Newmarket, and East Gwillimbury honoured with a 2013 Give Back Award.

Doaa spoke about the value of volunteerism at Thursday's community celebration.

"One of the most important things about volunteering is putting yourself in situations you might not have imagined yourself in," she said. "When you see people smile and you see people really benefit from what you have been doing to help out, it is really, really important that people get involved, even if it is for the experience - and life is a series of experiences. Why not experience something that will not only benefit you, but benefit your community and everyone in it?"

Women set to build Habitat for Humanity house

By Brock Weir

It's probably safer to hammer in work boots rather than heels, but Habitat for Humanity York Region likes to live dangerously.

At least for one night only. Habitat will host a "Hammer & Heels" dinner and fashion show in October to mark their launch of Women Build, a program to engage women across York

Region not just with Habitat, but in picking up their own hammers and helping to build homes where needs and opportunities arise.

Through Women Build, a construction job is completed entirely by women from the design concept stage right through to the very last flourishes of the home once it's constructed.

Women Build is a model that has been successfully

implemented by Habitat for Humanity organizations in communities across Canada, but this will be a first for York Region, according to Keasha Green, Community Event Manager for Habitat for Humanity York Region.

"We had two successful builds in York Region last year and we're doing a new turn in terms of having a theme," says Ms. Green. "The interesting thing about [focusing] towards women's

groups is we're not just getting women who want to volunteer because they are women; we're getting women who are in the trades who come out and say, 'I actually want to build and contribute to this.'

"It is a great opportunity to introduce the fact there are females in the trades. We're also engaging community leaders: we've got MPs and MPPs, Councillors, and

Continued on page 16

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“Reluctant survivor” is inspiration behind Aurora walk

By Brock Weir

Debbie Antonio is not your typical survivor.

Ms. Antonio has had a clean bill of health for five years after a long battle with ovarian cancer. The plight of the Bradford resident inspired her sister, Gayle Palmer, to bring together friends to form the Aurora Walk of Hope, an annual September walkathon to raise money for Ovarian Cancer Canada, in conjunction with the Aurora Farmers' Market.

In recent years, Ms. Palmer has described her sister as a “reluctant” survivor, but this year in the lead up to the Walk of Hope, Ms. Antonio has shared her journey. The reluctance is still there, however. When asked what it feels like to be the inspiration behind the walk, she bristles just a little bit.

The reluctance, she says, it not a matter of shyness, but hesitating in case she becomes the “face” of an issue which afflicts so many Canadian women each year.

“I am willing to talk about my story, but I don't want it to define me,” she says.

While the motives to raise money for Ovarian Cancer Canada are well-intentioned, just as important to her is the drive to raise awareness of the disease. Her story begins when she was not as well versed with the disease which was eventually her diagnosis.

Her body, she said, gave the first signals acting in unusual ways. Eventually the diagnosis was made and the journey began. After four rounds of chemotherapy, she eventually had a full hysterectomy. A tumour marker is normally between 0 and 35 for people with a clean bill of health. Upon her diagnosis, it was at nearly 4,100.

“My husband was surprised the surgery only lasted, from start to finish, an hour and a half,” she says. “The doctor didn't see any tumour on the ovary with the naked eye and they didn't see any cancer. All they had to do was a complete hysterectomy with the ovaries. Then I had two more rounds of chemo and after that my CA-125 was back down to seven. I have had check-ups with oncologists, I'm clear, and in April I just celebrated my fifth year of being clean.”

Through her journey, Ms. Antonio says she found her chief source of support in her personal belief in God, her church and her family. Her church added her to prayer chains and she says there was comfort knowing she had so many people in her church community backing her in her fight.

She returns the favour, being an active volunteer in the church and wider community, focusing her energy on the less privileged and spending her time volunteering at A Hand Up, a clothing room operated by a local ministry.

Despite her reluctance, Ms. Antonio does indeed

Public will “demand” good stewardship: Reiner

From page 1

believe having the collection under municipal ownership will ensure the future of the collection.

“The Town will allocate resources so they are in a better position to expand and have the museum become a very important heritage site,” she added “If it is in our hands, we are limited to what we can do financially with the Aurora museum.

“[With the option of looking for a third party to manage it] I can understand what they are trying to do, but at least the Town will own it. We feel comfortable that they will be good stewards and us, as the public, will demand it.”

Since the July Council meeting, the AHS and Town Staff have been working to get everything in order for this week's transfer, including compiling the over 16,000 artefacts into a comprehensive 500 page inventory so the Town knows what they are going to get. According to the Town, the collection of artefacts, textiles, photos and documents has been appraised up to \$200,000.

“The management agreement may or may not proceed, depending on what model Council chooses to go with for the exhibition and care of the collection,” said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe on the options previously available to Council, including hiring new staff and curators to look after the collection and keep it accessible to the public. “If a third party takes care of it, then the agreement is between the Town as the owner of the collection and that third party.

“This is a huge step forward. The Aurora Historical Society has done a great job until now, but I think for what the community wants in terms of the collection being on display and used throughout the community, I think moving it to Town ownership is a critical step in...getting it into the public where it should be.”

come out to support Ms. Palmer and her core group of volunteers who run the Walk of Hope in Aurora each year. Their efforts are not limited to the walk itself, but building awareness of Ovarian Cancer Canada throughout the community.

This spring their volunteers were on hand at Aurora's Boston Pizza eatery as celebrity servers. A portion of the food sales they brought in were donated to the charity.

“Nobody chooses to have cancer, but I felt because I didn't choose to have cancer I didn't want it to define me,” she says. “I have a life outside of cancer, it effected my life and it has ongoing effects, but I personally didn't want to pick up the torch and be a spokesperson.

“Earlier in my journey, it was encouraging to be with people who had come through or had been further along on their journey. If I am with someone whose loved one maybe didn't make it I feel safe for them, and, in some ways, I think then I have to battle survivor guilt to some degree.

“It is emotional because I know my sister Gayle took this and ran with it. That is her personality and she can

carry it.”

The Aurora Walk of Hope will start off at Town Park on Saturday, September 14. Free registration begins at 9 a.m. In addition to the 3.5 km walk, there will be live music from Sarah Carmosino, speeches from survivors, a silent auction, jugglers, face painting, and lots of food and entertainment. For more information contact gaylepalmer@msn.com.

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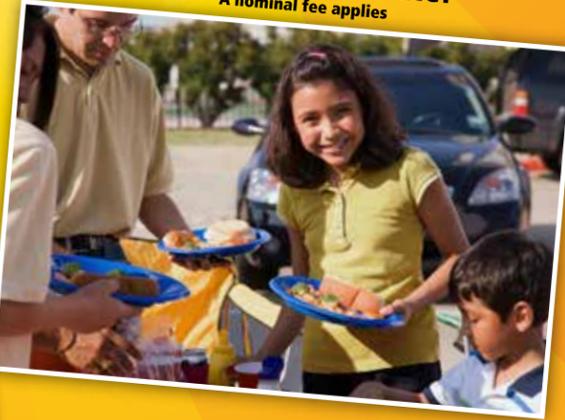


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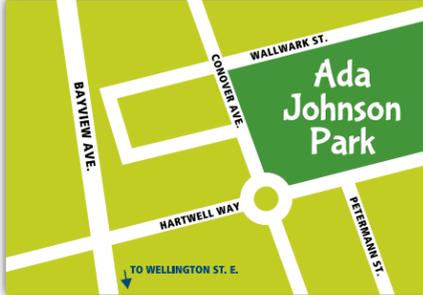
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September begins with a sizzle at annual RibFest

By Brock Weir

As the summer heat gradually gives way to the cooler winds of autumn, some of the hottest events in Aurora are still yet to come.

A month of fun kicks off next weekend with Aurora Ribfest, an annual tradition at Machell Park from September 6 – September 8.

Bringing together barbecue masters from Toronto to Albuquerque, thousands are expected to come out for three days of food, fun, and music.

Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator with the Town of Aurora, looks each year to put on a different spin so there is something new for everyone.

“You strive to be different and unique from other municipalities,” she says. “If you are striving for that, you’re able to find that different twist.”

Attractions this year include musicians for the young and the young at heart from A Tribute to Bruce Springsteen on Friday, September 6, to The Carpet Frogs and Honeymoon Suite on Saturday, and The Mud Men as the capper on Sunday.

There will also be a midway for kids and families, a beer garden operated by the Rotary Club for some more mature refreshment and, in addition to the ribs from Bone Daddy’s from Fort Erie, Camp 31 from Alabama, Uncle Sam’s from Albuquerque, NM, Bibb’s BBQ from Florida and Rib Royale from Las Vegas, there will also be a corn and yam roast, blooming onions, BeaverTails, and ice cream.

For the first time this year, however, age of majority will be enforced at Machell Park after 8 p.m. on September 6 and September 7.

“We want to encourage age of majority after 8 p.m. because of limited land space and because of the draw of bands we have brought in,” explains Ms. Ware.

“They are really geared towards the 30s and older crowd, so we want to ensure we have space for those who otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to see groups like Honeymoon Suite.

“Sometimes if the younger populations come in, they are not there for that and other people can’t get in because space is taken up. If we had bigger land space, it would be different. We are intimately packed into Machell Park.”

The younger crowd, however, can look forward to the ACE Firebirds Cheerleading Squad, which Ms. Ware says is going six girls high, as well as the Midway, and Sunday’s entertainment with the Mud Men.

People can also get a kick at the expense of the local media as representatives from The Auroran, SNAP Aurora, and The Banner take on a “pressure challenge” to find the “tastiest media team.” It may have a fancy name, but it is essentially a rib eating contest.

“This is the one time the community gets to see how approachable and fun they are,” says Ms. Ware of the local media. “I am happy to be able to present that opportunity to see them all together because they want the best for Aurora in their own niche market and their own approaches. You see the papers, but you don’t see the personalities.”

Meanwhile, on the other side of Town at Ada Johnson Park, Ms. Ware continues bringing together the ideas of the Aurora 150 Committee for the Community Cultural Celebration on September 21, the final event in the Town’s series of events intended to celebrate the Town’s Sesquicentennial.

The intent of the event is not just to engage communities on the eastern side of Aurora, but also to celebrate the many international cultures represented in the changing faces of Aurora. In addition to Aboriginal performances from Mystic Drums, there will be cultural

representations and performances from around the world, from China to Crete, as well as a smorgasbord of international cuisine.

“You always want residents to take away the sense of community, the sense

of how diverse the community is and how broad and amazing the community is,” says Ms. Ware. “As our Town’s tagline says, you’re always in good company and we want people to feel that, experience that, and walk away knowing it.”



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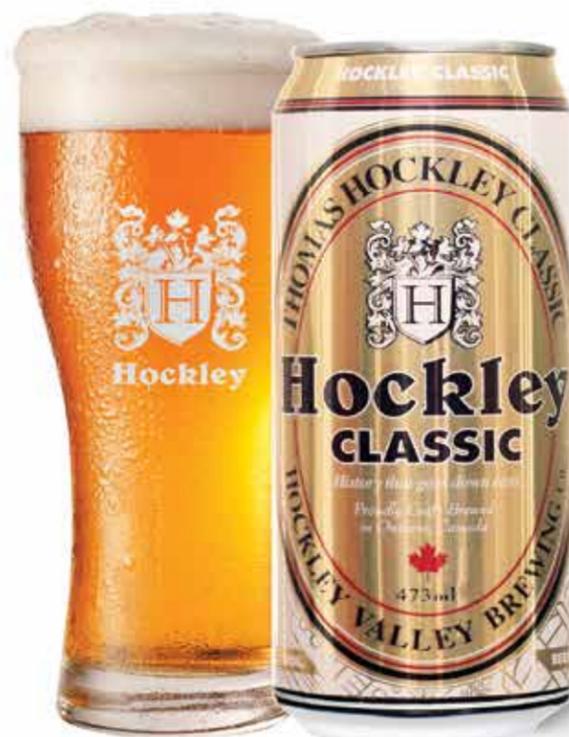
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Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

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ACC arena to get a new roof this fall

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Community Centre should be good for at least another 40 years after a new roof is installed this fall.

Council approved a new metal roof for Arena 1 (ACC1) to the tune of \$524,000 this month, which clocked in at more than \$120,000 over budget.

The new roof for ACC1 was previously approved for \$400,000 with one third of that bill being covered through a Federal grant program. The total bill, however, came in at \$523,916.83.

While the Federal Government is going to cover one third funding, their grant program has put Aurora's lawmakers in a tight spot. If they cancelled the tender and called for new bids on the project, they would have to forfeit the Federal boost.

Councillors, however, questioned why this issue wasn't brought up sooner when they could revise the scope of the project and find something within budget without having to lose the Federal dollars.

"[This year] we have had well over 100 tenders to put out on the street

and this is a challenging process," explained Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure. "We prioritized that list of projects to ensure we could move all our projects through the system as quickly as possible and achieve those projects in an order that made sense.

"This one here, with regards to the timing, was based on that prioritization. I totally agree it would have been great if it was done six months earlier, but there were other priorities that took precedence."

This explanation, however, did not fully wash with Council.

This was not, after all the first time bids had come back over budget. When that happened in the spring, the project scope was scaled back. A significant factor in this was changing the way the roof would be constructed.

They came back with a different configuration that would be "easier to assemble" with lower cost material, as well as a secondary option for a PVC membrane roof.

The metal roof, however, won the day for cost and durability.

But, if the federal

dollars weren't a factor, the project could have been scrubbed altogether, said Mr. Simanovskis.

"With every project we deal with, the probability of being right on [cost target] is low," he said. "If I was to say to you, should we have put more money in?" Looking back, yes.

"Frankly if there was no funding for this project, I would have recommended cancelling it again this year and going back to Council to have that conversation. It is because we have this funding available we decided it was worth bringing this forward."

While Councillors ultimately approved the new roof, Councillor Michael Thompson said he believed a new roof for ACC1 was a long time coming but questioned the ballooning price tag.

"I am struggling with all those sudden increases and twice we have gone out to tender for this roof and twice we have underestimated," he said.

Councillor Buck, on the other hand, said she would have preferred the cheaper PVC option to re-roof the ageing arena. Semple Gooder Roofing, the winning bidder, put

costs for a metal roof at \$481,718 and a PVC system at \$288,824. While a metal roof would last in the neighbourhood of 40 years, a PVC roof's lifespan would be about half, according to Mr. Simanovskis' report.

"We have had to do various things inside that building and replace that roof because an expansive roof like that is problematic," said Councillor Buck. "We can't just take it automatically for granted [a metal roof] will be better. It is better to be able to replace a roof that is less expensive."

Asked by Councillors whether they would get their money's worth out of the roof, whether ACC1 would last another 40 years, Mr. Simanovskis said it depends how much Council wants to invest in it to keep it going. An additional 40 years out of ACC1 would not be "unreasonable" but whether it will meet the needs of the community down the road will be the big question.

"These are decisions that influence that, but practically as long as the building meets the intents of the community, it can have quite an extensive life," he said.

Shopping will get easier for residents in Bayview and St. John's area

By Brock Weir

Aurorans living in the Bayview Avenue and St. John's Sideroad area will no longer have to let traffic get between them and their groceries and beer.

Aurora Councillors have approved a new \$116,000 sidewalk for the eastern side of Earl Stewart Drive, which would make it easier for pedestrians to access such stores as the Real Canadian Superstore, the Beer Store, and the LCBO without having to cross against traffic on the busy industrial road.

The idea, one long-advocated for by residents in the immediate area, particularly those living near St. Andrew's Valley Golf Course, was first presented to Council in June but a decision was delayed pending further information after Councillor Chris Ballard cited safety concerns.

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

Councillor Ballard, however, said it was a "crazy" place to try to

walk and ride a bike. He suggested rather than having sidewalks cross the busy driveways of the store that it would be better, and safer, to install pedestrian crossings coming across from the sidewalk on the west side of the street.

"I don't know why we wouldn't simply have one or two places between St. John's and Pedersen and put one or two crosswalks to allow people coming from St. John's to travel along an already existing sidewalk and not cross over those driveways."

In the intervening weeks between June and this month's Council meeting, further information submitted by Mr. Simanovskis seemed to do the trick.

"The proposed sidewalk on the east side was developed as a way to eliminate jaywalking and provide safe and protected pedestrian crossing at St. John's Sideroad and Pedersen Drive controlled by intersections," said Mr. Simanovskis. "Mid-block crossing can only be provided at intersections in conjunction with pedestrian signals or stop signs where motorists

need to come to a complete stop before pedestrians can safely cross the road. Providing any other type of pedestrian crossing outside of these areas would not provide any more convenience or safety compared to the completion of the sidewalk along the east side."

This month, while Councillor Ballard said he "threw a bit of a wrench" into the plan, he would vote on favour of it despite lingering safety concerns.

"I still do have concerns, having walked that area numerous times in years gone by, that sidewalks across the entranceways and exits of a big shopping centre might not be that safe, especially the exits where the delivery trucks are coming in and out of it," he said.

"I still have concerns about the safety of putting a sidewalk on the east side, but staff are assuring me it is a good way to go and the only way we can get people to cross would be at the major intersections. People would have to walk way down the road and then back again. I can't see people doing that. Most likely they would just scoot across the road and

put themselves in danger. My concerns have been addressed, I still have a bit of skepticism but I will go with what staff are telling me."



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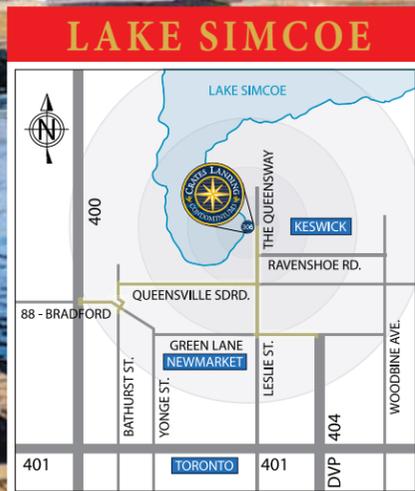
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Students perform cultural exchange on quiet crescent

By Brock Weir

Culture in Aurora is not limited to a few places in and around Church Street – a clear, tangible exchange has spanned from Switzerland all the way to a quiet Aurora crescent.

14 year old Laura Dubais recently left Aurora bound for her home in Geneva, after experiencing a cross-cultural exchange with 13 year old Alice Sandiford, a Grade 8 student at Devins Drive Public School.

The exchange between the girls began several months ago when they applied to learn more about each other's countries and languages through learning "on the scene." When The Auroran last visited Alice, she was anxiously awaiting

word on whether she had made it through to the next round in her application.

She needn't have worried and this summer, she and a host of Canadian students made their way across the Atlantic to their destinations via Paris.

"It was amazing and I loved it," said Alice of her 24 day experience in Europe. "The trip was really long – bad airplane food! – but on the first night we went to Paris, and then we were on a flight to Geneva.

"Switzerland isn't the biggest country, but it is really nice. It's just really pretty and there are mountains everywhere. It felt like I was in a hometown. Laura's family was really nice. Her sister was really funny; she's a year younger

than me and she is absolutely crazy!"

Sitting around their dining room table, when Laura was asked if she



Swiss student Laura Dubais and Aurora's Alice Sandiford completed a nearly two-month cultural exchange program this month. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

agreed her sister was crazy, she gave a resounding "yes!" and whipped out an iPhone to produce some convincing photographic evidence!

All kidding aside, Alice said it was "really

interesting" to meet Laura's family and Laura herself.

"She is nice and awesome," said Alice. "As the weeks went by, we got to

know each other way better and became friends." They certainly had a lot of time and adventures to get acquainted as they took trips into Italy and Liechtenstein before coming

back to Aurora together for the second leg of their cultural exchange.

"They are really nice," said Laura of the Sandifords. "We talk about everything, we laugh together and it is very nice. The program is very cool an interesting and it is cool to learn another language and to be with other people."

While Alice said the program did indeed help her hone her French, it was a bit of a challenge at first as Laura's family lived in a very Germanic part of Switzerland. Nevertheless, still in awe of her experience, she said it is something she would encourage any student to try.

"It is a once in a lifetime thing and you want to make the most of it," she

said. "It is an amazing experience. If you have a real interest in it, go for it. It is just a really nice way to learn about a new culture, enrich your language, and give you a whole different perspective on home." As for Alice's parents, Judy and Dave, who previously hosted a student from Beijing, they are equally enthusiastic about the exchange.

"Don't do it!" she joked with a laugh when asked what advice she would give to parents who might hesitate at the idea of an exchange. "No, it is fantastic. [Alice and Laura] work great together!"

Added Dave: "It also helps you get to know your child better, and through the eyes of another child as well."

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Beacon Hall celebrates 25th anniversary with scholarship launch

By Brock Weir

For many golfers, a good caddy is an essential ingredient to a great round on the links.

Indeed, a skilled caddy doesn't just lug the clubs while golfers take in their lush surroundings interrupted by a shot or two, but their expertise can make or break a game.

Now, as members of Beacon Hall Golf Club mark their 25th anniversary, they have formed a new foundation to give their caddies the same vote of confidence as they embark on the next stage of their lives.

On Saturday evening, the Aurora golf course marked their silver anniversary in grand style

as nearly 200 members and their families took in the occasion. For them, it wasn't just a way to celebrate the club's development over the last 25 years, but officially inaugurate the Beacon Hall Caddie Scholarship Foundation, intended to help youngsters in the Aurora and King communities pursue higher education.

The program is the brainchild of Phil Hardy, Director of Golf and Membership at the course.

For him, their caddie program has become an integral part of the Beacon Hall fabric, and it was only natural to put a program in place to provide bursaries for those in need who also "contribute

to the exceptional golf experience" at Beacon Hall.

"I suppose the community could say this is a bunch of very wealthy people and their playground, but it is much more than that," says Mr. Hardy. "We started [a similar program] seven years ago but this year we made it a true scholarship program. Our caddies are between the ages of 13 and 19 and we will be supporting anywhere from three to nine kids who are either in or going into post-secondary education."

The recipients of the program will be selected on the criteria of "need, experience, character and personality," but need will be the overriding factor, he

says.

"We have a young lady who came here with a 13 handicap and not a lot of financial resources," says Mr. Hardy. "She is now going into her third year at Missouri State University on a full scholarship. I think if you asked her she would say there was very little chance of that happening without becoming a part of Beacon Hall and experiencing the generosity of membership."

For them, it is a way of giving back after enjoying the golf course, for which land was broken in 1986. Ready to open in 1988, it was on a parcel acquired from the Toronto North York Hunt Club. Its natural

See "Program" on page 16



Local dignitaries turned out to fete Beacon Hall's 25th anniversary on Saturday. MPP Frank Klees cuts the ceremonial ribbon as Bill Doerner, Bob Cupp, Bryan Leggett, and Phil Hardy look on.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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FREE Week of August 28, 2013

Jays in make or break as they take on Orillia in Game 5

By Jeff Doner

Despite winning the first two games in Aurora, the Jays failed to clinch their series against the Majors in Orillia.

By giving up games three and four to tie things up, the home team heads into the deciding game five match in Orillia at press time Tuesday.

Injuries are not the sole reason the Jays find themselves in another must-win situation, but the team has lost a good chunk of its core over the past week.

All-star outfielder and leadoff hitter Stephen Vallee injured his ankle running the bases in game two, catcher Chris Fafalios is back to college in Ohio, and the team was also without hard-hitting outfielder Ryan Lewis and Chris Rettie for games three and four over the weekend.

But Jays second baseman, Ted Beadle wasn't willing to use that as an excuse.

"We've got a pretty deep lineup, so wherever we're missing guys we should have good players stepping in anyways," he said after game two. "We've got a lot of good hitters and players on this team. Everyone will have to pick it up, piece it together and get another win."

The first two games were both low scoring affairs, with both keeping things close right until the end.

Starting pitcher Ian Milne pitched a solid 6.2 innings for the win, with Ian Rettie registering the last two outs to end the game 3-2.

One of the best plays of the game came on a diving catch by Stephen Vallee, who sprinted to make the play at a crucial part of the game in the final frame.

After game one, Milne said he felt his team had taken a big step forward.

"Every year that goes by we get older and more mature and I think we're able to make it through these

situations now," he said. "We're playing close games, but we've been finding ways to win, so it's nice to see we can actually hold it together. In past years we normally buckled under that pressure and ended up losing a lot of those games."

Brent Owen, who has been on fire his last two starts, was the story of game two, only needing one run of support in a complete game shutout.

Ian Gabel was the other game two hero, driving in Ian Rettie in what would be the only run of the game in the third inning.

To end game two, Lewis made a clutch catch in the outfield to keep the tying and winning runs on first and third. Then the Jays infielders turned over a rare double play to end the game in spectacular fashion.

Game two was catcher Fafalios' last game of the season with the Jays before going to school and said he



Chris Rettie running the bases in Game 2 against the Orillia Majors.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

Aurora hosts Rugby World Cup ahead of qualifiers

By Jeff Doner

International rugby's magnificent Webb Ellis Cup was on display in Aurora last weekend, as representatives from the International Rugby Board, the North American Caribbean Rugby Association [NACRA], Rugby Canada and USA Rugby gathered for a social.

The gathering was on the eve of a big qualifying match between Canada and USA at BMO field in Toronto.

Canada nailed down the win by defeating their American rivals in a hard-fought 13-11 win to secure a berth in the 2015 Rugby World Cup in England and a chance to bring the prestigious cup to Canada.

The purpose of the event was to socialize and give people a chance to see and take photos with rugby's ultimate trophy that is only awarded every four years.

Despite the fact that the two nations were

fighting it out on the field the next day, there were only words of encouragement and camaraderie.

"On the field we're very, very competitive and off the field we're for the most part colleagues, we share experiences and we want the game to grow," said Rugby Canada CEO and Aurora Barbarians board of director member, Graham Brown.

Added Rugby Canada chairman, Pat Aldous: "What I like about our relationship with our American friends is that the competition is always fierce, but it's also a good friendship."

And according to vice-chairman of USA Rugby and NACRA member, Bob Latham the feeling was mutual.

"We really are rivals on the field and great friends off it," he said. "It's wonderful to be here and I'm confident that we'll both be in England in 2015 and we'll be rooting for you and I hope you will be rooting

for us."

As part of rugby tradition, it is common for teams and groups to gather for a social on the evening before a big match.

"This is what the rugby community is like, it's a bunch of friends off the field and a bunch of rivals on the field and whether you're a club, union or on the International Rugby Board, we all get together and be social," said Aurora Barbarians president, Tim Brochu.

"It's quite interesting for me as the new president of the Aurora Barbarians to come out and be introduced to and meet all these people. I don't have an extensive rugby background like all these people do, but it's just a great evening."

Overall, the local Barbarians saw the event and presence of the Webb Ellis Cup as a positive sign for the growth of rugby in Canada.

"It is taking steps," Brochu explained. "It's

hoped his team would seal the series in game three.

"We lost the first two games against them in the regular season and we put that right behind us and said, 'let's get out there and take care of business.' It was just like in the Clearview series. We took the first two games and that's what we've done again here."

Little did he know the series would turn into exactly what happened with Clearview.

The Jays went on the road for games three and four on Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, the bats woke up on both teams, but the Jays would be on the losing end of an 11-8 slugfest.

Chris Leslie and Ian Rettie shared the mound for the Jays, while shortstop Chris Bloom and Rob Wilson helped pace the offence, scoring five runs between them.

Game four the next day was much of the same for Aurora.

"Saturday was a battle," said Jays catcher Rob Wilson. "We knew we would have to dig deep due to some existing player commitments. We struck first with a run in the top of the first, but unfortunately gave them a five-run first

inning and a two-run second to give them a 7-1 lead."

Brent Owen came in for relief and kept the Jays in the game, but the game was fairly quiet until the sixth inning when the Jays buried six runs to tie it up. But Orillia bounced back, adding three more runs to hand the Jays a 10-7 loss.

"We knew we had a battle ahead of us, but we made it close," said Wilson

after game four: "The guys dug deep and showed a lot of heart, but ultimately we did ourselves no favours. There were just too many errors. Orillia is a talented young team, but the fact that we made it close, even with having to dig so deep on our roster, bodes well for us."

For scores and schedules, visit www.ndbl.ca

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Outdoor soccer season ends with Stinger Cup, but there's more in store

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club held its annual Stinger Cup tournament to mark the end of yet another successful season for its ever growing house league.

Throughout the weekend, 240 teams of all ages went head-to-head at Sheppard's Bush, each with the goal of winning their division.

AYSC house league and volunteer coordinator, Sandy Porter, said the weekend couldn't have gone any better.

"The tournament went off without a hitch and it was just a beautiful way to cap the season," she said.

"The tournament was fantastic and the weather was amazing. This summer has been very wet and we've had a lot of cancellations because of rain and closed fields, so we were thrilled that the weather was so good to us."

It wasn't until the very last game of the tournament between the girls U12 Sky Blue and Purple teams that the rain came out. But the game was still played, ending in a 2-0 win for Sky Blue to become champions of their division.

Maureen Sullivan, coach of the Sky Blue team, said she was proud of her team during another solid season of house league play.

"We won the semi-final match in a penalty kick shootout, that was a nail biter, but it was good," she said. "The season was also good, we came in second overall and now this is championship game where we're playing the team that came in first overall. It's kind of neat that it turned out with one and two in the final."

Even though she has coached for five years, Sullivan said it was her first time at the Stinger's Cup and only had good things to say about the tournament.

"It's great. It's good to see all the teams, it's a lot of fun and the kids love it and have become good friends," she said.

"Every year the teams get mixed up, so every year the groups are different, but in the end after four of five years of playing they'll know mostly all of the kids."

Player Emma Barber on the Sky Blue team said she always looks forward to the weekend event.

"It's exciting because since the teams get mixed up every year, we play against our friends from the years before and it's kind of like a rivalry and a big competition, but in the end everyone is very sportsmanlike and all happy with the outcomes," she said with a smile.

Barber said this was the furthest one of her teams has made it in the tournament and spoke about her current team very highly.



Players in the U19 to U29 Championship Game for the Stingers Cup faced off at Sheppard's Bush over the weekend. Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

"It feels really good. I'm proud of everyone and my teammates played really well and they had good passes and everything. We also shot a lot, so that was good," she said.

"You always play with different players, so I've made a lot of good friendships, so we all play really well together."

Even though the tournament marks the end of the summer house league, Porter said there is still plenty of soccer going on in Aurora through to the end of September.

"We are now full steam ahead to get ready for our indoor season that starts on the first weekend of October," she said.

In the meantime, the competitive leagues still run until the end of the month and the AYSC is also holding its All-Star weekend on September 14 and 15, which currently has 116 teams signed up to participate from all over Canada and even some from the US.

"There's lots of soccer to go before we call it a season," Porter said.

For more information on programs and the AYSC, visit www.aysc.ca



Aurora Youth Soccer Club



HOUSE LEAGUE RESULTS:

August 19 - August 22, 2013

GIRLS

U12

Hartwell Thayer, Gold 1 - K. Wasserman.
Magna, Purple 5 - A. Diaz 2, J. Smith, L. Pasdernick, C. Bialkowski.

U12

Sabrina Imseis Royal Lepage, Pink 0
Oakridge Outfitters, Scarlet 2 - I. Iorgovits, Z. Simons.

U12

Volkswagen Richmond Hill, Royal 0
Sky 4 - A. Camick 2, M. O'Connor, J. Devine.

U14-15

Michelberger Orthodontics, Teal 1 - J. Abden.
Stirling Cook, Purple 4 - G. Roel-D'Angelo, A. Mosu, R. Al-Kas, C. Srouji.

U14-15

Golder Associates, Lime 1 - S. Steeles.
Upper Canada Mall, Sky 1 - N. Mirabal.

U14-15

Upper Canada Mall, Emerald 2 - B. Howell, C. Vasilliou.

U14-15

Port Royal, White 3 - E. McKay, E. Colin, L. Harrison.
Michael Tough, Scarlet 7 - M. Irish 3, A. Mayer 2, R. Tough 2.

U14-15

Canadian Vascular Labs, Gold 3 - M. Cantelope 2, M. Shortt.
Stirling Cook, Purple 3 -

C. Srouji 2, G. Roel-D'Angelo.

U14-15
StillWaters, Royal 1 - F. Stewart.
Golder Associates, Lime 3 - S. Steeles 2, C. Ing.

U14-15
Port Royal, White 0
Michelberger Orthodontics, Teal 5 - B. Gibbons 2, J. Russo 2, A. Kearney, A. Dover, M. Baruch.

U14-15
Michael Tough, Scarlet 4 - M. Irish 2, A. Mayer 2.
Pink 4 - C. Rutherford, A. Martin 2, S. McGee.

U14-15
Upper Canada Mall, Sky 1 - C. Gibson.
Upper Canada Mall, Emerald 2 - B. Howell, N. Mete.

August 15

U11
Scotiabank, White 1 - M. Wiley.
Dr. Weeden, Purple 2 - K. Brown, I. Cooke.

BOYS

U13
Dr. Weaver, Royal 2 - R. Charles, J. Weaver.
ICE Photo, Sky 7 - M. Hollett 3, R. Parente 2, E. Lavis, N. Legros, N. Rountes, J. Snedden.

U16-18
Emerald 1 - S. Akbar.
Upper Canada Mall, Black 4 - G. Robinson 2, K. Strachan,

Habitat hosts Hammer & Heels to support Women Build

From page 7

leading women in business coming together, so we're bringing together the whole community."

A location for York Region's first Women Build house has not yet been determined by the Habitat board, but the build is indeed scheduled for 2014. They're currently aiming at one house but that is entirely dependent on how

much money they raise – and, of course, land prices in whichever York Region municipality they decide to focus on.

If you're interested in participating but intimidated by the project or unsure of what you can contribute, Ms. Green says there's no cause for concern.

"If you have no skills, you get trained on the site," she says. "We have people who are trained to build houses.

You get hands-on training. The other side of it is, if someone already has a trade, they bring in specialized people. If you are a woman and already know how to do roofing, for instance, you are welcome to come and we will connect you with our construction manager to start the process.

"This is a great opportunity because it embodies the fact it can be for career-oriented women,

a stay-at-home mom, or someone at the office – anyone can just grab a hammer and go. It's kind of fun too!"

Hammer & Heels will be held October 17 at the Venetian Banquet and Hospitality Centre in Vaughan. For ticket and event information, as well as info on Women Build, visit www.hammersandheels.ca, or call 905-868-8722.

Program will be "lasting legacy" at course

From page 13

beauty, says Mr. Hardy, has been a vital component in the success of the course.

"You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear." He says. "You can tell a golf course that has been manufactured; this one is just a bunch of little grades on God-given land."

The second principle in their formula was access to the tee. Membership by Beacon Hall is limited by

design, so you don't have too many people jostling for tee-times. 120 rounds are standard on their busiest days.

"Those two founding principles are still what draws people," he says. "What has made us successful is the ability to hold onto people and I think that speaks to the third principle, which is the membership and this fabulous culture of a common mindset. They

love golf, they respect the golf course, and they respect each other."

In addition to the scholarship program, the club has also set a 25th anniversary target of bringing in more members from the surrounding residential community. While some members of the club have been critical of the club for clearing and replacing trees ostensibly to reconfigure sunlight access on the

green, they want everyone in an adjacent home to be "affiliated" with the club either from a golf or social perspective.

"The design is to have a club where everyone is on the same page," he says. "The lasting legacy is an incredible golf course that is internationally ranked, that has supported a place where people have really developed long-lasting friendships and relationships."

Rugby Cup

From page 15

a game that is growing. We always use these words that 'it's a game for all.' It's an inexpensive sport that really anyone can play, whether you have money or not and I think sports are going in that direction. Many sports are becoming only for people who have money. At the grassroots level we're trying to change that regardless of what your capabilities are you can play."

In a show of support for local charity, the evening was dedicated to the run to fight cancer and its supporters in Aurora, with donations being collected throughout the night.



Scores compiled by Virginia

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NORTHERN LIGHTS

Jodie Cara Lindley

September 2013
Horoscopes

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

You may feel a bit volatile inside this month. Watch self-criticism and sacrificing your needs unnecessarily. Others are not out to get you. Reduce your paranoia and refocus on your current projects and obligations.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Become aware of the law of cause and effect this month. If you repeat the same actions, the same results occur. Why not try something different? Step out of your limited viewpoint. Change is good for you now, Libra.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

Be self-directed in September. Reflect on what will best serve your energy output, and move in that direction. Try not to stomp on others in the process, even if your patience is tested. Your personal goals are the best pursuit now.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

Release the desire to have your way without consequences. Sometimes it is best if you work with others equally, versus carrying your own agenda too far. Create win-win situations, especially in your relationships. Walk lightly.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Take a deep breath when you feel resistance this month. Others may not seem to be working as hard as you Capricorn. They probably aren't. Channel your resiliency into the big jobs on your plate. Try to temper your temper.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Submerged anger may rise from deep within you this month. Be careful. You will be less tolerant than usual. If you feel you are about to blow your top, do something productive to release the tension. This will be better for everyone involved.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

Use your ability to shapeshift in September. Changing forms to adapt to situations is your forte, Pisces. This will best serve you now, especially if others are not speaking your language. Become a chameleon and blend in.

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

You want what you want this month, Aries. You will have more energy to accomplish your goals if you keep your feet on the ground. Be wary of carrying a narrow-minded

attitude with you. Consider your actions carefully, versus running roughshod.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Wake up Taurus! You have gotten too comfortable sitting on the fence. Mid-month it will become clear that you need to move yourself into action. Change is necessary sometimes. It will be easier if you avoid digging your heels in too deeply.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

Try and ground yourself as much as possible in September. Life will be speedy, changeable and chatty. This is your comfort zone, but your task is to discern where your energy goes. Take time to see where your words and actions are landing.

Cancer (June 21 – July 21)

You will be working hard to create a vision for you life, starting in September. This may involve stepping outside for a change, but you are ready. Time outs are good, but only if you use them to achieve some clarity, before moving onwards.

Leo (July 22 – August 22)

Focus on organizing your goals this month. It is a great time to express your radiance and be of service. Follow your heart, and you will receive what you ultimately crave: self-acknowledgment, self-approval, and a win.

For more information about Jodie and astrology, visit www.EarthSkyJourneys.org.

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.

ONGOING

The Aurora Public Library presents the TD Summer Reading Club! Keep your kids reading all summer long with the TD Summer Reading Club on now at Aurora Public Library. Kids 12 and under can read books (or be read to) and win all sorts of cool prizes along the way. Finish 12 books and be entered in a draw to win a gift card! Come into the library to sign up today, there is still lots of time!

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.wcyrc.ca.

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

Coming Events

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 x275.

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.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The Aurora Walk of Hope, benefiting Ovarian Cancer Canada will take place today beginning at Town Park. Free registration begins at 9 a.m. with a fire truck on site, silent auction, fruit, hot chocolate, cookies, live music, jugglers, swag, nail polish and face-painting. Inspirational speeches will be held at the Band

Shell just prior to beginning the 3.5 km walk. For more information, contact Gayle at gaylempalmer@msn.com.

The Newmarket Parents of Multiple Births Association (POMBA) holds their Fall/Winter sale of gently used clothing, equipment, and toys today from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Foundations Private School in Aurora (181 Industrial Parkway North). Come and choose from a large selection of clothing (sizes newborn to size 10), baby items, strollers, highchairs, swings, bathtubs, electronics, and many, many toys. Bring your own basket or bag. Cash only. For more information, visit www.newmarketpomba.ca.

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Saturday, September 7, 2013

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Gates open at 9 a.m. Please leave pets at home.

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All day Entertainment on Main Stage and Around the Village including:

- Opening Ceremonies with TAYLOR MADE TRIO
- Crash Karma, The Dirty Dishes, and Liam McGlashon
- The Infamous BINDER TWINE QUEEN Contest!

Children's Pioneer Parade - 10:40 a.m.
Featuring the Binder Twine Mouse!

Tim Hortons Children's World: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Reptilia, Circus Jonathan, Face Painting, Games and more!

Royal Bank Young Pioneers Olde Tyme Activities:
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Kleinburg - future home of the Pierre Berton Discovery Centre

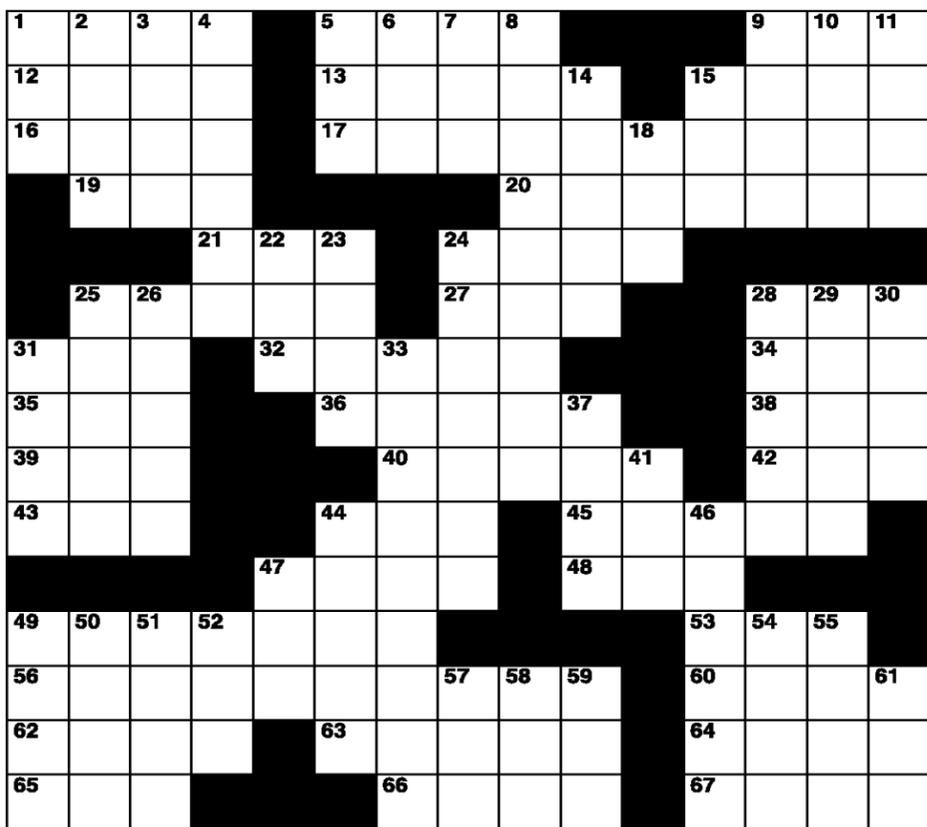
www.BinderTwine.ca

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ADULTS: \$8 • SENIORS/YOUTH: \$6 • CHILDREN (2 - 12 years): \$3
Everyone in period costume: FREE

Parking Available: \$2

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3. McMichael Canadian Collection
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5. Handicap Parking: Kleinburg Public Library

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



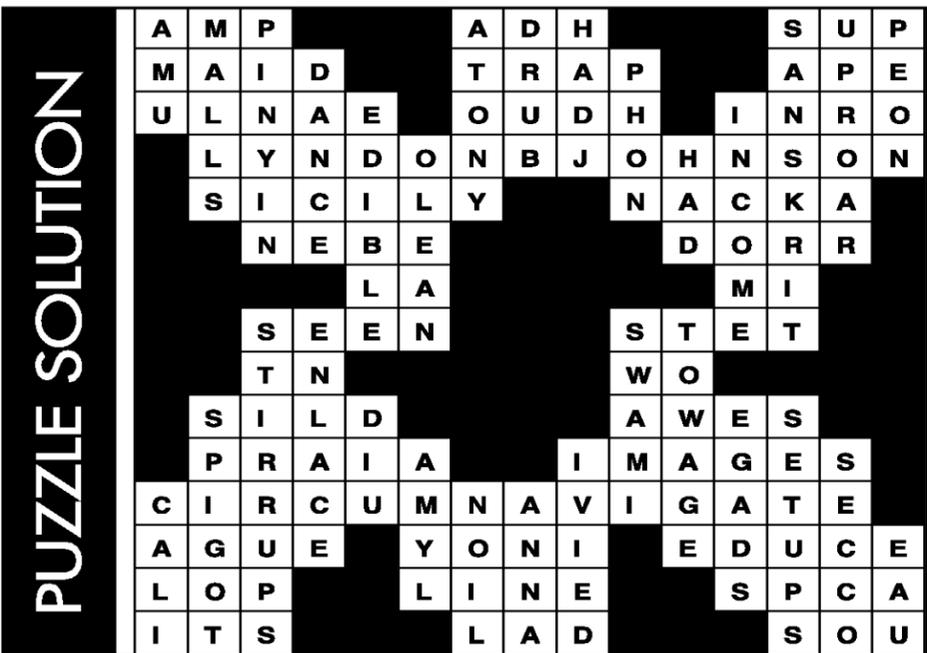
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Feminist Lucretia
- 5. Lacrimal gland fluid
- 9. Airborne (abbr.)
- 12. Double-reed instrument
- 13. De Mille (dancer)
- 15. Burn plant: ____ vera
- 16. Represent by drawing
- 17. Roy Harold Scherer
- 19. Point that is one point N of due E
- 20. Causing vexation
- 21. Belonging to a thing
- 24. Leg joint
- 25. Suffragette Anthony
- 27. Form a sum
- 28. Point midway between E and SE
- 31. Convert a hide into leather
- 32. Radical derived from butane
- 34. Priest's liturgical vestment
- 35. Goat and camel hair fabric
- 36. Sticky
- 38. Talk
- 39. Committed information rate
- 40. Strong twisted cotton thread
- 42. 33½ rpms
- 43. Honey (abbr.)
- 44. Founding Father Franklin
- 45. Frees from pain or worry
- 47. Tennis player Bjorn
- 48. Not inclined to speak
- 49. Shoulder blade
- 53. Express pleasure
- 56. One week before Easter
- 60. Attired
- 62. Chew the fat
- 63. Weighing device
- 64. Captain __, British pirate
- 65. Tropical American cuckoo
- 66. Any place of bliss or delight
- 67. Remain as is

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Rounders" actress Gretchen
- 2. Off-Broadway theater award
- 3. Grave
- 4. Court game
- 5. Pitch
- 6. Sense of self-esteem
- 7. Mandela's party
- 8. Lights again
- 9. Likewise
- 10. Film set microphone pole
- 11. "Housewives" Leakes
- 14. A torn off strip
- 15. Promotions
- 18. A. Godfrey's instrument
- 22. Bill in a restaurant
- 23. Cozy
- 24. Knocking out
- 29. Swats
- 30. Flows back or recedes
- 31. Rotation speed indicator
- 33. Respect beliefs of others
- 37. Original matter
- 41. Cologne
- 44. Small round soft mass
- 46. Kisses noisily
- 47. Large passenger vehicle
- 49. Prevents harm to creatures
- 50. Songwriter Sammy
- 51. Jai __, sport
- 52. Payment (abbr.)
- 54. Settled onto
- 55. Incline from vertical
- 57. Father
- 58. Brew

Last Week's Puzzle Solution



Three generations of Allen Griffiths' descendants celebrated his 100th birthday in style at the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion on Saturday. Mr. Griffiths is a veteran of the Royal Navy, serving in both the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Generations give 100-year-old Griffiths a proper salute

By Brock Weir

They say that every life tells a story – and Allen Griffiths' is no exception.

It's a philosophy the 100-year-old veteran's grandson, Alex Broughton, takes to heart.

Alex sees him in a slightly different light. As the award-winning local filmmaker watched his agile grandfather move from table to table, greeting friends, family and well-wishers, he marvelled at his grandfather's journey.

"When he finds other people and energies to connect with, it rejuvenates him," says Alex. "He loves being able to share his life and share with others. That's what we should do with everyone who has experienced more than us. There is always something to learn from everyone."

These are not mere words. As Allen basked in the glow of well-wishers and greetings, Alex's film crew kept Allen firmly in focus, capturing every move made and nearly every word exchanged.

If Alex has his way, Allen's story will be available for the masses. It's a story he wants to record not just in documentary, but also in drama.

"He was in submarines and only two per cent of submarines survived the war," says Mr. Broughton. "Every ship he was on was sunk and the odds of him even being alive is crazy. The fact that I'm here – it is almost like I owe it to him to tell his story."

He says he is always amazed listening to the humour and candour in which his grandfather speaks of his experiences. Where some people might dwell on the horror and destruction of the time, he discusses them with a smile and a laugh.

"It is almost the best way to deal with it," says Alex. "You can't look at the past and hold onto it and let it drain you. You have to see it almost as an exciting adventure."

This was indeed the case when The Auroran sat down with Mr. Griffiths ahead of the party. In the first part of our interview with Mr. Griffiths, last week, we left off with his ship being greeted back in the United Kingdom by King George V and the Royal Family.

He didn't have time to rest. His work continued with the Royal Navy, taking him through Malta, Gibraltar, Tobruk, and Benghazi, all the way down the West African coast and back up to Norway and Sweden.

Their trip to Scandinavia coincided with Europe teetering on the edge of the Second World War. He and his crewmates were on a minelayer and after they had finished their job placing the weaponry underwater, Neville Chamberlain famously flew back to Britain from Germany with a statement not worth the paper it was written on.

"We had just laid the mines when Chamberlain came home and said we had 'peace in our time,'" Mr. Griffiths recalls. "We had just laid 80 mines and we had to go and pull them all in again. In 1939, we were in Norway and Sweden and we got hammered terrible. We didn't have any guns, didn't have any planes, and the guns just hammered the s— out of us."

Mr. Griffiths' active service during the war saw him on a number of vessels, particularly on submarines. After being wounded in battle, he was patched up and sent on another vessel bound for southern Italy near the city of Taranto. The plan was to torpedo their way through laid nets to take out enemy ships, but the Italians got the better of them.

"The nets caught around our propeller and

we had to dive," he recalls. "When we dived, we fired the torpedoes to go ashore and we heard the explosion. We sat on the bottom for a while and we ran out of electricity. We had to surface and come out to sea. When we got up...there was a ship on the port bow coming full speed ahead."

"I had been all through this not once, but two or three times. [The officer] came running through and said, 'abandon ship!' and I thought, 'Oh, Christ!'"

After accidentally vaulting himself right out of the water into the air after overfilling his oxygen bag, he came back down to service and floated with his other crewmates until they were eventually picked up by the Italians as prisoners of war.

"I had quite a time for a number of years," he says of his time staying in officers' camps after a promotion. "Then Mussolini got hung and threw the entire country into a state of chaos."

After being transferred around, he and his fellow prisoners were picked up in Germany, freed by British servicemen, followed by three weeks recovery in hospital because of their rough shape.

Luckily, he had Marjorie Mutter, his wife whom he married in 1939, waiting for him. They knew each other well before the outbreak of war.

"I was a real jazzy guy," he says with a chuckle. "She was always at these dances and when the music started up, the guys used to tear over there and choose a partner. If she saw you coming and she liked you, she would give you a dance and away we went. We used to dance every night and we got really chummy – but all we were was chummy! I didn't want to marry anybody."

There was a bond, however. Allen became close with Marge's family – her father served on submarines as well – and when absence made the heart grow fonder, she took her chance.

"She said, 'I want to marry you,' and I thought, 'Oh, s—!'" She was already engaged to another guy and I had come back on the scene."

They were married that April, he was back in service in May, and they barely saw each other for the next seven years. By the time he was a free man, the marriage endured, producing two daughters once they immigrated to Canada in October 1951.

They were happily married for 71 years until her death in 2010.

Canada was a natural choice for the couple. During the war, Marge's family took in Canadian soldiers and she was impressed not only by them, but tales of their homeland.

Once in Canada, Allen, by then a plumber in trade, undertook a six month course at Ryerson to get his Canadian qualifications and he made a career for himself at the Ford plant in Brantford, and then at Massey-Ferguson.

"The wait for this over the past couple of weeks seems so long!" he said of the lead up to his 100th birthday, noting he had no major complaints other than he would like to be able to walk and see a bit better.

"This has been his big goal ever since I can remember," said daughter Jane Broughton. "It's been his big goal to live to be 100 and he's pretty fit. He comes to euchre and bridge at [the Seniors' Centre], he gardens, and likes to go out and about."

Whatever his concerns over his legs, watching him cut a rug at the Legion on Saturday afternoon proved he's still the "jazzy guy" that caught Marge's eye 75 years ago.

Concerts in the Park 2013

Photos by David Falconer



Concerts in the Park, the annual weekly celebration of music hosted by the Town of Aurora throughout the summer, concluded at the Town Park Band Shell last Wednesday with A Tribute to Billy Joel. (L) The series kicked off July 3 with a concert for the young and young at heart led by Erick Traplin and (R) continued the following week with The Hip Kings



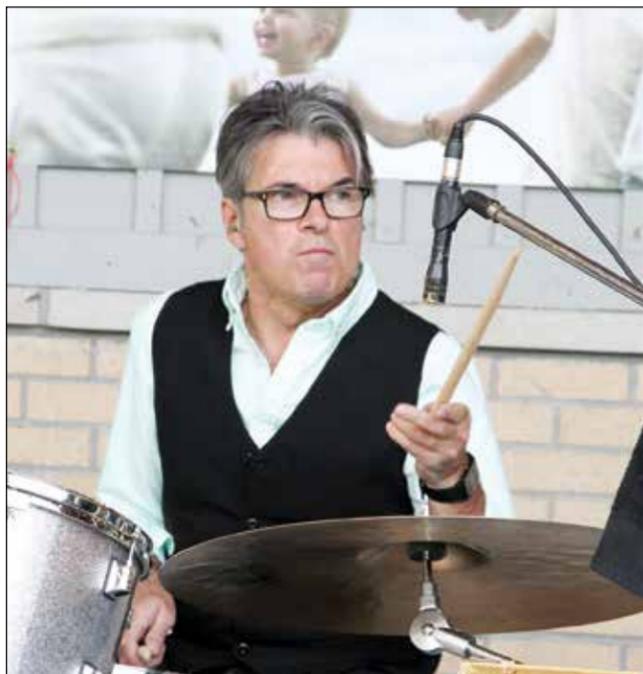
United Soul Nations brought their own blend of classic and contemporary soul and rock to the stage on July 17

On July 24, The Mud Men brought their Celtic sounds to Town Park, and will take the stage next weekend for Ribfest at Machell Park.



Marshall Dane was a little bit country and a little bit rock and roll on July 31.

Caribana came north to Aurora on August 7 with Neu Jenarashun.



Blues and Rock were on the menu when Chuck Jackson and the All Stars took to the stage in the penultimate show.

The grand finale of the series was the Tribute To Billy Joel featuring Jeff Brewer.

Hogan's Inn, a French inspired restaurant in the heart of King City



Auroran photo by Wendy Soloduik

By Wendy Soloduik

My friends and I are foodies.

On weekends, we enjoy discovering new restaurants, always looking for that special place that could become our new favorite spot.

We look for places that have a unique charm, something off the beaten path, and definitely not a "franchised" experience. Perhaps it's the atmosphere, attention to detail, or informed bartending that leads us towards a bistro-type establishment, but it's always a farm to table philosophy on food, and a reasonable price tag, that keeps us coming back for more.

On the advice of a friend, we decided to check out Hogan's Inn at Four Corners in King City.

Located at the intersection of Keele Street and King Road, the eatery was easy to find and street parking was ample.

The restaurant itself looked like a mansion preserved from the Victorian Era, and was well kept. The entrance was surrounded by flower planters featuring multi-coloured perennials.

Upon entering Hogan's, we were greeted immediately and seated next to a massive window which looked out onto a beautifully landscaped courtyard.

Already, I was taken with the charm of the property and appreciated the modern decor with a nod to days gone by. I noticed the music – a fusion of hits from the 50s and 60s, sung in French – and the references to King Township (in the form of original art pieces, both sculpture and paintings, with an equestrian feel). I also noticed the clean white table linens, long stemmed wine glasses, folded linen napkins, stained glass windows, bronze statues and blue carpeting. If the food was as tasteful as the decor, then I knew we were in for an amazing dining experience.

Our bar order was taken by a knowledgeable waiter who recommended a dry white for me, a cocktail

made with premium spirits for my friend, and two pints of local draft beer for our gentlemen.

The wine was delicious and we all toasted to a great meal ahead.

Upon opening the menu, it was a nice surprise to see that the offerings were listed in French (descriptions in English) which drive home the idea that this country gem was indeed serious about providing a truly classic French experience. Perusing the menu, I was pleased to see a wide range of offerings; lots of fresh seafood, poultry and steak selections as well as the weekend special of lamb and prime rib. The menu also offered a history of the restaurant itself, which made for some pleasant dinner conversation.

We learned that Hogan's Inn was established in 1851 by Issac Dennis, who originally built the structure as a hotel for his daughter and her husband, John Hogan.

Travellers and salesmen were transported to the hotel from the train station by horse and buggy where they would set up their displays and sell their wares to local tradesmen.

A race track behind the hotel, and the dance hall beside Hogan's ensured there was always a lot of traffic through the hotel which contained a tap room which stands today, "The Hunt Pub".

"Quality live entertainment on weekends in a delightful original setting of natural stone accented with leather and oak recalls the spirit of uncomplicated times long ago. With dining and quality unmatched in York Region, a strong commitment to serving local produce and an enduring sense of warm hospitality, Hogan's today, as it did more than 160 years ago, remains a testament to the spirit of King Township," read the menu.

The manager, Chris Warner, approached our table. He welcomed us to Hogan's and thanked us for choosing his establishment. Chris went over the menu items and described the evening's specials. He left

us with a lot to think about, and as he departed we pondered our choices over our drink order.

What we knew for sure was on this occasion we wanted the full dining experience. Appies, entrées and dessert. My husband and I, who both love a good Caesar salad and don't share well, decided to get our own salads. My friend and her husband were split between the fresh tomato salad, the squid and the jumbo sea scallops. So we ordered it all.

Our appetizers arrived as our appetites kicked-in and we were pleasantly surprised with the portion size.

The lettuce in our salads was fresh and hand torn. The dressing was homemade and had the perfect balance of ingredients. The acid, probably lemon juice, paired nicely with the anchovies and garlic and the homemade garlic crostini and shaved aged parmesan cheese completed the aesthetic. The surprise was finding a delicious mouthful of duck confit (leg of duck cooked in its own rendered fat), as garnish. It was something I would definitely consider ordering in an entrée size on my next trip to Hogan's.

The grilled calamari was served halved and fresh. It looked like it could have been harvested from the ocean earlier that day. No breading or ketchup-based sauces were needed to enhance this dish. It was served with a side of dressed field greens and a wedge of lemon. We picked at it eagerly, and nothing was wasted.

The tomato salad was a bright array of farm-fresh tomato slices. Crumbled chevre, fresh basil, angled English cucumbers and red onions completed both a delicious salad, and a stunning visual effect. An aged balsamic reduction kissed the dish, and my friend ate every bite (sharing just a small portion with me). She used the last slice of tomato to mop up any remaining dressing, letting nothing go to waste.

The jumbo sea scallops

were served on a bed of corn succotash and finished with a corn truffle puree. They were expertly cooked – soft in the centre with a perfect sear on the outside.

For our entrées, we again tore the menu apart. My husband had a steak – a 7oz beef tenderloin-ordered medium (although I normally disagree with a meat temperature above rare, I had to admit his steak was cooked perfectly). We learned from our server that Hogan's Inn uses naturally raised animals for almost all of their protein dishes. The Angus Beef tenderloin was raised naturally on a Mennonite farm close to Orangeville, and supplied by Brooker's Natural Meats. The taste and quality of a 100 per cent grass fed animal that has never had an antibiotic, hormone or steroid injection, was superb! Cast iron seared (very traditional French style), this steak never saw an open flame, resulting in a perfect sear with nowhere for the juices to go but in.

His steak was served with potatoes and Frenched green beans as well as a rather unusual, albeit tasty, homemade marrow butter. The creamy and nutty flavour of the marrow paired well with the steak. An added touch that disappeared with every bite he took.

I ordered the rack of lamb. My four, bone-in chops were encrusted in a coarse Provençale Dijon mustard rub. The meat was pan seared before hitting the oven, and served pink and juicy on the inside. The plate was complete with fingerling potatoes, dressed green beans and an au jus made from pan drippings. Needless to say, I cleaned my plate.

My friend ordered the weekend special – oven roasted prime rib. Served medium-rare, the healthy and thick cut protein was paired with seasonally selected green beans, mashed potatoes and a fresh Yorkshire Pudding. The au jus served with the beef was salted perfectly and made an excellent dipping sauce for everything on her plate.

Her husband, originally

torn between the duck confit / duck foie gras duo, and the Ontario pickerel or Atlantic salmon, cut the difference and ordered the half chicken coq au vin. The skin was served perfectly crispy and golden brown on this all-time favorite poultry dish. Topped with fresh field mushrooms, rendered pancetta and caramelized onions, the plate was elegant and delicious. Golden potatoes and seasonal vegetables were neatly tucked under the generously sized portion of this naturally raised, free run, organic-fed bird. The red wine reduction sauce was a brilliant finish.

When we do return to Hogan's Inn, we certainly will be sharing what appears to be the star of the menu, and what most consider the epitome of haute-cuisine; the Chateaubriand for two. Unfortunately, the restaurant had already sold out of the centre-cut piece of the prized tenderloin, so make sure you call in ahead of time if you have your heart set on it!

Already satisfied from an excellent culinary offering, we decided to "just take a peek" at the dessert menu. The selection was too much for us to ignore, and once again, we decided to order one of everything.

Our platter arrived along side our specialty coffees and included a bananas foster crape topped with fresh whipped cream, a slice of chocolate torte, a freshly torched crème brûlée, and an apple strudel. Fresh berries and a smudge of chocolate for dipping garnished the plate

to perfection. Yummy!

Made fresh in-house, these desserts were the perfect end to a delicious and indulgent experience at the historic and iconic Hogan's Inn.

After dessert, we were honoured to meet with chef Meagan Andrews who came to our table on a break from a busy kitchen. We thanked her for her creativity, menu selections and use of fresh ingredients. We could tell she was as passionate about food as we were, which resulted in a superior product. "I can taste the love in your food," I remember saying.

Chris came to see us out. We told him that the delicious food, and classic French menu, combined with the warm atmosphere and the expert (yet unintrusive) service we'd had, had all led to a great night out.

My foodie friends and I promised to return again and again.

Hogan's Inn is located in King Township at 12998 Keele Street.

The Dining Room is open daily for lunch and dinner from 12 noon; and the Hunt Pub is open Tuesday to Saturday from 4 p.m. until close. Sunday brunch is offered every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$28 per person for an unlimited, full-service experience. Children 12 and under pay their age.

Book your reservation by calling 905-833-5311 or online at hogansinn.com/reservation.

Follow them on Twitter @HogansInn.



A toast before a delicious French-inspired meal at Hogan's Inn in King Township.



Jumbo sea scallops served on a bed of corn succotash and finished with a corn truffle puree, cooked soft in the centre with a perfect sear on the outside.

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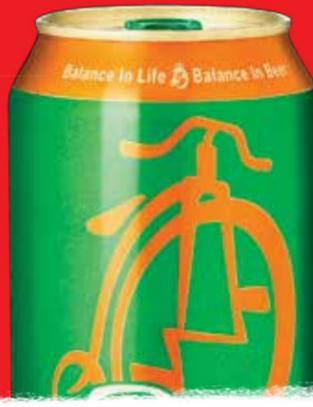
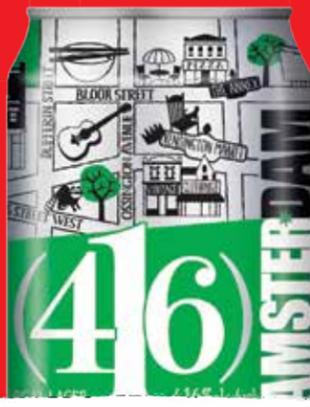
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OBITUARY



**Skillins,
Sarmite "Sammy"**

November 8 1922~
August 22 2013

Quietly and peacefully passed at Mackenzie Health, Richmond Hill with her sons Eric, Gunar and Peter at her side.

Sammy was born in Riga, Latvia and with beloved husband Nicholas (1924~1978) immigrated to Canada in 1941 to begin their new life. They raised their family of three sons beginning in Toronto, moving to Richmond Hill, and ultimately Aurora where she lived for 55 years. Sammy was a self-taught seamstress, cook/baker, and exceptionally special Mother. She was also involved in administrative functions with the Aurora Tigers Junior Hockey Club where she became a brand fixture over her 40 years of involvement. All three of her sons played with the Tigers.

Sammy is survived by her sons Eric, Gunar, and Peter, grandchildren Katie, Ali, Nicholas, Casey, Jed, and Kyle and great grandchild Charlotte, and daughter inlaws Sue and Cyndy.

A private family Celebration of Sammy's Life will be scheduled in the near future.

Condolences may be sent to the family if you wish at skillins_pc@rogers.com . All will be acknowledged & will be shared with all family members.

With unending appreciation to Stronach Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket and Mackenzie Health/ Palliative Care Unit, Richmond Hill. Please also consider these institutions if donating in memory of Sammy, in lieu of flowers.

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The Aurora Farmers' Market, joined by Councillors, helped raise over \$1,000 for the Aurora Food Pantry in the annual corn roast on Saturday. (L) Market Chair Anna Kroepflin presents the cheque to Monica, of the Aurora Food Pantry, while (R) Councillors John Abel, Sandra Humfries, Michael Thompson, and Evelyn Buck grilled up some cobs for the hungry crowds. Councillor Paul Pirri was on grill duty earlier in the morning.

Auroran photos by David Falconer



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