



TOWN OF AURORA

Weekly Notice Board

Aurora Town Hall
100 John West Way • P.O. Box 1000 • Aurora • Ontario • L4G 6J1
Phone 905-727-1375 • Fax 905-726-4732
Email info@aurora.ca • Website www.aurora.ca

Accessible formats
905-727-3123 ext. 4212
accessibility@aurora.ca

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 4	9:30 a.m.	Joint Council Committee
Tuesday, March 4	7 p.m.	General Committee*
Wednesday, March 5	7 p.m.	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 6	5 p.m.	Environmental Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 6	6:30 p.m.	Environmental Advisory Committee Regional Forum
Thursday, March 6	7 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment
Monday, March 17	7 p.m.	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 18	7 p.m.	Council
Wednesday, March 19	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library Board
Thursday, March 20	7 p.m.	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 20	7 p.m.	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Friday, March 21	10 a.m.	Trails and Active Transportation Committee
Wednesday, March 26	7 p.m.	Public Planning*

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

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REMINDERS

Waste and Recycling Collection

Residents are reminded that all waste materials must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. on your scheduled collection day, but not earlier than 4 p.m. the night before.

Please be aware that the time of collection in your area may change at any time, without notice. If items are set out late, collection vehicles will not return to pick-up these items.

For more information please consult the 2014 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar available for pick-up at Aurora Town Hall or download at www.aurora.ca/wastecollectioncalendar. Residents can also access The Town of Aurora's garbage collection schedule by downloading the my-waste TM app at www.my-waste.mobi/aurora/ onto your smartphone or tablet.



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!

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Town Clerk
Application deadline is **Thursday, February 27**

Summer Student – Legislative/Purchasing Services
Application deadline is **Friday, February 28**

Summer Student – Legal Services
Application deadline is **Friday, February 28**

Recreation Supervisor, Community Programs
Application deadline is **Friday, March 7**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upcoming Recreation Programs

Register today for one of the following recreation programs:

Home Alone – Do you have a 10 to 12 year old that wants to stay home alone? Our Home Alone program will prepare your child for this new responsibility. This program is being offered on **Friday, March 7**.

Red Cross Babysitters Training – Gain hands-on experience and participate in fun activities by registering for the Babysitters Training program on **Friday, March 7**. It will focus on five main areas: child caregiving, first aid, injury prevention, leadership and business skills. This program is for youth older than 11 years.

CPR and First Aid – The Life Saving Society is offering First Aid and CPR "C" courses on **Saturday, March 29** and **Sunday, March 30**.

For more information on registering for these programs, please call 905-726-4770.

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

Dinner and a Movie

Night at the Museum (Rated PG)

Where: Aurora Public Library

When: **Saturday, March 1**
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.

March Mania Camp

Looking for something fun to do during March Break? Join us for the Town's March Mania Camp!

Where: Aurora Community Centre

When: **Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14**,
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (extended care available)

Who: Children ages four to 11

Cost: \$150 (for five days)

For more information or to register, please call 905-726-4770.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Register now for the Canada Day Parade

Show your Aurora spirit and Canadian pride by registering for The Town of Aurora's Canada Day Parade! Marching bands, floats and walking groups are just some of the entries that will celebrate Canada's birthday on **Tuesday, July 1**.

Application forms can be picked up at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, Aurora Town Hall or online at www.aurora.ca/canaday. Application deadline is **Friday, June 13**.



The Aurora Public Library

Free Movie and TV Show Streaming

The APL is excited to announce a new pilot project with Hoopla Digital. APL members 14 years of age and older can stream and download movies and TV shows to their smartphone, tablet, laptop and smart TV for free! Please visit www.library.aurora.on.ca to get started!

Sketching Wildlife Workshop

Youth ages 10 to 14 years old are invited to a Sketching Wildlife Workshop on **Saturday, March 1** from 10 a.m. to noon. This two-hour workshop is led by Bill Lewochko, who will teach the techniques necessary to draw animals in their natural habitats. Fee is \$10 and includes all materials. Register today by calling 905-727-9494 ext. 280.

March Break Events

Spend March Break at the APL! There are a number of free events scheduled for the week of **Monday, March 10** including Mad Science, Mystic Drumz, animal shows and more! Tickets are now available in the library at the Children's Information Desk.

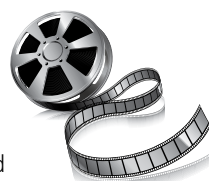
Participate in Doors Open Aurora 2014

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.



THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2014
6:30 PM ~ Aurora Cultural Centre

JOIN US for a ROCKIN' evening of
LIVE MUSIC and FUNDRAISING



TICKET INCLUDES

- ✓ Special Guest Performance The BluesBros
- ✓ AWBF "Youth In Music" Performance
- ✓ "Council Critters" Performance – with John Abel
- ✓ Good old fashion Dancin'
- ✓ Live painting "to the beat" – local artist Adubi Akinola
- ✓ Live & Silent Auction
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres food stations
- ✓ Door Prizes

Purchase tickets at www.awbf.ca





“Energy” in the air as Mardi Gras prepares for something new on Saturday

By Brock Weir

After 14 years benefiting Southlake Regional Health Centre, Carolyn Hamill is eager to see the energy that comes with change.

Change is in the air for Ms. Hamill, who co-founded the annual Mardi Gras for Southlake fundraiser, which benefits the Pediatric Oncology unit at Southlake Regional Health Centre. After a long run at The Mansion, this Saturday's Mardi Gras will be an evening of firsts.

Not only will it be the first Mardi Gras held in their new venue at Aw, Shucks at the southwest corner of Yonge and Wellington, but it is also hoped to be the first in an entirely new direction for the fundraiser which will ultimately connect other restaurants throughout the entire community served by Southlake for a series of events all on the same evening, all for the same cause.

“We’re having a lot more fun this year because, for us, this is a bit of a challenge,” said Ms. Hamill as preparations were well underway at the restaurant. “We come here for our meetings and we’ve sat around

thinking, ‘now what can we do?’”

They anticipated a problem with Ben, one of their regular performers, who entertains crowds with his stilt walking and juggling, but he was all too happy to downsize his routine for a more ceiling-friendly unicycle and, with bands and revellers spread out over two floors, the new dynamic is exciting.

“We’re going to bring the old in with the new, but we have to make it a little bit different, with a goal of making it something that can be duplicated across many different venues,” said Ms. Hamill. “This is our test run and the people at Aw, Shucks! have been very generous donating food, along with our own food donors, and knowing we’re pretty much covered and they’re backing everything for us means it is a real fundraiser now because everything that comes through the door goes straight to the cause.

“I want to see the new energy. In the old venue, where we would set up the [Bourbon Street] façade, I would stand there and always take a moment to stop and look around because there is so much that went into doing it. You could feel the energy, feel the excitement, and

Aw, Shucks! chef Grant Robertson, centre, shows off his winning duck dish last Thursday at the restaurant with Mardi Gras for Southlake founders Carolyn Hamill and John O’Birek. The Yonge and Wellington restaurant will be transformed for the Bourbon Street Ball this Saturday. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

feel the ambiance that was created when everything came together and I think we’re going to experience that even more at this venue! It is going to be a fantastic environment.”

Ms. Hamill was on hand at Aw, Shucks while media representatives put their “expertise” to the test in choosing the final dish to be presented as part of Saturday’s Mardi Gras menu. (See Page 4). The winning dish was a duck etouffee

Continued on page 16

Somerville withdraws PC race amid “threats”

By Brock Weir

Aurora’s Stephen Somerville withdrew from the race to replace MPP Frank Klees on Wednesday morning amid what he describes as “threats” made to him and his family.

In a statement, he said the matter was now in the hands of police.

“Unfortunately, there were threats made against me and my family that has caused me to reconsider my candidacy in this race and upon considerable reflection, I have decided it is best I do not continue at this time,” said Mr. Somerville in a statement. “My family is my top priority.

“As the matter is now the subject of a police investigation, I cannot offer any details or additional comments at this time. I wish all approved candidates for the PC Party in Newmarket-Aurora good luck and hope that Ontarians elect an Ontario PC government, let by Tim Hudak, in the next provincial election.”

Last week, the York Regional Police declined to elaborate on the nature of an ongoing investigation.

“Any time a citizen reports an incident to police, we will conduct a thorough investigation,” said Constable Laura Nicolle. “If, in the course of that investigation, the evidence provides

us grounds that an offence has been committed, investigators will lay the appropriate charges, based on the circumstances.

“We do not confirm or deny if a report has been made to us or if an investigation is taking place or not.”

With Mr. Somerville out of the race, that leaves Newmarket Councillor Jane Twinney as the one left standing, so far, in the race.

She said she was “shocked” that something like this would happen, particularly in Newmarket-Aurora.


“I sent an email to Stephen and expressed my hopes that everything was all right for him and his family, and to take care,” said Councillor Twinney. “He has done a lot for this party and we were just shocked that something like this would happen and it is very sad to hear.”

It is, however, business as usual for her campaign signing up new members and reaching out to the existing membership base.

She reiterated she had not received any threats herself, and it had not crossed her mind about doing anything differently.

“I don’t want to start getting worried about things like that, I am just carrying

Continued on page 19



TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

The Council of The Corporation of The Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended.

89 Mosley Street
“The Aurora Armoury”
PT TOWN HALL OR MARKET BLOCK PL 68 AURORA AS IN AU515
Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York

The property known municipally as 89 Mosley Street located on the south side of Mosley Street and on the west side of Larmont Street has been determined to have contextual, architectural and historical cultural heritage value or interest. Architecturally, the building is a front-end gabled building constructed in 1874 as a military drill shed. The property is associated historically with local militia, as well as civic and community activities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The property has contextual value as being located within the first residential subdivision in Aurora, known as Southeast Old Aurora.

Any person may send by registered mail or deliver to the Town Clerk, Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts by Friday, March 28, 2014 at 5 p.m. If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of The Town of Aurora will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and a report.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available from the Town Clerk’s Office upon request.

Warren Mar, Town Clerk (Acting), Town of Aurora
February 27, 2014

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-1375

Briefly

RICK HANSEN P.S. MAKES FIRST CULTURAL FAIR AN “EXPERIENCE”

Students and staff at Rick Hanson Public School are a diverse bunch, and they will proudly showcase this diversity at their inaugural Cultural Fair World Showcase. The fair, which runs this Thursday, February 27, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.15 p.m., will feature rangoli, henna, First Nations art, Chinese games and dance, a showcase of African culture, Italian desserts, and a British High Tea. “We decided to involve our community in an event where we brought awareness to the different cultures we had represented in our school,” teacher Ingrid Legros told The Auroran. “We have about 66 different countries represented in our school and we asked for parents to volunteer to come in and share something from their culture they might be able to provide as an experience to our community.” With 66 different countries, there was no shortage of culture to draw upon, but what surprised organizers was in surveying the school, the Grade 8 class alone represented backgrounds from 20 different countries – out of just 24 students! “There is stuff going on in other people’s houses that we don’t see which [we] indirectly bring into the building every day,” Ms. Legros added. “We really want to build an awareness that we bring our experiences with us and we don’t just drop them at the door.” Also bringing their own unique flavour to the event will be the Canadian Women’s National Wheelchair Basketball Team, speaking about athletics, accessibility, and their upcoming World Championship in Toronto this spring. Organizers also hope the success of this year’s fair will inspire other families to come forward and think of ways to bring their experiences into the mix next year.

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— Advertorial —

Break Free NOW from Learning Disabilities



At Learning Ability, we specialize in a proven and incredibly successful therapy for correcting learning disabilities in both adults and children.

The breakthrough program enables participants to function in a regular classroom or office setting without external aids. Best of all, no one will even know that they are using the special tools taught in our sessions. Only the positive results will be visible.

If you, your children or someone you know suffers from a learning disability, we can help with attainable solutions that get to the root of the problems.

We can help now with

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- Dyscalculia (mathematics)
- Dysgraphia (writing)
- Dyspraxia (coordination)
- ADD (attention)
- ADHD (attention and hyperactivity)
- Conditions on the Autism spectrum



“My son is happily going to school now. For him it was like being let out of jail.”
– Mother of Learning Ability Program participant

For more detailed information, to get a free no-obligation information package, or to book a free consultation, please contact Maureen O’Sullivan, BSc and Certified Davis Facilitator at

(905) 853-3363
maureen@learningability.org



www.learningability.org

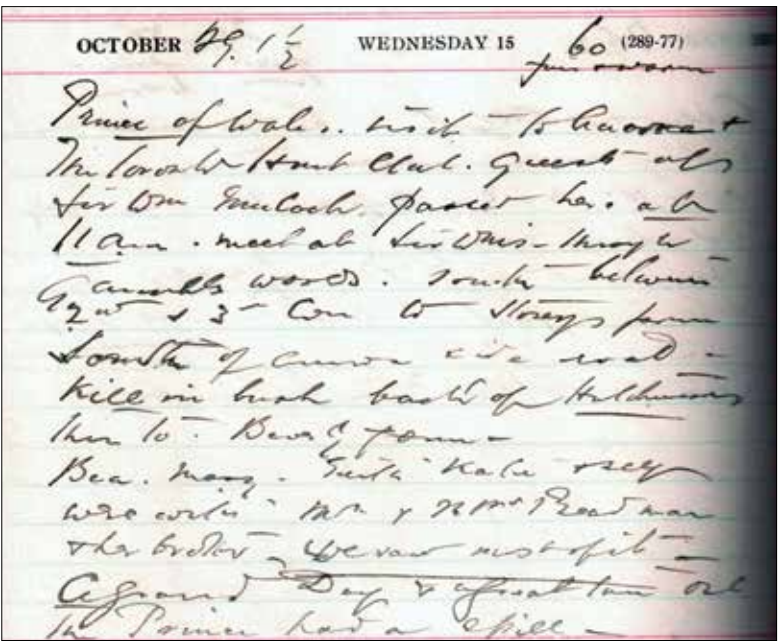
AURORAN POLL

Do you think initiatives like the Aurora Promenade Plan and Community Improvement Plan be successful in helping revitalize the Downtown Core?

a) Yes b) No c) Undecided

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS February 25, 2013	A	B	C
	47%	47%	6%



From the Diaries of Dr. Hillary

The Hillary House collection contains many items that provide insight into the professional and personal lives of the local physician and his family. One of the most unique archival pieces is the collection of Dr. Robert Michael Hillary's daily journals from the 1920s through to the early 1930s. Through these journals we can better understand the details of daily life in Aurora almost a century ago and place these lives into the larger context of national and global issues.

The Prince of Wales that visited Aurora on this day was Edward VIII, who would go on to become king for less than a year in 1936. This tour was primarily to visit his Bedingfield ranch near Pekisko, Alberta. During this visit he also donated the Prince of Wales Trophy to the National Hockey League.

The Prince of Wales was a guest of the Toronto Hunt and people lined the streets to catch a glimpse of him. He wore a black and white checked cap and coat and rode in an open car that was heading to the farm of Sir William Mulock. It was a beautiful autumn day for the hunt as the leaves had begun to change colours and many houses along Yonge Street were decorated.

Once he arrived at the farm, and after a short speech, he mounted a horse and the horn sounded for the hunt to commence. During the hunt, the Prince had a mishap but was not injured as his attendant helped him. He rewarded the attendant by giving him a \$10.00 bill. The hunt ended with a luncheon at the Beardmore farm south of Aurora.

Excerpt courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

House of Cards–Aurora Style

I don't watch a lot of television. I have better things to do with my time than vegetating in front of a TV screen. I have 1 or 2 shows that I watch regularly (I won't tell you what they are lest you judge me...and, no, there's no "housewives" in the title...).

Of course, I also watch Power and Politics with Evan Solomon because it's one of the best political shows out there.

I like all things political – and TV shows about politics are, of course, my favourite. In the late 90s and early 2000s, my favourite show was The West Wing. The writing was great, as was the acting. But, what was most appealing about the show was the sense that we, as viewers, were getting insider's access to the corridors of power; how decisions were made; what was hidden; what was revealed. It was fascinating to see how things were/are "really" done in the White House.

Fast forward 10 years and we have a new political drama on TV (okay, it's not on TV, it's on Netflix, which I rather grudgingly finally gave in to the hubby's wishes and agreed to get it...cable and Netflix for a person who never even had cable until I got married...)

Anyway, House of Cards is the buzz of the political world. It's an extraordinary show (we binged watched the first season last weekend. All I can say is – OMG!). It is extremely well written. The acting is superb. Kevin Spacey is simply malevolent as Vice President Frank Underwood. And Robin Wright is positively sociopathic as his wife – and partner in crime – Claire Underwood.

House of Cards is like the West Wing – the nasty years – much, much nastier. It's like Jed Bartlett has been replaced by a de Medici and advised by Machiavelli (with an assist from Karl Rove). The machinations and the double dealing are intricate and terrifying, but wholly believable.

It is the dirty underbelly of what real politics are like. So, why am I discussing my TV viewing habits? Well, because recent events in the PC nomination race seemed to be ripped from the script of an episode of House of Cards.

How else to explain the truly extraordinary situation our riding is in. First, one of the PC candidates' nomination applications is rejected. That decision has been subject to much "discussion" and derision by some – certainly in the twittersphere, that bastion of reasoned discourse and sanity.

And now, one of the remaining two candidates has withdrawn from the nomination race citing threats to himself and his family. Threats, to a candidate for nomination. I've never heard anything like it.

This isn't some third world country we're talking about where candidates "disappear" before their names are even printed on a ballot.

This is Canada. We don't threaten our candidates for office! Yes, attack ads could be called threats one supposes but they are reputational threats. This was – allegedly - a direct threat – that now involves the police, for heaven's sake. Unbelievable.

So, just what the heck is going on? Is this some half-baked political strategy? Or have people simply lost their minds? How else can you explain such a colossally stupid move as to threaten a candidate? Whose ends does a threat serve? As a political tactic, it has failed miserably.

Politics is all about the long game. Rank amateurs play the short game.

Frank Underwood would not be impressed. Until next week, stay informed, stay involved because, this is after all Our Town.

is tailored to meet their personal needs.

I will remain optimistic that the promise that there will be no reduction in service will be honoured by both the Region and the Ministry of Health. Will the concerns expressed by Olive, on behalf of her brother and sister, in this email be addressed?

"My brother, age 78 is visually impaired and is battling cancer. My sister, age 80, has multiple medical problems including a bad heart. At age 75, I am their sole caregiver and this news is putting added stress on me and my family. The hard working and caring women of ACL have been the lifeline for me and my siblings in several emergencies. Over the last three years, they have been resident at Hadley Grange and I have seen firsthand how a program like this could keep high risk seniors out of costly long-term care homes."

Honour our commitment to seniors and their families

Given the fears that many have expressed concerning the potential loss or reduction of services, I will be interested to know the outcome of those CHATS meetings.

I have already committed to meet with the residents of the Heritage East Seniors Residence after they have concluded their private consultations.

I will be inviting a representative of CHATS and the Region to attend that meeting to ensure that any concerns that residents may have will be addressed. I will make myself available for similar meetings at other residences if necessary.

The Ministry of Health and its agency, the Central Local Health Integration Network and the Region of York have a responsibility to honour their commitment to our seniors and their families that there will be no reduction in service.

www.frankklees.com



FRANKLY SPEAKING

**Frank Klees
MPP Newmarket-Aurora**

Program.

Not only would the level of service be reduced, but the memo warned that more than 80% of current applicants would not qualify under the new rules.

The new policy, the Assisted Living for High Risk Seniors Policy, was announced by the Minister of Health with great fanfare.

The spin was that it would give more seniors access to assisted living services, but what the minister did not say was that the new eligibility criteria would disqualify many seniors from getting any services at all.

I questioned why essential services to seniors were being put on the chopping block and why a program that was serving our seniors so well would be decimated. Here is what I was given in writing by the Central Local Health Integration Network:

"Every client currently receiving assisted living services will continue to do so under the new model - there will be no reduction in service."

Over the next few weeks, CHATS will be contacting residents who have been receiving services through York Region's Alternative Community Living Program to arrange personal meetings with them and their family members to discuss the transition to the new program.

In a memo to ACL clients this past week, CHATS committed to ensure that each client's care plan

Snow Long



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

Of course, there is gravel and salt and dirt, and everything that makes it that yucky brown colour. But as the ploughs have continually added to them following subsequent snowfalls, they have no doubt also buried larger items such as recycling bins, garbage cans, cars, and other things foolishly left at the end of people's driveways.

Another issue is that the ever-increasing piles of snow take up a lot of space. How many times this season have you gone to your local mall or dentist, and found that half of the normal parking area is occupied by a mini-Everest, which will be with us until at least May?

As for the side streets in town, with each successive snowfall, they've gotten progressively narrower, making it a challenge to squeeze by oncoming traffic. And if anyone's parked on the street, even if it looks like they're snugged up to the edge, the amount of snow

"Stop rationing care for seniors" was the headline of the first media release I issued when the legislature resumed sitting this past week.

Why? The emails, letters and phone calls were mounting. They were coming from seniors, their families and advocates who had heard that the way essential care services were being provided to seniors was about to change. And what they were hearing was unsettling at best.

Here is an example of one of those emails. Cathie writes, ".....my mother lives in the ACL Heritage East. It is Alternative Care for Seniors. They provide personal support services and essential homemaking to seniors and adults with disabilities in designated supportive housing apartments, so that they can stay in the community and remain independent. Services provided are tailored to each individual's needs and can include personal care such as dressing assistance, medication reminders, bathing, meal preparation, security checks, laundry and housework.

"The seniors are devastated because they recently found out that the province is de-funding the ACL and transferring responsibilities to CHATS [Community and Home Assistance to Seniors]. They have learned that CHATS will not be available seven days a week 24 hours a day. How is it possible to have these disabled seniors lose their services?"

Here's how...

More than 80% of current applicants for seniors care services will not qualify

In a memorandum dated June 19, 2013 the Community and Health Services Department of York Region announced that a new Ministry of Health policy would have serious implications to the Region's Community Living

So, are you ready for spring, yet?

If you're like most Aurorans, you're sick of winter. And why not? It has been unseasonably long, unseasonably cold, unseasonably snowy, and although I doubt there's any scientific proof to back up this next statement; unseasonably dark.

Winter doesn't usually faze Canadians, who take pride in embracing this northern season, but this year has been extreme.

This is evidenced by the fact that earlier this month, when the groundhog stuck his head out of his hole, he took one look around, and booked the next flight to Tahiti.

More than anything, it's been the sheer volume of snow that has set this winter apart.

For example, residents, who during the warmer months claim the narrow strip of land between their properties belongs to their next door neighbours, at least when it comes to mowing and related yard maintenance, have suddenly become all possessive about it, as they desperately look for places to pile the snow from their driveways.

The related mountains of snow at the edges of our roads have also posed some problems. When turning onto a major street, by the time you have nosed your car out into the road far enough to see past them, you've already encroached into at least two live lanes of traffic.

As for the piles of snow themselves, I don't really want to know what's in there.

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

Community Improvement Plan should look at Regional support: Council

By Brock Weir

If Aurora approves a new Community Improvement Plan (CIP) this week, Councillors don't want to have to go it alone.

Councillors approved the Community Improvement Plan at the Committee Level last week, a plan which will provide a series of financial incentives designed to provide a boost to Aurora's downtown core. Initiatives include a façade and signage improvement program to increase the visibility and attractiveness of area businesses, and tax and development charge deferrals for developers coming in to intensify current developments.

It also includes tax breaks for building owners renovating heritage buildings for commercial use.

If the committee's recommendations are approved at Council this week, Councillors will also direct staff to begin talks with the Region of York to participate and provide a degree of support in the CIP.

"We have said it enough that we see an opportunity to leverage the ability of the program if we can also get the Region to participate in it," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "As more of the municipalities, especially [York Region's Northern Six (N6) municipalities] come online with CIP plans, I think there is an opportunity there for us, as a group to show the Region there is value in them doing this."

Approval of the plan is also contingent on the upcoming approval of the 2014 budget. Councillors have already approved \$220,000 to get the CIP plan started this year for the various programs included in the plan. This is the maximum, and although staff said they could not predict minimums, this seed funding is intended to be the start of a rolling fund that will continue through the year.

The plan received the support of the majority of Councillors last week who argued it will be a step forward for business revitalization.

From the perspective of Councillor Evelyn Buck, however, history has indicated this sentiment can be difficult to make a reality. Citing the failure of a past Business Improvement Plan which did not receive a substantial buy-in from local business owners, she said, "Once bitten, twice shy."

"We didn't lose our commercial centre, it moved itself to the south end of Town," said Councillor Buck on the past BIA. "There was considerable resentment from the businesses that were striving to be successful at the south end of town and having taxes imposed upon them to be used to the benefit of businesses in the centre of Town."

"I am thinking not of the property owners who would benefit, but I am thinking of the

whole town. They have to pay taxes for services they are not receiving and I do not think they are in any way, despite going through this routine of public consultation, aware this Council is proposing to tax them to add \$200,000 this year. I commend Councillors for their optimism and their hopes, but you can't sell it to me."

Other Councillors, however, rejected her comparison to a BIA. Councillor Chris Ballard, for instance said one had nothing to do with the other, adding the plan aims to be revenue neutral in grants, and loans would be offset by increases to property assessment.

"That's the hope," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. "It's a building block in the revitalization of Downtown and through the improvements there will be increased assessment and value through our property taxes in the long term. I am sure we'll see improvements on the street. We will certainly see a change in our streetscape downtown and that is the goal. I think the municipality as a whole would reap the benefits."

As far as building blocks go, this is one that would assist in revitalizing a specific portion of Downtown Aurora and, as such, are geared towards commercial developments and façade improvements, he added. It is for property owners to come forward and take advantage of the program, not for general maintenance but for improvements that will have a greater benefit to the surrounding area through streetscape and increased property values.

"I believe this is called planning for the future," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "[The consultant] said a dollar invested by the Town could drive anywhere between \$4 and \$6, so I think that is a pretty good return. The second [issue] is we don't come to the table until a business has ponied up [with their portion of the bill] so we're not left holding the bag."

Based on the comments around the table, Councillor Thompson concluded that greater effort needs to be taken to communicate and market the CIP to the wider Aurora audience, particularly the funding, which could look towards more "creative" avenues in the future.

"There might be future opportunities to leverage relationship with some of the commercial [investments] that will come into Aurora on a larger scale and see if they have an appetite to see or fund this program," he said, referring to over \$100,000 of funding this year that will come from the Whitwell Donation, set up by Smart Centres when they brought Walmart to Aurora.

"Maybe we can approach it on a year by year basis, but I think there are other ways than always just looking for taxpayers to fund this to help them improve the downtown core."

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Representatives from the Aurora Food Pantry were on hand on Friday morning for the grand re-opening of Sobey's Extra. There, they received a \$2,500 cheque from the grocery chain for their charity. The re-opening was attended by, among others, MP Lois Brown, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, and members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

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Sports Dome could come under ownership of Town

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Sports Dome will come under close scrutiny this week as Councillors consider making the first step in bringing the dome under municipal ownership.

Councillors last week approved exploring a concept that would bring the Dome under the ownership of the Town at \$1.1 million, 90 per cent of which would be covered by development charges with the balance from redirecting taxpayer support to the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC).

The AYSC would then be in charge of the dome’s operations.

The development follows a direction made by Council last year to look for ways to amend the current agreement with the current owner of the Sports Dome, Terry Redvers, as well as for ways to recoup taxes and operating costs spent on the otherwise privately held facility.

According to Mr. Downey’s report, it was always Aurora’s position that the municipality would “facilitate the opportunity” for indoor soccer but wouldn’t go as far as building a dome.

At last week’s General Committee meeting, however, some Councillors felt they had more questions than answers on the proposal and amended the recommendation giving the green light

to “explore” the concept rather than “endorse” it in principle.

Speaking to some concerns, particularly from Councillor Paul Pirri that paying \$1.1 million for a 10-year-old structure with a 25-year lifespan wouldn’t be the best investment, Mr. Downey said Council’s endorsement of the plan was an important first step in gauging Council’s “appetite” for a particular concept.

“We identified in the report some conditions we were trying to achieve which is to ensure there were no taxes being paid by the municipality regardless of who operates the dome,” said Mr. Downey. “The AYSC is very interested in being the operator and we would like to know if Council is interested in that.

“All parties seem quite anxious to get this done at some point. I believe we are probably looking at one or two months to make sure we have an opportunity to sit down with the AYSC and hammer out the terms of the agreement so we can come back [to] Council with what we feel is the appropriate value of the dome [and] the terms and conditions we feel address the concerns of the Town, the Operator and the Club.”

Councillors nevertheless had mixed views on going forward as presented. Councillor Michael Thompson, for

instance, said there were a lot of questions to be answered, namely how the project “morphed” from being one of negotiating new terms of an agreement with Mr. Redvers to one of purchasing the dome itself.

“A paramount [issue] is wanting to ensure that on any town-owned facility and sports facility that there is accessibility to all,” he said. “I am not able to endorse the concept because there are too many unanswered questions with regards to other operations, and an accessibility agreement. I want to make sure those provisions that have been placed in the agreement that stands today are cared for.”

Although he saw this as an opportunity, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe expressed some caution, describing the Town of Newmarket’s controversial plan to provide the Newmarket Soccer Club with a multi-million dollar loan as the “elephant in the room.”

“I think there is an opportunity for us to explore another partnership,” said Mayor Dawe. “We have a partnership with the Separate School Board, so I think this is an opportunity for us to look at partnership and see how we can engage members of our community.”

These kinds of partnerships, however, did not sit well with Councillor Evelyn Buck, who said

she was not prepared to endorse the concept. Considering how a proposal for a public private partnership by the Aurora Community Tennis Club for a year-round tennis facility fizzled, going forward in this way could open up the floodgates for other community groups to come forward with similar proposals and it could place the Town in a difficult position.

She also argued against the use of development charges to pay for such a deal, contending it is a cost born by incoming property owners to Aurora and “is not found money.”

Councillor Chris Ballard, on the other hand, expressed enthusiasm for going forward with the plan.

“I think it is a unique way of solving a problem for the Town, the AYSC, and I think it needs to be more fully explored. In many ways, that is what we’re asking staff to do – come back with answers to a number of very important questions. I am not saying yes to the deal tonight because I don’t know what the deal is. I want more information.

“I think of the 4,000 AYSC children who could be impacted if we were to shut the dome down and I don’t want to do that. I think we want to make sure the taxpayers are well taken care of and young soccer players in our town are well taken care of.”

Penalties result from review of Aurora’s garbage contract

From page 1

aspects of their business” to provide “continued effective service.”

“During the early days of the ice storm, GFL was experiencing significant collection challenges and equipment failures,” said Mr. Simanovskis in his report. “This should have been an early indication for a call for additional corporate resources to get ahead of the delays. However, post-event information has revealed that local management falsely assumed that the delays could be addressed internally and failed to call on additional corporate resources in a timely manner to address the acute challenges. When the issue was reported to GFL senior management by the municipalities, immediate corporate action was implemented through additional fleet support and staffing. However, by this time, the backlog of waste on the streets was resulting in the need for extraordinary effort to recover from the delays.”

Additional factors include “inaccurate and optimistic reporting of service levels” to municipalities like Aurora, creating a dialogue between the Town and the company, but also the Town and residents based on inaccurate information resulting in “chaos” at the street level.

According to the report, mayors from York Region’s Northern 6 (N6) Municipalities – Aurora, King, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Georgina – began discussions with GFL to address this issue and the company has since developed an action plan. These include a restructuring of their own management team, daily route reports, an effort for the “timely” completion of routes, more communication before the cancellation of any routes, and more resources available

overall to make sure they are not caught short.

This plan still needs to be approved by the N6.

“It looks like we’re making progress,” said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe at the committee level last week as other Councillors noted marked improvement in their own local garbage collections.

“You now have to get your garbage out by 7 a.m. and you don’t get to wait until 6 p.m., so it is much better,” added Councillor Chris Ballard.

At last week’s meeting, Mr. Simanovskis noted that the \$4,500 in penalties levied against GFL will simply be taken off what Aurora normally pays the service provider. Some Councillors, however, suggested something more productive should be done with this money, possibly to provide some degree of assistance to residents most impacted by the lack of service.

“[It could be] something that gives back to those impacted, speaks to the event or the circumstances of it, rather than it just flowing back into the kitty,” said Councillor Michael Thompson. “Maybe there is a better utilization of these monies that have been levied against GFL to either speak back to the residents on the improvements that are happening through different marketing materials, or put some thought into thinking outside the box. Maybe it is a community barbeque by GFL for hanging in with them.”

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, on the other hand, said she was pleased with the report and “happy to continue as we are.” The problems had been identified, she said, solutions to the problems had been offered, but she questioned whether municipal staff were happy, considering many complaints received by Councillors and at Town hall regarding GFL even

prior to the ice storm, to stay the course as well.

“The situation we found with the ice storm and the cascading events as to what really impacted our service was concerning to us, considering how the company was managed,” responded Mr. Simanovskis. “There is [now] a lot more

confidence in the competency of that structure. I don’t see any issues coming forward. What we’re looking at going forward is better communication, more accurate communication, and more timely communication because that is really where a lot of the downfall had occurred.”





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Dr. Eastman says that “The secret to the Pro-Adjuster lies in its advanced piezoelectric sensor that is able to detect the slightest amount of restriction in a joint and then deliver an extremely precise adjustment.” He says that “Even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to this new technique because of how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially in the neck. Many people



Dr. Eastman uses the Proadjuster to analyze a patient’s spine and pin-point areas of nerve impingement syndrome causing mal-function and pain.

love getting adjusted with traditional manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are a large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way,” says Dr. Eastman. Now, there is no longer a reason to be leary. The ProAdjuster is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn’t yet made that decision. Dr. Eastman wants everyone to be able to experience these same benefits and if you have any of the following conditions, the ProAdjuster may be the answer you’ve been looking for...

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(L)Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel present an award to Antonio Masongsong, while they were joined by Sean Fraser of the Ontario Heritage Trust to honour (C) Helen Roberts and (R) Dorothy Gummertsall.
Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Restoration is rewarding for builder honoured with others during Ontario Heritage Week

By Brock Weir

If builder Antonio Masongsong had to do it all over again, he'd ... well, to be perfectly honest, he probably wouldn't do it all over again, but restoring a heritage workers' house in Downtown Aurora back to its original glory has its own rewards.

Mr. Masongsong was one of several Aurora residents to be honoured at Town Hall last week for the biennial Town of Aurora Heritage Awards of Excellence. Handed down in collaboration with Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee and Ontario Heritage Trust, the awards recognize people, groups, and companies that have contributed to preserving Aurora's heritage and architecture in a variety of categories.

Mr. Masongsong was recognized in the "Addition to Heritage Structure" category for his work on 56 Temperance Street, adding onto the building in a way that was sensitive to its unique heritage.

"Many houses built along Temperance Street were symmetrical, fairly simple in architectural detailing and modestly sized," said Vanessa Hicks, Heritage Planner for the Town of Aurora at Wednesday's ceremony. "These homes represent an important part of the early industrialization of Aurora."

When asked what drove him to take on the challenge of restoring a heritage home rather than knocking it down and starting fresh, Mr. Masongsong says he was up for the challenge, but might think twice before doing it again.

For the money I spent on that house,

I could do two houses!" he said with a laugh. "If money is not an option, it is the personal satisfaction. As I get deeper and deeper into the money pit, I realise there are rewards at the end. It's the uniqueness of what you are doing because you are building around something that is there and when you are finished, it's different!"

Pride was not the only reward he received when he came to the end of his journey, it had its tangible rewards as well from ladies' bloomers found hidden in the walls, a few unpleasant surprises in its stone foundation, and a variety of old bottles from the turn of the century through to the 1920s found on the property. These artefacts now have pride of place in his display cabinet, a testament to what once was and what will be.

Also recognized for his contributions to Aurora's built heritage were Jack Laurion, who renovated the Browning House on Wellington Street East into his eponymous law office and Gordon F. Allan in the Restoration category for his work turning the Frederick Webster House on Yonge Street, part of the Town's Northeast Heritage District, into a law office as well.

David Heard was honoured in the Outstanding Achievement Category for his efforts in keeping Aurora's heritage alive through his popular Spirit Walks, as well his outreach in venues such as the Aurora Farmers' Market.

Elsewhere, Aurora Historical Society member Wayne Keilty was honoured in the Natural Heritage Category for his efforts in the landscape design and maintenance at

Hillary House, as well as coordinating all the volunteers, including many students, to make that a reality. Also honoured, was the Newmarket Main Street Holdings Corporation for their work transforming the former home of Thompson's Furniture into Aw, Shucks!

"It portrays a building that is not only new and modern, but also one which demonstrates how new infill can complement a historic urban area and enhance its heritage character," said Ms. Hicks.

The evening, however, took a decidedly more regal turn when Queen Victoria came up to accept her award in the Cultural Heritage category. Long-time volunteer Dorothy Gummertsall, who is a familiar face for portraying the long-reigning monarch in a series of parades and Town events, was not only honoured for her royal bearing, but also for her volunteerism with groups like the Aurora Historical Society and her founding of the Richmond Hill Historical Society. A nursing veteran, she also keeps the spirit of fellow nurses who have served in times of conflict alive, donning her vivid blue nurses' uniform each year to lay a wreath at the Aurora Cenotaph.

"I never thought what I was doing was that important at the time," said Mrs. Gummertsall. "It was just something I enjoyed doing and I tried to fill a need."

Enthusiastic in collecting oral histories, she decided enshrining these histories was what she wanted to do after being widowed and left to raise three children at a young age. Through her work with the historical societies, as well as genealogical societies and Anglican Church archives, she did that in spades.

And then Queen Victoria came into the picture. She "resurrected her" for the Thornhill Festival, she says, demonstrating a quick glower the monarch was famous for. But that wasn't the only character under her crown. One of her favourite memories is portraying a suffragette trailing then-Markham mayor Don Cousins through a municipal parade.

"These people whom we honour tonight are not only part of the cultural conscience of your community, but they are fully engaged citizens who contribute freely, positively and passionately to heritage conservation while inspiring others to do the same," said Sean Fraser of the Ontario Heritage Trust. "What I have learned is culture and natural heritage only flourishes in places where the community comes together to recognize, protect and celebrate the importance of its heritage champions. We can see Heritage is strongly rooted and thriving in Aurora."

After unsuccessful treatment, St. Joseph parents seek alternative therapy for daughter

By Brock Weir

Reading reports on how the community came together to honour his seven year old daughter last month warmed the heart of Janusz Nowosad.

The Nowasads continue their stay with Laura as the St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School student continues her experimental cancer therapy in Houston, TX.

Earlier this year, parents, students and friends in the St. Joseph community came together for a benefit concert, raising thousands to support the family as they continue their difficult journey.

Sadly, however, her treatment has not been as successful as they had hoped – but they are not giving up that hope.

The northern Oak Ridges family has put their faith in antineoplaston, a new treatment currently under review by the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA). With approval still pending, the only way they can use this treatment in Canada is with permission from Health Canada to find a local practitioner through their Special Access programs.

Their requests to the ministry, however, have also been unsuccessful and the family – along with supporters who made the Saving Laura benefit a reality – are seeking public support to change the minds of policy-makers through an online petition to Minister Rona Ambrose.

"We started targeted gene treatment in November, but we have found out it is not so good in Laura's situation," Mr. Nowosad tells The Auroran. "We simply thought she needed more time to take the pills and the medications. So far, we have a stable situation, but it is still very dangerous because the tumour still grows. If it grows more in this location she will die from lack of oxygen."

The family heard about this new treatment at their clinic in Houston. It is something, he said, found to be particularly beneficial in children, but after a trial was concluded, results are now under review by the FDA.

"It looks like the FDA needs more time to review this information, but we don't have that time," he said. "Laura's tumour is simply in a very bad position and she can die very soon. We were told we could export the therapy to Canada as long as we had doctors in our location and approval from the Federal government."

So far, the only doctor they have found willing to help their situation is in Toronto, but with that secured, permission is still outstanding from the Feds and continual appeals have been denied.

"I have nothing to lose in this case," he said of their efforts. "My daughter is surviving somehow but we know this gene therapy is not going how we expected. We want to come back to our home. Laura wants to come back to her friends, if she is not able to come back to school yet and, of course, we're tired of living in charity in Houston. We're trying to help our daughter with the best medication we have with this deadly disease. Good or bad, we want to come back to our home because that is what everybody wants to do.

"This is like torture for us because we know there is something available. We want to try it, but we can't do it. The only hope for us is to fly to Australia, do it there, but why do we need to go far away and explain to a different government why our government is not helping us. We hope somebody there will open their eyes and see our situation."

For more on the petition, visit savinglaura.com.

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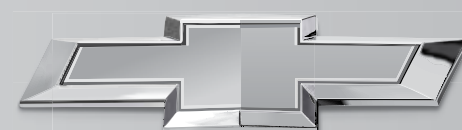
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Monthly/Bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014 MY Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 kms, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. 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—THE AURORAN— *Arts & Culture*

Cultural Centre and Meridian Credit Union announce gallery partnership

By Brock Weir

When banks and financial institutions see red, it is very rarely a good thing – particularly for the client.

But, when Aurora’s Meridian Credit Union saw red when they walked into the Aurora Cultural Centre, they saw an opportunity.

Since the Aurora Cultural Centre opened its doors four years ago, its first floor Red and Blue Galleries have provided an extra splash of colour to countless community events, art exhibits and meetings. This week, the Red Gallery gives way to the Meridian Gallery.

Representatives for the credit union joined Aurora Cultural Centre officials in the gallery Tuesday for the official unveiling of the newly rebranded gallery.

For the Cultural Centre, the move represents a vital and enduring c o m m u n i t y partnership.

“We are pleased and honoured to be in partnership with Meridian and celebrate the re-naming of the Red Gallery to the Meridian Gallery,” said Cultural Board president Frank Pulumbarit “We see this as a significant commitment, not just to the Aurora Cultural Centre, but to arts and culture at large, and to the Town of Aurora.

“We look forward to welcoming the public in to enjoy the many exhibitions, classes, and community events that take place in this and any other spaces in the Centre. With this gallery naming, Meridian has truly taken a leadership role in bringing together the interests of the business and artistic communities for the betterment of Aurora.”

Purchasing the naming rights to the Red Gallery is the latest not just in Meridian’s support for the Cultural Centre, but also their efforts to “enhance” their profile in the Aurora community as a whole.

“We’re particularly excited about this partnership because we believe in the Cultural Centre, and we have believed in it since its inception,” said Ann Boyle, Branch Manager of Meridian Credit Union. “We have sponsored and attended many of their events and, really, when the executive approached us personally, I was thrilled and relayed that information to my corporate



Barbara Hardy of Meridian Credit Union formalizes the deal Tuesday afternoon with Frank Pulumbarit, President of the Aurora Cultural Centre board.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

partners and [they agreed] because it supports what we want to do in the community.”

Ms. Boyle said she believes it is a particularly good fit between them and the Centre as it is also support that reaches students, seniors, and almost everybody that comes through the Cultural Centre’s doors. Through their Good Neighbourhood program, they have continued to build awareness through the community.

At first glance, Meridian was approached by the Board with a list of naming options, but they chose the Red Gallery strategically because it is often the starting point for many exhibitions,

receptions, and community events. The deal is renewable after one year, but Meridian and Mr. Pulumbarit declined to disclose the final figures which secured them the naming rights.

“We’re always looking for more opportunities [for community outreach],” said Ms. Boyle. “We’re hoping again to sponsor this year the Special Olympics. We’re also looking to do something through the Town for the environment. We’re just waiting to find out what is in this community and what this community itself is looking for. We put the word out there, we’ve had several requests, and we’re filtering through them right now.”



Sasha of Sasha’s Sweets shows off two varieties of hand-made fudge at the Indoor Farmers Market, held Saturday at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The next indoor market will take place at the Centre on Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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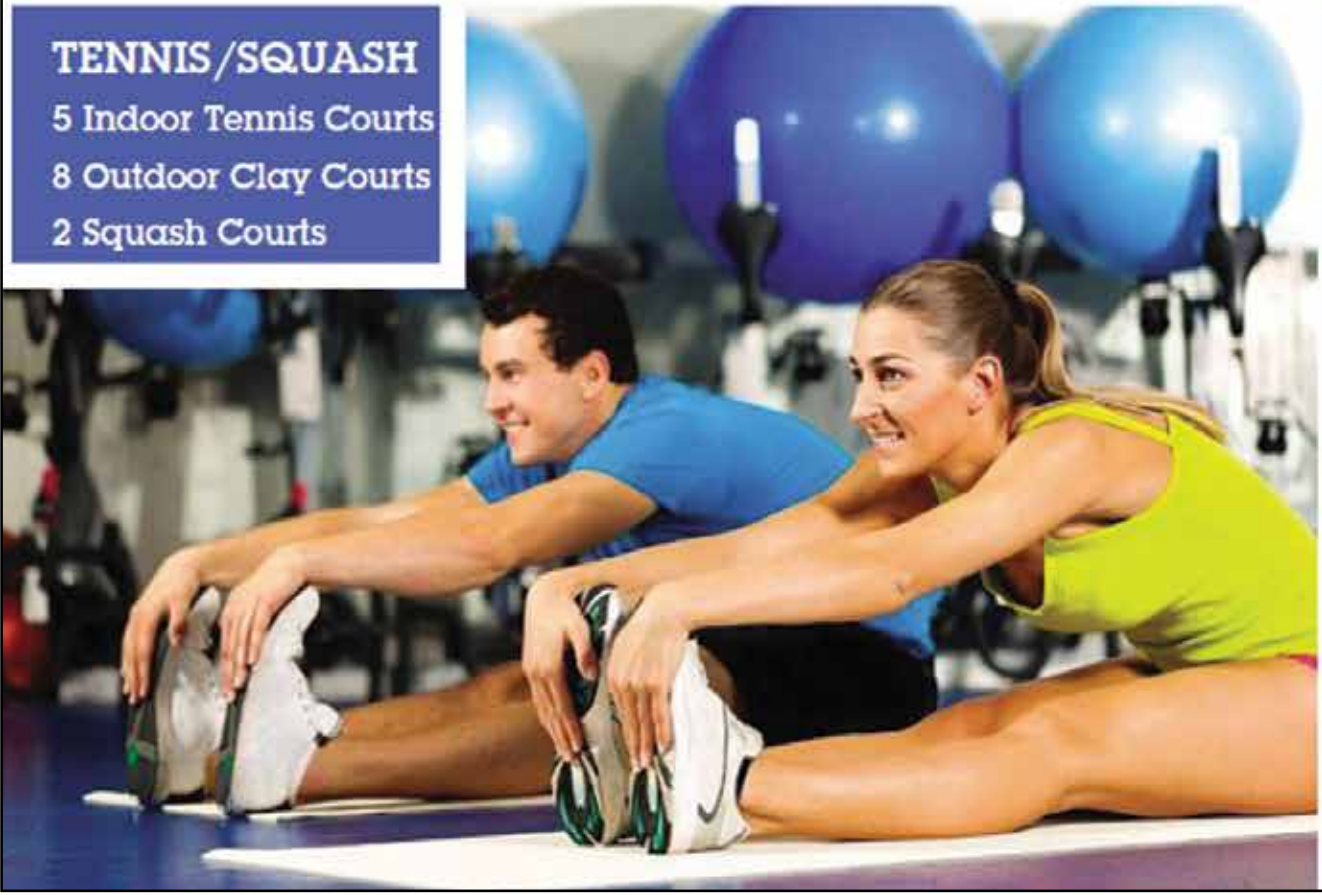
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AMHA RESULTS



AMHA LEAGUE RESULTS

Feb 16/2014 - Feb.23/2014

House League

108 Timbits - LA Purple: 0
106 Timbits - San Jose Teal: 10
Hayden Thorne 2G, Benjamin Licata 2G 1A, Owen Cauley 2G 1A, William English 2A, Andrew Mariani 1G 1A, Eric McWhinnie 2G 1A, Tyler Parent 2A, Stephen Pauselli 3A, Easton Bailey 1A, Leo Lagasse 1G 2A, Thomas Jeejeebhoy-Swalwell 1A, Jonathan Sandras 1A, Brock Lobreau SO,

109 Timbits - Colorado Burgandy: 4
JasonYuen 2G, Ryan Torisawa 1G 2A, Joseph Megilo 1G, Adam Matar 1A, Carson MacLean 1A,
104 Timbits - Edmonton Blue: 3
Andrew Vaughan 1G, Massimo Pecci 1G, Isaac Pearl 1G,

110 Timbits - Philly Orange: 5
Gavin Ellerby 2G, Justin Gao 1G, Lucas Rossi 1G, Jackson Beach 1G, Everett Smith 1A,
102 Timbits - Nashville Yellow: 2
Spencer Savage 1G, Kosta Sotirakos 1G,

408 McDonald's - LA Purple: 3
Nicholas Zambri 1G, Zachary Green 1G, Matthew Song 1G,
406 McDonald's - San Jose Teal: 5
David Iacovetta 3G, Omar Ozturk 2G, Tyler Moore 1A, Javier Saavedra 1A, Brett Watson 3A,

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 5
Matteo Rossi 2G, Jack Boyd 1G, Dylan Klein 1G, Cameron Moir 1G 1A, Stefano Basso 1A,
402 McDonald's - Boston Gold: 0

407 McDonald's - Minnesota Green: 9
Jakob Israel 2G, Cameron Mills 3G, Mark Moscone 1G, Cyril Martynov 2G 1A, Jack Fisher 1G 1A, Jack Rankel 1A, Benjamin Grassi 1A, Ahsan Siraj 1A, Kenneth Lawrence 1A,
410 McDonald's - Philly Orange: 3
AJ Nichols 1G, Adam Flicker 1G, Ben Hilgendorff 1G 1A, Nolan Parkinson 1A, Dexter Cole 1A,

401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red: 4
Jordan Sieber 1G 1A, Nathan Cobb 1G, Macisaac Eveleigh 2G 1A, Mark Gennaro 1A, Parker Jalbert 1A, Oscar Clavijo 1A,
404 McDonald's - Tampa Bay Blue: 4
Brian Constandes 1G, Cayden Visser 3G, Remy Pietrangelo 1A, Charlie Akkermans 1A,

409 McDonald's - Pittsburgh Powder Blue: 1
Cristian Troubitsin 1G,
404 McDonald's - Tampa Bay Blue: 6
Mason Scanga 2G, Brian Constandes 2G, Liam Parris 1G 1A, Eric Silver 1G, Remy Pietrangelo 1A, Christopher Goncalves 2A, Jacob Phillips 1A, Justin Seymour 1A, Salyman Aimaq 1A,

407 McDonald's - Minnesota Green: 7
Kai Sillcox 1G 2A, Jack Fisher 1G, Jake Cowden 1G 1A, Jack Rankel

2G, Ahsan Siraj 1G 1A, Nolan Rush 1G, Mark Moscone 2A, Benjamin Grassi 1A, Kenneth Lawrence 1A,
406 McDonald's - San Jose Teal: 3
Brett Watson 2G, Omar Ozturk 1G 1A, Hussien Wahab 1A,

408 McDonald's - LA Purple: 6
Nicholas Zambri 2G 1A, Stefano Iervasi 2G, Zachary Green 1G, Michael Valenti 1G 1A, Jubal Kelly-Metcalf 1A, Jackson Maclean 1A, Bardia Ershadi 1A,
405 McDonald's - Chicago Black: 1
Joshua Davidson 1G, Nicholas Betivoiu 1A, Tristan Armani 1A,

410 McDonald's - Philly Orange: 0
402 McDonald's - Boston Gold: 2
Daniel Romas 2G, Julian Tsukada SO,

403 McDonald's - Ottawa White: 1
Luke Buccioli 1G,
401 McDonald's - New Jersey Red: 7
Alex Mascioli 2G, Jordan Sieber 1G 1A, Liam Morassutti 2G 1A, Oscar Clavijo 1G, Macisaac Eveleigh 1G, Nathan Brown 1A, Dylan Duff 1A, Mark Gennaro 1A,

605 Omar's Shoes: 1
603 McAlpine Ford: 3

606 Mastermind Toys: 8
Daniel Rheeder 1G, Jackson Galbraith 2G 1A, Kyle Rame 1G, Joshua Turriff 2A, Brendan Dilworth 1G 2A, Gregory Gatzopoulos 2G, Aaron Preiano 1G 1A, Devon Bourrie 1A, Roland Kazinczi 1A,
601 Aurora Home Hardware Building Centre: 3
Giuliano Iervasi 1G 1A, Nathan Mohabeer 1G, Evan Robertson 1G,

604 Optimist Club of Aurora: 7
Anthony Miranda 3G, Brian Turner 1G 1A, Liam Vivian 3G, Stuart Bishenden 1A, Matthew Pelan 1A, Holden Murphy 1A, Jacob Peticca 1A,
603 McAlpine Ford: 3
Alexander Ko 1G, Andrew Turriff 1G, Will Sherman 1G 1A,

610 Rotary Club of Aurora: 8
608 Inaria: 6

806 Benson Kearley IFG: 2
Roy Tadros 1G, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1G, Andrew Currie 1A,
803 Optimist Club of Aurora: 4
Cameron Dyer 2G, Dillon Varon 1G, Jacob Turiff 1A, Austin Hendy 1A, Sean Lindsay 1G, Claudio Basso 1A,

808 Inaria: 2
Dylan Cowell 2G, Troy Lane 2A, Liam Patterson 1A,
806 Benson Kearley IFG: 2
Roy Tadros 2G, Niklaus Seidel 1A,
808 Inaria: 6
Keaton Thompson 2G 1A, Brad Shennan 2G 1A, Andrew Negri 2G, Dylan Cowell 1A,
805 York Region Auto: 3
Josh Fallovalitta 1G, Jack Snedden 1G, Adam Vanderkolff 1A, Andrew End 1A, Raffaele Parente 1G, Brayden Pitre 1A,

905 VEGFRESH: 4
903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 2

909 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 4
903 BMO Bank of Montreal: 2

909 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 5
904 Orr & Associates: 2

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 4

904 Orr & Associates: 3

902 Mayfair Systems: 4
909 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 4

905 VEGFRESH: 7
906 The Backyard Pool & Spa Company: 0

907 Aurora Lodge #148 IOOF: 6
Matthew Bellerby 1G 1A, James Power 1G 1A, Jordan Screech 1G, Cameron Screech 1G, Ryan Batten 1G, Harrison Lambrinos 1G 1A, Randy Sutton 2A, Connor Gonsalves 1A, Luke Mitri 1A,
902 Mayfair Systems: 2
Chris Sutherland 1G 1A, Alex Tashos 1G, Max Bruckner 1A,

905 VEGFRESH: 3
Joey Leger 2G, Bryn Burbank 1G, Patrick Bourrie 1A, Anthony Sangiorgio 1A, Mathew MacDonald 1A,
904 Orr & Associates: 2
Alex Negri 1G, Eddie Duffy 1G, Lucas Ackerman 1A, Jordan Bodimeade 2A,

908 Diamond Groundskeeping Services: 2
Brendan Ruuskanen 1G, Riley Weller 2A, Micheal Montesanti 1G, Peter Baldeo 1A,
901 Pizzaville Aurora: 2
Michael Dowling 1G 1A, Andrew Klinowski 1G,

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 3
1002 ATS Healthcare: 0

1005 ADC Aluminium: 3
1008 Winchurch Environmental Inc.: 0

1001 : 5
1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 5

1007: 2
1006 Jonathan's: 3

1001 : 7
1002 ATS Healthcare: 3

1003 Ice Photo's Puck Bandits: 3
1004 North York Heating & Plumbing: 3

1005 ADC Aluminium: 7
1006 Jonathan's: 1

1007: 1
1008 Winchurch Environmental Inc.: 3

Rep League

Tyke - Richmond Hill: 3
Select A : 2
Erik Guilbert 1G, Nicholas Ferrante 1G, Marcus Gingl 1A,

Novice AA - Aurora Tigers: 5
Markham: 5
Yorke, Daniel 1G 3A, Mc Namara, Owen 2G 2A, Wilhelm, Lucas 1G 1A, Dimoulas, Thomas 1G,

Minor Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 6
Bradford: 0

Minor Atom AE - Barrie: 1
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 1
Markham: 1
Kellan Sherman 1G, Matthew Gianforcaro 1A,

Minor Atom AE - Barrie: 2

Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 3
Newmarket: 2
Eric McHale 2G, Stephen Gummersall 1G,

Minor Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 5
Stouffville: 2
William Haines 2G, Jack Beswick 3A, Andrew Parsons 2G 1A, Daniel Iwai 1G,

Minor Atom A - Markham: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3
Nathan Mochizuki 2G, Noah Smith 1G,

Atom RS - Whitby: 5
Aurora Tigers: 1
Matteo Rossi 1G,

Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 2
TNT: 1
Anton Sopov 1G, Owen Papulkas 1A, Owen Hollett 1G, Jacob Hoffrogge 1A,

Atom AE - Newmarket: 3
Aurora Tigers:2
Lucas De Palma 1G, George Rappos Jr. 1G, Ryan Weeks 1A, Ryan Dunbar 1A,

Atom AE - Aurora Tigers: 3
Newmarket: 1
George Rappos Jr. 1G, Nicholas Petinarelis 1G, Ryan Weeks 1G, Riley Pearl 1A, Lucas De Palma 1A,

Atom A - Aurora Tigers: 5
Nobleking: 2
Todd Cook 1G, Dylan Andersen 2G, Noah Ruscica 2G, Ayden Whilby 2A, Gavin Loria 1A,

Atom AA - Aurora Tigers: 5
Barrie: 3
Jacob Hoffrogge 1G 2A, Owen Papulkas 1A, Gage Gonsalves 1A, Owen Hollett 3G, Ryan Catania 1A, Luca Capraro 1A, Jake McMillan 1G, Anton Sopov 1A,

Minor Peewee A - Aurora Tigers: 2
Orillia: 1

Minor Peewee AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
Newmarket: 2

Peewee A - Aurora Tigers: 2
Bradford: 2
Anthony DiPietro 1G, Luke O'Keefe 1A, Harris Goan 1A, Blair Crabbe 1G, Michael Orlandi 1A,

Peewee AA - Barrie: 4
Aurora Tigers: 1

Peewee AE - Aurora Tigers: 6
Markham: 0
Rony Wahab 2G 1A, Cooper Judson 1G, Owen Romano 2A, Luke Catania 1G 1A, Sebastian Negulescu 1G, Carson Williams 1A, Jack Campbell 1A, Matthew Gram 1G, Noah Johnson 1A, Jack Patterson 1A, Carson Honiball SO, Jay Sieber SO,

Peewee A - Newmarket: 3
Aurora Tigers: 2
Harris Goan 2G, Luke O'Keefe 2A, Jack Campbell 1A, Anthony

DiPietro 1A,

Peewee AA - Aurora Tigers: 3
Newmarket: 3

Minor Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 2
Bradford: 2
Fin Reeves 1G, Lucas Surace 1G, Nicholas Keller 2A,

Minor Bantam AA - Markham: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3

Minor Bantam AE - TNT: 3
Aurora Tigers: 0

Minor Bantam AA - East Gwillimbury: 6
Aurora Tigers: 5

Minor Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 4
Nobleking: 2
Fin Reeves 3G, Nicholas Keller 1A, Peter Chimienti 1A, Andrew Jorgensen 1G, Ben Spittle 1A,

Bantam AE - Ajax: 4
Aurora Tigers: 3

Bantam A - Innisfil: 5
Aurora Tigers: 4
Alexander Simardone 2G, Jack Liotta 1G 1A, Curtis Romanchych 1G 1A, Reid Carpenter 1A,

Bantam AE - Aurora Tigers: 6
Ajax: 2

Bantam AE - Aurora Tigers: 4
Ajax: 3

Bantam AE - Ajax: 4
Aurora Tigers: 1

Bantam A - Aurora Tigers: 3
Markham: 2
Alexander Simardone 1G, Curtis Romanchych 1G, Andrew Warner 1A,

Minor Midget A - Aurora Tigers: 5
Innisfil: 0
Jack Bryant 1G 1A, Zach Fletcher 2G 1A, Cooper Hewgill 1G, Evan Cherubini 1G, Michael Dacosta 1A, Charles Bennett 1A, Shaun Broad 1A, Adam Leader SO,

Minor Midget AA - Aurora Tigers: 1
Newmarket: 1
Cameron Zinner 1G, Jared Reeves 1A, Zack Phillips 1A,

Minor Midget A - Aurora Tigers: 2
East Gwillimbury: 1

Minor Midget AA - Aurora Tigers: 3
Newmarket: 1
Zack Phillips 1G, Jack Pecora 1G, Richard Hache' 1G, Cameron Zinner 2A, Graham Sanford 1A, Deven Deguara 1A, Connor Downs 1A,

Minor Midget AA - Aurora Tigers: 2
Newmarket: 0
Christian Arcuri 1G, Richard Hache' 1G, Connor Downs 1A, Zack Phillips 1A, Cameron Zinner 1A, Matthew Tanel SO,

Minor Midget A - Barrie: 3
Aurora Tigers: 1





Flags hanging from the arena rafters

SOCHI 2014 EXPERIENCING THE GAMES

View from the walk along the boardwalk



Written by David Pietrangelo
Local King City reporter.
Live from Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics.

AFTER ARRIVING IN SOCHI, attempting to adjust to the nine-hour time change and taking in the sights, I'm happy to report that the 2014 Winter Games have been a great experience. The NHLPA players, families and friends have all felt very safe the entire time. The organizers and the Russian officials have covered all their angles and have made staying in the hotels and walking around Olympic Park a completely comfortable experience. We've even taken walks along a public boardwalk numerous times, with no issues whatsoever.

The Men's Hockey tournament started and we were also able to take in a few other exciting events. Like many, or most Canadians know, the Men's team won all three of their round robin games in Sochi. I've been lucky enough to attend all the games and see the world's best players compete on the biggest stage of all. The final of the



Christine Nesbitt,
Canadian speed skater

three games was a real test for the Canadian team against Finland. They are a strong contender with a lineup full of great NHL talent. Canada prevailed in overtime off the strength of great defensive play, winning 2-1 and earning a bye to the Quarterfinals which begin last Wednesday.

Just hours before the hockey game I attended a Women's Long Track speed skating event. It was a great way to experience a different sport at the Games and watch the best in the world skate the 1500m race for the gold medal. The Canadian skaters were off to a great start, but ultimately fell in the standings as the dominant Netherlands women swept the podium and finished 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in the event while also setting a new Olympic Record.

Surprisingly, the Olympic Games have been about even more than sports. The most interesting is an Olympic subculture that has been developing for decades, the trading and collecting of pins. The pins themselves are from all walks of life; adults, kids, athletes, and volunteers all participate. They act almost as a currency and create a feeling of want

and need for something new and different. We've run into people who have pins from the Olympics in the 1970's and 80's as well as new ones from Sochi. It has created a fun way to obtain memorabilia that we never expected, each with their own story and history that can date back decades.



Example of some of the pins from Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics

Alex Pietrangelo and Sidney Crosby walking to the dressing room



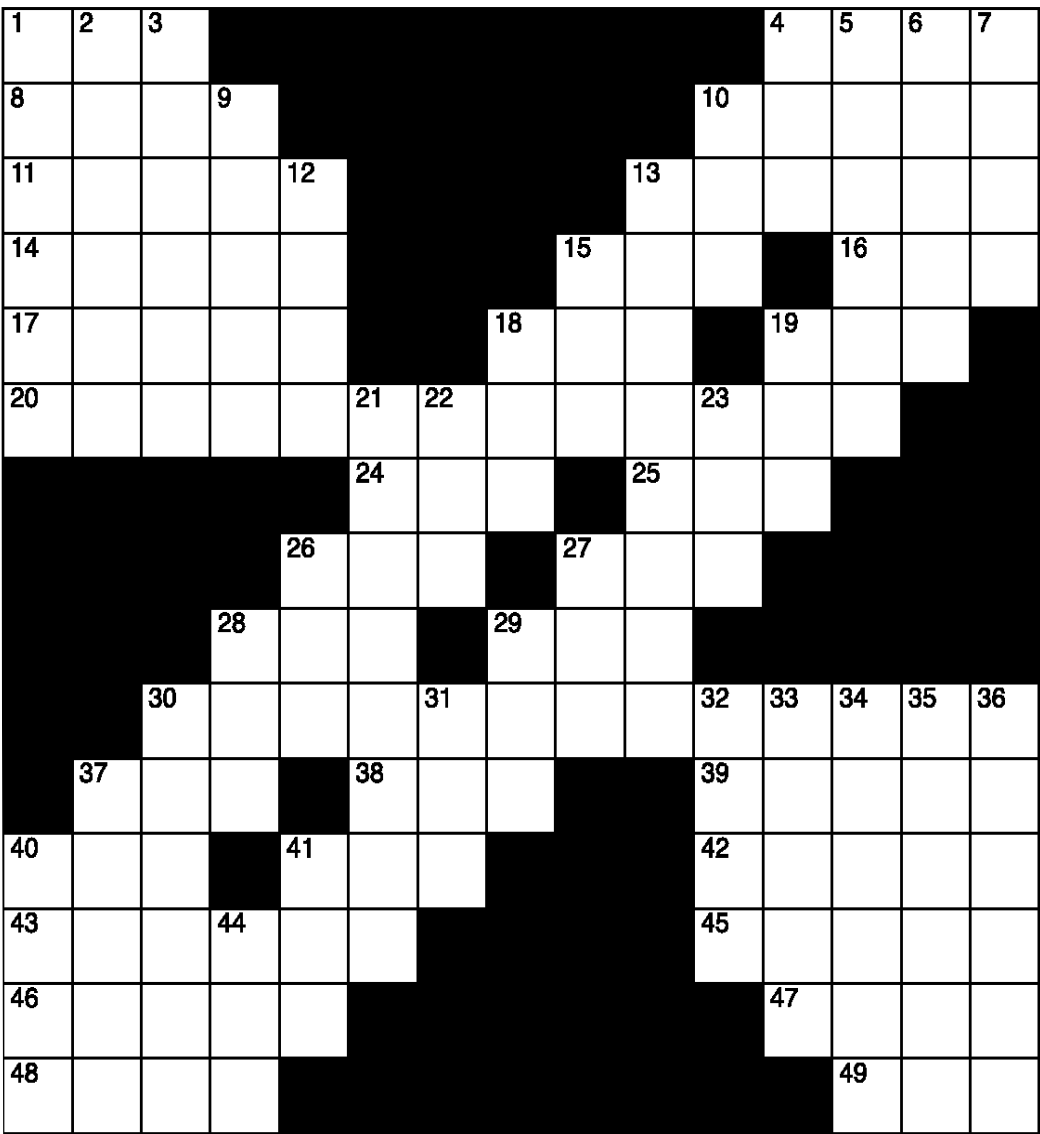
The roof to the Bolshoy Arena after the game versus Finland



Team Canada salutes the crowd after defeating Finland on Sunday



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Boring routine

4. Back talk

8. Emerald Isle

10. Snow leopard

11. 1/20 of an ancient shekel

13. Language of Apia

14. Relating to NH2

15. British Air Aces

16. Woman (French)

17. Cheese skins

18. Deafening noise

19. Cheeky talk

20. Early photograph

24. Basics

25. 007’s Flemming

26. Photograph (slang)
27. Male sheep

28. Norse sea goddess

29. Small cask

30. Ch. Osgood hosts

37. Confederate soldier

38. Radioactivity unit

39. Chocolate tree

40. Express surprise

41. Express delight

42. Mary mourning Jesus

43. 18th century indoor cap

45. Thanjavur University

46. Skilled

47. Hindu mother goddess

48. Follow by one’s foot

49. Born of

CLUES DOWN

1. Respect

2. Azotemia

3. Exhausting

4. Accumulation

5. Lack of moral standards in a society

6. A rascal

7. X100 = 1 tala

9. River of Haikou, China

10. Lout

12. Stockings

13. Capital of Chile

15. Spanish for river

18. 12th month (abbr.)

19. Skilled nurse

21. Unit of precipitation

22. Corpuscle count (abbr.)

23. Sweet potato
26. God of fields & woods

27. Dream sleep

28. Polish or stroke

29. Kilo yard (abbr.)

30. Member of U.S. Navy

31. Express pleasure

32. Written acknowledgment (abbr.)

33. Neptune’s closest satellite

34. O’Neill play “The ____ Cometh”

35. Homegrown

36. Goalkeeper

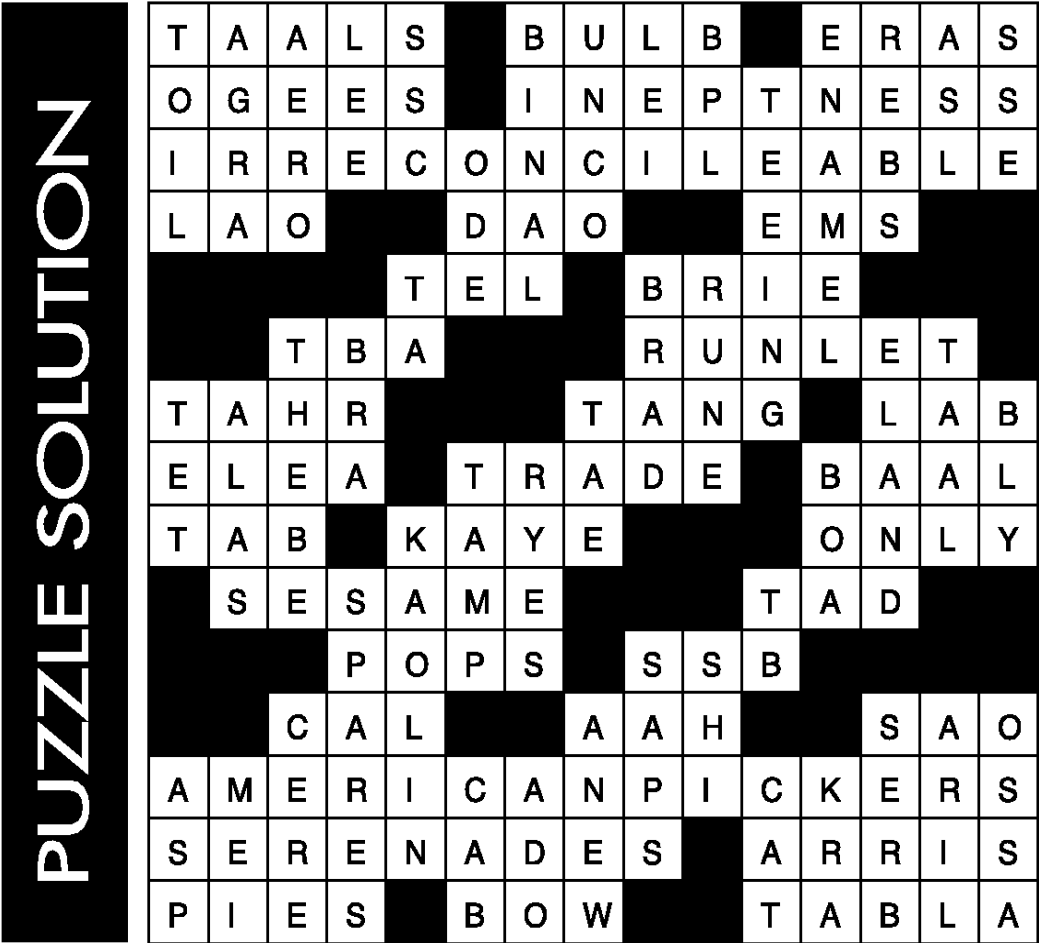
37. __ Island, U.S. State

40. Far East nursemaid

41. Food grain

44. 2 stripe rank (abbr.)

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution



NORTHERN LIGHTS

Jodie Cara Lindley

Pisces
(February 19 – March 20)
Trust in magic in March. Things are turning around for you Pisces, and will begin to move forward again. Keep a positive mindset and follow your most excellent intuition. Sharing your message is key, so express yourself now.

Aries
(March 21 –April 19)
Challenge your perceptions this month. Relationships will bring new perspectives, and may force you to review your past actions. It is a good time to take a step back now. Things will go much smoother for you and others by month’s end.

Taurus
(April 20 – May 20)
March brings you new ideas and a more detached approach to life in general. That is good, because there will be tests in your relationships. You may have the urge to dig in your heels, but allow for some flexibility. That way everyone wins.

Gemini
(May 21 – June 20)
Look for the lessons from your life experiences in March. You will feel more in tune with your intuition, but focus will be a problem. This won’t matter too much, as now is the time to let yourself be inspired, expand and heal in your own way.

Cancer
(June 21 – July 21)
Stay strong Cancer. You seem to be ending a very important life cycle, and you are almost there. Use this month to let go of unneeded aspects of your psyche, and embrace new ideas. By the coming of spring, you will be ready to charge ahead.

Leo
(July 22 – August 22)
Spring is coming Leo! Change is unavoidable now, so just let go. Allow your inner victim and paranoid personas to leave, and bring on the inner warrior. Now is a time of deep healing. By the time spring arrives any call-to-action will be supported.

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



Senior Scape

Jim L. Abram

GO CANADA!

I just finished watching the Canada versus United States Men’s Hockey game. The Canadian women’s team had already won the Gold medal. So my advice was very simple. Play like girls!

The men’s team must have taken my advice.

There was more hitting in the women’s game. But, the result was the same. President Obama owes Prime Minister Harper a case of beer: I hope it is Canadian beer, otherwise Stevie shouldn’t accept it.

I think it is fitting that the greatest conflict between our countries after 200 years of peace is settled by a case of beer: Make it a real bet. The loser should have to take Justin Bieber.

Apparently the Russians aren’t too upset about being bounced from the hockey medal contest. They are now confident that their goaltender, Semyon Varlamov, will win the Putin Hockey MVP Award next year for the Siberian Hockey Team.

These Olympics have been great. I want to thank the person who thought of having cross country skiers strap a rifle to their back. I always wonder why the guy in second place doesn’t just shoot the skier in front of him.

Sochi has been a great venue for the Winter Olympics with its summer temperatures, palm trees and the longest saltwater beach in the world. David Letterman expressed it best when he said: “The Olympic village is a mess. The food is horrible. And, well, that’s what happens when you tick off gay people.”

Well, if nothing else, the Olympics make you proud and happy during a rather bleak winter. Such competitions make you feel warm in the body, mind and spirit, even though your butt might be cold. You feel less grumpy too.

Men Wanted!

Men, do you sometimes find yourself humming a tune? Have you been told by friends that you have a nice voice? Then you are a wanted man! The Evergreen Choir of the Aurora Seniors’ Centre wants you. As you know, a choir is all about harmony and the Evergreens are

very fortunate to have many good altos and sopranos, and some talented men who sing tenor and bass. (including one great lady who also sings tenor)

So, if you are looking for a new challenge which is socially pleasant and mentally stimulating and FUN, we would love to have you come and sit in on a couple of rehearsals. Not too many of us read music or have professional training, but we have a wonderful director in the person of Dr. Richard Henzle who not only is very knowledgeable, but also, lucky for us, very patient.

We started rehearsals on February 5 for our Spring concert at the Centre which takes place on May 24. The Evergreen Choir meets every Wednesday afternoon at 1.30 pm and we practice from 1.45 pm to 3.15 pm.

For more information please contact Stella Switzer, Chair of the Evergreen Choir at switzer3613@sympatico.ca

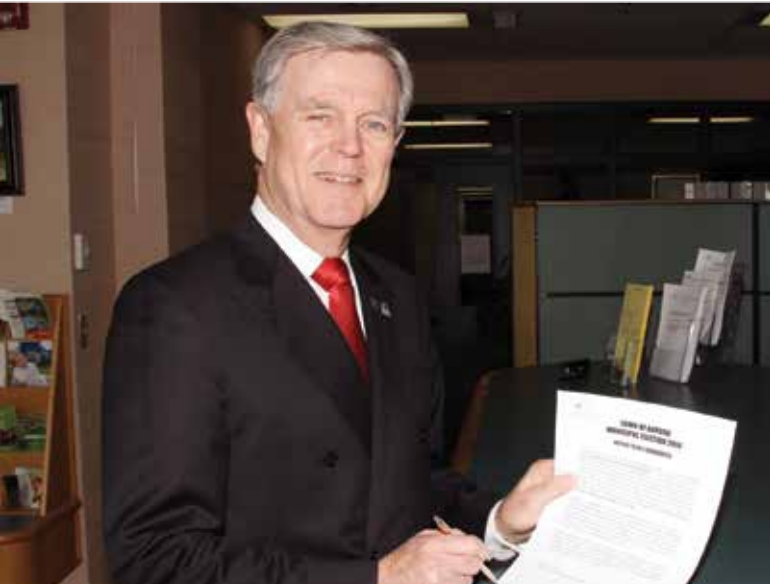
If winter is getting you down, come on over to the Aurora Seniors’ Centre where everything you do is valued and appreciated! You can participate in sports, activities and events, enjoy the library, computer room, billiards and games room or wood shop or just have a coffee with friends in the lounge. Your Bocce game will have to wait until the snow melts though!

Remember to walk every day, take time for yourself every day and be nice to others at every opportunity. Live with energy, enthusiasm and empathy and keep faith in family and friends. Appreciate people over 70 as much as people under 7.

Jimmy’s last word: If you are alive today, you will in all likelihood be alive tomorrow. Use the good dishes and burn the candles. Make the most of all this good world has to offer. The best is yet to come.

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

ELECTION 2014



(L) Mayor Geoffrey Dawe officially filed his papers Wednesday morning to seek re-election for a second term. (R) That afternoon, Councilor Wendy Gaertner was joined by Robert Cook, Olga Donchu and Natalie and Kristopher Temple, as she filed to seek a fourth term as Councillor.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Aurora is “better off now than four years ago,” says Dawe launching re-election bid

By Brock Weir

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe is not going to rest on his laurels.

The Mayor officially announced his bid for re-election at Wednesday’s annual Mayor’s Luncheon hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at King’s Riding Golf Club.

Having officially signed his papers at Town Hall earlier that morning, he announced his intentions after a speech focusing on the achievements of the current term of Council over the last three years.

“These past three years have been quite a whirlwind,” Mayor Dawe told an audience of business leaders, Chamber members, and politicians from both Aurora and Newmarket, including MP Lois Brown. “To borrow from the American Peace Corps, it is truly one of the toughest jobs I have ever loved and it has been my pleasure and honour to serve our residents.

“The acid test in politics is often measured by the common axiom of, ‘are you better off today than you were two, four, six years ago?’ In citing the many successes of our recent Council term under my watch, including recovering from the divisiveness and acrimony [of the previous term], establishing a strategic plan for our Town, and putting stalled initiatives back on track and implemented, creating a culture of excellence and accountability, I believe the answer is a resounding yes.”

Aurora, he said, has been “better off on all counts,” but life has taught him never to “rest on his laurels.” There are still “strong challenges” ahead, he added, noting now was not a time the Town could afford “a return to the short-term thinking and political expedience” that has characterized some past governance.

“We need to realise managing a modern, urban municipality is a complex task and a task that demands strategic vision that I believe we have provided over the last three years.”

The Mayor’s address, however, was not merely the first of a campaign stump speech, but outlined the growth and changing face of the Aurora business community over the last 12 months. A successful organization, he said, is contingent on the expertise of the people who are a part of it. He said he has emphasised the expertise of staff at Town Hall to get things done, be innovative and “maximise effectiveness” in facing the “realities and challenges” of a growing urban

municipality.

“From 1971 to 2011, our population grew fourfold,” he said. “By 2031, our community will increase by another 30 per cent to reach build-out. Accommodating this dramatic change and transforming from a growth business model to a sustainable business model requires a shift from reactive to proactive.”

Reactive policies elsewhere, such as zero tax increases in municipalities like Mississauga, and indeed Aurora in the latter half of the 1990s, provide a blueprint of what not to do, he said, highlighting the importance of making sure organizations such as the municipality have healthy reserves to keep going.

But that is a partnership with the taxpayers. They need to be assured hard-earned tax dollars are being spent “appropriately” and they are getting good value for their money. A service level review, he said, has provided a “dispassionate” assessment of whether that is indeed the case.

“I have often said that government is not a business, but we certainly need to be more business-like,” he said, citing the Service Level Review, along with a Capital Reserve Fund and a Reserve Plan study to make sure these are solvent, as three planks that will play key roles in Aurora’s future prosperity. “I believe that these three accomplishments reflect a strategic and accountable approach to municipal government. They are the hallmarks of good leadership.”

Looking ahead to the 2014 budget, which was hammered out on Monday for final approval early next month, he said he was proud of the budget record in providing for key services like the Central York Fire Services, Aurora Public Library, as well as the continued renovations to the Aurora Family Leisure Complex to create a “youth centre” after 17 years of surveys, studies, meetings, open houses and indecision.

He also touted the creation of the new agreement between the Aurora Cultural Centre and the Town of Aurora, the growth of the Aurora trails system, and the future 34 hectare Stronach Eco Park, a legacy gift from Magna founder Frank Stronach, as hallmarks of the past three years – the last of these described as a “breathtaking, ground-breaking gift of a lifetime.”

“It is the direct result of the type of engagement and policy creation of a positive, collaborative atmosphere in Town Hall,” he said.



Judy Marshall, CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce (L) and Chamber President Paul Smith welcome Newmarket-Aurora MPP Lois Brown to the Annual Mayor’s Luncheon, which was held this year at King’s Riding Golf Club.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Mardi Gras will show off the dishes of Louisiana

From page 3

created by Aw, Shucks! chef Grant Robertson.

“I tried to keep things as original as possible and as close to what they make down there,” said Mr. Robertson, who also prepared a seafood gumbo and fried catfish with jambalaya for our discerning palates. “I just want to show what the Regional Dishes of Louisiana and Southern New Orleans are all about and what is local down there. There are actually a lot of hunters and gatherers with people hunting for ducks, alligators and snakes, but I have tried

to keep it as much towards the line of what people respect and understand for food up here, compared to down there – but I would love to throw everything out there!”

Rest assured, alligators and snakes did not make the final cut at this year’s Mardi Gras venue, but a variety of stick-to-your-ribs dishes, drinks, as well as the traditional carnival king cake will be in store for this weekend’s party.

For more information on Mardi Gras for Southlake 2014, including ticket information visit mardigrasforsouthlake.com.

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McIntyre foresees renewal, crossroads as returning Historical Society president

By Brock Weir

Aurora’s John McIntyre is no stranger to local history.

When he first became President of the Aurora Historical Society (AHS) in the late 1970s, Aurora was considering taking a wrecking ball to the Church Street School, the AHS was worried about the Aurora Collection, they were worried about establishing a museum for Aurora, and worried about the future of Hillary House.

During his tenure, the Church Street landmark received a reversal of fortune and was soon home to a brand new Aurora museum.

Fast forward 35 years.

Dr. McIntyre is once again assuming the presidential reins of the AHS following Suzanne Reiner. The Church Street School is secured, the Aurora Collection is now in the hands of the Town, but the same worries about establishing a museum and the future of Hillary House remain.

Although on the surface one might not think much has changed, that is far from the case.

With a permanent space now allocated for a museum at the Aurora Cultural Centre, and the collection now in the hands of the Town, they are now at a crossroads and Dr. McIntyre is back to help steer the ship.

At the end of the day, Dr. McIntyre says he’s back at the helm quite simply because no one else at this point was willing to come forward, he rejects any notion he is in a caretaker or custodial role.

“That term sounds as if I am just going to stand back and let the chips fall where they may, but I am very committed to the organization and seeing it thrive,” he says. “One thing that has been on my mind is this organization has gone through at least equally difficult times in the past and

I have been around long enough to see them.”

From his early days as president, he has watched a museum come and go at the school, he has seen the AHS purchase Hillary House from the family which bears its name, and fund a further \$200,000 in restoration work. At that beginning, they were almost unconceivable dreams, but they came true.

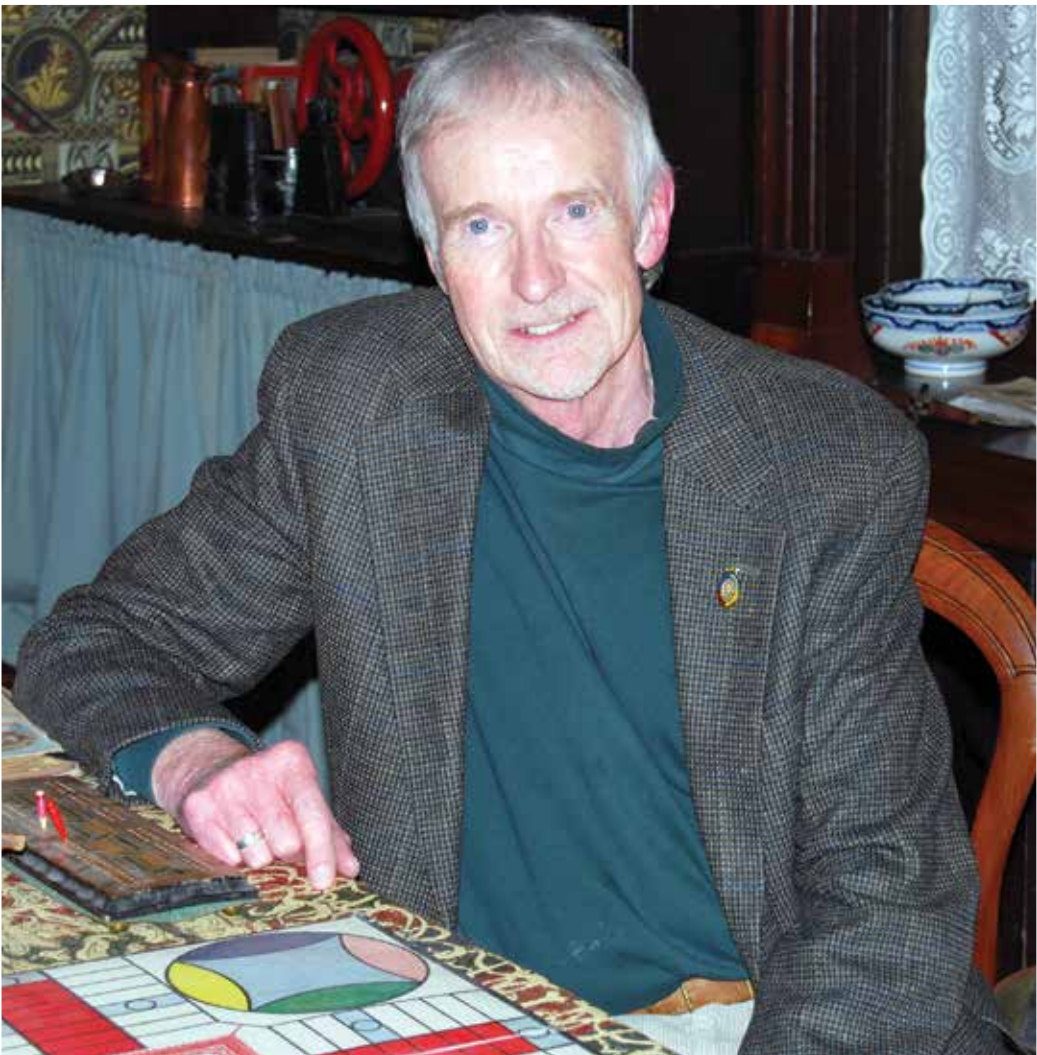
“That is what is in my mind right now – it is a difficult time, a crossroads, but there might well be a future out there that we can’t even envision right now.”

Over his new term as president, “organizational renewal” tops his list of objectives. That renewal, he said, began February 13 with the election of new faces on the AHS board each with a vision of how they can fit into and benefit the organization. It is also important to have a balanced budget and stabilize their finances after years of having to dip into their reserves, he says.

A further element of renewal, however is the Hillary-McIntyre Park proposal to turn Hillary House and the two properties immediately to the south of it into a public-private heritage complex. As the name suggests, Dr. McIntyre does have a stake in this, as the owner of the southernmost property at Irwin Avenue

“When I think of that project, I think of what my role is going to be in that,” he says. “I am supposed to be president of the AHS, but I am also a private property owner so have an interest in that project, and here in this project. I would not want to get into any sort of conflict of interest situation that might arise, or even a perceived conflict of interest.

“As I look ahead, over the year, I think something will happen. Either the project will be shelved, or it will be



Aurora historian Dr. John McIntyre was elected to another (very) non-consecutive term as President of the Aurora Historical Society earlier this month. He is pictured at the games table in the Hillary House parlour.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

going forward in some form. I would hope there would be other leadership on the board who would want to take the initiative to lead it in negotiations representing the Historical Society in that project.”

To this end, Dr. McIntyre says looking at similarly structured Historical Societies around Ontario, Aurora’s is unique in still owning a heritage asset such as Hillary House. Places like Markham, Richmond Hill, King, and Georgina all grew to a point where they became too big for just a volunteer organization to manage

and were ultimately taken over by the municipality.

It is a “natural evolution”, he says, that has happened slower in Aurora than elsewhere.

“A year from now at the AGM in 2015, I hope we can report we have had a financially successful year so we are not running on a deficit anymore, and yet we have still had some good programming at Hillary House and that we have made some progress, whatever that might be, on the Hillary-McIntyre concept or possibly other models if that turns out not to be the best model.”



Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning was joined at the Aurora Farmers’ Market on Saturday by Heritage Advisory Committee member Irina Kelly to speak about the proposed Southeast Aurora Heritage Conservation District.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Concerns over new heritage district spark information session

By Brock Weir

Residents in the southeast quadrant of Yonge and Wellington will have the opportunity next week to sound off on plans to convert their neighbourhood into Aurora’s second Heritage Conservation District.

A special public information session has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 4 at Town Hall before that evening’s General Committee meeting from 5.30 – 6.30 p.m.

Following the public session, Councillors will then consider recommendations stemming from Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) to take the Conservation District plan to the second phase.

The public information session was scheduled by the HAC in response to concerns brought to the committee earlier this month by residents of the area.

Billing themselves largely as Concerned Residents of Aurora Centre, these residents and business owners spoke of what they viewed as “negative impacts” from a building and property perspective that could come with a Heritage Conservation district and said in communications with The Auroran they would “not be dissuaded by a heritage consultant with nothing invested” in the neighbourhood.

Among their concerns were potential hits in the property values as well as what individual owners could do with their own lots within the constraints of a conservation district. More effort, they said, should be focused on alleviating downtown parking congestion and finally coming up with a solution to the future of Library Square.

Members of HAC, however, rejected the idea that the plan had come about

too quickly and there wasn’t enough time for residents to be informed.


The plan has been in discussions for over 10 years, argued HAC member Irina Kelly, who sits on a subcommittee steering the district plans.

“I appreciate some people are new to the area, but I think as a citizen you are responsible for reading the paper and [being] responsible for reading the Town’s website,” said Ms. Kelly. “The argument we’re rushing is offensive to those of us who have worked so hard to retain the heritage of our community, to bring the Farmers’ Market to the Centre of Town, and to raise awareness of heritage in our community.”

The committee brought their message to the Aurora Farmers’ Market on Saturday, setting up a booth in the downstairs gallery. Staffed by Committee members, as well as Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning, the group said they had a good turnout of interested citizens and positive feedback overall.

“A lot of people were aware of the study because they have been receiving our door hangers and newsletters that we have been putting out over the last few months and they have had some questions with regards to what the study is about, the areas effected, and how a designated district might affect their property,” said Mr. Ramunno.

According to Mr. Ramunno, the Tuesday session will provide the opportunity to answer any questions people might still have before Councillors potentially green light proceeding with Phase 2 of the project, which would enshrine the policies contained in the overall district plan. There will also be an opportunity for residents to delegate to Committee with their concerns.



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Aurora swimmer sets her sights on Olympic glory

By Jeff Doner

At just 13 years old, Lauren Heinburrow is already making a splash in the pool and it's not going unnoticed. She has only been swimming for four years, but her progress has been astounding.

At a meet in Kamloops in December, she swam to a national qualifying time in the 50m butterfly and on Feb. 1 at the BC AAA Provincial Championships, Lauren beat her previous best time to keep her on the upward trajectory.

She earned a time of 30.28, which she identified as her biggest accomplishment in the pool thus far. That time qualified her for the Western Canadian Championships coming up in Vancouver.

Lauren and her family hale from Aurora, but six months ago she moved out to BC with her swim coach in order to keep her training on track.

"I came out here because my coach was moving to BC for a new swim club. She was a really good coach, so I wanted to keep her as a coach and I moved out here with her," she said.

"I'm really enjoying it. It's a really good experience and I really like the lifestyle and how I'm able to still get lots of swimming in. I'm definitely improving in that and also in school."

When she was 10 years old she started swimming with The Selkies in Aurora. At first with the recreational program, Lauren was soon urged by coaches to make the step up to the competitive team.

She admitted that at first she wasn't all that taken by swimming.

Now she can't get enough, constantly improving her time and technique.

"I had never done a sport that I was so focused on and I started moving up into higher levels of swimming," she said. "I was getting up there into higher levels, so I stuck with it."

In her third year as a swimmer, it became evident that she had strength in sprint. Now, her specialties are the 50m fly and free and the 100m fly and free.

"I liked the backstroke when I started, but I moved to ducks and I loved butterfly, freestyle and sprinting for a whole year," she said. "Everybody was a sprinter in my group, so I started to just go along with them and I just started sprinting."

So far, both Lauren and her parents

Deadlines approaching for 2014 Sport Hall of Fame nominations

By Jeff Doner

It's a busy time for Sport Aurora.

As the group, which brings together numerous Aurora sports teams under one umbrella, looks ahead to the future, they are also quickly gearing up for the second year of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

After measured growth and success following 2013, Sport Aurora held their annual general meeting last week to discuss what's ahead and assured their membership that things won't be slowing down.

The AGM also let membership know that the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame will be changing things up a little bit. This year, the selection panel will be chosen earlier and will have a slate of inductees by the end of June, as opposed to August.

Applications for those wishing to be on



the selection panel must be submitted by this Friday, February 28.

"What we're looking for are members of the public who have a good knowledge of sport history in the Town and have a passion for the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and sports in general to sit on an anonymous selection panel of five people to review all of the inductee nominations," said Sport Aurora director Ron Weese about the panel. "Their job is to recommend inductees to the induction committee."

If you're looking to nominate an athlete or person for induction, that deadline is now Mar. 31 at noon.

All forms and applications can be found on the Sport Aurora website: www.sportaurora.ca

Next week, The Auroran will continue its look at Sport Aurora's year ahead.

Human trafficking arrests indicate "larger issue"

By Jeff Doner

After a near-two month investigation labeled "Project Home for Christmas," York Regional Police Drugs and Vice Unit used a press conference last week to announce details of the initiative that led to the discovery of 31 girls and women who were working at hotels and condos in the area.

"Eradicating human trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children remain the priority of the York Regional Police," said Insp. Keith Merith. "Focus of our enforcement in the area is victim based because we realized that people who are committing sexual acts for money are often the victims of crimes themselves through the violence, the threats of violence, the trickery and coercion."

Police said of the 31 girls and women interviewed, nearly 30 per cent were under the age of 18 and that the average age of when they entered the industry was 14.

"We have seen a rise in the prostitution of women in the Region of York and we would like to send a clear message that recent changes in prostitution legislation do not relate to juveniles or those involved in sex trade industry against their will,"

back here in Aurora are thrilled with how things are progressing for her out in BC.

Through her first five months there, Lauren has competed in six meets and has earned fantastic results.

At 13, she will be one of the younger swimmers to compete in the upcoming national meet, but it's a challenge that she can't wait to face.

"It's kind of hard for my age, making all the times, because at Western's it's 15 and under, so it's hard because I'm competing against all of them and getting the times to qualify for competitions, but it's all really fun competing against higher level swimmers because it pushes me," she said.

"The most important thing is really to push myself hard each practice and not slack off. I always have to push myself to get past other swimmers."

But none of this has come easy. Like any athlete looking to be at the top of their class, Lauren doesn't have the typical life of a 13-year-old girl.

Each week she has 16 – 18 hours of training that includes one hour of yoga and two hours of dry land training (running and weights) on top of school, which leaves little spare time.

"It's pretty hard sometimes, but I just keep pushing to get to the level that I want to get to," she said.

"But in my spare time I just really like to sleep, but if I'm not sleeping, I either do homework or just hang out with my friends or go jogging with the dog."

Her goals are set high and she uses the success of her teammates and competitors as motivation to keep forging ahead.

"There are always people that are ahead of me in my group and there's always people that I just look up to when I see them race and I'll think, 'I need to get to that level and I want to get to that level way before they did.'"

Although she admitted it is sometimes hard being away from home, she said it's worth it to try and reach her goal and that she knows her family and friends are always just a call, text or email away.

"The hardest part about being away from home is missing my family and not being with my friends that I grew up with. I do really miss my family, but my ultimate goal is to make the Olympic team and win a gold medal for Canada."

–THE AURORAN– CLASSIFIEDS

Deadline: Monday 1 p.m. week of publication. 905-727-3300 Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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The personal property, household goods, and contents of the following rental spaces will be sold for cash or otherwise disposed of to satisfy rental liens for unpaid rent in accordance with Ontario Statutes Chapter R25 and our lease agreement on March 13, 2014 at 10am sharp, at Northern Self Storage, Aurora. Unit Number: A67, A59, 74, A69, A64, A02, A32, A20, A56, A49, L05

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE
The Personal property, household goods and contents of the following rental spaces will be sold for cash or otherwise disposed of to satisfy rental liens for unpaid rent in accordance with Ontario Statutes Chapter R25 and our lease agreement on February 28th, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. sharp at Northern Self Storage, Newmarket. 122 Bales Drive East, Newmarket L3Y 4X1 there will be 3 units Tony Brigman, Helmuth Wilczek, Andrew Groves.

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COMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will hold a very special event tonight called "The Old Tyme Music Hall." This is a variety show with singing, lots of music and comedy set in a pub atmosphere of England in the early 1900s. There will be a fish and chips dinner with dessert, tea or coffee. A cash bar will be available, as well as prizes to be won! Costumes of the period are encouraged and everyone is welcome. Ticket are \$10 each and will be available at the Seniors' Centre after February 3. Doors open at 5.30 p.m. with dinner at 6.30 p.m. and the show at 8 p.m. Get your tickets early as this promises to be a great event!

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street is proud to present The Great Artist Piano Series, with Moshe Hammer, violin and Angela Park, piano. Program to include Kreisler, Dvorak, Brahms and Saint-Saens. Doors open 7.30 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 Senior (60+) and Student (up to 18 years); \$30 Adult with general admission seating. Fully accessible venue; elevator at north entrance. To purchase drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Attention tweens! Develop your sketching skills and explore new terrain with artist Bill Lewochko at the Aurora Public Library. Learn tips and techniques that will enable you to draw animals in their natural habitats. A \$10 fee includes all materials. To reserve your spot, please call 905-727-9494 x280.

Mardi Gras for Southlake will host their annual Bourbon Street Ball tonight at Aw, Shucks! Amidst the backdrop of Bourbon Street and the traditions of the Mardi Gras celebrations, patrons are treated to roving buskers, dance performances, exotic food and drink and the unbridled fun that is Mardi Gras. Exclusive prizes are awarded for contests both ridiculous and sublime. The Bourbon Street Ball is a legendary event in the community that attracts people of all types who want to do it up right while doing the right thing. Tickets are \$125 per person. For more information, visit www.mardigrasforsouthlake.com.

Mozart's Requiem Mass in D Minor, under the direction of Tony Browning, will be performed by the York Chamber Ensemble and Tapestry Choir at Trinity Anglican Church (79 Victoria Street) tonight at 7.30 p.m. A portion of the proceeds will go to Trinity Anglican Church. A second performance will be held at Marylake Shrine (Keele Street, King) at 3 p.m. on March 23.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

The Aurora Public Library presents Money Talks\$: Developing Our Risk Profile. This free monthly discussion/education group shares unbiased experience and knowledge in financial planning. The presentation will be followed

by a question and answer session. This month's session will help you develop a personalised investment plan. No financial products or services will be offered or sold. People employed in the financial services industry are welcome to attend and contribute, but not to engage in the promotion of any products, companies or services. Magna Room. To register, call 905-727-9494 x.275.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

The Aurora Winter Blues Festival (AWBF) will host their BluesBash Kickoff and Fundraising Evening tonight from 6.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The event features live performances from "BIG" Bob Hammond and the Dundas Blues Band, featuring the BlusBros, the AWBF "Youth in Music" Performance, the "CouncilCritters" featuring Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Councillor John Abel, live painting "to the beat" by local artist Adubi Akinola, food, and a live and silent auction. Tickets are \$40 and proceeds will benefit Blue Door Shelters and CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors). For more information, visit www.aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

The Aurora Winter Blues Festival will hold their second of two nights this evening at Theatre Aurora from 7 - 11 p.m. Tonight features the "old school and raw electric blues" of Daddy Long Legs, Bill Durst, and JW-Jones. Tickets are \$42 and available at www.aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca.

Christ Lutheran Church will host this year's World Day of Prayer tonight at 7.30 p.m. The Women of Egypt invite you to join with them in this celebration, praying under the theme "Streams in the Desert."

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

A free Youth Electric & Bass Guitar Workshop will be presented today from 1 - 3.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre, hosted by the Aurora Winter Blues Festival and The ARTS Music Store. Registration can be made through The ARTS by visiting www.theartsmusicstore.com or by calling 905-868-7164. An additional harmonica workshop with Mark "Bird" Stafford and Darren Pool, sponsored by Wilson Music Services, is also available for \$25.

The second night of the Aurora Winter Blues Festival gets underway this evening from 7 - 11 p.m. at Theatre Aurora. The show features "Harmonica Knights" with Jerome Godboo, Paul Reddick, Mark "Bird" Stafford, plus "Harp Blowoff" with Jerome, Paul, and Mark. Tickets are \$42 and available at www.aurorawinterbluesfestival.ca.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

CHATS - Community and Home Assistance to Seniors - Caregiver and Support Education presents a free workshop from 7 - 8.30 p.m. tonight where you can learn about taxation of pensions and other

sources of income, about tax credits available to you and your loved ones, and receive general tips for filing your taxes. The seminar will be held at CHATS' Aurora office at 240 Edward Street, Suite 1. Space is limited. Register

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Join the European Club tonight where folkdance, history, handicraft and food are coming together. Share the European tradition, style and culture with us. The meeting will take place this evening from 7 - 9 p.m. in the Leksand Room at Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way). For further information, contact George and Svetla Topouzovi at gtopouzov@gmail.com or call 905-727-3924.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street presents John Sheard, piano, with "The Great Reunion Concert" with jazz/blues chanteuse Terra Hazelton, for a memorable night of Hoagy, Ella and so much more. Joined by Dennis Pendrith on the upright bass. Tickets \$25 in advance, or \$30 day of concert. Doors open 7.30 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m., with general admission seating and a cash bar. Fully accessible venue; elevator at north entrance. To purchase drop by the Centre, or call 905-713-1818. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca

MARCH 19 - APRIL 26

The Toronto Watercolour Society will hold their Spring Aquavision Show at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The show will feature a new venue and new rules of submission after 29 years of its history. The society brings together 275 accomplished painters exhibiting throughout local and national areas. Biennial exhibitions provide unique venues throughout the GTA. For more information, visit www.torontowatercoloursociety.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

The Toronto Watercolour Society will hold a reception for its Spring Aquavision Show tonight from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Juror Ernestine Tahedi, has selected the best water media paintings entered for this show by members. Selected wards of merit will be resented at the Reception. Refreshments will be served. The reception is open to the public.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School will host a Spin-A-Thon today. Students will donate 80 per cent of all money taken in to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation. The other 20 per cent will go towards extracurriculars such as sports teams and clubs.

APRIL 25 - APRIL 26

The Aurora United Church Spring Rummage Sale will once again be held Friday at Saturday at the Yonge and Mosley Church. Friday, April 25 from 1 p.m. - 8 p.m., individual prices. Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., bag sale. Sale items include clothes, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. For more information, call 905-727-1935.

AHS remained in hot seat for final budget meeting

From page 1

of the Town Solicitor. A proposed conversion from a part-time position in Aurora's Special Events department to full time was delayed until June, as well as a rejigging of money going into Council's contingency fund for special projects and initiatives.

"It is a short year," said Mr. Elliott regarding 2014 being an election year, noting Council would probably be dipping into that pot less. "We also think it is appropriate to draw from the [tax rate] stabilization reserve the premium from the old benefits over the new benefits for the first quarter of this year; which is \$36,000. Between the seven [directors], we will each look into our budgets and challenge each other; and we will find the other \$22,000. With these adjustments in hand, that will result in your 1.99 per cent."

Monday's discussions, as they had at the last budget meeting near the start of the month, focused on a \$70,000 grant for 2014 to the Aurora Historical Society (AHS).

At the last session, the majority of Council agreed they would fund the \$10,000 increase to the group this year; but serious discussions would need to take place in the year ahead on a business model and blueprint before any further funding would be forthcoming.

This was a refrain echoed by resident Christopher Watts, a long-time critic of the AHS, who delegated to the meeting. The AHS, he argued, has been "dead", and "acting like corporate morons" in their fundraising and development, and this Council has, over the past four years,

"merely reanimated its corpse."

"I don't buy the sentiment that there is bad faith on behalf of the municipality in not fully carting out the extent of this fund," said Mr. Watts. "I don't think there is any lack of confidence in the Town. I am finding, as a resident, a complete lack of confidence in what the AHS is capable of."

Going forward, he suggested the Canadian Conservation Institute should be approached to assess Hillary House before any further funds are handed over "for any work to be done" at the site.

Some Councillors said they were intrigued by the idea. Councillor Evelyn Buck, for instance, said there was merit in the idea as the traditional grant to the AHS was for the Aurora Museum and collection, both of which are now presently in the hands of the Town. Citing Hillary House, and the ongoing management of the Aurora Cultural Centre, she added "Council has no authority from the community, no consensus they are willing to bear the burden for this second old building."

"They have done everything they can and they are doing different things, but at the same time we have that fiduciary responsibility [to have that discussion]," said Councillor Michael Thompson.

Added Councillor Sandra Humfries: "[The AHS] came with somewhat of a plan last year. It didn't work very well. They were going to regroup...and they took some initiatives and that did not go well. They have had to reduce their staff. It's all done part-time and I heard it loud and clear that they need some help. Hopefully they will come back and have a plan."

Baxter will run Provincially as rep for new party

From page 3

on doing what I am doing," she said. "As of now, I am the only candidate but there are still two weeks for another candidate to come into the picture. I am just carrying on doing what I am doing."

Fellow Newmarket Councillor Maddie di Muccio was the first candidate to throw her hat in the ring to replace Mr. Klees. Her candidacy, however, was vetoed by the Party earlier this month, causing a flurry of debate within the party. Councillor di Muccio did not return calls from The Auroran for comment on the Somerville matter.

Party faithful will formalize their candidate of choice in a nomination meeting on March 20.

On the Ontario Liberal side, Aurora Councillor Chris Ballard is, at the moment, the only declared candidate. Elsewhere, Dorian Baxter will also stand as a candidate. The perennial Federal candidate for the Progressive Canadian party founded by Sinclair Stevens in response to the foundation of the new Conservative Party of Canada, has found a spot in the new Canadians' Choice Party.

Finding his efforts to stand as a candidate for the Ontario PCs "frustrated", Mr. Baxter found his party in the Canadians' Choice, which bills itself as a "bottom up" party giving independent candidates a banner, and a place for "true patriots" to work for constituents "and not a party leader."

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