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THE AUROREDAN

Please see page 5

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 14 No. 40 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of August 7, 2014



Artists Eva Folks, left, and Judy Sherman aim to re-introduce Aurora to Aurorans through "Local Colour Aurora", a year-long art project starting this month in various locations around Town. For more, please see Page 9.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Aurora and Region need to work together to tackle housing crunch: Councillors

By Brock Weir

Aurora should have more of a say when it comes to addressing the need for affordable housing in the community.

That is the word coming from Councillors out of last week's Council meeting. The calls came amid discussions related to a proposed plan for a new small-scale subdivision off St. John's Sideroad, just east of Mavrinac Boulevard. As proposed by the company Edenbrook, the land of question is nearly four hectares in area for up to 42 residential units.

Discussions were also compounded from issues stemming from the June meeting of York Regional Council, where members signed off on their 10-Year Housing Plan dubbed "A Place for Everyone", which addresses the issues of affordable housing, making positive inroads in tackling homelessness, and increasing affordable rental housing

throughout the Region, in addition to further support for local homeless.

In discussing the new development, Councillor Wendy Gaertner questioned if any of these objectives, as well as affordable housing targets in Aurora's own Official Plan, would be addressed in the area.

Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, however, told Council that that is "always" a difficult question to answer as opportunities are often in flux.

"What this plan is proposing is approximately 42 detached lots with frontages ranging from 45 - 50 feet, but there is a block in the northeast quadrant block which will be the subject of a future application," he explained. "It is a future development block that will most likely be a more intense urban development, likely on a private road, so that would accommodate more affordable housing opportunities."

Continued on page 8

Make sure you bag all your garbage before tossing it into your curbside bins: new bylaw

By Brock Weir

You may need to stock up on more garbage bags, following Council's approval of a new waste bylaw last week.

Rest assured, however, you don't need to buy clear garbage bags (at least not yet), but you will have to give special consideration to some of the more inconsequential pieces of trash you might throw haphazardly into your curbside bins at home.

The new bylaw was approved last Tuesday after a few stops and starts on just what kind of impact the bylaw would have on area residents.

Originally appearing before Council in June, it was temporarily put on ice after Councillors raised alarm bells that its wording could cause confusion within the community. Their concerns included worries that no provisions were made for garbage put in bins and other receptacles.

Continued on page 3

Aurora's Samantha Sendel takes home trampoline gold, bronze in Canada Cup

By Jake Courtepatte

Aurora-born Samantha Sendel topped the podium and picked up a bronze in trampoline last weekend at the Canada Cup in Newmarket.

On Saturday, Sendel teamed up with Olympic gold medal-winning Rosie MacLennan for the synchro competition, where the duo topped the field with a score of 133.700.

Sendel began training heavily with MacLennan about a year ago, after MacLennan's partner, Karen Cockburn, took time away from the sport to be with her family. Having worked with MacLennan since the two were kids, Sendel told The Auroran that training together is a cinch.

"It's amazing working with Rosie. We have done synchro together before, so getting to do it again with

Continued on page 17

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905-727-3123 ext. 4212
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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, August 11	4 p.m.	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 12	6 p.m.	Special General Committee – Audit Committee
Tuesday, August 12	7 p.m.	Council
Thursday, August 14	7 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment

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



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!

This year, the Town will also ask residents to vote on the following two questions on the ballot:

1. "Are you in favour of electing all Aurora councillors, other than the Mayor, by ward vote instead of general Town-wide vote?"
2. "Are you in favour of reducing the number of Aurora councillors, other than the Mayor, from eight (8) councillors to six (6) councillors?"

PUBLIC NOTICES

Election Day Employment

The Town of Aurora is recruiting for a variety of customer service-focused, temporary election workers to assist with the **October 27** municipal election.



Applicant requirements include:

- 18 years of age or older;
- Legally entitled to work in Canada;
- Applicants cannot be a candidate or the spouse, sibling, parent or child, or grandparent or grandchild of a candidate running in the **October 27** election;
- Customer service and/or election official experience preferred;
- Fluent in English (knowledge of other languages an asset);
- Access to reliable transportation;
- Ability to work well both independently and as a team; and
- Available to attend a two-hour mandatory training session, up to two weeks prior to the election.

To apply, please complete the online application form available at www.aurora.ca/electionemployment or at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way. The application deadline **Monday, August 18** at 9 a.m.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Part-Time Pre-School Instructor
Application deadline is **Thursday, August 7**

Part-Time Facility Receptionist/Registration Clerk
Application deadline is **Tuesday, August 12**

Administrator, Facility Booking
Application deadline is **Tuesday, August 12**

Part-Time Facility Advertising & Sponsorship Co-ordinator
Application deadline is **Tuesday, August 19**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Skylight Gallery Artists of the Month

In August, the Skylight Gallery will feature the artwork of **Marlene Ash, Ron Lorenz and Bud Switzer**.

Marlene Ash began painting eight years ago to improve her sketching and wood-carving skills. By taking courses through the Aurora Seniors' Association, she has expanded her talent through various mediums and her work has been featured in many gallery shows.

Ron Lorenz began painting after taking an oil painting course following his retirement and has loved it ever since. He is passionate about painting landscapes and nature-related pieces.

Bud Switzer started painting in 1993 with the Art Group of Scarborough, where he became Vice President. Most of his artwork has been acrylic-based and has focused on a variety of subjects including portraits, animals, landscapes, floral still life and abstracts.

Please join these artists at their reception on **Thursday, August 7** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to learn more about their artwork.

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



2014 Skylight Gallery Draw

Located on the third floor of Aurora's Town Hall, the Skylight Gallery is an open space with a dramatic skylight dedicated to featuring exhibitions by local artists. Backboards and track-lighting are set up to display artwork in a striking setting and access to this ever-changing art gallery is free to the public.

Each month, the work of a different artist is featured. The draw to determine who will exhibit in 2015 will be held this year on **Wednesday, September 3**. Application forms are available at www.aurora.ca

The 12 artists chosen will represent one month during the year. Artists within York Region and beyond are invited to enter the draw. The featured artist also has the opportunity to host a reception in the Skylight Gallery during his/her chosen month.

For more information, please contact Laura Malone, Special Events Co-ordinator, Town of Aurora at 905-727-3123 ext. 3132 or lmalone@aurora.ca

CONCERTS in the park

Join us on **Wednesday, August 13** at Concerts in the Park for a tribute performance to The Jersey Boys. This memorable evening at Aurora Town Park begins at 7 p.m. and will be performed by Pauly and the Goodfellas. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. All concerts are free but food donations for the local food pantry are greatly appreciated. For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/summerconcerts or call 905-726-4762.

This event has been generously sponsored by Aurora Chrysler and the Investors Group.

Summer Youth Drop-In Activities

Tuesday, July 15 to Friday, August 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Youth ages 12 to 16 are invited to Aurora Senior Public School, located at 125 Wellington Street West, for exciting drop-in activities including basketball, badminton, arts and crafts, scrapbooking and movies. Cost is \$3 per activity or purchase a Youth Drop-In Pass. For more information, please call 905-726-4770 ext. 3121.

Town of Aurora Summer Camp

It's not too late to enrol your child in a Town of Aurora Summer Camp! Our camps are well-planned, creative and an enthusiastic place for your child to spend their summer days. The Town of Aurora's qualified staff are committed to preparing safe and enjoyable programs to ensure all children have a summer filled with friends, fun and laughter!

With more than 30 camps to choose from, your child can spend the summer exploring their interests and developing their talents. There is a camp for every child! Call 905-841-PLAY (7529) or visit www.aurora.ca for more information.



Aurora Public Library

Dogs: Paintings by Kim Steffen

Visit the Colleen Abbott Gallery until **Saturday, August 9** to experience this fun and funky art show in the pop art tradition. With vibrant colours and adorable dogs, it is sure to be a hit with the entire family!

Build-a-bot Makeshop

Children ages five years and older are invited to drop-in and build their own simple magnetic robot at the APL on **Wednesday, August 13** from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Try different variations to see how big you can make your 'bot' while learning some fun magnetic magic tricks.

TD Summer Reading Cub Continues

It's not too late to sign-up for this year's TD Summer Reading club at the APL! Read books, win prizes and use your imagination. Read 12 books by the end of summer and be entered into a draw for the grand reading prize. This is for children under the age of 12, including pre-schoolers.

An Adventure-a-Day Youth Activities

Are you bored of staying home and watching TV this summer? Join us for a day or week of adventure! Bring your friends and register for only the days you want. The next session runs from **Monday, August 18 to Friday, August 22**. Available that week are Home Alone, Babysitter's Training and Emergency First Aid as well as trips to Cold Creek Conservation Area and Tree Top Trekking. For more information, please call 905-726-4770.

REMINDERS

Debris on Roads

Homeowners constructing pools or undertaking other building projects are reminded to keep roads, sidewalks and rights-of-way (the Town-owned section of property bordering the road) free of construction debris. Keeping these areas free from bricks, timber, soil and other materials is essential to pedestrian and traffic safety. Construction permits do not allow storage of these materials anywhere except your property.

Outdoor Water Use Bylaw

The Town of Aurora enforces a municipal bylaw related to outdoor water use. It is important that all residents and businesses observe the regulations, as they have been put into place to ensure a continued abundant water supply. Even/odd watering restrictions are in effect.

Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw

The Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw is in effect. All residents should be cleaning up debris on their property and keeping grass no longer than eight inches. Let's keep Aurora looking beautiful!

For more information on these and other Town bylaws, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240 or visit www.aurora.ca/bylaws

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY ZONE Friday from 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M. Saturday from 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.	GLENN MARAIS BAND Sunday at 3 P.M.
HOEDOWN SHOWDOWN Saturday from 11 A.M. TO 6 P.M.	FOOD FOR ALL APPETITES Ribs, roasted corn, Bloomin' Onions, Beavertails® & more!
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Saturday, August 16
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Participants are able to tour buildings, take guided walking tours and view special exhibits and displays.

To view a list of sites and to learn more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/doorsopen2014

Letters to the editor

Candidates displayed "stellar performances" in vacancy bids

(Re: Don Constable selected to fill Council vacancy, July 31, 2014)

An open letter to all participants/applicants for Aurora Interim Councillor:

Firstly, I wish to convey my best wishes to my long-time friend and newly minted Councillor, Don Constable, and wish Don continued success in all his endeavours.

In addition, I wanted to also congratulate each candidate on the stellar performance of your presentations. I was extremely impressed with all your qualifications and the polite, gentle and professional manner you presented.

In my view, each one of you would have made an excellent choice to fill the vacant seat on Council. But unfortunately in politics, and in life, at times, there can be one elected person.

I say this, and I also take the liberty to speak for others, that after having sat there attentively listening to each one of you deliver your presentations and qualifications I felt proud to know that our beloved Aurora has so many worthy people willing to offer up their family and personal time in the service of the greater interest of Aurora.

That one wins or loses an election is not the important thing, the important thing is that one volunteered to the greater service of our neighbours.

Moreover, you sent an important message to current and future Councils that Aurora certainly does not have a lack of qualified people to run for Council. Yes, I am a candidate for Councillor, and I can tell you that whether I am elected or not, it would be my honour for me to work with and befriend each one of you.

As a business person, I may be good at some things, but you all offer so much on things that I lack. And as a business person, I learned to never be shy to ask for qualified help or advice from the people that have it.

You, like me, have devoted your lives to your families, your business and careers and contributed to the greater welfare of Aurora; and no one, including an interim Council seat or no Council seat, can ever take that away from you; you are all winners. Thank you and continued success! God Bless Aurora.

Anthony Pullano
Aurora

(Editor's note: As mentioned within the letter, Mr. Pullano is a registered Council candidate for the 2014 Municipal Election)

The "coronation is complete", says Kean

I was neither shocked nor surprised at the outcome of the vote at Council last week to fill the vacant seat.

As soon as I saw Don Constable I knew that he was in. I actually won some money on two bets that I made. So, to the Dawe Council, thank you for that.

That being said, in my opinion, this whole process was a farce. Constable has always been a strong follower of Dawe's mentor, Tim Jones, and now Dawe's.

It is not even funny anymore as the slate of Dawe's minions continues to grow. It was bad enough that the current Council only had three or four Councillors who would actually question why so many contracts were well over budget, why the Town still is going ahead with a multi-million dollar building for the works department, why the original Leisure Complex is well over budget in the name of a Youth Centre (as it is called) that is so small and a waste of more taxpayers dollars, why so much of our taxes went into Aurora's birthday celebration, and the list goes on and on of wasted taxpayers' money.

In my opinion, Aurora, after the Dawe regime, will have the largest deficit in history. This came even after the Mayor, during the last election, promised to get Council's hand out of our pockets.

What a joke that statement truly is. Dawe even suggested that it is OK for Council members to buy alcohol on our tax money. Constable just adds to another vote in Dawe's favour. There were so many other choices that could have been made: Bob McRoberts who has done so much more for Aurora than helping with the Hoedown, Grace Marsh, plus others. This farce will continue as I look at candidates listed to run for the next Council.

We need to ask ourselves if we want more of the same, or if we really want to move Aurora ahead with an open minded Council, who will vote as their constituents want them to, rather than just keeping the Mayor happy.

This is my opinion, and I hope that others will check things out before the next election.

Get to know the candidates and what they stand for:

Nigel Kean
Aurora

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

No Heartbreakers in the Home Stretch

I have become known in some quarters as somewhat of a sucker for a bit of pomp and circumstance. In my view, it is not something of which to be particularly shameful, so why not embrace it?

There's nothing wrong with a bit of dignity, is there?

Of course not. Unless, of course, you are the kind of person who thrives on just the opposite.

To be frank, in recent weeks, I have questioned just what side of the fence I was on. After Council made their decision to go forward with the process they chose to fill Chris Ballard's vacancy, I was a bit surprised at how eagerly I was anticipating a relative Gong Show, the likes of which hadn't been seen since the Great Cultural Centre Fiasco of the first half of this term.

Which member of Council would use the opportunity to grill perceived political foes? Which candidates would take the opportunity to vent their collective spleen of what could have been an endless stream of grievances against this Council, the previous Council (or even the Council before that) about perceived slights, inequities, or, the perennial favourite, harping against property taxes?

The mind reeled with the possibilities, but nothing that exciting transpired and, at the end of the day, I am thankful for it.

Although some people have expressed mixed reviews of how things transpired on July 29, whether they were dissatisfied with the process, flummoxed by the choice, or throwing out negative predictions on what they think will come of the choice, the truth is the proceedings had a surprising air of dignity.

Considering all the possibilities of what could have happened, I feel confident you might agree – unless you are one of the 17 who ultimately went home that afternoon empty handed.

In many quarters around Town, and even within these pages, there was an unusual sense of doom and gloom about the process in the lead-up to the main event.

How difficult it would be for Mayor and Council to be in a position of having to make their votes public, argued some.

Imagine having to sit in the audience after you've made your pitch to Council as, one by one, the votes are revealed and not one of them was for you, argued another.

Still, others argued the votes should be made behind closed doors rather than at the table, also in the name of dignity.

Personally, I didn't buy into any of these arguments. Sure, it had the potential to be a disaster, but everyone involved seemed to be emotionally healthy adults, no strangers to public, corporate, or business life, sure in the knowledge that no matter how many people ultimately signed up for the race, there was only one seat to be had.

If they hadn't considered that possibility, maybe it wasn't the smartest move to sign up for potential heartbreak in the first place.

Everybody, however, held up well. Each candidate who was present when their name was called came up and succinctly made their pitch on why they would be the best man or woman for the job. Everybody seemed to be highly qualified with many qualities to offer that would have been a boon to the Council table. Nobody seemed to have signed up just on a lark. They had evidently given a lot of thought to putting their name forward, recognized how they could best contribute, and hoped to have the opportunity. The majority of the candidates even withstood one or two very interesting questions from Councillor Evelyn Buck, which provided, I believe, some valuable insight into how most candidates would have tackled some of the more divisive decisions, projects and proposals that have been faced by this Council. It might have been a decision made in



BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

the interests of time but, curiously, other Council members, with the exception of Councillor Paul Pirri, rarely took advantage of the opportunity.

After the pitches and the questions, it was then up to Aurora's Deputy Clerk to hand out specially printed cards to each Council member for them to cast that all important vote. Those deliberations were made silently, while the Deputy Clerk stood watch until everyone was finished.

"CHRIS BALLARD'S SEAT WAS SO EMPTY – " "HOW EMPTY WAS IT?" "WELL, I'LL TELL YOU. CHRIS BALLARD'S SEAT WAS SO EMPTY IT NEEDED 18 BLANKS TO FILL IT!"

Oddly enough, the tension in the room was palpable and a thought went through my mind that, dignity be damned, let's relax things just a little bit, play the theme music from Match Game, and have Mayor and Council flip the cards themselves making the big reveal. Before I had a chance to earnestly consider which members of Council would be our own equivalents to Brett Somers and Charles Nelson Reilly, the first round of voting was done and it was off to round two.

The vote for Don Constable was clinched on the second.

By the end of the first round, candidates that didn't receive a vote began to leave, but many stuck it out to the bitter end to see just who would be crowned the victor. Some seemed to register surprise at the ultimate choice, as some had already assumed the appointment would have been a foregone conclusion for either of the two other former councillors in the race, but applause was hearty and Councillor Constable received an enthusiastic welcome around the table.

NOW WHAT?

Now that the seat is filled, the question now turns to just what Council can accomplish in the handful of meetings left in the 2010 – 2014 term. While many residents debated the merits of the appointment process, questioning the point of the whole affair considering there are so few meetings left on the calendar, there is quite a lot that could be done.

Next week, for instance, Council is set to go into what promises to be a thorough debate over the future of the proposed Joint Operations Centre, in a meeting that will focus on awarding contracts to make the facility a reality.

Whichever way the chips fall, it will be an issue we are likely to hear far more about after the August 12 meeting as candidates for Mayor and Council pick their sides and saddle up their hobby horses to ride into the October 27 Municipal Election.

Potential controversy aside, there are also opportunities. Last week's Council meeting provided plenty of food for thought on Aurora's Downtown Core, how to spruce it up, get people walking around once again, and any opportunities to be had working together with Aurora United Church to use their lot to everyone's best advantage.

No matter how much they spoke about this, however, conversations kept circling back to the all-important issue of Library Square.

Now that Council is once again firing at full capacity, it is time to seriously revisit that issue again and actually make a final – or even an interim – decision on what to do with that land before the end of the term.

It is a decision that has had to be made for 12 years and, following the appointment of Councillor Constable, there is now one less voice at the table to claim making a decision 12-years-on is somehow a rush job.

Strike while the iron is lukewarm at the very least.

NEW AURORAN POLL

Do you think Aurora needs to work more with the Region in providing affordable housing in Town?

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

Do you support further government sanctions against Russia? A) Yes B) No

RESULTS AUGUST 5, 2014	YES	NO
	100%	0%



Members of the York Rangers (127th Battalion) are seen here gathering in Town Park in April 1916, prior to boarding the Yonge Street radial cars for the start of a journey that would eventually lead them right into the heart of the First World War. Leading the way on the horse is Robert Michael Hillary with the Aurora Armoury, still standing on Larmont Street, to the right of the photo. Photo courtesy of John McIntyre

Electing the Regional Chair

A fundamental tenant of any democracy is the people's right to elect their leaders.

With that in mind, I've put forward the idea of resurrecting a private members bill that would see the Chair of the Regional Municipality of York directly elected by voters. The bill has been put forward twice before by York Region MPPs Helena Jaczek and Rezza Moridi, but died when elections were called.

I want your input about this idea. While many I've spoken with agree with the concept, others have expressed concern about the impact on smaller municipalities.

The role of Chair of the Region has evolved since its early days. When it was created in 1971, the Region had a population of 169,000. Today, the population is about 1.16 million. We are one of the fastest growing regions in Canada.

The previous bills proposed by York Region MPPs Jaczek and Moridi were about representative democracy and sought to bring more of it to the residents of York Region, something that is currently absent when it comes to the selection of the Chair of York Regional Council.

Having Region voters elect their Regional Chair will ensure direct accountability of the chair to the electorate. This has been a subject of discussion in York Region since at least 1995 when the topic was addressed as part of the York Regional Council Governance Review conducted as part of a project overseen by MPP Jaczek, then the Region's Medical Officer of Health.

"Only members of Regional Council were involved in that discussion, so, not surprisingly, no consensus was reached, and no action was taken," said MPP Jaczek when she debated the Bill in parliament in June 2013.

There are many who argue that the appropriate governance structure is needed to reflect the changes to York Region related to population growth, budget and delivery of services.

York Regional Council is composed of 21 members. These members include nine mayors, 11 Regional councillors who are elected from the municipalities that make up the Region, and a chair. The number of representatives that each municipality elects to Regional Council ranges from only the mayor in smaller municipalities, like Aurora, to the mayor and up to four regional councillors in the larger ones.

Newmarket elects the mayor and one regional councillor to sit at the Region.

Absent, however, is an election for the Regional Chair. The chair is chosen by the 20 members of the council through a nomination process at the inaugural meeting of the Regional



VIEW FROM QUEEN'S PARK
Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

Municipality of York Council. It is possible for any member of council to nominate any resident of York Region. The individual nominated does not need to be an elected official.

MPP Jaczek told the legislature last June "I've attended eight inaugural meetings of York Regional Council over the years, and only once, in 1997, was there more than one nomination for chair. In the other seven cases, there was an acclamation of the incumbent."

The Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as the role is now called, is a position that holds a great deal of power over how the business of the Region is conducted. The chair sets the direction of council, has control over the agenda of council meetings and sits as an ex-officio member on all committees. In fact, the chair is the only member of council who works full-time on the business, as the other councillors must also attend to the business of their area municipalities.

The responsibilities of the Regional Chair have increased dramatically as York Region has grown. Today the Regional Chair is responsible for a budget of nearly \$3 billion, which includes \$1.2 billion for capital projects.

"It is astonishing that responsibility for these taxpayer dollars is vested in an unelected individual," MPP Jaczek said in the Ontario parliament.

The Regional Chair is the official spokesperson for the Region and frequently has a role in representing the Region on the national and even international stage. An elected chair would give added legitimacy in this circumstance.

Allowing the citizens of York Region to elect their Regional Chair should help underscore the importance of the position.

If citizens elect the Chair of York Regional Council, the individuals who seek election will likely develop platforms that outline a vision for the Region. Upon election, accountability to the electorate will be clear. At the subsequent election, the electorate can judge whether the incumbent deserves re-election.

Through elections, citizens can play an active role in shaping their future. Important regional issues can be debated, and representatives can be held accountable by their electorate.

Tell me what you think.

Contact Chris at his Community Office: (905) 750-0019, or by email: cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. The office is located in Suite 201, 14845 Yonge St., Aurora LAG 6H8. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Municipal Term Limits and an Aurora Wellness Index

There are two topics that I would like to briefly address this week:

First, the question of municipal term limits.

Napoleon is alleged to have said that the battlefields are littered with the bodies of irreplaceable soldiers. He could just have easily been speaking about modern day politics.

Some renewal may be at hand this fall!

We may have upwards of twenty-five people seeking one of the eight council seats, plus we already have two declared candidates for mayor with possibly more to follow.

Since it seems that some public figures stay well past their "best before" date, we need to help the politicians help themselves.

Mandating term limits is one way to lend assistance.

I believe that a Councillor should be limited to serving two consecutive terms.

Mayors should also be limited to two consecutive terms.

It is well known that incumbents enjoy a significant advantage in name recognition. There are lot of good men and women in our society who can serve, but the barriers to entry can be quite high, especially against incumbents who have been in office for a while.

Public life is fundamentally about the nobility and selflessness of public service. It should not be about longevity; it should simply be about service.

The second item happens to do with the health of our community. While I read the local papers and I talk to my neighbours, I really have no idea if our community is "doing well."

I suspect it is, but it would be good to have some confirmation on this.

Roy Romanow, former premier of Saskatchewan and former commissioner on the future of Health in Canada, is the chair of a project called the Canadian Index of Wellbeing, or CIW.

The CIW seeks to "chart and report on how our lives are getting better or worse - in areas that matter to us: health, standard of living, environmental quality, the way we use our time, education and skill levels, the vitality of our communities, participation in the democratic process, the state of our arts and culture."

Something similar to the CIW may be needed in Aurora.

What type of information or metrics should be included in such a document?

This writer suggests having performance measures in each of the following broad categories, financial, community health, individual wellness, and say, environmental sustainability.



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

The individual metrics under the above four categories could include things like: number of people using the Food Pantry; number of affordable rental housing units, percentage of children participating in community sports, percentage of voter turnout, percentage of high school kids not completing high school, number of people using the Leisure Complex and public skating/public swimming, percentage of people who possess a library card and capacity utilization of the VIVA buses in Aurora.

The key is that the numbers and trends should provide us with a well-balanced view of how our community is doing.

The statistics alone certainly don't tell the whole story, but they are the basis upon which to begin any meaningful dialogue and real debate about whether we are meeting the priorities of this community or even if we have the right priorities in the first place.

If, for example, all the scorecard targets are met, then our community should be in good shape.

However, in the event that all targets were met and the community did not seem any better off, this would signal that it's time to rethink the metrics being utilized.

The scorecard should be easy to read and to understand. It should have a number of charts and graphs, and not a lot of text.

The trends would also show how we compare against other similarly sized communities. It should also include comparisons against Newmarket. Although Newmarket has a much larger population than Aurora, there is a commonality, based on proximity, community make-up and shared interests.

It would be nice if the good folks at the Aurora Town Hall produced such a document. But it would be even better if our fellow citizens published this information.

This committee could be comprised of ten to fifteen citizens, including representatives from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, various rate-payer associations, and volunteer organizations. This group would hold a couple of meetings and decide upon the important metrics that should be included.

They could then hand over the quarterly production of this to Town Hall.

The Aurora Community Wellness Index (ACWI) could then be produced quarterly by Town Hall and published in The Auroran.

It is too bad that we did not have an initial version of an ACWI in order to help frame the debate and discussion for this fall's election.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Summer - Politico Style

We are trapped in the midst of the summer doldrums - politically speaking, of course - where whatever air there is, is hot, still and clammy. I guess we should be thankful it isn't hot and blowing hard. Thank you for the small mercies.

Our politicians - from the "has-beens" to the "wannabes" to the "never, ever shoulda-beens" - are hard at work on the bbq circuit waxing wise and pontificating wildly on all matters political.

From the local to the federal, we are treated to a bevy of the amusing musings of our fearless leaders (or hangers-on as the case may be) whose opinions on matters of state and government careen wildly between straining credulity to downright embarrassing.

My favourite? Opinions on foreign affairs. Where has-been and wannabe politicians alike bring arm chair quarterbacking to Olympian levels.

Crisis in the Middle East? Let's get the opinion of a mayoral candidate because that will be a truly informed and enlightened opinion now, won't it?

I would love to hear a candidate give an honest answer when faced with such a ridiculous and wildly out of context question. But "honest answer" and "politician" are rarely spoken of together.

Instead, they suck up the oxygen in the room and replace it with huge volumes of hot air. I believe there is an aphorism about truth that is most appropriate in the context of political discourse. I think the saying goes something like, "...there is more than one truth". Indeed there is; unfortunately, many people seem to lay claim to it.

Everyone sees the world through their own lens; however, some folks are in desperate need of a corrective lens in order to see the reality that the rest of us see.

How else to explain the ranting of "some" of our leaders current, past or future? When outcomes are unexpected, not to their liking, or do not fit neatly into their carefully constructed narrative and funhouse mirror world view, then it must be evidence of shenanigans of some sort. Or a conspiracy.

Witness Doug Ford's latest rant. In Councillor Ford's version of reality, of the "truth" the subpoena soon to be served on current Mayor Ford is "payback" by the Chief, for the failure of his contract renewal.

The reality that the rest of us see is that a person with whom the Mayor has had close personal ties is before the courts on multiple charges of extortion and thus the Mayor may have relevant information as it speaks to the court action.

There is no conspiracy. No "payback". Just the logical outcome of a police investigation.

But truth and politics do not fit neatly together in most circumstances. The truth is usually rather inconvenient.

Re-writing history is, therefore, a very popular past-time for politicians of all stripes and inclinations. It's not just the bailiwick of despotic tyrants. Even our "best" leaders tend to shade the truth to ensure they are cast in the best light.

And during election season, the historical re-writing is fast and furious. Everyone wants to take credit for everything. Opinion pieces in major papers, news programs - even social media sites - are full of shameless credit-taking exercises. If they could they'd take credit for the sun rising and the grass growing.

The implied not too subtle supposition one is to draw is, of course, that if the has-been, wannabe or should never-been politician were in charge, things would be different.

On that point, I will have to agree. Things could be different if they were in charge. Things could always be worse.

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

Streetscape improvements in Aurora Promenade will be early focus of next Council

By Brock Weir

Beautifying Aurora's downtown business core has been a subject debated at Aurora Council for many years and, when the new Council is inaugurated in December, it is likely to be near the top of the Agenda.

Council signed off on a multi-year capital plan to improve the streetscapes in Aurora Promenade, an area which focuses on much of Aurora's commercial stretch of Yonge Street and portions of Wellington Street East and West.

They gave the green light on a series of initiatives, in principle, which are now part of Aurora's 10-year Capital Plan for future consideration, with an eye of getting many of these items off the ground as part of 2015 budget talks.

While the final tally of just what this will cost Aurora taxpayers will be up to the next Council, contingent of each bell and whistle ultimately approved, if the main priorities of the plan over the next three years are carried it, it could come to an estimated \$2.75 million.

Some of the priorities are in the lower cost \$40,000 range such as landscaping, the replacement of traffic light poles, and year-round hanging baskets on light poles, more costly initiatives include \$150,000 for promotional banners for Aurora's "historic downtown", \$380,000 for a series of narrow planters and, the highest ticketed item, \$1.94 million for new patterned sidewalks.

Although Council ultimately approved the items in principle for

consideration by whoever is sitting at the table at the end of the year; it was these new sidewalks which received the closest scrutiny around the Council table last week.

From the perspective of Councillor Michael Thompson, sidewalks would not be widened, they would not directly increase traffic flow, and replacing the sidewalk just for looks could not necessarily justify the cost.

"We have not defined the benefit," he said. "What is the overall impact or effect [on the plan] if you start taking pieces out of it? Show me the benefit. We're spending \$2 million to replace those slabs. We have a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) that says by investing in those businesses we will see a return on investment. We're only allocating \$200,000 to that. I think there is more benefit to the CIP plan than there is in just replacing those sidewalk slabs.

"We continue to focus on the downtown, and rightly so. We need to find ways to help rejuvenate the downtown. While the plan does have components that support other initiatives that are going on, I am a little bit concerned because...the sidewalks are part of that integral vision that is being proposed. I get concerned when we start pulling things out piecemeal without knowing the impact of the overall vision or plan."

More comfortable with the plan was Councillor Sandra Humfries who highlighted economic development improvements that could stem from the plan, noting improvements such as

these will bring people back into the Downtown Core, walking and shopping.

"This is just one aspect," she said. "It is a little condensed area that we want to make significant improvements on. We have talked about it for the past four years around the table, yet we are always hesitant to put some investment behind it. It is a significant amount of money, but I believe it will, at the end of the day, attract people [Downtown] and allow those businesses to attract individuals."

While she agreed it might be time to put Aurora's money where its mouth is, Councillor Wendy Gaertner said she was not fully comfortable with putting these recommendations onto the next Council. Nevertheless, something had to give.

"At some point we're going to have to say, 'Yes, we're going to spend some money on this and we're not going to procrastinate anymore,'" she said. "To me, that concern is not that we don't want to spend some money, but we still don't know what we want to do to revitalize the Downtown Core. I don't know what the answer is, but somehow it needs to stay in the capital plan, it needs to be presented and at least the idea is in the budget."

Another Councillor speaking out against the plan was Councillor Evelyn Buck. While she rejected the idea of the new sidewalks, she said she had "difficulty endorsing anything in principle" without a firmer idea of what the cost might be. That being said, she argued it was not the right time because

the Downtown Core could now be on the cusp of some significant change; the Aurora United Church fire being something of a game-changer.

"We don't know what those changes might be and that might have a significant implication on any design," she argued. "[The fire] was a terrible thing to happen, but it is a catalyst for something different to happen. There are so many implications. Building fancy sidewalks is not going to make any difference. We desperately need to be open and not be wasting any time making plans for something which may be completely inadequate."

Church rebuild could provide opportunities for Aurora United and the Town at large: Council

By Brock Weir

The April 11 fire which decimated Aurora United Church was seen by many to be a significant blow to the entire community, but as the community looks to the future four months on, discussions should get underway to find the best opportunities ahead of a rebuild.

Aurora Council voted to lay the groundwork for such discussions last week following a motion from Councillor Evelyn Buck. In her motion, she called for the Town and church representatives to work together to "discover how the Town and Aurora United Church (AUC) might work together for the renewal of the Church and municipal functions, for the benefit of both."

Discussions, she added, are particularly timely as Council continues to consider just what to do with Library Square and the two discussions could go hand in hand.

"I think it is critical that we enter into discussions and invite the Church to enter into discussions with us and, at the very least, keep each other posted on what is happening," said Councillor Buck. "It is nothing more than opening up formal lines of communication between the Church and the Town, which I believe is essential."

After some debate over the semantics of the motion, the motion gained the unanimous support of Council.

Speaking in favour of the motion, Councillor Sandra Humfries said while there is still some work to be done from Town Hall's perspective regarding the potential of human remains left over from a cemetery which used to lie directly north of the

church site under the existing parking lot, this was a good step forward.

"I believe this is a great initiative to work together and do what we need to do to help them as a municipality to give the Church any support they need," she said.

While the motion was supported by the rest of the table, there were some questions about what discussions had already taken place between the Town and Church officials in the months since the fire. Councillor Buck, for instance, said her motion would go a ways towards giving formal Council backing to the discussions Mayor Geoffrey Dawe has already had regularly with Church members, including Rod Johnson, Chair of the AUC Council.

"I do not question in any way your effort to be as much assistance to the church...as anyone in Aurora would like you to be," said Councillor Buck to Mayor Dawe. "I know you would have done that, and when I said you wouldn't have the authority of the Council, I want you to have that official authority to speak [on behalf of] Council."

In response, Mayor Dawe said conversations have been ongoing to a point, but there are major issues that need to be clarified before more substantive talks can take place.

"At this point they are still very much working through how they wish to proceed," said Mayor Dawe. "[Discussions] are very much on the horizon. Do they rebuild the Church? Do they look at something that is more substantive in their public ministry? They are very much working through those conversations, starting with the day of the fire. That is quite an issue they have to deal with."

"We have managed to help them

through with some issues and have been able to put them in touch with other people, [but] there is nothing at the formal level at this point."

While she too supported the motion, Councillor Wendy Gaertner requested further clarification on what was meant by "municipal functions" apart from, perhaps, a piece of parkland or a public square. From Councillor Buck's perspective, if the Church rebuilds on the site which spans from Yonge Street to Temperance Street, there is a chance what is built could have a different configuration, presenting different opportunities.

"I also think of Library Square and the decision we have to make about the buildings that are there," she continued. "It might be the needs of the Church congregation and the needs of the Town could meet in some way because the Church has that very

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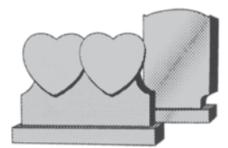
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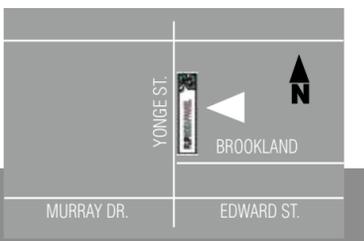

TENTREE


ELEMENT


DEX


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Louisa Barbosa, 11, a student at Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School, will show off her vocal chops, taking the stage August 18 as part of the CNE's Rising Stars competition. She's seen here with her mother, Margarida, and father Fabio.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Holy Spirit student uses voice to wow judges in CNE's Rising Stars contest

By Brock Weir

"My taste is not what you would expect from an 11-year-old," says Aurora's Louisa Barbosa, as she settles into a seat in her bright living room with a guitar behind her.

While the guitar rests silent behind her, to her left is a keyboard with another guitar nearby. It is clear this is a house of music.

"There is Guns N Roses, Iron Maiden, Elton John, Eric Clapton—" she continues.

"Yeah, it's my fault," interjects her father, Fabio. "It's all the old stuff."

Although Louisa's tastes might skew towards the classics, she picked a decidedly modern artist as an inspiration when she auditioned to take part on the Rising Stars competition which will be held later this month at the CNE.

Evidently her rendition of Adele's "Crazy for You" did the trick, and she will be up on stage on August 18, showing off her voice in the talent competition which has attracted up and coming artists from far and wide.

"I saw a poster on a billboard at my school and I decided to look up the website, and my mom said, 'Hey, you should enter,' so I did," says the student at Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School, who is preparing to enter Grade 6 this September. "I do play guitar, but I have only been playing for about two years. I have been enjoying it, but I want to focus on singing first and slowly, as I get better, bring it into my career."

After logging onto the website, it was a team effort to get things done with Louisa and her mother, Margarida, looking for the best backdrop to film her video audition, getting the video just right, and then facing an uphill battle to get the actual audition uploaded. It was all worth the effort, however, and it might be a long time coming.

"Singing has always been a big part of my life," Louisa explains. "I have been doing it for my whole life, but when I was six I really wanted to be good and wanted to have a career out of it."



Aurora's Amanda MacDonald is also in the Rising Star competition. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

At that age, one of her early influences was Hannah Montana but, she says, those tastes don't extend to what she describes as "Pixie Cut Miley."

"I just liked her attitude," she says of Miley Cyrus' alter-ego. "I liked the fun nature of it and even now I like listening to some of her more country tracks that she did a whole while back and they are really pretty."

Fast-forward five years and she sees some similarities to Adele in what she is trying to do. She has an affinity for the blues, songs that are on the slower side and not necessarily "pop-ish." Singing, she says, gives her confidence and that is a trait her parents have noticed as well.

"She is most comfortable when she sings," says Margarida. "Off the stage she seems a little bit shy, but when you give her a microphone and a guitar, she has got it all! Guitar is almost part of the decoration in this house right now. It's everywhere. Every half hour we have a song playing in the house with her singing and playing and it has been fun."

At the moment, however, Louisa is primarily focused on the August 18 rounds where she is "noodling" Adele's "Don't You Remember" and Birdy's "Skinny Love" as her songs of choice.

"I am definitely going to try my best, obviously, and pick songs I think will showcase who I am, how I sing, and hopefully everyone with enjoy it," she says. "I just want the judges to like what I do when I perform and like my energy. I want them to like my voice and like me in general. I hope they enjoy it!"

For more information on the Rising Star competition, visit tinyurl.com/risingstar-CNE.

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Advertorial

Breakthrough Treatment Now Available in Richmond Hill

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

Advances in computers and engineering technologies have been able to uniquely blend with chiropractic in order to both analyze and treat the human body in such a way that was never before realized.

According to Dr. Sean Eastman, "This new form of computerized treatment is so gentle and effective, that it amazes even the most skeptical patients. It's called the ProAdjuster and is the latest, state-of-the-art technology in existence today, and the only one in the north Richmond Hill area.

The ProAdjuster can safely and gently analyze and treat the spine and other joints to remove the nerve impingement that is often the cause of pains in the lower back, neck, shoulder, and elsewhere in the body. It also works on a variety of muscular conditions to loosen tight muscles with ease and comfort. Many patients say that it's like getting a mini-massage.

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

Dr. 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



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

in the neck. Many people 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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ASK THE DESIGNER

JEAN BISNAIRE

Recipe For A Kitchen To Love

“I’m planning a kitchen renovation for the fall but I’m not really sure what I want out of it. Where do I start?”

Feel free to send me your comments or questions to askjean@nichedecor.ca

I once told a woman at her dinner party that she had the most beautiful kitchen and that she must really love to cook.

She said “No, but I love to feed people”.

The kitchen shouldn’t only be a place to prepare food. It should be about a lifestyle – in this case, the woman’s love for entertaining.

I never ask my clients what they want in a kitchen. For me, it’s more important to find out how they want to live in their kitchen.

How do you see yourself in the space? Are you wearing a black dress, martini in hand, surrounded by friends while the caterer is at work, or are you in your favourite robe and slippers, clutching a mug of coffee while things are being stewed?

Once you’ve decided what life in your kitchen looks like, you’re ready to begin the planning stage.

Here are some important things to consider when you start the design process. *The kitchen is the main hub of most homes so what do you use yours for the most?* We have many kitchen projects on the go right now. We’ve partnered with a local manufacturer who does beautiful custom work and made-to-order cabinetry and he has shown us that if you can dream it, you can do it.

Do you entertain? Add an island and counter stools to create extra seating. *Do you have your meals in the kitchen?* Create a custom-dining nook for cozy family dinners. *Is it where your kids do their homework?* Why not design a built-in desk and shelving unit? Or, turn an old telephone table into a work centre or charging station! You can customize your space to suit any of your needs.

The kitchen is where everyone wants to hang out, so avoid isolation. Open concept kitchens are in hot demand right now so consider taking down a wall to accommodate more people in your space. This will bump up your re-sale value as well. (It’s never too soon to think ahead!)

Pay close attention to how you work in your kitchen. *Do you constantly find yourself reaching for things that aren’t conveniently located? Is the microwave eating into your counter space? Are your pots and pans near the stove? Do you find yourself running around between the sink, the oven and the garbage?*

Compile a list of nagging issues in your kitchen and be sure to go over them with your designer when the time comes. A functional layout is key, and the classic sink-fridge-stove triangle doesn’t work for everyone and in all spaces.

With our seemingly never-ending cold weather we want to make the most of beautiful, sunny days. A recent kitchen renovation we completed included turning an oversized window into a walk-out with a patio. The client loved having the extra space for entertaining as well as the extra natural light in her kitchen year round. Don’t be afraid to make structural changes, but always consult a professional before starting a job like that.

Like all design, *what you put into it is what you’ll get out of it.* The more you think about things and draw out your thoughts, the more tailored to your needs your kitchen will be. Careful planning will go a long way in ensuring that you love every inch of your kitchen!

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Council wants input on Region’s housing plan

From page 1

“Town-wide, we do have affordable housing options within our Downtown and other areas where we have some apartment building formats and Townhouse development formats where we closely meet that affordable housing criteria.”

That answer did not quite hit the mark for some Councillors. Councillor Gaertner continued her line of questioning, asking whether Aurora was “obligated” to follow the Regional push for increasing further rental units, but Mr. Ramunno said there is a certain threshold in meeting that mark.

“There is a threshold based on the latest information from the Region with respect to what affordability means within the Town of Aurora,” he said. “If someone were to buy a new home, that threshold is about \$420,000. The rental threshold is approximately \$1,000. We do have opportunities within the Town, we do have new housing and resale housing

that would fit that threshold. We do have rental stock within the Town that would accommodate those affordable housing opportunities.”

Those thresholds, however, did not quite wash with Councillor Evelyn Buck, who suggested they were thresholds that were far too high for the average family or individual in need of these affordable housing opportunities.

“They are not affordable for anyone that is underneath the income level of \$75,000 at least,” said Councillor Buck. “It sounds like we are concerned, but we’re not doing anything. There is only one way to make affordable housing available in the Region of York and that is to work in cooperation with the Region. The only social housing in the Region that is being built is in a partnership between any municipality and the Region. The way it happens is a [municipality provides] a site to the Region and the Region is responsible for social housing.”

“It is happening in Newmarket. They have no problem with providing social

housing. We have sites in Aurora we could provide to the Region. We have done an inventory of sites in Aurora that hasn’t seen the light of day in 10 years.”

One particular site she said she had in mind was a lot on Mary Street, near that street’s entrance to Sheppard’s Bush Conservation Area.

Responding to these concerns later in the meeting, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, who serves as Aurora’s representative at Regional Council, said there would need to be direction from Aurora Council to follow through and give advice on affordable housing initiatives coming down from the Region.

“They are draft guidelines,” said Mayor Dawe of the 10 year plan. “[The Region is] off to consultation with the nine stakeholder municipalities with the final plan to come back in 2015, so at this point the Region is essentially coming down to the municipalities looking for comments. I will commit to working with Mr. Ramunno for the best way to get Council involved in this particular process.”

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de Sereville spreads "Girl Power" in science before heading to U of T

By Brock Weir

As she set her sights on the University of Toronto's engineering sciences program, Aurora's Yvette de Sereville wasn't quite sure what to expect.

Rising through the ranks at Aurora High School, where she was recently named top scholar of this year's graduating class with a mark of a whopping 98.3 per cent, she did more than enough to secure her place in the program, plus a few scholarships to boot, but getting into the program itself wasn't the only thing on her mind.

"Girls are still a minority in my program, but I find it is a growing community," Yvette explains. "I find during the adolescent years there are a lot of insecurities, especially for women, and everyone feels shy to maybe approach that sort of field because it is so male dominant."

Those "insecurities", she said might be at the root of the problem, but there has been a concerted effort to shift those tides. U of T, for instance has hosted an all-girls weekend which Yvette says "inspired us to appreciate how much we are being welcomed into this field."

"It is great because they really encouraged us to feel comfortable," she says.

It was a lot of hard work to get there. In making the grade by a very comfortable margin, Yvette graduated Aurora High School this June not only with the top mark, but also special scholarships from U of T, as well as the Governor General's Academic Achievement Award, and scholarships in math, physics, chemistry, and French from the York Region District School Board.

"I chose to study science principally because I like to discover how the world works and the nature of things," she says. "When I approach something that is always my first question. Whenever I try to understand, I ask why, and I felt science is the best way to answer all of my enquiries."

This interest started in elementary school. By Grade 8 she says she was already feeling a connection with math and, eventually, science. The "logic" of the fields appealed to her and she eventually fell in love with the subject. Although she was always a good student, she says "I stepped up my game" when she got to high school.

"You just figure out what works best for you and it is different for each student," she says. "For me, I knew which subjects I wanted to spend more time on and then I knew which ones I could get by just doing a little bit less work on. I did a lot of work during my lunch hours and I could get that out of the way to spend more time at home just to rest and relax."

"It is really important just to be healthy, exercise, and do a few extracurriculars as well."

Those extracurriculars were the AHS band as well as their Robotics club. At AHS, Yvette says she is thankful they always "offered opportunities for all kinds of people to excel" and it was there she found her niche. Teachers were always available for extra help, particularly in Grades 9 and 10, which are often formative years for students figuring out what they want to do, develop study habits, and other methods to help them move forward.

With just a few weeks left before her big move to Toronto, Yvette is taking a well-earned rest before beginning the frantic process of packing up



Aurora student Yvette de Sereville, who recently graduated from AHS, is heading into a field this fall she has found not typically associated with young women. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

and settling in. She has been keeping in touch with those in her program over Facebook and through U of T chatrooms and although this will be her first time away from home, she is ready to get down to business.

"I am most looking forward to the challenge because it is a very challenging program, and I am looking forward to learning time management skills because of all the work I will be doing," she says. "The most important thing is to keep healthy and happy. When you are in Grade 9 and 10, it's time to explore what works for you, and getting to know your strengths and weaknesses is really important to your success in senior years."

Concussion Symposium looks to educate on player safety in minor hockey

By Jake Courtepatte

Honsberger Physiotherapy Clinic will be holding a Concussion Symposium for young athletes at King City's Country Day School on September 27.

With offices in Aurora and Markham, Honsberger has been making an effort to raise awareness of both concussion effects and the preliminary measures an athlete should take.

One such measure is what is known as baseline testing, a pre-season exam used to measure an athlete's balance, as well as physical and cognitive abilities.

While baseline testing is not a preventative method, it does allow medical professionals, coaches, and parents to better assess an athlete's concussion symptoms.

Efan Gonsalves, a Certified Athletic Therapist and Registered Physiotherapist at Honsberger, relies on baseline testing for more accurate results.

"The whole idea is to give you a baseline score, which gives you a goal of an objective score," said Gonsalves. "It gives you a number, rather than relying exclusively on somebody telling you symptom-wise what they are feeling and not feeling."

According to Gonsalves, forms of baseline testing have been around for close to twenty years. However, in its most raw form it was what Gonsalves called "pen and paper questionnaires".

"They would be your standard 'what's your name', 'what day is it' questions," said Gonsalves. "It was mostly built on looking at perception and awareness, and how well you can concentrate and focus."

Gonsalves says the main challenge of these tests were not just the simplicity, but the lack of movement as well.

"They're not often testing you in motion, in the patterns that you would be doing for your sport. What you want to find out is not only does your brain work, but what happens now when you put it under more physical pressure."

Since these early days, baseline testing has been computerized for more detailed evaluations.

"So now you're still asking the same questions,

but also doing a lot more reaction time and visual-based tests through computer programs."

Concussions and their consequences have been a major topic of conversation in the sports world as of late. Most recently, the NCAA agreed to a \$70 million settlement with former and current athletes last Wednesday for concussion research and diagnosis.

Gonsalves has worked as a trainer for a number of his son's minor Aurora Tigers hockey teams for years. He encourages the parents and players to put the athlete through baseline testing during preseasons.

The age limit of hitting in minor hockey was recently increased from PeeWee to Bantam, meaning players don't body check until they are 14 years old.

As a medical practitioner, Gonsalves can see the positive side of allowing more physical growth before

Continued on page 14



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AURORA FAMILY LEISURE COMPLEX Project Update #9

In November 2013, The Town of Aurora closed the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) for reconstruction for approximately one year. The closure was approved by Town Council in order to re-build and enhance existing facilities as well as create a new community space for youth. Many of the services that were offered at the AFLC have been moved to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex during reconstruction. However, residents are advised that:

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

July construction update in brief

- ✓ Concrete floors poured in fitness area
- ✓ Concrete for rock climbing wall is complete
- ✓ Remaining steel girders installed
- ✓ New offices framed-in
- ✓ Work has commenced on the reception area and lower offices

Photos of construction progress are shown below.



Stay tuned here for monthly project progress updates.

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FREE Week of August 7, 2014

Volleyball coach Bruce Stafford storms into Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

By Jake Courtepatte

Bruce Stafford can be found at the helm of an organization bringing the sport of volleyball to hundreds of young athletes across Aurora.

His efforts and dedication to volleyball have led him into the 2014 class of inductees to the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

Stafford played high school volleyball throughout his teens in North York, as a self-proclaimed "sports nut who paid more attention to athletics than academics."

His transition to coaching came in the early 1970's, when a work-to-rule strike hit the local schools.

"There were a few years there when we as athletes had to find a way to keep our sports teams going," said Stafford. "So we had to cover these roles."

In his grade twelve year, Stafford took on the head coaching position of the senior women's volleyball team. He also became a player/coach of the senior men's team.

In 1979, Stafford took over the Ryerson University women's volleyball team while getting his education. He held the position for seven seasons, once bringing the underdog team to the OUA playoffs.

After resigning to focus on his family, Stafford continued to be involved with various club teams throughout Ontario. In 1992, he coached a team at the Ontario Summer Games.

"I was still really enjoying the coaching aspect of it," said Stafford. "So when my kids got to an age where they started getting involved in school, they said 'dad, didn't you use to coach? We should start a club!'"

Stafford and his oldest daughter recruited some of her friends and athletes from the local elementary school. In September of 1998, The Storm was born.

"I just thought, here's a great opportunity to provide kids the education and learning of this great sport that anyone can play."

The Storm originally consisted of two girls' teams, one for each of Stafford's daughters born seventeen



Stafford gives some last minute instructions to his STORM team.

Supplied photo

months apart.

By word of mouth, the Storm expanded to five teams the following year.

"When the next tryouts came the following September, there were just too many kids there to send home," said Stafford. "I thought, why not just keep everybody?"

What began as a two-team operation has since grown to an expansive program covering all different ages and skill sets, including Rep, Select, Beach, and the in-house "Storm League".

As for being inducted into the ASHoF, Stafford said he was "literally dumbfounded."

"I was totally blown away. I try to be in the background most of the time.

When I'm working with the kids I'm in my element, I'd rather just watch the kids and see how they're being successful."

Stafford recalled the moment that he realized the impact he had on the local athletic community, when he was told that regardless of what he has done, he "provided an opportunity that was not there."

The Storm's website has the message "Providing Opportunities" across the home page, which Stafford says is the organization's main goal for young athletes.

Concerning the future of the Aurora Storm, Stafford hopes to pass the reigns

onto some of his graduating classes from the sixteen years of team history.

"We've got kids starting to cycle back," said Stafford. "They're finished university, some of them are moving home, or getting jobs in the area. Some of them want to get involved."

"I think if I can split it up and teach the right people, the organization can continue on for years to come."



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The Redbirds take to the field at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School last Wednesday in an exhibition game of women's lacrosse, a first for Aurora.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte



U11 Lady Redbirds doubleheader comes down to the wire

By Jake Courtepatte

The Newmarket Under-11 Lady Redbirds lacrosse team played host to the Orillia Lady Kings last Wednesday in an exhibition doubleheader at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS.

Both sides came out hard offensively, as the teams combined for fifteen goals in an 8 - 7 game one loss for the Redbirds.

The offensive onslaughts continued in game two, as Paige Baker opened the scoring early in the game to put the Redbirds ahead. Just minutes later, Ella Sullivan found the back of the net after taking advantage of a gap in the Orillia defence, putting the home side up 2 - 0.

After allowing four straight Orillia goals, the Redbirds would mount a comeback culminating in a Lauren

McCartney shot finding the bottom left corner to tie it late in the game.

With just six minutes left and the score tied at 6 - 6, goalie Sarah Steinbacher gave her team a boost by squaring up to make a nice chest save off an in-tight Orillia shot.

Brooke Piper would then find an opening that would lead to a breakthrough, but the potential go-ahead goal was turned away by the Orillia keeper. However, she would get her second chance with only two minutes left and the Redbirds down 7 - 6, potting her third goal of the game to end the match in a 7 - 7 tie.

Now in their second season, the Lady Redbirds compete at the U11, U13, and U15 levels.

For more information, visit www.redbirdslacrosse.com.



Aurora Minor Hockey Association



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2014/2015 REGISTRATION

In house registration at our office at ACC1 will be available on the following dates:
Wednesdays, August 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 7-9pm

REGISTRATION fees for the 2014/2015 season are:

\$655.00	Players born 1994 through 2008*
\$555.00	All new players to the association born 1994 - 2008*
\$ 50.00	Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

*First time registrants in Tyke born in 2007 and 2008 must register in person and submit a copy of a birth certificate and proof of residency.

It is recommended that 2008 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO ANY TRYOUTS FOR AAA OR ANY AMHA REP/SELECT TEAM.

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.
*Late fees do not apply to new registrants.
Refunds (less \$25 admin fee) will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2014.

Coaching applications for our Select program (Tyke - Midget) are now available on our website.

NEW REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

<https://omhahockeyparent.respectgroupinc.com/secure/>
The Ontario Minor Hockey Association has mandated that one parent per family must complete the online "Respect In Sport" - Parent Program in order for their child to be rostered to an AMHA team this season



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Brandon and Katie wait patiently to cut loose with "Footloose" at Town Park on Sunday night. Sponsored by State Farm, this retro installment of the Movies in the Park series featured the classic 1984 musical starring Kevin Bacon and John Lithgow. Movies in the Park returns Tuesday, August 26, from 6 - 10 p.m. with an End of Summer Superhero Party at Hickson Park (Conover and Borealis), and again on Thursday, August 28, at Norm Weller Park (McClennan Way, just east of Bathurst).
Auroran photo by David Falconer

Orangeville Show Jumping Tournament celebrates 30th anniversary

By Angela Gismondi

The Orangeville Show Jumping Tournament features fun for the whole family.

The 30th annual horse show, taking place from Aug. 14 to 17, features world-class show jumping in four competition rings - two jumper and two hunter - at the 84-acre Orangeville Agricultural Society (OAS) Event Centre, located minutes from downtown Orangeville.

"We have everything from Olympic level athletes, to amateur level athletes to kids on ponies and everything in between," said event organizer Ainsley Hayes. "It's fun for the whole family, an event that everyone can come and enjoy."

The Orangeville Show Jumping Tournament is run by the Hayes family, led by two-time Canadian Olympian Jay Hayes and his wife, Shawn, who act as the co-presidents of the tournament. Their three daughters, Lauren, Ainsley and Regan, all play vital roles in the competition's organization and success. The family has been organizing show jumping tournaments in various locations across Ontario for 30 years. Three years ago the Hayes, who own a horse farm in Mono, decided to move the tournament closer to home. The OAS Event Centre was the perfect choice.

"It's ideal for our sport," said Ainsley. "The OAS has great footing naturally; sand over grass. It's one of my dad's favourite sayings 'no foot, no horse.' No footing, no horse show."

The tournament began in 1984 when a group of equestrian enthusiasts from all walks of life decided to get together and organize an event to celebrate the sport. The horse show was held in Sutton for two years until organizers decided to move it to Collingwood where it was held for 21 years. There, the event grew and in 1995, it became a two week event.

"There was a demand for more," explained Hayes. "People loved the horse show and they didn't just want to spend one week up there."

After celebrating 21 years in Collingwood, the Hayes moved their event to Nepean for four years.

"It was a great event, really well received by the community, but it was never home," noted Ainsley, adding the tournament's new home is right in the family's back yard and helps support the community.

"This area and all the surrounding areas are horse communities," Ainsley stated. "Being here in this area is really great for our sport. We live in this area and this event brings in a lot of tourism dollars. By bringing it closer to home, we are supporting and engaging our community."

She pointed out that it has become

very expensive to travel in the last few years and bringing the event closer to home makes it more economical for people to participate and attend.

Friday and Saturday offer the perfect opportunity to enjoy the sport at its best. Friday's 'Derby Day' culminates in the \$5,000 Mitton/Lewtas Canadian Hunter Derby. Pack a picnic and enjoy a Pommies Dry Cider tailgate party while watching the horses and riders test their skills and finesse over natural obstacles on the open grass field. A full schedule of hunter classes are offered in the main hunter grass ring all week long, while on Friday the ponies will compete on natural sand to celebrate 'Pony Day'; including Pony Power Qualifiers.

Saturday night puts show jumping in the spotlight with the main event beginning at 6 p.m., the \$50,000 CSI2* Zucarlos Grand Prix, presented by Kubota Canada and Stewart's Equipment.

Other show jumping highlights include Thursday's \$5,000 Hayes Co. Open Welcome and Friday's Mitton/Lewtas Family Jump Canada Talent Squad. Young Horse classes for five and six-year-olds will be held on Saturday afternoon, as well as the very special seven and eight-year-old class held in memory of Lynn Millar, the late wife of 10-time Canadian Olympian Ian Millar. The Saturday afternoon session wraps up with the \$2,500 Premier Marine 1.40m Junior/Amateur Classic. The event will also include a Kids Zone with activities for children of all ages.

Sunday features the \$10,000 1.35m Highland Meadows Modified Grand Prix while the youngest riders on the show grounds will strut their stuff in the adorable leadline competition. To cap off the week, the Iron Horse Farm Jumper Parade of Champions will recognize all of the outstanding performances at this year's Orangeville Show Jumping Tournament, including the Equifit Inc. Top Trainer Award and the M. Michael Meller Style Award.

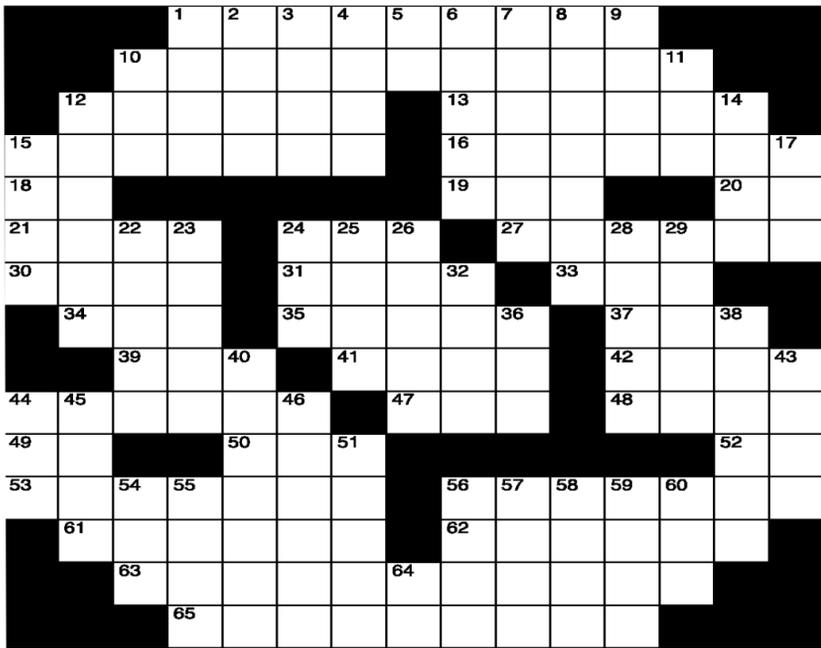
Throughout the week, spectators can enjoy the action from the ringside 'Champions Pub', open to all, or purchase seating in the VIP tent. Pommies Dry Cider will be flowing in both locations.

The Hayes family hopes to continue the event for many years to come.

"We hope to expand and keep growing," said Ainsley. "It's still a relatively new event in this area."

For more information on the Orangeville Show Jumping Tournament, including the prize list, entry forms and sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.hayesco.ca or e-mail info@hayesco.ca.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



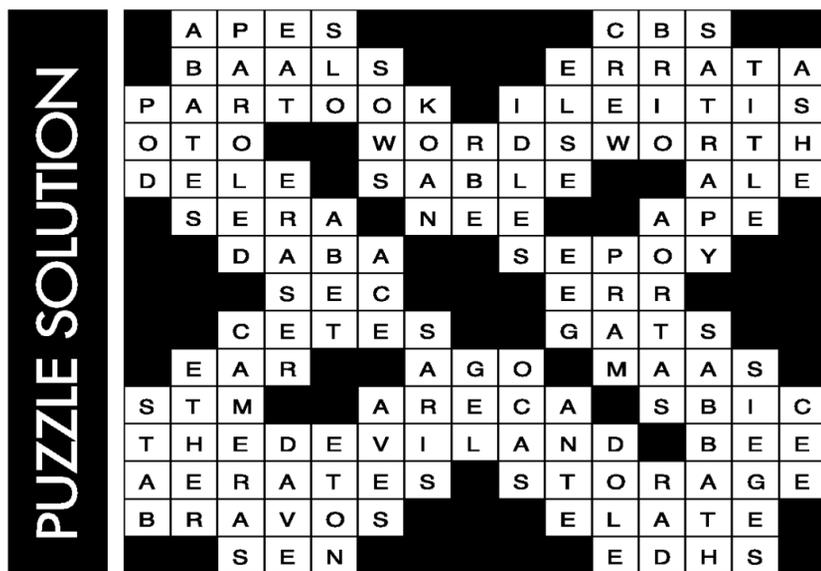
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Derived from senses
- 10. Extemporaneous
- 12. Japanese religion
- 13. Body louse (slang)
- 15. Most adroit
- 16. Formatted electronic data
- 18. An alternative
- 19. 3rd largest whale
- 20. 6th tone
- 21. Gentlemen
- 24. Car mechanics group
- 27. Breakfast pastry
- 30. Where one sits
- 31. Oh, God!
- 33. Scientific workplace
- 34. No seats available
- 35. MN 55120
- 37. Assistance
- 39. Environmental Protection Agency
- 41. Reconstruct
- 42. Russian ruler
- 44. Female Muslim quarters
- 47. Radioactivity unit
- 48. Window glass
- 49. Atomic #18
- 50. Consume
- 52. The golden state
- 53. Mosquito disease
- 56. Authoritatively ordered
- 61. Yielding
- 62. On all sides
- 63. Br. romantic poet
- 65. Cruel vocal quality

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Irritated state
- 2. Sea eagle
- 3. Fish capturing devices
- 4. An informal photograph
- 5. Old English
- 6. Competes
- 7. Pressed a shirt
- 8. Averse to others
- 9. Mother of Apollo
- 10. Radio frequency
- 11. Have already done
- 12. Baseball championship playoffs World ___
- 14. Snakelike fishes
- 15. Br. slang for sleep
- 17. Telegraphic signal
- 22. More scarce
- 23. Step excavation of ore
- 24. Envision
- 25. A gelling agent in foods
- 26. Impatient expectancy
- 28. Civil Rights group
- 29. 3rd largest Balearic island
- 32. Mama's partner
- 36. Head gesture
- 38. Moved to music
- 40. N. & S. of the new world
- 43. Discern the written word
- 44. Thigh of a hog
- 45. Mures river city
- 46. Crew member
- 51. Liang weight units
- 54. ___ Angeles
- 55. Adrenocorticotropin
- 56. Mend a sock
- 57. Shallowest Great lake
- 58. Gadidae fish
- 59. Area floor coverings
- 60. Point midway between NE and E
- 64. "You know" in Canada

Last Week's Puzzle Solution



Hugh Graham and KingRidge Stables' Distant Star 3E, winners of the 2013 \$50,000 CSI 2* Zucarlos Grand Prix.

Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography

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Doors Open 2014: Visit The Petch House on Saturday August 16

By Jacqueline Stuart

The Petch house is associated with Isaac Petch, one of the sons of a Yorkshire family who came to Whitchurch Township in 1817.

Jonathan Petch, the head of the family, had been a ship's carpenter and no doubt passed on woodworking knowledge to his farmer sons. Family lore says that the house was built in 1844, but experts have said that there are some indications of an earlier date, perhaps even the 1820s.

The Petch family settled at the northeast corner of what is now Wellington and Leslie; the lot extended eastward as far as Woodbine.

Isaac married a neighbour, Emma Hacking, in 1844. If the family's date for the log house is correct, then the construction of the dwelling may well have been prompted by the need for a house for the young couple. The house was on the north half of the original lot, which was bisected horizontally to provide farms for Isaac and one of his brothers, John.

With the deaths of Isaac (in 1899) and Emma (in 1904), this Petch farm passed out of the family, but the old log house was treasured by the owners who followed.

The late twentieth century brought immense change to the whole environment of the Petch farms. Highway 404 sliced vertically through the properties, and brought with it pressure for commercial development with easy access to the highway and Wellington.

With the sale of the farm for re-development to SmartCentres, the log house was removed from the site under an agreement with the developer.

The house perched forlornly on the east side of Leslie Street for several years, a bit south of Wellington. Unoccupied and exposed to the elements, its condition deteriorated.

After much debate and consultation, it was finally decided to dismantle the house, save all usable components, and have the house rebuilt as closely as possible to its original appearance, with appropriate replacement materials where necessary. This work was carried out under the

guidance of timber building expert Peter van Nostrand and by Town of Aurora Parks and Recreation staff.

The site selected as the permanent location for the building was at the main entrance to the Aurora Arboretum, which is, of course, where you will visit the Petch Log House on Doors Open Aurora day.

"But that's not a log house!" exclaims the passer-by.

One step inside will assure the visitor that it is indeed a log house, but it is true enough that on the exterior the logs are completely hidden by narrow horizontal boards.

Far from being an unfortunate modernization, this cladding is exactly what most early log house owners dreamed of.

For some, the clapboard siding had to await the accumulation of sufficient funds and easy access to a sawmill. For others – probably including the owner of the Petch house, built at a relatively late date – the boards were applied at the outset. The boards

met practical needs such as keeping out the wind and moisture, and they also were strong indicators that the owners were relatively prosperous.

They were also reminders of the "real" houses which some log house owners remembered from Great Britain or older parts of the United States.

No early photos of the Petch house have come to light, so how do we know about the board siding? Mainly because of the form of construction used at the corners of the exterior walls.

The joints between the logs are squared off and provide no means of shedding water: they were not meant to be exposed to the weather. Sloping dovetail joints, on the other hand, would have provided the slanted surfaces which allowed water to run away.

Further, the logs are punctured with the holes where the boards were nailed on. The removal of the original boards decades ago, possibly in the belief that they were not



Petch House now stands at the entrance of the Aurora Arboretum. Submitted photo

authentic, hastened the deterioration of the logs.

Inside, the visitor can see the great size of those logs. How old were those trees when they were cut down in the 1840s or earlier? On Doors Open Aurora day it may be difficult to get a quiet moment in the Petch log house, but if you have the opportunity, imagine away the other people, the noise of traffic, the lights by the front door.

Imagine the house back on its original site to the east, on a rise of land and surrounded by a mixture of cultivated fields and forest. Imagine the Petch children growing up here, cold in the winter, hot in the summer. Imagine Isaac and Emma moving into their first home together.

Imagine the logs as trees in the forest, not yet seen by any European.

The Petch house can take you on a long journey into the past.

The Petch house will feature a number of fun, family-oriented pioneer activities on-site from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To help plan your day on Saturday August 16, be sure to check out www.doorsopenontario.on.ca to see a full list of participating sites for the Doors Open Aurora event.



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Work starts up again on Yonge & Industrial property, raising eyebrows at Town Hall

By Brock Weir

Alarm bells were raised at Town Hall earlier this week after work began again on a piece of property in the south end of Aurora that was subject of scrutiny last summer.

Bylaw officers were on the scene Monday morning of a construction site on the west side of Yonge Street near Industrial Parkway South after trucks began removing topsoil, or fill, from the site, according to Neil Garbe, CAO for the Town of Aurora. Staff intercepted them and asked them to cease.

The end goal from the Town's perspective is to remove the soil dumped there last year, but timing is everything. "We have laid charges previously and we're working through the case right now through the court system to put a framework agreement in place guiding how the restoration of that site will take place," said Mr. Garbe. "They will have to remove the fill at some point, so I think they just jumped the gun on it. They were waiting for a road access permit from the Region, which I understand they got, so they

were anxious to get started. However, what we would like them to do is do it during business hours and that it be done under supervision so that we can monitor what is going on at the site and make sure it is [restored] back to its original state.

Stop work notices were issued on the site in question back in July 2013, after what the Town of Aurora and the Region of York described as "illegal" clearing and cutting. The land had been under close watch after 1.5 hectares of trees were removed from the site, which is on the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Legal proceedings were then commenced by the Region and the Town against the property owners, which is still before the courts.

"We're certainly working towards an understanding of how we want things done, and this was certainly outside those boundaries," said Mr. Garbe. "Whether we need to press another site alteration charge or not is still a question. We will be looking in the next day or two at working with the owners and trying to bring resolution to the whole situation."



SENIOR SCAPE

Charles Sequeira

YR Senior 55+ Senior Summer Games:

Congratulations to our members who received medals for the various events held in York Region: Nick Cary, Bea Ego, Evelyln Foster, Annette Gagne, Joanne Keates, Tom Keates, Lorna Nadeau, Minoo Nejad, Kanji Patel, Myrna Rawlins, Bill Summers, Don Zecchino.

Congratulation Erlinda Biondic

As mentioned to me by husband George, Erlinda competed in her first walking race ever. She completed at the age of 74, 212km in a three day race in May 2014 in Augusta, NJ. As a result she set nine Canadian Age records and two World Age Records. Erlinda, as a member and Volunteer of our Seniors' Centre, we are all proud of your achievements.

Aurora Seniors' Association's Evergreen Choir Rehearsals Recommence

Our last season was exciting, fulfilling and fun, as I am sure the coming one will be. Our first practice, under the direction of Dr. Richard Heinzle, will take place on Wednesday, September 10, from 1.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. in the West McKenzie Hall, Aurora Seniors' Centre.

As before, members are re-requested to be present by 1.30 to pick up music or other information. Enrolments can again be made at the front desk of the Centre starting in August, and it would be appreciated if members did this before the first practice if convenient. Our choir, composed of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, is over 40 members strong, and, as always, we look forward to welcoming new ones. The Evergreen Choir is open to members of the ASA Seniors Centre. Membership to join

the Centre is \$20 for Aurora residents and \$25 for non-residents. If you have any questions, please inquire at the Reception Desk, 90 John West Way, Aurora, or call 905-726-4767.

Art Class Showing at the Town of Aurora Skylight Gallery

Congratulations to the three artists from our Seniors' Centre who are showing their art display for the month of August 2014! Please take the time to see their art work displayed in the Starlight Gallery, third floor at Town Hall. The artists involved in the display are: Bud Switzer, Marlene Ash and Ron Lorenz.

Seniors' Day at the Farmers Market - August 2, 2014

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your help and participation in this special event at the Town Park. I think everyone enjoyed the show, the information booth, the chess games, setting up of the sound system and erecting the information canopy booths. Without volunteers an event such as this one would not be possible as we always need the "behind the scenes" people as in most shows. I think the audience really enjoyed the show and showed it with their applause!

To Dave and to some of the Keep Singing group

To Charles and the line dancers

To Cliff, Jim, Jimmy, Alex and Bud for their singing

To John for his playing on the electronic keyboard

To Joy for playing the piano

And to Lorraine for singing

Thanks again everyone for a great show!

Baseline testing is key in managing damage: symposium

From page 10

introducing hitting.

"At eleven and twelve years old, there are a lot of things that are changing in the brain. That's probably when as players they're the most vulnerable to the damages of concussion injury, for short and long term."

"It's such a radical time when the brain is changing from the child side of functioning to the adult side."

While different athletic governing bodies may have varying methods of concussion testing, Gonsalves says the latest standardized test is the Sport Concussion Assessment Tool 3 (SCAT3). SCAT3 tests an athlete's physical and mental responses, both for baseline testing and for those post-concussion.

The Concussion Symposium will not only be geared towards athletes, but coaches, parents, and health care providers as well.

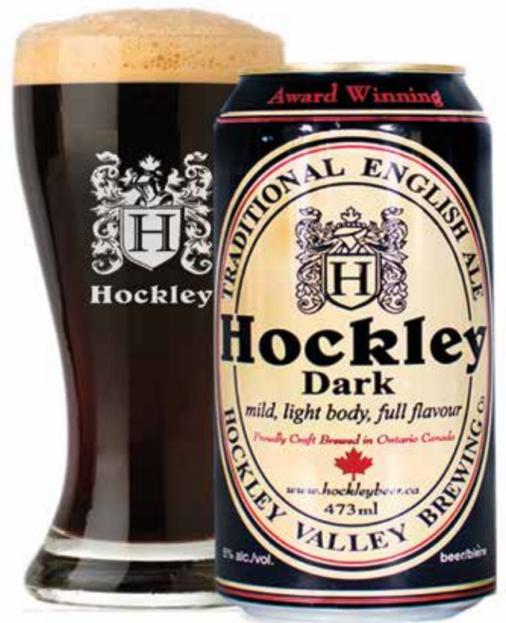
"We want everyone on the same page," said Gonsalves. "So that each group understands the challenges and pitfalls from each side, and can hopefully come up with some better

strategies to manage the communication gap."

The Auroran will be visiting the Honsberger Physiotherapy Clinic next week to get hands-on experience with baseline testing. Look for the results in next week's edition.

More information on the Symposium can be found at www.honsbergerphysio.com.

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And now it's August. We have just experienced one of the busiest days this season at the Farmers' Market. Fortunately, the rain held off and we had a warm but not humid day for our annual Seniors' Day.

The seniors were set up under a canopy inviting people to play chess with an expert and they also provided us with great entertainment from 10 – 11.30 a.m.

Thank you to Charles Sequeira, the President of the Aurora Seniors' Association, for exceeding the entertainment and to all the talented performers who volunteered to sing and dance for our enjoyment.

The Farmers' tables are now groaning under the weight of all the produce now available. Local corn is now readily available, as well as cauliflower, broccoli and red cabbage.

The first of the field tomatoes are arriving as well. As for fruit, we have both raspberries and strawberries, and now the red and black currants, red gooseberries, wild blueberries, cherries and yellow plums are ready. Andy, of 19th Avenue Farm, had beautiful apricots on Saturday and there will be more available next week. It is an abundant time at the Farmers' Market.

Now, I'd like you to meet Johnmark of Cracklin Kettle Corn. He grew up in Uxbridge and attended Uxbridge Secondary School. He was a clarinet player and a participant in the school music programme. He loved being in the band and the thrill of mastering the technical difficulties of the pieces they were required to play.

He appreciated being part of a group of kids who were working together to achieve a goal. That experience taught him principles that he uses today.

He grew up in a divided family: he and his mom and his step-dad and his three boys. As a teen, he had little mentoring, and since he lived in a rural area far from town, he had few friends to socialize with. He spent a lot of time with his grandparents on Lake Simcoe in the summers.

He attended Pickering College for his final year of high school and loved living on campus. He was exposed to students from a variety of different ethnic backgrounds and cultures.

There was a dichotomy however. Johnmark felt that he was different from the others because he lived by his own principles and ethics and was teased because of that. However, those principles received high praise from his teachers. He



MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

found a creative way to drum up support and acceptance from the students. He created a cantina in his dorm room and acquired supplies that he sold to students at better prices than those offered by the vending machines.

An entrepreneur was born. He continued this for some time until he was caught by the Dean. Apparently the Dean was amazed that the booming little enterprise was operating right under his nose.

By the time he was 28, Johnmark had bought his first house and became a landlord. He then began his career of self-employment. He was smitten by the idea of building something from scratch out of nothing. He loved the idea of pooling resources to form a business, a product or a brand in a fun environment while making money. He is attracted to the idea of creating an idea that helps people have a better day while making money at the same time.

Johnmark's creativity continues today with many ideas, inventions and plans. One of those resulted in the creation of his business at the Aurora Farmers' Market called Cracklin Kettle Corn Inc.

Kettle corn is simply corn oil, sugar and popcorn brewed in a large kettle over high heat. After it is popped, it is lightly salted. The combination of salty and sweet has been very popular. His brother-in-law, Steven, helps him at the booth.

He used to work for the government as an economist but the work was dull and repetitive. Now Steven and Johnmark have a great routine and enjoy working together at the Market. They are located near the end of the row on Wells Street on the west side. Drop by to say hello and ask for a sample.

The next special event at the Market takes place on August 16th and is our new Family Day. We will have about 20 tables for a Mom-to-Mom sale between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. There will be a children's entertainer, Markus Music, from 11 – 12 noon as well as a face painter and balloon animals. We will also have kids' crafts, a scavenger hunt and our usual draw for a Market bag full of donations from our Market vendors. The draw for the Market bag will take place at noon.

This is a new event for us and we are very excited to be able to focus on families on this day so please plan to attend with your children and grandchildren to participate in this exciting new endeavour.

See you at the Market!

SENIORS DAY AT THE MARKET

The Aurora Farmers' Market, in association with the Aurora Seniors Association, hosted Seniors Day on Saturday. Seniors entertained the

crowds at the Town Park band shell as patrons of the Aurora Farmers' Market did their weekend shopping. While there was a lot of fun to be had at the band shell, fun for the more serious-minded was provided by Brian Warburton, left, who was on hand for a chess challenge.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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COMING EVENTS

JULY 5 – SEPTEMBER 6

The Pine Tree Potters Guild hosts "Earth to Fire", a new exhibition of fine art ceramics by members of the guild, to showcase works that move beyond the functional. Featuring 46 pieces selected by ceramics expert Bruce Cochrane, he has gone a step further and singled out seven exceptional pieces as award winners. Guild members were encouraged to stretch their artistic vision and create their own statement pieces, and the results will be spread over two galleries at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Additional features include a ceramic "patchwork quilt."

AUGUST 1 – 29

Artists Marlene Ash, Bud Switzer and Ron Lorenz of the Aurora Seniors' Centre have taken over the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall for a new art exhibition. The Gallery is open from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Aurora's Sobey's Extra will host an evening of education, discussing what GMO foods really are, how they are impacting the population, and how you can reduce your intake of Genetically Modified Organisms. The class is free, but registration is required. For more information, call 905-726-2530.

Artists Marlene Ash, Bud Switzer and Ron Lorenz of the Aurora Seniors' Centre will host a reception in the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. to mark the opening of their exhibition. Enter the gallery from the rear north entrance of the building.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

Create an obstacle course at the Aurora Public Library:

Wriggle through a tunnel, do the limbo and quote your favourite book character. Use these ideas in writing or drawing funny, silly, over-the-top actions for family and friends to do in your custom obstacle course. Armed with craft paper, sidewalk chalk, books, props and ideas, we'll create and then test each other's personal course! 2 – 3 p.m. Ages 6 – 8.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Build-a-Bot: The Aurora Public Library hosts the Build-A-Bot Makeshop today from 10 – 11.30 a.m. for kids five and up. Build your own simple magnetic robot. Try different variations, see how big you can make your "bot" and learn some fun magnetic magic tricks. Drop in!

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce hosts a pub night this evening at Crabby Joe's Tap & Grill (125 Pederson Drive) from 5.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. for Chamber members, as well as non-members. Cash bar.

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with The Jersey Boys Tribute, featuring songs like "Sherrie", "Big Girls Don't Cry" and "Dawn (Go Away)" will create "Oh What a Night" for the whole family. Join us for a memorable Jersey Boys tribute created by Pauly and the Goodfellas. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Time Travel Photos at the Aurora Public Library: Travel back in time as we insert your photograph into a scene from Aurora's past. Fool history and sport a fake moustache produced on the Library's 3D printer. Select your backdrop and we'll email you your spoofed photo. All are welcome as part of Doors Open

Aurora from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

DIY Recycling: What can you make from junk? Anything you like! Use your creativity and do a little recycling too. The Aurora Public Library will have interesting (clean) items that aren't wanted anymore and you are welcome to bring some of your own. We'll also have scissors, glue, and other sticky things, and lots of decorations for your creation! Part of Doors Open Aurora, from 2 – 4 p.m. Ages five and up.

AUGUST 19 - 22

Do you speak math? The transition to high school math can be challenging! Get a head start with teacher and mathematician Danielle Rasu-Park at the Aurora Public Library for four sessions. Topics include operations with integers, fractions, solving equations and more. For students entering Grade 9 Academic math classes. Tuesday to Friday from 2 – 3.15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with Les Smith – Fresh Horses. Join us for the ultimate tribute performance to Garth Brooks, the #1 selling musical artist in US history. Don't miss this evening of high-energy country music. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will host a British Pub Night this evening beginning at 6 p.m. Experience the fun of an evening at a typical British pub. Music, games, lots of prizes, food, and camaraderie galore! Fish & Chips wrapped in the old English way – in newspaper! \$8 pp. For more information, call 905-727-9932.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

LEGO at the Library: Today is Drop-in Library LEGO Day at the Aurora Public Library. Join us for some free creative building fun at the Library from 2.30 – 4 p.m. Meet new friends and work together to make amazing LEGO creations!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series concludes tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park for Green River CCR – the best loved music of Credence Clearwater Revival! This fun night of country rock includes "Proud Mary", "Suzie Q", "Who'll Stop the Rain" and all their great hits. Concert runs from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

End of Summer ART BLAST – Take a break from technology. Join artists from Sherman J. Studio and Local Colour Aurora as they show off their latest paintings. Styles range from traditional to quirky and everything in between. Come and meet the artists and explore their visual language of shape and colour. This Fine Art Show and Sale takes place at 89 Temperance Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All ages are welcome and admission is free.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Aurora Seniors Association welcomes you to the annual Country & Western Dance from 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre (90 John West Way). Come and dance to the sounds of the Dustaleros Big Band for only \$10 a ticket. All ages welcome. Refreshments will be available and there will be a cash bar. Tickets will be sold at the Seniors' Centre starting August 4. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

To submit your event send details in 100 words or less to letters@auroran.com with the subject line "Coming Events".

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Patrick Drive, Webster Drive, Hutchinson Road, Richardson Drive - 108 houses

Route D-28b

Richardson Drive (part of), Lee Gate - 69 houses

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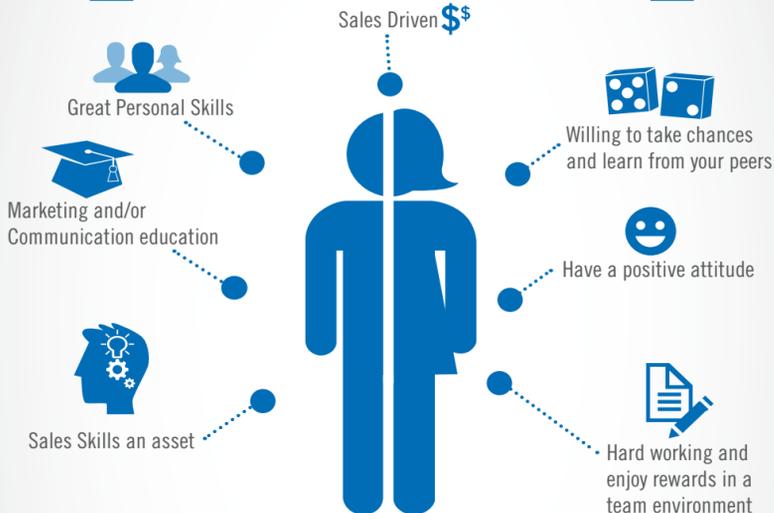
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ELECTION 2014

Harold Kim wants to be “part of team” to plan solid vision for Aurora

By Brock Weir

Harold Kim jokes that his wife often refers to him as “Captain Justice” in that if he sees injustice going on anywhere, he often wants to step in and see what he can do about it.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Mr. Kim came to Canada 41 years ago, settling in Aurora from Oak Ridges four years ago, and now he is vying to be one of Aurora’s next Councillors.

Mr. Kim joined the Council race early this spring, noting that over the past four years he has become more “in tune” with what is going on in Aurora and yet, conversely, “just a little bit puzzled” by some of the things going on and the decision-making leading up to it.

While he has been steadily working on his campaign over the spring and early summer, there was a blip on the radar when Chris Ballard’s seat became vacant and he was one of three candidates currently seeking election who put his name forward for the spot. Obviously, it wasn’t a successful bid, but it served his purpose – getting his name out there and showing the incumbent Council and the public at large what is driving him this fall.

“I was just puzzled by some of the procedures and directions that were taken [over the last four years] and I just felt that perhaps I could be part of the team or solution that could help better resolve certain situations or help evaluate which direction the Town should take,” he says.

With a background in finance, Mr. Kim says a large part of his background and experience is in “due diligence, research and competitive intelligence,” qualities he says will be valuable around the Council table. With this in mind, it is perhaps unsurprising that one of the major issues currently on his radar is the planned Joint Operations Centre, which is due to come up for a thorough Council review next Tuesday, August 14.

“Over the course of several months it has grown [from about \$15 million] to \$27 million at the last count and reading the pros and cons, and those not advocating for the bump-up, the gist seems to be some people thought because the real estate market is doing so well that the Town could charge higher development charges,” he says. “Whenever you say you ‘could’ do something and you’re forecasting well into the future, that is too many variables for my comfort level and I do generally believe that you shouldn’t spend beyond your means.” I think this is one example where I thought if I had more information and

I was there to provide more input and clarification, perhaps people might have a different perspective on the decision that they made.”

Another issue he says would have benefited from better due diligence is the failure of the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) in Aurora’s Downtown Southeast Quadrant. Fulsome public consultation, he says, should have been done to gauge the interest of residents most directly impacted by an HCD before any further money was spent on consultants for the work they did.

Looking ahead to the next four years, one of the biggest challenges Aurora will face will be costs associated with infrastructure, Mr. Kim says. Citing proposed new trunk sewers to carry its load up to Lake Simcoe, he says the only way Aurora will have to pay for it is through property taxes.

“The Town is going to take a significant hit in the next several years and that is an area I would like to tackle and help towards finding a responsible and manageable solution to that.”

Looking at infrastructure on a smaller scale, Aurora neighbourhoods in general need to be better connected, he says, specifically looking at areas such as Stone Road off Bayview Avenue south of Wellington, that are not connected to the rest of the town via sidewalks. An increased emphasis should be put on sidewalks to connect these areas, as well as on trails and an investigation into whether further cycling lanes would be a good investment for Aurora.

Mr. Kim says he sees communities like Newmarket and Markham take advantage of great destinations to walk or cycle to, particularly their respective Main Streets, and that is a vision he would like to see in Aurora. While many view Yonge Street as that “Main Street” destination, Aurora should look beyond that to really zero in on a destination.

“For a lot of us, it is said people’s identities are defined by the communities they live in and I don’t think anyone really wants to be defined by Yonge Street,” he says. “I think [Yonge Street] is more of a place where youth and people could go to for a night on the Town, more of an entertainment area, but I don’t think it would be a street where young families can go and make a day of it.”

Looking ahead to the October 27 election, Mr. Kim says he is most looking forward to finding out more about Aurorans, how they feel, engaging voters and, perhaps, being able to provide a voice to people who might otherwise be disengaged from civic discourse.



Harold Kim is one of a host of new faces looking to join Council this year.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

“I am not vying for a job here; I am offering my services, and if people believe my services are needed, based on my work experience – and I think character and integrity is very

important in a candidate as well – I could be part of the team to solve problems and create a vision and execute that vision for Aurora. I would be honoured to serve in that capacity.”

Athlete partnered with “Golden Girl”

From page 1

her is a great experience, especially coming off her Olympic win. It’s really inspiring working with her, and I couldn’t ask for a better teammate.”

McLennan echoed Sendel’s remarks.

“We’re very comfortable with each other. I know how she jumps, she’s a very consistent jumper.”

MacLennan and Sendel both train at Skyriders in Richmond Hill.

Both athletes competed the next day in the individual category, where a personal-best compulsory routine vaulted Sendel into third place with a score of 152.780.

“I was very happy with it,” said Sendel. “I had a good routine, placing third was just a huge bonus.”

McLennan took home the gold with a score of 159.505, over six points higher than second place and ex-synchro partner Cockburn.

Sendel has been on the podium a number of times on both the

national and world stages, including a first-place finish at the 2011 Pan Am Games in Mexico. Most recently, she finished second in the individual category at the Canadian Championships in Ottawa.

The duo now head to China next week to prepare for the 2015 Pan Am Games qualifiers.

“We’ve got a good strong team this year,” said Sendel. “Karen (Cockburn)’s back on the team, which is awesome to have. We missed her, so we’re heading in strong.”

“We’re planning to push ourselves a little more with the logistical side,” said MacLennan. “We’re trying to do a little more than what the other girls are doing internationally.”

Qualifications run from Aug. 23-25, at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga.

“It’s really exciting,” said MacLennan. “It’s an opportunity for us to host international competition in Toronto and our backyard. It’ll give us a little bit of a taste of what it will be like next summer.”

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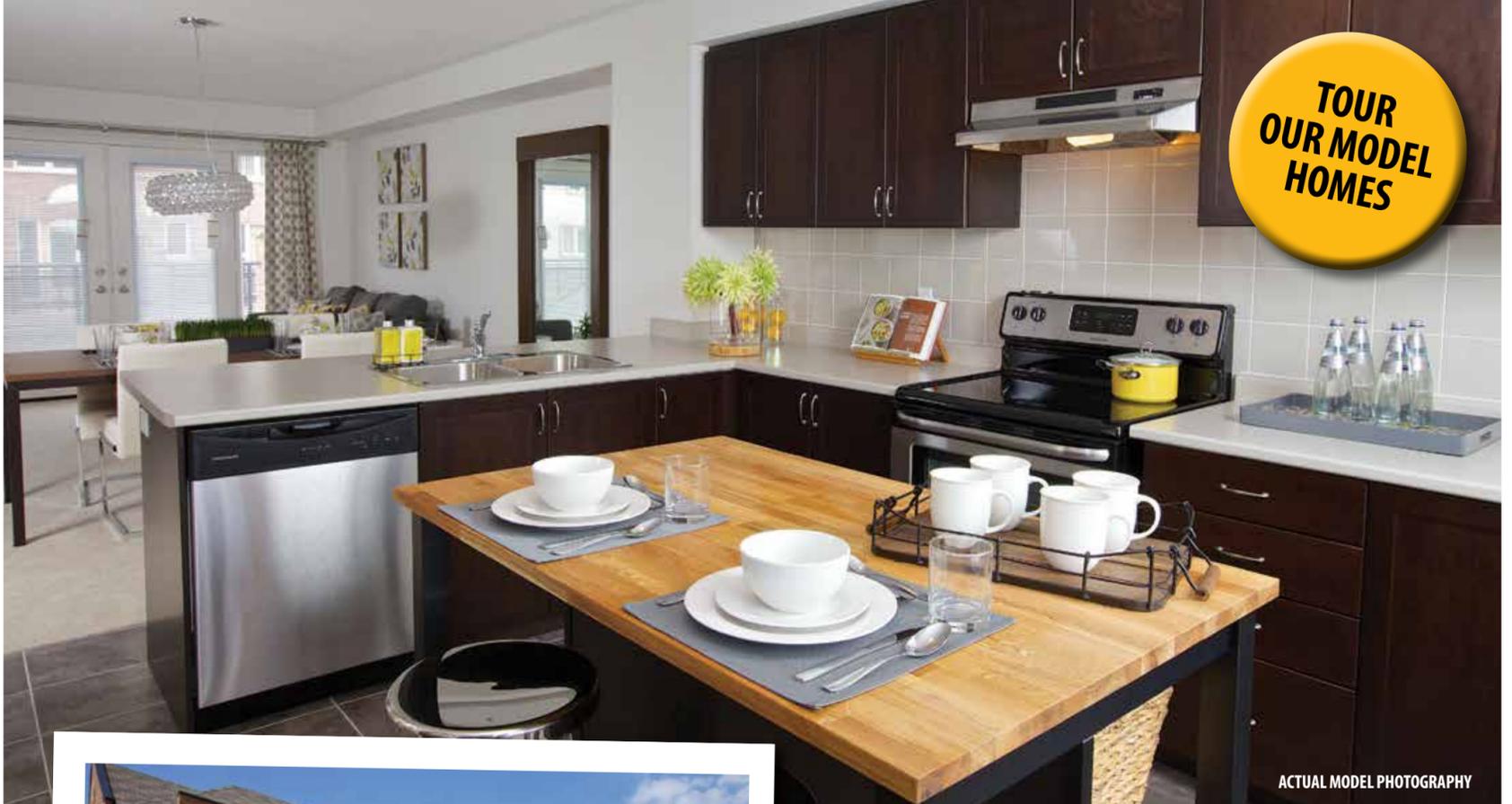
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