





THE AURISON RAI

Aurora's Community Newspaper



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FREE Week of September 25, 2013



THAT'S A WRAP: Aurora's 150th Anniversary Celebrations wrapped up with a soggy finale at Ada Johnson Park with the Community Cultural Celebration, marking the many cultural groups that make up Aurora today. Clockwise from top left: kids like Thea showed their claws and got into the spirit of the occasion with face painting and other fun activities. Dancers brought the heritage of Crete to life with a lively presentation. Aboriginal performers caught the audience's attention with their version of the "(Prairie) Chicken Dance. Aspiring Karate masters showed off their skills. **Auroran photos by David Falconer**

D-Day veteran honoured with Diamond Jubilee Medal

By Brock Weir

As a young man growing up in St. Thomas, ON, Les Pengelly says he and his fellow vouth simply did what they were told.

After hearing a broadcast of Hitler on the radio in 1941 promising his people "Europe today, tomorrow the world", they didn't necessarily have to be told anything more. They took this as a call to arms and swiftly volunteered to defend King and Country.

Joining the Royal Canadian Navy, his tour of duty eventually took him to serving in the English Channel when they got the call to head to Normandy on June 6, 1944.

As a veteran of D-Day, Pengelly, who turns 94 this Friday, was honoured by York Regional Police in a ceremony in Aurora on Thursday, receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal from former police chief Julian Fantino, now Minister of Veterans' Affairs.

Now living in Innisfil with his granddaughter, Pengelly's attendance at Police Headquarters was indeed the result of doing what he was told, being brought to Aurora under false pretenses believing he simply had a meeting with Police Chief Eric Jolliffe. That was technically true, but they were joined by a crowded atrium of friends, family,

Continued on page 3

Spirits remained "sunny" during soggy Aurora 150 finale

By Brock Weir

With each step and every rhythmic thump, 21-month-old Celeste Oh's eyes got wider and wider.

Bundled up against the cold and lounging in her stroller with just a plastic sheet protecting her against the rain, and few feet of grass standing between her and the approaching dragon, she was initially pleased, seemed momentarily terrified, but overall spellbound by what was before her.

From either side of her well-protected stroller mom Christina, and sister Chantal also watched with interest. They were three of the few, but proud Aurorans who braved the highly inclement weather Saturday afternoon into the early evening for the Community Cultural Celebration, the final event on the Aurora 150 calendar.

Organized by Aurora's Sesquicentennial ad-hoc committee, it was designed to include the sights, sounds, and cuisine as many cultures as possible that call Aurora home. From that approach, the event was a success, bringing together Aboriginal presentations, and representation from cultures across

Continued on page 21



Sales Representative Top 5% in Canada* *Out of 13,000+ Royal LePage Real Estate Agents in Canada (2009)













Weekly Notice Board

Aurora Town Hall

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 25 Public Planning – Not Required 7 p.m. Monday, September 30 Special General Committee * 6 p.m. Re: Service Level Review Workshop Tuesday, October 1 10:30 a.m. Joint Council Committee Tuesday, October 1 General Committee * 7 p.m. Accessibility Advisory Committee Wednesday, October 2 7 p.m. **Environmental Advisory Committee** Thursday, October 3 7 p.m.

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:

Scanlon Bakery



Image courtesy of Aurora Historical Society

The Scanlon Bakery was located on the east side of Yonge Street. It opened in 1886 and by 1939, eight more stores

ANNOUNCEMEN

2013 Aurora Ribfest

This year's Ribfest was a huge success, enjoyed by more than 20,000 attendees. In addition to tasty food and great entertainment, the following awards were presented:

Rib Team Results

- Best Chicken: Ribs Royale, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Best Pulled Pork: Ribs Royale, Las Vegas, Nevada • Best Ribs: Uncle Sam's, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- People's Choice: Camp 31, Brewton, Alabama

For the first time, members of the media from *The Auroran*, SNAP Aurora and York Region Media Group participated in a friendly PRESS-sure challenge to see which team could feed and eat ribs the fastest. Congratulations to the winner, York Region Media Group!

The live entertainment and activities offered throughout the event were made possible with the generous support of:

- Aurora Chrysler
- Canadian Food Services
- Investors Group
- Motion in Life Chiropractic
- York Region Media Group

Special thanks to The Aurora Rotary Club, York Region Police Auxiliary, Magna Hoedown Showdown and the countless volunteers who helped make this great event possible!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Comprehensive Storm Water Management Master Plan

The Town of Aurora is developing a Comprehensive Storm Water Management Master Plan (CSWM-MP) that follows the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process for Master Plans and will be implemented before June 2, 2014, as required by the Lake Simcoe Protection Act.

Residents are invited to attend a public meeting on Tuesday, October 15 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Holland Room at Aurora Town Hall.

Residents will learn the evaluation criteria and process used for the selection of preferred storm water management alternatives as well as information regarding the preliminary implementation plan.

No formal presentations are scheduled however Town staff and the engineering consultant will be available to discuss the proposed plan and answer questions.

For further information or to provide input, please contact Glen McArthur, Municipal Engineer, Town of Aurora at 905-727-3123 ext. 4322 or gmcarthur@aurora.ca

Revised Tree Protection Bylaw

The Town of Aurora has completed an extensive review of the Town's Tree Protection Bylaw with input from Town

Please be advised that a revised Tree Protection Bylaw will be considered by Town Council at General Committee on Tuesday, October 1 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall.

The revised Tree Protection Bylaw includes a number of revisions which will substantially change the way the bylaw works and how it is applied to tree protection in Aurora. For complete details, please visit

www.aurora.ca/drafttreeprotectionbylaw

Fall Aquatics Program Registration

Due to the renovation project scheduled to commence on Friday, November 1 at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, aquatics lessons advertised in the 2013 Fall Parks & Recreation Program Guide have changed. As a result, course codes listed in the guide are no longer valid. Please refer to the September Mini-Session or the new October Mini-Session schedules available at www.aurora.ca/aquatics

Aurora Public Library News

The Aurora Public Library's Fall Program Registration is now open! Residents are encouraged to register their children for programs at www.library.aurora.on.ca

On now through **Sunday, October 6** the Aurora Public Library's Colleen Abbott Gallery will feature an art exhibit from the Aurora Artists Studio Tour. This eclectic group of practicing and emerging artists will showcase their work through various mediums such as acrylic, charcoal, mixed media and watercolours. You won't want to miss it!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Central York Fire Services Annual Open House

Join your local firefighters at the Central York Fire Services annual Open House on Saturday, September 28 at 1344 Wellington Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Check out the fire trucks, ride the Tim Horton's Express train, participate in games and activities, watch firefighter

demonstrations, get important fire safety tips and learn how to prepare for emergencies.

All proceeds will support the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. Please note, parking will only be available at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex and a shuttle bus service will be available. For more information, please visit www.cyfs.ca

Flipside Sk8 Park

Join us to sharpen your skateboard skills on Saturdays and Sundays at the Aurora Community Centre parking lot from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Helmets are MANDATORY and protective padding is recommended. Weather permitting.



Are you prepared for an emergency or disaster? Don't be scared. Be prepared.

Be prepared for a variety of weather or civil related emergencies by knowing the different types of risks, making a household emergency plan and assembling an emergency survival kit.

ww.aurora.ca/emergencypreparedness





Dinner and a Movie

A Monster in Paris

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: Saturday, September 28 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

11 to 14 year-olds Ages:

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

For more information, please call 905-726-3123 ext. 3123





The Town of Aurora is pleased to provide the Green Path Program. allowing homeowners and contractors to obtain a building permit for energy and water conservation home improvement projects faster than the time-frame set out by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

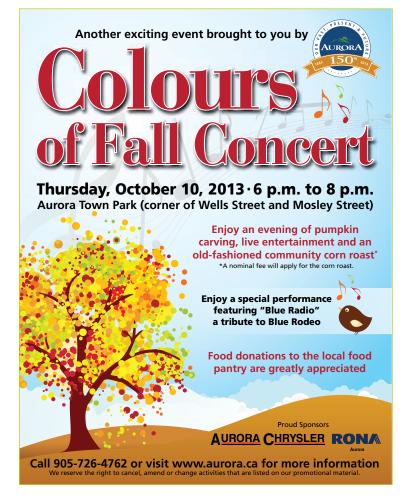
Eligible projects: Solar electrical panels

Solar domestic hot water systems Wind turbine support structures Geothermal energy

Other projects aimed at reducing energy or water conservation may qualify. Please note, combining conservation projects with other renovations may not be within the scope of this program. Please contact us for more information.

Timing: Our goal is to review of your application within three business days and issue the permit when possible. This is seven days less than the time-frame set out by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

For complete details including cost, required documentation and where to apply, please contact the Building Services division at 905-727-3123 ext. 4393 or visit www.aurora.ca/greenpath





Former King Police Chief Les Pengelly poses with a replica of a 1960s King Township police car following Thursday's medal presentation in Aurora. Inset: The D-Day veteran is congratulated by York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe as well as Constable Robert England and his daughter Ava. England created art commemorating Juno Beach, which was presented to Pengelly. **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**

Pengelly has provided York Region with over 70 years of service

From page 1

and current and former officers.

"For the first time in my life, I was caught by surprise," said Pengelly. "When I was a young fella in 1941, when Adolf Hitler stood up in the Reichstag and said 'Europe Today, Tomorrow the World,' we young fellas working on farms said, 'We've got to go, or they are going to come here.' That is why we joined up. And we didn't know any different in those days.

"When I came home from service to my home in St. Thomas, I went to the employment office looking for a job every day for two weeks. Nothing. One day, I went down and the man said, 'How would you like to be a policeman?' I said, 'Well, I'll take any damned job!' He said, 'Go across the street to talk to the Chief of Police.' If you were a big guy who could handle yourself and look after things, you were a policeman."

Times certainly have changed, but going across that street at the employment

suggestion sent him on the lengthy second phase of his life of public service. From St. Thomas, and after a stint in Ingersoll, he arrived in King Township in June of 1964, serving as Chief of the department.

The King department was eventually merged into the York Regional Police in 1971 and he retired from the force in 1980.

That wasn't the end of his public service career. Looking for ways to keep busy after his wife's death in 1984, he answered the call for bylaw enforcement in Richmond Hill before eventually retiring in March of 2011 at the age of 91.

For Jolliffe, Pengelly's 70 years of public service is a prime example of the YRP's motto "Deeds Speak."

"It would be impossible to repay you for everything that you have done for our community, but today we hope to show you in some small way how much we appreciate what you have done," said Jolliffe, paying tribute to his service on D-Day and to the York Region community.

Assembled police gathered to illustrate how they have paid tribute to Pengelly over the last year. Thursday's ceremony was originally scheduled for June 6, the actual anniversary of the D-Day landings, but had to be postponed due to illness. Now back in good form, he listened intently and was visibly moved by how the YRP made the trip to Juno Beach to lay a wreath in his honour and install a commemorative brick in his name as a permanent reminder of his service.

One of those was Constable Rob England who, along with his daughter, resplendent in a dress decorated in poppies specifically for the occasion, presented him with some of his original artwork depicting memorials at the Juno Beach Centre.

It was then up to Julian Fantino to present the man of the hour with the Diamond Jubilee medal.

"I am amazed by your tireless dedication and your commitment to public service," he said. "Having been a part of our history through your role in the Royal Canadian Navy, you have continued to selflessly serve your community through your many decades with the York Regional Police and beyond. The fact that some of your colleagues travelled on their own time and money to ensure that an engraved marker with your name was at the Juno Beach Centre speaks volumes about your character but even more so about the esteem and respect in which you are held by your colleagues, friends, family, and even those who do not know you personally."

After receiving his medal, Pengelly had a presentation to make on his own. After thanking the police for the ceremony, he presented Jolliffe with the handbook presented to Pengelly himself upon being sworn in as an officer in King over four decades ago.

"You might learn a few tips from that," he said to the Chief with a laugh.

FIRE OPEN HOUSE

Firefighters with the Central York Fire Services will once again throw open the doors of their stations this Saturday from 10 a.m. -3 p.m. for their annual open house in honour of Fire Prevention Week. Fire Station 4-4 adjacent to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on Wellington Street East, just west of Leslie, offers visitors activities for the whole family, fire safety games, rescue and fire extinguisher demonstration, a chance to sit behind the wheel of new and vintage fire engines, and an afternoon

FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS TUESDAY

The Aurora Public Library launches its inaugural film festival Tuesday, October 1 at 7 p.m. with a screening of Code Breakers, a piece directed by Niobe Thompson and David Suzuki. The documentary follows and challenges ideas of how humans first came to the Americas. The festival continues on select dates through October 30. For more on the film festival and the documentaries ahead, visit www.theauroran.com or check in next week's paper.

NEW TEAM FOR BASEBALL YOUTH

Aurora's baseball community has become a little larger with the re-formation of the Aurora Jays Minor Midget Rep baseball team. Promising "a new team, new coach and lots of fun", the team for kids born in 1998 and 1999 will hold tryouts at Stewart Burnett Park this Thursday, September 26, from 7-9.30 p.m., and Saturday from 2-5 p.m. For more information, contact Coach Bill at the coach Bill awashley@sympatico.ca.

"The Auroran apologizes to DEE fashions, our valued advertiser, and to all our readers and advertisers for an error that was printed on the August 28th edition of our publication. In that edition the incorrect advertisement was printed in place of the correct version below."







- Grilled Kabobs
- SHAWARMA Plates
- Homemade Salads/Soups
- Homemade Falafel

11am-11pm Mon. to Sat. 11am-10pm- Sun.

EAT IN ~ PICK UP

15531 Yonge St. Aurora • 905-503-6655

New condos put Yonge and Wellington traffic into the spotlight

By Brock Weir

new apartment condo projects will significantly change the landscape of the heart of Downtown Aurora, but while Councillors are hailing the new redevelopment projects, some are concerned on how it will impact already contentious parking issues.

At the centre of the impact zone is Centre Street.

Councillors are set to approve a 24 unit residential complex built around a heritage home just east of the old Canada Post building Wellington Street, backing on to Centre Street.

When this new building is residential complete, it will join the Centro condominium development on the opposite side of Centre, a 95 unit condo building with retail space on the ground floor.

Centro was originally planned as a 74 unit building to accommodate additional individual units underground parking after builders encountered soil challenges.

But, despite giving their approval for the Wellington Street project at the committee level, Councillors expressed some worry about how the significantly increased number residents clustered so close to Yonge and Wellington would impact traffic on the widely derided intersection.

"I think it is a terrific proposal," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner of the plan to incorporate the building heritage the design of the new "Incorporating complex. it so beautifully into the design is so special...but it does represent a very large change of use."

While Councillor

but, following Council's Gaertner also addressed Street neighbours from light pollution from traffic and other matters, traffic dominated much of last Tuesday's discussion.

"We have 120 new residents that are essentially going to be impacting Centre Street and the area around it," said Councillor Michael Thompson of the combined impact of the two housing developments. "It's fine if you're going north on Yonge Street. It's easy enough to make the right turn on Centre and up you go. For those looking to go south, you can't do that on most times of the day or east towards the 404."

Noting he sees the traffic most impacting Centre and Spruce Streets, he asked for assurances that traffic flow is given equal weight to traffic impact in approving the plans.

"It's a valid point approval this summer, the concerns over screening and we're [ensuring] the building was reconfigured to protect existing Centre required traffic studies take a focused look [not just] on the immediate area, but the surrounding road network and what impacts

Continued on page 7



Letters to the editor

Gallo's letter had "delicious touch" of irony, says reader

(Re: "How does Aurora Council Make Decisions?", September 18)

In a rather delicious touch of irony, Councillor Gallo asks how Council is making decisions. He is specifically referring to the possibility of implementing an accessible park in what is now referred to as Diamond Jubilee Park (formerly Civic Park). Currently, that park seems to be an undersized soccer field.

The Councillor is somewhat forthcoming in his letter, admitting that he lives in the area and, therefore, has a vested interest. However, he does leave out that he is an active member and very vocal supporter of the soccer community.

The Councillor is lamenting the fact that the Mayor and some Councillors supported this project moving forward yet would not support Councillor Gaertner's request that Council spend over \$100,000 on revamping the Council Chambers to be accessible.

I am confused: Councillor Gallo supports spending a lot of money for an accessible chamber, which quite frankly will serve a minimal number of people, but doesn't support a park, that admittedly will cost more money, but will probably serve many people. Can't have anything to do with his convenience for soccer can it?

The Councillor is concerned that the public hasn't had input yet (I believe that is still in the works). Yet, he was perfectly okay with being appointed to Council when former Councillor Marsh resigned. Public reaction was overwhelmingly against an appointment and in favour of a by-election. So, public input is okay, but only when you can tailor it to your purposes.

The Councillor was fully in favour of the former Mayor suing Aurora residents (even though he has admitted he had no idea what he was voting for at the time), and has stated that he would vote again in favour. And that was after the case had been dismissed. Yet, he states in his letter that he has "to be focused on what is in the best interest of the entire community".

Clearly, Councillor Gallo, you are not focused on what is in the best interest of the entire community – unless that community is very small...and that is indeed "wrong on many levels."

Bruce Walkinshaw

Annual Terry Fox Run was "rousing success"

The Terry Fox Run held on Sunday, September 15 at Sheppard's Bush in Aurora was a rousing success, with approximately 450 participants raising close to \$23,000 in support of cancer research.

The volunteer committee would like to thank the local media and merchants who help promote the event, the retailers who donated supplies, the Town of Aurora staff for their support, and the 50 plus dedicated volunteers that make it all happen each year.

We understand that there are many worthy fund raising opportunities and are appreciative of all who participate, some who have made the Terry Fox Run an annual event for decades.

We hope to see you all again next year (Sunday September 14, 2014).

Go to www.terryfox.org for more information on the Terry Fox Foundation and the annual run, both of which are still guided today by the basic fundraising principles of Terry Fox himself: to inspire a Canadian grassroots effort to raise money for cancer research.

> Hank Van Bakel Chair, Aurora Terry Fox Run

THE AURORAN

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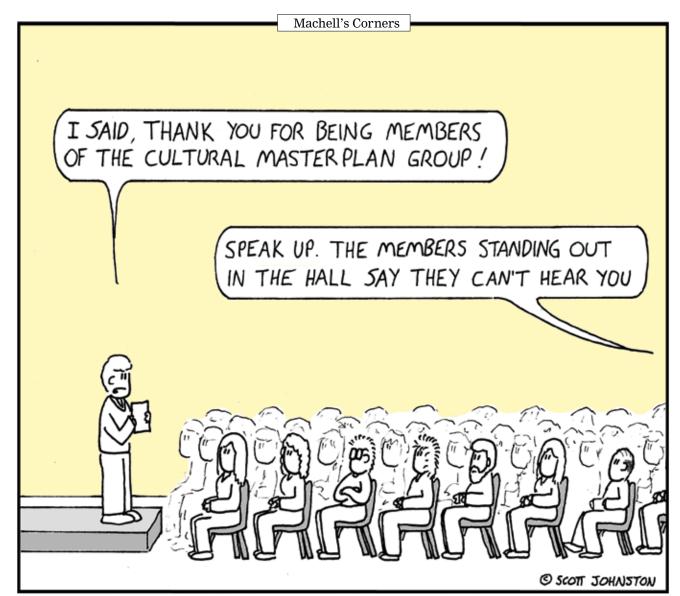
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Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words

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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com.

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Wet Blankets and Flickering Curtains

After trudging through the rain and muck all Saturday morning, the last thing I wanted to do was spend the rest of the afternoon staying in the pouring rain.

Skies were not looking hopeful as I got back to Aurora within a couple of hours of the Community Cultural Celebration. Evidently many Aurora residents got the same impression.

After hunting around the house for something waterproof for Ada Johnson Park the heavens opened up just a little bit more.

The small crowds watching the Celebration unfold were disappointing but not, however, surprising. Despite doing my best to mask being nearly as miserable as the weather, it soon became clear as the vast majority of Aurorans were snuggled up at home, they were something special.

Organizers wanted to celebrate multiculturalism, and that is just what they got in the tenacious crowd that wouldn't let rain stand in their way. As I arrived, neighbours on nearby streets stood on the sidelines overlooking the park, weighing whether or not to make the trip down the sloppy hill or the more secure footpath to join in the fun.

By this time, the Aboriginal Dance presentation was already underway. They were then followed by students from local Karate schools and by the time they came out with their dragons and intricate martial arts gears, the rain had slowed to a spit and, accordingly, the crowds grew. They may have been camera wielding parents of the entertainers, but it is the principle of the thing.

Thankfully for all those aspiring to be the next Karate Kid, the rain waited until they had taken their bows before unleashing one last deluge before slowly but surely clearing up. Before then, however, Rick Hansen Public School, the building originally slated as the Celebration's rain location but for a last minute, unexpected (and unexplained) permit pull appeared all the more tempting.

As I am writing this, I sense I'm putting too much emphasis on the rain. That aside, the acts gave it



BROCK'S BANTER

their all and held people captivated by their offerings. Who, for instance, took note of the weather when the dozen dancers representing the cultural traditions of Crete took to the stage? Judging by the numbers of young children who broke away from their parents to get closer to the stage to take in the action and bust a few moves in unison with the energetic, proud, and meticulous dancers before them – along with the adults each holding their breath as the dancers dangled perilously close to the stage's edge – I would say very few.

Clouds broke, and brilliant sunshine finally came through as dancers, musicians and artists representing the Chinese community and, in particular, Falun Dafa, came out for their spiritual, meaningful, and unusually calming performances before the largest crowd of the day.

Not nearly as interesting as what was unfolding on the stage – but interesting nonetheless – was watching the curtains flickering in many of the homes surrounding Ada Johnson Park near the start of the celebration. Eventually these curtain flickers gave way to curtains being pulled up – no shame, people! – and individuals and families crowding into the living room to enjoy the celebrations from their own homes.

In talking to the people who did brave the weather, they were very impressed with what they saw and the event itself delivered nearly everything they were hoping for. Many commented to me that a multicultural celebration was a nice, and welcome, change from the kind of celebration Aurora regularly offers when there is indeed something to celebrate.

Needless to say, fiscal restraint is always paramount, but with an Aurora 150 Committee with well over \$100,000 left in their budget for the year, having a do-over – indoors – sometime this fall or closer to the holiday season, would be a nice and fitting way to truly cap Aurora's Sesquicentennial Year.

After all, Aurora is not going to celebrate its 150th anniversary again.

It deserves a finale to remember. For the brave souls that turned out on Saturday, that's exactly what they delivered – but think of the curtain flickers.

MY LIFE IS AN OPEN BOOK

Well, not really, but it will be for at least two hours this Saturday as part of Aurora's Culture Day activities. After drying out on Saturday night, I was in Toronto on Sunday for the annual Word on the Street Festival where Queen's Park is shut down from College to Bloor and taken over by authors, publishers, and book lovers.

I couldn't help but chuckle as one author was joined at a table by her son who gingerly harangued and did his best TV Pitchman impression to move the last two copies of his mom's Governor General's Awardnominated book. While this was unfolding, the mortifying thought went through my mind on whether I would actually need to bring my own carnival barker as a "Human Book" at the Aurora Public Library between 2 and 4 p.m.

In lieu of making a pitch about myself, allow me to endorse my fellow books. In this job, I have had the pleasure of meeting Dierdre Tomlinson, Bonnie and Norbert Kraft, Gerry Fostaty and Theresa Cook and, having formally interviewed all but Teresa, I know firsthand each one has an incredible, moving, and impactful story to tell. If there is a lull, however, I might just have to check Teresa out of the Human Library to complete the set!

And I hope some of you do the same.

NEW **AURORAN POLL**

Does Aurora's culture include sports?

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

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

FINAL RESULTS OF PREVIOUS POLL

Should Aurora borrow from the Town's Hydro Reserves in order to fund the new Joint Operations Centre and Youth Space?



Despite Saturday's rains, Aurora's Atom "A" Tigers and Bantam "AE" Tigers gathered an impressive haul, hosting an e-waste collection event at the Aurora GO Station. Joined by Mayor Dawe, they collected three full truck trailer bins, which were collected by a local electronic waste company to raise money for the teams.

> **Auroran photo** by Jeff Doner

Support for Innovative Entrepreneurs

Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, announced a \$50-million investment to help innovative businesses access the capital they need to grow and succeed. This investment is the next step in implementing our Government's Venture Capital Action Plan (VCAP) to help create a vibrant private sector-led venture capital system in Canada.

The VCAP includes a commitment by the Government to invest in a few key high-performing venture capital funds with a substantial presence in Canada. In May, Minister Flaherty announced the establishment of a private sector Venture Capital Expert Panel to provide advice and recommendations on the VCAP, including the selection of the high-performing venture capital funds to receive direct investment from the Government. This effort will help ensure that Canada's promising startup businesses have the resources they need to grow, innovate and create jobs for Canadians.

Moody's reaffirms Canada's **AAA** credit rating

The latest report from Moody's Investors Services has reaffirmed Canada's AAA credit commending Canada's large, diversified economy and sound macroeconomic policy management.

The U.S.-based credit rating agency also said that a political consensus on maintaining relatively low government

debt levels coupled with a benign economic outlook should allow the Government of Canada to balance its budget within the next few years. This conclusion supports our government's view that, with Economic Action Plan 2013's focus on innovation, investment, education, skills and communities, underpinned by our

ongoing commitment to keep taxes low while carefully controlling spending, we are on track to return to a balanced budget by 2015.

Freezing El rates for Job Creation

Employment Insurance (EI) rates that employers and employees pay will be frozen for the next three years. This tax relief will help support Canada's continued economic recovery and business-led, long-term sustained, growth. By freezing EI rates until 2016 at, or below, the 2013 level (\$1.88 per \$100 of insurable earnings), our Government is promoting stability and predictability for employers and their employees.

This will leave \$660 million in the pockets of job creators and workers in 2014 alone, compared to what they would have otherwise been projected to pay.

Close to 90 per cent of all jobs created since that time have been full-time positions, with more than 80 per cent in the private sector and two-thirds

Ottawa Report



in high-wage industries. Indeed, with the help of small business, Canada has created over one million net new jobs since the depths of the global recession - the best record among G-7 countries.

Building a Stronger Canadian Auto Sector

Last week Industry Minister James Moore

made a very exciting announcement for Newmarket-Aurora and all of Ontario. The Government of Canada is committing up to \$71.6 million to the Ford Motor Company of Canada (FMCC) for Project Northern Star through the Automotive Innovation Fund (AIF). This assures an investment by Ford of up to \$1.1 billion to implement a global platform at its Oakville Assembly plant and an expansion of its R&D investment in Canada. Project Northern Star will help transform the Oakville Assembly Plant into a global platform that has the flexibility to match production to North American and global consumer demand more quickly and efficiently.

All told, since our government created the AIF, up to \$2.3 billion in private sector investment has been levered to support advanced, strategic R&D initiatives to bring innovative and more fuel-efficient vehicles to the marketplace.

AIF investments will bring long

best results.

system we have.

on this dynamic, yields the

However, this is not the

We have a majority

stem. While this is

term benefits, promote made-in-Canada innovation, increase our ability to compete internationally and create high-paying, stable jobs. The auto industry is a key driver of Canada's economy and one of the largest manufacturing sectors. It contributes \$16.1 billion in GDP, which represented 10 percent of total manufacturing GDP

Parliamentary Secretary

I was deeply honoured to be reappointed by Prime Minister Stephen Harper as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development. On September 19 the Prime Minister announced the 32 parliamentary secretaries who will assist Ministers in carrying out their responsibilities. With the addition of Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis as parliamentary secretary to the Minister Citizenship and Immigration, five out of six of York Region's Conservative MPs are ministers or parliamentary secretaries. It is a great privilege to represent you as your Member of Parliament and I look forward to continuing to deliver results on your behalf. It is a great privilege to represent Richmond Hill and I am grateful to all of my constituents for their support!

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.

Decisions, decisions...

It is hard to believe that my last column was back in July!

Summer always seems to be fleeting and quickly we are back to business in September.

With back in full-swing, there has been some discussion lately on how our Council makes decisions. For those not familiar with the process, this is a great opportunity to discuss how things get done at Town Hall.

There is a hierarchy to the decisionmaking process: Consensus, Informed Agreement, Majority and Unilateral.

Viewing these inversely, Unilateral is one-sided decision-making that is common in the United States at the municipallevel, where the "strong Mayor" system is in place. In this system, the business of governing is often referenced as "the Mayor's agenda" or "the mayor's administration." A vocal proponent of this system has been Councillor Doug Ford in the City of Toronto, arguing that Mayor Rob Ford should have the ability to veto the decisions of council.

Majority is where more than 50 per cent agree on a decision. In the case of Aurora Town Council, that would be five of the nine voting members, including the Mayor. This model permits dissenting opinion.

Informed Agreement is subtly different from the Majority model. Decisions are made on researching, based understanding and working with interested parties to come to an objective decision. This typically takes a great deal of work, with much patience and empathy.

Finally, consensus is where all the parties debate an issue until they all agree. Commonly found in

First Nations' culture, everyone involved must be completely committed to moving the process forward and demonstrate a willingness to go along with someone else's position.

There are advantages disadvantages to each of these models. Unilateral is very expedient but entails the risk of ignoring valid ideas to satisfy a political agenda. Consensus places value on full participation but is very difficult to achieve.

My own belief system is closest aligned with Informed Agreement. It's why I entered politics from the private sector - and frankly, it's why we are elected. My experience is that bringing people together to hear all sides of an issue, get a full understanding of the various perspectives, and make decisions based



entirely democratic, it has the failing that people can IN GOOD vote against something COMPANY **Mayor Geoffrey Dawe**

based on little more than a personal agenda, dislike of a fellow Councillor, perceived slights...or at worst, revenge.

It also has the unfortunate side-effect of lingering hostility. This often takes the form of Letters to the Editor criticizing the way some people vote on an issue, if not an outright personal attack on that person's integrity or judgement.

In essence, instead of intelligent discussion, you get sour grapes.

I respect the right of Councillors to voice their opinions. Having diverse opinions at the Council table is a good thing. We all come from different backgrounds and we bring a unique perspective to debates.

I have had my position overruled by a majority vote. In a process where everyone gets an equal say, I fully accept this eventuality. I respect the system and those who participate in that system. It is out of this sense of respect that I have never publicly criticized a decision by this Council or a fellow Councillor.

Others may not share this perspective, but I have always felt that respectful discourse is preferable to public attacks.

On a lighter note, I would like to thank our Aurora 150 Committee for all the work they have done over the past several months to plan and deliver four special events to commemorate our sesquicentennial. The Cultural Celebration this past weekend was a fitting send-off to a campaign that celebrated our past, present and future. As this initiative comes to a close, Aurorans can take pride in this memorable series of events, worthy of our special anniversary.

I would also like to thank Councillor Michael Thompson for bringing forward the idea of celebrating our long-standing businesses. Successful businesses underpin the health and welfare of our community. It is entirely fitting that we commemorate the hard work and fortitude of our business owners, who have given so much to our community.

As a final note, I would like to congratulate all our award recipients at the Community Recognition Award ceremony, which took place last week at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. It was a wonderful evening that was a fitting testament to the great work of these community volunteers.



Galileo's Lament?

I was reading one of the national newspapers this week and noticed interesting historical tidbit.

It was one of those "today in history" type columns. On September 1633, Galileo Galilei went before the Inquisition to defend against himself the charge of heresy. crime? Daring to state that contrary to the state and church sanctioned view of the time, the earth was not the centre of the universe around which other celestial bodies revolved.

Rather, scientific "observations" demonstrated, the sun was the centre of our universe and the earth and the other planetary objects revolved around it. (To be more accurate, observations his supported or "proved" the Copernican view on the universe).

The Siderius Nuncias Messenger) published in 1610 was widely read, though given the literacy rates of the 1600s "widely read" is a rather relative concept. Regardless, it was read by enough critical thinkers to cause a dramatic change in worldview from geocentric to heliocentric.

This was quite an amazing feat when you think about it. Belief that the earth was the immovable centre the universe was the worldview dominant for well over a thousand years. That it supplanted by a radically different, polar opposite view, in less than 20 years, is extraordinary. And all due to a rather unassuming publication, by a rather unassuming fellow.

Gallileo did not have a happy ending to his intellectual pursuits.

He was charged with and tried for heresy – the punishment for which was burning at the stake.

Forced to recant position rather than be burned alive, Galileo spent his last days imprisoned in his home. Self-preservation took precedence over principles - but who could blame him given the alternative?

Despite his best efforts, attempting reason with the unreasonable, he soon found that speaking truth to power is a losing battle. He was not the first and certainly not the last to come to that realization. From the

Letters to the editor Showdown was "thrilling" in Ribfest preview

Please allow me to extend congratulations to the organizers and volunteers at Magna, whose invaluable efforts at the Hoedown Showdown contributed to the Hoedown's efforts in raising \$567,000 for charities and non-profit

I am very pleased that the Town of Aurora could pool our resources at this year's Ribfest to host this fantastic talent search and showcase some of the gifted performing artists within our community and beyond.

Hoedown The Showdown was extremely well executed, from the event reception staff, to the sound and stage crew. The great venue, as well as the quality and diversity of the contestants, was truly culminating amazing, in a very professional program.

I would like to thank Steve Hinder, Mayor Dawe, Belinda Stronach

Hoedown coverage

I was very disappointed

when I received the

September 18 edition of

and Chris Seldon for their inspired work as judges. I would particularly like to note the great level of expertise displayed by Chris Seldon, which proved extremely valuable to all who performed.

I would also like to give credit to Beverly Mahood, who performed admirably as Master of Ceremonies.

The atmosphere of the event was thrilling. By the time the showdown came down to the final three contestants on Sunday, the level of excitement was palpable and the Ribfest crowd swelled to more than 2,000 people.

Hayley Palmer and her team deserve a lot of credit for bringing this great initiative from a concept to an outstanding production. As participant, I can assure you that each of us felt part of an extraordinary opportunity.

Congratulations again, for a once great partnering that

Maple Leafs jersey. The

Hoedown raised more

wearing her

local talented residents, but those from across the GTA as well.

I hope this is an event

showcased not just our we can look forward to next year.

> **Councillor John Abel** Aurora

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"witches" of Salem to the blacklisted folks of McCarthy, there is a long list of people who have learned that reason and logic are irrelevant and the truth will most definitely not set you

My point, and I do have one, is that all too often what is not popular, what does not support the mainstream views or theories - be it science, politics, medicine or what have you disregarded and then discarded usually quite forcefully.

Those that dare proffer such contrary positions are most often disgraced as a consequence. If one cannot be proven wrong, then one must be proven wicked.

In our post-modern where craven self-interest seems paramount, the truth is viewed in shades of grey. Equivocation is the norm. Do the right thing has been replaced by, "Do the right thing, as long as it's the right thing for me."

"Speaking truth to power" is a tidy sound bite used by the activist and politician alike. Tell the truth and the powerful will fall, we are told. That's a lovely idea, but, as any whistleblower will tell you, it's rarely that simple. It is often more likely that those that are speaking truth will find themselves branded heretics and burned at the stake for their troubles - metaphorically of course.

As the treatment of those that uncovered the Ornge, gas plant, sponsorship or veterans affairs fiascos amply demons trate, have come a long way from the middle ages, but clearly not far enough.

Until next week, stay informed, stay involved because this is, after all, Our Town.

The Auroran and saw the money than ever before. She deserved better than small picture of Terri Clark on the front page. She was the headliner and did a fantastic show. She came out for an encore

Reader "disappointed" with

Dorothy Polhamus Aurora

Mayor gives thanks to Ribfest participants

I would like to thank Town staff and all the vendors and sponsors who helped make this year's Aurora Ribfest a resounding success. The comments I have received have been overwhelmingly "the best

The Town of Aurora is proud to organize and host this annual event, which consistently draws thousands of residents and visitors to our community.

I would also like to thank the Rotary Club for their assistance in running the Ribfest Beer Garden. The Rotarians have long assisted the Town by running beverage operations at our events and I look forward to continuing this mutuallybeneficial relationship for years to come.

This year's Ribfest also featured the Magna

Competition. The Hoedown is a fantastic event and fundraiser for Aurora charities and non-profit groups, and I am pleased that we were able to work together to support the outstanding work of a great community partner.

Town staff is already preparing for next year's Ribfest, with another great line-up of vendors and live entertainment. I hope to see you all there.

> **Mayor Geoffrey Dawe Aurora**



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people who don't maintain

the boulevards are obviously

not that concerned about

the curb appeal of their

house," he said. "Anyone

who wants to maintain the

value of their house makes

sure the boulevards are cut

and generally don't have too

many weeds there. What's

next? Are we going to be

asking people to trim the

trees that the Town owns?

search of a problem."

Clean Yards change would have negative impact on homeowners, say Councillors

By Brock Weir

A proposed new bylaw calling on residents to put more work into Townowned boulevards outside their homes was nipped in the bud last week after concerns it could negatively impact seniors and other homeowners.

Had the bylaw gone ahead, it would change Aurora's Clean Yards policy to require "private property owners to maintain and care for boulevards adjacent to their own property" and penalties for noncompliance.

According to a report before Council by Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, the Town already has policies related to keeping yards safe and waste-free, but the new policy would take things a step further.

"Occasionally property owners allow their properties to fall into noncompliance, including the boulevards abutting their property or the property owner will maintain their own property and not the boulevards," she noted.

"An amendment to the Clean Yards bylaw would give the Town the authority to issue notices and further contract the work to be done at the private property owner's expense."

acknowledged, however, that the proposal

provide 'challenges' to property owners, including to owners of townhouses who might not keep a lawnmower or when their own properties are separated from the boulevards by fences.

It was these, and other challenges, that caused Councillors not to act on it last week.

"This seems to have significantly negative on seniors," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "Often they are already paving someone to cut their grass and do some maintenance and now we're sort of asking them to do even more and take care of municipal lands. This might impact them financially."

He also said he was unclear whether this policy was the result of any public consultation. Ms. Leeuwen said, however, that there was no public consultation leading up to this but there would be a "communications strategy" going forward.

'We'd do a soft launch the bylaw and implement a warning system where there are contraveners of the bylaw," she said.

The Councillor maintained nevertheless that this was going "zero to 60" in one step and the education campaign, if anything did come from this. would need to come first.

For Councillor Evelyn Buck, taxpayers should be kept in mind in that their tax dollars are already going towards the maintenance of public land.

"The boulevards belong to the Town," she said. "What right do we have to put citizens under a bylaw that they have to maintain property? There are already paying in their taxes for these services. You have some people who take great pride in maintaining the boulevard in front of their property and you can always tell because there is never a weed in site and it is immaculate. There are other properties that are not.

'Some are long past an age where they can haul a lawnmower out to the boulevard. Henderson Drive boulevards their properties. Are those homeowners supposed to come out and maintain those boulevards? I don't think sounless you want a revolution on your hands, this might be a good way to go about it."

Councillors, however. were sympathetic towards the proposal. Councillor Chris said similar policies are understood in Aurora when it comes to clearing snow off sidewalks in front of homes and this policy would not be exceedingly different.

"Having said that, I believe at the end of the day set to review the findings of the service level review to determine how much bang Aurorans want and expect from their tax buck when it comes to municipal services, Councillor Wendy Gaertner suggested this bylaw was

"We're having a service level review very shortly," she said. "It is problematic and it would be interesting to know how much you believe [boulevard maintenance] is costing us. Maybe that should be part of the service level review."

According Manager Jim Tree the suggestion non-compliant "the odd property." receives, on average, six to eight complaints, over boulevard maintenance during the summer months, often over weeds.



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If you suffer from Arthritis you need to be aware of effective advancements that can eliminate years of pain, suffering, immobility and frustration.

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You may find that your pain or stiffness affects your work, housekeeping, leisure activities, exercise, sports or other activities. You go to the drug store or to your doctor and get pills to help relieve your pain. But you find the pain keeps coming back.

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

However, many people are hesitant to have surgery given its invasive nature. It is important to know that although surgery is sometimes necessary, it is considered a last resort in most cases.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In many cases, sufferers have found that they have been able to avoid unnecessary surgery. As a community service this workshop is free. The workshop will be held on Wed Oct. 2, from 7:30 pm -9:00 pm. at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd., Unit 10, Richmond Hill. Seating is limited.

To make reservations call 888-837-0407.

Traffic on Centre Street also at issue

From page 3

development would have on the surrounding networks so traffic can move freely in that intersection," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, on new developments in the Aurora Promenade having an impact on Yonge and Wellington.

Traffic specifically on Yonge and Wellington, as well as the Centre and Spruce side streets were not the only causes for concern. As the proposed building fronts onto Wellington Street, a Regional Road, there are rules coming down from York Region allowing traffic only to enter the building's parking lot from Wellington Street, leaving the Centre Street entrance also the only exit.

"It is fine when this was a single residence, but now there is going to be 43 people living there and I suspect

the amount of traffic going in and out is going to be far more significant than the house before," said Councillor Chris Ballard. "We will look at how the plan is laid out to mitigate that. I too have concerns about the amount of traffic this is going to have on Centre Street, but we have made those concerns [known]

Although Councillor Ballard said these concerns were nothing new when it came to this particular project, he echoed comments by Councillor Evelyn Buck earlier in the evening that he hoped future residents eventually adopted a lifestyle leading them to get rid of cars and hop onto transit.

Bringing in people to ctually live in Downtown Aurora was a right step in that regard, said Councillor Buck.

"The answer

reinvigorating the core of Town was residents coming again to live in the heart," "Pedestrians she said. walking to and from stores, I believe, will come back into the core of the Town when we have a market for those residents, have a population ready to use the market in the Downtown Core.

'We approved additional

units in [Centro] because the developers found that when they came to sell the units there was no demand for two bedroom units. The demand was for one bedroom units which automatically increases the amount of traffic, but it also means people have an option. They don't have a car, they can get where they want to go without a vehicle. That represents a great attraction to people so that they no longer have to worry about maintaining a car and paying for everything associated with it."



Protected trees spark debate over subdivision agreement

By Brock Weir

It will be back to the drawing board for one new Aurora homeowner week as Council expected to block removal of three protected trees from his lot after neighbours raised concerns.

The three trees in question can be found on a property on Longthorpe Court, near the southeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Vandorf Road. The trees are singled out as originally they were situated adjacent to the House, Allan Brown heritage building which has since been moved to a new location within the subdivision it made way for. With the heritage designation on the building itself, the designation spread to the land around it, including the trio of trees. Although the house itself moved, the trees remain protected within the subdivision agreement between Aurora and developers and many residents of the neighbourhood say they came to see these trees as an asset.

considerable After debate at the committee level last week, Councillors are set to ratify a decision to tell the property owner to go back to the drawing board and reconfigure the grading on his lot. The trees, he said, were of questionable health according to an arborist report and would be in the way of grading his property to minimize flooding.

The debate among Councillors, however, highlighted the rights of neighbours and the community at large versus the rights of an individual property owner.

Citing the process property owner the went through to get to this point, including making the application to the Town, getting the arborist's report and other steps recommended to him by the Town, Councillor Evelyn Buck argued that his was a "reasonable" request.

understand sentiments [of the neighbours] but this is not a sentimental business we're in," said Councillor Buck. "There is nothing sentimental about the planning of a subdivision. A person has come along and purchased that lot, doubt paid more than anyone else in that subdivision for the lot [as] it is a beautiful and preferable lot and naturally he wants to do the best he can."

Similar sentiments expressed Councillor John Abel who, although he changed his mind by the end of the debate and opted to keep the trees, said the removal of the heritage house changes things.

"Now that the house has been removed, the trees are in isolation, and they are not, in my mind, heritage situation," he said. "I think the homeowner has the right to develop this land as he sees fit."

Complicating the debate, however, fact these trees were enshrined in the subdivision agreement, which something of the homeowner, the the neighbours developer were aware of when they purchased their lands and began their builds.

"The site plan clearly identified the preservation and everyone the purchasing those property that were protected," said Councillor Sandra homeowner has the right to come here and it is up to us to decide what we think

something like this. "It was clearly in the plan. [We can't] just ignore it. We need to protect the trees."

is best when it comes to

This was a view shared both Councillors Wendy Gaertner Chris Ballard. For Councillor Gaertner, she would like everyone in the neighbourhood to be in "harmony", but there was an understanding within the neighbourhood on the trees that needs to be fulfilled.

think responsibility goes back to the builder to make the grading right and

leave the trees in place," she said. "The trees must stay."

Added Councillor Ballard: "The arborist's report finds them in generally good shape and viable for many years to come. I find it interesting the developer knew of the grading and the protected trees...and I am a bit concerned that knowing that, they went ahead."

Boiling down the argument, it came down to who knew what and the answer to that was everyone with an interest in the community knew what was required when it came to these trees, said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. For Councillor Michael Thompson as well, that was at the heart of the matter.

"[Neighbours] purchased on the belief that [the trees] would be protected," he said. "[The homeowner] spoke landscape about the

development acknowledged he was aware of the tree protection area, although he might not have been made aware to the extent or the limitations. He has

the right to do what he sees fit, but at the same time I think it is a bit of a unique situation that there is an agreement that all parties are privy to and it is clearly spelled out."



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Taylor had some artistic inspiration at the Aurora Farmers' Market's Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, featuring homemade pumpkin recipes, live music, and pumpkin painting for the young and young-at-heart. **Auroran photo by David Falconer**

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Aurora should provide support for more accessible taxis: Councillors

By Brock Weir

Aurora should look at ways to encourage taxi companies to take the plunge and increase the number of wheelchair accessible taxis throughout Town, according to Councillors.

That was the conclusion reached around the committee table last week while considering a report on how to close the gap in any fare discrepancies between these and conventional taxis.

According to a report submitted to Councillors from Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Bylaw, there are currently two accessible taxis licenced by the Town. Both of these vehicles are run by Royal Taxi. Current bylaws, she added, permit one accessible taxi for every 10,000 people, so there is still some room to add more accessible taxis for the fleet, but there has not been a rush from other companies to pick up the slack.

"The Town has not been approached by any taxi owners to license additional accessible taxicabs likely due to the increased costs to retrofit the vehicles and the lack of demand for service," she said, noting that the two currently in the fleet are vans that have been modified to accommodate lifts.

Current fares stand at \$3.10 for the first 200 metres and \$.40 for each additional 200 metres across the board, with no discrepancy between standard and accessible taxis. The gaps, however, surface when these two taxis are otherwise unavailable to users.

"Royal Taxi endeavours to respond to every call and prefers advance notice to ensure availability of accessible taxis," says the report. "Royal will inform and refer customers to various accessible transportation options

available within the Region, all of which have varying rates and varying service levels.

One of these services is Mobility Plus. In additional to chair lifts and ramps installed on standard York Region Transit and Viva Buses, Mobility Plus helps fill the gap for those who need more than standard bus service. Mobility Plus does not rely on regular bus stops, but provides door to door services for clients. Regular Mobility Plus users, however, have repeatedly spoken of difficulties making

> Nearly 5,500 registered clients used Mobility Plus in 2012 alone. Ridership was over 269,000 with nearly 48,000 kilometres travelled.

appointments for rides without over a week's notice.

Sharon Doyle, Manager of Mobility Plus, is due to appear before Council this week to give a status update on the group's services. In her report, she states nearly 5,500 registered clients used Mobility Plus in 2012 alone. Ridership was over 269,000 with nearly 48,000 kilometres travelled.

Recent service improvements, she notes, include a revised cancellation policy, a 14 day eligibility application process, improved visibility for the mobility plus fleet, new driver training, and booking features. With these improvements there are, however, challenges, including a five per cent annual growth in ridership rate, "relaxed eligibility requirements" and increased contractor costs.

In providing equal access to taxis across the board, however, Councillors were unable to come to a direct conclusion on how that can be done.

"This is about equal access to taxis in Aurora and, as I understand it, there is a problem with accessibility," said Councillor John Abel, "Taxi companies in Aurora are opting for a third party to provide this service for those in need of accessible taxis and the reasons they need those taxis is because Mobility Plus is not able to extend past certain hours.

"I think this is a very important issue, especially in light of there are other municipalities within the country and in parts of North America that do provide same fares for people who require accessibility. Somebody can call a cab and it would cost a certain amount as someone who is in a wheelchair and it would be three or four times the amount of the same fare.'

While Councillors ultimately received the report for information only, many expressed favour in keeping the window open examine further options, particularly in light of presentation coming forward this week on purpose-built accessible taxis.

"There might opportunities here to provide incentives or some initiatives to encourage taxi owners to investigate some of the great things that Councillor Abel is speaking of," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes. "There is an opportunity here to start building our case to provide more accessible transportation."

York Region company promises taxi solution

By Brock Weir

A possible solution could come forward this week in getting local companies to sit up and reevaluate their accessible taxi policies.

MV-1, a Vaughan-based company specializing in vehicles purpose-built to accommodate wheelchairs and scooters, is expected to come before Council this week to make their pitch to Aurora.

Their vision, according to MV-1's Nick Grande, is to provide an affordable alternative to converting already-made vehicles like vans, to make way for wheelchairs.

"York Region means something special to us personally," said Mr. Grande, a resident of East Gwillimbury. "When you take something and modify it, it has its new virtues but it is still modified to make due. I use the example of the chair I sit on behind my desk. It has wheels on the bottom, but we can't call it a wheelchair. It was modified, but it is not designed in the true function that a wheelchair needs to be.'

According to Mr. Grande, vehicles the were designed with an eye to creating accessible taxi fleets across North America. Come Tuesday, Aurora will just be the latest community they have brought the concept

to and vehicles are already on the road in many Canadian communities including Bracebridge and Winnipeg, along with several US states where the concept originated.

The company backed by bus and transit manufacturer AM General, itself an offshoot of American motors. His journey with the Canadian branch of the concept began in 2003 when the Toronto Transit Commission approached his company looking for purpose-built cars.

"The answer at the time was no, but I went out and looked to try to find better answers than the word 'no'," he says of being asked by the TTC if they had any leads.

They then turned to the American distributors of London Taxis and they introduced them to what was then simply a plywood concept of a vehicle. From there, Mr. Grande participated in concept development, testing, and making sure everything would be up to snuff for the Canadian market.

"It's durability, it's strength, and it has people wanting to know more, but as true Canadians, everyone is cautious of anything new and it has to be tested," he says of the draw communities see in the vehicles. "Now that we have two years

Continued on page 21

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Jessica wants to be the "Game Changer" for others with challenges

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Jessica Coriat has always had a hunger for independence.

Growing up cerebral palsy,

mobility was usually limited to a walker or a wheelchair and she had difficulty doing many of the things so many people take for granted in their own lives. Her life

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changed, however, when became involved with Toronto Rehab Foundation.

Nearly seven years this initial since encounter, her mobility and independence has markedly improved and, for her, it is high time to return the favour.

Jessica is a devoted Toronto volunteer at Rehab, helping patients similar experiencing challenges get back on their feet and achieve the same independence. For her work, she is a finalist in Scotiabank's Game Changers competition.

The Game Changers

program salutes individuals in Ontario, Saskatchewan. Alberta who "demonstrate leadership as difference in makers their communities in the areas of health, education, social services, arts, sports, and the environment. If selected – and the ultimate winner is determined by a public vote – the ultimate winner will not only win a trip to Saskatchewan this fall for the 2013 Grev Cup. but \$25,000 to the charity of choice.

For Jessica, that choice was clear.

"These are the people that gave me pretty much all my independence," she tells The Auroran. "They literally taught me how to eat, how to drink, how to carry food, and how to use a walker safely."

Within the program, Jessica is no longer just a patient. She is an active volunteer, trying to be the game changer she feels is necessary for each person to, like her, get into the world and go from strength to strength.

"I want to teach them," "Because I she says. have used [assistive devices] for so long, I can now teach people. [As a game changer] you get to change how patients view their rehab, view the staff, students and nurses and doctors and instead everything looking all clinical and the place looking sterile, it looks like it is a really friendly environment. We all have one common goal when we come to work every day help our patients get back on their feet and get them on the road to recovery."

Jessica makes the trip from Aurora to Toronto Rehab several days a week. As she leaves each day, she is watched with pride by her parents Lynn and David. When Jessica was born several weeks premature 23 years ago this week, doctors soon observed the signs Jessica might have cerebral palsy. When parents were told, panic set in.

"You have gone through the trauma of having a premature baby and now you have this whole trauma of being told she will never walk or talk," recalls Lynn. "You fall apart from the beginning because you want the very best for your child."

Jessica, however, proved doctors the wrong. After a series of surgeries, she started talking and then walking with a very tiny walker iust before Kindergarten. Her parents remember watching anxiously as she made those first tentative steps at school, walking from the classroom to the library with slow, deliberate determination.

"She got down that hallway and she has never looked back," says Lynn.

This independent streak was something they observed from a very early age with their daughter. They agree that Jessica has never been one to see herself as "disabled." The fact Toronto Rehab nominated her as a Game Changer means the world to them.

"The fact she was able to get that many votes and her story meant something to even total strangers shows that she is a very independent lady who wants to help spread the word about disabilities and that she is just like everyone else," says David. "Volunteering fulfils her goals. It makes her feel wanted and a part of the community. She wants to be like every other person working. She wants to get a paycheque. That is very, very important to her. She is working hard and she'll succeed."

For Jessica, your vote will be not just a vote of confidence in her, but a vote of support for the "amazing" work Toronto Rehab has done to help

"The transformation I have seen in my own life is truly remarkable," she says. "Please support and help myself with other patients at Toronto Rehab to be the best they can be and get home to their families sooner."

Tovote Jessica, visit www. scotiabankgamechangers.



Dongratulations!



The Town of Aurora congratulates the 2013 Community Recognition Award winners and award nominees. Volunteering helps shape our community's future and unites individuals who share a common vision to enrich the lives of our residents. Thank you to all our volunteers. Your selfless actions help make The Town of Aurora a great place to live.

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Mike Bender Shirley Binns Irene Clement John Clement Beulah Collins Ken Smith David Tomlinson Dierdre Tomlinson

15 YEARS

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20 YEARS

Margaret Thiffault

Civic Appreciation Award

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Outstanding Acheivement Award (Individual) Debby Wojtka

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Bob Harman Memorial Award

Ronald Weese

Growing Together – Thompson's Funeral Home

By Brock Weir

The Auroran's Sesquicentennial series on Aurora's oldest businesses continues this week with Thompson's Funeral Home, established "below the shop" in 1921.

Growing up on Victoria Street, the imposing building near Wellington Street was a symbol of tradition for Brent Forrester.

These were the days when, even not so long ago, Thompson's Funeral Home was in the heart of Downtown Aurora. It was a familiar site to him growing up, although he had no intention of joining the funeral business. Nevertheless, fate intervened.

It may seem strange for a business that has served Aurora over for nearly 95 years, but in his last 27 years as funeral director, tradition is more and more becoming a thing of the past.

"It's very hard now to define what tradition means," says Mr. For rester of today's funeral services. "Now, it is more about personalization than anything. There is more emphasis now on the reception part of the funeral than there ever used to be. They'll have people giving eulogies, favourite foods being served, but there is a definite change in that every day brings a new challenge with something new."

It is a challenge they're more than equipped to deal with in their relatively new location on Industrial Parkway South Haying



Thompson's director Brent Forrester is pictured at the Industrial Parkway funeral home with a portrait of founder Preston Thompson.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

moved from their Victoria Street home in 2005, it was a move necessitated by a growing community and the growing demands that came with it.

Thompson's is a business that has grown along with Aurora. Founded in 1921 by Preston Thompson, whose family also plied their trade in the local furniture industry, the funeral home has its origins in what was then the basement of their Yonge Street store.

After the original furniture store was replaced after a fire in 1954, the funeral business moved to their family home. That building too was modified to meet community demands, including increased parking and a new chapel.

"The way we conduct our business on a day to day basis is not really that different than it has always been," says Mr. Forrester. "Typically for small communities, the funeral homes and the furniture stores had a connection and there was a synergy between the two. Typically, that is because the furniture store had the horses and buggies to deliver the furniture, so they could transport caskets to churches, cemeteries and whatever the case might be.

"In Thompson's case, the caskets were sold at the furniture store, the embalming and preparation was done at the furniture store, and the funeral home as a building didn't really exist until many decades later."

Although the way they conduct their business hasn't particularly changed, their company has. In 1998, the Thompson family sold the business to the Dignity Memorial Network, an extensive company of North American funeral homes and cemeteries.

The upside of that, he says, is now they have a larger company, can call on "sister" funeral homes for extra staff or vehicles when the needs arise, and also present new and different

ideas for funerals, including vintage and even Harley Davidson hearses owned by other homes. It was under Dignity that they moved their location seeking not only a more practical building but better visibility.

Wherever their location, and despite they are essentially the only game in town, the main thing that sets Thompson's apart from the crowd, according to Mr. Forrester, is client loyalty and a loyalty that is reciprocated.

"There is a huge sense of responsibility here [in running a 92 year old business]. Aurora has always been my community as well. I have no desire to work anywhere else because this is home. There is a sense of loyalty to the community, to

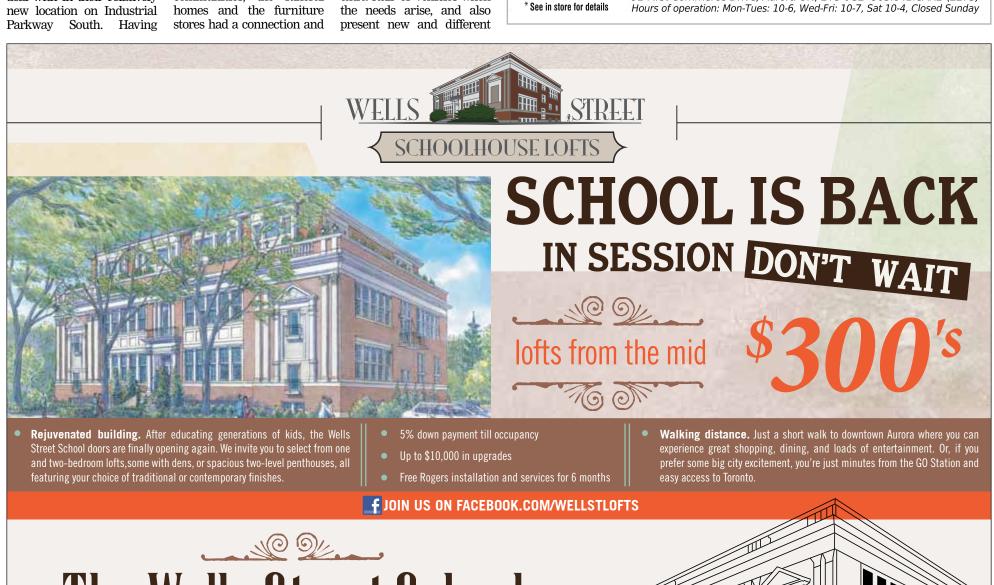
the families we serve, and there is a long history of my predecessors and the number of years they put in here.

"There is a misconception that the scientific part of dealing with the deceased – the embalming and the preparation – is much more of a factor than what it really is. That is about 15 per cent

of the job. The other 85 per cent is working with the family and looking after the needs of the living. I think that's what keeps everyone coming back. They do it for the love of helping and feeling good that you can go home and be proud when you look yourself in the mirror that you have helped a family out."







The Wells Street School

Originally built as the Aurora High School in 1892, the Wells Street School was rebuilt in 1923, renovated in 1952, and retired in 2009. Today, however, there's anticipation in the air as the building begins a new life as the Wells Street Schoolhouse Lofts.





Jubilee playground shouldn't be a "hot potato": advocate

By Brock Weir

Installing an accessible playground at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park shouldn't become a political "hot potato", according to a local accessibility advocate

Tyler Barker, a member of Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee, has been a very vocal voice in promoting projects across Town that would lead to a more inclusive society. Mr. Barker himself, who has spoken about the challenges he has in getting around Aurora and York Region in his larger-sized electric wheelchair, says another playground such as this would provide today's youngsters with an opportunity he did not have himself.

"I believe that an accessible playground is a great opportunity for young youth with disabilities," said Mr. Barker. "I did not have the opportunity because a lot of playgrounds were inaccessible."

Mr. Barker spoke to The Auroran after a heated discussion around the Council table on September 10 regarding the future use of the Diamond Jubilee Park. The park, formerly known as Civic Square Park, is located on John West Way, a stone's throw north of Town Hall.

It was selected by Council to be a permanent commemoration of the Queen's 60th anniversary as monarch in 2012 due to its prominence and visibility to many residents. The park is currently home to a junior-sized soccer pitch frequently used by members of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club, but Councillors voted in favour of doing something "special" with the park.

Rising to the top of suggestions was an accessibility playground. While the proposal to go out to the neighbouring community to see just exactly what they would want in a park was passed earlier this month, several Councillors expressed dismay over the price \$180,000 price tag.

This breaks down to \$30,000 for public consultation and designs, and \$150,000 for the materials and installation. It is likely an accessibility playground would cause the size of the soccer field to be reduced or eliminated altogether.

"We can work together to find a solution," said Mr. Barker. "[If the cost] is why certain members voted against it, I am willing to explore all options for an accessible playground. Personally, I do not think the community would be against an accessible playground.

"I find that this is the latest hot potato. Perhaps the next time we can get PRAC (the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee) involved with the Accessibility Advisory Committee and we can team up and go over this before it goes out to tender."

If the Accessibility Playground at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park is eventually brought to fruition in 2014, it will be the second or third accessible playground in Aurora – joining an already existing facility at Norm Weller Park near Bathurst Street and McClelland Way, and a proposed playground for Stewart Burnet Park near Leslie Street and Wellington Street East.

These types of facilities encourage barrier free play for everyone, including those using mobility aids such as wheelchairs and walkers.

Last year, many Councillors said they were in favour of increasing the number of accessible playgrounds across Aurora. In June of 2012, Councillors identified the need during debates over what should go in David English Park. Questioned by Councillor John Gallo if new playground equipment in this location could be fully accessible, Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, said while he supported providing accessible playgrounds, a more appropriate location would be a "destination" rather than a smaller "neighbourhood park."

"I think what this Town needs to look at is instead of building one park in one location that children with disabilities have to be [taken] to, that they should be able to enjoy activities in their own neighbourhoods, just like all of their friends," said Councillor Chris Ballard at the time.

"I'm not saying we retrofit all the parks, but perhaps it should be in our plan that as neighbourhood parks are retrofitted, as equipment is being replaced in neighbourhood parks, we try to at all times include at least one piece of equipment that meets the needs of all those who have mobility challenges."



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Culture Days at Aurora Public Library

By Reccia Mandelcorn

The Aurora Public Library will be untraditionally LOUD on Saturday when an explosion of the arts takes place in the library living room as part of Culture Days 2013.

Culture Days, a national celebration, connects communities across the country to arts and culture in all its forms through free experiences and activities where artists, creators and participants join together to explore their own creativity and curiosity.

The day's festivities begin with an invitation to join Polly and a host of her puppet friends at 10.30 a.m. for a very silly storytime that will delight the young and the young-at-heart. There will be stories, songs, rhymes, and of course,

lots of giggles, furry hugs and fun.

The afternoon will rock at 1.30 p.m. as slam poet, Sterling Dillinger, takes off with an original work that is part poetry, part beat-boxing, part music and all performance.

In honour of Aurora's Sesquicentennial, Aurora Public Library held its first short story contest

CREATE, PARTICIPATE & CELEBRATE September 27, 28 & 29, 2013

culture days

- with a twist. All stories had to begin with the same opening line, but here, all similarities stopped. Creative memoir, science fiction, nonfiction, murder mystery, psychological drama and romance were genres submitted.

Come for the

announcement of winning entries, the prizes and the glory and enjoy a reading of the opening paragraphs of the three top entries. The ceremony starts at 1.45 p.m.

All writing has its origins in storytelling and the Human Library takes interactive storytelling to its highest form. Billed as "The Human Library: books that talk back to you!" visitors are invited to chat with engaging, famous and even infamous people with real life stories to share.

How does the Human Library work? Read the synopsis of the Living Books on the library website or visit the display in the facility and choose the ones that pique your interest. You can place a hold in advance or just drop in the day of.

Be ready to chat

and have your burning questions answered. The Human Library can be experienced between 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. All "reads" last for approximately 20 minutes.

Culture Days is a collaborative movement that welcomes your participation. The Aurora Cultural Roundtable invites you to celebrate your passions at the venues offered by Aurora Public Library, the Aurora Cultural Centre, the Aurora Farmer's Market and the Aurora Historical Society.

For further information on Culture Days at Aurora Public Library, visit the library website at www.library. aurora.on.ca or telephone 905-727-9494 x275. Aurora Public library is located at 15145 Yonge Street in the downtown historic core of Aurora.





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THE AUR BORAN

"Human books" are ready to be checked out this Saturday

By Jeff Doner

Check out a "human book" this Saturday at the Aurora Public Library.

The Library will host Human Library as part of Culture Days. Culture Days is a national event that was established to raise awareness, participation, accessibility engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities.

Aurora is known or having a plethora of artistic talent and will be offering many different human books at this year's event.

If any of these human books interest you, you can place a hold on them for a set amount of time to ask questions and really get to know about what they do.

Dierdre Tomlinson

Dierdre Tomlinson has two main interests in her life: looking after her large gardens in Aurora, and writing.

"I take part in various groups and the open mic events are interesting," she said. "First of all the most frightening thing in the world would be to talk in front of a big group of people, but I've been doing it for three years now and I really enjoy it. It's good to have an audience for the poems and stories that I write."

British-born The Tomlinson writes a lot of short stories and poems and said some people find it funny that when writing fiction, she usually writes in the voice of a man.

"It could be a young teenager or a grumpy old man, but I never wanted to be a man in my life," she laughed.

But it's not just about fiction to her, another passion is to just keep an eye on what's happening performing, teaching around her and write about it.

"When you're going on a car journey through Toronto there are so many odd things that happen that can be beautiful or humorous. I love the shapes of the landscape and how the crops can be cut in great big curves and seeing the animals just drifting about in the fields. I've also written an incredible amount of

memoirs, because my life has been incredibly lucky from the sort of humble start I had growing up on a road in London. We were poor and so was everybody else around us."

She's not exactly sure about what to expect with the Human Library, but is very much looking forward to the event and meeting some new people.

Teresa Cook

Teresa Cook has spent her life in the fashion industry. She currently owns a jewelry and accessory store in Aurora and has gained some notoriety for her work.

Originally from the UK, Cook's work has developed a bit of a celebrity clientele that includes Sigourney Weaver, Rebecca Hall, Forrest Whitaker, Parker Posey, Eugene Levy, Joan Collins and Natalie Cole.

guess someone would check me out because I've been in this business for over 10 years and have some celebrity cache," she said. "I make a lot of jewelry, so I'm guessing there will be a lot of questions regarding all that and what inspires

Admitting that she has never participated in anything quite like this, Cook is excited to answer questions from anyone interested.

"I don't really have any expectations, but it's fascinating and it will be interesting to see who checks me out. Hopefully it won't be so one-sided and I can ask them some questions too," she said with a laugh.

Norbert Kraft and Bonnie Silver

Norbert Kraft and Silver Bonnie have definitely carved their legacy in classical music, and producing on an

Silver thinks that their unique career path is what will intrigue people into 'checking them out.'

international level.

"During our career as classical musicians we've enjoyed three major career shifts all in the classical world and all of which have been really fascinating for us, so we're prepared to open the book of our lives to these

three career avenues that we followed in our profession."

They also toured the international circuit for 20 years and think people will be interested in what stories they brought back with them.

"I think people usually want to know if it's glamorous or fun or if we meet famous people. People can come and find out a little bit about that," she said.

"I also think the current facet of our career as classical music producers will be interesting to people. What a producer does is probably the big thing people will want to know, but we can talk about any of their particular interests, whatever they would like to know, pick our brain's a little bit. We're there for them and we're really looking forward to that."

Gerry Fostaty

When he was an 18-yearold sergeant at a Canadian Forces Base in 1974, a live grenade accidentally got mixed into a box of dud ammunition, killing 17 teenage boys and injuring over 50 others.

Nearly 40 years later, Fostaty has dug deep into the horrific events of that day and explains the aftereffects on the survivors in his new book.

"I've written a book and it was a memoir, but I guess somebody at the library read my book and invited me to come be a part of the human library," Fostaty said.

He isn't sure what to expect from it, but is hoping that people are interested in asking him about his book and how he fits into it.

"Frankly, I love talking about the subject and I'm actually currently working on a project to try and help the victims of what happened. What we're trying to do is have these guys taken care of as far as their needs with

injuries as well, because it has never been taken care of and it has been about 40 years now. I'm working with a committee that is trying to do that and the book is a little bit a part of that."

Fostaty grew up in Montreal and has lived in Aurora since 1987. He was an actor prior to becoming a writer.

Brock Weir

Comparing certain aspects of his trade to an archeological dig, Brock Weir has been mining for stories in Aurora for four vears.

As editor for The Auroran Newspaper, Weir said the Human Library sounded like a good opportunity to meet people within the community.

"I've had the chance while with The Auroran to interview just about every one of my fellow books. It's certainly humbling to be among that group and I'm not sure what I'll be able to bring to the table other than to talk about my own experiences covering the community, but it's a fun group to be a part of."

Admitting that he has gotten used to being on the asking end of an interview, Weir is intrigued about the prospect of being on the other end and figures he'll get some questions about community reporting.

"One thing that always like about covering Aurora is that people are always sort of quiet about what they actually do and achieve, so it's kind of like a bit of an archeological dig to find the stories within the stories," he said.

"If you go into an interview with a subject, sometimes you walk away with something completely different than you were expecting. I hope that the people that sign up for human library find the same thing with



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Over 15 Aurora, York Region, and area artists fanned out across Aurora on Saturday and Sunday welcoming visitors and art aficionados through their homes and studios for the fourth annual Aurora Artists' Studio Tour. Top, Laura Brant and Valerie Kent exhibited in the home studio of artist Deborah Campo while, bottom, Maya Rodriguez' work was showcased at Park Place Manor. **Auroran photo by David Falconer**









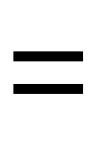
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THE AUR SO RAN SPORTS



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FREE Week of September 25, 2013

Rollercoaster ride for Tigers taking on Orangeville and Whitby

By Jeff Doner

This young hockey season has been a rollercoaster ride for the Aurora Tigers, who are struggling to string together a couple wins.

Thursday night at home, the Tigers defeated the Orangeville Flyers 6-3, but the score wasn't the best indicator of the game itself as the home team seemed to stumble out of the gate.

"It was a little slow and the boys kept the shots low, after the first two periods they only had 15 shots, so I was just trying to keep my head in it and keep loose and warm," said rookie goalie Andy Munroe.

Munroe, who came to the Tigers from the Pembroke Lumber Kings last year, had 20 saves for the win and looked sharp between the pipes for the Tigers.

"Tve got a level head and my nerves are pretty calm right now," he said. "The boys are scoring goals right now, so as long as they keep that up, it's going to be a good vear."

Orangeville scored the only goal of the first period as they capitalized on some defensive miscues by the Tigers.

As the second period rolled along, the Tigers seemed to have a little more pep in their stride and a chip on their shoulder. "[Coach James Richmond] told them between periods to just go in and play; stop trying to think and just play," said assistant coach Tom Milne. "We were gripping the sticks tight, hadn't scored a lot of goals, in the first period pucks were bouncing and they want to make excuses, but he just said go out and play."

And that's what they did. Veteran Tiger Adam DiBrina started the onslaught for the Tigers by capitalizing on the power play to tie the game.

Rookie Alex Gilmour then scored his first goal on the way to a hat trick.

"I had a hat trick last year in the playoffs, but that was my first Jr. A hat trick and goal, so it was pretty special," Gilmour said postgame. "I feel great right now."

Before all was said and done, Michael Laidley and Calvin Higley added goals for the Tigers to solidify the win.

Munroe gave his new teammates a vote of confidence after the game.

"Gilly had a heck of a night and I know Higley did before too," he said. "It's always nice to see some new talent really put it up for me, so that's awesome. It was great."

On Saturday the Tigers welcomed Whitby to the ACC and were unable to walk away with the win.



The Aurora Tigers took on the Orangeville Flyers in a game at the ACC last week.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

They did, however, collect a point as they dropped the decision in a shootout.

Munroe got the call in net once again and came up big for his team, allowing only one goal on 29 shots in regulation.

Whitby would be first to draw blood in the first period and Aurora did not respond until the start of the third period when Kory Kennedy potted his first goal of the season while at even strength.

The game would go into sudden death overtime, but neither team was able to score, sending the game into a shootout. Whitby would score two to the Tigers one, giving them a 2–1 win.

Earlier in the week, Milne said his team needs to improve in certain areas including winning puck battles, but was confident that would get better as the season moves forward.

"We've got eight 20-yearolds and it takes a while for them to get going after a long summer and I think sometimes they just come to the rink and think it's going to be easy, but if they don't work, they're not getting anywhere," he said.

"We are early into it, but I think we've still got to gel a little bit, even the guys from last year. Going forward I think we'll be fine, we've got good speed and Higley and Gilmour are going, now we've got to get Angiolella and McCloy going. They've had chances, but have been snake bitten."

The Tigers will rekindle

the Newmarket Hurricanes on Thursday night before Saturday matinee against Cobourg. FARM FRESH TURKEYS

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Aurora Jays bested by Bolton for championship cup

By Jeff Done

It wasn't the way they wanted to end the season, but at least the senior men's Aurora Blue Jays baseball team can say they were beaten by the best.

The Bolton Brewers made North Dufferin Baseball League History by beating the Jays 4 – 0 in game five to win their fifth consecutive Strother Cup on Thursday, a league record.

After winning game four, the Jays were hoping to keep the momentum – and the series – going in game five.

Long-time Jay, Rob Wilson, said his team basically beat themselves.

"The wheels fell off when we missed a fly

ball in the infield; there were a couple defensive mistakes," he said. "I think Bolton was just too much for us and we were a little depleted in the lineup. That team is first in the league for a reason and they made us pay for it."

The first three innings of the game were scoreless, but the Jays had their chances. Unfortunately, the team couldn't cash in any of the multiple runners they had on base early in the game.

Unable to make a mark on the scoreboard, the Brewers eventually took advantage and took a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning.

Ted Beadle admitted it was frustrating that his team missed out on so

many opportunities.

"They pitched really well and were mixing speed and location really well," he said. "We left the bases loaded three times, which was really rough, so we didn't really have our clutch hitting at all. That was kind of the downfall. If we had a few clutch hits there we would have been alright."

It would be more of the same from there on. The Brewers added another run in the fifth inning and two in the sixth inning to give them a 4–0 advantage, while the Jays left another five runners on the bases in the final three innings.

Pitcher Ian Milne came out for another decent start, giving his team an early chance to best the Brewers. But, again, the Jays offence offered no support.

Despite the loss, Teddy 'Ball Game' Beadle said the last couple years with the Jays have been a blast and he looks forward to coming back and trying to take away Bolton's reign next year.

"I love playing for the Jays," he said. "The group of guys we have is pretty awesome, so it would be hard to leave. It's pretty far for me to drive every time, but everybody is just so good on the team, it would be hard to play for anybody else."

He added that seeing Bolton's dominance is motivating for him to try and help his team win a

Continued on page 17

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Moffitt has weight of the Worlds on his shoulders

By Jeff Doner

If you love what you do, you'll work hard to be among the greatest.

That's exactly what Aurora's own Jordan Moffitt has been doing for the past nine years in becoming one of Canada's up and coming power-lifters.

Moffitt, 25, has been weightlifting since he was 16 and powerlifting the past two. He now works at a local Goodlife gym as a personal trainer, which is helping him get ready for the World Powerlifting Congress Championships in Prague, Czech Republic from Oct. 26 – Nov. 2.

"I'm a raw lifter, which means I can only use a belt and wrist wraps, that's all that's allowed," Moffitt explained, adding that this will be the biggest competition he has ever attended.

"It's considered the World's, so it's a few lifters from every country and I got lucky enough to be chosen for Canada."

In order to qualify for the worldwide event, Moffitt has been lifting in competitions all over Canada. Most of his qualifying totals have come from competitions held in Waterloo by the WPC, which is a branch of the Canadian Powerlifting Federation.

"I've been doing this non-stop for about two years," he said. "What I want to achieve right now at this competition is hit that elite total in a higher weight class. I was able to do elite at 198 pounds, so this one I want to get in at 220."

Moffitt said that only one per cent of lifters in the world are able to achieve elite at that level.

"I'm not far off, it's just a matter of being able to hit everything in the competition smoothly," he said. "Gym training and everything is going well and I'm en route, but it's going to change quite a bit in a different country, so I've just got to get the nerves out of the way."

But it has been a long road to get to where he is today. Moffitt said when he was younger, he was a big kid, but then in high school sprung up and became the skinny kid. That's when weightlifting became an interest for Moffitt.

"I just wanted to make a change," he said. "I haven't looked back since."

After high school, his interest in the sport only grew, so he decided to pursue an education somewhere in a related field. He studied personal training at George Brown right out of high school, but that interest faded, taken over by weightlifting. After completing his training, he went into police foundations, all while keeping a strict weightlifting regimen.

"I was stuck in a job for a few years that I just wasn't happy in and I was presented the opportunity and took it. It's gotten me closer with a lot of people and you learn about yourself and others."

Moffitt said he is glad he has been able to connect his work to his weightlifting. Even though he is training for a large event, he limits his workouts to three or four times a week.

"I try to give myself lots of rest, because workouts are pretty taxing, but it's pretty basic. I've tried a lot of methods to progress and I found that this way is the best," he said.

"It's more of just a mental thing and getting in there. Three days isn't a lot to train and I would be in here seven days a week if I could, but I wouldn't recover properly. For me personally, that's the sweet spot."

Even though it has been a long road to get to where he is now, Moffitt knows the most important moment is still to come in Prague when he lifts October 31.

"I want to be at my very best for this," he said with confidence. "It's not a little competition. There's a lot going into this – a lot of money and a lot of time. I just want to be at my best.

"[Toronto's]Jeremy Hamilton, he's the strongest guy in 220 right now, I'm not on par with him, but he keeps me going, my friends, my family. They're pretty much pushing me to be better and that's my inspiration to keep going."

Jays have plans for next season

From page 16

championship of their own.

"They're a good ball team and fully deserving of winning. I think it was a pretty positive season, but we're definitely looking to improve on it. You always want to win, that's for sure. That cup looks pretty sweet."

Wilson agreed with his teammate, but also said he knew his team could have been better.

"They're a team that we know we can beat, but...it's just about trying to play to our own level and we didn't," he said. "I wouldn't say the season was a success, but I will say we had a good season. While we didn't have the result we were aiming for,

I still think we can all be proud as a team."

Wilson said when you don't win a championship, it is easy to look at the negatives, but he's adamant that the team took a step forward overall.

"We picked up some great new players, guys from both out of town and guys that are coming into that senior age and we have a lot more depth. I fully expect for us to compete for an OBA title and a league title next year."

He also gave a shout out to the Brewers.

"They're a great team, they deserve to win and they deserve to reap the rewards of their success for the last five years and be recognized for that.



Aurora's Jordan Moffitt chalks up before taking on over 400 pounds. He's training hard in the local gym where he works for an international weight lifting competition next month.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner





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ONGOING

Tickets are now on sale for the third annual Empty Bowls fundraiser hosted by the Pine Tree Potters Guild on December 5. With dinner tickets already sold out, lunch tickets are available from Meridian Credit Union on Wellington Street, and Vic's Shoe Repair. Tickets are 45 and will benefit local charities.

SEPTEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 9

Wavestage Theatre Company will host an eight week acting Masterclass Program beginning September 23 running on select dates through December 9. Working with an experienced director, you will develop a practical understanding of text and character, basic vocal and movement skills, and plenty of tips and techniques to keep you relaxed in audition scenarios. The masterclass will be looking at specific acting techniques and skills, drawing from practitioners such as Stanislavski and Meisner, to make scenes come alive, bring believable characters into being, and learn to create magical moments on stage as an actor. For more information, contact Sarah Kyle at wavestagetheatre@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Hospice King-Aurora invites you to attend their 30th annual general meeting this morning at 11.30 a.m. through 1 p.m. at the

Murder Mystery:

27, beginning at 7 p.m.,

the Aurora Seniors Silver Stars Drama Club produce

another murder mystery

show for your enjoyment at

the Seniors' Centre! Tickets

are \$5 each and are available

at the Reception Desk.

The ticket price includes

refreshments and all ages

Bert Wheeler and produced

by Judy Buchanan, the story

gets going when a massive

hurricane cuts off access to

the mainland as a mob boss

is electrocuted in his bath at

an exclusive tropical island

resort. The other guests all

seem to have issues with the

the victim. Is it murder or

accidental death? Come out

on September 27 and help

Ripley's Aquarium

of Canada:

have planned a trip to the

new aquarium in Toronto

on Tuesday, October 29

with a departure time of

10 a.m. The new Ripley's

Aquarium of Canada is a

12,500 square-metre world-

class family attraction with

more than 5.7 million litres

of water depicting marine

and freshwater habitats

than

underwater creatures from around the globe will be

on display. Exhibits will include tropical reefs,

Atlantic and Pacifc Ocean

seahorses, stingrays, and

Great Lakes exhibits.

Price: Members: \$94 per

person, Non Members:

transportation via deluxe

coach, lunch at the Hot

House Cafe, admission to

Ripley's Aquarium, driver gratuity, and all taxes. Sign

up at the Aurora Seniors'

Centre information desk.

including return

13.500

jellyfish,

from around the world.

More

inhabitats,

\$99.

Aurora Seniors

solve this murder!

Written and directed by

are welcome.

On Friday, September

Sacred Heart Parish Centre (14485 Jane Street, king City). The speaker is Patricia Mosnia, Director of the Regional Hospice Palliative Care program. Patricia will speak to us regarding the future of palliative care in our area and the program's plans for "the right care at the right time in the right place." For more information, visit www. hospicekingaurora.ca or call 905-727-6815.

EDOYR presents a free "Zentangle" workshop today in conjunction with Culture Days. It is a fun, easy and deeply relaxing day to spend the day. Supplies are provided and all you need is a pen and paper to create your own zentangle. Space is limited. For more information, contact EDOYR at info@edoyr.com or call 905-886-6632. 6–8 p.m.

The Aurora Seniors' Centre Silver Stars Drama Club will host another Murder Mystery for your enjoyment beginning at 7 p.m. at the Centre (90 John West Way). Tickets are \$5 and include refreshments. They can be purchased at the Aurora Seniors' Centre reception desk. All ages are welcome. A massive hurricane cuts off access to the mainland as a mob boss is electrocuted in his bath at an exclusive tropical island resort. The other guests all seem to have issues with the victim. Is it murder or accidental death? Come out on September 27 and help solve this

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

murder!

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, welcomes everyone to free Culture Days activities at the Centre from $1-4~\mathrm{p.m.}$ Professional filmmakers John Watson & Rob Comeau present a free filmmaking workshop from $1-4~\mathrm{p.m.}$ create your own video that will be edited

Coming Events

following the event ready to submit to the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region. No experience or equipment necessary; registration open to those ages 12 - adult. Meanwhile, join artists Michelle van Nie and Robin Burnett of the exhibition A Sense of Place in the Great Hall Gallery, and contribute to a community encaustic art project specially-created for today. Part of the Aurora Cultural Roundtable series of events celebrating this pan-Canadian initiative weekend! For full event information check www.auroraculturalcentre. ca, or call 905-713-1818.

Canadian Sport for Life presents a free seminar today from 12 noon – 5 p.m. on Physical Literacy. The event will take place at Seneca King Campus, featuring Dr. Dean Kriellaars from the University of Manitoba Facultuy of Medicine. Space is limited. Contact Sport Aurora for details.

King Bible Church hosts their Community Fun Fair featuring an 18' Screamer Slide, 60' Obstacle Course, farm, exotic animals, live music, and much more. For more information, visit www. kingbiblechurch.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Park Place Manor Retirement Residence will host their annual Open House today between 1 and 4

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Aurora Public Library hosts Pumpkin-Palooza: Attention kids ages 6 – 8, let the Library introduce you to the science, folklore and trivia behind pumpkins. Celebrate this seasonal fruit (vegetable?) with fellow participants by assembling a three-dimensional pumpkin to decorate your fall dining table. 7 – 8 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library.

- BA

SENIOR SCAPE

Charles Sequeira
Payback in
Paradise

members, who received awards from the Town Of Aurora Community Recognition Awards 2013. Civic Appreciation Award to: George Biondic and Gerald (Bud) Switzer, and five year volunteer service awards to Sonia Alfar, Ronald Coe, Joan Earl, and Enid Maize.

Friday Night Dances:

We're back with our popular Friday social dances. Join us in the West-McKenzie room at the Seniors' Centre the first and third Friday of the month from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Dances feature a wide range of recorded music provided by our House DJs. We also fit in a few line-dances with everyone joining in. A small fee applies and includes light refreshments, tea and coffee. A cash bar is available with wine,

beer and soft drinks at reasonable prices. Dates: October 4, 18, November 1 and 15, and December 6 and 20.

ASA-Computer Club:

Regardless of what kind of weather is in store for us, the Aurora Seniors' Centre provides us with many great activities indoors where it is comfortable and we can visit with friends. The ASA Computer Club is looking forward to the following months and the beginning of our more formal activities.

Bob Hedenberg our chairperson of computer club wants to find out what kinds of things our Members are interested in that we may be able to help with. We also want to find out what you are doing with your PCs, tablets and other mobile computing devices. Knowing this may help us do a better job of finding ways to help ASA members with technology.

Also don't forget about our Tuesday afternoon drop-in sessions where we provide one-on-one help to any member looking for help with technology.

Have a Happy Fall Season and watch your every step!

t ready to submit THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce will host their annual general meeting this afternoon at 5.30 p.m. at Oakview Terrace (13256 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill). The event is for Aurora Chamber members only and the 2013 audited financial statements, year-end reports, and a look to the future will be presented.

Chess in the Library: A drop in chess club for the experienced chess player or beginner. Come and enjoy playing with like-minded players. Chess sets provided, or bring your own. (18+). 6-9 p.m. in the Lebovic Room.

EDOYR's Riverwalk Eating Disorders and Wellness Centres launches a Hope and Inspiration Peer Support Group today for the next six Thursdays from 6 - 7.30 p.m. at their Wellington and Yonge location. The groups are facilitated by an psychotherapist (MSW) with specialized knowledge of eating disorders and lived experience of recovery. This informal group allows individuals who share a common experience or issue to come together, and share their thoughts, feelings and experiences with each other in a safe and nonjudgemental space. Participants can feel understood and that they are not alone. Participants of a peer support group can offer each other mutual support, empathy, validation and practical advice. In peer support groups, participants are equals, and this can make people feel

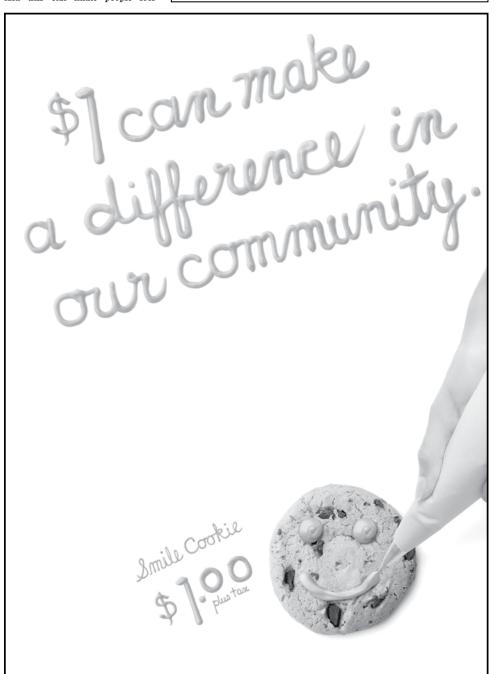
more comfortable in sharing their thoughts, feelings and experiences about an issue. \$80 for six weeks. Register online at www.edoyr.com.

The French Toastmasters Club, FrancoFun, meets today at 7.30 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Retirement Residence (70 Bernard Avenue). The French Toastmasters Club serves members in Aurora, Newmarket, and Richmond Hill. For more information, contact Anne Lucie at annelucie.setrakian@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street is proud to announce that Canada's favourite pianist John Sheard of CBC radio's The Vinyl Cafe fame has created a concert series just for us! Tonight's kickoff presents John at the keys, with Prairie Oyster frontman Russell deCarle, and Steve Briggs on guitar. Tickets \$25 in advance, or \$30 day of concert. Doors open 7.30 p.m.: concert at 8 p.m. General admission seating; cash bar. Fully accessible venue; elevator at north entrance. This kick-off concert is part of "The Great Reunion" concert series, featuring three memorable evenings of John at the keys, with special guests at his side. Check www. auroraculturalcentre.ca, or drop by the Centre to discover the full lineup of guests he's lined up for these exclusive 2013/14 concerts, and for special series pricing.





During the week of September 23rd, when you spend \$1.00 on a delicious chocolate chunk Smile Cookie, Tim Hortons will donate the entire procedds to The Salvation Army Hope For Others Campaign

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Congratulations! to our Seniors' Centre



RAIN FAILS TO DAMPEN CULTURAL PRIDE























1. Emily's big, red umbrella kept the rain from spoiling her day. 2. Patenaude had her face painted by Shawna. 3. The Canadian Black Belt Martial Arts Centre's golden dragon had kids transfixed in their spirited dance. 4 & 5: Young women in vivid costumes showcased the musical and spiritual culture of China stemming from the Falun Dafa tradition. 6. Ben kept up the carnival spirit on his unicycle, stilt walking, juggling and fire eating. 7. Aboriginal performers not only displayed their traditional dances, but imparted the cultural meanings and lessons behind each move, bead, and feather. 8. Despite all appearances, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, joined here by Robin Taylor-Smith, controlled the urge to hop up on the stage for a round of Singin' In the Rain. 9. Mystic Drums gave kids a hands-on feel of musical instruments from around the world. 10. Speakers explained the histories and stories behind what unfolded on the stage. 11. Dancers of the island of Crete showcased dances traditionally performed at important family events, such as weddings and birthdays.

Committee considers one more Aurora 150 event as a "do-over"

From page 1

After hours of rain, Ada Johnson Park was quite damp as residents slogged down the hill to find a prime space to watch the events unfold. The venue was selected by the committee to bring more of a focus to newer communities on the east side of Aurora.

On the opposite side of the park was Rick Hansen Public School, a school opened earlier this year, and slated as the contingency location should the heavens open up. The permit obtained by the Committee to use the school was pulled at the last minute.

Despite the setback of the rain, those who made it through bundled up, dressed in layers, sporting raincoats and, in some cases, wielding multiple umbrellas. The event was a way to celebrate their own cultural heritage and their Town as well.

"I am of Hungarian background, my husband is Korean, so we have a lot of cultures in our house," said Christina Nagy-Oh, mother of Celeste and Chantal – and a Town of Aurora employee who was strictly off duty at the time. "I love to take my kids to multicultural things."

The event brought together longstanding Aurora residents like Christine Alcock who has lived in the community for over 50 years, arriving at the the park equipped for almost any contingency, as well as Paul and Shauna Salomone, who moved to Aurora from Ottawa just two weeks ago with their two young children.

"It seemed like it was something interesting and fun," said Paul. "It's a little rainy, but that's okay – we don't mind. There's a great community atmosphere, and that seems like that is always the case in Aurora."

The Salmone family embraced what Mayor Geoffrey Dawe said the Community Cultural Celebration was all about.

"All we can do is bring a sunny attitude; we can't control the sun, but we can control our attitude," said Mayor Dawe. "I am so appreciative of the work the community has put into this. [Events like this] help cement the fact we have a great community and people like to do things together. These events start with the people."

Among the first performers were the Aboriginal Presentation, a regular feature on Aurora'a cultural map, imparting their dance, music and traditions to the audience. They were followed by intricate performances from local martial arts students, dancers representing Crete, embracing and revitalizing their cultural traditions after they fell by the wayside in the latter half of the 20th century, Mystic Drums bringing together musical traditions from around the world geared to the younger crowd, and dancers and musicians representing Chinese culture stemming from the Falun Dafa traditions.

"It is unfortunate such a few people got to see it because it was really quite amazing," said Aurora 150 Chair Alison Collins Mrakas of the aboriginal presentation. "You can't do anything about the weather, but it was still a great thing. I think we were highly successful judging by the people who did make it out and the sun came through the clouds for the last two performances – and that was very fitting that it was during the Chinese fan dance."

Keeping the fact so few people decided to brave the rain, staying dry – and for the people living in the homes surrounding Ada Johnson Park, crowding into their windows and peeping out of their blinds to take in the celebration from the comforts of their own home – the Committee is giving serious reconsideration to planning an additional "re-do" event later this year.

Needless to say, if anything comes forward it will be planned for an indoor venue and funded from the more than \$100,000 left in their budget for the Sesquicentennial Celebrations.

"Fair play to our international food vendors and all of the performers who showed up to do their thing," said Ms. Collins-Mrakas. "We have had a scattering of people, but we're considering it. Let's face it: we have quite a bit of money left. We have to discuss it as a group, but we feel the public wanted a fourth event. We promised the public four events, but Mother Nature didn't cooperate.

"We're going to see what we can do to give them that fourth event."

PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF ROGERS 60 METRE WIRELESS INSTALLATION

An application has been submitted by Rogers on behalf of TACC Developments Inc. to relocate a telecommunications facility, being 60m in height on the lands known as 1335 St. John's Sideroad, Aurora.

Legally known address is Part of Lot 25, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Whitchurch, Town of Aurora.

With respect to this matter, the public is invited to provide written comments by October 25, 2013 to the contact information shown below. Please include a return address.

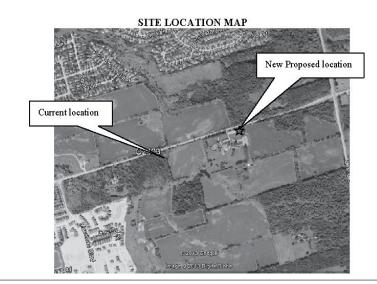
PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION relating to the relocation of the proposed wireless communication site and a new design implementation will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, anytime from 6-8 p.m. at Aurora Seniors Centre, Priestly Activity Room A/B located at 90 John West Way, 905-726-4767.

Any person may attend this public information session during the specified time to allow the public, Town of Aurora and the applicant to exchange information.

ALL DECISIONS RELATING TO THIS APPLICATION WILL BE MADE BY INDUSTRY CANADA.

Further information may also be obtained through the following contacts, quoting File No.D11-(EX)13-13, Rogers' Site C4911:

Rogers Communications Inc.
Tatyana Moro, Municipal Relations Specialist
8200 Dixie Road
Brampton, ON L6T 0C1
Phone: (647) 747-2351
Tatyana.Moro@rci.rogers.com
Fax: (647)747-4600



Cars can be "viable way forward"

From page 9

of testing, the City of Chicago has hundreds them. Pittsburgh has hundreds of them, Connecticut hundreds of them, Winnipeg is using them, Quebec as a whole has done a study testing to make sure that if this is what they want, they are going to pick this as the only taxi available in Quebec because they want to meet the universal aesign.

Ontario, under In Accessiblility the Ontarians with for Disabilities Act, province has some of the most stringent guidelines to meet when it comes to accessibility. The end product from MV-1, says Mr. Grande, goes a long way to achieving the mandate of the act.

"Government must be 100 per cent accessible," he says. "For human rights and equality, someone with a disability must be able to hail a cab and pay the same fare as everyone else. If something is universally designed, that is something that a city, planners, and fleet managers would look at. Plus, there are 35 years of history of problems with conversions. [vehicle]

That is why our car exists."

Whether or not MV-1's presentation is going to provide any of the incentives Councillors such as John Abel and Sandra Humfryes were envisioning to boost the number of accessible taxis in Aurora remains to be seen, but when the company comes forward they will be received by a

Council that was primed the previous week.

"I think even the taxicab [companies] will see there is a viable way to move forward," said Councillor John Abel at last week's General Committee meeting. "It's great with ingenuity and development of designs and technology provide exceptional, cheaper ways of doing things."



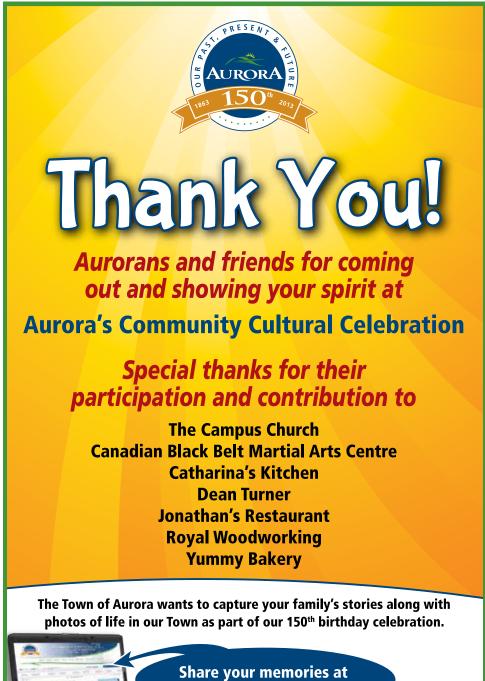
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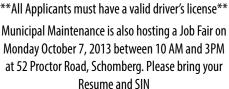
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- Work effectively with Bindery Equipment Operators and other assigned helper(s) to ensure and maintain quality, accuracy and productivity throughout the production shift;
- To assist, train and share your knowledge with less experienced personnel and temporary help.
- Other duties as required.
- Maintain quality standards as per written or verbal instructions and follow all SOP's applicable to the work assigned;
- Work as part of a team, follow and adhere to Transcontinental's code of ethics and participate in the Continuous Improvements efforts;
- Fully understand and adhere to all relevant Environmental, Health and Safety, Human Resources, Continuous Improvement, Security and Company policies and procedures;
- Work in compliance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act of Ontario, the Workplace Safety Insurance Act and all other applicable legislated environmental, health & safety regulations.

- Post secondary education along with a minimum two (2) years experience as a Bindery Helper.
- Strong verbal communication skills:
- Flexible and quality driven:
- Able to work in a team oriented environment:
- Available to work overtime as needed.

Individuals interested in applying for this position are requested to send their résumé along with a covering letter prior to the expiry date of this posting to the attention of:

> Renee.McFarland@tc.tc , Human Resources Manager Phone: 416.848.8636 Fax: 416.848.8637





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- All paper work associated with the advertising ordering and billing process to be correctly completed and submitted in a timely manner.
- Projects efficient, confident and professional appearance and mannerisms.
- Responsive to customer needs, identifies customer complaints and ensures all complaints are resolved.
- Perform all other duties as assigned by the Manager.

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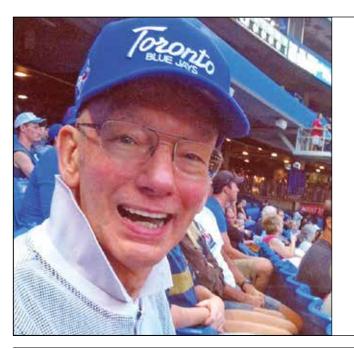




The Times King Weekly Sentine THE AURORAN Vaughan Weekly







HEWLETT, Tim "Coach"

January 11, 1944 to September 22, 2013

Longtime resident of Aurora, Owner of Hewlett Sporting Goods, Coach of Girls Softball Leagues, Essential Nutrition Consultant, Advocate of "The Charter of Health Freedom"

Peacefully passed away surrounded by family at Southlake Regional Health Centre. Coach will be dearly missed by his loving wife Helen; daughters Jill, Dena and Angie (husband Jamie Robertson); grandchildren Sydney and Jesse (father Sam Burland) and Bryndoven (father Jeremy O'Krafka); siblings Terry Hewlett (wife Margaret Cleveland), Karen Hewlett (partner Rita Benton) and Marlene Butcher; his late parents Maurice and Lillian Hewlett; in-laws Viola and the late Tony Diacovo and all of the extended Bergin and Perugini family, and many

Visitation will be held at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, 905-727-5421 on Wednesday September 25 from 6-8pm and on Thursday September 26 from 2-4pm and 6-8pm. A funeral service will take place on Friday September 27 at 11am in the chapel with visitation beginning at 10am.

In Coach's memory donations to the March of Dimes Canada would be appreciated. On line condolences may be made at www.thompsonfh-aurora.com

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