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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 15 No. 15 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of February 5, 2015



(L) Parishioner Marina Nemat was one of several handing out petitions outside Our Lady of Grace at last weekend's services. (R) Father Joe Gorman looks on as Cardinal Thomas Collins blesses a new garden at St. Maximilian Kolbe C.H.S. this fall. Congregants are appealing to the Cardinal to bring back Fr. Gorman.

Auroran photos by David Falconer and Brock Weir

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Our Lady of Grace rallies for popular priest

By Brock Weir

An extended standing ovation from members of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church interrupted the words of Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick at last Saturday's services.

"We know, for the most part, we all love Father Gorman," said The Bishop, as the packed congregation rose to their feet. This was not an ordinary Saturday service, however, it was the first since members of the Our Lady of Grace (OLG) community learned their pastor, Fr. Joe Gorman, had been asked to "take time away" from the parish by Cardinal Thomas Collins of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The Archdiocese in a statement cited "financial irregularities relating

to the financial administration of the parish and serious civil and ecclesiastical irregularities concerning the celebration of the sacrament of matrimony."

Following this initial statement, Bishop Kirkpatrick, followed by an amended statement from Neil MacCarthy, Director of Public Relations and Communications for the Archdiocese, amended the comment to underline Fr. Gorman did not gain personally from these "irregularities", rather "proper procedures" were not followed on "certain special collections."

According to the Archdiocese, Fr. Gorman presided at a wedding of a couple where a divorced party had not received an annulment, which is

against requirements of the Catholic Church. Following this incident, the Archdiocese says Fr. Gorman was assigned a "mentor" to ensure future weddings would follow church guidelines, but this was not the case.

A subsequent wedding was performed by Fr. Gorman between two members of the Our Lady of Grace parish in an Anglican chapel "after being advised on more than one occasion this was not permitted", and later indicated on marriage records that a minister from another denomination presided over the service.

"This activity was contrary to the laws of the Catholic Church and violated the Civil Marriage Act, putting his own license to celebrate weddings

Continued on page 8

After 91 years, an enduring Aurora tradition slips quietly into the history books

By Brock Weir

Saturday was a day like any other for the Central York Fire Service. There were a few calls here and there between Aurora and Newmarket, but nothing particularly extraordinary – at least on the surface.

With little fanfare, however, Saturday marked the end of 91-year Aurora tradition as Brian Patrick responded to his last call.

The long-time firefighter with the CYFS learned the ins and outs of

Continued on page 7

Proposed Aurora fire station could lead to better emergency response times

By Brock Weir

As Councillors from Aurora and Newmarket began talks this week on the 2015 budget for the Central York Fire Services, they were faced with how to address the needs of two growing communities.

As The Auroran reported last week, Town Hall anticipated a proposed municipal tax increase of 4.96 per cent at first blush. A larger than expected budget forecast from the Central York Fire Services (CYFS), the fire department serving both Aurora and Newmarket, however, pushed this forecast up to a 6.1 per cent tax hike.

Although Council expects this

number to go down as budget talks continue, they will have to deal with the demands of two rapidly growing communities.

Members of the Joint Council Committee, the group of Aurora and Newmarket Councillors governing the CYFS, had an appetiser of demands to come last month as consultants rolled out recommendations for their updated fire master plan. Among the chief recommendations for the community in the year ahead were increased education and prevention programs for both communities, and a proposed new fire station in the north end of Aurora that could better assist already existing

Continued on page 15

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Accessible formats
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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Saturday, February 7	9 a.m.	Council Chambers	Special General Committee Capital Budget*
Monday, February 9	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Special General Committee Capital Budget*
Tuesday, February 10	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Thursday, February 12	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Tuesday, February 17	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee*
Wednesday, February 18	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library	Aurora Public Library Board
Monday, February 23	9 a.m.	Council Chambers	Special General Committee Operating Budget*
Tuesday, February 24	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, February 25	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning*

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

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



REMINDER

Parking enforcement to commence March 1 at Town Park

The Town of Aurora is sending notices to homes and businesses around Town Park to advise residents of recent changes to parking enforcement.

Further to a discussion at Aurora Town Council on **Tuesday, January 20**, Town By-law Services staff will enforce overnight parking provisions at Town Park, in an effort to ensure proper snow removal and provide adequate parking and access for park users.

Parking enforcement will commence on Sunday, March 1.

The Town of Aurora designates permitted parking areas around its parks. Until recently, Town Park did not have signage indicating parking prohibitions. Parking signs have since been installed and enforcement will commence.

If you have any questions about parking enforcement at Town Park, please contact Town of Aurora By-law Services at 905-727-3123 ext. 4240.

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

It's that time of year again! Snow and ice are here.

Please make it safe for everyone and ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the street. It is also important to not park over sidewalks or onto the roadway. This is a hazard for residents and it severely hinders the ability of our Infrastructure and Environmental Services staff to efficiently plow our roads and sidewalks.

For more information, please call 905-726-4751 or visit www.aurora.ca

ARCTIC Adventure

Another exciting event brought to you by

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Monday, February 16, 2015
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Aurora Town Park
(Corner of Wells Street and Mosley Street)

- Live entertainment**
First Nations presentation, "Battle of the Chainsaws" and more!
- Children's activities**
Snow shoeing, mini snow tubing, floor curling and 'snow' much more!
- Inflatables, ice fishing and mini golf**
- Professional ice carving demonstrations**
- Outdoor skating**
Weather permitting. Helmets are strongly recommended.
- Aurora Farmers' Market**
Experience the market indoors at the Aurora Armoury.
- Vendors serving delicious food**
Please note, nominal fees apply.

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PLEASE NOTE, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL, AMEND OR CHANGE ACTIVITIES.

Call 905-726-4762 or visit www.aurora.ca for more information

#AuroraEvents2015



AURORA

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Town of Aurora believes in recognizing citizens who have made a positive impact in our community. We are once again calling for nominations for the 2015 Community Recognition Awards. The awards honour individuals, groups and businesses that have actively supported the Town's development and enhanced the overall community.

Download a nomination form at
www.aurora.ca/CRA

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL
Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 2 p.m.

For more information about the Community Recognition Awards, please contact Jennifer Norton at 905-727-3123, ext. 4232 or email jnorton@aurora.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Summer Student (Legal Services)
Applications deadline is **Friday, February 13**

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Skylight Gallery

In February, the Skylight Gallery will feature the artwork of Nancy Newman and Linda Welch. The featured show is "On Location – Paintings and Photographs," which features work inspired by the artists' travels to Ireland, Norway, France, Mexico, South Africa, Cuba and India.

More than 11K lbs of e-waste collected at January event

The Town of Aurora's E-Waste event on January 17 was a success. Approximately 11,574 lbs of E-Waste was collected which generated \$1,157.40 in revenue.

The funds will be allocated towards environmental initiatives within the community. 500 lbs of textiles and clothing were collected for diversion through reuse and recycling. Great job Aurora!

Dinner and a Movie

The Boxtrolls (Rated G)

Where: Aurora Public Library
When: **Saturday, February 7**
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ages: 11 to 14 year-olds
Price: Entry is \$3 per person and pizza will be served.



For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 3121.

Clear Bag Information Session

The Town of Aurora will host a drop-in Information Session at Aurora Town Hall to provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about Aurora's proposed Clear Bag Collection Program.

When: **Monday, February 9**, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Where: Aurora Town Hall, Front foyer, 100 John West Way

The Information Session will have a rotating slide presentation, samples of clear garbage bags, and staff on-hand to answer questions. A clear bag survey is also available at www.aurora.ca for residents to provide feedback on the proposed program.

At its meeting on May 27, 2014 Aurora Town Council endorsed a recommendation to review the proposed transition to a clear bag for waste collection in early 2015. Information on the benefits of clear bags was displayed over nine weeks in autumn 2014 in the Town Notice Board.

Council will be discussing the Clear Bag program in February.

Volunteers needed for Arctic Adventure event

Are you a youth looking for high school volunteer hours?

The Town is looking for volunteers at Arctic Adventure on **Monday, February 16** at Aurora Town Park!

If you are interested, please contact Nicole Young at 905-727-3123 ext. 3133 or nyoung@aurora.ca.

You can also get your volunteer application form at www.aurora.ca/arcticadventure

Temporary Road Closure on Monday, February 16

Community Event: Arctic Adventure
Date: **Monday, February 16**
Time: Start at 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Roads to be temporarily closed:

- Wells Street at Mosley Street – Full Closure
- Wells Street at Metcalfe Street – Road Closure – Local Traffic Only
- South property line to the Old Wells Street School (#64 Wells St.) - Full Closure

New Changes coming to Curbside Collection!

As of **January 1, 2015** all residents and businesses in Aurora who participate in curbside collection must comply with the following changes:



- E-waste and batteries are banned from curbside collection
- There is a maximum of **five extra bulky items** per scheduled collection. For example, you can set out a maximum of five extra bulky items along with your green bin(s), blue box(es) and garbage bag(s)/can(s).

Please note: Any items over the five extra bulky item limit will be tagged and left at the curb. You do not require an appointment to pick-up your five extra bulky items.

Residents can dispose of their E-waste and batteries at one of the The Regional Municipality of York's local depots or at the Town's scheduled E-waste events at 9 Scanlon Court.

Extra bulky items can also be taken to one of The Regional Municipality of York's depots, wait till the next garbage cycle, or contact a private removal company.

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/wasteandrecycling or call Customer Service at 905-727-1375.

For a full list of The Regional Municipality of York's depots, please visit www.york.ca

2015 Town of Aurora Budget Meeting Dates

Aurora Town Council and staff encourage residents to attend the Budget meetings and provide their input on budget items under review. Budget consultations are scheduled to move forward for final approval in April.

The following is a schedule of Town budget meetings

Date	Time	Purpose
Monday, January 26	7 p.m.	Overview Presentation of 2015 Operating & Capital Budgets Public Consultation Capital
Saturday, February 7	9 a.m.	Public Consultation Review of Town's Asset Management Plan (AMP) Review of 2014 Ten Year Capital Investment Plan Commence detailed review of 2015 Repair and Replacement, Growth and New Studies and other Recommended Investment listings
Monday, February 9	7 p.m.	Public Consultation then continue detailed review of 2015 Repair and Replacement, Growth and New Studies and other Recommended Investment listings
Monday, February 23	9 a.m.	Public Consultation, then Review of Key Changes and Tax Pressures
Monday, March 2	7 p.m.	Support provided to: Aurora Public Library Board Aurora Historical Society Aurora Cultural Board (Presentations by Each)
Monday, March 9	7 p.m.	Budget Committee Deliberations Continue
Monday, March 23	7 p.m.	Budget Committee Deliberations Continue (Subject to cancellation by Committee at Prior Meeting)
Monday, March 30	7 p.m.	Budget Committee Deliberations Continue
Tuesday, April 7	7 p.m.	Final Council Budget Approval

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

Budget information is available on the Town's website at www.aurora.ca. For more information about the 2015 Budget, please contact Dan Elliott, Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer at ourtownbudget@aurora.ca

REMINDER

Public Service Disruption

There will be a scheduled service disruption at the **Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex**.

These disruptions include:

Saturday, February 7

- PUBLIC SKATE 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. are re-located to the AURORA COMMUNITY CENTRE, 1 Community Centre Lane, Aurora. Cash or tickets ONLY.

Friday, February 13

- PARENT & TOT 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., SHINNY HOCKEY 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., LADIES SHINNY 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and PUBLIC SKATE 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. are cancelled due to a hockey tournament

Saturday, February 14

- PUBLIC SKATE 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. are cancelled due to a hockey tournament

Anti-terrorism talks bring Prime Minister to YRP’s Aurora headquarters

By Brock Weir

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was in Aurora on Thursday afternoon to hold meetings with local police and other lawmakers ahead of proposed sweeping changes to national security that were announced Friday.

Joined by Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown, Mr. Harper held talks with York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe in the operations centre of the YRP’s headquarters on Don Hillock Drive. Rounding out the group were Julian Fantino, Associate Minister of Defence, Roxanne James, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Glenn De Caire, Chief of the Hamilton Police Service, Jennifer Evans, Chief of Peel Regional Police, and Chief Paul Martin of the Durham Region Police Service.

“We are delighted to have such a distinguished and expert group here to discuss some of these issues on terrorism and crime,” said the Prime Minister at the roundtable discussion, noting its location in the command centre of the YRP.

He noted that the recently opened operations centre was a fitting place to be the backdrop for the following day’s announcement as it is, in many cases, the first place where threats to community safety are addressed and emergency responses are organized.

“We are not under any illusions on the ever-evolving, ever-changing multiple threats that we face,” said Mr. Harper at the YRP headquarters. “It is difficult to predict them all, impossible to prevent them all, but we must continually evolve and improve our tools in order to do everything we can to deal with what are obviously, potentially, very dangerous situations for the Canadian public, situations that we are seeing more and more frequently, unfortunately, all over the world in countries with whom we are very close.

“I am looking forward to hearing from chiefs on their thoughts on where we go from here. We are not going to

restrict this discussion by any means to terrorism, but also our ongoing interests as a government and your ongoing interests dealing with crime and public security threats more generally.”

Rolling out what he described as the “formal suite of measures” the following day in Richmond Hill, what Mr. Harper presented were significant changes in legislation and proposals for the Combating Terrorism Act and Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act.

Wrapped up in these proposed pieces of legislation include the criminalization of the advocacy or promotion of terrorist acts, countering terrorist recruitment by allowing courts the power to remove propaganda online, a boost to CSIS to address threats with oversight from the courts, preventing threats to transportation, and making it easier for law enforcement agencies to detain suspected terrorists before they can cause harm.

While the measures also include using classified information to deny entry and status to non-citizens who pose a threat, as well as providing extra protection to witnesses and others participating in national security proceedings, outside the legislation the government will move forward with plans to work at preventing radicalization – as well as intervening with those showing signs of radicalization – at the community level.

“Our government understands that extreme jihadists have declared war on us, on all free people, and on Canada specifically,” said Harper in a statement following Friday’s announcement. “Our government will continue to protect the rights and safety of all Canadians. We will not, however, privilege the so-called rights of terrorists and others who would harm Canadians over the rights of law-abiding citizens. The proposed legislation would provide our security and law enforcement agencies with the required tools and flexibility they need to effectively detect and disrupt national security threats before they happen, keeping Canadians safe.”



Minister Julian Fantino, Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe were among those participating in Thursday’s roundtable.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Briefly

EIGHT CHARGES IN SUPER BOWL RIDE

York Regional Police laid eight alcohol-related criminal driving charges during R.I.D.E. spot checks during Super Bowl Weekend. According to the YRP, Super Bowl Sunday is one day of the year where there is likely an increase in the number of people consuming alcohol and drugs while driving.

EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

This is Eating Disorders Awareness Week in Canada, and Aurora’s Riverwalk Wellness Centres presents a number of activities throughout the Region to mark the occasion. For more information, contact Eating Disorders of York Region at 905-886-6632 or visit www.edoyr.com.

GET PUCKSTRUCK

Join Stephen Smith, author of Puckstruck: Distracted, Delighted and Distressed by Canada’s Hockey Obsession, next Wednesday, February 11 at the Aurora Public Library. He will do a reading, followed by a Q&A session and book signing. To reserve your free seat, call 905-727-9494 x275.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Turn restrictions are “absolutely ridiculous”

After reading some proposals for the Yonge and Wellington nightmare, I think it is absolutely appalling that Councillor Mrakas is proposing no left turns at Yonge Street and Wellington.

That would mean that Tyler and Mill Streets would become more of a race track than they already are. Why they can’t have advanced green lights in all directions beats me, and why can they not be timed so that more than one vehicle can make the turn?

Traffic manages very nicely at Davis Drive and Yonge Street in Newmarket with their system of left turn lights, so I don’t see why this has been such a problem in the Town of Aurora.

Sending more traffic down Tyler Street is ridiculous. It’s already being used as a

bypass, spare parking lot for the nursing home, truck route and school bus shortcut, and, with the proposed construction of 70 or more townhouse units for the old contaminated tannery property, and additional proposed diverted traffic from Yonge....we’ll have to make an appointment to get out of our driveways.

Wake up Town Council, and start listening to the concerns of the residents who put you there.

Heather Stewart
Aurora

Empty Bowls creating hope

Empty Bowls events take place annually across North America and around the world in an effort to relive homelessness and hunger.

There is no Canadian city or town immune from the effects of homelessness and sadly this is not going to change any time soon.

These events are a great example of the vibrant communities such as ours in action. This year, Pine Tree Potters’ Guild hosted their 5th annual Empty Bowls event at the Aurora Cultural Centre to help raise funds to aid those in York Region.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who participated in the 2014 Empty Bowls Event held on December 4, 2014.

Volunteers from our Guild, the community, Welcoming Arms and Inn from the Cold did a wonderful job with the many tasks relevant to our fundraiser. Particularly, we would like to thank the chefs, restaurants and caterers who donated and served their signature soups and the bakers who donated the delicious variety of breads for both the lunch and dinner servings; Meridian Credit Union for a generous grant; Tucker’s Pottery Supplies for donating clay to make the bowls and David Schembri Design.

We would also like to thank our musicians, Jude Wood, Dave Parsons and Sam Carrothers. Last, but not least, we would like to thank the members of Pine Tree Potters’ Guild who made and donated over 500 soup bowls.

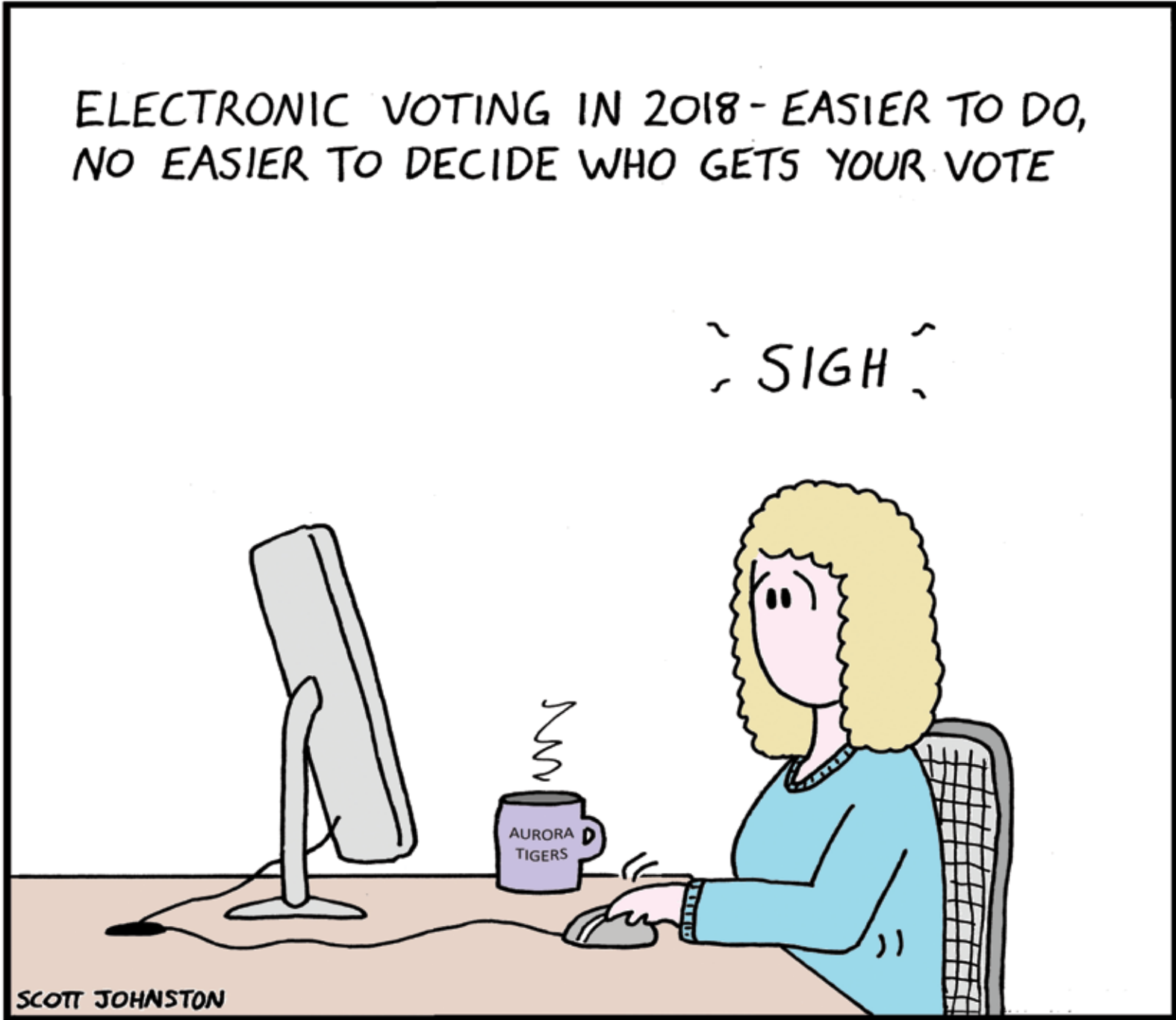
As a lasting reminder about the poverty and hunger individuals face daily, each patron took home a keepsake of a beautiful hand crafted bowl which will serve to inspire guests to direct their efforts to help fill the empty bowls in our community and around the world.

Overall, the event was an overwhelming success, raising over \$18,000 this year to be shared by Welcoming Arms and Inn from the Cold.

Each year we have been able to increase the amount donated partially due to the generosity of those who donated to our Silent Auction and Charity Table as well as those attending the event. We are looking forward to the 2015 Empty Bowls Fundraiser, November 19th.

Continued on page 14

Machell’s Corners



A Flock in Flux



BROCK’S
BANTER
Brock Weir

uplifted, and I don’t think it was from all the standing and sitting one had to do for admission!

What I observed was a devoted congregation. I hadn’t anticipated the changes Pope Francis was going to bring to the Papacy, but before that I perhaps dismissively assumed members of the church were content to trust the judgement of those going up the ecclesiastic hierarchy. Events over the past week, however, have proven the old adage of “You know what they say about people who assume...” and I am just about ready to hop on my donkey and apologise.

While I am not here to side in favour of the actions of Fr. Joe Gorman or the Archdiocese of Toronto, I am more than willing to applaud the hundreds of members of the Our Lady of Grace Church who brought their voices together to speak out collectively about what they perceived to be an injustice levied on their pastor by those higher up the pecking order.

The actions of Cardinal Thomas Collins were not necessarily taken as gospel (sorry) and OLG members were quite vocal in how they would have preferred to see things progress.

Perhaps this spirit can be attributed to Pope Francis himself, who has breathed new life into the Catholic Church with his forthright demeanor and refreshing views on society as a whole that has stimulated this spirit. Some in online petitions to bring Fr. Gorman back as soon as possible to the church ascribed this feeling to the pastor himself. Whatever the source, something is working.

There has been a growing sense expressed by the signatories that change is afoot and some involved with the situation might not be keeping pace. Some have praised Fr. Gorman for his “out of the box” thinking and not necessarily sticking to the letter of

the law, as far as church doctrine is concerned, to make a difference within the community. Were “holier than thou” views getting in the way? That can only be adequately judged by members of that particular church, but that was the view expressed by at least two individuals.

When it comes to doing what is right for the community, the congregants are clear. Aside from simply wanting their pastor back, the Our Lady of Grace community wants a say in the decisions that directly affect them, as well as “transparency, due process, and clear communication.”

On this front, both sides, in my view, dropped the ball.

In the original statement offered by the Archdiocese of Toronto, the reasons for Fr. Gorman’s current leave were described as follows: “pastoral irregularities relating to the financial administration of the parish, and serious civil and ecclesiastical irregularities concerning the celebration of the sacrament of matrimony.”

That was it. The vague nature of these reasons created more questions than answers amongst the congregation and members of the public alike, allowing the imagination to run wild and draw their own conclusions. Some might have seen financial irregularities as something on which Fr. Gorman may have had personal gain. In the event, that was not the case. And irregularities concerning the celebration of the sacrament of matrimony? I think we can all agree there was one obvious conclusion to be drawn from that statement, but apparently that is not the case.

On the other hand, the Archdiocese says Fr. Gorman was asked to “communicate” on the matter with his parishioners, as directed by the Archbishop. He, they say, chose not to do this – and here we are.

Regardless of the outcome of this clash, a bigger question has emerged.

Does the congregation of Our Lady of Grace want their church governed strictly by the book, or are they looking for something different? Are they looking for “out of the box” thinking no matter who is providing it? It seems that they are, and chances are they are not alone. It is now up to the Archdiocese to take these concerns and figure out ways to reconcile the way things are done with the way their parishioners apparently want them to be.

<div>THE AURORAN <i>Aurora’s Community Newspaper</i> The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd. 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8 Main number 905-727-3300 • Fax number 905-727-2620 Founder Ron Wallace Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S. email: administration@auroran.com</div>	<div>EDITOR Brock Weir brock@auroran.com ADVERTISING Diane Buchanan diane@auroran.com ADVERTISING Zach Shoub zach@auroran.com TODAYS NEW HOMES Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca</div>	<div>GENERAL MANAGER Bob Ince bob@auroran.com CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-3300 ex.102 cynthia@auroran.com MOTORING Heather Erwin heather@caledoncitizen.com VICE PRESIDENT SALES, MARKETING, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Karin Rossi karin@lpcmedia.ca • 416.518.064</div>	<div>PRODUCTION MANAGER Cynthia Proctor cynthia@auroran.com PHOTOGRAPHY David Falconer davidphoto10@gmail.com</div>	<div>EDITORIAL POLICY Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published, and be limited to 600 words. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright. ADVERTISING POLICY Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.</div>
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Crowds packed Trinity Anglican Church on Saturday night as members of the Toronto Welsh Male Choir raised their voices in song. That evening’s event was spearheaded by choir members who are also part of the Trinity community in an effort to raise money for Welcome Table, the program based out of the church which provides weekly hot meals and fellowship for people in need.

**Auroran photo
by David Falconer**



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Limits Thereto

Is free speech something we all truly believe in and accept, or do we all have little caveats attached to that belief?

Caveats that are unsaid but yet somehow understood? Do we say to ourselves “I believe in free speech” but then turn around and say, “... but you can’t say that,” or “I believe in free speech but there are limits.”

If we are honest with ourselves, I think we all make statements like that, either in our heads or even out loud, an implicit acceptance that some things simply should not be said.

There is tacit agreement amongst the general public about what is acceptable and what is not, but there is no universally accepted list of topics that are verboten. It is just accepted that some things “cross the line”, so to speak.

But who decides what that line is, and when someone has crossed it? Who decides who gets to offend and who gets to be offended? I think that conflict, between freedom to say what we want and the realization that not everything we say should be said, is what we as a community and as a country are struggling with right now.

The reaction to the horror of the Charlie Hebdo murders has been to clamp down on certain kinds of speech; to muzzle individuals for spouting their views. It seems reasonable given the circumstances, but I wonder about where it will lead us.

I thought about this the other day as I endured the truly horrendous movie, “The Interview”. Aside from the fact that it was absolutely awful, the movie was offensive, and not just to any semblance of the notion of art. It was offensive. Period.

The Interview was subject to much threats, hysteria or what have you from the good folks in the Politburo of North Korea. They were furious. Threats were made of a nuclear kind. A hacking scandal ensued. Actors were embarrassed (shock!) and Sony backed down – albeit briefly – and did not run the movie in the theatres.

Cue the outrage about foreign powers dictating to us about what we can say or not say, and how Sony Pictures were “weak” or whatever for not running the movie. Personally, I think it was all a big bit of nonsense to get people talking about a movie that otherwise no one would have seen.

Leaving aside the absurdity of that situation, let’s look at the movie objectively. It was about murdering the President of North Korea (and that that was a good thing). Humiliating him. Then murdering him. As a comedy.

We just decided that because it was about Kim Jong-Un it was funny. But think about it this way - would we think it was funny if it was Obama? Or Harper? Would a movie like that even be made? Perhaps, but probably not. The larger question would be – why not?

And I think that’s my point. We say that we believe in free speech but often our actions belie those beliefs.

Right or wrong, it’s fairly clear that we believe some free speech is more worthy of protection than others, that our right to poke the bear is limited to certain kinds of bears.

But before we trot off merrily into an Orwellian future of laws for thought-crimes, we need to understand that it is oxymoronic to say that there are limits to free speech. It is free. Or it is not.

We need to reconcile that fact.

Ottawa Report



LOIS BROWN

MP Newmarket-Aurora

Anti-terrorism legislation announced

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the introduction of new anti-terrorism legislation during a recent visit to York Region. The proposed legislation will provide Canadian law enforcement and national security agencies with additional tools and flexibility to keep pace with evolving threats and better protect Canadians here at home.

In line with measures taken by our allies, the Government is taking additional action to ensure our law enforcement and national security agencies can counter those who advocate terrorism, prevent terrorist travel and the efforts of those who seek to use Canada as a recruiting ground and disrupt planned attacks on Canadian soil.

The proposed legislation would help stop those who promote terrorism by creating a new Criminal Code offence that would criminalize the promotion of terrorism, including attacks on Canadians. The proposed offence would fill a current gap in Canadian criminal law by making it a crime for a person to knowingly promote or advocate others to carry out a terrorism offence.

Recent attacks in Canada, which led to the deaths of Corporal Nathan Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, as well as attacks in France and Australia, are reminders that Canada is not immune to the threat of terrorism. Our Government will continue to protect the rights and safety of all Canadians and will not privilege the so-called rights of terrorists and others who would harm Canadians over the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Celebrating Flag Day February 15

Every year on February 15, we mark National Flag of Canada Day. This year also celebrates the 50th anniversary of our flag, a milestone that will allow Canadians to reflect on our flag and what it represents—a strong, proud

and free country that is admired and respected around the world.

I invite you to show your pride by taking a picture or video of you and the flag and sharing it on social media with the hashtag #flag50. You can find out more about the National Flag of Canada at www.canada.ca/flagday.

Helping small businesses grow

Changes to the Canada Small Business Financing Program have been announced, which will allow more small businesses to apply and will make larger loans available for small businesses to purchase or improve their land or buildings.

The changes to the program will make loans available to more firms by increasing the revenue threshold under which a small business can apply for the program, and will support business start-up and growth by increasing the maximum loan amount and the maximum term length for loans financing the purchase or improvement of land and buildings.

This is one of several measures that our Government is taking to help small businesses across the country grow and prosper. These changes will help more small businesses in Newmarket-Aurora secure the loans they need to prosper, grow and create jobs.

Helping students save at tax time

Did you know that the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has tax credits, deductions, and benefits to help students?

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Groundhog Daze VI



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

“Are you kidding?” she exclaimed. “It all adds up. And besides,” she continued, “I already had to move once to make way for the new Joint Operations Centre.” She added, with amazement, “that place is huge.”

“Well, there must be somewhere else in Town you can go.”

“Where, the 2C lands? That’s the last remaining open area of Town, but it’s all under development.”

Checking them off on her tiny fingers, she continued: “Highland Gate? Soon to be houses. Timberlane? Ditto. Industrial Parkway? It’s getting the Family Leisure Complex expansion and proposed turning lanes. Leslie Street? More commercial and headquarters space going in. Bayview Avenue? There, too.”

“No,” she said, slumping a little lower on the bench, “I think my days in Aurora are numbered.”

“Well, there must be some solution,” I noted, pondering the snowy landscape.

We sat companionably for a minute, the silence broken only by the occasional,

muffled, rodent-sized sob.

“I’ve got it!” I exclaimed. Annie looked up at me with red-rimmed eyes.

“You like this area of Town, right?” She nodded.

“And you’re looking for a place that’s available now?” Another nod.

“And is unlikely to be developed or used for anything in the foreseeable future?”

“Yes.”

“Then why not Petch House?”

Her eyes widened.

“It’s been there for years, with no sign of anyone using it. In fact, the Town just bought the Armoury with no confirmed tenants, and is looking at purchasing additional properties in Heritage Square, so there’s little chance they’ll find uses for them all.”

“Best of all,” I concluded, “you could move in right now.”

“That might work,” she nodded, sitting up a little straighter. “In fact, I may head over there right now to take a look.”

With that she bounded up off the bench and headed towards the south end of the park.

As I watched her disappear into the distance, I just hoped that for Annie’s sake, the recently-elected Council would continue to focus on new initiatives, and not what to do with leftover projects from previous years like Petch House.

At least, not right away.

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

Celebrating that we were well over halfway through winter, I was taking a brisk stroll through the Arboretum the other day when I spied a small figure sitting on a bench.

Upon closer inspection it turned out to be Aurora Annie, our local weather prognosticating groundhog.

She looked depressed.

“What’s wrong,” I asked, brushing away the snow and sitting beside her. “Do you think your forecast for spring is incorrect?”

“It’s not that,” she sniffed. “I may have to leave Town!”

“Why would you have to do that? You’ve been a fixture in Aurora for years. We love having you around.”

“Oh, I feel welcome. It’s just that I may not have a place to stay, anymore.”

“Why not?” I asked.

“It’s the ongoing development that’s taking over all the open spaces. I live over near Industrial Parkway, and do you know what Council wants to do?”

Before I had a chance to say anything, she told me.

“Widen it. That’s what they want to do. Do you know how much land that will take up? And how much more traffic that will cause?” She shuddered.

“It’s hard enough getting across two lanes, but four?” She sighed, and flexed a knee, which emitted an audible crack. “I’m not as young as I used to be.”

“But the additional road surface will only take up a small amount of green space,” I said. “It’s not that bad.”

**AURORAN
POLL**

**Would you like to see
left-hand turn restrictions
at Yonge and Wellington?**

A) **Yes**

B) **No**

C) **Unsure**

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS
TO DATE

FEBRUARY 3, 2015

YES

62%

NO

38%

UNSURE

0%

Density at issue as Council takes on Timberlane redevelopment

By Brock Weir

Residents in the neighbourhood of Timberlane Athletic Club filled Town Hall last week as Council took the first crack at a plan to turn the tennis facility into a housing development. Councillors, however, expressed concern that higher-than-usual proposed density might set a negative

precedent in other areas in the south end of Aurora. On the table were proposed amendments to Aurora’s Official Plan and zoning bylaw to pave the way for a 68-unit condominium development comprised of single detached, semi-detached, and townhouses over the 11.8 club property. In a report before Council from

Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning, the Official Plan allows for a range of development patterns compatible with low density uses of the existing neighbourhoods. While Provincial legislation encourages higher densities in new developments, neighbours came forward to say what is proposed for the site was incompatible with nearby uses. “This is of great concern to us and we would like to see changes,” said John Greenhough to Council. “We look to you as good shepherds for our interest and for your support. All are very concerned with the density issue. We are not against infill projects. We know they are important. We are reasonable people, we know things change, but with 11 acres of land that is available we do not agree with the proposed density for the 68 units. By comparison, Falconwood Estates is just 30 units on 8.5 acres of land.” He also spoke on the impacts the development will have on the aesthetics of the neighbourhood, while Aurora resident Judy Gilchrist spoke up for interests on protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine land. In reviewing the project, Councillors need to keep in mind the “cumulative impacts” of losing permeability for groundwater in the area, she said, noting the provincial movement “De-pave Paradise.” Residents from other neighbourhoods had concerns as well, particularly in the areas of Vandorf Sideroad and Industrial Parkway. “It will result in a density-built community that will not only be an eyesore in comparison to the surrounding communities, but will also create a traffic nightmare due to increased density proposed,” said Charlotte May, a resident of Wycliffe

Gardens. “There is often a wait of up to five minutes to exit our community during peak hours. The additional traffic that would be generated by this new community will further add to this burden.” While these concerns were noted and addressed by consultants for the developers on hand for the session, Council voted to bring the plan back to Public Planning for further consultation and review. “Intensification is obviously something we’re going through and need to adjust, but going from what we have in the surrounding areas just seems a bit high for me,” said Councillor Sandra Humfries. “I would like to see some future discussion to somehow allow this area to look more like the surrounding areas.” Councillor Tom Mrakas agreed. “I feel the density is pretty high, and a little too high for my liking. I think it sets a dangerous precedent.” Councillor Michael Thompson, on the other hand, said it was important to acknowledge the work Brookfield, the developer, has done to that point on the second version of the plan. There is a “willingness”, he said, on all parties to work together to come up with a “reasonable solution”, yet he shared concerns over the density. “The question is, is this suitable or compatible or reasonable for the neighbourhood in this area is very much a concern with me, and similar to what I have heard from residents,” he said. “I would also like to see further discussions around density and bringing it more in line with everything else because I also share the concerns about setting that precedent and what does that mean for the future?”

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After a member of Dave Robitaille’s weekly pickup hockey team collapsed on the ice, dying a few weeks later, Robitaille (pictured above with Holly Nolson) has been working to stress the importance of training in CPR and defibrillator use. Programs are being offered through Newmarket’s ADET Inc., where instructors will come to you to provide training. For more information, call Holly at 905-960-3662.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

AURORA

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING
Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following planning application on **Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m at Aurora Town Hall Council Chambers.**

APPLICATION:

The owner has submitted an application for an amendment to Zoning By-law 2213-78, to change the zoning from Special Mixed Density Residential “R5” Zone to Special Mixed Density Residential “R5-X” Exception Zone to also permit a business and professional office and clinic on the subject lands. There are or are no other known applications currently filed with The Town of Aurora on the subject lands at this time.

PROPERTY:

49 Wellington Street East

LEGAL DESC.:

Part of Lot 1, Plan 68

APPLICANT:

The CAP Centre Inc.

FILE NUMBER:

ZBA-2014-04

CONTACT:

Additional information may be obtained from Jeff Healey of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4349. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the same address, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca. Please quote the file name and number.

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees. The Town collects this information to enable it to make informed decisions on the relevant issue(s). If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town’s website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. By submitting a fax, email, presentation or other communication, you are authorizing the Town to collect and use the above-noted information for this purpose. The Town audio records Public Planning meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council and/or its Committees, the Town will be audio recording you and Town staff and may make these audio recordings available to the public. Please direct any questions about this to the Town Clerk at 905-727-3123, ext. 4771.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123, ext. 4349

Patrick brings service on fire department full circle on the last day on the job

From page 1
fighting a fire from a very young age. As a lad, he was often loaded into the car by his grandfather or father to watch as the big boys did battle with the majestic flames. Young Brian was never one to ooh and ahh at what was before him, but viewed the firefighters almost like a professional sports team. Observing their moves, he was able to anticipate what was coming next in battling the blaze, but what came next for Brian was inescapably in the blood.

Brian’s grandfather joined what was then the Aurora Fire Department in 1924. Retiring in 1973, his service on the department overlapped with his son’s, as his son’s did with Brian. Thus, the community is without a member of the Patrick family just an emergency call away for the first time in nearly a century.

“I had to feel like I was making a difference,” says Brian on his decision to retire. “It felt like the right time. I think the bottom line was when my father died on December 9, 2013 and about seven months after he passed away, I made the decision.

“It has been over 37 years, but it is just time to start enjoying other things in life.”

By the time Brian was old enough to really be cognisant of the work his father and grandfather were doing with the Aurora Fire Department, his grandfather was serving as Deputy Chief while his dad was a captain.

“I started believing at a very young age that this is what I want to do,” he says. “I didn’t give thought to anything else other than being a fire fighter.”

He started as a volunteer with the department in 1977. At the time, Brian was cutting grass for the Town of Aurora at the then-home of the Aurora Public Library on Victoria Street. Next door was the Aurora Fire Station. The Fire Chief of the day pulled him in on September 12 of that year, he was a volunteer by 7 p.m. that evening, and by July 5, 1982, he was a career firefighter.

Those early days watching fires being fought from the front seat of the car stood him in good stead for his new line of work. While he might have been a rookie



Brian Patrick of the CYFS is pictured at the Edward Street fire station his final day before retirement. He is standing on an engine serviced by his grandfather on its inaugural run in 1926 and by his father on its final call nearly five decades later.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

on paper and in first-hand experience, his knowledge of the department, their procedures, and what to do was practically intimate.

But, since those early days as a volunteer, the force has changed dramatically. Not only is the fire service merged with Newmarket to form the CYFS, but the community’s expectations for their fire department has changed as well.

“Now, we’re doing more advanced intervention, have a better understanding of the medical physiology of the body and understanding more of what we’re doing with oxygen administration. There is a lot more education now as opposed to just training.”

Out in the community, their focus has been expanded to education programs, fire prevention, ensuring buildings are in compliance with modern day codes, and they also grapple with ever-evolving technology.

As his own son focuses on a career in sports media, Brian says he’s now just starting to give “conscious thought” to the 91-year-old Aurora legacy which ended with him on Saturday afternoon. This point may have been driven home as he was feted by a handful of other members

of the CYFS that day as he inspected the historic fire engine which now rests at the Edward Street Fire Station.

His grandfather was aboard when this particular vehicle responded to its first fire in 1926. His father was on board for its very last call. And, there he was, with the same engine on his very last day with the service.

“When I look back and think we managed to put in 91 years of service in three generations I am proud,” he says. “I am pretty sure my grandfather would be ecstatic because on the day I got on he was one very happy man. For me, personally, I look back at their involvement and mine and think, ‘three generations and we have all been spoken pretty highly about when it comes to our ability to deal with the aspects of our own profession and as volunteers.

“I am very proud of them and I know they would be very proud of me.”

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Inflammatory conditions

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- Plantar Fasciitis
- Rheumatoid Arthritis

Back Problems

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- Disc Herniation
- Myofascitis

Dermatological Conditions

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Gorman performed two marriages outside rules of Church: Archdiocese

From page 1

in jeopardy,” said Mr. MacCarthy.

Regarding the violation of the Civil Marriage Act, both the Archdiocese and a source close to Fr. Gorman insist this was not a same sex marriage, rather simply two Catholics he did not have jurisdiction to marry in the chapel.

It has been indicated to The Auroran that Fr. Gorman chalks this up to an “error in judgement”, but the Archdiocese said this has been an “ongoing pattern of disregarding church procedures.”

In the statement read out to the

OLG congregation on Saturday, Bishop Kirkpatrick said Cardinal Thomas Collins asked Fr. Gorman to “take some time away from the parish” to “help him reflect on his role as pastor.”

“He remains pastor of Our Lady of Grace and our prayer is that this period of reflection will assist him in his life of priestly ministry,” the statement continued. “We invite parishioners of Our Lady of Grace to pray for Fr. Gorman in the days ahead and support those who administer the parish in his absence.”

In response to enquiries from The

Auroran, Fr. Gorman declined to speak further on the matter at this time.

Parishioners, however, were not content to pray privately, and have been taking their prayers – and actions – public with an eye of having Fr. Gorman restored to his place at the church.

Ahead of last weekend’s services, members of the OLG community fanned out around the church handing out petitions and collecting signatures for a petition urging Cardinal Collins to listen to the community and their concerns.

decisions that impact our parish,” wrote Joe Gajcevic of Newmarket.


“The dark ages of secret meetings and backroom dealings has no place in our parish. The alleged evidence should be looked at by all. We should have a say as a community and not by a select few.”

Others suggested complaints were brought forward by “pious, holier than thou” individuals which, in the words of parishioner Mary O’Reilly “steps outside the box.”

“Isn’t that exactly what Christ did?” she asked.

“We have been going to OLG for 30+ years and Father Joe is a breath of fresh air,” added Doug Cork of Aurora, voicing his support to the Archdiocese. “No offence, but not like all the other stodgy, old, unyielding, unfeeling pastors you have put in there before. The times they are changing, so hopefully you guys get it now. Put Father Joe back where he belongs.”

Many members of the OLG community also spoke of their flagging faith which had, they said, been revitalized by the message of Fr. Joe, including youth.



Well, it’s happening!

Jim Morning
is turning

80

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“The dark ages of secret meetings and backroom dealings has no place in our parish. The alleged evidence should be looked at by all. We should have a say as a community and not by a select few”

“We, the parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, ask for your intervention to help heal our community, which has been wounded by the abrupt removal of our pastor, Fr. Joe Gorman,” reads the petition, which has gathered thousands of signatures since going online midday Friday. “He has been an inspirational and reconciliatory instrument, a role model, especially for our youth, and has been moral support for families in need, particularly the mentally ill, elderly and the poor and grieving.

“Through his joyful Christian spirit, he has brought back to the church many of the members who had left, even non-Catholics.”

Signatories ask the Cardinal to appoint a mediator to assist in Gorman’s return to Our Lady of Grace with “transparency, due process and clear communication to help us through these difficult times.”

These views are reflected in the voices of support offered by members of the congregation, highlighting the need for community involvement in creating a dialogue on the issue at hand.

“We, as the community, should make

Fr. Joe singlehandedly kept me interested in my faith and in God throughout my high school experience,” said Genevieve Malcolm, 20, of Aurora. “As a young adult, religion has not always been at the forefront of my mind, as I have had a hard time reconciling it with the entirety of my life in the past. However, Fr. Joe has helped me to see how God fits in with the bigger picture of my life, along with providing me with relevant and interesting homilies to appreciate. I cannot imagine that I would still be an active Catholic without his influence.”

A similar view was offered by Pedro Rodrigues. “Father Joe was the sole reason why my family and I returned back to Our Lady of Grace after a horrible experience with the previous pastor. He gave us hope and strengthened our relationship with Christ.”

Father Joe Gorman was ordained in 2008. He was appointed to lead Our Lady of Grace in May, 2013.

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About the speakers:

Raj Singh is a senior executive and frequent speaker at conferences. He has over 20 years experience in the business services and real estate industry, with the last 5 years focusing on originating and financing real estate transactions totaling over \$300 million in projects. He holds a BSc and MBA and has completed postgraduate studies in mergers and acquisitions at the Wharton School of Business.

Colman O’Brien is considered one of the most astute investors in Canada, appearing on CBC, City TV and featured in the National Post and the Toronto Star. He managed the largest private client asset base at one of the Chartered Banks. He has sat on the Ontario Securities Committee for investor advice and was nominated for Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young.



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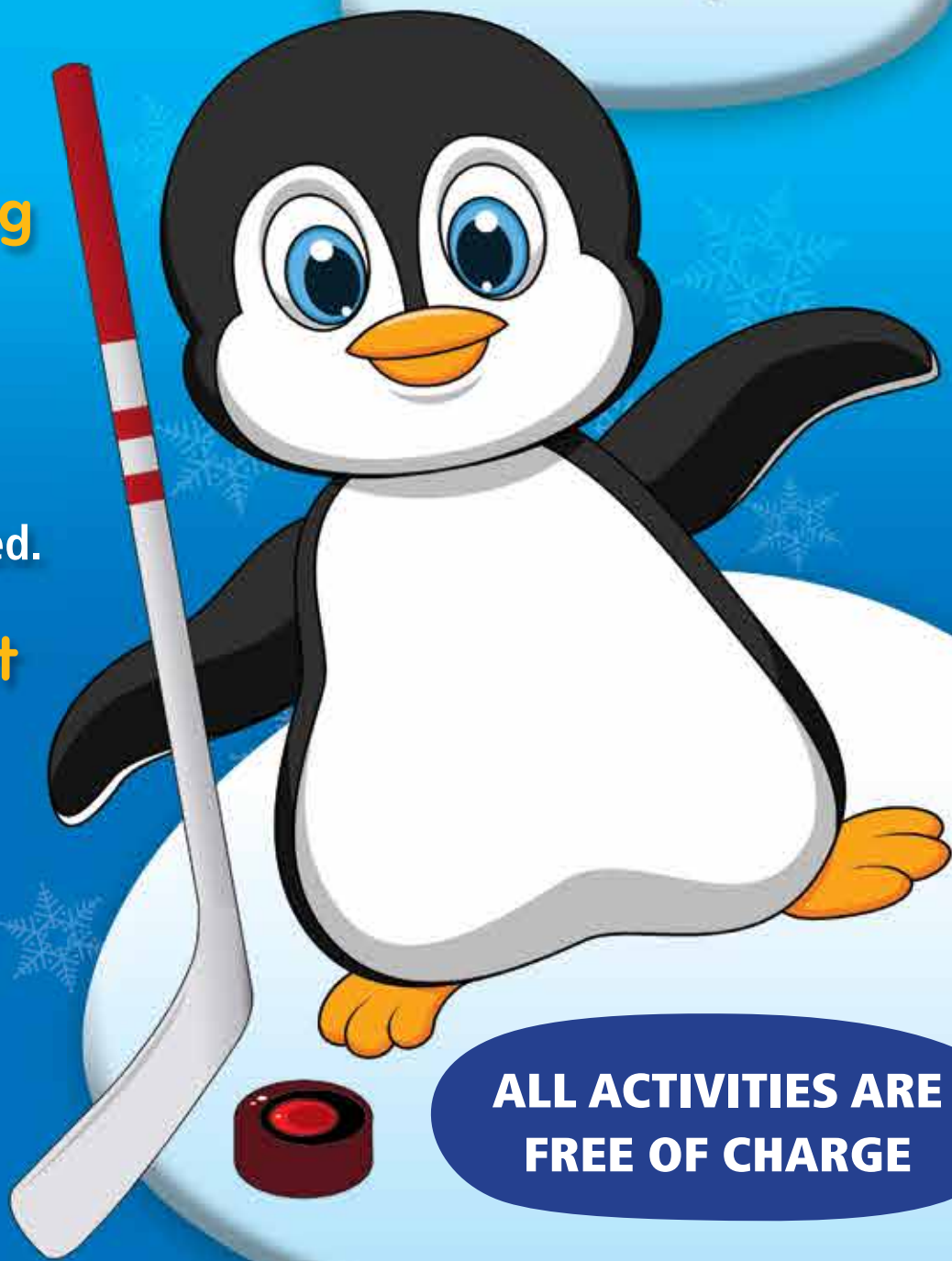
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—THE AURORAN— *Arts & Culture*



(Top) Artists Nancy Newman and Linda Welch, President of SOYRA, are helping spearhead this month's Showcase. (Above) Artists Peter Herlihy, Philippa Hajdu, Inge Dohle, Sandra Remme, Karen Lee Garrido and Michele Temane brought their artwork into the Aurora Cultural Centre on Monday afternoon ahead of Wednesday's opening.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



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SOYRA excited for energy to come as they mount Showcase 2015

By Brock Weir

As York Region grows, so too does the Society of York Region Artists. The Society (SOYRA) celebrates its 28th anniversary and now more than ever new artists are joining the group to learn, share and exhibit. This will be evident this week through February 22 as the members come together at the Aurora Cultural Centre for Showcase 2015.

“The focus on this exhibit is to show your best,” says SOYRA’s Linda Welch, who was on hand at the Centre on Monday as artists unpacked their best. “It is up to each artist to show the three items they feel most represent their very best work and because it is not a juried show, having them understand it is their best really does make a difference.

“It is also an encouraging thing for artists because not everyone wants to be in a competitive environment.”

This year, 25 per cent of the exhibitors are newcomers to SOYRA. Not only does this statistic help keep things fresh, but it is also an indicator the artistic and creative community in York Region – and beyond – is on the rise. Outside of York Region, this showcase is also attracting talent from Toronto, Orangeville, the Kawarthas, and even further field.

“These artists are bringing with them skills and techniques they have learned in other places,” says Ms. Welch. “We are seeing a broadening out of the types of art that will be shown quite a bit. I was told at a recent event that if someone was to join an art association in the GTA that SOYRA was the one to join. It surprised me, but it means we’re

maintaining the quality of our events, it means that we’re providing enough outlets for our members to exhibit, either at no cost or at a reasonable cost. You can paint at home all you want, but if you have no way of showing people what you are doing without renting a gallery space at a high cost, you just stay at home and you paint alone. We are offering a social environment where they have that opportunity.”

In addition to the artists themselves, art lovers will also be able to partake in this “social environment” as the show progresses. On both Thursdays the exhibition covers, SOYRA artist Nancy Newman will be holding art classes in the Meridian Gallery. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to come in and observe the class in progress. Exhibiting artists will also be painting “live” in the Blue Gallery on February 21 from 10 a.m. to noon, in conjunction with the Indoor Aurora Farmers’ Market.

“I look forward to being able to encourage new members or shy members to get involved,” says Ms. Welch. “It is really gratifying to see someone who is maybe a little reluctant to speak in public, but they will come and be there with another artist chatting with visitors. They get quite animated and quite excited explaining how something was done, how the technique was created on the surface. That gives them a little bit more encouragement to get involved in other ways and I really enjoy that part of it.

“But, that is an in-house experience. I like the energy that is created by outsiders coming in and seeing what kind of high quality work local artists can produce.”

Youth take centre stage in lead-up to Aurora Winter Blues Festival

By Brock Weir

Blue are often seen as coming from the depths of life experience, but that is not the case for youth participating in the 2015 Aurora Winter Blues Festival. Young bands, many of whom have formed in conjunction with The Arts Music Store, will showcase their talents in “pop up” performances in the lead-up

to this month’s festivities as well as at the Aurora Winter Blues Fest’s (AWBF) second annual “Blues Bash”, which takes over the Aurora Cultural Centre on February 19.

Aurorans got their first taste of these pop-up performances Saturday at the Aurora Public Library, beginning with the more seasoned notes of a trio led by

Continued on page 15

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Residents want less spent on “culture”, according to Aurora’s Citizen Budget

By Brock Weir

Aurora residents have spoken, and they want less tax dollars spent on “culture” – at least according to the results of the Town’s first Citizen Budget.

The Citizen Budget was an online tool launched by the Town of Aurora last fall. It broke down many of the components of Aurora’s annual budget allowing residents to slide bars and otherwise provide input on how they would like their tax dollars spent, and allowed them to see the impact on their tax rate in real time.

Over 100 people participated in the survey, responding to how they would like tax dollars spent in the areas of community planning, enforcement and licensing, animal control, road network operations, snow management and plowing operations, solid waste management, municipal facilities, community programs, parks, trails and open spaces, cultural services, fire and emergency services, infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement, and the Aurora Public Library.

According to a report before Councillors last week at the first Budget meeting of the 2015 season, the majority of participants selected “no change” across the board with the exception of cultural services, where the most common response was a 10 per cent reduction.

“It sounds to me like we’re pretty much on the mark with what our community is looking for,” said Dan Elliott, Treasurer for the Town of Aurora, on the results. “Two of the respondents were from within our organization and 102 of the residents of the Town responded, and clearly that is a lot more than you see in the audience tonight, and it is a whole lot more than we have ever had in the Council Chamber with respect to budget in my term here.”

A potential reduction for Cultural Services caught some Councillors by surprise, and dominated much of last week’s discussions surrounding the Citizen Budget.

“I find it surprising in terms of the feedback I get from the community,” said Councillor Sandra Humfries. “It is always very positive when we get to cultural events. It makes Aurora what it is [and] I find it curious.”

Councillor Humfries was among those who questioned whether that particular question was specific enough to get a feel on which areas under the large umbrella of “culture” residents may be dissatisfied with. Michael Kemp, Aurora’s Director of

Corporate Communications, said there were opportunities for participants to provide additional comments at the end of the survey, but this was limited.

“It may be that ‘cultural services’ is so encompassing that many people may not relate it to special events offered by Mr. Downey’s department,” said Mr. Kemp, on the Parks and Recreation Department directed by Al Downey. “Maybe that is something we can look into. The intention is to roll this out again and use it as an ongoing tool and get an apples to apples comparison year over year and see if there is any change in the public attitude. That is certainly something we could look into whether we nailed down a more specific definition of cultural services, whether that would change anything.”

Responding to questions from Councillor Wendy Gaertner, Mr. Kemp added the description regarding “cultural services” was general.


“What we tried to do with this is make it as succinct as possible,” he said. “The downfall of this is the more information you tend to put in the survey, the fewer people answer the survey. It takes them longer to read it, it takes them longer to answer. The average time to complete the survey was gauged at seven minutes, which I think is a reasonable amount of time.”

During discussions, Council said they saw the value in using the tool to get into more of the specifics down the

road.


“In the short period of time staff had to put it together, I think it is a very good first crack at it,” said Mr. Kemp. I would certainly like to see it develop over time so the questions are more relevant and specific to some of the issues we face so

we can get more detailed information, [provide] a little bit more input from citizens, as well as take a little bit more time to draft it up. If there is a decision to continue forward, we should take what we like and continue improving it.”



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FREE Week of February 5, 2015

Tigers roll to seventh straight win in division-clinching matchup

By Jake Courtepatte

Aurora Tigers are OJHL North Division champs.

For the third year in a row, the They clinched the title in dominant

fashion last Friday night, continuing the success they've had over the Lindsay Muskies with an 8 – 3 win on the road.

The Tigers entered the game having won both matches against the Muskies, and went back to work early in this one as Nicholas Erb opened the scoring less than two minutes in.

Three goals on nineteen shots in the second period was the clincher for Aurora, going up by a 5 – 2 score after forty minutes – capped off by a successful penalty shot by Mack Lemmon with only eight seconds left in the second.

Sam Quaranta, Keaton Ratcliffe and Johnny Curran all found twine in the third period, as the Tigers put a total of 44 pucks on the Lindsay net.

The win was the nail in the coffin for the North Division, as the two points put the Tigers fifteen points up on the second-place Stouffville Spirit.

With a record of 36-7-3, the Tigers are on pace to put together their fifth best season in the team's 42-year history as a Junior A franchise.

They cemented their position with a 4 – 2 win over the Mississauga Chargers on Saturday, who are headed in the opposite direction on the standings board. The Tigers handed them their fifth loss in a row.

With seven games left on the regular season schedule, the Tigers will be competing with the likes of the Trenton Golden Hawks and the Cobourg Cougars for top dog in the North-East Conference.

The Golden Hawks currently lead the Tigers by a mere two points.

Other than a lacklustre and short-handed month of December, the Aurora squad has been firing on all cylinders both offensively and defensively all season.

The team has amassed the second most goals-for out of any team in the OJHL, averaging almost 4.5 goals per game.

The success comes behind the hot hands of a number of rookie players, like 19-year old Curran, who spent the last three seasons with the GOJHL's Niagara Falls Canucks. Curran leads the team in goals and points with 56.

Veteran defenceman Eric Williams has been putting up almost a point-per-game in his sophomore season, even earning the first hat trick of his career back in October.

At the back end, the Tigers sit second-place in goals-against, as starting goaltender Andy Munroe and his rookie backup Marcus Semiao have made for quite a tandem.

Named goaltender of the month in January, Munroe has put together a .922 save percentage this year to go along with his three shutouts.

Remarkably, Semiao is yet to lose in regulation as his record sits at 11-0-1. He has allowed only 1.95 goals per game.

Next game is Friday at the Aurora Community Centre against division rivals the Newmarket Hurricanes.

The Tigers will be without hometown defenseman Kyle Locke, who was handed a two-game suspension in Friday's contest.

Puck drop is at 7.30 p.m.



Defenceman Eric Williams has notched 42 points through 44 games in his second season with the Tigers.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

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Bronze for Saints First Hockey in Macpherson Tournament

By Jake Courtepatte

Competitors from Ontario, Quebec, New York and Pennsylvania descended upon St. Andrew’s College last weekend for the 32nd annual Macpherson Hockey Tournament.

The highly anticipated event has long been a successful outing for the hometown Saints, medaling four years in a row highlighted by three gold victories.

Adding to the excitement was the school’s first big chance to showcase the new \$13-million LaBrier Family Arena, which opened in September, and the new home of all things Saints hockey.

The 50,000 sq. ft. facility was abuzz on Friday night with fans, parents, and students alike, as the Pipes and Drums led the opening ceremonies before a ceremonial puck drop by Headmaster Kevin McHenry officially kicked things off.

Taking on the Northwood School Huskies, the Saints were already riding high after a 6 – 0 shellacking of St. Francis School that morning.

Alex MacDonald, who had earned three points against Northwood one week prior in a pre-tournament matchup, led the way with a goal and an assist in a 3 – 1 victory to the delight of the home crowd.

Early the next morning the Saints faced adversity for perhaps the first time all tournament, falling behind only 34 seconds into a game against Ulysse Prep of Quebec. It was a different story from there on in as the home team scored three unanswered goals in an eventual 5 – 2 win.

Having only allowed three goals against in three games, the Saints entered into the crossover divisional match with the Buffalo Jr. Sabres, the Saints appeared headed back to tournament supremacy.

It was more of the same for the Saints in the opening minutes, as Saints regular season leading scorer J.D. Falconer put them on the board early. Goaltender Matthew Galajda answered each Sabre shot in the first period with a save.



Defenceman Griffin James moves to cut off a St. Francis forward at SAC’s Macpherson Tournament. The Saints captured bronze.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

He was broken just one minute into the second, in a game where some stellar saves at both ends of the ice kept the scoreboard at a low pace.

Hopes of repeating gold on new home ice were dashed late in the third by eventual tournament MVP Joshua Biasillo, who sent the Saints to the bronze medal game with a dagger to double the lead.

Facing the familiar faces of divisional rivals Upper Canada College on Sunday, the Saints easily wrapped up third place in the tournament with a 3 – 0 shutout.

Alex MacDonald continued his stellar play, providing the first two goals for the Saints.

The Jr. Sabres would go on to defeat Northwood School 6 – 2 in the final.

Despite ending up with a different colour medal than planned for, the tournament was a success in representing both the longstanding traditions of the school and showcasing the new facility.

“It was exciting to host the tournament in our own arena,” said Nicholas Weedon, Tournament Co-Convener. “From the outstanding hockey on the ice to the packed house on Friday evening to the slate of events

upstairs in the Yuill Andean Room for parents, children, and alumni, the new facility served our community well.”

The Saints also left the tournament with a bevy of new hardware, including two individual awards presented post-tournament.

Jacob Miller earned the Robin Fraser plaque for leadership and sportsmanship, while MacDonald was named a tournament all-star after leading the tournament in points with four goals and four assists through five games.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion dandy

4. Cycles per second

7. Strikebreaker

11. Aquatic reptile (informal)

13. Express pleasure

14. Swiss river

15. Contains cerium

17. Ribonucleic acid

18. On top

19. Taxis

21. Banking machine

22. Small salamander

23. Voltage

25. Pointed summit

27. DWTS host

33. In a way, smoked

34. Peat moss source

35. W. African nation Sierra ____

36. Cocoa plum tree
41. Holiday (informal)

44. Venezuelan capital

46. DWTS hostess

48. Hideouts

50. Actress Lupino

51. The content of cognition

53. Point one point N of due E

55. Plunder a town

59. No. Albanian dialect

60. No (Scottish)

61. Blatted

64. X2 = a Pacific tourist commune

65. AKA option key

66. Angelina’s spouse

67. “Wedding Crashers” Wilson

68. Grassland, meadow

69. Laughing to self (texting)

CLUES DOWN

1. Licenses TV stations

2. Metal-bearing mineral

3. Meat from a pig (alt. sp.)

4. A bottle with a stopper

5. Short labored breath

6. Hair washing soap

7. Steam bath

8. “R.U.R.” playwright Karel

9. Beside one another in lines

10. Not straight

12. Former OSS

16. Truck driver’s radio

20. Dried-up

24. Million gallons per day (abbr.)

26. Encircle (archaic)

27. ____ death do us part

28. A single unit

29. A siemens

30. Prohibition

31. V. William’s clothing line
32. Scotland’s poet’s initials

37. Auto

38. Single spot card in a deck

39. Crow sound

40. Former CIA

42. Factory where arms are made

43. Radioactive unit

44. Scoundrel

45. Freshwater duck genus

47. 9 decades

48. Makes tractors

49. 55120

51. Southeast Nigeria people

52. Arab sailing vessel

54. Hay bundle

56. Blood type

57. Driver compartment

58. “Das Kapital” author Marx

62. Consume food

63. Dental degree

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION		F	C	C		N	A	G		D	I	E
		A	L	A		E	K	E		R	E	B
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Hockey great delivers message to aspiring student athletes

By Jake Courtepatte

While the student athlete is no stranger to lectures from parents, teachers and coaches when it comes to finding success, perhaps they will listen extra carefully if it comes from someone who they hope to model their athletic career after.

All ears were open Friday afternoon for the player’s luncheon at St. Andrew’s College’s Macpherson Hockey Tournament, as the high schoolers were privy to some valuable advice from none other than Maple Leafs great Wendel Clark.

Clark’s son, Cody, is currently in Grade 10 at St. Andrew’s.

Clark is no stranger to the boarding school varsity hockey lifestyle. He played his midget hockey for Athol Murray College of Notre Dame in Saskatchewan, and went through the same ringer that these young athletes are now experiencing.

“The biggest years of your life are the years you guys are going through now,”

“The biggest years of your life are the years you guys are going through now,” said Clark. “Between your grades and your athletics, if you can learn to balance them now, that’s what’s most important.”

Clark rebutted the idea that the younger formative years are a high-pressure situation for those looking to make hockey a career – but rather, that these high school juniors and seniors were only beginning to reach that level.

“This is a big learning stage. If you live in the Toronto area, everyone thinks the ages 8 through 15 are your big pressure years. The truth is, they’re not. The stage you guys are getting into now...the hockey you’re playing, the schools you’re setting yourself up for... this is your time.”

The biggest challenge facing the

student athlete is certainly time management. In order to be successful, they have to learn to stay on top of both grades and their hockey, as well as maintaining social and family lives.

“One of the worst excuses I hear now in the coaching world is ‘well he has to concentrate on this, he can’t do that’. Let me tell you, you can do both. You can do both at a high level and with energy.”

Despite his rough and tough exterior on the ice, Clark was on the honour roll in his days at Notre Dame.

“My coach at Notre Dame came to me one day and said, ‘you won’t be on the honour roll come June’. I asked why? He said, ‘because hockey season is over’. He was right. Idle minds are a dangerous thing. Stay active, even in the offseason.”

Aside from giving life advice, Clark fielded questions from players and coaches directed at the lighter side of his career, such as his favourite coach to play for (Pat Burns) and the top NHL team he played for, the 1992-93 Maple Leafs.

“Doug Gilmour was one of the best players in the NHL in those few years. Then that L.A. game (Game 6 Conference Finals), overtime, could have been really good...and then, Gretzky.”

“We were Gretzky’d a lot in those days.”

He spoke of his best time playing hockey, which turned out to be his first year in the NHL.

“The least amount of pressure you have on you in the NHL is in those first few years. You’re so happy to be there. I’ve got the blue and white jersey, I’m sitting in Maple Leaf Gardens...we could lose 6 – 0. I’m still sitting where I’ve always wanted to get. What an experience.”

Selected first overall in the 1985 NHL Entry Draft, Clark spent parts of 13 seasons with the Maple Leafs, serving as captain from 1991 to 1994. The Clarks now reside in King City.



Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte.

Year of Sport

As we are aware, the Federal Government, and now our Town of Aurora have proclaimed 2015 the Year of Sport. As such, we celebrate the role of sport at our Seniors’ Centre, and encourage our members to participate and seek the benefits of sport.

Some of the sporting activities that we encourage are pickle ball, table tennis, badminton, carpet bowling, snooker, darts and, in the summer, the game of bocce on our outdoor courts.

We encourage our Seniors to get active!

CHATS WALK FOR WELLNESS 2015

We are contacting our Members to ask for their consideration to register for the CHATS Annual Fundraising event, Walk for Wellness, and to solicit pledges from family and friends to support CHATS.

This year we will be hosting an actual Walk event on Sunday, February 8th from 8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. at Upper Canada Mall in Newmarket.

For those that can’t be there on the day, the virtual component is still available and all walkers will be able to register and collect pledges online.

You can register now at www.walkforwellness.ca.

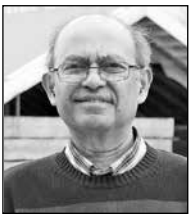
Some new features this year include:

WHO ARE YOU WALKING FOR?

This year, we are asking participants to identify a senior in their life who they are walking for. It could be anyone from a family member, friend or neighbour. We ask that you share your story on your personal fundraising page, to bring more awareness to the seniors in our community!

2015 WALK HERO

CHATS is excited to announce that Elvis Stojko has graciously committed to be the 2015 Walk Hero! Elvis will be at



SENIOR SCAPE
Charles Sequeira

the Walk for Wellness event on February 8 to greet and thank everyone participating. Elvis is a figure skating Olympic champion, World Champion and so much more!

EVERGREEN CHOIR

Singing in harmony is something our members of the Seniors Evergreen Choir love to do, and that is exactly what

they were doing on Sunday, January 25th at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The choir joined with six other choirs from the region to perform in the Choral Extravaganza, a presentation of music which has taken place for the past several years under the auspices of Arts Richmond Hill, the committee for the event being chaired by the Evergreen Choir Director, Dr. Richard Heinzle.

The talented Hadara Jacoby, was our accompanist for the day. Our members, in good spirits and chatting excitedly were bussed to the Centre for afternoon practices with the McConaghy Choir, which is also under the direction of Dr. Heinzle. Later in the afternoon there was the final rehearsal of the mass choir, which would be the highlight of the evening.

BUDGET BISTRO

Join us for lunch every Wednesday at the Seniors’ Centre at 12 noon. Wednesday, February 11 – Valentine’s Lunch: Pre-purchased tickets only.

Tickets are \$7 and are available for purchase at reception starting Monday, February 2! Tickets will not be available at the door.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

The following generous restaurants, caterers and bakeries were instrumental in the success of our event and we can not thank you enough:

Bijoy’s Restaurant, Catharina’s Kitchen, Catherin Devo Holistic Nutrition, Cookery Catering, Dorio’s Kettleby Italian Bakery, Eat Inn Catering, Fred’s Breads, Gabriel’s

Café, Graystones Restaurant, Joia Restaurant, Jonathan’s Fine Foods, King Richard’s English Pub, King’s Riding Golf Club, Lifestyle Cooking, Maunder’s Food Shop, Pickle Barrel, Taste It Catering, and Shiraz Grill and Café.

Empty Bowls Committee
Pine Tree Potters’ Guild
Aurora

50th Birthday of Canada's Flag

Join us on
Sunday, February 15, 2015
in the **Ballroom of Hillary House,**
15372 Yonge Street, Aurora

Birthday cake, ice cream and refreshments
will be served from **2 to 4 p.m.** along with entertainment.

What does the Canada flag mean to me
is a 50 word or less essay contest.

Two categories:
students up to age 14 yrs.
and seniors from 60 years onward.

Written entries must be submitted by
5 pm, February 13th to:
canadaflagbirthday@gmail.com -
in either French or English.

A newly-minted \$25 Canada sterling silver coin
imprinted with the Canada flag in colour
will be the prize in both age categories -
children up to age 14 yrs. and seniors,
from 60 yrs. old and older.

Hon. John McKay, MP for Scarborough-Guildwood
and Federal Liberal environment critic will join
Kyle Peterson, our Liberal candidate
for our riding of Newmarket-Aurora at the party.

Newmarket-Aurora Federal Liberal Association
will be hosting this great event, and we look forward
to you joining us.

For more information,
canadaflagbirthday@gmail.com or 905-505-2278.

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COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North). Guest speaker is Judy Suke and her topic is “Aging is for Sissies!” For more information about our guest speaker, call Cliff White at 905-841-2421. New members are welcome. Call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849 for more information.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Amnesty International writes letters on current human rights issues tonight at 7.30 p.m. at The Rectory, Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. All welcome. For more information, call 905-713-6713.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

A great evening of theatre is in store tonight at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. This will

be an evening of theatre and entertainment by members of the Newmarket Stage Company, containing comedy, drama, and music. Tickets are \$10 each, which includes the show, refreshments and door prizes. The show is not suitable for children. Tickets are on sale at the Centre. Get your tickets early as there will be no tickets sold at the door. Doors open at 6.45 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The Royal Canadian Legion will host a Valentine's Dinner and Dance tonight, with dinner set for 7 p.m. Tickets are \$14 per person. Disc jockey for your dancing and listening pleasure. Come out and spend the night with someone you love, or meet someone new! For more information, call 905-727-9932.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with the Love Train Revue. The annual event features George St. Kitts, along with

Billy Newton-Davis, Kenni Hite, Jivaro Smith, Nicole Robinson, and Coco Lorraine Vieira. The Love Train Revue kicks off at Newmarket Theatre (505 Pickering Crescent) at 8 p.m. For more information, including tickets and timing visit www.newmarkettheatre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

The Aurora Historical Society will hold its Annual General Meeting tonight at 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Guest speaker: Shawna White, curator of the Aurora Museum. Topics include the year in review, plans for 2015, and nominations for this year's board of directors. For more information, call the AHS at 905-727-8991.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

The Royal Canadian Legion hosts the Daytona 500 Nascar Fun Party this afternoon, beginning at 1 p.m. Enjoy the race in the comfort of our lounge, relax and cheer your favourite driver. For more information,

call 905-727-9932.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

The Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket meets at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) at 7.15 p.m. Dr. Hans Martin, atmospheric physicist and local beekeeper will speak about bees, climate and the environment. Honey for sale! All are welcome. For more information, call Judy Craig at 905-895-8713 or visit www.cfuauroranewmarket.com.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Big Brothers Big Sisters of York will host their annual Bowl For Kids' Sake day in Aurora. Events get underway at 1 p.m. at Gateway Café and Lanes. Additional tournaments are set for Georgina, Newmarket, Vaughan, Markham, Richmond Hill, and Bradford. Choose a location and pick a time. Call the Bowling Hotline at 905-726-2149 x324 to reserve your lanes.

Blues Bash features Juno nominees

From page 1

Councillor John Abel, followed by new up-and-coming talent.

“This is just building now to our February 19 function, the Blues Bash kickoff,” says Jamie Macdonald, co-founder of the AWBF.

These bands under score the Festival's Youth in Music program. In partnership with The Arts, the program aims to provide mentorship, training and performance opportunities for young bands.

The all-female teen band Wanderlust takes the stage for the Blues Bash. Their performances are “something to behold”, says Mr. Macdonald.

The trio have their roots in The Arts. More specifically, however, Charlotte has her roots in the drums, having first picked up the sticks at the age of five. It wasn't until she was seven, however, that she realised music was something she wanted to commit to. “I think it was more of a look,” said Charlotte last year on what attracted her to the drums. “I think it just looks cooler than some of the other instruments and I gravitated towards that. I had never really seen any girl drummers when I was little and

I liked the fact you could just bang on them. Now, I know it is not unusual to see a girl drummer. I watch for them and it is really cool to watch their techniques.”

Charlotte will have the chance to see another girl drummer close at hand at the Blues Bash – and a recent Juno-nominated one at that – as the 24th Street Wailers headline the Blues Bash, which also serves as a springboard to highlight two charities benefiting from the AWBF, CHATS and Blue Door Shelters.

From here, Mr. Macdonald would like to see others in the community become more involved with the Youth in Music program. Discussions are underway with the Optimist Club of Aurora, for example, to form a partnership, and organizers also hope to expand the program back into local schools. Until then, however, the focus is on the Blues Bash and the festival itself, which continues on February 20 and 21.

“The Blues Bash is one of the few functions going on in the community in the wintertime here,” says Mr. Macdonald. “It is a party, it is a dance party, but with great local talent.”

For more on the AWBF, visit awbf.ca.

Station eyed for Yonge and St. John's

From page 1

stations.

“There is a lot of growth happening,” said Steve Thurlow, a consultant leading the new master plan. “It is not just growing out, but it is growing together and becoming that one community.”

Three strategic priorities were identified for Councillors to consider as part of their revised master plan, the first being what is described as “comprehensive community risk assessment” to get a handle on existing and projected risks.


“We want to be able to get ahead of the population changes and growth changes and we can do that through this,” said Mr. Thurlow.

Citing education and prevention as the first lines of defence, this came down as the second priority. Chief among these tasks is ensuring each home in Aurora and Newmarket has working smoke detectors. That, he said, could be a tall order.

Making this a reality, however, would require the need for two additional staff members, one dedicate for education, as well as a second fire inspector.

A further fire station is also proposed for the north end of Aurora – the vicinity of Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad is said to be ideal – to assist existing stations. If that comes to pass in the year ahead, it would be more than just a fire station, but also a training centre – and one which would require hiring 20 additional firefighters, said Mr. Thurlow.

“It would be very difficult to use current resources to staff that station,” he said. “By locating a station somewhere within the centre of that area, not only will it improve our initial response capabilities for future growth, but it is also...going to provide a tremendous support on the depth of response for the entire community. Being strategically located in the middle, it can help significantly with some of the other stations.”



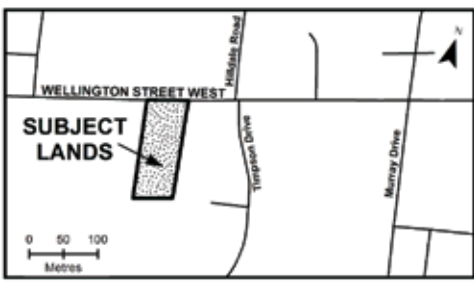
TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following planning application on Wednesday, February 25 at 7 p.m at Aurora Town Hall Council Chambers.

APPLICATION: The Owner has submitted an application for an amendment to Zoning By-law 2213-78, to change the zoning from Rural Residential (RR-1) Exception Zone to Row Dwelling Residential (R6-X) Exception Zone and Major Open Space (O-X) Exception Zone to allow the development of 22 block townhouse units on the 0.79 ha parcel of land. The land to which the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment applies is also subject to an application for Site Plan Approval, filed as SP-2015-01.

PROPERTY: 497 Wellington Street West



WELLINGTON STREET WEST
SUBJECT LANDS
Manning Drive
Trafalgar Drive

LEGAL DESC.: Part of Lot 1 and Part of 40 Acre Reserve, Registered Plan 102

APPLICANT: 2419059 Ontario Inc.

FILE NUMBER: ZBA-2014-07

CONTACT: Additional information may be obtained from Jeff Healey of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4349. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the same address, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca. Please quote the file name and number.

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees. The Town collects this information to enable it to make informed decisions on the relevant issue(s). If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. By submitting a fax, email, presentation or other communication, you are authorizing the Town to collect and use the above-noted information for this purpose. The Town audio records Public Planning meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council and/or its Committees, the Town will be audio recording you and Town staff and may make these audio recordings available to the public. Please direct any questions about this to the Town Clerk at 905-727-3123, ext. 4771.

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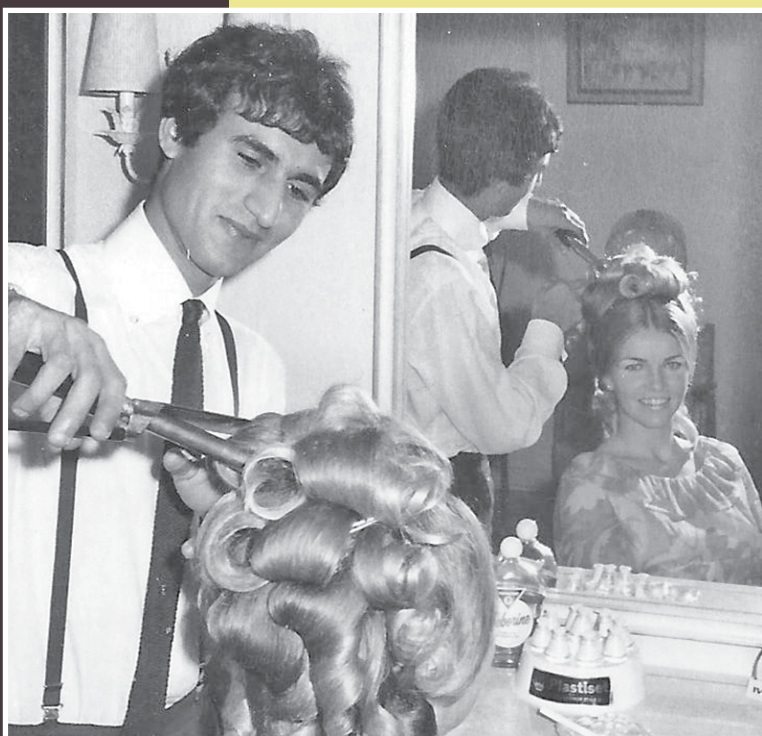
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AWBF Blues Bash

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2015

6:30 PM ~ Aurora Cultural Centre

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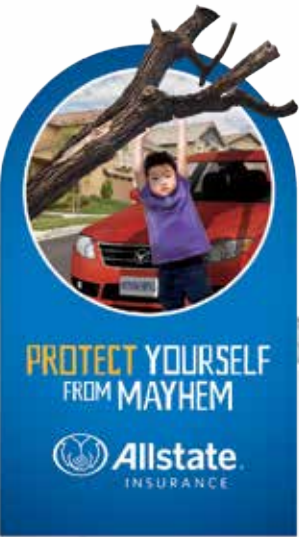


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Deadline: Friday, 4 pm, week prior to publication. 905-727-3300 Open: Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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SALES REP NEEDED for The Month Ahead Magazine. Work from home. Computer required. Part-time. Commission only. email: hazel46@bellnet.ca.

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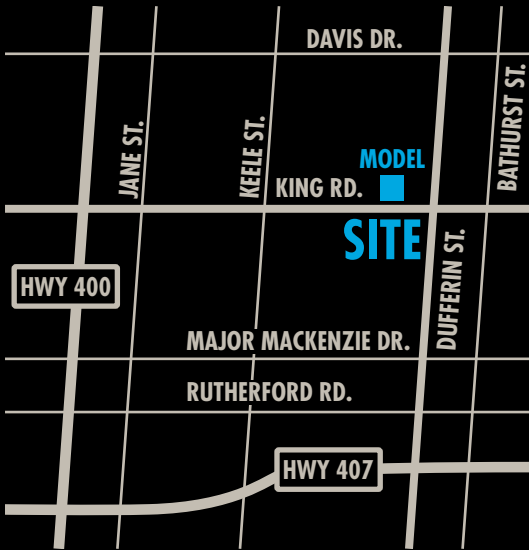
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