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Aurora's Community Newspaper



AVERSA

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theauroran.com

FREE Week of November 13, 2013

Ballard to seek provincial Liberal nomination

By Brock Weir

The Councillor, who was elected to Aurora Council in 2010, told The Auroran he hopes to challenge incumbent Progressive Conservative MPP Frank Klees in the next Provincial election.

In this minority provincial government, there is no certainty on just when the next election might be called, but Councillor Ballard said he will "step aside" as Councillor when the writ is dropped, if ultimately chosen as candidate.

"I am going to continue to work hard in being an effective Councillor and representing those people who voted for me in representing all of Aurora," he says. "We'll see what happens when the writ drops [but] at that point I will step aside. Until then, even if I am chosen as the candidate, I will keep working to represent the people of Aurora."

Councillor Ballard says he has heard from "elected officials in our communities, businesses, and regular folk" they want better representation at Queen's Park and believes he is the man for the job.

"I have heard concerns that the focus has been on leadership issues and other issues that are important, but not as important to the people of Aurora and Newmarket," he says. "I think I will be able to do a better job for the citizens of both communities. I won't be spending any time chasing leadership hopes and that type of thing, but I will be really focusing on what these communities need, and that is what I have been hearing for a number of years now.

"I think you have to live in this riding, work in this riding constantly Continued on page 7

Triumph & Tears



Aurora's best and brightest sports heroes and builders were honoured last week at the inaugural induction ceremony for the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame. Above, tennis champ and educator Robert "Bob" Bedard, Olympic basketball player Cal Bouchard, and Olympic gold medal-winning equestrian Jim Elder catch up before the ceremony. For the first in our series on the ceremony, please see Page 15.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir







Weekly Notice Board

Aurora Town Hall

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Wednesday, November 137 p.m.Sesquicentennial Ad Hoc Committee – Not RequiredThursday, November 147 p.m.Economic Development Advisory CommitteeThursday, November 147:30 p.mCommittee of Adjustment

Friday, November 15 10 a.m. Trails and Active Transportation Committee

Monday, November 18 9 a.m. Not Required
Special General Committee – Budget*

Tuesday, November 197 p.m.General Committee*Wednesday, November 207 p.m.Aurora Public Library BoardThursday, November 217 p.m.Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meetings are open to the public and held at Aurora Town Hall. Council meetings can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca/calendar

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream

AURORA 150 FACT:



Image courtesy of Aurora Historical Society

Ough's Hardware Store

This is an exterior photo of the Ough & Son Hardware store circa 1920. The store was located on the west side of Yonge Street in the third building south of Wellington Street.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - SANTA UNDER THE STARS PARADE

Please be advised of the following temporary road closures on **Saturday, November 23** for the annual Santa Under the Stars Parade.

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to Orchard Heights Boulevard

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to Wellington Street (northbound traffic only). All side streets between Wellington Street and Batson will remain open (southbound Yonge Street will remain open until 5:30 p.m. when full road closure will take affect)

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Industrial Parkway South

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Englehard Drive from Edward Street to Industrial Parkway

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. – Old Yonge Street (southbound only) from St. John's Sideroad to Twelve Oaks Drive. Northbound Old Yonge Street will be open for traffic.

Advisory Committee Seeks New Member

Aurora Town Council invites residents within the Southeast Old Aurora district to participate as a citizen member on the Heritage Conservation sub-committee. The Town of Aurora is seeking one representative who resides within the area outlined below to help contribute to Aurora's rich history.

Applications are available from the Customer and Legislative Services department on the second floor of Town Hall, 100 John West Way, or from the Town's website at www.aurora.ca For more information, please contact Patty Thoma, Council/Committee Co-ordinator, Town of Aurora, at 905-727-3123 ext. 4227 or pthoma@aurora.ca



2014 Budget

The Town of Aurora has started its 2014 Budget review sessions. Residents are invited and encouraged to have their voices heard by attending and speaking at any of the upcoming sessions:

Monday, November 18 at 9 a.m. Review of Capital Budget

Monday, November 25 at 7 p.m. Capital Budget Continued

Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m. Capital Budget Continued

Meetings will continue into January and February 2014.

All meetings will be held in Council Chambers, located at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way.

Public input will be received at the beginning of each meeting. Those who wish to speak are encouraged to register with the Clerk's office in advance by emailing CSecretariat@aurora.ca Those who do not register will be allowed to make a presentation if time permits.

Budget information will be posted to the Town's website at www.aurora.ca/2014budget and updated throughout the process. For more information about the 2014 Budget, please contact Dan Elliott, Director of Corporate and Finanical Services/Treasurer at ourtownbudget@aurora.ca

Planning Application Fees Bylaw

The Town of Aurora will be considering a new schedule of fees for applications made in respect to planning matters at Council on Tuesday, November 26.

The report regarding an amendment to Planning Application Fees Bylaw (Report No. PL13-063) was presented to General Committee at its meeting on November 5 and can be found on the Town's website at www.aurora.ca/agendasminutes

The final version of the bylaw will be available on the Town's website on the Friday before Council. For further information, please contact Glen Letman, Manager of Development Planning, Town of Aurora, at 905-727-3123 ext. 4346 or email gletman@aurora.ca



Closure Notice – Aurora Family Leisure Complex

Please be advised that pending approval from Town Council, The Town of Aurora is planning to close the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) on **Thursday**, **November 14** for reconstruction.

The Town is closing the complex for approximately one year to re-build and enhance the existing facilities as well as create a new community space for youth. Most services offered at the AFLC will be moved to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

The Town of Aurora will provide updated information for residents via the Town's Notice Board and on the Town's website at www.aurora.ca/newAFLC

For more information, please contact Parks & Recreation Services at 905-727-3123 ext. 4753.

Fees and Charges Bylaw for 2014

The Town of Aurora will be considering the adoption of the new Fees and Charges Bylaw for 2014 (Bylaw No. 5557-13) at Council on Tuesday, November 26.

The report regarding the Fees and Charges Bylaw (Report No. CFS13-037) was presented to General Committee at its meeting on November 5 and can be found on the Town's website at www.aurora.ca/agendasminutes

The final version of the bylaw will be available on the Town's website on the Friday before Council. For further information, please contact Laura Sheardown, Financial Analyst — Cash Flow & Investment at 905-727-3123 ext. 4136 or email lsheardown@aurora.ca

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dinner and a Movie

Hotel Transylvania (Rated PG)

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: Saturday, November 16 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ages: 11 to 14 year-olds

Price: Entry is \$3 per person and pizza will be served. For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 3127.

2014 Winter Parks & Recreation Guide

Look for your copy of the 2014 Winter Parks & Recreation Guide! They were delivered this past weekend with *The Banner*. Copies are also available for pick-up at various Town facilities and online at www.aurora.ca/programguide

2014 Heritage Advisory Committee Awards of Excellence

The Town of Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee invites residents to nominate a project for the annual Awards of Excellence. These awards recognize excellence in preservation, restoration and/or enhancements of cultural heritage properties. Nominations will be accepted for projects that have been completed in the last two years.

The committee will accept nominations from **November 1** until the deadline of **Friday**, **November 29**.

Successful candidates will be announced at the Heritage Celebration Ceremony during Heritage Week in February.

For program eligibility details and nomination forms, please visit www.aurora.ca. For further information, please contact the Planning and Development Services Department, Town of Aurora, at 905-727-3123 ext. 4226 or email planning@aurora.ca

REMINDERS

Winter Parking Restrictions in effect from November 15 to April 15, 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

It's that time of year again! Snow and ice are due to arrive soon. Please make it safe for everyone and ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the street. It is also important to not park over sidewalks or onto the roadway. This is a hazard for residents and it severely hinders the ability of our infrastructure and Environmental Services staff to efficiently plow our roads and sidewalks. For more information, please call 905-726-4751 or visit www.aurora.ca

Municipal street tree block pruning

Residents are advised that the municipal street tree block pruning is underway and will continue through December. For a complete list of streets, please visit the front page of the Town's website at www.aurora.ca

If you have any questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3223.



Making dreams come true, one senior at a time

By Brock Weir

She's making her list and over the next few weeks, as the holiday season starts to get into full swing, Aurora's Ingrid Davis will do better than check it twice, making sure the wishes and dreams of some very important residents in Aurora and Newmarket are well taken care of.

Ms. Davis is founder of Aurora-Newmarket Chapter of the Senior Wish Foundation, a group devoted to making sure seniors in need are well remembered when they need it. While wishes can be as easy as simple friendship or delivering a humble turkey to put on the Christmas table, these wish lists will be very short indeed without some much needed assistance in making sure these needs and wishes are identified.

When Ms. Davis' aunt died two years ago, it was all on her to take care of her effects. That spurred her to start a business helping seniors downsize and declutter. It was through this business she connected with the Senior Wish Association and took it upon herself bring it to Aurora.

"It was uncharted territory," she says. "I didn't know where to begin. In Barrie, where it started, the culture there is different than it is here. The things they were doing with their association weren't things I would necessarily do."

Her first step was to make inroads in local schools and make these connections between students and seniors in retirement and assisted living residences. What started off as a simple program giving students the chance to make

Christmas cards for seniors at Newmarket's Southlake Village, has spawned something much greater.

"Last year, I got a phone call from a lady in Aurora and she said, 'We have nothing for Christmas." Ms. Davis recounts of a family of a mother and unemployed son who were particularly hurting around the holiday season. "She said, 'I am sure there are so many people who need help, but I don't know who else to talk to.' All she wanted was a turkey so I got the turkey donated from Metro and my friends and I put baskets together with their favourite things.

"The ball got rolling, but seniors are sometimes reluctant to come out because there is a stigma attached that if they're not doing very well, they're afraid social services will come in and take them away. They don't want it to be known they are in need."

When calls like this started to come in, Ms. Davis describes it as a "defining moment" in what she intended to achieve, and it has only grown from there. In addition to providing a helping hand, the Seniors Wish Foundation truly lives up to its name in granting wishes for seniors. For instance, an important wish for a woman in palliative care was simply to hear the bagpipes again. They arranged for a bagpiper in full regalia to come in and play for her and she died just a few days later.

This holiday season, the Senior Wish Foundation relies on the support of the community as a whole to make sure these wishes come true and these needs are fulfilled. This includes, she says, speaking up on behalf



While most people are now beginning their Christmas shopping, Aurora's Ingrid Davis is getting ready to make the wishes of others come true – with your help.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

of local seniors in need, whether they are caregivers or family members, or seniors themselves taking that brave first step in making their voices heard, she said.

"At Christmastime, people can drop off gifts, but they can also contact me and I can call places like Cobblestone Lodge to see if they can donate their time to take somebody out for a walk, take them Christmas shopping, and there is so much they can do," says Ms. Davis. "I like to say that seniors need so little, but they need that little so much.

"It doesn't mean buying them things, it means spending time talking and going for coffee. The only thing you need to be is consistent with that. You can't do it once a month or whenever you feel like it."

She notes as time goes on, there is an interesting trend when it comes to active seniors living in retirement communities or assisted living residents when it comes to seniors who might be housebound or in nursing homes.

"What has been satisfying is these retirement places are contacting me to say, 'How can we contribute? We have a knitting club and all the knitters want to make blankets and mittens and hats for the people at the long-term care centre.' It is all going around, but what is awesome is they're starting to contact me and ask how they can help. To me, that is what it is all about."

For more information on the Senior Wish Foundation, including how to help, and drop off locations for items, visit www.SeniorWish.org or call 905-717-0135.

Donations can be dropped off at the Hollandview Trail Retirement Community (200 John West Way). This year's requests include calendars, large print books, slippers, perfume, and more.

Briefly

HOLIDAY HEROES

The 2013 Holiday Heroes campaign is up and running, asking the community to be "heroes" to families in need during this holiday season. The campaign launched Tuesday and continues through December 16. 100 per cent of all donations directly support children in need throughout the community by providing a helping hand to the Salvation Army and the York Region Children's Aid Society. Unwrapped toys, new children's clothing, gift cards, and even Canadian Tire money can be dropped off at the York Regional Police headquarters in Aurora, located at 47 Don Hillock Drive.

OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

Aurora's Marquee Theatrical Productions brings up the curtain on The Wizard of Oz this Thursday. The latest production of the theatre company will present a musical based on the classic 1939 film following Dorothy and Toto, along with the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion, all on their way to see the Wizard. The show runs on select dates through November 26 at Newmarket Theatre. For ticket information, visit www.newtix.ca.

FOOD DRIVE IS A SUCCESS

Neighbourhood Network had another bumper crop of donations last week for its annual Fall Food Drive. Volunteers fanned out through Aurora, Newmarket, East Gwillimbury and Georgina for this year's drive, collecting 367 full bags of food. A record \$4,698.24 was raised, all of which will be donated back to local food banks.









Letters to the editor

Magna Hoedown funds have opened up doors

Last month, The Optimist Club of Aurora was invited to attend the York Regional Police's Reception for their Eco-trip Program.

The Club donated funds toward this program that helps "at risk" youth gain self-confidence, trust, and a better way to live their life through mentorship, skills training and support.

As it turned out, the reception was actually a graduation

In attendance were the participants of this year's Eco-Trip. their parents, the mentors, and the YRP Officers who have worked on the program.

Each participant received a certificate and a letter of reference from the York Regional Police. The youth were invited to speak about their experiences. Some read prepared speeches that described how the program changed their lives.

Others took to the microphone and gave very heartfelt speeches about how they did not want to go, yet after attending, they not only learned a great deal about themselves, but now have a new respect for themselves and others.

It was very evident how much of an impact this program made in the lives of these youth. The rapport between the participants and the mentors was strong. Many took away simple but important life lessons, such as learning:

how to accept healthy teasing in the fun sense that it is

to trust, not only their mentors, but more importantly, each other;

that Police Officers are human beings with fears, concerns, and cares like everyone else;

not to judge people on first impressions;

to overcome fear and move forward to accomplish something that they felt was not achievable.

The highlight of the evening was the thanks and appreciation that the parents of the youths expressed to The Optimist Club of Aurora. Many told Club members how valuable the program was to their son or daughter. It was heartfelt and genuine.

The Optimist Club of Aurora would like to thank Magna for selecting the Club to be a recipient of the 2012 Hoedown funds which enabled them to support local youth and programs like

Optimist Club of Aurora

Recognizing long-standing businesses

As part of The Town of Aurora's four-week promotional campaign to celebrate the importance of our business community, I am pleased to support and highlight the upcoming York Region Business Series conference: Business Innovation in Changing Times at The Mansion Events Centre on November 15.

This conference offers an excellent opportunity to network with highly successful entrepreneurs and see how their innovative approach to business propelled them to success. It features an exceptional line-up of speakers, including Ian Proudfoot of Metroland Media, Bruce Harbinson of TEC Canada, Lee-Anne McAlear from York University's prestigious Schulich School of Business, and Magna International Founder Frank Stronach, who will deliver the conference's keynote

Tickets are still available for \$125 at YRBizSeries.ca. For those unable to attend, you can follow the conference conversation on Twitter at #YRBizSeries.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe



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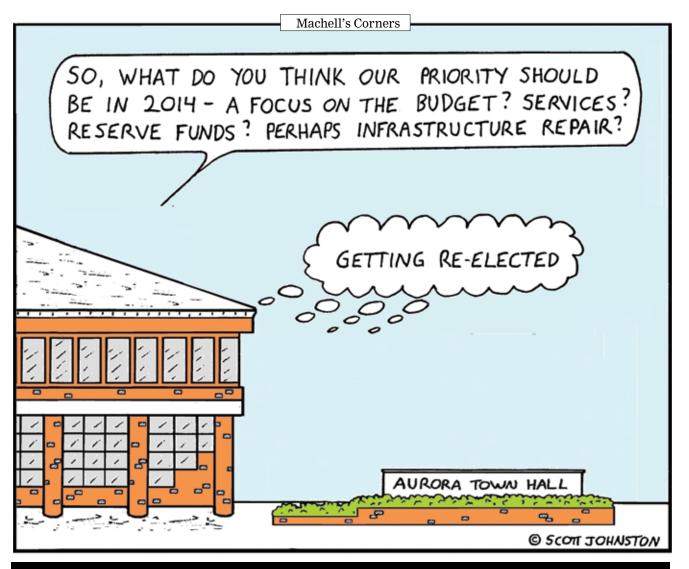
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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.



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

Reclaiming Private Allen Smith

It was encouraging once again to see such healthy crowds gathered to remember the fallenth is RemembranceDay, and the ceremonies preceding it at the Aurora Cenotaph on Sunday morning.

It is a time to reflect not only on members of your own family who were directly impacted by the wars, the hundreds of thousands of men and women, young and old, the memories of whom have become slightly faded over time, but are no less important.

Chances are, with the same passage of time, their relatives are no longer among us. The descendants they left behind might have moved away and moved on, content with the memories they have or the stories that have been passed down the generations.

As I wrote last week, I am very proud of my family's own military service. I shared how my greatgrandparents ultimately, and perhaps unusually, found each other on the front. I recalled their son, born less than two months before the war ended, was my grandfather.

What I didn't mention, however, was my grandfather would go on to serve in the Second World War, this time in the RCAF and the RAF before getting shot down over Norway and captured by the Axis as he and his fellow wounded crew were just metres away from neutrality in Sweden

He served four years as a POW and. before being liberated, had a walk-on role in what was ultimately rebranded as The Great Escape. While all this was going on, his mother, our heroine of last week, returned to the nursing profession, proudly wearing her Silver Cross throughout the remainder of the war, under the mistaken belief shared with the government that her son was missing and presumed dead.

For her, I can only imagine her relief when she was able to take off the Silver Cross, but thousands upon thousands of mothers were unable to experience the same sensation.

Each year, wherever I happen to be for Remembrance Day, I stand proud in the honour and memory of their service. But still, I stood slightly apart. After all, my grandfather and his parents survived their respective wars. For whatever reason, something was



on their side, and they returned from Europe physically unscathed, despite the emotional scarring. It might sound silly, but I almost felt like an interloper.

That changed significantly for me on Saturday, however. Last summer, after months of digging, I finally uncovered the burial records of her parents. Since then, I've had a burning desire to track them down and pay my respects. Oddly enough, it turns out they were buried relatively close by, in a town called Greenbank, just northeast of Uxbridge.

Time had never been on my side to get out there, but some feeling nagged at me that if I was ever going to go, Saturday was the best day to do it. So, I did – and the reasons became all too

Hunting through the Bethel Methodist Cemetery, I found the slightly faded red tombstone of my great-great-grandparents, Elkanah A. Smith and Samantha V. Grant. Below their names listed two of their children who predeceased them and, at the bottom, an In Memoriam marker:

ALLEN LLOYD 15th BTTN C.E.F **BORN 1892. KILLED IN ACTION** ON THE SOMME. SEPT. 26, 1916 **AGED 24 YEARS**

he was. There memorial to my great-great uncle, Allen Lloyd Smith - a young man I have never heard mentioned, who fell with his comrades in one of Canada's most important and lengthy collection of battles, remembered in Canada only with a footnote on his parents' graves, a memory lost to the sands of time, killed on the front before the birth of any of my closest relatives.

Preliminary research through the

Canadian Virtual War Memorial, an invaluable online resource through Veterans Affairs Canada, confirms the service of Private Allan Lloyd Smith [sic] who indeed died on September 26, 1916, complete with the service number 437858.

It confirms the details on the grave adding that although his burial is likely unknown and anonymous, his name is among the thousands memorialised on the iconic memorial at Vimy Ridge.

The Virtual War Memorial produced a small clipping, complete with his photo in uniform, which appeared in the February 4, 1916 edition of the Renfrew Mercury, celebrating his enlistment. The next clipping, dated October 27 of the same year, confirmed his death along with six other young men hailing from Renfrew County.

This discovery, as discoveries like this so often do, has led to more questions than provided answers. Last week, I questioned what inspired my young great-grandmother, Ruby, then not yet 20, to take her nurse's training, pack her bags, and cross the Atlantic to serve at the front.

Now, I have a possible answer above the obvious of answering the call of King and Country. Was she inspired by her brother, two years her senior? Did she have a degree of well-intentioned naiveté that if she was on the front as a nurse, she might – just might – be able to do her part to keep Allen out of harm's way?

It can't be a simple coincidence, the article on Allen's enlistment, which he signed while working for the Western Carriage Company in Edmonton, was published on February 4. Ruby enlisted in Toronto on February 3.

So, this year, rather than simply remembering the wartime service of Dr. Russell L. Parr, his eventual wife, nurse Ruby A. Smith, and their pilot son William R. Parr, I focused my moment of silence on my great-great uncle. Allen, lying anonymously in France, memorialised in a very small cemetery in rural Ontario and until Saturday, an uncle I never knew I had.

He and his comrades remain at rest, presumably near where they fell, but nearly a century on, the forgotten memory of at least one soldier has been firmly repatriated.

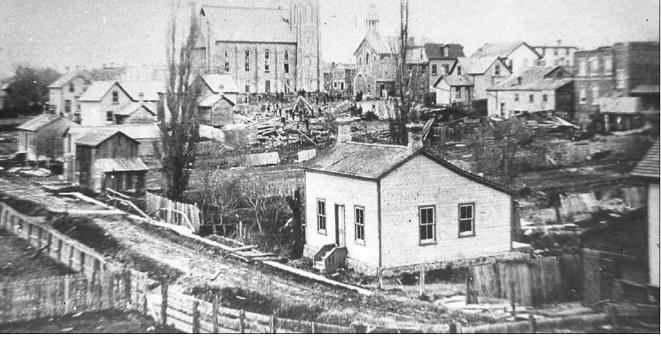
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- (c) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

C Α



Above is a vintage streetscape, a relative shambolic scene post-storm, but despite it all, some of the buildings in this frame survive today, even pre-dating Aurora. In this next installment of historian John McIntyre's history of pre-1863 Aurora, let's focus on the building in the foreground, which should be pretty easy to find today given some of the still-standing landmarks in the background. **Photo courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society**

What Happened to Civility and Ethics?

FRANKLY

Frank Klees

Toronto's Mayor, still reeling from the previous week's revelations about his questionable encounters with criminal elements, admits to smoking crack cocaine.

The vultures circle and an unseemly spectacle unfolds that is reminiscent of the ancient bloody gladiatorial games.

Former friends and allies could be seen jockeying for position, even while it was evident that at centre stage was a desperate, wounded man. That those wounds were self-inflected is not the issue. At issue is the lack of civility and the overriding self-interest that was on display for all to see.

The feeding frenzy by the media was disturbing to watch. The insatiable public hunger for the details of this unfolding tragedy was unnerving. The gloating by political foes was offensive.

Playing out in Canada's Senate, the "place of sober second thought" so termed by our first Prime Minister, was a similar tragedy play. Centre stage was the historic turfing of three senators by their colleagues for inappropriate expense claims.

Despite an appeal for democratic process by many, including Conservative Senator Hugh Segal, the three were banished and would serve as sacrificial lambs for the redemption of many whose own conduct may be in need of a similar cleansing.

As troubled as I was over what I was observing in those two political arenas, even more disturbing was the callous lack of civility that played out on the floor of our own legislature over the course of that same week.

Health Minister Refuses to Approve Life-saving Drug

Following the typical ebb and flow between leaders and party Premier during

Question Period, my colleague MPP Ted Chudleigh made this impassioned plea to Health Minister Deb Mathews on behalf of his constituent:

"Minister, five days ago you joined this assembly in a standing ovation for Kimm Fletcher, a mother of two with brain cancer. Later, in a private meeting, you promised to review her file to investigate why she's being denied OHIP coverage for the drug Avastin, a drug she so desperately needs.....I ask if the minister has in fact reviewed the

What followed was a low point in my eighteen years in the Legislature.

As you read the minister's response, keep in mind that two Premiers -Dalton McGuinty and Kathleen Wynne admitted in sworn testimony that the decision to cancel two gas plants at a cost of more than a billion dollars was

decision" to save Liberal seats.

"I think it's very important evervone in this House acknowledges that we do have a protocol in place, a protocol that removes political interference from decisions around what drugs are funded and

whom.'

My colleagues and I were stunned by this callous response. Yes, there are protocols, but there are also extenuating circumstances that call for intervention. If there was ever a time for a minister to intervene, this was it.

A mother of two young children, who according to doctors would not see Christmas without the benefit of this drug, and the best the minister can do is to recite a briefing note about protocol.

For the next four days, my colleague continued to press the minister on this issue, citing the fact that other provinces cover the cost of the drug for patients under similar circumstances.

In desperation, the appeal was directed to the Premier. Here is the Kathleen Wynne's response:

"There is nothing more important

strictly a "political than being able to save people's lives and to have the health care system work. But part of that is taking the politics out of these kinds of decisions."

Taking the politics out of these kinds of decisions?

So, in the Premier's universe, she can justify making a "political decision" if it will save seats for the Liberal party, but when it comes to approving a drug that would extend a life, politics should be taken out of that decision.

I will make an admission here. In the eighteen years that I have had the privilege of serving as an MPP, some of the most gratifying experiences I can recall were made possible when I was able to exercise my influence as an MPP for the benefit of constituents.

Often, that meant that existing protocol had to be over-ruled, whether that involved facilitating access to a hospital or long term care bed, a cancer drug, MRI or an emergency airlift back to Ontario.

I make no apologies for exercising that influence in the public interest.

The Minister of Health has the authority to make a life-extending drug available to Kimm Fletcher. Not only does she have the authority, I believe she has a moral and ethical obligation

www.frankklees.com

Less is More

It's now coming up to mid- enough going on in November, so you know what that your life already just means? Yes, Christmas is just around the corner.

I know, you've only recently managed to offload the last of the Halloween candy left over from the rainy, wet and unusually child-free October 31, and still have a poppy on your jacket, but there's no time to rest between the seasons.

In fact, you're probably already running behind on your annual Christmas to-do list.

After all, there's only six weeks left time. to decorate the house, buy presents, wrap packages, send cards (or e-mails), coordinate and/or attend a bunch of holiday parties, children's school plays and other activities, spend too much time with relatives you don't see most of the rest of the year, bake, cook and overeat, do some volunteer work, and generally run around in a frazzle not having enough time to do everything.

Oh, and most importantly, you have to take time to relax and enjoy it all.

As if that's likely to happen. Because, if you're like me, there's

dealing with family activities, your job, housework, errands appointments, and and everything else that seems to occupy our lives 24/7. And being occupied 24/7 means there's 0/7 left to fit in all the seasonal stuff.

That's not much

Even if you manage to find a bit

of elbow room in your schedule, that six weeks, which may sound like a lot of time, really isn't. So, if you do want to get in all of your traditional holiday activities, don't wait.

This is because it's a well-known scientific fact that time accelerates this time of year.

One minute you're thinking "It's only a month till Christmas - I'll have to get those decorations up outside when I get a chance", and the next thing you know, it's December 24th,





snowstorm. staring at a pile of entangled Christmas lights that you just randomly stuffed into the box when you took them down the previous year, and which are now entwined into a Gordian knot of such complexity that it would require several merit badge-seeking Cub Scouts at least a week to disentangle.

One small plus is that we won't be afforded the opportunity to forget that the season is upon us, or even procrastinate, when we're being bombarded with all manner of seasonal sensory reminders over the next month and a half. Newspaper ads, fliers, commercials, store displays, TV specials, and you know the non-stop all-Christmas carol radio stations will start ramping up soon.

So, brace yourself for the onslaught. But there is a way to help survive

and you're out in your the chaos of the season, and even get driveway in a howling into the spirit. That's by reducing your expectations, cutting back your to-do list, and taking things on in manageable chunks.

> After all, it is a time for reflection and enjoyment, so you don't have to do everything, even those things you do every year.

> Just choose a few annual traditions, and enjoy doing them in a sane timeframe.

> And if that means you don't install all those neon reindeer on your roof this year, or your third cousins twice removed won't be getting cards, or you only bake one type of Christmas cookie instead of the usual eighteen, so be it.

> Trust me, you'll appreciate doing less a lot more.

> Who knows, doing away with or scaling back a previous practice or two each year to give yourself some time to enjoy the season may even become your new holiday tradition.

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



Antonio Peluso and Siena Thalassinos are shown taking part in the bike lab at Villanova.

Submitted photo.

Villanova College is bringing science to life

Outdoor Bike Lab integrates STEM into the Grade 8 Science and Math classes.

By Wallace Pidgeon

Who knew science and math could be so much fun? And be brought to life with practical experience outside the classroom? The Grade 8 Science and Math students at Villanova College's Middle School do.

Last week, Grade 8 students left the classroom, shared their bikes and participated in an outdoor bike lab – and this was no ordinary bike ride.

This was a field research and data collection exercise, the kind of practical and real life experience that is part of the learning culture at Villanova College.

Teachers Gianpiero De Rose and Qb Mascarenhas are only two of the many faculty members who are committed to bringing Math and Science to life by integrating the STEM pathway learning curriculum into various outside the classroom learning experiences.

STEM represents the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Practical, real-life experiences create a "cool" factor that inspire a love for learning in these budding engineers, mathematicians and scientists

"Engaging kids in active learning," explained Mr. Mascarenhas, Villanova College's Upper School Physics Teacher. "The STEM program is based on engaging [more students] in math and science using technology and practical applications.'

Mr. Mascarenhas brings over a decade's worth of practical engineering experience from industry.

The practical application of math and science is not lost on Mr. DeRose who teaches Grade 7 and 8 Science and Math. "STEM is about escaping the textbook and trying to give students real-world experiences," added DeRose.

The outdoor bike lab is one of many practical labs students are exposed to.

'We start the year off with our mechanisms unit which is the physics unit for our elementary curriculum and we have just finished studying simple machines; wheels and axles, gears, and inclined planes," he explained. "So, in keeping with the philosophy of giving our curriculum real word application, we feel this lab is a great teaching opportunity. Most kids have a bike or, at the very least, have ridden a bike but don't understand how it works.

"This lab takes students' prior knowledge from classroom teaching and has them apply it to real-world scenarios. It is important to take learning outside the classroom because the more we, as teachers, challenge students to think in unconventional ways, the more significant the learning experience. Teaching isn't about filling [students'] heads with information. It can, and should, be so much more than

With the hope that none of the students think that math or science is 'boring' the entire Villanova College student experience is engaging and motivates students to learn.

Not surprising the inspiration for an outdoor bike lab came to Mr. De Rose outside the classroom on the annual field trip to Ottawa and Montreal two years ago. During a $\bar{\text{bike tour}}$ along the Rideau Canal, Mr. De Rose realized that his students really didn't capture the whole premise around gear ratios and mechanical advantage.

Siena Thalassinos and Antonio Peluso were partners and they soon understood this activity as being about more than just riding a bike – it was a math and science experiment.

"The bike lab in science class is to see the differences in gears, the difficulties in riding on different surfaces, seeing if it's easier or harder to do," Siena explained.

"It's basically mechanical advantage," Antonio added. "We are trying to find what gear ratio has more of a mechanical advantage in different terrains."

The exercise is about finding out if there is a gear relationship to the level of difficulty.

"We want to see different ratios of gears and how they work and if riding is easier or harder on a lower gear,' continued Siena.

In class, Mr. DeRose has taught the students that mechanical advantage is designed most of the time to make things easier. Now, outside the classroom, the students are experiencing the effects firsthand. This is STEM in action.

Next May, when Villanova College's Grade 8 class travels to Ottawa they will truly see how these concepts are put it into practice on their bike tour around the Rideau Canal.

Letter to the editor

Where are hockey and soccer, asks reader

This is an open letter to the executives of both the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) and Aurora Minor Hockey Association (AMHA).

volunteer a assisting the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, was disappointed Town Council when recently decided not to financially support the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Ву an interesting twist of Council politics and Council's apparent divisiveness along philosophical certain lines (Sport Aurora), a motion to support the Hall of Fame and the Inaugural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was defeated.

Fortunately, Mayor Dawe recognized the importance of the Hall of Fame and stepped up and donated \$5,000 from the Mayor's Golf Tournament. The first Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on November 6, 2013 and it was one of the finest ceremonies ever produced in Aurora. Clearly, an absolute milestone for sport in Aurora.

attendance In was Mayor Dawe Councillors and Humfryes Abel, and Thompson supporting the likes of inductees Frank Stronach, Jim Elder, Brian Stemmle, Cal Bouchard, Norm Stunden, Hap Holmes and Bob Bedard.

The divisiveness at Town Hall seems to pit Councillors Gaertner, Gallo, Buck and Ballard against Mayor Dawe and Councillors Humphries. Pirri, Thompson and Abel. We have seen these philosophical before on other issues. This Council party line is not the issue I am concerned with. The voters of this town can deal with this in next year's election and I hope you do.

Councillors Buck, Gaertner, Ballard and Gallo have apparently questioned why the Town should support Sport Aurora and recently even questioned why they should be allowed space at Town Hall when the AYSC and the AMHA refuse to spend the \$25 membership fee to join the voice of sport in Aurora.

Rather than offer solutions to get these organizations to ioin Aurora they Sport argue against the very organization incorporates 28 that other fellow organizations this community. argument as far as I have been able to determine is that why the Town should support an organization that includes 28 sports organizations but not the largest two in hockey and soccer.

These two organizations utilize millions of dollars of soccer fields and arenas owned by the Town (and indirectly the citizens of Aurora) yet they refuse to be part of an organization that exists to promote all sports in our community. That position ignores how all sports organizations can help each other.

My open question to the executives of both organizations is why? Why have you decided to cease being members of Sport Aurora? Why have you refused to be part of the Sport Breakfast Aurora Champions? Why are you putting the very existence of this volunteer organization in jeopardy by boycotting it? Why are you enabling the arguments Councillors Buck, Gallo, Gaertner and Ballard when joining is so simple?

> **Gerry Miller** Aurora



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Aurora takes leap forward in making new museum a reality

By Brock Weir

Groups could be getting ready to put their best foot forward to prove they're the right people for the job in reestablishing Aurora's museum.

Councillors are set to approve a process this week which would get the ball rolling on securing museum services for the Aurora Collection. The Town formally took ownership of the Aurora Collection, thousands of artefacts collected and curated over the last 50 years by the Aurora Historical Society in August.

In a report before Councillors at the Committee level last week, Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, developed a process for prequalified bidders which would evaluate submissions on the team's qualifications, experience, familiarity with the collection and the overall quality of the plan. On the shortlist of prequalified proponents were the Cultural Asset Management Group, which was recently tasked with doing a complete review, evaluation and appraisal of the collection, the Aurora Historical Society and the Aurora Cultural Centre.

The proposed RFP, as it stood last week, would give 35 per cent of the score for the exhibition of artefacts, including a minimum of three displays a year in the Aurora Room at the Cultural Centre. 25 per cent for costs, five per cent for value added items, and 35 per cent for the care of the collection.

"The Aurora Collection has suffered over the past number of years through lack of resources for the appropriate care, maintenance, and storage of practices, said Mr. Downey in his report. "As such, a requirement of the RFP will have to have a qualified curator identified as part of the team at the time of submission."

Councillors, however, struck off the curator as an immediate requirement for the contract, as well as the requirement for three unique displays, suggesting it should be up to the proponents to show their creativity.

"I would hate for somebody to be precluded from the evaluation of their proposal because at the time of their submission they don't have a qualified curator here," said Councillor Michael Thompson.

A similar view was put forward by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

"They could be fully willing to [have a curator], but why would they go out and hire a person on speculation?" he asked. "I think it would be very easy to change the wording that they must have a qualified curator within 30 days. We're not working on supersonic speed on this particular project."

For Councillor Chris Ballard, requiring proponents to name names when it comes to a curator could put possible qualified proponents out of the running through no fault of their own, he said. While he said he agreed the collection had "suffered" in past years because of a "lack of resources" for the

artefacts, he said he believed there was a better way forward.

"I think that we would exclude too many possible proponents from being able to submit and I think, as has been stated, that we have to be a little more flexible," he said. "We have to look at information on how the collection will be taken care of, rather than just putting the name up of a curator and their academic credentials. I don't think any local organization is going to go out and hire a curator for a proposal when they don't know if they are going to get it or not."

Of the three pre-qualified groups, only the Aurora Historical Society and the Cultural Asset Management Group have a curator under contract. As for why the Cultural Centre was included within the group, Mr. Downey said he feels they have the "capability" of bringing someone on board, or identifying someone at the very least when they come forward.

'There is a need to make sure they have identified a curator in their proposal," said Mr. Downey. "We're not asking them to identify who they plan on engaging because part of that proposal is a fee and I don't know how you identify how much

proper care and maintenance of the you are willing to pay this individual if you don't know who this individual is."

Some Councillors, however, were in favour of keeping the recommendations as they were.

"I want to make sure we have a museum that will be cared for and the experience of a curator is absolutely critical to the maintenance of these artefacts," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes, a long-time advocate for a new museum. "If you don't have that curator involvement at the time of submission, I am not sure how these things could be answered without that qualification."

Councillor Evelyn Buck, on the other hand, has long been a proponent of having a curator as a Town employee. She said she maintains that position.

"I am glad to see this move, but I would like to see where that money is coming from," said Councillor Buck. "I think they are spending more than enough [in this field] now. The Cultural Centre has a \$370,000 grant and the Historical Society last year had \$60,000. We can't add to that. That's where the resource has to come from. We can't keep adding to the tax burden for the same purpose."

Breakthrough Treatment

Councillor will "step aside" if he secures nomination

From page 1

and I am prepared to do that. This area has been my home my entire life, and I think it is time we improve the quality of representation we're getting at Queen's Park."

With scandal and controversy still swirling around the Liberal government of Premier Kathleen Wynne, as it did in the last days of her predecessor, Councillor Ballard said he is ready to tackle them, adding Premier Wynne has been "a phenomenal leader in addressing those issues" and he will be prepared to tackle the questions head-on.

"I hear from [residents] jobs and the economy very important, transportation is very important, environment is very important and what can be done to build more sustainable communities Newmarket-Aurora," he said. "I think they are absolutely critical to what I want to put on the table. My focus will be to do what I have done as a Councillor - listen to people, understand what their concerns are and match those concerns with appropriate actions at Queen's Park."

As for his time as I can make a contribution Councillor-and, if selected as the local candidate, that time could be up as early as January - he said he wants to focus on getting Aurora's "financial house in order", something he says is one of the biggest issues facing this Council. This can be seen in potential debt financing for big ticket items like the Joint Operations Centre and Community Space for Youth, set for final approval this week, he added.

"We have to give our heads a shake and re-evaluate these projects."

Councillor Ballard will launch his campaign this Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Theatre Aurora – a symbolic choice he says, as that was the King native's first introduction to Aurora as a youngster.

Looking ahead, he rejects any criticism that could come from residents would welcome him as chalking this up as looking for an opportunity to jump to the next level.

"When I first decided to run for Council, I had no expectations of making politics a career beyond some time in municipal government, but as the months and years have gone by, I have seen where to the quality of lives in our communities at a municipal level.

"I think representation is representation and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the citizens of Aurora. I have spent the last few months listening to people and asking them what they want in terms of representation at a different level at Queen's Park and I am quite comfortable in saying I will continue to work for the people of Aurora, whether on Town Council or Queen's Park."

So far, among the three parties currently represented in Queen's Park, Mr. Klees is the only confirmed candidate. He says he welcomes Councillor Ballard into the fray.

"Chris has always conducted himself in a very respectful way as a Councillor and I a provincial candidate," said Mr. Klees. "I assume may have some competition for the candidacy, so it remains to be seen who will end up as the Liberal candidate. Whoever that may be, it won't be easy defending the McGuinty-Wynne record."

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years ago if you were told that lasers would replace scalpels in surgery or that robotic instruments would build cars: you may not have believed it. By the same token, would you believe that chiropractic treatments could be performed using a special hand-held instrument developed by NASA scientist; all while you were sitting in an upright position without any turning or twisting movements?

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It can also help increase the amount of motion in almost any joint. Even patients with knee, hip, and foot problems such as plantar fasciitis are being helped. It is also covered by insurance companies since this is a chiropractic treatment and does not cost you anything additional.

Dr. Eastmen says that "The secret to the Pro-Adjuster lies in its advanced piezoelictric sensor that is able to detect the slightest amount of restriction in a joint and then deliver an extremely precise adjustment." He says that "Even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to



Dr. Eastman uses the Proadjuster to analyze a atient's spine and pinpoint areas of nerve impingement syndrome causing malfunction

how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially in the neck. Many people love getting adjusted with traditional manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way," says Dr. Eastman. Now, there is no longer a reason to be weary. The ProAdjuster is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn't vet made that decision. Dr. Eastman wants everyone to be able to experience these same

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Popular Christmas Home Tour returns to Aurora this week for second year

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Gowan Court will be hopping this week as two local homes join five others here and in King as part of the second annual Aurora Christmas Home Tour.

Homeowners Christine and Charles Doke are putting the finishing touches on their home this week with designer Mary Klein of Aurora Paint and Decorating, to create that perfect blend of "glam" and tradition, all in the name of raising money for children's charities.

"I have to dust!" said Ms. Doke with a laugh on what's left on her todo list, as Ms. Klein and designers from Bradford Greenhouses scurried around the home finding last-minute inspiration for their final game plan.

"I think these ladies are going to take over and just come through like a whirlwind. I will come through the door here one day and it will all be

Ms. Doke said it was the combination of being able to open her home and contribute to charity which sealed the deal to offer her home as part of the tour. Mary approached her, and while they have been working together on their vision, Ms. Doke says she's very much let Mary take the lead.

"We want to create a warm and inviting space," said Ms. Klein. "Growing up, we would decorate our house as a family and we

would always have great is also very much a family big family events leading up to Christmas.

"I thought this was a very doable space. Her exterior is very beautiful and I thought we could really work with a great colour scheme and an idea of what we're trying to portray. It's what we're all about at Aurora Paint and Decorating and we hope people coming through will see that."

While they are working on creating and recreating the traditions of yore, Ms. Klein has coaxed the Dokes into foregoing their regular colour schemes into something a little more adventurous and

"We're definitely doing a completely different colour scheme than what they were used to," says Ms. Klein. "They have done golds and reds in the past, and now we're incorporating plumbs, pewters and soft greys, so it will be a big switch from what they are used to. She has a lot of other holiday décor that will work nicely with what we're doing, so we're incorporating both.

"We took the lead, I made sure she was okay with plumbs. It would be terrible if you were walking around your home and you just had these colours that are not to your style!"

has a few surprises left up her sleeve for the family, the Dokes are content to sit back and let it all unfold in the lead-up to Friday. It

affair and while Christine and Charles are intent on seeing the finished result, their son is also looking forward to being an active volunteer on the evening, one of many selected to fan out among the homes to welcome and guide people around the home.

"This is definitely about holiday glam," says Ms. Doke. "The house has a casual elegance about it and we want to make sure it has a nice elegance to it, but also a casual feeling while [at the same time] looking like Christmas. I am hoping that some people come into the home and go away with something. There is always one little thing you pick up here and there that you incorporate into your own home.

"This gives people a chance to go around their community, get different ideas, and I am sure they are curious to see some of the interiors of some of their neighbours' homes as well. There is also some curiosity from neighbours on, 'Why the heck would you want to do something like this?!""

For tickets, scheduling information, and more information on charities benefiting from the second annual Aurora Christmas Home Tour, visit www. Although she says she aurorahometour.com. Tickets are also on sale at Niche Décor (242 Earl Stewart Drive), Aurora Paint and Decorating (15216 Yonge Street), or Jonathan's Restaurant (14845 Yonge Street).



Charles and Christine Doke are working with designer Mary Klein, right, putting a new spin on their family home ahead of this week's Aurora Christmas Home Tour. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**





100 years in the making

Mike Caruso is going to new heights getting Caruso & Company ready for their traditional Chrismas Open House this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year, however, there's an extra special spirit in the air as the Yonge Street store marks its 100th

"There has been a lot of reflection on the year," he says. "We have heard a lot of stories of people coming here as kids and remembering their parents coming

So, is there a lot to live up to? Mike says the secret is to keep looking forward and change with the times, but still respecting the past.

'We stick to the tried and true and I think that is what people have come to expect of us," he says.

Events during the open house include special deals on almost everything in store, and performances from Aurora singer Stacey Kaniuk.

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Aurora to take first steps in securing Mavrinac "parkland" from developer

By Brock Weir

Aurora could find itself at odds with developers over the purchase of potential parkland, following a decision made by Councillors last week.

Council is expected to ratify the move this week that would have Aurora flex its muscle in exercising its right of first refusal on a six acre parcel of land on Mavrinac Boulevard, northeast of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street, for the purchase price set out between the Town and the developer, Minto, in 2007

The land was originally earmarked for the York Catholic District School and residents contend they bought their properties based on this land becoming a school - and, failing that, a park. When they heard this land was up for grabs, their neighbours voices were decisive and united that Council needed to secure the land before it was redeveloped with further homes.

Councillors approved the recommendation to exercise the right of first refusal at the Committee level last week for the originally set price, but Warren Mar, Solicitor for the Town of Aurora, cautioned that that might be easier said than done.

"At this time, based on conversations we have had with Minto, there will be challenges in having Minto follow the Council's resolution on that matter," Mr. Mar told Councillors. "We will be reporting back to Council with their response, as well as legal options if necessary."

The motion coming out of closed session ultimately passed 8 – 1, with Councillor Michael Thompson the lone holdout. Those voting in favour said this was a necessary first step in securing the land.

"This is, in my view, the next logical step in the process," said Councillor John Gallo, a vocal proponent of securing the land for the community. "There is a level of commitment [in the resolution] but I think it is

also fair to say it could go in many different directions. I am in full support of taking that first step and seeing where that takes us."

Councillor Sandra
Humfryes said she
too agreed this was an
important first step, and
asked for assurances more
information would be
coming forward on what
Aurora might face as the
next step by November 19.

For Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, going forward is not only a step in the right direction, but also important for Aurora to flex its collective muscle when it comes to its signed agreements.

"I believe we, as a Council, have an obligation to ensure that we are enforcing the terms of the agreements that everybody makes with us in order to ensure that we are doing what's right," said Mayor Dawe. "I think it is also fair for the residents to note that in the same terms and conditions [of the subdivision agreement] is we can abort any sale at any time. Council still has the first right to say, 'No, we don't

want to purchase this land.' Residents need to know that is also out there.

"There a lot of pieces to this puzzle. We do not have them all, regardless of what some might think. We obviously take this seriously. We are very concerned about this, but I think it comes down to the fact Council has an obligation to ensure agreements can be enforced."

This was a view in line with those of Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who added Aurora needs to hold "developers and everyone who does business with the Town of Aurora" to honour their agreements.

Councillor Thompson's objection, however, stemmed from these missing pieces to the puzzle. He argued it was in the best interests of Aurora to have all these pieces in place before proceeding forward.

"We heard [one of the residents] speak about being clear and unequivocal," said Councillor Thompson, relating back to three delegations made earlier

in the evening by local residents. "We know it is not. That is why it took an hour and a half to have our conversation. We have said from the beginning that there are pieces to this puzzle that we don't know yet and we need more information.

"We are here to represent all of Aurora and I think before decisions are made it is incumbent upon us to have all those facts before us to make a decision and not rush to judgement."

Although they ultimately supported the motion on the floor, similar views were put forward by Councillors Evelyn Buck and Chris Ballard. Councillor Buck said she was able to support the motion because it was "a first step in the discovery" of what the possibilities are. She said she agreed with Councillor Thompson that "Decisions are not always black and white" and, before one comes down on one side or the other, they need to know all the angles.

"This is a form of discovery," she said. "What are our strengths? What are

our options? In giving this direction to staff, we will discover that."

Added Councillor Ballard: "I look forward to that information being put on the table so people can more fully appreciate the decisions that we have to make."

Lawyer John Mascarin is expected to make the case on behalf of Minto Communities at this week's Council meeting.

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Buying parkland would be for the greater good, argue neighbours

By Brock Weir

Neighbours around Aurora's Mavrinac Boulevard said they had more than just a nice house in mind when purchasing their home – it was all about location.

That is the point they drove home last week, appearing before Council to make impassioned arguments on why Aurora should buy a six acre plot of land in the middle of their neighbourhood. Rather than it being a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) concern, it is something of which the entire town should sit up and take notice, they argued.

"Council's responsibility includes considering the needs of all Aurora when making these decisions," said resident Nahla Khouri, of the possibility before Council of exercising their right of first refusal to purchase the land, which residents argue should remain a parkland. "We think this includes ensuring all of Aurora has equivalent and fair access to properties.

"In our view, the acquisition of the land at issue and its conversion to a park is in the best

interests of all of Aurora. If the Town is actually committed to remedying the deficit of parkland as outlined in the [Parks and Recreation] Master Plan, purchasing this particular lot is one of the most financially prudent ways to deliver on that commitment. It will save Aurora money."

It will be cost effective forAurora to buy the land for three reasons, she argued. The first is residents through the purchase of their homes, have already contributed \$2 million for Aurora's Cash in Lieu of Parkland. The second is this money has gone into a much larger pot for park purchases. The third, she added, is the agreement holds the purchase price at the land at the time when the agreement was executed, translating into a much better market value.

"It is unlikely any land in Aurora will be available for such a favourable price," she concluded. "As such, we believe the Town should acquire this land for the benefit of all Aurora and benefit our subdivision in particular, which has already paid a significant portion of the cost."

The benefit Aurora as a whole was a common refrain heard from neighbours in the Council chambers last week. Joining Ms. Khouri earlier in the evening at the podium was Cathy Woods, who underscored what she viewed as a shortfall of parkland overall in the northeast section of Aurora. She also highlighted views expressed during a raucous public meeting held last month that residents believe they could, in the end, be burned, for the "premiums" they paid to back onto a school or park.

"These families intentionally chose those lots under the belief they would eventually back onto a school or a park," said Ms. Woods. "Many of them paid a premium to back onto a future school or park. We understand how the land positioned to us by the builder is not the responsibility of the Town, but it does not take away from the fact our hopes for this land include green space and the Town is in a position to make this

"The bottom line is our neighbourhood needs more parks and it is the right thing to do. A park would provide much needed public space for our community, would best serve the needs of our neighbourhood and would benefit Aurora as a whole. Our neighbourhood specifically is made up of many young families.

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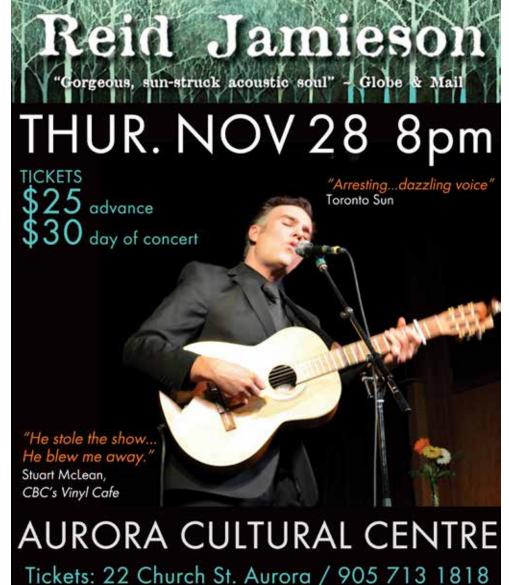
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We chose Aurora as the place where we would build our families and our futures. We want to live in a community that is safe and enjoyable, and this involves having safe public space for our children to play and members of our community to gather."



Listen for the Bells – the annual Salvation Army Kettle Drive is back. Major Brian Bishop (foreground) was joined at Monday's campaign launch by Trudi Coxhead, the first volunteer of the year, Councillor John Abel, Jim Allen of the Central York Fire Services, Glennanne Phillips of the Salvation Army, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, and Aurora CAO Neil Gar-

Auroran photo by David Falconer



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firs! Marble ensuites! "Look-out"

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†based on IMS Stats Aurora Offices





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Year-long AFLC shutdown to begin this week, pending Council's approval of "Youth Centre"

By Brock Wei

The doors could be closed and the contactors could be coming into the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) as early as this Wednesday to make way for extensive renovations to the rec centre.

The renovations, which will include overhauls of fitness and gym areas, as well as new program spaces for youth, are expected to get final approval by Councillors this week after lengthy debate at the Committee level last Tuesday.

"This is hopefully the conclusion of a 13 year road to get to this point," said Al Downey, Aurora's Parks and Recreation Director, highlighting the work going into what started off as a project for Aurora's new Youth Centre.

The new \$7.5 million plan includes not just overhauls of the existing spaces, but also a new climbing wall for youth, and an outdoor skate park.

Despite numerous studies and reports on the Community Space for Youth or Youth Centre – the name depends on who you ask – Councillors remain at odds over the project.

"We have been waiting far too long for this," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe on the youth space. "It is 12 years in the making, so I think we are doing what we should be doing for our residents. I was at the Seniors' Centre for lunch on Wednesday and they said, "We're really looking forward to the changes in the Complex."

A more significant step on the barometer, he said, was a lunch later that week with the Able Network, an Aurora-based support group providing work and community opportunities for intellectually challenged adults in the area. Able Network members are also active members of the AFLC's fitness programs and, as such, weighed in on the closure.

"One of the directors said, 'Yes, it is an inconvenience, but we will manage," said Mayor Dawe of their thoughts on

the impending year-long closures, which will see most of the programming shifted over to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex for the next year. "An inconvenience? Absolutely, But, I think what we're going to end up with more than outweighs the inconvenience."

Others, however, were not so sure. Councillors Chris Ballard and Evelyn Buck had previously expressed similar viewpoints on the location and the viability of the youth space. Although both were initially against the concept, Councillor Buck said last week she accepted the previous majority decision of Council to move ahead with the project. The same cannot be said for Councillor Ballard.

"For me, there is a fundamental question I still have," he said. "What started out as a Youth Centre and the debate about a Youth Centre has ended up becoming the renovation of the existing Aurora Family Leisure Complex. I have real concerns and I think most members of the Leisure Centre would agree.

"We have heard from many of them who were surprised at what was going to happen because they thought we were talking about an additional building, or an addition to the existing facility. They didn't think – nor did I – that what we were really talking about was an extensive renovation of an existing facility."

Councillor Ballard argued that if a complete overhaul was the intention at the outset that that was something which should have been subject to a standalone debate. The fact they have been rolled into one issue, he added, has left him very "unhappy" with the project.

Nevertheless, the majority came down in favour of moving full steam ahead with the plan last week.

"It is long overdue," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes. "We need to have a youth centre for our youth to belong. I sometimes find it surprising that we don't see value in spending this money for our future. We want them to have

some place to hang out and learn and there are going to be resources available to them that are not available today. I think it is valuable money well spent."

Also coming down in favour of the project was Councillor Paul Pirri. Councillor Pirri has been somewhat of a wildcard in the debate, initially pushing for an alternate location for the Youth Centre in vacant retail space. He has nevertheless come around to the AFLC.

During last week's discussions, however, he squared off with Councillor Wendy Gaertner over differing views on how the AFLC facility will be used.

"For me, I come up with two per cent of this whole project, and all of this money that is going to be spent, is going to be actually dedicated to youth, so I don't know how people around this table keep referring to this as a youth centre," she said.

Councillor Pirri, on the other hand, said this rests on the time of day in question. While youth are in school, most of the space will be available to other community groups, particularly seniors, and that is preferable to it sitting empty all day until school is out, he argued.

"All of the space that has been identified as program space, as far as activity rooms, as far as the climbing wall and gymnasium, all of that space is going to be priority youth space," concluded Mr. Downey. "100 per cent of that space is going to be used by youth. That is our wish."

As youth space nears approval, Council still at odds over cost, purpose

Ry Brock Wei

Since the ball finally started to roll in this Council term on making a Youth Centre a reality, questions have swirled amongst Councillors on just what constitutes a youth centre versus a community space for youth.

While last week's debate was nothing new, when push came to shove, the ultimate question was whether Aurora can afford it—and whether we can afford not to.

"The price seems to just keep going up and up," said Councillor John Gallo on the recommendations up for Council's approval this week which not only approves a contractor for the over \$7 million project, but also ups the price tag once again, this time by over \$100,000.

"The last time around we had to add another \$356,000 to adjust [the cost]," he continued. "All of this has us somewhere north of \$7 million. All of this is being done when we have significant deficits in our reserve funds where this is coming from."

Just how much is in these reserve funds has also been a matter of considerable debate lately. Council made the decision earlier this summer to consider financing the \$7+ million youth space, along with the \$15 million Joint Operations

Centre, a new facility on Industrial Parkway North combining Aurora's Parks, Recreation, and Works departments under one roof, by borrowing from the Town's \$34 million hydro reserve accounts.

"My issue is I think we are spending beyond our means," said Councillor Gallo. "The project exploded into something that was never contemplated."

According to Dan Elliott, Treasurer for the Town, Aurora's current reserve fund balance at the end of 2013 is projected to be in the neighbourhood of just over \$28 million, including the money in the Hydro Reserves. With more money flowing into coffers by the end of 2014, he said he expects this to be upped to nearly \$29.3 million dollars, with anticipated flows of development charges not included in that amount.

These numbers buoyed arguments by Councillor Michael Thompson.

"We know that the 2C residential development will bring \$40 million in development charge funds for the Town, as well as a projected \$10 million for the development of the business park lands east of Leslie and we all know DCs are for future growth," he said, noting the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex was the last rec space built in Aurora.

Continued on page 23

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Tigers still riding high after two more wins

By Jeff Doner

The Aurora Tigers Junior A squad is riding high after two more wins last week over Mississauga and Orangeville.

In their last 10 games, the Tigers have eight wins, a loss and an overtime loss, helping them rocket into first place in the north division standings.

In that span the Tigers have outscored their opponents 53 – 14.

Defenceman Eric Williams, who has 11 points in his last 10 games, said the Tigers seem to be running on all cylinders.

"Good starts to games has been the key to us for winning and playing a strong 60 minutes and we're looking just to pull away from the rest of the division now," he said.

"I feel pretty good. The power play has been kicking, which has really helped my stats, but the power play is helping our team a lot."

On Friday night the Tigers hosted the Mississauga Chargers at the ACC for what turned out to be a rather onesided affair. According to the shot clock, the Tigers outshot the Chargers 46 – 16.

Williams scored for the Tigers in the first four minutes on the power play to give his team the lead.

Three minutes later, Aurora points leader Kory Kennedy also potted a power play marker to make it 2 – 0 to end the first period.

Williams spoke to the importance of a good start: "We got off to an early lead, which is important to us lately, and got a couple early goals which helped

us get the momentum we wanted," he said.

The second period was more of the same. The Tigers outshot, outworked and out-chanced Mississauga and it showed with a shorthanded goal by Taylor McCloy and another by Curtis Warren.

Kennedy added his second of the game to make it a 5-0 final in favour of the Tigers.

Goalie Andy Munroe

"Good starts to games has been the key to us for winning and playing a strong 60 minutes and we're looking just to pull away from the rest of the division now,"

backstopped the Tigers, turning aside 16 shots for the shutout.

"It felt great. I mean, it was my first shutout as a Tiger, so I was glad to get that one under my belt and keep playing from there," he said after the game.

"The boys made it real easy for me tonight. I only had about 11 shots at the end of two periods, so the boys did a good job. A shutout is a team thing, especially the way we played tonight."

Munroe said he feels as though the Tigers have gotten much better at executing their game plan on a consistent basis.

"We just lost one in Cobourg last week, which was our first loss in a while and I think when our team comes out and plays as hard as we can, we can beat just about anybody in the league. We know we have to work to win a game."

Saturday night, The Tigers again put in a full effort, this time against the Orangeville Flyers.

It was pretty well scoring by committee, as five different Tigers connected for goals. McCloy had two, with Kyle Liu, Warren, Matthew Bernard and Angiolella each adding one. Eric Williams tallied three assists.

Kevin Entmaa got the start in this one, with Orangeville spoiling his shutout bid five minutes into the third period. But he got the win, making 20 saves.

For the first time this season, the Tigers now hold a four point lead over the Newmarket Hurricanes for first place.

Aurora will look to redeem last week's 5 – 1 loss to Cobourg on Wednesday night at the ACC at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit auroratigers. pointstreaksites.com

Movember

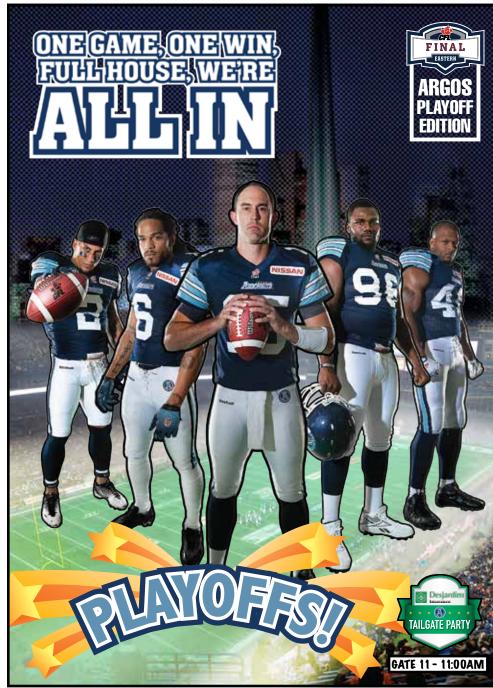
In what has become one of their most popular annual fundraising events, many of the Tigers are attempting to grow their moustaches to help raise money and awareness for prostate cancer.

"We said every single player has to participate in Movember and cannot shave for the month," said assistant captain Kyle Liu. To show your support for the Tigers, or any other local teams, visit ca.movember.com.

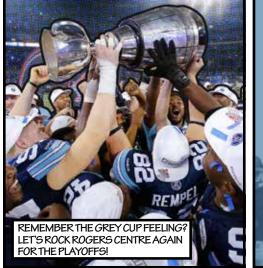


Aurora Tigers on Friday show off the fruits of their Movember labour so far. Back (L to R) Robert Angiolella, Adam Power, Curtis Warren, Andy Munro, Michael Keenan, Taylor McCloy, (Front) Tyler Boston and Kyle Liu.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



















AMHA RESULTS





AMHA House League Results Oct. 27 - Nov. 3, 2013

108 Timbits - LA Purple: 6 Matteo Vetere 3G, Rylie Kiratzis 1G 1A, Cooper Frydman 3A, Callum Heath 1G 1A, Nate Walker 1G 1A, Ben Irvine 1A, Derek Chen 1A, Matthew Eastman 1A,

104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 6 Isaac Pearl 3G 1A, Mateo Graham 2G 3A, Nolan Whittaker 1G, Tobias DeVries 2A, Gabriel Pecci 2A, Cohen Bugeja 1A, Ben Butler 1A, Paolo Fusco 1A, Ethan Fryer 1A,

105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 1 109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy:

108 Timbits - LA Purple: 1 Rylie Kiratzis 1G, Cooper Frydman

106 Timbits - San Jose Teal: 9 Easton Bailey 4G 2A, Andrew Mariani 2G 2A, Brock Lobreau 2G, Owen Cauley 1G, Hayden Thorne 2A, Brennan Mangat 2A

202 Caravan Kids - Nashville Yellow: 6 205 Caravan Kids - Chicago Black:

410 McDonald's - Philly Orange:

406 McDonald's - San Jose Teal:

Joshua Zwicker 2G 2A, Brett Watson 1G 1A. Cole MacEachern 2G. Luca Pugliese 2G 2A, Jake Colman 1G, Tyler Moore 1A, Quinn Holtby 2A, David Iacovetta 1A, Hussien Wahab 1A, Jackson James SO,

407 McDonald's - Minnesota

Jack Fisher 2G 1A. Mark Moscone 2G 1A, Cameron Mills 1G, Kai Sillcox 1G 1A, Cyril Martynov 1G 1A, Jakob Israel 1A, Jack Rankel 2A, Benjamin Grassi 2A, 405 McDonald's - Chicago Black:

Andrew Flores 1G,

402 McDonald's - Boston Gold: 3 Dylan Thompson 2G, Daniel Romas 1G, Rylan Kirchmair 1A, Jacob

401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red:

Jordan Sieber 2G, Parker Jalbert 1G 2A. Jacob Madore 1G 1A. Ale Mascioli 1G 1A, Dylan Duff 1A,

408 McDonald's - LA Purple: 3 Michael Valenti 3G, Stefano Iervasi

404 McDonald's - Tampa Bay Blue:

Cayden Visser 2G, Brian Constandes 1G, Mason Scanga 1G 1A, Justin Seymour 2A, Charlie Akkermans 1A,

409 McDonald's - Pittsburgh Powder Blue: 4

Luca Decristofaro 1G, Aidan Quinn 2G, Alessandro Warwar 1G, Liam Sullivan 1A, Andrew Sun 1A, Ian

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White:

Matteo Rossi 1G, Dylan Klein 1A,

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White:

Matteo Rossi 3G, Mitchel Abrams 1G, Dylan Thompson 2A, Cole Jenkinson 3A, Braedan Fraser Brandon Devellis 1G 1A.

402 McDonald's - Boston Gold: 4 Daniel Romas 2G, James Boland-Wall 1G. Jake Heritage 1G. Julian Cariou 1A. Dylan Thompson 1A.

401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red:

Parker Jalbert 3G 1A, Alex Mascioli 1G 3A, Mark Gennaro 1G, Jacob Madore 1G, Dylan Duff 1A, Oscar Clavijo 1A, Michael Suma 1A,

404 McDonald's - Tampa Bay Blue:

Cayden Visser 4G, Jacob Roach 1G, Remy Pietrangelo 2G 1A, Charlie Akkermans 1G, Liam Parris 4A, Brian Constandes 2A, Salyman Aimag 1A. Kostas Skanderis 1A.

408 McDonald's - LA Purple: 6 Anthony Minichiello 1G, Jacob Smith 1G 1A, Stefano Iervasi 2G, Noah Bobrow 1G. Jackson Maclean 1G 1A, Zachary Green 1A, Nicholas Young 1A, Nathan Gabay 1A,

Christian Fava 1A, 406 McDonald's - San Jose Teal:

Omar Ozturk 1G, Colm MacEachern

407 McDonald's - Minnesota Green: 5

Mark Moscone 3G 1A, Jakob Israel 1G 1A, Jack Fisher 1G, Jack Rankel 1A, Kai Sillcox 1A, Glenn Steward 1A, Kenneth Lawrence 1A,
410 McDonald's - Philly Orange:

Ben Hilgendorff 1G 1A, Jeff Belvedere 1G 1A, Adam Flicker 1A, Jonathan Fellini 1A,

601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 3
Evan Robertson 2G, Steven Seitz 1G. Tarik Soliman 1A 604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 2 Christian Romas 1G, Brian Turner 1G, Anthony Miranda 1A,

608 Inaria: 15 606 Mastermind Toys: 14 Robert Kniss 2G, Jackson Gailbraith 6G, Joshua Turriff 2A, Matthew Muxlow 1G 3A, Daniel Rheeder 1G 2A, Gregory Gatzopoulos 3G, Aaron Preiano 1G 1A,

607 Caruso & Company: 6 Aaron Murphy-Sealy 2G, Ben Fulford 1G, Carter Beacom 3G, Dylan Shaban 1A, Mason Barone 1A, Smail Abrahimzad 1A, 610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 1 Andrew Pignatelli 1G,

607 Caruso & Company: 2 Mason Barone 1G, Carter Beacom 1G, Aaron Murphy-Sealy 1A, Ismail Abrahimzad 1A

606 Mastermind Toys: 4 Joshua Turriff 2G, Aaron Preiano 1A, Kyle Rame 1G, Matthew Muxlow 1A, Gregory Gatzopoulos 1G, Daniel

603 McAlpine Ford: 6Jack Viney 1G 1A, Alexander Ko 1G, Will Sherman 1G 1A, Andrew Turriff 1G, Liam Graham 1G 1A, Owen Bell

601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 4 Samuel Morin 1G, Evan Robertson

2G, Giuliano Iervasi 1G, Steven Seitz 1A, Dylan Anderson 1A, Matthew Cowl 1A,

608 Inaria: 0 605 Omar's Shoes: 5 Jack Gauthier 3G, Ethan Joiner 1G 1A, John Dol 1G,

805 York Region Auto: 1 Cameron End 1G, Josh Fallovalitta

1A, 809 Manhattan Trophies: 5 Matthew Glionna 1G, Nick Robinson 1G, Christian Loria 1G, Christopher Roche 1G, Carson Venneri 1G, Andrew Hoogers 1A,

811: 4 Beckham Giorgio 3G, Scott Rumble

803 Optimist Club of Aurora: 6 Cameron Dyer 3A, Dave Kerkkamp 2G, Dillon Varon 1A. Carter Francis 2G, Tyler Thomas 1G, Jacob Turiff 1G, Claudio Basso 1A, Mike Lakkotrypis 1A,

809 Manhattan Trophies: 6 Andrew Hoogers 2G, Jacob Fulford 1A, Christian Loria 1G, Jackson Clements 1G Michael Vivian 1G Carson Venneri 2A, Jason Cox 1G 801 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 5
Dion 4G, Adam Miziguchi 1G,

Alexandre Meunier-Geoffroy 1A, William Morin 1A, Naccarato 1A,

807 Sundance Signs: 7 Liam De Sousa 2G 1A, Ethan Brooks 2G, Nicholas Keizer 2G 1A, Matthew Nitsopoulos 1G 3A, Nicholas Badali 2A, David Robertson 1A,

811: 3 Ryan Motozdian 1G, Callum Gorrell 1G, Josh Schmitt 1G, Ryan Ruskanen 1A,

803 Optimist Club of Aurora: 2 Jacob Leblanc 1G, Sean Lindsay 1G, Carter Francis 1A, 810 Peirce McNeely Assoc.

Lawyers: 7 Kyle Wulle 2G 1A, Matt LeClair 1G 2A, Andrew Sutherland 3G, Cole Shereneta 1A, James Samson 2A, Brendon Ross 1G, Lucas Alberico

809 Manhattan Trophies: 3 Andrew Hoogers 1G 1A, Nick Robinson 1G, Brendan Dodd 1G, Dominic Pecchia 1A,

Remmington Colicchio 1G 1A, Adam Medeiros 1G, Josh Schmitt 1A, Beckham Giorgio 1A,

807 Sundance Signs: 7Christrian Ridd 1G, Liam De Sousa 1G 2A, Christrian Ridd 1A, Ethan Brooks 2G 1A, Cameron Lang 1G 1A, Matthew Nitsopoulos 2G 1A, 805 York Region Auto: 5 Matthew Vassos 1G, Raffaele Parente 1G, Ben Pitre 1G, Brayden Pitre 1A. Josh Fallovallita 2G.

905 VEGFRESH: 3 Anthony Orlandi 1G 1A, Patrick Bourrie 1G, Alec Magnante 1G, Tyler Wilson 2A,

904 Orr & Associates: 4 Michael Boorn 2G, Alec Popa 1G 1A, Tyler Bundy 1G, Alex Hoffmann 1A, Alex Negri 1A, Jordan Elliott 1A,

905 VEGFRESH: 1 Anthony Orlandi 1G, Austin Waite

903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 0

905 VEGFRESH: 6 Joey Stipec 3G, Patrick Bourrie 1G 1A, Austin Waite 1G, Anthony Orlandi 1G 1A, Michael Sangiorgio 1A, James Eydt 1A,

904 Orr & Associates: 4
Michael Boorn 2G, Domenic Fiorin
1G, Eric Trudell 1G 1A, Alex Negri 2A, Brady Adams 2A, Josh Mohabeer 1A,

905 VEGFRESH: 3 Patrick Bourrie 1G 2A, Anthony Sangiorgio 1G, Bryn Burbank 1G, Daniel Della Rocca 1A, 903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 2 Will Stroud 1G, Jessie Joynt 1G, David Townshend 1A, Ryan

Simmons 1A, Nicholas Scougall 1A,

909 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 3 Mike Walsh 1G, Jeff Stobo 2G, David Leeper 2A, Nathan Dinatale

908 Diamond Groundskeeping Jacob Hatton 2G, Riley Weller 1G,

Jiyan Yilmaser 1G, Jack Bishenden 2A, Derek Keaun 1A, Aleex Carter 6A, Greg Rutherford 7A, Geoffrey

908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 3 Mathew lezza 1G 1A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1G, Riley Weller 1G,

Adam Ashraf 2A. Eric Shennan 1A. Jack Bishenden 1A, Aleex Carter 904 Orr & Associates: 2

Michael Boorn 1G, Tyler Bundy 1G, 1004 North York Heating &

Plumbing: 2

1006 Jonathan's: 6

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 0 1005 ADC Aluminium: 1

1005 ADC Aluminium: 7 1006 Jonathan's: 4

1007: 1 1008 Winchurch Environmental

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 4 1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 2

1001: 1 1002 ATS Healthcare: 0

AMHA Rep Team Results Oct. 27 - Nov. 3, 2013

Tyke -Select A: 4

TNT: 1 Erik Guilbert 1G, Nate Brentnell 1G, Jared McNeil 1G 1A, Luc Warner 1G 1A, Lucas Reid 1A, Marcus Gingl

Select A: 4

Richmond Hill Stars: 3 Erik Guilbert 1G, Nicholas Ferrante 1G 1A, Luc Warner 1G, Jacob Belisle 1G, Jared McNeil 1A, Nate Brentnell 1A, Ayden Burt 1A,

Minor Atom AE -Aurora Tigers: 4 Newmarket: 1

Ryan Blakley 1G, Malcolm Parkinson 1A, Ethan Powell 1G 1A, Kevin Wasserman 1G 1A, Sam Spong 1G, David Durbano 1A, Matthew Keizer

Minor Atom A -Newmarket: 4

Aurora Tigers: 3 Matthew Gianforcaro 1G 1A, Stephen Gummersall 1G 1A, Adriano Fanuzzi 1G, Jordan Dool 1A, Noah

Minor Atom A -Aurora Tigers: 4 Newmarket Redmen: 0

Eric McHale 1G 1A, Adriano Fanuzzi 1G, Austin Venneri 1G, Noah Smith 1G, Stephen Gummersall 1A, Matthew Gianforcaro 1A, Thomas Bradley 1A, Dylan Vasilevski 1A,

Minor Atom AE -Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket Redmen: 1
Ryan Blakley 1G, Malcolm Parkinson
1A, Matthew Keizer 1G

Minor Atom AE -Aurora Tigers: 10 Stouffville: 3

Ryan Blakley 1G, Matthew Keizer 2G 1A, Jeremy Thompson 1G, Ryan Clutterbuck 1G, Nolan Chiarelli 1G, Ethan Powell 1G, Sam Belman 2G, Henry Paluch 1A, Kevin Wasserman 1A, Sam Spong 1A, Malcolm Parkinson 1G 2A,

Minor Atom AA -Aurora Tigers: 6 Innisfil Winterhawks: 2

Cameron Boyd 1G 1A, Andrew Parsons 1G, Adam Rame 1A, Jack Beswick 1A, William Haines 1G 1A, Daniel Iwai 2G, Emmett Ross 1A, Ayden Posa 1A, Easton Irvine 1G. Jake Andersen 1A, Tucker Kauffeldt 1A, Nolan Heggie 1A,

Minor Atom AA Richmond Hill: 4 Aurora Tigers: 1 Emmett Ross 1G,

Atom RS -Aurora Tigers: 6 Oshawa Minor Generals: 0 Matteo Rossi 1G, Aidan Quinn 1A, Jack Boyd 1G, Parker Jalbert 1G 1A, Cayden Visser 1G 2A, David lacovetta 1G, Jacob Madore 1A,

Matteo Rossi 1G. Daniel Han 1A. Matthew Collins SO, Connor Sykes

Atom AA -Aurora Tigers: 4 Richmond Hill: 1

Anton Sopov 1G, Jake McMillan 2A, Ethan Belisle 1G, Myles Graham 1A, Ryan Catania 1A, Nick Giorgio 1G, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Owen Papulkas 1A, Owen Hollett 1G,

Atom AA -AuroraTigers: 3 Markham: 1 Jacob Hoffrogge 1G, Nick Giorgio 1G, Tommy Hollett 1G, Owen Hollett 1A, Owen Papulkas 1A, Anton Sopov 1A,

Minor Peewee A -Aurora Tigers: 2

Newmarket: 1 Minor Peewee A -Aurora Tigers: 2 Newmarket: 0

Minor Peewee AE -Aurora Tigers: 2 Newmarket Redmen: 2 Justin Just 1G, Sam MacLeod 1G, James Sproul 1A,

Minor Peewee A -Aurora Tigers: 5 Bradford: 0

Peewee AE -Newmarket: 4 Aurora Tigers: 3
Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Carson Williams 1G, Jack Patterson 1G, Luke Catania 1A, Owen Romano 1A, Noah Dempsey 1A,

Peewee A -Aurora Tigers: 2 Michael Orlandi 1G, Harris Goan 2A, Luke O'Keefe 1G,

Peewee AE -Aurora Tigers: 6 East Gwillimbury:2 Luke Catania 2G 1A, Jeremy Gonsalves 1G, Cory Read 1G, Carson Williams 1G 1A, Rony Wahab 1G, Jack Patterson 1A. Jason Gage 1A, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1A,

Aurora Tigers: 3 Jack Patterson 2G, Luke Catania 2A, Cory Read 1G 1A, Russell Tanaka 1A, Noah Johnson 1A, Jack

Campbell 1A, Minor Bantam AE -Barrie Colts: 6 Aurora Tigers: 1 Dylan Clark 1G, Max Lombard 1A,

Minor Bantam A -Aurora Tigers: 3 Markham: 2

Lucas Surace 1G 1A, Mathew Hastings 1G 1A, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1A, Fin Reeves 1G, Ben Spittle 1A, Jamie Stewart 1A,

Minor Bantam A -Barrie: 3 Aurora Tigers: 1 Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1A,

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 2 Streetsville Tigers: 1

Aurora Tigers: 4 North Stars: 0 Tony Greco 2G, Connor May 1G, Ben Langlois 1G,

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 3 Niagara: 1

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 2 Stouffville: 0

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 1 Barrie Colts: 1

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 3 Stouffville Clippers: 1 Eric Pears 1G, Brady Futterer 1G, Connor May 1G,

Bantam AA Aurora Tigers: 3 Newmarket: 1 Kyle Rice 2G, Connor May 1G,

Aurora Tigers: 2 Richmond Hill Stars: 2 Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 1 Markham Waxers: 0

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 1 TNT: 1

Bantam AA -Markham: 6

Aurora Tigers: 2 Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 3 Humber Valley Sharks: 1

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 3 **Duffield Devils: 3**

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 5 Mississauga Terriers: 1

Bantam AA -Markham: 2 Aurora Tigers: 1
Jordan Torres 1G, Tony Greco 1A,

Aurora Tigers: 3 Newmarket: 1 Connor May 2G, Bantam AA -

Rantam AA -

Aurora Tigers: 3 Newmarket: 0 Thomas Kostoff 1G, Connor May 1G, Ben Langlois 1G,

Aurora Tigers: 3 Newmarket Redmen: 2

Bantam AA -TNT:4 Aurora Tigers: 1 Brady Futterer 1G,

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 6 Richmond Hill: 2 Thomas Kostoff 2G, Connor May 1A, Noah Viitala 1G, Tony Greco 2G, Greg Hoogers 1G, Brady Futterer 1A, Rhys Perry 1A, Andrew Sergewich

Bantam AA -Aurora Tigers: 1 Georgina Blaze: 1 Eric Pears 1G, Jordan Torres 1A, Thomas Kostoff 1A,

Minor Midget AA -Aurora Tigers: 3 Georgina Blaze: 3 Connor Irving 1G, Zack Phillips 1G, Michael Shum 1G 1A, Jack Pecora 1A, Cameron Zinner 2A

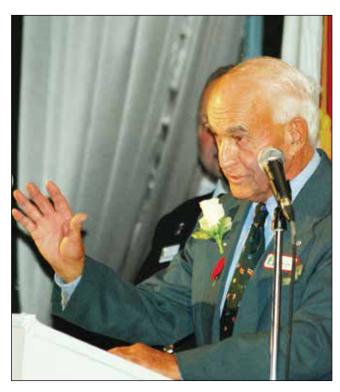
Minor Midget AA -Aurora Tigers: 1 Markham Waxers: 1 Michael Shum 1G, Matthew Tanel 1A

Minor Midget AA -Aurora Tigers: 3

TNT: 0 Connor Downs 1G, Bryan Manweiler 1G 1A. Cameron Zinner 1G. Graham Sanford 1A, Tristan Kuchar 1A, Taylor Kauffeldt 1A, Zack Phillips 1A, Jack Pecora 1A, Matthew Tanel SO,

Midget AE -Aurora Tigers: 3 Georgina Blaze: 1





Equestrian Jim Elder shared the highs and the lows of his storied career at The Mansion on Wednesday evening.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Hometown honour has special meaning for Jim Elder

By Jeff Doner

For decades, Aurora resident Jim Elder was an important part of Canada's national equestrian team, bringing home multiple honours and awards from various competitions from around the world.

For his many accomplishments, Elder was inducted into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame on Wednesday.

"It's great being part of the first class, but its greater having it done in your own hometown. It was my hometown for 50 years," Elder said. "I have to say that it is an extra special award because it is local. I did most of my competitive riding career in Aurora and hosted a lot of our functions there on our farm."

At 79, Elder has long since retired from his refrigeration business and competitive riding. However, he still rides recreationally and keeps busy with his grandchildren who all took a page out of his book by getting into competitive riding.

Having been on the equestrian team for 35 years, there are a few particular moments that stand out for Elder.

At the 1968 Olympics Games in Mexico City, Elder was part of a team that made history. Along with teammates Jim Day and Tom Gayford, the trio captured the gold medal in show jumping, marking the first Olympic equestrian gold medal in Canadian history.

It was also the only gold medal for Canada at those

Two years later, in 1970, the team proved that they were no fluke by winning gold at the World Championships in France and then in 1971 won another gold medal at the Pan American Games.

"I think our best competition was at the World Championships in 1970 in France," he recalled. "We're not a big equestrian nation with only so many horses and so many riders to show, so back in 1968 especially, when we won our first gold medal, they said it was first time luck, but then we won it right back.

"When we won it on their home ground [in France] that was a good moment and made us legit contenders on the international stage."

As important as those international wins were to his career, Elder remembers his first medal just as well.

"That was a bronze medal back in 1956 and that was in a three-day event," he explained. "The big part of that is that it's like a decathlon, we do dressage then a 21 mile cross country course with trails, jumps and then the last thing was stadium jumping. The jumping was only four feet, so you didn't need a specialized horse."

Things have changed since those days, but Elder still keeps tabs on Canada's riders, who he said many of which are local.

"I keep up with it and know them all. Most of the team riders have come from Aurora and the area and some still live in Aurora," he said. "I have a son and daughter that still live in Aurora, but there are a lot of them that lived or still live there. Eric Lamaze even lived just on the other side of the 400."

Over the course of his career, Elder has competed in seven Olympic Games, five Pan American Games and three World Championships. He was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 1968 and was also honoured with the Order of Canada in 1983.

With so many years of accomplishments, Elder has kept many of his trophies and medals.

"There's one on display in the town office and the others are just lying around here," he said with a chuckle. "I don't have as much space for everything anymore, but I still have some good pictures and memorabilia kicking around.

ound. "Let's put it this way, I've got good memories."

Aurora Sport Hall of Fame welcomes the Class of 2013

By Brock Weir

There was laughter, appreciation, and a few tears as seven of the brightest lights in Aurora's sport history were honoured last week in the inaugural induction to the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame.

This year's honourees included top ranked tennis champion and educator Robert Bedard, Olympic basketball player Carolin Bouchard, Elder, equestrian Jim Stanley Cup winner Hap Holmes, Olympic skier Brian Stemmle, Magna founder Frank Stronach. who was honoured as a "builder" for his support of local sports and recreation, and softball coach Norm Stunden.

Over 200 friends, family, and sports fans filled The Mansion for an evening of tributes

"Many of you have been the recipients of many honours in the course of your lives, but some honours have more meaning than others," said Mr. Bedard, a long-time headmaster at St. Andrew's College. "For me, this one summarizes 41 great years of living in Aurora."

Mr. Bedard recounted memories of playing regular house league hockey games at the Aurora Community Centre, "playing with the aptly named Church Dodgers" on Sunday, playing fastball on Wells Street, and playing with his children and grandchildren, also on local teams.

"I have often been asked whether I regretted the choice of a tennis career over baseball or hockey, and here's my answer," continued, recalling one of his first major tennis matches outside of his native Quebec. "Mv opponent served the ball, which I considered outside by quite a margin. Even though my English skills were at the embryonic stage, I was on my way to the stand when this beautiful girl of 15, a ball girl at the net, approached me to say, 'Here in Nova Scotia, we never argue with the referee.'

"Seven years later, over hundreds of letters and meeting each other some two weeks a year at tennis tournaments, that beautiful girl became my wife and we set out on the Queen Mary for a three month tennis honeymoon through Europe, culminating in Wimbledon where we played mixed doubles. That was 56 years ago."

Citing the unifying nature of sport, Canada's one-time (and long-time) topranked tennis champion, who prides himself beating numerous players internationally, top-ranked in their own country, said he had no doubt that the "upward trajectory" of his career can be attributed to skills learned through sport: discipline, concentration, willpower, and consistency.

"I believe that an athlete's character is more important

than anything else," he said. "Every athlete knows what many never will – that nothing can be learned without discipline and faith in one's self."

While Mr. Bedard initially hailed from Quebec, Cal Bouchard came to Aurora from the west, moving from Winnipeg where she soon made a name for herself at Aurora High School where her name quickly came to precede her on high school basketball courts around York Region, and then provincially, nationally, and internationally.

"I am still amazed by the hundreds of miles my parents drove me around Ontario to all the different tournaments, the miles they travelled to see my games in the United States, and the thousands of miles they spent travelling around the world to see me play at the Olympics every step of the way," said Ms. Bouchard, a Pan Am Games champ who lead the Canadian Women's Basketball Team at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

She recalled home games at AHS, training at St. Andrew's, as well as training hard with weights and in the pool at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, but particularly a small park with just one basketball hoop near her Kennedy Street Home.

"I was probably an annoying high school kid calling up the Parks Department every time the hoop and the net would come off, which was often," she said with a laugh. "I had the number memorised and would call them up and say, 'Hey, it's down again. You better come back and put up some twine or something.' I know I was probably annoying and I hope that everyone knows I kind of did something with that and made something of myself!"

Humour also played a part in Brian Stemmle's induction. The alpine skier, who represented Canada in the 1988, 1992, 1994, and 1998 Winter Olympics, was feted for his meteoric rise in the game, his multiple medals, and his remarkable recovery from a 1989 crash which not only nearly ended

his career, but also his life.

He was emotional when he looked out in the room to see so many friends he doesn't get a chance to see as often as he would like, and even some people since passed who should have been there.

"I went to Aurora High School after growing up in King City and Kettleby and then moved to Aurora," he said. "[Then Mayor] George Timpson asked Council if they would name a street after me. They agreed, I went out [and found it and it was so nice – right along the railroad tracks. It could have been a ravine, a golf course, but no! I looked up and there it was 'Stemmel', spelled completely wrong. What an honour!

"I am so proud of this honour today. I am so proud to be representing my hometown and I will always consider myself an Auroran, and a person who grew up here loving the community and loving the people."

Next week, The Auroran will focus on Mr. Elder, Mr. Stronach, and Mr. Stunden.



Olympic skier Brian Stemmle laughs as he recalls a bit of a blunder the last time he was honoured in Aurora. Auroran photo by Brock Weir





THE AUR SON RAN

Aurora authors shine in latest story anthology

By Brock Weir

It had been over a decade since Jamie Yeo's mother succumbed to cancer.

Time didn't necessarily dull the pain for him and his father, particularly around the holiday season. Inevitably, this time of year always seemed to make things worse, although they simply went through the motions of the season, wishing for the New Year.

It was 1983 and Jamie, the son of theatre an television actors Leslie Yeo and Hillary Vernon, came from a close knit family, often accompanying his parents on theatre gigs, or to film the odd movie or TV episode, and while her death from breast cancer ultimately brought he and his father ever closer together, it left an irreparable void in their lives.

Living with a young woman and settling into domestic life, his then girlfriend did her damndest to make their first Christmas together one to remember and bring him back around to feeling festive during the most festive of seasons. It was a good effort, he says, but the harder she tried, the more he would remember.

After a late night of wrapping Christmas presents for family and friends, he settled into a restless night before finally getting up to do something productive. During the twilight hours, he flipped on the television and through the wonder of a grainy kinescope, received what he believes to this day was one last gift from his mother.

Mr. Yeo is one of four Aurora authors sharing their remarkable stories in morning in 1983, when he wheeled

Chicken Soup for the Soul's O Canada - The Wonders of Winter: 101 Stories about Bad Weather, Good Times and Great Sports. The latest Canadian installment of the Chicken Soup series, once again helmed by Aurora editor Janet Matthews, shares stories that will invoke the tingle of a frigid January morning to the warmth of a hearth during a quiet winter evening.

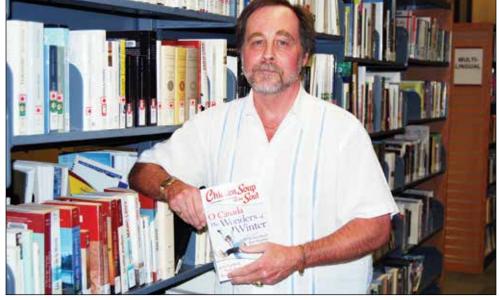
The book was officially launched last week in Toronto.

"The story never came up with anyone else," says Mr. Yeo of why he decided to share his story with Ms. Matthews and, in turn, a much wider audience, noting it came up during discussions of some of those uncanny things that can happen in life.

"We used to travel to Spain frequently for summers because my parents being British, Spain had always been close for them and it was easy to get to. We kept that up when we got to Canada. One year my mother lost a gold earring and we came back two years later, went to the same little town and the same little stretch of beach, and sifting through the sand, I found her earing. My parents just looked at each other and shook their heads.'

As the child of parents prolific on the stage and screen - large and small - one might think finding their work through a rerun, DVDs, and YouTube would be easy, but that is not the case. Although Jamie frequently comes across his dad's work, his mother's body of work is much harder to come by.

So, when on that early Christmas



Aurora resident Jamie Yeo shares his unusual true story of a mother's Christmas gift when he needed it most, in the latest volume of Canadian stories collected by Chicken Soup for the Soul. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

for over a decade, a voice he had been longing so hard to hear once more, emanating from the flickering kinescope on his TV screen, it had a profound effect on him just when he needed it the most.

"I just remember her walking out of a barn and talking to two other people, but the details of it are just a blur because all I remember is walking away from the TV, hearing her voice, and stopping dead in my tracks."

Whether the story strikes a chord with readers, or whether it strikes them as unusual, it is a story that outside of his family, the young woman he was

around after hearing a voice unheard living with at the time, and Janet, it is not one which he has shared with people – until now.

> "I'm lucky that I am still friends with a lot of my high school pals, so there are 10 or 12 of us still tightly in touch with one another, but of those, probably only two ever met my mother. Quite a few of them will be surprised by the story."

> Chicken Soup for the Soul - O Canada: The Wonders of Winter is available now. Of the 101 stories, Aurora authors include William Bell, Deborah Kisinger, Sue England, Ms. Matthews, and Gail Sellers. The Auroran will continue its series on authors in the lead up to the holidays.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

SPECIALISTS

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YOURS TODAY

Cleanse your palates – Art of Wine is back

By Brock Weir

Wine been has considered. analysed and, of course, enjoyed for millennia, inspiring art, poetry and other of forms creative expression.

After thousands upon thousands of years, it is a humble drink which continues to entice and fascinate. For the third year running, the Aurora Cultural Centre will celebrate the fruit of the

The Art of Wine, the third annual fundraiser for the Aurora Cultural Centre, will be held next Friday, November 22, at the Church Street landmark. Organizers promise an evening of

by Adrian Marquez from Cathy Harris. "But, in Grapebrand wines.

"Mr. Marquez will present an illuminating evening educating guests in the nuances of selected wines," says program organizer Jane Taylor.

They aim to introduce guests to a series of five Italian wines that might be a different experience from the norm and, most importantly, no previous knowledge is required.

Although no previous knowledge is required. guests should expect, if previous years are any indication, to leave, knowing a bit more than they had coming in.

"It's great to learn about different wines, and I'm not even a wine drinker," says Cultural "tutored tastings" guided Centre board member

the past, I have learned about [things such as] different glasses and how you shouldn't have a rolled rim so it lands properly on your palate."

Ms. Taylor says this year's event is a bit of a departure from previous years as they are focusing strictly on the wines of Italy. A focus on a specific region has been a natural progression, she added, as regular patrons have become more knowledgeable on what international wines have to offer and what they can be paired with.

"Although I think all wine goes with all food, but who am I to say?" she jokes. "We have created a fun evening. It's not an overly serious, hushed kind of tasting. Knowledge comes in, but at the end of the day we bill it as a really fun evening."

Tickets for The Art of Wine are available through the Aurora Cultural Centre for \$69 by calling 905-713-1818. Tickets include five tastings, appetizers, door prizes, and two Riedel crystal wine glasses.

905-727-4258







Cathy Harris and Jane Taylor of the Aurora Cultural Centre toast ahead of next week's Art of Wine fundraiser. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**



AS USUAL
Alison Collins-Mrakas

Time to Reform

The circus that was Toronto City politics last week has driven home one absolutely glaring point – that our governance

- that our governance mechanisms are woefully inadequate.

Changes are needed to our current system, particularly how we elect our leaders and what tools we need to have to get rid of them when they fail to do the job.

Across Canada, regardless of the order of government, we have a "first past the post" method of selecting our elected officials. This system rewards those that manage

to amass just enough to pass the other guys, resulting in a situation where the "winner" is one in name only, having often only secured 20 or 30% of the actual vote. And that's 20 or 30% of those that chose to vote.

Personally, I do not think that anyone should be occupying a seat of elected office - regardless of the level of government – unless they have secured 50 +1 percent of the votes cast. The purpose of elected office is to represent the people of your community. If you haven't managed to gain the support of a majority of the members of your community, then how can you possibly say you are representing them?

There are two popular methods of addressing the inherent inequity of our current system –runoffs and proportional representation

proportional representation.

I think both have merits, though I would lean more towards the idea of proportional representation.
Run offs force voters to choose between the top vote

getters until there's a clear winner.

You see this type of voting in party conventions. The draw back? It can take a long time, and a great deal of money.

Proportion a l representation means that every vote counts. To quote Fair Vote Canada, "Proportional representation is any voting system designed to produce a representative body where voters elect representatives in proportion to our votes."

The drawback, of course, is implementing such a system. It would be difficult to see how it could be operationalized at the municipal level, for example. Nonetheless, I think it is a reform worth exploring.

The second issue that needs to be addressed? Being able to get rid of someone once they're elected.

As Torontonians have just found out, unless the Mayor of Toronto gets thrown in jail – not just arrested, not even just convicted, but jailed – there is absolutely no way to get

him out of there. Clearly, that is a significant flaw in our legislative processes.

The electorate should have access to a method by which they can turf someone from office, but I also think this should be a very difficult thing to do – for the obvious reason that as politics is a nasty business, we'd end up in perpetual campaign mode with no one running the ship as captain after captain gets thrown overboard.

The most popular method for addressing this issue is recall. In simplest terms, it means if a sufficient number of folks feel that the official is not fulfilling their responsibilities, then a recall election can be called and the electorate can vote again for the position.

Usually, in order for a petition to recall to succeed, there must be support from at least 50% of the voters (those that voted in the election – not all potential voters). The only province that has this mechanism is BC. Thus far there hasn't been a successful recall petition, but the fact that it is

there, and a possibility, is to my mind a good thing.

The political classes make much noise about the need for better engagement of the electorate, but the current system is a rigged game. We know it. They know it. Until someone does something

about it, the calls for greater public political participation will continue to meet with the stony silence of a justifiably apathetic electorate.

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



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The CDS Junior School Choir will perform at 9:15 am on Thursday, November 21.

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Aurora	Rd.					St. John's Sideroad	
						We ll ington St.	
						Bloomington Rd.	
	King	Sideroad		(2)		Stouffvi ll e Rd.	
HWY 400			Dufferin St.			RICHMOND HILL Major Mackenzie	Dr
						HWY 7	DI.
HWY 407	_					THORNHILL 44	
VAUGHAN						HWY 401	
Black Creek Dr.	Jane St.	Keele St.	Dufferin St.	Bathurst St.	Yonge St.	O V	Map is not to scale.

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Hundreds take a moment to remember the fallen

By Brock Weir

Hundreds of veterans, dignitaries, and particularly local students and their teachers gathered at the Aurora Cenotaph on a damp and dreary Remembrance Day to pay tribute to the fallen on Monday.

Some of them had seen active service themselves, some have loved ones still serving in the Canadian Forces, and some were newcomers to Canada with no particular ties to a veteran other than sheer appreciation. But, this week, they all had a common purpose – to remember.

"I came out here because my great-grandfather was in the war," said Ashlin Henderson, a Grade 3 student at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School. "I came here today because I care about what they did."

The ceremonies hit close to home for fellow St. Joseph student, Ella Graham, 11.

"We appreciate what they did for us, we respect them and we want them to know we care about what they did," said Ella, noting her father is still in active service with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The north side of the Cenotaph was filled with students from St. Joseph's craning for the best view of the proceedings, which included wreaths placed by Silver Cross Mother Donna Beek, Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown, MPP Frank Klees, and Mayor Geoffrey Dawe.

The local school was also well represented at Sunday services, with student Erik Dubeau sounding The Last Post on his bugle.

For principal Christine Dehaas, being at the Cenotaph on Monday morning achieved more than they could ever hope to in the afternoon services they had planned at the school.

"We could never share this at our school," said Ms. Dehaas. "We could never bring to them what we just experienced here. It was incredibly powerful, and although we do our best in school to experience this, being a part of it is something I think will have a huge impact on this generation."

Monday's service, and the luncheon that followed at the Royal Canadian Legion, were the final ceremonies in a busy Remembrance Week to honour our soldiers.

On Saturday evening, people filled the hall at the Royal Canadian Legion for their annual Poppy Dinner. Led by Ms. Beek, Mayor Dawe, and Legion officials, it was a time to raise a glass and take a moment to appreciate those who had gone before.

Ms. Beek, who lost her son Corey Hayes in Afghanistan, helped unveil a new memorial plaque honouring the most recent war dead.

"In World Wars One and Two, when someone was killed in action, there were millions of them, unlike today being one of only 158," said Ms. Beek. "It was almost a daily occurrence. Now, we become temporary VIPs. We're constantly being called out for monument unveilings [and other] ceremonies and it continuously renews that grief.

"On the flipside of that, when you have these kinds of events, and the hundreds of thousands of people who show up for these things, you realise you're not alone in this. Even though the burden is sometimes unbearable, I look around and I see so many people who truly care, who truly feel and because of this there is a lot of comfort in it."

Speaking at the dinner, as well as the two subsequent ceremonies at the Cenotaph, Major Brian Bishop of the Salvation Army underscored the importance of sharing these observances as a collective.

"As you look across this room, you see hundreds of people who are here just to celebrate and remember and acknowledge that great price that you personalized as you shared here this evening," he said. "Christ himself said to love one another and we heard from Donna the importance of sharing that love with one another. I believe it is at times like these that you need that expression of love, not just on Remembrance Day but throughout the year. Be assured of our love and care."

(Clockwise from Top Left) Air Cadets stand vigil at the Cenotaph on Sunday morning, as they had done through the previous evening. The Queen's York Rangers helped lead Sunday's parade south on Yonge Street. Wreaths were laid by Silver Cross Mother Donna Beek on Sunday and Monday as Rev. Dawn Davis looks on. The Royal Canadian Legion helped lead the commemorations, laying wreaths on both days. Youngsters laid a wreath Monday on behalf of the Aurora Children's Centre. Students from St. Joseph's made the trek for the Monday services. Veterans Dorothy Gummersall and Eleanor Thompson released ceremonial white doves. Local Girl Guides were well represented in the parade. MP Lois Brown was joined by Jennifer Day as she laid a wreath on behalf of the Government of Canada. Mayor Geoffrey Dawe did the honours on behalf of the Town of Aurora.

Ceremonies mark Remembrance Day Auroran photos by David Falconer

















Carrier of the Month – Donald Campbell

By Brock Weir

As an Argyll and Sutherland Highlander, Donald Campbell has always lived by the motto "Sans Peur, Ne Obliviscaris."

Loosely translated, it means "without fear and never forget." They have stood him well throughout his life, carrying him into harm's way and helping to steer him through life when it could have easily overtaken him.

Mr. Campbell, our Carrier of the Month, was born in Scotland, a proud member of the Campbell clan, and eventually destined to be a hereditary chieftain.

The son of an estate manager, Campbell left high

school with top marks at the age of 14 to help his father manage three of the largest estates. At time, the there were no farm



Donald Campbell in highland dress

workers, so his after school activities consisted of farm work, crawling into bed after midnight, back out by 5 a.m. to milk the cows, all before heading off to school.

Eventually something had to give and by his birthday, he forged ahead without fear, into the family business. Nearing his majority, his father sat him down and pressed him what he was going to do with the rest of his life. He decided on agricultural college to carry on in the land management game.

Fate, however, intervened when he signed his name on the entry papers and found himself in National Service.

"I signed the papers very nicely, and a wee man comes up and says, 'Congratulations, Mr. Campbell. I see you're 18 today." Mr. Campbell recalls. "I thought, 'What business is it of yours?' He told me he was the Queen's man, recruiting buggers like me and I was now in the Navy. I said, 'In a pig's ear!"

Coming from a proud family tradition of raising highland regiments, with a pipe major for a grandfather leading his troops into battle, he persuaded the recruitment officers that if he was going anywhere, it was as a member of the family regiment – the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

"I was ordered to Korea at the time because that's where my regiment was," he says. "Then, two days later, the orders were rescinded. The Americans had wiped out our regiment in Korea – Napalm bombed them and wiped them out. We had retaken the hill from the Chinese they had lost the previous day and they did not believe the hill had been taken."

It was a U-turn in his journey, back to Edinburgh, where he became a piper,

specialized in highland dance, all at the same time, earning his marks and badges as a sniper, rising through the ranks as high as one can go. In the meantime, the British Army had been plotting their next move, and earmarked the Highlanders for the next boat to Africa to fight in the Mau Mau Uprising in Kenva. Halfway through their trip, they again changed course, stopping in the mid-Atlantic and swinging in the opposite direction bound for Trinidad and Tobago, with a port call in Port of Spain before their ultimate destination - fighting off invaders, threats of rebellion, and the encroaching threat of Communism in British

G u y a n a from its neighbours, including Venezuela.

H e
recalls the
confusion
of his crew
both on the
way there
and on the
ground when

they eventually landed, but it soon became clear when their training was put into good use in what he described as facing fullscale war.

When things came to a relative calm, however, he was then given the unlikely task of getting into full pipers' gear and accompanying some of his fellow troops to the home of a very important official in British Guyana. remembers being "befuddled" by his "wonderful, West Indian French hostess" and even more so when he looked up the stairs.

"I looked up and there as the most beautiful girl I had ever seen," he says. "That was for me."

After a slightly fraught courtship, he eventually won her hand and their family's blessing, remaining together until her death from cancer this past April.

In the intervening years, his service took him back to Scotland, where he finished up his active service in Germany, settled in Canada, and became part of an elite team of investigators examining Federal crime in 1969, eventually lasting over 20 years.

In the younger generation, the spirit that defined his grandparents is still alive today.

"My youngest grandson was doing something, and I said, 'You're not having a very good time with that, Bradley.' He said, 'No, but I know the motto. I will not give in. I will do this.' He sat down until he did it. 'My dad doesn't give in, you don't give in, and I will not give in. My name is Campbell."

It is a fitting tribute to the man who, when asked how he can manage at 79 to deliver over 1,200 newspapers each week, answers simply, "Dam the torpedoes, and full speed ahead."

SEPTEMBER 23 – DECEMBER 9

Wavestage Theatre Company will host an eight week acting Masterclass Program beginning September 23 running on select through December Working with an experienced director, you will develop a director, 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.

NOVEMBER 4 – DECEMBER 16 The Richmond Hill Central

The Richmond Hill Central Library (Yonge and Major MacKenzie) will host a series of Buddhist Meditation classes on select dates from 7-8.30 p.m. The theme of the series is "Healing Ourself and Others Within". If we understand the close connection between our mind and body we will gain great insight into how we can maintain wellness of body and mind. November 4: Balanced Mind, Balanced Life; November 11: Establishing Healthy Habits; November 18: Understanding Causes of Diseases; November 25: Meditation to alleviate pain. December 2: Panacea of Universal Compassion; December 9: Purifying Through The Wisdom of Imagination; December 16: Transforming Energy.

NOVEMBER 6 – JANUARY 8

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the loss of a loved one is being offered again at Aurora United Church. This is an eight week program running on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m. beginning November 6 through November 27, and continuing January 8 through January 29, 2014. Non-denominational, free of charge and open to all. For info, call Paula @ 905-727-2584 or bereavement@live.ca.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

The Curtain rises on Aurora's Marquee Theatrical Productions and their production of The Wizard of Oz tonight at the Newmarket Theatre. For more information and tickets, visit www. marqueetheatrical productions. com or visit www.newtix.ca, or call 905-953-5122.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Calling all hockey enthusiasts to join in the 18th annual Hockey Helps the Homeless Men and Women's Fantasy Hockey Tournament presented by Freedom 55 Financial today at the Magna Centre. Enjoy a pro-like experience for a day playing alongside Maple Leads Alumni and Women Prosl Event proceeds support local outreach organizations that provide programs, shelter and food for the homeless in York Region. Visit hockeyhelpsthehomeless.com to sign up.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The Catholic Women's Leage of Our Lady of Grace Church will host its 18th annual Christmas

COMING EVENTS

Fair at Lynett Hall at Our Lady of Grace Church. The fair gets underway from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Events include a bake sale, all day draw, silent auction and children's craft area. Local residents and merchants have donated items towards our silent auction and the all-day auction. Previous beneficiaries of the Fair have included Yellow Brick House, St. Vincent de Paul, Rose of Sharon, and the Aurora Food Pantry. For more information, call 905-806-5245.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Bonsai Hill Tea House hosts an evening of poetry "17 Dancing Penguins and a Whole Pile of Donuts" this evening at 6.30 p.m. This evening's performances include musician Alex Nugent, poets Shoshana Barak, Campo. Brooks. Deborah Sterling Stephanie Davidson, Dillinger, Michael Dwyer, Troy Harkin, Dianne Hughes, Michael Rowbottom, Linda Squires, Tomlinson, Dierdre Malcolm Watts, and an open mic for guest poets. Performances start at 7.15 p.m. Limited Seating. 15263 Yonge Street. Unit 2.

NOVEMBER 22 – NOVEMBER 24

The fifth annual "Special O" Holiday Craft Show benefiting the Aurora Special Ducks, Aurora Dunks, Aurora Eagles Golf Team, and the Aurora Grand Slams gets off to an early start today with Wendy's Holiday Artisan & Craft Show at 106 Houseman Crescent, Richmond Hill. 10 per cent of total sales go to Special Olympics Newmarket-Aurora. Friday.

November 22: Show opening from 7-9 p.m. with artist reception and demonstrations); Saturday, November 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, November 24 from 12 noon -4 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

The Aurora Farmers' Market annual Indoor Market season begins today at the Aurora Cultural Centre (22 Church Street) starting today at 10 a.m. Running until 2 p.m., the first of these Indoor Market days will feature over 30 vendors, a gingerbread house raffle, and a harpist for your enjoyment.

Aurora's Eating Disorders of York Region Riverwalk Wellness Centres will once again receive the support of Steppin' Out Theatrical Productions today, this time with their production of Bye Bye Birdie. Proceeds from this matinee performance will go towards supporting EDOYR's programs to provide support for individuals and families living with eating disorders. Tickets can only be purchased directly through EDOYR for \$32 for adults and \$27 for students at www.edoyr. com or by calling 905-886-6632.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Noted wellness expert Dr. Joel Wallach will be on hand this evening at the Aurora Public Library to "enlighten you on the steps you can take right away to improve your health and reverse any potential negative consequences. Dr. Wallach's Health & Wellness topics are aimed at those who want to reverse mineral deficiencies that could lead to such health consequences as aneurysms, osteoporosis, anemia, temporary infertility, slow-healing wounds, prolonged colds, Alzheimer's disease, and more. For more, call Susan at 905-960-0216 for information and free tickets.







CROSSWORD PUZZLE 10 13 16 18 19 23 25 28 30 36 37 40 43 49 51 55 56 59 58

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Reverberation
- 5. Sonny's ex wife
- 9. Drives elephant
- 11. High-spirited tomboy
- 13. Plans
- 15. Gather materials together 16. Brew
- 17. Discovery child star 19. Stalk of a moss capsule
- 21. Capital of Yemen
- 22. Local area network
- 23. Belgrade River
- 25. Straight or bobby
- 26. Tennis player rank
- 28. Helped (archaic)
- 30. Lounges
- 32. Dove sounds

- 34. Int'l relief organization
- 35. Planted crops
- 37. Gobblers
- 39. Animal companions
- 40. Firth of Clyde city & river
- 42. Korean writer Mogeum
- 44. 007's creator Flemming
- 45. Ursine animal
- 47. Voyage
- 49. Pageant title
- 54. A woman's undergarment
- 55. A treeless grassy plain
- 56. Anarchic
- 58. Gun dog
- 59. Coat of wool
- 60. These (old English)
- 61. Somalian shilling

An afternoon with our remaining veterans

By Chris McGowan

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month is Remembrance Day.

It is a time to reflect, remember. and show respect to those who have fought for our country, to those that served, and to those that have given their lives so that we can have the freedom we take for granted every day.

We are all aware of this day, but most of us have not had the experience of serving for our country in war time.

Hollandview ra i l Retirement Home Aurora has over thirty Second World War veterans and we

were honoured to be able to talk to eight of those veterans this week. Upon entering the room, we noticed the laughter and camaraderie amongst them. They did not know each other in wartime and had only met in their new home, but they are bonded by the experience of serving our country firsthand. They were there. They fought for us.

John B. Wilkes, 91, served from 1942 – 1945. Wilkes was a part of the 23rd Field Regiment that introduced the Sexton, a self-propelled artillery gun mount that had much greater technical complexity. As part of the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, the regiment

arrived in France and 1944 – 1945. He is the baby of participated in the Battle of Normandy as it was reaching its climax. Wilkes was there.

Stan Bray, 89, served from 1942 – 1945 in the RCAF as a radio operator – radar. His job in the Air Force was to be on the lookout for enemy submarines. Bray stationed on the west coast of Canada, patrolling for Japanese submarines.

Second World War veterans hoist some pints (and

a couple of wine glasses) while reminiscing at

"I then went overseas

Jack Cameron, 91, served

"They used to say join the

on transport on a DC3 to fly

from 1941 - 1946 with the

Navy and see the world and

that is what it was like," he

and was in two Russian

convoys. He then went to the

in Palermo, Italy, and then

of Algiers, and then the

Americans were sent in,"

says Cameron, who also

Jack Ross, 84, served from

participated in Normandy.

He joined in North Wales,

"We supported the troops

were torpedoed off

supplies in to our boys."

Auroran photo by S. Mulholland

Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence.

Royal Navy.

Mediterranean.

the group.

"I was a boy soldier, and did not last very long, came back in 1948 in the North West Air Command for the Canadian Air Force stationed in White Horse, Yukon. We were there when the Korean War broke out."

Ross's team involved with maintaining and servicing Aircraft in

Scotland well, where they provided support for the rest of Europe.

Jack Saul, 92 served from 1942 -1945 Saul was with RCAF the as a flying instructor.

Graham Kennedy, 90,

served from 1941 – 1945.

"I was trained on spitfires for air gunnery, but was transferred to typhoons," Kennedy said. "I was shot down in aircraft fire over Holland in 1945, and had a compression fracture lumbar one."

Kennedy was wearing medals which displayed his service in battle.

Carl Bedal, 89, served from 1943 - 1945 in the Royal Canadian Navy out of Halifax, Nova Scotia. He had convoy duty on a Corvette. His service duties took him to the North Atlantic.

Peter Nordheimer, 92, served from 1942 - 1945 as Continued on page 22

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Birds of prey
- 2. Fastest land animal
- 3. Judge's moniker (abbr.)
- 4. Part of Uttar Pradesh 5. Italian crooner Perry
- 6. Syringe
- 7. Articles fit to eat
- 8. Replace spent bullets
- 9. International metal polish
- 10. New Mexico artist town
- 11. Elf (Brit.)
- 12. Glowing gas element
- 14. Break suddenly
- 15. Blue colored
- 18. Br. children's author Blyton
- 20. Limicoline bird
- 24. Burn plants
- 26. Gulf of, Aegean Sea inlet

- 27. Clysters
- 29. Leguminous fruit
- 31. Large tub
- 33. Member of U.S. Navy
- 35. Having physical sensation
- 36. Colors clothes 38. Plural of 33 down
- 39. Grouped by twos
- 41. Fence bar
- 43. Cherry brandy
- 44. Pixies
- 46. Canadian flyers
- 48. Emit coherent radiation 50. Lot
- 51. Area units 52. Russian space station
- 53. Tools for holes
- 57. 5th sign of the zodiac

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Thursday, November 21st, 2013 6pm to 10pm



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Come prepared to dine like a soldier.

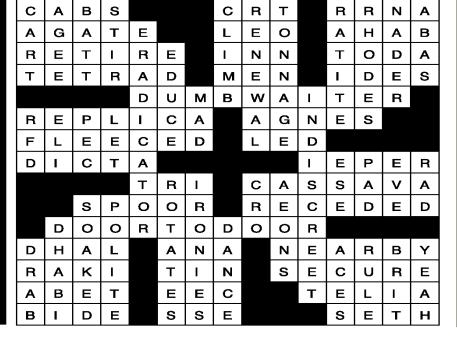
Speakers will include Queen's York Rangers and our Canadian Military who have served our country in Afghanistan, and a video presentation including actual photos of a soldier's experience in Afghanistan will give everyone a unique view of the service the QYR perform.

A wonderful Silent Auction, exciting door prizes, and the opportunity to write a note to a soldier currently serving our country will complete your experience

For tickets- please contact the Queen's York Rangers Regimental Fundraising Committee at qyrtickets@gmail.com

Tickets are also available at Neighbourhood Network or Jonathans Restaurant

Last Week's Puzzle Solution











The Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion held its annual Remembrance Day Dinner on Saturday. Among those attending the popular tradition included (left) 100-year-old Allen Griffiths, a veteran of both the Spanish Civil War and the Second World War, who capped the evening with a celebratory shot of rum, (centre) 92-year-old Thomas Wansbrough, whose story was shared by grandson Chris Cimarno, while (right) cadets with the Queen's York Rangers stood vigil at a makeshift memorial before the head table.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Controversial trees need to come down despite opposition, says Town

By Brock Weir

Despite the efforts of Councillors to preserve three mature trees on a private property on Longthorpe Court, the trees have got to go.

This is the word of Town Staff that will be considered at Council this week, following a report there is no chance of properly grading a property with the trees standing in the way.

The three trees on the property of Chris Katsopoulos, near Bayview Avenue and Vandorf Sideroad, have dominated hours of Council debate over recent months. The issue stems from a grading plan approved by the Town on the property which did not take into account the mature trees in question.

In order for the plan to be carried out, the trees will have to be removed. The plan, however, brought the surrounding community en masse to Council to protest the tree cutting, stating they bought their homes specifically because they were close to the tree grove.

Hundreds of trees were felled in the creation of this community and the three in question are the last ones standing.

Councillors will be asked once again to approve a tree replacement plan for the property after rejecting it out of hand earlier this fall in favour of saving the trees and coming up with a new grading plan.

"The builder has attempted to grade the lot to both achieve the requirements of the approved master grading and drainage plan and the lot grading plan while preserving the trees," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Director of Infrastructure, for the Town of Aurora, in a memo to Council. "The grading that has been completed on the site is that the side slopes on the south side of the lot are too steep and do not meet the requirements of a three to one slope. The proper slope cannot be achieved due to the location of the southernmost tree, which interferes with the required swale.

"A second swale was created between the two clusters of trees to facilitate drainage away from the building, which may provide some drainage westward, but only to a limited area of the rear yard. The location and elevation of the existing trees makes it impossible to provide adequate and proper grading and drainage that conforms to the approved master grading and drainage plan due to the location and elevation of trees.

"The builder has made best efforts to facilitate adequate drainage while preserving the existing trees; however, the final result could not be approved by the Town as the revised drainage patterns do not create a usable and well-drained rear yard."

So, after over seven hours of Council debate over the last two months, numerous delegations, and Councillors coming down on various and sometimes changing sides on whether or not to "save" the trees, or let the grading go ahead as planned, Councillors, the

homeowner and the neighbours are back at square one.

The last time the matter was discussed was the October 29 meeting of Council when Councillors pressed for a resolution on the matter.

"I think every member of Council should consider this an urgent item, considering how many weeks we have prevaricated over making a decision and how few weeks are left for the closing date of this house," said Councillor Evelyn Buck, questioning why the issue wasn't on that evening's agenda so it could be dealt with right then and there.

When Mayor Dawe suggested there had been no word back because the builder hadn't come back to the Town with anything, Councillor Buck countered that he hadn't "come back with a new plan because he can't think of a new plan" that could conform to Council's direction.





A pint with our vets

From page 20

part of the Royal Canadian Artillerv.

"I was sent overseas about six months before the invasion," he says. "I was a Gunner, but I was kind of an expert in communications. I took Morse code, communicating to France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany."

During our time spent with these men that served our country, they laughed, had a beer and listened as they shared their stories. It was evident they all did their part. They are in a retirement home now, some with their wives, some alone, but they are proud men.

They are aware that they

are a few of the lucky ones that made it back, and they

quickly reminded us that so many did not.



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E-1 Victoria Street, Mosley Street, Larmont Street, Church Street, and Wells Street Total 101 houses A-25a Bell Dr., Hammo nd Dr., Navan Cres., Boulding Dr., McDonald Dr., James Henry Dr., and Egan Cres, Total 116 houses

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Project accounts for future residents

From page 12

"Six or seven years later, population has grown and expanded, and we expect 8,000 people roughly to take up residence in the 2C lands. I think it is imperative to use those DCs that will come in to meet the needs of future residents of Aurora and add some space. If we wait, then it becomes too late and we're reacting to it after the fact."

At the end of the day, however, Councillor Gallo remained unmoved - and he said he believed Aurora residents would remain equally so.

'My preference is making sure some things come to fruition before I can make a \$7 million decision. If that is wrong, if the public has an issue with me saying we shouldn't be digging into a significant deficit in our reserves and an additional \$7 million, I would be shocked that anyone would tell me, 'Go for it, you're doing the right thing.' I'm for exploring the idea of a youth centre... but I am not for exploring...putting this corporation into additional deficits.

Congratulations are in Order

Congratulations to everyone on the "Payback in Paradise" murder mystery drama team for the two wonderful shows! Both audiences thoroughly enjoyed the play. For some, it was the first time they had seen a murder mystery performed. All the rehearsals and the time and effort you all put into this really made such a difference. The play was written Aurora Seniors' Association (ASA) member Bert Wheeler. What a lovely surprise the ASA Silver Stars received on Wednesday, October 9, after their performance when Cliff White of PROBUS Aurora presented to our director of the

Silver Stars Drama Club, Judy Buchanan, a donation cheque of \$100 to the Aurora Seniors' Association.

Congratulations as well to our ASA Carvers, successful at a recent carving show. Sue Phillips and Fred Ash won ribbons at the Ontario Woodcarvers' Association 34th Annual Show and Competition. The event was held October 19 and 20 at the Pickering Recreation Centre. Sue won first and third in the novice division with her stylized geese.

Fred received a second in the Intermediate Division with his carving of an Ojibwa trapper.

Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive 2013

Councillor John Abel asks for volunteers to man this year's Christmas Army Kettle Drive in our community. If you can spare two hours, give him a call at the Town of Aurora or call Neighbourhood Network at 905-726-3737 and they will set you up at any one of three locations in

Computer News

The cooler weather is coming so we will be staying indoors more. This may be a good time to ensure that your PC, tablet, smartphone or other device is properly backed up.

If you have photographs or documents that would be difficult to replace if your hard drive failed, do you have a way to recover your data? There are several ways to back up and protect your data.

You could store it securely in "the cloud" or to another external device attached to your computer. The advantage of the cloud solution is that your data is available to you whenever you like, or wherever you are. See a computer club member for help or if you have questions about up a backup of your data.

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