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Aurora's Community Newspaper



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theauroran.com

FREE Week of February 6, 2014

Town prepares for court fight over Mavrinac Boulevard land

By Brock Weir

The dispute between the Town of Aurora and Minto Communities over land on Mavrinac Boulevard could be headed to the courts.

The Town filed a Statement of Claim against the development company this week seeking a decision from the court that Aurora indeed has a "valid and enforceable right" to purchase the disputed property and to convey the land to the Town. Failing that, Aurora seeks \$4 million in damages a breach of the subdivision agreement which Aurora signed with Minto in April 2007.

The subdivision agreement in question outlines the future use of the six acre parcel of land. Previously earmarked for a future use by the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), it states that in the event the land was not used by the Board, the Town of Aurora would have the first right of refusal to purchase the land.

Located in the subdivision on the northeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East, the YCDSB subsequently released all holds on the land, opting to expand elsewhere.

The issue was brought into the forefront by neighbours in the surrounding area last fall. The residents were promised, they claimed, the land was either to become a school or a park.

Many said they bought their respective lots on the assumption it would be either a school or an open space, and paid a premium for it. In a series of Council sessions, the neighbours strongly urged the Town to exercise the right of first refusal, purchase the land, and turn it into a park.

Council ultimately voted to pursue this course of action, with an eye of reserving the land for "municipal purposes." In their statement of claim, the Town argues Minto and the YCDSB came to an agreement, securing the land for the board at a price of \$2,024,700 and under the subdivision agreement this is the price they should be able to acquire the land.

"By letter dated October 28, 2013, Minto gave notice to the Town that YCDSB had released Minto from its obligations to convey [the land] to YCDSB," reads the Statement of Claim. "In connection with that notice, in or about October 2013, Minto provided the Town with a copy of the [agreement of purchase and sale] with the YCDSB."

The right of first refusal as outlined in the Subdivision Agreement, it continues, was not included in Minto's agreement with the YRDSB and would, therefore, constitute a breach of the subdivision agreement.

"On December 10, 2013, the Town wrote to Minto exercising its Right and paying the deposit," the statement continues, noting a \$5,000 deposit on the land as per the agreement. "On December 20, 2013, Minto's counsel wrote to the Town

Continued on page 12



(Clockwise from top left) Aurora 150 Committee members Tim Jones, Lindsay McGuire, Alison Collins-Mrakas, special events coordinator Shelley Ware, Brian Trussler, Stewart McLaren, and Brian North prepare to fold the official Sesquicentennial Flag. Items included in the time capsule include photos many Aurora citizens captured in Instagram booths set up at several events. Councillors Paul Pirri and Michael Thompson, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, and Councillors Wendy Gaertner and Chris Ballard, attended the official "sealing". Ron Coe and Charles Sequeira of the Aurora Seniors' Centre placed items made at the Centre into the capsule.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Time capsule sealed, Aurora's 150th birthday comes to a close

By Brock Weir

On February 3, 2013, hundreds of people braved the frigid temperatures of Town Park to take in at least part of the Mayor's Sesquicentennial Levee.

As kids played broomball outside of the former Wells Street Public School, gathered around a bonfire, played traditional games like tug-o-war, or stood vigil at the end of the evening in a multi-faith candlelight service, it was the start of a year to remember as Aurora celebrated its 150th

anniversary.

Exactly one year later, on Monday night, those who helped make Aurora 150 a reality gathered, this time in the warmth of Town Hall, to place a year's worth of memories and mementos into a time capsule, which is now sealed until 2063.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe lead the way as members of the Town's Aurora 150 Committee, Councillors, and representatives of community groups like the Aurora Seniors' Centre, came forward one by

Continued on page 17

Somerville enters Progressive Conservative race

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Stephen Somerville has joined the race to take over from Frank Klees as the Progressive Conservative candidate for Newmarket-Aurora.

Mr. Somerville threw his hat into the ring on Monday, nearly two weeks after Mr. Klees' surprise announcement he would not be seeking re-election. The Auroran columnist joins Newmarket Councillors Maddie Di Muccio and Jane Twinney as the third candidate in the PC race thus far. Perennial candidate Dorian Baxter, who has often run on the Federal ticket for the Progressive Canadian party, also plans to put his name into the mix later this week.

Active with the conservatives on both the national and provincial levels for over 30 years, and with a 15-year career background in the energy sector, Mr. Somerville says he wants to continue where Mr. Klees will leave off at the end of the next provincial election.

"I have had a really good chance to work with two of the finest representatives that we have in Lois Brown and Frank Klees, and I have had a really good chance to work with them and watch how they operate," he says. "I can tell you one thing: I think what this community really wants is a continuation of the first-class customer representation they have come to expect from a representative in our community."

With his career background in energy, it should come as no surprise this is a portfolio he has watched intently from the sidelines, both as a member of the party and a member of the public at large. As such, if elected to Queen's Park, it is one issue on which he plans to be particularly active.

"One priority is respect for taxpayer dollars," he said. "The second is accountability within our public organizations. The third is a strong and sensible energy policy. Energy and economy are very important. When you look at some of the other issues, it is all about jobs and the local economy. It's about

Continued on page 8



Stephen Somerville (above) and Dorian Baxter entered the race to succeed Frank Klees this week.

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| Thursday, February 6 | 7 p.m. | Environmental Advisory Committee |
| Monday, February 10 | 7 p.m. | Special General Committee* – 2014 Budget Review |
| Tuesday, February 11 | 6 p.m. | Council |
| Wednesday, February 12 | 7 p.m. | Heritage Advisory Committee |
| Thursday, February 13 | 7 p.m. | Economic Development Advisory Committee |
| Thursday, February 13 | 7 p.m. | Committee of Adjustment |
| Tuesday, February 18 | 7 p.m. | General Committee* |
| Wednesday, February 19 | 7 p.m. | Aurora Public Library Board |
| Thursday, February 20 | 7 p.m. | Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee |
| Friday, February 21 | 10 a.m. | Trails and Active Transportation 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



Events at the Aurora Public Library

Spouses Zorica and Nenad Miric have teamed together to present a joint art exhibit of lively colour in both realistic and abstract forms. Visit the APL's Colleen Abbott Gallery from now until Friday, February 28 and enjoy this unique artistic display.

Reserve your spot today for the Aurora Public Library's event, *Valentine Craft Round-Up*, on Wednesday, February 5. Participants can make several gifts such as craft flowers, art and jewelry for their loved ones and then wrap them up! Call 905-727-9494 ext. 280 to reserve your spot. This workshop is for children ages six to nine years old. The price to participate is \$8.50.

Spice-up your literary love life with a blind date! Come to the APL until Friday, February 14 and choose one of our wrapped-up books, sign it out, then take it home and be prepared to fall in love.

2014 Budget

The Town of Aurora will host one final Special General Committee Budget meeting on Monday, February 10 at 7 p.m. and will receive input from residents concerning the 2014 Operational Budget. The Budget is scheduled to move forward for final approval at Council on Tuesday, February 25.

The February 10 Budget meeting will be held in Council Chambers, located at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way.

Public input will be received at the beginning of the 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 is available on the Town's website at www.aurora.ca/budget2014 For more information about the 2014 Budget, please contact Dan Elliott, Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer at ourtownbudget@aurora.ca

Skylight Gallery Artist of the Month

In February, the Skylight Gallery will feature the artwork of Josephine Sherman.



Josephine is an award-winning artist and art teacher. She is the visual arts specialist at Richland Academy and also teaches watercolour and drawing classes to adults. Her focus and passion for watercolours has earned her many awards throughout York Region and beyond. She is proud to have won "Honourable Mention" several times and "Best in Watercolour" at the annual Aurora Art Show and Sale.

Regular viewing hours are Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the third floor of Aurora Town Hall.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for the following position:

Group Fitness Instructors

Application deadline is Saturday, February 15

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Youth Drop-in Activities

Check out one of the many drop-in activities around Aurora for youth ages 11 to 19 years old. There are a variety of fun activities available such as movie nights, dodgeball, basketball and volleyball. The cost is \$3 per visit.

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

Upcoming Trips with the Aurora Seniors' Centre

Branson

Where: Branson, Missouri
When: Wednesday, April 23 to Wednesday, April 30
Trip Information: Branson is the entertainment capital of America. See the beautiful Ozark Mountains and join us as we experience food, shopping, sightseeing, nightlife and shows

For more information or to book, please contact Andrew Bailey at 905-727-3123 ext. 3611 or abailey@aurora.ca

Outdoor Skating Rinks

Residents are advised that the four outdoor ice rinks located at Macheff Park, Aurora Town Park, Ada Johnson Park and Confederation Park are now all open!

All four rinks having lighting and will operate until 11 p.m. Duration of the rink availability is weather dependant.

For more information, please contact the Parks & Recreation department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3233.



The next municipal election in The Town of Aurora will be held on Monday, October 27. Nominations are now open and forms can be viewed and downloaded online at www.aurora.ca/vote2014

Residents are encouraged to educate themselves on the election process and the candidates running for office. Have your voice heard on election day and vote!

PUBLIC NOTICES

2014 Spring and Summer Parks and Recreation Guide

Look for your copy of the 2014 Spring and Summer Parks and Recreation Guide delivered in *The Banner* newspaper on Sunday, February 9. Copies will also be available at various Town facilities and online at www.aurora.ca/programguide

Wi-Fi in Aurora



The Town of Aurora is now offering free high-speed wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) to visitors at Town Hall and the Stronach Aurora

Recreation Complex, following a successful three-week trial of the new service in December and early January.

Visitors to these locations can access the wireless "hotspot" by clicking the "Town of Aurora Wi-Fi" connection which appears under the list of available networks on your computer or hand-held device. Detailed instructions are available at the front desk of both facilities.

Salvation Army Kettle Drive Results!

The Town of Aurora and the Salvation Army held its annual Kettle Drive in December and is pleased to announce more than \$31,000 was raised! Your generous contributions help provide practical assistance to vulnerable members of our community during the holidays and throughout the year.

Sincere thanks to Walmart, The Real Canadian Superstore, Metro, The Beer Store and LCBO of Aurora for hosting the Kettle Drive. Thanks also to everyone who donated and volunteered to make this year's campaign a resounding success!

Participate in Doors Open Aurora 2014

The Town of Aurora and the Aurora Heritage Advisory Committee are hosting the 2014 Doors Open Aurora event on Saturday, August 16. Doors Open Aurora is part of Doors Open Ontario, an event that has attracted thousands of visitors each year since its start in 2002.

Our 2013 event was a great success with more than 3,800 visits to 16 participating sites.

In 2014, the Doors Open Aurora Organizing Committee hopes to recruit approximately 16 sites of architectural, historical or natural significance.

If you would like to apply to take part in the Doors Open Aurora 2014 event, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4226 or email planning@aurora.ca to learn more and to obtain an application form.



2014 Community Recognition and Citizen of the Year Awards

Do you know a person or organization that is making Aurora a better place to live because of their volunteer efforts?

Make sure they get the recognition they deserve by nominating them for a Community Recognition Award. This year the Citizen of the Year Award will be presented at the Community Recognition Awards, as opposed to a separate ceremony. Submit a nomination by visiting www.aurora.ca/2014awards and complete the application form.

For more information please contact Erika Vilmanis, Corporate Events Co-ordinator, Town of Aurora at 905-727-3123 ext. 4232 evilmanis@aurora.ca

Dinner and a Movie

Toy Story 2 (Rated G)

Where: Aurora Public Library
When: Saturday, February 8, 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. 3121.



REMINDERS

Pet Licence Renewal Reminder

The Town of Aurora reminds owners of dogs and cats that licences must be renewed no later than February 15 each year.

Pet license fees are as follows:

| Pet | Regular price | Micro-chipped | Seniors' Rate |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dog | \$30 | \$22.50 | \$15 |
| Cat | \$20 | \$15 | \$10 |

Pet Licenses are available for purchase at the following locations:

- Pet Valu – 1 Henderson Drive, Aurora
- Pet Valu – 15340 Bayview Avenue, Aurora
- Aurora Town Hall 1st Floor – 100 John West Way, Aurora
- York Region OSPCA – 16586 Woodbine Avenue, Newmarket

If you require more information, please contact the By-law Services division at 905-727-3123 ext. 4751 or email bylawdept@aurora.ca



Aurora's Borealis

Don't miss Aurora's Borealis!
Come to Aurora Town Park every evening from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. until Monday, February 17, 2014 and enjoy skating under the lights on a giant outdoor ice rink. WEATHER-PERMITTING

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca

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Winter adventure games! Skating, hockey shoot-out, snow shoeing, mini snow-tubing, broomball and floor curling. Collect the winter adventure stamps and win a prize!
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- **PROFESSIONAL ICE CARVING and igloo demonstrations**
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St. Max students Mikaela Saccucci and Lauren Sanders spent Monday hanging their art with teacher Carlos Viaes.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

St. Max grads tackle tough issues in inaugural art show

By Brock Weir

He sits reclining in a chair; his black and white eyes penetrating the viewer as he relaxes.

As you watch him, you can almost feel him stretching back to get comfortable with his legs elevated on a stool – only on second glance, his stool is a woman, her face obscured by the only abstract splashes of colour on the canvas. w

She is anonymous, a feature in the room, a source of mystery and pity for the audience and, at the end of the day, one of the tough issues students at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School are tackling through their art.

Student curators Mikaela Saccucci and Lauren Sanders were hard at work at the start of the week, along with teacher Carlos Viaes, hanging their art in the halls of the Aurora Cultural Centre, the first collaboration between St. Max and the Church Street landmark.

Showcasing the work of the Grade 12 class before they graduate as the class of 2014, the exhibition is not just a way to show off their artistic prowess, but also to tackle the issues they face and messages they are bombarded with every day.

According to Lauren and Mikaela, as they worked to put the show together common themes kept coming up in the works such as war, smoking, gay rights, child labour, and consumerism, but what might surprise audiences, but not necessarily students, was the overriding theme of the objectification of women.

“It is a prevalent theme and something we can relate to,” says Mikaela. “We see it in the media and it is pretty much everywhere.”

For Mr. Viaes, tackling these sensitive topics was part and parcel of what he was trying to achieve with his students this year. Roaming through the galleries, one will see a multi-part process to art, he says. The first

was to break art down into different forms students had yet to experience, including traditional Japanese art forms, and then, working through different genre, charting their own progress.

“The final project culminated in a performance task, which focused on choosing a social justice piece to represent in some way something they are passionate about,” he explains. “The work in their sketchpads was a culmination of everything they have done this year and they had to pick their favourite piece they felt strong about. Other pieces focused on non-objective art, taking the opportunity to focus rather than on the full composition, using a viewfinder to pick out an image and break it down into its simplest form.

“The last ones were inspired pieces taking 20th century art pieces or artists and representing them in a new, modern interpretation. After four years, it has come to this.”

When the opportunity came to put this show together, Mikaela and Lauren said they jumped at the chance to volunteer their time to curate their work and the works of their peers.

“It was something we were very interested in,” says Lauren. “We each have four pieces in the art show, and they are the ones we are most proud of. I know for Mikaela and myself they are things helping us get into university and something we are passionate and care about. We are happy to be able to show off, for once, other to our friends and family, and with something which is not for marks.”

The St. Maximilian Kolbe Grad “Collection” Art Show opens this week and runs through March 22. Student artists will be on hand to show off their work during a reception from 1 – 4 p.m. on February 15. For Stephanie Nicolo of the Aurora Cultural Centre, this is the longest they have held a student art exhibition, and an “exciting” new partnership with a relatively new Aurora school.

Police have suspect in Lewis-McFarlane murder

By Brock Weir

Police have a male suspect in custody in connection with the murder of Aurora native Shirley Lewis-McFarlane.

Ms. McFarlane, 53, a long-time resident of Aurora who recently located to Jamaica, was found dead in her Discovery Bay, Jamaica, home on December 30. Investigations have been ongoing ever since, before a break was made in the case last week.

As The Auroran went to press last week, Superintendent Yvonne Martin-Daley of the St. Ann Parish branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, said police were investigating a new lead and later confirmed this lead was indeed a suspect.

Superintendent Martin-Daley would not confirm the identity of the suspect or his relationship with Ms. Lewis-McFarlane.

“Police are working on some delicate issues,” she said. “If there are other persons involve, we really don’t want them to be tipped off. They

are proceeding in a delicate way. There are other persons [investigators] want to get information from because they gave given statements. It is important that we find the persons and pull all the different aspects of the investigation together. He is a suspect right now and we are doing some other stuff to get information.”

What the Superintendent did confirm, however, was the suspect was not one of three individuals held in custody for questioning in mid-January before being subsequently released, and they continue questioning individuals connected with the victim’s life on the island.

“Mrs. McFarlane, it would appear, had quite a number of friends here,” said Superintendent Martin-Daley. “As she lived a quiet life, so to speak, not a lot of people knew her activities. We have to ask the right questions and recognize people aren’t necessarily going to be [forthcoming]. We have to use forensic evidence as far as is practical right now.”

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-law on Wednesday, February 26 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

Under Sections 26(9) and 34(13) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 c. P.13 as amended, Zoning By-Law 2213-78, as amended, is under review to bring The Town of Aurora Zoning By-law into conformity with The Town of Aurora Official Plan. The proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-Law applies to all lands within The Town of Aurora.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Zoning Review is to revise and update the current zoning standards primarily to implement the policies of The Town’s new Official Plan, incorporate new standards for the Aurora Promenade and update standards to apply current progressive planning practice regulations. The proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-Law also includes ‘Schedules’ or maps identifying zones for all properties in The Town of Aurora. By-Law 4469-03, which is a bylaw affecting lands on the Oak Ridges Moraine within The Town of Aurora, is not subject to this review and is to remain in full force and effect.

The purpose of the Public Meeting is to provide information and receive comments from the public. Any person may attend the public meeting to make written or verbal representation relating to the proposed Comprehensive Zoning By-Law.

Contact Information

For more information, please contact The Town of Aurora’s Planning & Development Services department:

- Jeff Healey, Planner, at 905-727-3123 ext. 4349
- Glen Letman, Manager of Development Planning, at 905-727-3123 ext. 4346

Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the address noted below, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote “The Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review (File Number: D14-ZBR-12).”

Additional Notes

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees. The Town collects this information to enable it to make informed decisions on the relevant issue(s). If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town’s website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. By submitting a fax, email, presentation or other communication, you are authorizing the Town to collect and use the above-noted information for this purpose. The Town audio records public planning meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council and/or its Committees, the Town will be audio recording you and Town staff and may make these audio recordings available to the public.

Zoning By-law (O. Reg. 545/06)

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora before the proposed Zoning By-law is adopted and before the bylaw is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of The Town of Aurora to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting, or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora before the proposed Zoning By-law is adopted and before the bylaw is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption or refusal of the proposed Zoning By-law, you must make a written request to The Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning & Development Services.



AURORA FAMILY LEISURE COMPLEX project update #3

Last November, The Town of Aurora closed the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) for reconstruction for approximately one year. The closure was approved by Town Council in order to re-build and enhance existing facilities as well as create a new community space for youth. Many of the services that were offered at the AFLC have been moved to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex during reconstruction. However, residents are advised that:

- Squash courts are operational with limited access to registered members only
- The arena is open for rentals
- Public skating is available at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, located at 1400 Wellington Street East

January construction update in brief

- ✓ Demolition inside the building continues. This includes the removal of the elevator, the upper and lower staircases and the track structure
- ✓ Temporary fencing is currently being installed to allow construction to begin on the new side entrance

Photos of construction progress are shown below.



Stay tuned here for monthly project progress updates.

Call 905-727-1375 or visit our website www.aurora.ca/NewAFLC for additional information.

Letters to the editor Council has lost the budget plot

(Re: Aurora tax increase stands at 3.81% before final approval, January 30)

The Aurora taxes are set to increase by 3.81%. I say this Council has lost the plot. Pensioners will likely receive about 0.9% increase for 2014, and inflation is running about 1.2% give or take. On what planet does this Council belong? They need to realize that this left wing mentality of TAX and SPEND belongs in the past. Work harder, cut costs and stay within the inflationary boundary; it ain't rocket science. It is simple household budgetary constraint. We have to decide if we want a library, museum or historical society? If we do, then these need to be considered as part of Aurora's culture and paid for by giving up other activities. Do we really need all these soccer, baseball, hockey and swimming facilities? Do we really need a Youth Center? Who will use it? Is it a white elephant? Time will tell. If we do, then maybe user fees need to be added or increased. In times of constraint you have to make choices. Do a survey of exactly how many people use or wish to use these facilities. Come on Council; sort it out and control your spending facade.

Robert Grattage
Aurora

Here's why one Councillor voted against accessible playground

(Re: Activist surprised by Diamond Jubilee Park reaction, January 23, 2014)

It was interesting to read Tyler Barker's Letter last week, "Activist surprised by Diamond Jubilee Park reaction." I would like to thank him for his dedication to solving community accessibility issues that limit respectful and complete participation for everyone. Tyler commented that he "would like to know why 3 Councillors voted against" making the former Civic Square Park, renamed Queen's Jubilee Park, our next accessible park. The reason is that only eight years ago, \$240,000 worth of tax dollars was spent to build this park. Councillors Ballard, Gallo and I thought that it would be completely fiscally irresponsible to spend another \$150,000 of your hard earned money to redo this existing park! Why wasn't a piece of undeveloped park land chosen? And why take an enjoyed park away from local residents? Ideally every playground in Aurora would have accessible features that enabled everyone to play close to home. I believe this would fulfil Mr. Barker's goal of respectful and fair treatment for all.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner
Aurora

Opposition is more than a "significant minority" says citizen group

As long-term property owners, business operators and residents of Aurora Centre, we challenge elements in the January 9th story on Heritage Designation for our area. Mr. Bray acknowledges little neighbourhood interest in the study. He dismisses opposition from property owners as from a "significant minority." A number of stakeholders have undertaken to inform neighbours of the significance of heritage designation. We contend substantial opposition within the block east of Yonge, south of and including Wellington Street. We live and make our living in the area. We are acutely aware of negative impact of a "Heritage District Designation." We will not be dissuaded by a heritage consultant with nothing invested. Reduced assessment and lower taxes from reduced property value are not anticipated nor would that be to the town's advantage. The only "curious trend" we note in the proposed designation, stems from unclear remarks of Councilor Abel about differences from the northeast quadrant which has already been "Heritage Designated". Improvement, upgrades and restoration undertaken in our neighbourhood over the past forty years, amply illustrated by the owner appreciation of historic character, have been accomplished entirely by our investment. No help required from the Town. We suggest the Town turn its attention to decisions pending our Library Square, and deal with worn out facilities and parking shortage.

Concerned Residents of Aurora Centre
Aurora

THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper
The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8
Aurora, ON, L4G 1L8

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Reining in the Red Chamber

I'm afraid we've crossed a final frontier and there is no turning back.

I was one of many two weeks ago who shook his head in dismay at a clip from MSNBC that went low-grade viral on YouTube of a particular news anchor cutting off an interesting discussion with a Congresswoman on an issue of the day for breaking news about...Justin Bieber.

It seems the man who was once Stratford's proudest son was off to answer charges of drag racing, drinking and driving, and otherwise menacing his fellow Canadian snowbirds in Florida.

"This is where their priorities lie," I thought to myself. Scrolling down the page, it became clear from the comments others felt the same way.

Nevertheless, I rested assured this would not follow suit in our own media north of the border; the frigid land that nurtured this fellow before releasing him out onto an unsuspecting world.

How wrong I was. Settling into CBC News' flagship political program Power & Politics on Wednesday afternoon to take in the fallout from the leader of the Liberal Party of Canada to banish Liberal senators whence they came – or, really, simply to nominally remove them from the traditional party caucus – things were going along relatively smoothly. Liberal pundits were hailing the move as Trudeau's first true, bold foray into a brave new world while others, particularly Conservatives, downplayed the move, attempting to downplay Stephen Harper's own undershooting of his goal to appoint zero senators by 59, falling back repeatedly on the argument a senate caucus by any other name would stink as sweet.

It was a stimulating conversation until they had the balls to segue from the story "from Justin to Justin." We were out of the corridors of power; to Toronto Police Headquarters, for the breaking news that the Biebs had, unlike Senators, come back whence he came to turn himself in for atrocities to ears the world-over... or assault, or something. (Admittedly, I quickly stopped paying close attention and, to tell you the truth, I don't particularly care, so either charge seems apt.)

Although I had tuned out, I still could not believe my eyes or ears as this particular item was deemed newsworthy enough to bump what could perhaps turn out to be a watershed moment in Canadian politics from a political program. Host Evan Solomon seemed equally amused – and bemused.

Eventually, they wound back to the topic at hand and I tuned back in.

Evaluating both sides of the debate, I find the arguments of both the Liberals and the Conservatives compelling. Putting aside the hypocritical nature of the Conservatives' own Senate appointments aside, I can take in the perspective that this is merely a formality and doesn't necessarily change the fact these seniors remain Liberal in ideology and are likely to follow suit in their votes.

On the other hand, I think Trudeau's decision opened up a very positive can of worms. Amid the calls to abolish the Senate altogether, I have always believed that this would be too reactive to abuses by senators across all party lines – as well as the people who put them there.

The principle of having another body to review legislation out of the heat of the House of Commons is a welcome buffer. A phrase we hear over and over again is the Senate acts a chamber of "sober second thought." This is how it would work in an ideal world, but this is not an ideal world.

Party lines and political appointments have resulted in this philosophy becoming nothing but a pipe dream, but if party lines were nominally abolished throughout the Senate, it would be a welcome step in the right direction – freedom to exercise this sober second thought without being beholden to a government or leader of the day.

Trudeau's bold decision is not the only change to consider in Canada's red chamber. The room, of course, is headed by a pair of thrones ostensibly occupied by



BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

the Governor General and his or her Consort. But these are also the thrones occupied by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

REIGNING OUT

As this issue of The Auroran hits the streets on February 6, it will be exactly 62 years to the day that King George VI died and his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, becoming not only Queen of the United Kingdom, but also Queen of Canada.

As a lapsed fan of Monty Python, whenever those figures are mentioned, my mind immediately envisions the racetrack where dozens of Queen Victorias, complete in mourning black, white veil, and a precariously perched tiny crown are leaping over fences and other obstacles to take the lead.

With each passing year, my mind's eye turns back there with an additional Queen, complete with hat and handbag, entering the course, quickly gaining on the Queen Victorias en route to beat her 63.5-year record as monarch in 2015.

Between now and then, however, I wonder how much of this office will change in Canada. Speculation on the future went into fever pitch throughout most of January as it was announced the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall were taking over more duties from The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, who will be 88 and 93 this year respectively. It is an understandable move.

Speculation became even greater when Buckingham Palace announced a number of measures being taken to ease the "transition" between monarchs, including the merging of their press office.

Finally, on January 16, the Governor General announced Charles and Camilla would be making their first visit to Canada as a couple this May, and Charles' 18th individual visit, paying calls on Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Manitoba to commemorate, among other things, the 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, a pivotal step on the road to Canadian Confederation in 1867.

It will be interesting to see the reception of this visit, considering the lacklustre reception the couple received on their 2009 visit and their comparatively rapturous return engagement in 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee.

But it will also be interesting to see what the next steps will be in this inevitable transition. In a matter of just a few years, the number of people in Canada who have known no other monarch as Canada's head of state in their lifetimes has rapidly become the majority.

When one stops to think about the level of commitment, it is almost staggering to comprehend the Queen made her 21st birthday commitment to dedicate her life to what was to become the Commonwealth a whopping 67 years ago this spring – and just a year off in age from Justin Bieber. How's that for some perspective?

A similar commitment was made at a similar age by the Prince of Wales when formally invested with the title in 1969. Despite what transpired in his personal life, I believe his is a commitment he has followed with nearly equal dedication to his mother.

Sure, he has been derided for having occasional conversations with plants, his messy personal life, or what some consider an old-fashioned approach to life, but he has consistently demonstrated an ability to read the public consciousness in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the rest of the Commonwealth, and consistently being ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to environmental, sustainability, and human rights matters.

Case in point: his bold stance against climate change doubters last week, dubbing them the "headless chicken brigade" turning a blind eye to mounting proof. Fasten your seatbelts!

**As a final note, you may have noticed my regular photo has been replaced. This picture was taken by Auroran photographer David Falconer on Monday. Here, I'm placing one of the candles from the February 3, 2013 Candlelight Vigil into Aurora's Sesquicentennial Time Capsule.*

NEW AURORAN POLL

After nearly a month of debate, are you in favour of Aurora implementing a "clear bag" program for garbage?

a) Yes b) No c) Undecided

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

| RESULTS February 4, 2013 | A | B | C |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| | 8% | 82% | 10% |



11-year-old Kaela Wittingham, a student at Aurora Montessori School, was celebrated at the Royal Canadian Legion this week. Her poster, depicting the fallen, loved ones left behind, and the iconic symbols of the poppy, dove of peace, and Canadian maple leaf, was awarded second place in the Royal Canadian Legion's National Poster and Poem Competition. Joined here by Lt. Col. Len Whines, Kaela donated her prize money back to the Legion.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Ottawa Report

Correcting the Record on Veterans Affairs

There has been a great deal of misinformation on the issue of changes to Veterans Affairs Canada service locations.

The fact is that Canada's Veterans are far better served today than at any other time in history. With the new expansion of service options, Veterans can now access services locally instead of having to travel, in some cases, great distances. Veterans in Newmarket-Aurora for example, wishing a face-to-face meeting, can do so at the Newmarket Service Canada office located at 18183 Yonge Street instead of travelling to Toronto.

Before the change, there were 68 points of service for Veterans throughout the entire country, including 35 operated by Veterans Affairs Canada. Now, there are 644 points of service including 27 operated by Veterans Affairs Canada and 584 operated by Service Canada. Each Service Canada location has workers specially trained and knowledgeable in services for Veterans.

Unfortunately, national media has confused the reduction of eight lightly-used Veterans Affairs Canada office points of service with a lessening of total services. The reality, however, is that the issue of office staff relocation is not a reduction in any way of services for Veterans and in fact, is quite the opposite. Annual funding to Veterans is now \$3.64 Billion compared to just \$2.8 Billion when our Conservative Government took office.

Since 2006, our government has invested nearly \$4.7 billion in new funding to enhance benefits, programs and services for Veterans. Year over year, our spending on support and services has continued to increase as a marked demonstration of our deep



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

commitment to delivering for Veterans.

While 90% of Veterans come home without any need from Veterans Affairs, not all make a smooth transition and some become at-risk or homeless. Our government is dedicated to helping ensure that all of our Veterans get the assistance they need and deserve. For these Veterans, our government has made a series of improvements to the Enhanced New Veterans Charter which provides a comprehensive suite of tools and help to meet their needs. These benefits include:

- Income replacement that ensures their annual income does not fall below 75% of their pre-release military salary with the minimum pre-tax salary being set at \$42,426.

- An additional monthly financial benefit of up to \$1,709.27 for those that suffer from lost job opportunities because of permanent and severe injuries. In the event that a Veteran has been severely injured in the service of Canada and cannot find suitable employment on a permanent basis because of those injuries, an additional monthly support of \$1,047.53 is available.

- Those that have completed rehabilitation and are able to work but have not been able to find a job, or have a low-paying job, may also receive a tax-free monthly payment of up to \$2,593.32 plus an additional \$328.64 per dependent child.

- A one-time, tax-free award for injuries up to a maximum of \$298,587.97.
- Up to \$194.45 per month for wear and

tear on specially maintained clothing to support a disability.

In addition, veterans and their families may benefit from a range of other programs offered by Veterans Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defence.

We are also partnering with community-based organizations to help deliver services to our most vulnerable Veterans. We have increased the number of case workers in the regions where Veterans need them most and have opened 17 Operational Stress Injury Clinics and 24 Integrated Personnel Support Centres near Canadian Forces Bases and in major city centres right across the country. Our new Hardhats Program is designed to assist Veterans' transition to private life and we have doubled Government contribution rates to the Burial Services Fund.

Our government will continue to work hard to serve our Veterans as well as they have served Canada.

Thank you, Frank

As has been reported in The Auroran, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees will be stepping away from public service at the end of his term.

I would like to add my appreciation to Frank for all he has done for his constituents and all Ontarians throughout the years. He will be greatly missed and will be leaving very big shoes to fill. Until that time, however, I know he will be giving 110% to his community as he always has. Our offices continue to work hard together on your behalf, and I will continue to do so with whomever is elected as Member of Provincial Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora.

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

Frank Klees



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

As you all know by now, long time Member of Provincial Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora Frank Klees announced last week he won't seek re-election.

He will continue to serve until the end of his term.

This could come as early as this May when a spring election could occur or as late as October 2015 when the five-year mandate of the governing Liberals comes to an end.

I was somewhat surprised by Mr. Klees' announcement, as I thought he would run at least one more time. He is a young 61-years-old and he is still on top of his game; leading the Tory charge on the ORNGE files and showing up at a lot of community events and working as hard as he usually does.

I believe that Mr. Klees has exhibited exceptional representation for this riding. I feel privileged to have worked on multiple campaigns for him over the years.

Looking back, it is hard to believe that it has been twenty years since I first met Mr. Klees when he was Vice President of the PC Party of Ontario responsible for policy. I was immediately impressed by him and I supported his attempts to fully include the grassroots in the Parties' policy making process.

Having moved to Aurora in 1999, I enjoyed getting a chance to work closer with Mr. Klees over the years.

I was - along with Bob Callow - the Co-Chair of Mr. Klees successful 2007 election campaign, and I also served two terms as his local riding president. I also enjoyed working on the Klees 2009 Provincial PC Leadership Campaign as Policy Chair.

In Mr. Klees' retirement speech, he

mentioned two things that he was most proud of.

"One of my most memorable days was November 1, 2001 when Municipal Affairs Minister Chris Hodgson publicly acknowledged me as the first member of our government to advocate for a definitive provincial policy for the Oak Ridges Moraine.

"That advocacy resulted in the passing of the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Act and because of that legislation, today thousands of acres of environmentally sensitive lands are permanently protected from development.

"I am also proud of my work to help secure ministry of health approval for the world-class Cardiac and Cancer Care centres at Southlake Regional Health Centre. Having my work acknowledged by the hospital's CEO will always be a reminder to me of the positive side of politics."

These are both tangible evidence of the exemplary work that Mr. Klees has done for our community.

Mr. Klees has also done a number of other things. He did an outstanding job in exposing the debacle at ORNGE. His thorough research and tireless questioning of the Minister of Health was the reason that this issue even hit the

public consciousness.

I also think the work he did in safely steering his various Private Members Bills through Queen's Park - which is very hard to do - was important and are another part of Mr. Klees public service legacy.

His Street Racing Bill directly led to saving lives while his Organ Donation Bill offered new life to others.

The passage of Mr. Klees' First Responder Day Act is further evidence that he truly has the pulse of our community.

We all know that Mr. Klees works extremely hard, is intelligent and is an exceptional communicator. I imagine that the Premier and a few of her cabinet colleagues are happy now that Mr. Klees has called it quits as he had to be one of the most effective Question Period performers that I have ever seen.

Having been in the Queen's Park galleries a number of times I was amazed by how articulate and smooth he was. Mr. Klees did not showboat or heckle; he simply asked his questions in a straightforward and demanding style. And his supplementary questions were always bang on.

If asked to describe Mr. Klees in one word for me it would be this: Class. He has comported himself with dignity over the years.

Our community has been very fortunate to have a man of his stature representing us. His intelligence, hard work and championing of causes important to this riding will certainly be missed.

I wish Mr. Klees well in whatever he chooses to do next.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



SENIOR SCAPE

Sylvia Dickens

Kind words for fellow members

In a world where criticism is commonplace, it's refreshing to stumble upon conversations that offer kind words.

Last week, I visited the Centre for the first time in perhaps two months. It was not a big day for my favorite activities, but the pool room was available, as always. Two other players entered the room when I arrived around noon. Before long, two other gentlemen came in and ventured to the opposite corner by the beautiful bright windows.

As we all focused on our individual games, several seniors wandered in to say hello and share a few thoughts. That's when one of them mentioned an absentee player who was "not doing well". Several men quickly added that he was a great guy, very likeable and a great player. Perhaps they were talking about someone else as they continued their exchanges.

One gentleman they mentioned was an avid pool player and golfer who also is not doing well lately. The speaker reflected on the fact the player was "about 200 years old" and also a great guy, easy going, and absolutely amazing at both sports.

At one point, they walked over to the bulletin board to look at a photo of one of the men being discussed. I couldn't resist peeking over their shoulders to see someone I believe I recognize and I have a pretty good idea who else they were discussing.

The man I'm thinking of smiled constantly, whether he made his shot or not. Clearly, to him it was more about enjoying time with people who gave him pleasure than about winning. He just had fun!

That's what's great about the Centre. Overheard discussions often reveal such heart-warming exchanges.

Pool Tips

Would you like to try your hand at pool? Or have you missed the game you haven't played since your youth?

If you'd like to get started playing this popular game, or need a refresher, visit the pool room and speak to any of the players. Let them know you'd like to learn or join a game.

For one-on-one tips, there are a few players who would gladly volunteer their expertise. Drop into Karie's office, which is right next door to the pool room.

She can put you in touch by phone with one of several volunteers who can introduce you to the game.

While mostly men use the room, there are a few women who play, and there could be lots more. Don't be shy.

A rowdy group

Aren't card players supposed to remain quiet because they are deep in thought about which cards to play and which to hold? Last Thursday, it was quite the opposite. They were almost rowdy, in fact.

I believe it was the poker players who had been moved to the larger room next to the workshop. Last time I saw them, they were crammed into a small back corner of the craft room. On that earlier occasion, they were equally rowdy. What is it about poker players? As far as I could tell, it wasn't strip poker. Imagine if it were.

Even the bid euchre players were rather noisy. Maybe all this winter weather has them a little antsy, ready for the joys of spring, which aren't that far off, by the way.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@auroraseniors.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Cultural Centre aims to “IGNITE” the community in the lead-up to PAN AM 2015

By Brock Weir

As most of the world turns their attention to Sochi, Russia this week for the opening of the Olympic Winter Games this Saturday, eyes at the Aurora Cultural Centre are also focused on international sport – but a little bit closer to home.

This Family Day, February 17, the Cultural Centre will roll out their first event in a year-long lead-up to the 2015 Toronto Pan-Am/Parapan Games, as a community partner in extensive festivities.

The Centre was recently selected as a partner in the TO2015 IGNITE program.

The IGNITE program encourages grassroots involvement in the PAN-AM games to provide sports, recreation, and cultural groups with support for “Games-themed initiatives” in their own communities from a new soccer league to parasport programs.

“This is a view to exciting communities around the GTA and beyond about the people, sport, and cultures of the participating nations of the Pan American games,” said Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre. “These games will be the largest, multi-sport event in Canadian History. They will welcome over 10,000 athletes, coaches and officials over the summer of 2015.

“The Centre will ‘IGNITE’ our Family Day celebration this year with a free Family Day Fiesta. The main event will be a demonstration of Brazilian martial arts and art forms. Other activities will include a musical demonstration and art project. This will be just one of the first of a number of IGNITE celebrations and partnerships planned by the Centre in the coming years.”

This partnership with such a large event is one of many outreach initiatives planned at the Cultural Centre in the year ahead as they focus both on growth and outreach.

As The Auroran reported last week, Council is set to approve a \$7,000 increase in the Centre’s funding this month, bringing their total requisition from municipal funds up to \$377,000.

Numbers were presented to Councillors last week by Frank Pulumbarit, President of the Aurora Cultural Centre Board, and Ms. Schembri. For them, it wasn’t just about reach out but building on the success of 2015.

“We have set a target of increasing our own earned revenue by 21.3 per cent,” said Mr. Pulumbarit, noting their requested seven per cent increase equated to a 1.89 overall budget increase to the Centre.

While he projects revenue will increase overall by 8.7 per cent this calendar year, coupled with a drive to hit \$42,000 in earned revenue, additional pressures include a 14.5 per cent growth in personnel costs, an overall increase in salaries and benefits, an increase

to reserves, and more of a focus on investing in marketing and programming.

In building on their success, it is a success which was slow to come last year. In 2013, the Aurora Cultural Centre welcomed over 25,000 visits, a “great year” for them, but in a year which saw a downturn of 18 per cent in the first quarter.

When asked by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe what they could attribute the brief downturn, Mr. Pulumbarit chalked it up to the “finite” space at the building, but also “uncertainty surrounding the Centre with respect to its deal.”

This uncertainty surrounded the future of Aurora’s Cultural Services Agreement with the Centre. After over a year of negotiations over a new deal which would provide increased transparency on the operations of the Centre, as well as giving the municipality a stronger voice at the table, Mr. Pulumbarit and Mayor Dawe inked the new deal early last year.

“In the subsequent three quarters, Laura and her team killed it,” said Mr. Pulumbarit. “They brought in more and more people which suggests to me that if that other quarter was somewhere where we wanted it to be, we would have actually surpassed that.”

Looking back over 2013, one of the keys to the Centre’s success was an increased emphasis on music, something which they hope to continue this year. At the beginning, they said they weren’t sure how such concerts were going to do, but they have since become an “anchor” in their programming and there is more to come.

“We have five goals for this period of time,” concluded Mr. Pulumbarit. “The first one is to deliver great programming that is related to arts, culture, and heritage. I want that programming to be diverse, accessible, and appealing to a growing audience.

“Number two is [growth] due to great partnerships and relationships with stakeholders. Number three is to ensure we are securing sufficient resources to achieve the goals in the plan and in order to contribute more fully to the wellbeing of our community. Number four is to be a respected role model for the type of organization we are across many stakeholder groups. Number five is to be recognized as a vibrant and accessible centre of activity within Town and outside of Town.”

This recognition, it seems is coming the Centre’s way. Before wrapping programming for the year in advance of the Christmas holidays, the Centre formally announced their second grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Although they plan to host the formal cheque presentation later this month with MPP Frank Klees, they have already earmarked the \$172,000 grant over 35 months to hire a fund development to “diversify revenues and increase arts and culture programming in Aurora.”

I am already ruing my stated commitment (see my first column of the New Year) that during the municipal election period I would refrain from commenting on current Councillor’s decisions, prognostications or just plain silliness as it would unfairly advantage or disadvantage them as the case may be.



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

A message for Provincial candidates

Why do I rue my decision? Suffice it to say, to read the statements of Councillor Wendy Gaertner about the current Council, one has to bite one’s tongue – hard - lest one fire back with pages and pages of easy and ready evidence to the contrary.

But, that’s all I’ll say, or I will be accused of breaking said commitment.

Moving on, the Provincial candidate’s nomination race is sure to be exciting.

There are now at least four candidates for the PC nomination, with an active search for additional legitimate contenders for the Liberal candidacy is also underway.

There’s one declared candidate already, but more are sure to come shortly. As for the other two parties – Green and NDP – I have not heard a peep from their riding associations. Let’s hope that we do soon.

Looking past the nomination race, let’s look at the election itself and what the issues are at the Provincial level that have a relevant impact for our community.

There are many important issues, but for me personally, I think there are two that demand immediate attention – transportation and planning.

Our communities are in desperate need of improved access to a variety of readily accessible transportation. As someone who takes public transportation virtually everywhere, I can tell you that what we have now is nowhere near what we need to move residents around our region efficiently, effectively and expeditiously.

Take the GO Train as an example. It is quite simply NEVER on time. The buses are generally on time, but they are milk

runs that take forever to get anywhere. And the routes are insufficient, and the waits are long. If you want people to leave their cars at home, then you need to provide accessible alternatives. Short of resorting to pack mules, some days there is simply no other way to get around but a car.

The other issue? Greater municipal control over public planning.

Yes, the province, of course, should have a say in the broader strokes of public planning, but the implication of provincial planning tools are felt at the municipal level, and it is clear that little thought has been given to what these acts will look like once enacted.

Why can’t we say how we want our community to look and how we want our land used? Obviously we can’t have complete control – or the province would look like a crazy quilt of land uses. There must be some semblance of order to the general rules by which our communities are planned.

But, we should still have some say in how our community grows. This is not the case. How many times have we heard our planning staff say, “well, if Developer Bob takes this to the OMB the Town will lose so we will just have to let them build whatever the heck they want”, or words to that effect?

What is the purpose of a public planning meeting then if the actions taken during said meetings will just be overturned by a provincial body?

We need more say in what our communities look like. We need more input into how our residents access sustainable public transportation. We need a say in how we “Live, work and play” in Aurora.

Let’s hope our soon to be new local MPP – regardless of his or her political stripe - brings that message to Queen’s Park.

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

Aurora’s Wavestage Theatre Company presents **Fiddler On The Roof** this week from **February 6 – 9** at Newmarket Theatre. Tickets for the classic musical are available from the Newmarket Theatre Box Office at **905-953-5122** or by visiting www.newtix.ca.

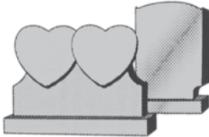


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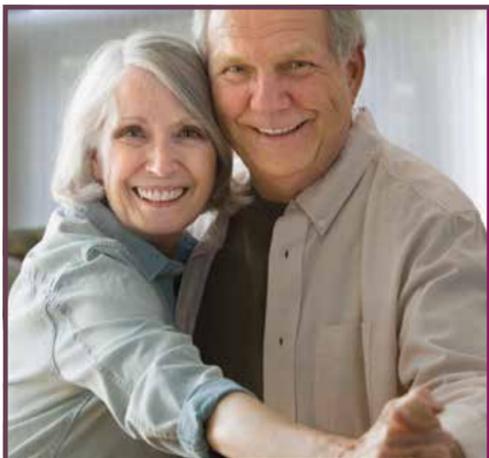
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ASK THE DESIGNER

JEAN BISNAIRE

Surround Yourself with Things You Love

"I have various pieces throughout my home that have been passed down to me and have great sentimental value – I just don't know how to incorporate them into my current décor. Help!"

This has to be one of the most common questions that I hear when meeting new clients. Pieces of furniture or decor have varying levels of sentimental value for many. "It was the first thing we bought together" or "we've inherited it from my in-laws" and my favourite, "it's made of solid wood and they just don't make good furniture like this anymore".

The way I see it, it's your life and you owe it to yourself to surround yourself with things you love and things of significance in your life. Don't keep something around because of the guilt associated with throwing it away – there are many ways in which you can work it into your current decor.

I remember a client who had a vintage mahogany stained upright secretary desk, the kind you see at all the auction houses. She wasn't crazy about it but had a sentimental attachment to it.

Not wanting to throw it out she placed it temporarily in the living room. Five years later it still sat there untouched collecting old forgotten bills and receipts. When we decided she needed a desk in the kitchen I mentioned to her that the secretary would be the perfect thing and took it away for refinishing.

The exterior was painted in Farrow & Ball's Strong White and the inside was Farrow & Ball's Cooking Apple Green. The result was a bright rejuvenated piece of furniture that felt like it belonged again. The refreshing colours gave the desk a whole new appeal while adding character to the room not to mention a new story to tell.

Having a piece refinished or reupholstered is the quickest and easiest way to refresh and update it. You can even add surprise elements that make the piece that much more special – for example, I had a set of a client's nightstands refinished to a darker finish for a more current look. Knowing she loved the colour red and her pair of Christian Louboutins, I had the interior of the drawers finished to match.

This touch of personality breathed new life into her nightstands and gave her a new story to tell. Consider putting a fabric with a modern pattern on an old Berger chair and you instantly have a new statement piece!

Not all vintage furniture needs to be refurbished. In today's design world, mixing the old with the new is still very much a look that has a lot of appeal. It's actually on the trend list for 2014. Contrasting vintage pieces with modern elements gives your space an eclectic and classic look which becomes distinct to your style.

A room that incorporates contemporary wallpaper or textiles in a modern palette will ensure that your heirloom dining set feels more stylish and less drab. You can even surround a traditional dining table with more modern chairs to change the feel completely. Adding brighter, cooler colours can also help with the old musty feel.

Don't be limited by a piece's original intention of use. A dining sideboard or buffet can be just as functional in a sun room or as a media stand in a great room. A collection of vintage plates can create more of an impact hanging on the wall as art. Small collections can also be displayed as art when grouped together in shadow box frames. The possibilities are endless!

In a world of mass production, great antiques can bring an element of artistic value to the room. Think of the energy they carry and the history they have and remember how simple it can be to incorporate them into your current décor.

What are you doing to create a casual elegance to come home to?

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Community Improvement Plan vision, limits questioned by Council

By Brock Weir

Whether you have been making pitches for improvements in Aurora's Downtown Core for decades, or turned on your stopwatch when Council formally retained consultants to do something about it, a Community Improvement Plan has been a long time coming, according to proponents.

But last week, when Councillors and members of the public alike had their first formal crack at the extensive plan to stimulate and rejuvenate Aurora's historic business core, the vision garnered markedly mixed reviews.

The Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is the result of extensive consultation with local business owners, residents in the Downtown Core, and politicians to develop a game plan to bring more people and redevelopment into the area.

The result is a series of grant programs and initiatives to stimulate redevelopment and improve the looks of the area. Such programs include a façade and signage improvement grant which would provide downtown businesses with up to \$15,000 towards exterior improvements to their property.

A Building Restoration, Renovation and Improvement Program would go towards providing a push for property owners to enhance their second floors, particularly in older businesses, for more commercial development. It would go towards funding expansions and additions and making sure it meets the grade from a health and safety perspective between \$15,000 and \$40,000.

A Development Charges Grant would provide property owners relief on DCs for redevelopment within the Yonge and Wellington Corridor; relief of up to 75 per cent of the Town's portion of Development Charges up to \$100,000.

Tax-based Redevelopment Grants would give some leverage for influxes of new taxes coming into Town coffers through a redevelopment project, while a Heritage Property Relief programs would encourage redevelopment of heritage homes for commercial or mixed uses.

The CIP area focuses primarily on the Yonge and Wellington corridor, running on Yonge from Valhalla Court to Dunning Avenue, and along Wellington from Harriman Road to Walton Drive, along with select side streets.

Running eastward toward just west of Berczy Street, however, some Councillors questioned a seemingly arbitrary cut off point, creating a situation where next door neighbours might find themselves on either side of the CIP divide.

"I want to avoid any complications later on where we have one owner of a particular lot [wondering why they are not included] and we need to have a good rationale," said Councillor John Gallo.

This was a problem consultant Jonathan Hack of Sierra Planning said could be addressed, but it was bound to be an arbitrary decision no matter how they approach it.

"I can't justify why we went one

property in [from Berczy] and didn't go for another one," he said. "We had to cut the line off somewhere. Ultimately, at the end of the day, it is a council-public consideration as to how far you should take the boundaries. Some municipalities avoid the discussions and say the entire municipality within the urban plan area is designate as a CIP."

But, as one expands the CIP area, so too expands the price tag.

This came through addressing concerns from Councillor Sandra Humfries, who said property owners at Golf Links Drive and Dunning Avenue were excited about the plan, as were property owners to the south. She questioned whether the CIP could be extended down to Edward Street.

"We are dealing with limited resources," said Anthony Ierullo, Economic Development Manager for the Town of Aurora. "The plan itself has a number of programs that have focused on key redevelopment sites, central in Downtown, or smaller sites that can benefit from some renovations in making those sites more attractive in adding to the streetscape."

Councillors also said they wanted safeguards to ensure that once this program is in motion, property owners benefiting from the initiatives don't take advantage of the program by flipping the properties and making a bundle in return.

"You want to make sure you are putting your funds into a stable relationship between a property owner and the Town," said Mr. Hack. "If you have a delinquent property owner who takes advantage and then sells it to a better owner, maybe you have won out in that regard. The general proposition is if someone is receiving the grant, they are doing so because they are investing in the Town."

"This really is focused on leveraging the private sector [to] invest through the use of seed money from the public sector. If this plan was implemented, as I think everyone here would like, you get a ratio where every public dollar spent would get between \$4-\$6 private sector dollars invested. If you do them properly, these things can be quite successful."

Some of these plans, however, missed the mark, according to two members of the public appearing in the public session, including long-time trails advocate Klaus Wehrenberg.

Speaking of his "disappointment" with what he described as the "narrow scope" of the plan, he said more needs to be done than just sprucing up the area – including ensuring Downtown Aurora is a destination for people to come to.

"If you don't solve that, you're not going very far with these details," he said. "Storefront improvements can go a little way, but we're not going anywhere in a big way."



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High-tech gadgets keep Library ahead of curve, but come with challenges, cost

By Brock Weir

Technology can keep institutions like the Aurora Public Library ahead of the curve when it comes to being able to give the people what they want – but like so many things, technology itself is a double-edged sword.

Appearing before Council last week to make a pitch for a three per cent “maintenance increase” in their budget, Aurora Public Library CEO Jill Foster said the Library’s mission has been and remains providing Aurorans the means to begin a journey of “discovery and inspiration” with a commitment to “literacy, long-term learning and the love of reading in general.”

Evidently, it is a winning formula as year after year more users frequent the Yonge and Church Street landmark and year after year new bells and whistles are offered to keep them coming back for more.

“We are going to invest in our staff and our systems,” said Ms. Foster. “We need to maintain our service levels and stay up to date with technology. Technology is not something you can leave for five years and then catch up. You need to keep up to date and do it incrementally.”

“We also intend to meet the demands of the mobile community to the public.”

To this end, they have bought 10 Google Chrome books for users to test out within the Library and get a feel for tablets.

“We’re hoping that will be a very popular service to meet the evolving needs of society. We’re also going to increase public awareness around the Library’s technology equipment.”

Tablets aside, one of the more recent acquisitions at the Aurora Public Library is a new 3D Printer. The library, Ms. Foster said, is still in the preparation stage of how to present the printer and how it can be used by the public, but it is all about attracting both traditional and new users into the Library community.

“I think it might be a real magnet for people who don’t normally think of the Library as a place for them,” she said. “We need to reorient space in the Library for the best opportunity in presenting those types of services and that is the kind of thing we’re going through this year.”

Technological advancement at the Aurora Public Library can also be felt aside from big ticket items like a 3D printer, or items like tablets you can hold in your hand. You might have seen these advances first hand in small ways like quick emails to let you know when your book or DVD is about to become due, or when the e-book you have borrowed from the Library suddenly returns itself when

you are just a couple of pages away from finding out whodunit.

These small changes, however, come with their own challenges both practically and financially for the Library.

“Most of our revenue comes from fees and fines,” said Ms. Foster, noting revenues took a hit in 2013 despite usage going up. “We are quite restricted in how we can raise funds by the Public Library Act. Our funds went down considerably because we do this very kind thing and notify people when their materials are just about to become due! It is a service they very much appreciate, but it means we’re having less and less overdue fines.”

“We are increasing our circulation of e-books. They are never overdue. They are just automatically returned so they do not generate any revenues and I anticipate that will likely be a trend that will continue.”

But while that trend is likely to continue, it will be a continued challenge to the library because it is often the case that securing licenses for e-books is costlier for libraries than stocking tried and true books.

“E-books is actually quite a quagmire within the publishing world,” said Ms. Foster. “It costs libraries more to buy e-books than it does for you to buy books for your own personal use. Publishers

don’t like offering e-books, so it is a battle we’re waging nationally. It is not cheaper, but it is popular and it is not going to go away, so we continue to purchase even though the terms are not necessarily the best for libraries.”

Looking ahead to the Library’s future, an item continually up for review is whether or not the Aurora Public Library needs to expand to suit the current and future needs of the community. As an item which has been on the books as a possibility for years, options examined have included expanding onto the existing building and, more practically, building a satellite library elsewhere in Aurora.

Surveys will be underway this year to poll users on library space and service needs in the years ahead, added Ms. Foster. When questioned by Councillor Wendy Gaertner last week, however, on the possibility of expansion, Ms. Foster said she had a “gut feeling” the current space would continue to serve the community well over the next 20 years.

“If we’re considering a second location, there are many things to consider, one of which is maybe we don’t want to replicate what we have,” she said. “Maybe it will be a service that isn’t book oriented. These are things we would need to [consider] as we assess that whole project.”

Baxter awaits word on PC nomination as the latest candidate to enter the race

From page 1

gridlock and the local commute to work. There have been scandals in the finances here which are not very good in Ontario, and when you look at the energy and gas plant fiasco, I have had very serious concerns as someone in my community.

“I think I have something to bring to the party to help on that.”

Having written nearly 300 columns for The Auroran over the past six years, as well as being an active member in the Aurora community, he is not an unfamiliar face here. To reach new audiences – and potential new party members – he plans a series of coffee parties, and a number of meetings with people in both Newmarket and Aurora to introduce himself, including an official campaign launch at King Richard’s English Pub in Aurora on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Sizing up his fellow candidates who, aside from Councillors di Muccio and Twinney, and Mr. Baxter also include Councillor Chris Ballard, who is seeking the local provincial Liberal nod, he says they are going to have a “good race” based on respect.

“I am going to be focusing on the positive attributes I bring to this race and the positive message I can

move forward on,” he says.

Although he has yet to formally file his papers, Mr. Baxter told The Auroran he intends to do so this week. Mr. Baxter has often stood as a Federal candidate in Newmarket-Aurora, as well as in other by-elections throughout the Greater Toronto Area as a member of the Progressive Canadian Party, a group formed by former Federal cabinet minister Sinclair Stevens, protesting the merger of the Federal PC party and the Canadian Alliance to form today’s Conservative party.

An Anglican minister, Mr. Baxter is known as the leader of the Christ the King Graceland Independent Anglican Church, in which he melds Christian teachings with rock and roll as “Elvis Priestly.” He praised Mr. Klees for maintaining the “progressive” arm in his party.

“The big thing here for me is to bring integrity and accountability [into the race],” he said. “[Stevens and I] thought it would be certainly worthwhile seeing if the powers-that-be would have an interest in having me as a candidate for nomination.”

It is time, he said, for politicians to put the needs of their fellow Canadians “above their own” and tackle the root causes of poverty to build a better society.

“We need to have leadership by example,” he said.

For more information on Mr. Somerville’s candidacy, visit www.stephensomerville.ca.

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Dave Powell,
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THE AURORAN SPORTS

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FREE Week of February 6, 2014

Tigers are bound for the playoffs heading into last seven games of season

By Jeff Doner

Having officially clinched the OJHL north division title with two more wins last week, the Tigers are now looking to close out their final seven games with momentum, heading into the playoffs.

Veteran defenseman Kyle Liu was pleased his team was able to clinch the victory, but wants to make sure they keep their sights set on the goals ahead.

"It's a good feeling and it shows that hard work pays off, we've got to pat ourselves on the back, but that's just clinching the division," he said. "We want to win a championship, so we've got to keep our head on straight. Like [Coach James Richmond] says, every game is like a playoff game. We want to have that mentality so come playoff time we're ready to go."

Starting off with Hamilton at the ACC on Wednesday night, the Tigers struck first to command the lead right away. Michael Laidley scored twice, while Calvin Higley and Kory Kennedy added goals of their own for a 4-1 win.

Liu said it was great to get the win,



Dylan Sikura takes aim at the Oakville net during the second period on Friday night. It was a close game throughout, but the Tigers managed to hold on for a 2-1 win.

but that the score sheet painted a much rosier picture than what actually happened on ice.

"We played well, but we didn't play up to our expectations," he said. "The scoreboard indicated that we played well, but as a team we didn't stick to the game that much and we got away from it a bit. We were fortunate to come out with a win."

"Good teams always find a way to win, so even when we're having an off night it's good that we're still able to put numbers on the board. I think when everyone's buying into the system and doing their role, we're one of, if not the strongest, team in the league."

Liu has been a key part of a defence that has allowed a league low 100 goals against so far this season. But that stat is a badge to the team as a whole, he said.

"It's not just with the back end; it's with the forwards too," he said. "Like with face-offs, all five guys need to work to win and I know we really try hard [to have] a good strong defensive game, because that leads to good

opportunities up front. A big part of it comes down to our goaltending as well. Kevin Entmaa has been playing unbelievable the last couple months, so he needs credit too."

Backup Andy Munroe registered the win for the Tigers against Hamilton, making 23 saves, while Dylan Sikura chipped in with three assists.

On Friday night the Tigers headed west to face off against the Oakville Blades. The game ended up being a little closer than they would have liked, but the Tigers managed to come home with the win.

Adam DiBrina and Calvin Higley's first period goals ended up being enough for the Tigers to take the win as Oakville only managed a single goal in the third period and Entmaa made nearly 40 saves for the win.

Similar to what Liu said about the previous game against Hamilton, Kennedy felt that the team didn't have its best outing in Oakville.

"I think there are some things we can improve on after watching those games again," he said. "I think we got away from the way we've been playing, which has been working for us. We managed to pull it off, but we still need to make sure not to take teams lightly."

Kennedy, who is currently leading his team in both points and penalty minutes, and has been one of the mainstays for the Tigers all season, said the team needs to focus more on what got them to where they are.

"I hope we just keep playing like we have been playing all year - keeping it simple and getting pucks in and throwing it to the net," he said. "If we keep playing like we were, I think we're good to go."

This week the Tigers are again without a home game as they head out for a road swing in Stouffville, Lindsay and Hamilton. They will return home on Friday, Feb. 14 for a tilt against Cobourg.

Aurora's New Jersey Reds savour their "Golden Moment"

By Jeff Doner

Aurora's New Jersey Reds atMc hockey team was served up a special treat after winning the first round challenge of the McDonald's Golden Moments program recently.

After submitting photos of their team into the contest and garnering the most total votes, the team was treated to breakfast and then presented with some personalized gear at the Aurora McDonald's on Allaura Boulevard.

"They're obviously all pretty excited, but I don't even think they all really knew what was going to happen until they got here," said head coach David Hall.

The atMc hockey program sponsors atom house league teams across Canada. Each team is sponsored with jerseys and other sports wear at the beginning of the season and have chances to win various prizes throughout the year.

Hall said the partnership has only been positive for his team.

"It's been great. They sponsor the league and we have a special gold shirt program that we give out after every game to the MVP and that's what this is all about really," he said. "But it also gives them all something else to strive for - to listen to the coach, do what they're supposed to do and then produce that on the ice. I think it's a great program."

Each year every team in the program is also entered in a contest for the chance to win an end of season celebration with an atMc ambassador, such as Drew Doughty, Marc-Andre Fleury or Tessa Bonhomme.

"It's a unique program and something that we've never really done before, so it's just really exciting for the team and it involves community involvement and spirit. It promotes teamwork as well and healthy active living lifestyles

for the kids, because they're our future," said Mae Law-Moore, brand manager and community relations for McDonald's.

Law-Moore also said the program has been successful in promoting valuable lessons for young athletes and brings the community together to vote and support their teams.

"This is something that is really exciting, especially having somebody in your own community win and to have something to be proud about, because it wasn't just because of the parents, but it was also the people of Aurora to actually



spend the time every day voting for the team," she said. "It brings the community together to all support one another."

Tiger Liam Morassutti was one of the many excited players to see what McDonald's had in store for his team that day.

"It felt really exciting, because we got to come and receive a prize for how hard we worked and I think the prizes are really great and we'll use them well," he said. "It feels really fun because we can run around with our new bags and sweaters."

For more information on the atMc hockey program, visit www.hockeycanada.ca/atomc

Alex, Nathan, Mark, Parker, James and Liam of the AMHA's New Jersey Reds atom hockey team enjoyed some breakfast before a big game at their McDonald's atMc Party in Aurora.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner



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AMHA League Results Jan. 26th - Feb. 1 2014

House League

104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 8

Anthony DiGirolamo 1G, Nolan Whittaker 2G, Isaac Pearl 2G, Paolo Fusco 1G, Massimo Pecci 1G, Ben Butler 1G,

102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 2

Noah Savage 1G, Ryan Ko 1G,

105 Timbits - Chicago Black: 6

104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 4

Massimo Pecci 2G, Lukas Bordonali 2A, Ethan Fryer 1A, Nolan Whittaker 1G 1A, Angelo Ventrella 1G 1A, Charlie Ritchie 1A, Isaac Pearl 1A, Gabriel Pecci 1A, Anthony DiGirolamo 1A,

104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 3

Charlie Ritchie 2G, Angelo Ventrella 1G 1A,

110 Timbits - Philly Orange: 3

Justin Gao 2G, Gavin Ellerby 1G,

104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 5

Andrew Vaughan 2G, Charlie Ritchie 1G 1A, Angelo Ventrella 1G, Isaac Pearl 2A, Alessandro Rabito 1A, Andrew Vaughan 1A, Mateo Graham 1G 1A, Ben Butler 1A, Cohen Bugeja 1A, Lukas Bordonali 1A,

102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 2

Noah Savage 1G, Ryo Van Schoonhaven 1G, Kane Poland 1A, Anthony Pugliese 1A,

101 Timbits - Montreal Red: 6

Jacob Warecki 2G, Andrew Santos 1G, Dylan Watt 1G, Drew Schnekenburger 2A, Rylan Wilson 1A, Connor Mifsud 1A, Daniel Kostoff 2G 1A,

604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 7

Anthony Miranda 4G 1A, Brian Turner 1G 1A, Matthew Pelan 1G 2A, Stuart Bishenden 1G, Darius Dyrna 1A, Cooper Paterson 1A, Christian Romas 2A, Evan Hall SO,

607 Caruso & Company: 0

601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 3

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 7

606 Mastermind Toys: 3

Gregory Gatzopoulos 3G, Daniel Rheeder 1A,

603 McAlpine Ford: 9

Aiden O'Toole 1G 1A, Jack Viney 3G 2A, Alexander Ko 2G 2A, Andrew Turriff 2G 1A, Andrew Fiorini 3A, Nathan Smith 2A, Liam Graham 2A, Andrew Schaus 1G, David Ho 1A,

605 Omar's Shoes: 2

Leo Douvinos 1G, John Dol 1G, Christian Fermo 1A, Andrew LaGuardia 1A,

604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 1

Christian Romas 1G,

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 7

609 Thom Partners Sports Marketing: 3

608 Inaria: 2

Emerson Parkinson 1G 1A, Ethan Moulds 1G, Eric Flicker 1A,

601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 9

Stefan Fazari 3G 1A, Giuliano Iervasi 2G 1A, Adam Tuzi 1G 1A, Dylan Anderson 1G 1A, Jason Iaboni 1G, Garrett Kohler 1G, Nathan Mohabeer 1A, Shawn Kemp 1A, Tarik Soliman 1A, Matthew Cowl 1A,

809 Manhattan Trophies: 1

Andrew Hoogers 1G,

810 Peirce McNeely Assoc. Lawyers: 3

Kyle Wulle 1G, Andrew Sutherland 2G, James Samson 1A, Lucas Alberico 1A,

810 Peirce McNeely Assoc. Lawyers: 2

Kyle Wulle 1G 1A, Matt LeClair 1A, James Kypreos 1G,

811: 3

Callum Gorell 1G, Remington Colicchio 1G, Scott Rumble 1G, J.P. Schnabel 1A, Jeff Crowe 1A,

807 Sundance Signs: 4

Matthew Nitsopoulos 1G 1A, Cameron Lang 2G, Liam De Sousa 1G 2A, Stephen McNeil 1A, Nicholas Keizer 1A,

806 Benson Kearley IFG: 7

Noah Murphy-Sealy 2G, Jacob Cann 2A, Hayden Edwards 2G, Andrew Currie 1G 1A, Niklaus Seidel 1G, Adam Wochenmarkt 2A,

901 Pizzaville Aurora: 0

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 1

Randy Sutton 1G, Harrison Lambrinos 1A, Ryan Batten 1A, Edi Nisenbaum SO,

905 VEGFRESH: 3

Alec Magnante 2G, Joey Stipec 1G, Anthony Orlandi 1A, Patrick Bourrie 1A, Mathew MacDonald 1A, Bryan Leany 1A,

909 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 3

Adam Ashraf 1G 2A, Jeff Stobo 1G 2A, Mike Walsh 1G, Grant Kavanagh 1A,

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 3

Andre Cristillo 1G, Harrison Lambrinos 1G, James Power 1G, Matthew Bellerby 1A, Ryan Batten 1A,

906 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company: 1

Ales Sesto 1G,

903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 0

901 Pizzaville Aurora: 3

902 Mayfair Systems: 2

908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 6

903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 2

Collin Dyer 2G, Eric Shenhan 2A, Jordan Peeves 2A,

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 4

Ryan Batten 2G, Harrison Lambrinos 1G 2A, Matthew Bellerby 1G, Randy Sutton 2A, Connor Gonsalves 1A, Andre Cristillo 1A,

908 Diamond Groundskeeping

Services: 5

Domenic Fiorini 1G 1A, Brendan Ruuskanen 1A, Alex Carter 1G 1A, Jiyan Yilmaser 2G, Derek Keun 1G 1A, Stewart Reid 1A,

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 1

Ryan Batten 1G, Harrison Lambrinos 1A,

1006 Jonathan's: 6

1005 ADC Aluminium: 3

1005 ADC Aluminium: 8

1006 Jonathan's: 5

1007: 2

1005 ADC Aluminium: 5

1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 2

1002 ATS Healthcare: 2

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 4

1001 : 0

Rep League

Novice A - Nobleking: 4

Aurora Tigers: 2

Riley Saltzman 1G, Zaid Soliman 1G, Yiannis Skanderis 2A, Cristian Pisapia 1A, Adam DiGiacchino 1A,

Novice AA - Aurora Tigers: 6

Georgina: 2

Novice A - Aurora Tigers: 2

Richmond Hill: 0

Martin McConkey 1G, Yiannis Skanderis 1G, Jake Powell SO,

Novice AA - Aurora Tigers: 3

Newmarket: 2

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 1

Barrie: 1

Josh Mcleod 1G,

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 3

Orangeville Flyers MB AE: 3

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 3

Waterloo Wolves: 3

Sam Belman 2G, Kevin Wasserman 1G, Nolan Chiarelli 1A, Malcolm Parkinson 1A,

Minor Atom AE - Kitchener Jr. Rangers BA: 3

Aurora Tigers: 1

Minor Atom A - Richmond Hill: 7

Aurora Tigers: 3

Minor Atom AA - Newmarket: 5

Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 4

Stouffville: 2

Kevin Wasserman 1G, Nolan Chiarelli 1G, Yi Wang 1G 1A, Ryan Blakley 1G,

Minor Atom AA - Stouffville: 6

Aurora Tigers: 1

Ayden Posa 1G, Andrew Parsons 1A, Jack Beswick 1A,

Minor Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 5

Stouffville: 1

Kevin Wasserman 2G, Ryan

Blakley 1G 2A, Malcolm Parkinson 3A, Sam Spong 1A, David Durbano 1G 1A, Yi Wang 1G, Nolan Chiarelli 1A, Sam Belman 1A,

Minor Atom A - Richmond Hill: 2

Aurora Tigers: 1

Atom RS - Aurora Tigers: 9

Richmond Hill: 0

Cayden Visser 4G, Ben Cordingley 1G, David Iacovetta 2G, Jacob Madore 2G, Aidan Quinn 2A, Daniel Han 2A, Parker Jaibert 1A, Matteo Rossi 1A, Andrew Flores 1A, Connor Sykes SO, Matthew Collins SO,

Atom AE - Richmond Hill: 2

Aurora Tigers: 0

Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 0

Bradford: 0

Ayden Whilby 1G, Michael More 1G, Todd Cook 1G, Michael Crowe 1A, Gavin Loria 1A,

Atom AA - Markham: 2

Aurora Tigers: 0

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 6

Richmond Hill: 0

Nicholas Petinarelis 2G, Lucas De Palma 1G, Jordan Dimatulac 1G, Tyler Cox 1G, Ryan Fowler 1G 2A, Riley Pearl 1A, George Rappos Jr. 1A, Kurtis Gipp 1A, Rory Callaghan 1A, Maxwell McConkey 1A, Gianluca Pannozzo SO,

Atom A - Bradford: 1

Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Pee wee A - Barrie: 6

Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Pee wee AE - Aurora Tigers: 3

Stouffville: 1

Carson Tidd 1G 1A, Ian Hilgendorff 1G 1A, Geoffrey Wilson 1G, Daniel McKay 1A,

Minor Pee wee A - Barrie: 3

Aurora Tigers: 1

Minor Pee wee AE - Stouffville: 4

Aurora Tigers: 2

Ian Hilgendorff 2G, James Sproul 1A, Geoffrey Wilson 1A,

Minor Pee wee A - Barrie: 3

Aurora Tigers: 2

Pee wee AA - Aurora Tigers: 7

Richmond Hill: 1

Pee wee AE - Newmarket: 2

Aurora Tigers: 0

Pee wee AA - Aurora Tigers: 4

Richmond Hill: 3

Pee wee A - Aurora Tigers: 3

Markham: 2

Michael Orlandi 1G, Andrew Park 1A, Harris Goan 2G, Craig Therkildsen 1A, Ben Liotta 1A, Luke O'Keefe 1A,

Peewee AA - Aurora Tigers: 3

Richmond Hill: 2

Minor Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 3

Newmarket: 2

Mathew Hastings 2G, Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G 1A, Lucas Surace 2A, Peter Chimienti 1A, Kyle Morning 1A,

Minor Bantam AA - Aurora Tigers: 6

Georgina: 6

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora Tigers: 2

Barrie: 2

Colin Windle 2G, Nate Legros 1A, Joseph Grassa 1A, Justin Evans 1A,

Minor Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 5

Markham: 4

Carter Wilmsmeyer 1G 1A, Andrew Jorgensen 1A, Ben Spittle 1A, Nicholas Rountes 1G, Mathew Hastings 1G, Sammy Leader 2A, Nicholas Keller 1G, Sebastian Giorgio 1A, Lucas Surace 1G 2A,

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora Tigers: 3

East Gwillimbury: 2

Ty Boisseau 3G, Francesco Scuglia 1A, Braden Reid 1A, Justin Evans 1A, Ryan Jamieson 1A, Max Lombard 1A,

Minor Bantam AE - Stouffville: 4

Aurora Tigers: 1

Christopher Walsh 1G, Braden Reid 1A,

Bantam AA - Barrie: 4

Aurora Tigers: 2

Bantam A - Barrie: 4

Aurora Tigers: 2

Bantam AE - Newmarket: 4

Aurora Tigers: 3

Bantam AA - Aurora Tigers: 3

Barrie: 1

Tony Greco 1G 1A, Jordan Torres 1G 1A, Kyle Rice 1G, Brady Futterer 1A, Andrew Sergewich 1A, Evan Barroso 1A,

Bantam AE - Aurora Tigers: 1

Richmond Hill: 1

Minor Midget A - Innisfil: 2

Aurora Tigers: 1

Minor Midget AA - Aurora Tigers: 5

Barrie: 3

Zack Phillips 1G 2A, Jack Pecora 1G, Cameron Zinner 2G, Tristan Kuchar 1G 2A, Richard Hache' 1A, Christian Arcuri 1A, Bryan Manweiler 2A, Connor Downs 1A,

Minor Midget A - Bradford: 10

Aurora Tigers: 3

Colin Kostin 3G, Spencer White 1G, Charles Bennett 2A, Michael Dacosta 1A,

Midget AE - Aurora Tigers: 7

Georgina: 3



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Lace Up to Dust Off Classic Tourney

The snow was falling, the sticks were taped, the skates laced, and the puck was dropped last Friday for the 2014 2K4 Kids Invitational Hockey Tournament.

THE EVENT WAS HOSTED by the Karabin family and various sponsors and contributors like Karabin Design and Build, Lace-Ace, Country Day School, among many others. It was the first time since 2012 that the day of hockey fun had taken place, as last year's warmer winter weather did not agree with the outdoor ice conditions.

King Township Mayor Steve Pellegrini was in attendance to drop the ceremonial puck at 8:45am. The successful event kicked off with Team Karabin taking on Team Adair, with some beautiful light snow falling and a happy bunch of hockey enthusiasts taking to the ice.

Games were played throughout the day, with teams playing two ten-minute periods, with shoveling and flooding in between games. Face-offs took place all the way to 4:30pm with the top two teams playing for the 2K4 Cup.

Walter and Julie Karabin's goal with the 2K4 Kids Tournament, is to contribute to local families and children that would not otherwise be able to afford participation in sport. The event has been a success each year, and this time around there was money raised from all six teams' entry fees and raffle items. Participants included local players like the Hampton family, former NHL players such as goalie Kay Whitmore and ex-Leaf Kris King who now acts as the NHL's Senior VP of Hockey Operations in Toronto.

The Invitational Tournament provided participants with not only an early morning Tim Horton's coffee, but also food and beverages throughout the day. The Karabin's had built an amazing wood cabin suited especially for the occasion with a wood stove oven for fresh pizza and wood burning fireplace. Throughout the day there was coffee and doughnuts, fresh pizza, beverages, and pork-ovens for freshly made pork sandwiches. There were also large trailers brought in for players to get prepared and dressed for their games. Participants and spectators were also provided with event t-shirts and water bottles.

What was jokingly referred to as the "Not-So Winter Classic," The 2K4 Kids Invitational was once again a great success. The weather made for excellent conditions on and off the ice. All participants had a great time eating, drinking, playing and watching hockey, and contributing to a great cause for their local community.



SAC Saints take the 31st MacPherson Tourney

By Jeff Doner

The St. Andrew's College Saints varsity boys' hockey team hosted the 31st annual MacPherson Tournament last weekend and were once again victorious in their bid for the trophy.

"This is my second time winning, and I can honestly say it's the one I circle on my calendar," said Saints captain Matt Graham. "It was an amazing feeling to lift the trophy again and I was proud of all the guys for persevering through all the adversity that we had. The feeling is just exceptional right now."

This year SAC hosted seven other teams that came from Ontario, Quebec and New York State.

Leading up to the championship game on Sunday afternoon, the Saints won four straight over the competition throughout the weekend.

It started with a 7-1 win over St. Francis High School from Athol Springs, NY on Friday morning. Austin Cho and JD Falconer each had two goals to pace the offense.

Later that night, the Saints took to the ice again, but this time faced off against Cegep de Sainte-Foy, the team they would eventually meet in the championship.

It was a good close game, but the Saints collected a 5-2 win after busting out for four goals in the third period. Graham and Adam Sinclair each scored two for the Saints in that game.

The Saints were scheduled to play two more games on Saturday and did not disappoint.

First it was Upper Canada College, who put up a good fight against the host.

The Saints found themselves down a goal after the first, but a strong second period and solid special teams was all they needed to get back in the game.

Zac Mason scored two power play goals three minutes apart, and Falconer also added a third goal to cap a 3-1 win.

That set up the Saints for a semi-final matchup with Northwood School on Saturday night.

After a scoreless first period, Quentin Campbell

gave the Saints a 1-0 lead. The teams traded goals in the third period until the score was locked in a 2-2 tie, which eventually sent the game into overtime, where Justin Fregona provided the heroics by scoring the game winning goal for SAC.

That win catapulted the Saints into the championship game on Sunday afternoon for a rematch with Cegep de Sainte-Foy.

With a raucous crowd in the ACC, the Saints immediately made a statement in the game when Cho scored just 27 seconds in to give SAC a 1-0 lead.

However, Cegep Sainte-Foy was unwilling to let this one get away, replying with two straight goals to end the first period.

The second period was a wild one for SAC as they unleashed a relentless attack on an unsuspecting opponent. Two minutes in, while on the power play, Fregona tied the game after picking up a loose puck after a mad scramble in front of the net.

Seconds later, Graham netted the go-ahead goal and, in similar fashion, Warren Foegele scored another goal 15 seconds later to put the Saints up 4-2.

Before the second period concluded, Cegep Sainte-Foy would make it 4-3, setting the stage for an intense third period.

With the Saints holding on to a one goal lead, both teams held each other in check.

It went down to the final seconds when Darren Iwai scored an empty net goal for the Saints as insurance, giving them a 5-3 win.

"We played them on Friday night and it was a close game as well," Graham said. "They're an older team with a bit more experience than us, but I thought we did a good job of using our speed to create chances and we pulled it out in the end."

Graham, originally from Halifax, is in his last season with SAC, which makes the tournament win all the more special.

"It's the history and just seeing the names on the trophy of teams that have won it and for SAC this is our ninth time winning it and it's just such a competitive tournament every year, and it's a big weekend for SAC hockey and Aurora," he said. "It

means a lot to win it for us and our school. The history and all those things make it an incredible thing to win."

Saints players Brett Nichol and Austin Cho were named tournament all-stars for their play throughout the weekend, while Foegele earned the Robin Fraser plaque for Leadership and Sportsmanship and Graham was deservedly named tournament MVP.

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The St. Andrew's Saints celebrate their win after hosting the 31st annual MacPherson Tourney over the weekend at the Aurora Community Centre. Aurora photo by Jeff Doner

Aurora could seek \$4 million in damages over "parkland" deal

From page 1

denying the existence of the right.

"The Town states that it has a valid and enforceable right, which gives it an equitable interest in [the land]. [The land] is inherently valuable and unique to the Town. It presents an opportunity for the Town to develop a park and related facilities in this built-up residential area."

John Mascarin, lawyer for Minto, told The Auroran he was seeking word from the company to comment on the matter, but no comment had been received at press time.

Appearing before Council last fall, however, Mr. Mascarin argued that contrary to the opinions of the Town and neighbours in the community, the belief a right of first refusal stands on the land is a "misunderstanding."

"I believe that all the facts have not been presented to the public, nor to Council," he said, declining a request from Councillor Evelyn Buck to elaborate on his statement. "Our client has been provided with an opinion and we have advised the Town does not have an entitlement to purchase the land at all, much less to purchase the land at a particular value."

"There are a number of complicated

contractual factors with respect to the subdivision, the conditions of approval, the agreement with the school board, the final clearance of conditions, the granting of approval by the Town of Aurora, and the registration of the subdivision. My view is there is no right of first refusal in any of the documents."

Councillors last discussed the Mavrincac Boulevard lands in public in December. At the time, Town Solicitor Warren Mar advised against a motion from Councillor John Gallo calling for all non-confidential information on the land issue discussed behind closed doors to be out in public.

Mr. Mar advised them to keep their cards close to their chest given what could transpire in the future.

"There were items that may have been discussed that were simply covered by closed session confidentiality," said Mr. Mar. "I would suggest to Council now, based on events, could now be covered by certain levels of solicitor-client privilege. They have transitioned themselves into that based on circumstances I have discussed with Council in closed session. I can foresee a time when I think it will be appropriate to release that information, [but] I can't say when that would be."

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Theatre Aurora goes “nuts” over Men Are Dogs

By Brock Weir

As a former therapist, the word “nuts” is not a phrase Peter Kerenyi throws around lightly.

But after 40 years on the other side of the couch, “Men Are Dogs”, the latest production from Theatre Aurora is was something Mr. Kerenyi could definitely relate to.

“Men Are Dogs”, a comedic play from New York playwright Joe Simonelli, follows Dr. Cecelia Monahan, a psychiatrist running a support group for single and divorced women, all too eager to dispense advice, but more reluctant to look within herself for the release that she needs.

“After 40 years, I could relate to the difficulties therapists have in their own personal lives while, at the same time, trying to be supportive, as Cecelia says, to the nuts,” explains Mr. Kerenyi. “That isn’t a politically correct term in my old job, but I love to say it here because people are crazy – and I say that affectionately.”

“The story drew me because of the main character not being able to deal with loss, her anger, her frustration, and dealing with women who have experienced all sorts of losses in their lives. They are all stuck. One of the things about real-life therapists is it is a lot easier to deal with other people’s problems than your own. A lot of therapists put aside their own needs and then quite a few of them go crazy themselves.”

“Men Are Dogs” was not a play Mr. Kerenyi had heard of before leafing through all of Theatre Aurora’s options this year, but when the 10-year Theatre Aurora veteran found it, he pursued the director’s chair.

Coming into community theatre, he wanted to do away with what production series which trended towards British comedies and operettas. After all, he says, if you have actors running around the stage feigning a British accent and they don’t do it perfectly, it just doesn’t work.

He takes a leaf out of the books of Hollywood directors of the 1930s like Howard Hawks who specialized in screwball comedies.

“It goes back to my childhood and my fantasies of being an actor in Hollywood,” he says. “We don’t make movies like that anymore and I find them delicious. I can watch Cary Grant every day as an example. My all-time favourite female is Katharine Hepburn. She was a brilliant talent and absolutely gorgeous in the 1930s. If I could travel back in time I would like to be with her all the time.”

Unfortunately, Kate and Cary are no longer available, but he has a cast of new and stalwart Theatre Aurora players to make the characters come alive.

Tackling the lead role of Cecilia is Anna Pelc-Draper, a Richmond Hill actress and teacher, who has been involved in Theatre Aurora for 16 years. The message of perseverance in the play was something which appealed to her when the role came up.

“Cecilia is a character that had a lot of different facets to her,” she says. “She

develops, so it becomes a pretty juicy role.”

Also tackling another juicy role is Geeta Bagga, taking on Jane Rudolph, a nurse, she says, who feels “very used” by the men in her life. This is her first play with Theatre Aurora and she has found the whole experience of playing Jane “very liberating.”

“She is very conflicted and also on the borderline of being bisexual,” says Ms. Bagga. “She struggles with her identity in terms of determining if she is going to continue on letting the men in her life slaughter her and make her feel unappreciated. Maybe she wants to gravitate towards the other side and experimenting with that.”

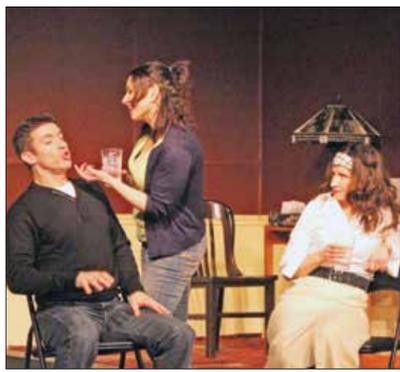
“It is about keeping an open mind and how these people experience their encounters and understand these are every day struggles. There is nothing unique about it. It is about people peeling back the onion and pulling at it until you find the problem.”

For some of the characters in this play, the problem itself can be found wearing the pants – namely the two men in the play, one of whom is played by long-time Theatre Aurora veteran Mark Rival. It is a reunion for Mr. Rival with the director, who put him through his paces in his award winning performance as Mitch in A Streetcar Named Desire.

“The character is a stretch for me personally because he is a bit of a cad, whatever that means. I watch a lot of New York-type shows where the actor is a little bit aggressive, athletic, cocky or arrogant where my regular demeanor as Mark Rival – okay, who am I kidding? I just pull different elements from myself!” he jokes.

“This definitely empowers women. It doesn’t necessarily slight men in a negative light, but it makes women a little bit more cautious. It is a comedy, but a reflection of the challenges out there for men and women dating or in relationships.”

“Men Are Dogs” runs on select dates through February 22. For tickets and show information, visit www.theatreaurora.com or call 905-727-3669.



(Top) Rimma Barinshteyn, Petrina Lee, Geeta Bagga play some of the complicated women being treated by a therapist, played by Anna Pelc-Draper. (Above) Men are often the topic of conversation – and contention – in this play, as depicted by Joey Fetherston. Auroran photos by David Falconer

Lang highlights “drastic change” in the far north through the stroke of a paintbrush

By Brock Weir

2002 was meant to be a watershed year for Bancroft-based artist Linda Lang.

Passionate about Canada’s far north, the King Township native was a studio assistant with Doris McCarthy when she had the opportunity to accompany her accomplished boss on an art tour of the Arctic, following an ice breaker.

For her, it was a “once in a lifetime” trip... that has since turned into 12 return engagements!

Her love of the north began with childhood trips to the McMichael Gallery to see the famous works of Lawren Harris. It planted the seeds which, in adulthood, turned into the healthiest kind of “addiction.”

“It was just beautiful and then I met the Inuit people,” she says. “I was amazed at their survival techniques and I started exploring and learning about the land. In 2006, I got involved with the International Polar Year and in 2007 I really started seeing the changes of climate change.”

It is this change Ms. Lang reflects in her paintings, in her new exhibition: “Journey to Hope – A Decade of Arctic Expeditions.”

Over her many journeys, Ms. Lang fell in love with Auyuittuq National park, a preserve on Baffin Island. After several trips to the park to take in its beauty, she noticed drastic changes with each passing year. The word “Auyuittuq” means “land that never melts” and suddenly the park was not living up to its traditional Inuit moniker. Through her vibrant paintings reminiscent of Harris and the Group of Seven, Ms. Lang says she hopes to highlight the problems of climate change through a different medium than news stories, scientific journals, and impassioned political speeches.

“This is an area of Canada we know little about and it was really important to tell the stories of climate change and the stories of how our actions are affecting the Inuit people,” she says. “I started telling these stories in my art. In as little as three years, I have seen entire mountains melt. Polar bears that used to go out onto the sea ice and hunt for seals are now climbing bird cliffs in search of food. I think our biggest

misconception is our actions don’t affect anybody else.

“To see that progression in a decade is a little extreme. Down here, things tend to change slowly that climate change doesn’t seem real. I don’t want to give people all the scientific information, but just share my experiences and they can decide how they feel about it and whether they feel strong enough that they are willing to change their lives.”

“Journey To Hope” opens this week at the Aurora Cultural Centre, running through March 15. Ms. Lang will hold an artists’ reception on Saturday, February 15 from 1 – 4 p.m. to explain her work, as well as workshops on Inuit stencil painting on March 11. For more information, visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.



Artist Linda Lang’s painting depict the changing face of the Arctic due to climate change, as depicted by two paintings of Auyuittuq National Park completed three years apart. Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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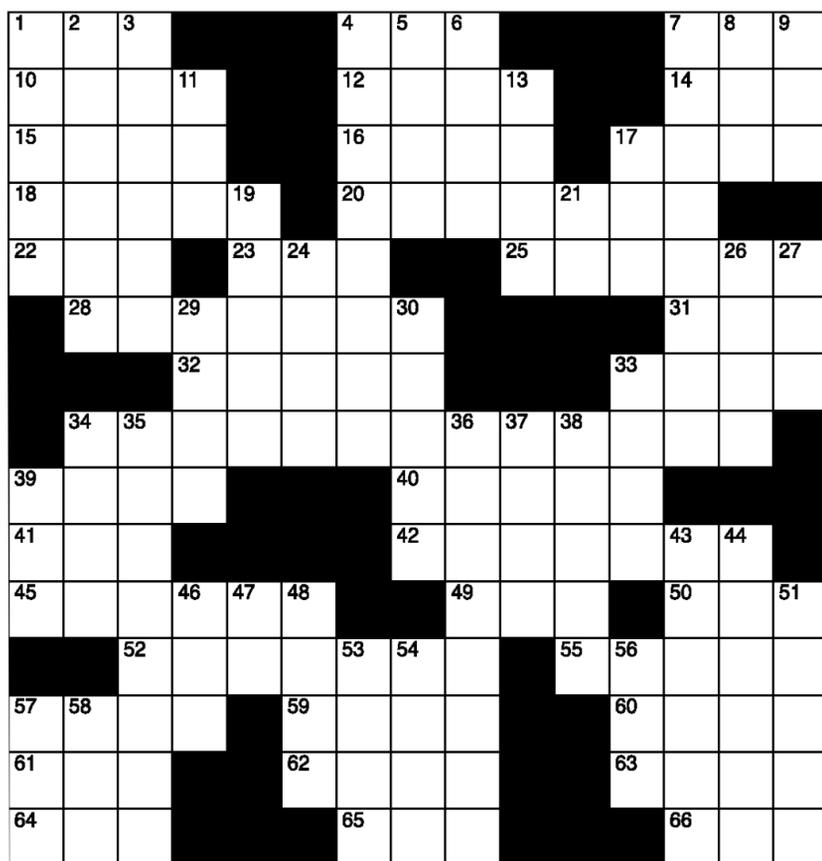
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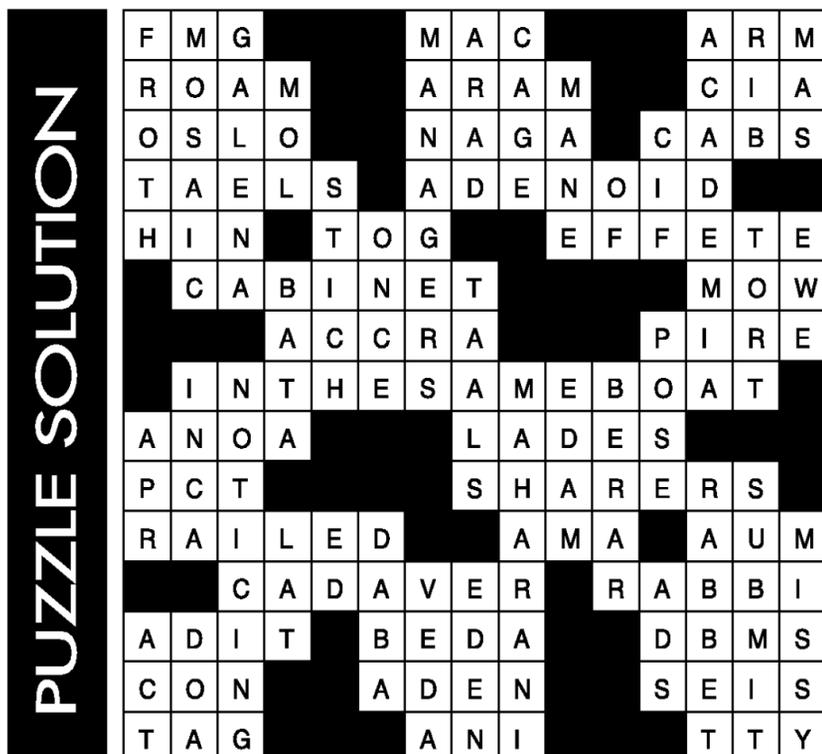
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Film Music Guild
- 4. A rubberized raincoat
- 7. An upper limb
- 10. Wander
- 12. Biblical name for Syria
- 14. Former OSS
- 15. Norwegian capital
- 16. No. Am. Gamebird Assoc.
- 17. Taxis
- 18. Ancient Chinese weight unit
- 20. Third tonsil
- 22. Ancient Hebrew measure = 1.5 gal.
- 23. Piece of clothing
- 25. Overrefined, effeminate
- 28. Housing for electronics
- 31. Cut grass
- 32. Ghana's capital
- 33. Prof. Inst. of Real Estate
- 34. Shares a predicament
- 39. Old World buffalo
- 40. Loads with cargo
- 41. What part of (abbr.)
- 42. Partakers
- 45. Expressed harsh criticism
- 49. Doctors' group
- 50. OM (var.)
- 52. A dead body
- 55. Jewish spiritual leader
- 57. An almost horizontal entrance to a mine
- 59. Anglo-Saxon monk (672-736)
- 60. Database management system
- 61. A swindle in which you cheat
- 62. Arabian Gulf
- 63. Six (Spanish)
- 64. Price label
- 65. Black tropical American cuckoo
- 66. Teletypewriter (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Foam
- 2. Tessaera
- 3. Major ore source of lead
- 4. Directors
- 5. 9/11 Memorial architect
- 6. The goal space in ice hockey
- 7. The academic world
- 8. Standing roast
- 9. More (Spanish)
- 11. Gram molecule
- 13. Head of long hair
- 17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 19. Line of poetry
- 21. Originated from
- 24. One time only
- 26. A civil wrong
- 27. Female sheep
- 29. Bay Area Toll Authority
- 30. Afrikaans
- 33. Hold a particular posture
- 34. South American Indian
- 35. Paying attention to
- 36. Wife of a maharaja
- 37. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 38. Central Br. province in India
- 39. 4th month (abbr.)
- 43. Grooved carpentry joint
- 44. Present formally
- 46. Skeletal muscle
- 47. ___, denotes past
- 48. Aba ___ Honeymoon
- 51. Young lady
- 53. Any of the Hindu sacred writing
- 54. Where Adam and Eve were placed
- 56. Promotional materials
- 57. Play a role
- 58. Arrived extinct

Last Week's Puzzle Solution



ELECTION 2014

Awaiting his next phase, Ballard will focus on building a "sustainable community"

By Brock Weir

After the first full month of the 2014 election season, most members of Aurora Council have stated their intentions to seek re-election in one way or another, biding their time before formally entering the race.

The same cannot be said for Councillor Chris Ballard. The first-time Councillor is in the unique position of sitting as at the Council table while vying to be the next Liberal candidate for Newmarket-Aurora in the next provincial election.

As such, his political prospects could be vastly different as early as this spring but he is nevertheless focused on the dual tasks at hand – with much left on his to-do list as Councillor.

Topping the list is seeing the Aurora Promenade Plan fully implemented. The wide-reaching plan to revitalize large swaths of the Yonge and Wellington corridors is expected to be discussed at the Committee level this week before heading to Council next Tuesday.

While the promenade plan has encouraged new development, more needs to be done to encourage business development as well, he says.

"We have to make sure...residents can live and shop in Downtown Aurora," says Councillor Ballard, noting focus needs to also extend beyond the promenade area. "How do we bring new Aurorans, people who have lived here for 10 years or less, primarily in the northeast, and make them an integral part of our community? That will be important to the long-term success of our community."

"If we want Aurora to be more than a place to come and sleep at night before heading back to Toronto for work, we need to make sure all the new families and couples feel welcome and integrated into the social and political life of our community. We haven't done anything to do that this term and I think that is exceptionally unfortunate."

Over his last three years on Council, Councillor Ballard said he has found his work particularly rewarding, working in the public, helping them to access their local government, as well as local businesses, groups, and organizations. He says he has not, however, found that sense of community at the table where, he argues, personalities all too often enter into the political debate.

"There is, unfortunately, a rift on this Council," he says. "Many times I feel there are certain Councillors who, no matter what is said, will ultimately disagree because of who is saying it and not necessarily

with what is said. That has been the most disappointing aspect of it.

"It has been very fulfilling to represent those citizens who are interested in culture and working to make sure the contract with the Aurora Cultural Centre was maintained. I am a supporter of culture, arts and heritage, and having been immediately involved in designing that business model, I was satisfied that Councillors finally, after a lot of pressure from the public, saw fit to tweak it rather than trash it."

Additional personal highlights, he said, including highlighting environmental issues such as clear cutting and illegal filling at the south end of Aurora on Yonge Street at Industrial Parkway South, and raising citizens' concerns about the controversial Bell Tower in nearby King Township.

He also said he has found satisfaction in bringing a "sense of fiscal responsibility and community sustainability" to the table in response to some small and big ticket items that have hit the Council table, including extensive renovations to the Aurora Family Leisure Complex to make way for the Community Space for Youth, and the new Joint Operations Centre.

"I haven't always been successful in having fellow Councillors agree with my position, but I think an important part is to at least get a discussion going when it comes to fiscal responsibility," he said. "While I am in favour of a new operations centre, I am not in favour of spending \$22 or \$35 million with the model that is before us. It speaks to my gravest concern and that is about the financial planning we go through."

"In my mind, we have not made the business case before we spend millions of taxpayers' dollars and that speaks to the long-term sustainability of this Town. Our reserves are in dire straits in some cases and we're moving ahead too quickly, I think, without understanding what we are getting this Town into in the long-term. I have real concerns and I think Councils over the next two or three terms are going to face challenges to deal with these financial decisions."

In the meantime, until either Premier Kathleen Wynne, Ontario's opposition parties, or the Newmarket-Aurora's Ontario Liberal Riding Association decide otherwise – and the local nomination date is set for February 20 – Councillor Ballard says he remains focused on the community.

"I am really focused on being a municipal Councillor and working with people on that in Town," he said. "Other than that, I haven't thought any further than September."

Clean-up eyed as plans solidify for townhouse developments at Collis

By Brock Weir

Plans could progress within months to raze Collis Leather for a new townhome development.

According to Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, formal applications for the redevelopment are expected to be filed by the site's new owners, the Kerbel Group, in the late spring or early summer.

"The Kerbel Group have been involved in a number of redevelopment sites such as the Tannery," said Mr. Ramunno. "Their intention is to clean up the site and redevelop it for residential purposes. They haven't submitted a formal application yet to the municipality [but] I have met with them on a number of occasions and they are proceeding to do all of their background information."

Mr. Ramunno spoke at a public meeting held last week to discuss Aurora's Community Improvement Plan. He was responding to Aurora resident Angela Daoust, a resident of Tyler Street, neighbouring on the former leather processing site sold last year by Maple Leaf Foods more than two decades after leather production ceased.

In the intervening years, the building had been used by a number of interests, including commercial office and studio space before the last tenants were evicted last summer ahead of Maple Leaf's sale.

Residents in the area have had ongoing concerns regarding potential contamination and toxic waste on the site, particularly such chemicals as chromium, and how it would affect the surrounding environment if disturbed by redevelopment.

"I am very interested in the Downtown Core plan," said Ms. Daoust on the

Community Improvement Plan. "I was on a subcommittee a number of years ago looking at the revitalization of the commercial area of Yonge Street, we made a lot of suggestions, and none have really been implemented. I am glad to see that the ball is rolling now."

She was, however, concerned that the ball did not roll too far – or too fast into the Tyler Street neighbourhood.

"Our main concerns as residents is with regards to the tannery property," she continued. "Now that the property has been sold and plans have been developed, it seems that the focus is on intensification. I would like to know if all the issues of the site are going to be cleaned up for multi-residential use."

From Mr. Ramunno's perspective, the onus for the cleanup will be on the new owners and they have given him every indication that they will follow suit.

"They are going to deal with the many Ministry of Environment requirements to clean up the site, to undertake the environmental assessment and their intent at this point is to develop it eventually for a townhome development. That decision hasn't been made, but they are doing their initial background work to undertake the environmental assessment work."

"They will need to present an application to Council and there will be a need for a formal public hearing. Prior to that happening, they have committed to public outreach to the community in advance of a formal application submitted sometime in the spring or summer of this year."

The plan proposes a number of assistance programs to help property owners do the necessarily cleanup in order to redevelop their sites.

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Aurora business student to shadow Pan Am Games CEO

By Brock Weir

As a student at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, Michael Delplavignano knew he had a head for business, but he didn't know where to turn.

A brochure from a guidance counsellor introduced him to the Ivey School of Business, sending the Grade 11 student on a path on which he never looked back. Just weeks away from graduating from Ivey, this future business leader recently scored a place in a once in a lifetime opportunity to put him on the forefront of an event which will have a significant impact on Ontario.

Delplavignano is one of seven finalists rising to the top in Odgers Berndtson's CEOx1 Day program, which matches Canada's top university students with Canada's top CEOs.

Through the program, finalists will have a chance to spend a day shadowing some of Canada's top movers and shakers, senior executives with a significant influence on their fields.

"Our CEOx1 Day program is designed to uncover Canada's most promising future talent and we've selected seven exceptional students from a field of high-quality applicants across Ontario," said Robert Quinn of Odgers Berndtson. "These individuals demonstrated their outstanding academic and social

leadership. The advantage of this program for the finalist, as well as everyone who went through the qualification rounds is they will have garnered a much deeper understanding of their leadership credentials, which will be valuable in their future careers. This is truly the next generation of top talent in Canada."

Delplavignano made it through a lengthy selection process, which included not only marks from their respective universities, but essays and interviews with the firm's partners before moving onto the final round. He joins students from as far away as China to as close as Toronto in getting one-on-one mentorships from Canada's CEOs.

Michael is paired with Saad Rafi, CEO of the Toronto 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee. For an Aurora native with an extensive background in Aurora Minor Hockey as well as the Aurora Jays Baseball Club, pairing up with the driving force behind one of the largest sporting events in Canada's history is a fitting, if daunting, prospect.

"This is a great opportunity to see somebody who has been given so much responsibility, where they have to balance planning ahead and doing what is best for the city and all the arrangements that go into it," Delplavignano tells The Auroran.

"There is an immense amount of planning that goes into it and it will [be] interesting [to shadow] someone with so much on their shoulders.

"In doing our school cases, we often take on the role of a CEO and think about what we would do to solve a given problem. On a daily basis, you are not facing strategic problems that are going to drive the whole business, but they still have that responsibility. Getting to spend a day with them and understanding what they do on a day-to-day basis is just a great opportunity."

With 10,000 athletes coming to Toronto, Delplavignano sees this as an opportunity the entire GTA can get behind. The impact, he said, is going to be huge and that is something which has always interested him. Details are still a bit murky right now on just what he will be doing shadowing



Michael Delplavignano

Local Habitat team issues challenge to other local companies

By Brock Weir

As January came to a close, Marie-Christine "M-C" Perron was able to take at least one item off her bucket list.

The Innisfil resident and employee at Aurora's Bunn-O-Matic has long-wanted to take part in a Habitat for Humanity build, and last year she got the opportunity to do just that.

The fruits of "M-C"'s labour, along with that of her Bunn-O-Matic Habitat for Humanity Team, were on show Sunday at the official dedication of York Region's latest Habitat build in Sutton.

At the house, soon to become the home of the Strain family, several members of the Bunn team were on hand for the occasion, including Andrea Nadon, who knows all too well the good service Habitat for Humanity can provide.

"I wanted to help out because when I was younger we had Habitat build my house, so I thought it would be nice to build someone else's," she said. "That was when I was two or three in Mississauga and it was fun to help."

She was joined at the ceremony by Jackie Burton, Purchasing Administrator for Bunn, who recalled the "sweat" that went into making the house a reality.

"You could have said tears because we thought we were there to work outside and put the siding on," she said, remembering her feeling while working in the basement when she saw a truckload of rocks approaching for them to work with. "The first place I am going to go [at the dedication] is back into that basement!

"Habitat is a great idea and has helped people get into homes and be safe and warm. I am very handy with my hands around the house, so getting out and actually doing something to help somebody else was good."

For M-C, now that the job is done, she can put a well-earned checkmark on her bucket list, but looking back she is not about to take it off her list altogether should further opportunities crop up.

"I've wanted to do it for quite a few years, and it has such a great reputation and is such a worthwhile endeavour that I wanted to have a little piece of my own personal life associated with it," she said. "I have my name, as we all do, written inside the walls so there is a little piece of my history there. If I die tomorrow, whatever sweat and tears was put into that house will remain. It is a legacy – and I most probably will do it again!"

If the team has their way, however, they will do just that. Looking back over the fun they had, Jackie proposes a bit of a gender challenge throughout the community.

"Maybe we could challenge the corporations in Aurora that if Habitat had another Women's Day, maybe we could challenge other corporations to come out," she said.

The women around the table were more than enthusiastic about the idea and, if it comes to fruition, their male teammates will join them as their loudest cheering section.

"We get a lot of joy and pride out of it," said Chandra Lodhia.



Chandra Lodhia, Anna Linhares, Marie-Christine Perron, Jun Manapat, Andrea Nadon, Jocelyn Baldwin, Tyler Baldwin, Jacqueline Burton, and Benjamin DeLaRosa all participated in Habitat for Humanity York Region's latest build.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

The Town of Aurora has received the following application under the *Planning Act*:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| APPLICATION: | The Owner has submitted an application to amend the Zoning By-law to allow six condominium townhouse units on the subject lands. The subject lands were previously zoned for one single detached lot as part of the original condominium development. |
| PROPERTY: | 74 Old Bloomington Road |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| LEGAL DESCRIPTION: | Unit 22, York Region Vacant Land Condominium Plan No. 1159 |
| APPLICANT: | Stirling Cook Aurora Inc. |

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that a "complete" planning application has been received by The Town of Aurora pursuant to the *Planning Act*. The application has been circulated to Town departments and external agencies for review and comment. A Council Public Planning meeting will be scheduled and held at a later date and formal Public Meeting notice will be provided pursuant to the statutory requirements of the *Planning Act*.

If you wish to express your views with respect to this application, please forward your comments to Drew MacMartin of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4347, fax to 905-726-4736 or email planning@aurora.ca. The personal information accompanying your submission will become part of the public record. Additional information and material related to this application is available for review Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Town's Planning & Development Services department, located at 100 John West Way, 3rd floor.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123 ext. 4347

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OMARS—Celebrating our 44th year in business in Aurora

Holy Spirit students "empowered" after beating out hundreds for environmental prize

By Brock Weir

Students at Aurora's Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School are vigilant about what goes into their trash.

Food wrappers? No. Juice boxes? Think again. Their Green Team is on patrol, and this often extends into the home, keeping a close eye on what mom and dad are throwing away.

Is it a little bit much? After coming out tops against 700 schools from 56 school boards across Canada last year, that answer is a resounding no!

Holy Spirit took the crown in the Carton Council of Canada's Waste-Free Lunch Challenge, a program sponsored by the Carton Council of Canada and the Recycling Council of Ontario. The challenge tasked participating schools with decreasing the amount of garbage they generate. Through the process, the schools reduced their waste output by an estimated 16,000 kilos of lunch materials or, they say, equivalent to 35 grand pianos.

"We reduced stuff and helped the environment because we're trying not to trash the place!" says student Nicole, a member of the Green Team. "We're trying to collect the garbage so our Earth won't be smelly and stuff like that."

It is a sentiment which echoes around the room with the students ranging from Grades 3 to 6.

"I felt happy that we won," says Patrick. "I wanted to help the earth and the environment. If we didn't, we would live in a world filled with trash."

Students keep a close eye on what their fellow students bring to and throw out at lunch time. They pay particularly close attention to things like milk bags and even pouches of Kool-Aid Jammers which are collected, sent away, and processed, often being woven into rugs and mats for the developing world and some trendy pencil cases and back packs here at home.

The group is led by Grade 3 teachers Carrie Kinsman and Christina Barbaro. Ms. Kinsman says she has looked on impressed with how the environmental message has resonated with the students.

"I think they really care," says Ms. Kinsman. "They feel they can do a small part and feel proud they can help. If we are not here on Wednesday morning when we have to gather all the trash, they are at my door knocking, saying 'this is our day!' It is motivated from within. They feel proud they can help out and they can do it. It is an easy way to contribute to the environment."

Collecting garbage and keeping bags and wrappers out of the system is not the only way the Holy Spirit kids contribute to bettering the world around them.

They have invested their prize winnings, as they do with the small money they make from recycling companies after handing in their milk and Jammer bags, back into

their outdoor classroom. They buy trees, buy perennials to keep it beautiful, and purchase seeds to keep their vegetable gardens thriving.

They grow squash, potatoes, tomatoes, all tended by the Green Team students, and make soup out of the harvest. They also grow sunflowers and each year when the time comes they harvest the seeds, package them, and sell the seeds for 25 cents a pop to re-invest in their outdoor classroom.

"Every year we build on it so it is becoming more of a community within the school," says Ms. Kinsman. "They come up with their own ideas of what we can do with new initiatives. Younger grades go to every classroom and collect everything, fold them and pack them and it is almost as if they are their own little law enforcement of environmental stewards. It is really refreshing that way. They feel empowered."



Students at Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School celebrate their win after coming out tops in Canadian schools on reducing their lunchtime waste. The Grades 3 - 6 students proudly show off their waste collection bins, as well as bags made with collected milk bags and Kool-Aid Jammer pouches.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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(L) Celine Barratt helps her classmates launch their boat back into the SARC pool for the ultimate weight challenge. (C) Boats made by the teams of Emma Kerswill, Alexander Smith, and Julian Bolivar withstood both endurance and weight in Friday's competition. (R) Adam Murphy helped navigate his team's craft the length of the pool.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Students conquer the SARC with just cardboard and duct tape

By Brock Weir

Students conquered the pool at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on Friday afternoon – but they weren't showing off their swimming prowess, rather just what they can do with a pile of cardboard and a few rolls of duct tape.

After beginning their morning with equal piles of cardboard and five rolls of duct tape, teams of Grade 7 students at Pickering College began construction work at the school at 7.30 a.m. and working around the clock – even skipping recess! – to get their boats done before loading them up for Aurora in the afternoon.

Designs for their respective boats have been weeks in the making, working in teams developing blueprints, and pitching their designs to their respective classes, a “simulated corporate panel of potential investors.”

“They are very excited,” said teacher Elaine Kleim, watching from the sidelines as students were sized up for life jackets and had small strategy huddles on the poolside. “I’m always nervous because you get to know what is going to float and what is going to sink so maybe we can judge it a bit sooner than they can, but it is cool when they are at the building stage when

they find out a design is not going to work and to watch them problem solve.”

By midday, cardboard had been slapped together, seams had been waterproofed – or so they hoped! – with the duct tape, and then things got interesting.

“We started off with five rolls of tape and then we had the ultimate takedown challenge,” said Ms. Kleim. “If you got the trivia right you got an extra roll.”

As students prepared to hit the water in their boats, with the ultimate objective to get out at the other end unscathed and intact to take on a secondary weight challenge, Ms. Kleim sized up the competition. There were one or two boats she had concerned about – but they all had a pretty good chance as long as there was even distribution of weight...and duct tape.

When it was time to face the music, all but one boat made it to the deep end in one piece. Some fared better than others. Some were unscathed and relatively dry, while other boats took longer to drain than it did to cross the pool, inexplicably staying afloat.

“I think we did pretty well!” said Auroran Emma Kerswill, dripping after making sure her boat fared well in the weight challenge.

For her, one of the biggest challenges was accounting for the differences in building on the floor of the gym while accounting for the stability that would be needed on the water.

“It is taking the textbook stuff we have already learned and putting it onto a design that has to be stable on two separate rounds and we learned a lot. I was in the water and I just had to stay there and make sure it didn't completely sink. All we wanted was to make sure it would stay up and afloat until the next competition.”

For Alexander Smith, a fellow Aurora student, it was a matter of practice makes perfect, even though perfection was a lofty goal.

“We learned that even if you think you have made a really good boat, it can

still have some difficulties in the pool,” he said. “There is not any perfect design, but we have all done our best to make it great. When I was swimming alongside the boat, I was just hoping that it wouldn't break, that it would stay stable and stay moving to the end so we could finish that race.”

Added Julian Bolivar: “I was just hoping it would come out in one piece! The most fun was how you can just take two perfectly good sheets of cardboard into something amazing like a boat and just hope for the best as you are trying it in the water.”

Rest assured, following the race, the students spent a good chunk of time – and fun – back in the water, carefully picking up stray bits of cardboard left over before swimmers took over the pool once again.

Final event was “bitter sweet” for committee members

From page 1

one to place items into the capsule, which now has pride of place on the first floor at Town Hall.

Items include the official Sesquicentennial Flag designed by local student Victoria Harris, DVDs and USB drives featuring videos and photos from each of the four community parties organized to mark the anniversary, copies of local newspapers, and an exquisite wood pen carved at the Seniors' Centre woodshop.

“I am glad we are inside tonight because the first event they kicked off was rather chilly in Town Park,” said Mayor Dawe to members of the organizing committee. “This is really a testament to your community spirit and we could not have done it without you.” After that “chilly night”, celebrations continued through the spring and summer. Designed to celebrate Aurora's past, present and future in the spring, summer, and fall, the next event was the Aurora 150 Tattoo in May, which brought together military bands and musical displays from the breadth of southern Ontario and, in conjunction with the Queen's York Rangers, military displays and a “tough mudder” for kids at Machell Park.

The party kicked into high gear at the end of June for a three-day bash to mark Canada Day, which included a “Youth Music Extravaganza” featuring a Much Music Video Dance Party, over 6,000

people descending on Town Park for a concert by the legendary Canadian rock band “Lighthouse”, and culminating on Canada Day itself with the traditional parade on Yonge Street.

The year, however, ended on a soggy note when the Community Cultural Celebration bringing together various traditions practiced in multicultural Aurora from Aboriginal traditions to Falun Dafa rituals and dance, was washed out by torrential downpours in September.

For Committee Chair Alison Collins-Mrakas, Monday night's informal ceremony was bittersweet nearly a year and a half after they put their heads together for a year to remember.

“I think the time capsule has turned out to be amazing and we were really hoping it would turn out to be something great,” she said. “It is the perfect location and the artefacts are really, really neat.”

In considering the legacy of the Aurora 150 celebrations and what people might think 50 years from now when the time capsule is opened, she said she believes people will see how a community came together “in celebration in a truly remarkable series of events.”

“They will see photos of people having a great time and hopefully it will be the first in a series of similar events,” she said. “We hope the Tattoo will be continued and the Cultural Day will be continued. I think that when it is opened it will be a picture slideshow of a fantastic year.”

What happens when Elwood makes friends with a human-sized rabbit named Harvey?

Find out this week at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS as students present “Harvey.”

Students hit the stage at the school next Wednesday, February 12 and Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m.

For tickets and more info, contact Rose Myler at 905-727-5652

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AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 13th

7:00 pm

Hillary House

National Historic Site

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Year in Review / Committee Chair Reports
- Treasurer's Report / Appointment of the Auditor
- Election of the Directors
- Adjournment of Annual Meeting
- “Hillary House in Action” Mini Video Presentations

AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
15372 Yonge Street, Aurora ON L4G 1N8
905-727-8991 ahs@aurorahs.com
www.aurorahistoricalociety.ca



Hillary House
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TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

AURORA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
Changes to The Town of Aurora's Building By-law

Staff from The Town of Aurora's Building & By-law Services department is hosting a public meeting to consider changes to the fees set out in the Building By-law (By-law #5402-12), a bylaw respecting construction, demolition, change of use and other building permits, as per the requirements of the Building Code Act, subsection 7(6).

When: Wednesday, February 19 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way, Tannery Boardroom (Second floor)

A presentation will outline changes to the classes of permits and the fee schedule. A package will be made available to meeting attendees, outlining the proposed changes to the classes of permits and fee schedule and the rationale for those changes.

For further information, please contact:
Dale Robson, Manager of Code Reviews and Inspections
Building and By-law Services
Phone: 905-727-3123 ext. 4319
Email: drobson@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123 ext. 4319

COMING EVENTS

ON NOW
DECEMBER 16 - FEBRUARY 17
 Come to Town Park to take in Aurora's Borealis. Coloured LED Christmas lights illuminate Town Park trees every night from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., allowing families to skate (weather permitting) under the lights on the giant outdoor ice rink.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
 The Newmarket/Aurora French Language Meetup Group will meet at Heavenly Bite European Café (1100 Davis Drive, Newmarket) tonight at 6 p.m. The meet-up group is for those who want to speak, practice or study French in a fun environment. French enthusiasts at all levels are welcome - from Francophones to beginners. Meetings are informal and fully oriented towards self-help, individual member initiatives and participants helping each other.

FEBRUARY 7 - 22
 Theatre Aurora presents Men Are Dogs, a play by Joe Simonelli, on select dates through February 22. Produced by Sally Ayers and under the direction of Peter Kerenyi, the comedy features six women as they go through life and face inner challenges head-on. Theatre Aurora promises the play will leave audiences laughing. Simonelli, who hails from New York, has been writing and performing in plays since 2000. For more information, including tickets, visit www.theatreaurora.com or call 905-727-3899.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
 The Women of Influence Network (WIN) will host a meeting today at Foxglove Design, 2-15140 Yonge Street,

Aurora, from 12 noon to 1.30 p.m. Join WIN, a group of women who meet during the lunch hour to nurture and inspire personal and professional growth. This complimentary event is open to members only. Limited seating available. For more information, contact Teri Hastings at 905-727-2822.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
 The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. This month's guest speaker is Aurora Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, who will speak on the environment and business development. New members are welcome. For more information, call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
 The Newmarket/Aurora French Language Meetup Group will meet at Heavenly Bite European Café (1100 Davis Drive, Newmarket) tonight at 6 p.m. The meet-up group is for those who want to speak, practice or study French in a fun environment. French enthusiasts at all levels are welcome - from Francophones to beginners. Meetings are informal and fully oriented towards self-help, individual member initiatives and participants helping each other.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
 The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, is proud to present Valentine's Day with The Judy Marshak Quartet. Transport yourself back to Manhattan, circa the 1950s, with the best in cabaret jazz repertoire from the award-winning actress/singer/songwriter, accompanied by piano, drums and upright bass. An affectionate tribute

to some of the coolest popular music ever written. Doors open 7:30 pm; concert at 8 pm. Tickets \$25 in advance, or \$30 day of concert, with general admission seating and a cash bar. To purchase, drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

 Celebrate Black History Month tonight with The Love Train Revue 2014. Featuring George St. Kitts and Friends, the event will celebrate the sounds of Motown, Jazz, Funk, Blues, African Folk, Reggae and More. Tickets are on sale now through the Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts at 905-787-8811. The event supports the Alzheimer Society of York Region and the Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces Foundation.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
 The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents two gallery receptions today from 1 - 4 p.m. Join artist Linda Lang in the Red & Blue Galleries with Journey to Hope, a Decade of Arctic Exploration - a series of large oil paintings and artifacts based on her journeys to Polar regions. In the Reception and Great Hall Galleries, meet the youth artists from St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS with their group show The Collection. All welcome, light refreshments. Fully accessible building; elevator entrance at north doors. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

 The One Parent Family Association will host their Valentine's Day dance this evening at 8 p.m. All are welcome - singles and couples. The dance will be

held at the Aurora Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. There will be a light buffet at 11 p.m. and a great DJ for the over-40 crowd. Admission is \$18, or \$15 for York Singles members. For more information, contact Sherry Worth at sherryworth@rogers.com.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
 Come to Town Park today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the 2014 Arctic Adventure, hosted by the Town of Aurora. This year's new spin on an Aurora tradition include exciting Olympic themes in honour of the Sochi Winter Games. Prizes will be awarded to those who earn their Olympic rings at various activities including a hockey shoot out, ice fishing, arctic golf, arctic bounce, mini floor curling, and mini snow tubing. Entertainment includes First Nations Presentation, McLaughlin and Friends, Aurora Teen Idol, and a Battle of the Chainsaws ice carving competition.

 The European Club in Aurora starts today. Would you like to share culture, tradition and history? Join the club for a Family Day celebration tonight from 7 - 9 p.m. Contact Svetla and George Topouzovi (224 Tonner Crescent, Aurora) for more information: 905-727-3924 or gtopouzov@yahoo.ca.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
 Registration is now open for the annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Luncheon. This year's luncheon will take place at King's Riding Golf Club (14700 Bathurst Street, King City) with networking at 11:30 a.m. and lunch beginning at 12 noon. Tickets are \$40 for Chamber members and \$50 for guests, plus HST.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All claims against the Estates of both RICHARD BRUCE HOLMQUIST and CAROL JEAN HOLMQUIST, late of the Town of New Tecumseth, in the County of Simcoe, who both died on or about the 26th day of June, 2013, must be filed with the undersigned personal representative on or before March 2, 2014. Thereafter the undersigned will distribute the assets of the said estate having regard only to the claims then filed.

Dated at Alliston, this 24th day of January, 2014.

JAN KAY, Estate Trustee, by her solicitors, FEEHELY, GASTALDI, 2 Victoria St. E., P.O. Box 339, Alliston, Ontario L9R 1V6.

Cindy Shaver (pictured) and Reccia Mandelcorn of the Aurora Public Library had "too much fun" selecting books and wonderfully corny pick-up lines before inviting Aurorans to head to the Library for a blind date. Cindy Shaver (pictured) and Reccia Mandelcorn of the Aurora Public Library had "too much fun" selecting books and wonderfully corny pick-up lines before inviting Aurorans to head to the Library for a blind date. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

Music and mystery in store leading up to Valentine's Day

By Brock Weir

Great songs are songs that hold up no matter who is singing them and allow each musician to bring something new to the table.

That is the philosophy local musician Judy Marshak brings to the table when she is planning her concerts. Ms. Marshak and the Judy Marshak Quartet have their Valentine's Day dates all settled, coming together for a new concert next week at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

It is one of many unique things going on around town in the lead-up to Valentine's Day, which offers something for everyone.

Ms. Marshak has pieced together a program she says is reminiscent of the great jazz cabarets of Manhattan from the 1930s through the 1960s, focusing on numbers from the Great American Songbook.

"Every time you hear them sung by a different artist, you never get sick of them," she says. "Funny Valentine is one of them and a perfect song for the night."

Citing the "gorgeous" and "fabulously witty and satirical" songs by Dave Frishberg and Bob Dorough, such as "Peel Me a Grape", made popular by the late jazz artist Blossom Dearie, she promises an evening to remember.

"There are a number of obscure songs and lots of songs people will know from very well-known composers like Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, George Gershwin, Hoagy Carmichael, and the guys who really knew how to write a song," says Ms. Marshak.

"I think I have gathered a fabulous selection of music that gives everybody a little something. There's three fabulous musicians, and then there's me on the ukulele and not only will they hear some brand-new classical love tunes, but they

will laugh. There is comedy, there's jazz, and there's romance."

The Aurora Public Library also promises comedy and romance – along with some mystery and thrills – if you're brave enough to take on a blind date in the lead-up to Valentine's Day.

How does "check me out and take me home" grab you as a pick-up line? If it tickles your fancy, the Aurora Public Library hopes it will entice you to pick up a mysterious book beginning this week. As part of their Valentine's Program, the Library's Cindy Shaver and Reccia Mandelcorn, put their creativity together, selecting a variety of books, covering them up with brown paper to keep them a secret, and plastering them with tried and true pick-up lines to entice you to want to slip into something more comfortable and settle down for a luxurious read, whether you've picked up a well-thumbed volume or a literary wallflower.

"This has been too much fun and a labour of love," says Ms. Shaver. "There have been a lot of extra hours sitting at home, wrapping books and thinking of lines. It has been more than what we originally anticipated, but it is such a fun idea and I think the community is really going to embrace it. Sometimes people need a bit of a push and some enticement to get out of their comfort zones."

"The idea is to get members out of their comfort zones in trying something fresh and new and, of course, not judging a book by its cover! You have no idea what you're going to pick up. You get a little bit of a hint, but the ideas is you take a risk, you take it home and then unwrap it."

Tickets for the Valentine's Day Concert are now available through www.auroraculturalcentre.ca, or by calling 905-713-1818. Showtime is 8 p.m.

Old hydro building could come under closer scrutiny as Council considers Joint Ops centre

By Brock Weir

Aurora residents could soon learn more about the deal which turned former home of Aurora Hydro into the new home of the Queen's York Rangers.

A motion put forward at the committee level by Councillor John Abel, which will be up for debate next week, calls on staff to make reports previously examined behind closed doors by this Council, as well as the last term of Council, public about the use of the Hydro Building on Industrial Parkway South.

"I would ask that we direct staff to release what they can on two closed sessions that took place prior to our Council, specifically two closed sessions on the Queen's York Rangers," said Councillor Abel. "There is information there that could be helpful and it is also business that wasn't completed last term and should be brought forward as well."

While the deal struck by the previous Council which saw the Queen's York Rangers, the military regiment which has called both Aurora and Toronto home since the mid-1800s, has been supported by many Councillors, it is an issue which regularly pops up for debate by some Councillors who would have liked to see the building used by something else.

Some have called for the outright sale of the building rather than the long-term lease with the Department of National Defence, but the majority have supported keeping the building as a municipal asset following the sale of Aurora Hydro to the Ontario Power Authority.

But what to do with it has been the question. Last winter, Councillor Evelyn Buck put forward a notice of motion calling for the termination of the lease and declaring the building surplus to the Town's needs while "realizing [the value] of the asset and using the proceeds towards funding" new facilities.

Although this motion was ultimately voted down by Council, one such new facility she had in mind was the funding of a new Joint Operations Centre, the plans for which are expected to be approved by Council this week.

Before work began to overhaul the building for use by the Regiment, the Hydro Building was a stop-gap home for the Aurora Parks department. In evaluating the increasing costs and expanding scope of the proposed Joint Operations Centre, the new building at the other end of Industrial Parkway combining parks and the Works Yard, the use of the Hydro Building once again became a bone of contention.

"If Parks had been left [in the Hydro Building] we would have no need to buy a problematic site and spend twice as much as making a developable site than the land cost," said Councillor Buck this month in relation to the future site of the Joint Ops Centre, for which a chunk of the \$19 million price tag will go towards making the land viable for the building. "From the beginning I have not been favourable towards this project and nothing I have seen persuades me that it is any more attractive or any more acceptable to the taxpayers than it was in the beginning."

A similar view was expressed by Councillor Abel about the use of the former Hydro building.

"We wouldn't even be dealing with this had it not been for the option of the old hydro building which we own and had not leased," he said.

Others, however, believed this was a moot point.

"With respect to the old Hydro building, it is nowhere near as large as we needed for the centre we're talking about," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "It would have been in no way done to accommodate this. We decided to keep it as an asset in Aurora although many wanted to sell it."

Ahead of next week's Council meeting, members of the public can take in for themselves the current condition at the current Works Yard at Scanlon Court. A public open house will be held on-site from 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., providing an opportunity for residents to ask questions about and tour the current facility and get up to speed on plans for the new Joint Ops Centre.

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