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# THE AURORAN

## Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 15 No. 34 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of June 18, 2015

CMCA AUDITED



### PERFECT WEATHER FOR A RAINBOW

It was the perfect weather to form a rainbow last week as Mayor Geoff Dawe, Councillors John Abel and Wendy Gaertner and York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe gathered at Town Hall, joined by Town of Aurora employees Glenn Boland and Karen Nurnberg, to help hoist the Pride flag to mark York Region Pride Week. Pride Week, which is a family-friendly celebration of the LGBTQ community, kicked off Saturday and runs through this Sunday, June 21, featuring a variety of events across the Region. For more information, visit [www.yorkpridefest.com](http://www.yorkpridefest.com). **Auroran photo by David Falconer**

## Complaints prompt Council calls for review of cell tower policies

By Brock Weir

Aurora needs to take a closer look at its own policies when it comes to companies looking to place telecommunications towers in and around Town, according to Council.

This was the conclusion drawn by a vast majority of Aurora's elected representatives when Council did an about-face on a proposed cell phone tower in the Town's south end.

Going into last week's Council meeting, members were set to issue a notice of concurrence to Industry

Canada, effectively signing off on a new tower shared by Rogers and Bell in the Bayview Avenue and Bloomington Road area. Area residents, however, descended on Council chambers last Tuesday to speak out against the plan, citing not only health concerns but also the placement itself and a perceived lack of communication on the part of the telecommunications giants.

Council ultimately voted to issue a notice of non-concurrence to the regulatory body in a 6 -2 vote, with Mayor Geoff Dawe and Councillor Paul Pirri voting against the motion. From

Councillor Paul Pirri's perspective, Rogers and Bell ticked all the right boxes according to the Town's existing policy and that is why he had to vote for agreement.

"It is one thing to be talking about whether or not they concur with the policies we have in place now or whether or not they don't concur with the policies we'd like to have in the future," he said. "For me, the question is whether or not they follow the rules that have been set out and I believe they have."

Others, however, said they saw a key

**Continued on page 6**

### Sole Sisters welcome their Misters at 2015 Relay for Life

By Brock Weir

2015's Relay for Life, which takes place this Friday, will present a year of firsts for veteran participant Lynn Pearson.

The Aurora resident was long-time chair of the local Relay for Life, but as the Aurora Relay formally merges with Newmarket at Pickering College this week, she is looking forward to a more relaxed, but no less meaningful, Relay experience.

**Continued on page 15**



ANDREW • SUSAN • JOHN

### Continually Referred!

### With one week to go, local torchbearers get ready for Pan Am relay

By Brock Weir

There is just one week until the Pan Am torch relay comes through Aurora and local torchbearers are getting into the spirit, preparing for their leg of the route.

The Pan Am Torch arrives in Aurora next Thursday, June 25, coming from Richmond Hill via Yonge Street around 10.30 a.m., before swinging east on Wellington Street and north on Industrial Parkway en route to the community celebration at Lambert Willson Park beginning at 11.30 a.m.

This past Saturday, several Aurora and Newmarket residents selected to carry the torch on segments of the local

leg of the relay spoke of their excitement as Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard introduced his three sponsored torchbearers to the community at large.

"You are showing the world how Ontarians value excellence and friendship, unity and diversity," said Mr. Ballard. "Those are the values that lie at the heart of the Pan and Parapan American Games. The Pan Am torch is a symbol of health and fitness. It represents a commitment to achieving greatness in whatever we do and never giving up. Our torchbearers here today embody that commitment."

Carrying the torch on a segment of the Newmarket leg of the relay is

**Continued on page 3**





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# Weekly Notice Board

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Accessible formats  
905-727-3123 ext. 4212  
[accessibility@aurora.ca](mailto:accessibility@aurora.ca)

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, June 18	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Tuesday, June 23	2 p.m.	AFLC Program Room B	AFLC Liaison Committee (rescheduled from June 17)
Tuesday, June 23	6 p.m.	Council Chambers	Audit Committee
Tuesday, June 23	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, June 24	6:30 p.m.	St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS	Public Planning

Council 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](http://www.aurora.ca)

\*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting [www.aurora.ca/gcstream](http://www.aurora.ca/gcstream)



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Notice of Public Planning Meeting

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following planning application on **Wednesday, June 24** at 6:30 p.m. at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, Cafeteria, 278 Wellington Street East.

**PROPERTY:** 21 Golf Links Drive, Aurora, ON

**APPLICANT:** Highland Gate Developments Inc.

**FILE NUMBER:** SUB-2015-01, OPA-2015-01 and ZBA-2015-02

For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4343

### Temporary Road Closure – Canada Day Parade

Please be advised that vehicular traffic on the following portion of Yonge Street will be temporarily prohibited on Wednesday, July 1 for the Canada Day Parade:

#### ROAD(S) TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED:

- 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to Orchard Heights Boulevard
- 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Old Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to Twelve Oaks Road
- 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Yonge Street northbound lane from Orchards Heights. Boulevard to Wellington Street
- 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Blvd. to Industrial Parkway South.
- 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Engelhard Drive at Edward Street and Industrial Parkway.



## New steps towards a smoke-free Ontario

Starting **January 1, 2015**, it will be illegal to:

- smoke on bar and restaurant patios
- sell tobacco on college and university campuses
- smoke near children's playgrounds and public sports fields and surfaces.



[ontario.ca/smokefree](http://ontario.ca/smokefree)



### Pan Am Aurora Torch Relay

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Relais de la flamme des Jeux Panaméricains à Aurora

jeudi le 25 juin, 2015



Celebrate the Games and Cheer on the Torch as it travels through Aurora!

#### Opening Ceremony and Torch Launch

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Lambert Willson Park  
135 Industrial Parkway North

- Official greetings • Meet former Pan Am athletes •
- Live entertainment featuring White Pine Dancers and Blue Cloud Drum • Experience the lighting of the Torch •
- Free community barbecue • Food vendors •

*\*While quantities last*

#### Get Active at the AFLC

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Aurora Family Leisure Complex  
135 Industrial Parkway North

- Gym activities • Face painting •
- Crafts • Free public swimming •

#### A Legacy of Sport

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Aurora Cultural Centre  
22 Church Street

- Witness the grand opening of A Legacy of Sport.
- Aurora's new sports exhibit •
- Meet Aurora Hall of Fame inductees and former Pan Am athletes •
- Refreshments •

#### Win a Pan Am Prize Pack

Why does PACHI the porcupine have exactly 41 quills?  
Email the correct answer to [sware@aurora.ca](mailto:sware@aurora.ca) and be entered into a draw to win a Pan Am Prize Pack!



#### Weather Inquiries

For event-related inquiries on Thursday, June 25, please call the 24-hour special events hotline at 905-726-4762.



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For more information, please contact The Town of Aurora at 905-726-4762 or visit [www.aurora.ca/panam](http://www.aurora.ca/panam)

Please note, we reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

### Register for Playball Summer Soccer today!

Space is still available in Playball Summer Soccer Nursery. Register today!

This program is a great opportunity and perfect introduction to soccer and team participation for your child. Each child will receive a free soccer shirt on the first lesson.

Please see our Spring and Summer Program Guide for more information or visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

### Aquatic lane and Leisure Swim

Looking to get in shape for the summer? Take advantage of our lane and leisure swims today! For more information, please visit our website [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS BY-LAW NUMBER 5734-15 TO ACQUIRE LANDS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES

100 Vandorf Sideroad, Aurora

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora (the "Town") is providing notice of its intention to pass By-law Number 5734-15 on June 23, 2015, pursuant to Report No. PR15-007, for the purpose of acquiring lands for municipal purposes, municipally known as 100 Vandorf Sideroad, in the Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York and legally described as: (a) the North Part of the lands legally described as Parcel 1-1, Section M2012; Lot 1, Plan M2012, except Parts 5, 8, & 34, Plan 65R-6284, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York (part of PIN 03644-0030 (LT)); and (b) Parcel 2-3, Section M2012; Part Lots 2 & 20, Plan M2012, designated as Parts 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31, Plan 65R-6284; S/T LT212382E (all of PIN 03644-0034 (LT)), as illustrated for location purposes only on Figure 1 (below).

Figure 1



The final version of By-law Number 5734-15 will be available on the Town's website, located at [www.aurora.ca/agendasminutes](http://www.aurora.ca/agendasminutes), on Friday, June 19 before the Council meeting on Tuesday, June 23 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

For more information, please contact Allan Downey, Director of Parks & Recreation Services, at 905-727-3123 ext. 4752 or by email at [adowney@aurora.ca](mailto:adowney@aurora.ca)

### Fireworks Bylaw

The Town of Aurora's Fireworks Bylaw #5373-11 (Sale and Display), regulates the setting and sale of family and display fireworks. Fireworks are permitted on Canada Day and the day preceding this holiday from sunset to 11 p.m. For a full list of regulations under this bylaw, please visit [www.aurora.ca/bylawservices](http://www.aurora.ca/bylawservices)

### Outdoor Water Use Bylaw

Residents are reminded that as of **Friday, May 15**, The Town of Aurora enforces a municipal by-law related to outdoor water use. It is important that all residents and businesses observe the following regulations, as they have been put in to place to ensure a continued and abundant water supply.

No person shall use the Town's municipal water from a hose, pipe, sprinkler or permanent irrigation system for the purpose of watering any lawn, garden or washing of vehicles, sidewalks, driveways, patios, decks or windows, or filling swimming pools except as follows:

- An even numbered address may use water outdoors only on even numbered days of the month;
- An odd numbered address may use water outdoors only on odd numbered days of the month; and
- Outdoor water use will only be permitted between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

For more information, please visit [www.aurora.ca/bylawservices](http://www.aurora.ca/bylawservices)

### Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw

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

### Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning starting in late June to early August 2015

Please be advised that Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning will occur on the following streets between late June and early August 2015.

- Loraview Lane
- Zokol Drive
- McGee Crescent
- Heatherfield Lane
- Wilkinson Place
- Benville Crescent
- Long Valley Road
- Monkman Court
- Langman Place
- Tamarac Trail

If you have any questions regarding the block pruning, please contact the Parks department at 905-727-123 ext. 3233.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Register now for Town of Aurora Summer Camps!

Register now for one of our many fun and exciting Summer Camp options. Whether you are interested in sports, art or science, we offer something for a variety of ages. For more information, please see The Town of Aurora's 2015 Spring and Summer Parks & Recreation Program Guide on our website at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca) or pick-up a copy at one of our facilities today!

### Dinner and a Movie

*Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*  
(Rated PG)

Where: Aurora Family Leisure Complex  
The Loft  
When: **Saturday, June 20**  
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.

### Club Aurora Fitness celebrates Recreation and Parks Month in June

June is Recreation and Parks Month. Club Aurora Fitness Centre is pleased to offer the following FREE drop in class on Saturday, June 20 – Outdoor Boot Camp. The class will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at Ada Johnson Park. For more information, please contact Club Aurora at 905-726-4764.

### Celebrate your birthday in the pool!

This spring and summer, consider hosting your birthday at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex pool. Enjoy one hour in the teaching pool and leisure pool with water slide plus party room!

For more information, please contact 905-727-3123 ext. 3117 or email [poolbirthdayparties@aurora.ca](mailto:poolbirthdayparties@aurora.ca).

### Aurora Seniors Centre is offering an Atlantic Canada Adventure!

Join us on an Atlantic Canada adventure! The Maritimes has fabulous scenery, delicious sea food, colourful fishing villages, friendly cities and of course that fresh air! This comprehensive tour takes in all of the major highlights of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. For more information, please call Andrew Bailey at 905-727-3123 ext. 3611.

### Register for Youth Beach Volleyball

Calling all 12 to 17 year olds. Join us on Wednesday's at 6 p.m. at Lambert Willson Park starting **Thursday, July 2** to enjoy the sun and sand! Call 905-841-7529 for registration information.



# Activists, athletes and soldiers to carry torch next week

From page 1

Dan Phillion, a long-time advocate and fundraiser for muscular dystrophy in many facets of the community, including raising tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship funds and participating in programs to help combat the effects of poverty.

“It is an honour and I have never been selected for anything like this before, so it is interesting to be part of something this big,” says Mr. Phillion, who tells The Auroran he has been working with the Pan Am people, as well as Mr. Ballard’s office, to get ready for the day, including special gear to soup up his wheelchair for the big day. “I am hoping it is going to be a nice day and all my friends and supporters will be out cheering for me.

Melissa Blair, an active member of the Aurora community, will also participate in the Newmarket leg of the journey. A long-time leader in local scout programs, she is an active member of the Queen’s York Rangers, training each week at the Aurora Armoury while also working as a personal trainer at the Aurora location of Goodlife Fitness.

“It is an honour to be selected as a torch bearer for the community, for the fitness, and for the athletes,” says Ms. Blair. “I am just so excited! Since I was selected I have been following where the torch is going, who is running, and every aspect of the route. I hope everyone has fun. It is just exciting having so many athletes everywhere and it is going to be fun. I always think you get out of the community what you have put into it and I have been involved in the community forever! Scouting, cadets, and being in

the military for years, I have gotten a lot from it!

Arlene Lindsay, a long-time advocate for organ and tissue donation, will take the torch in hand next Thursday on Yonge Street just south of Kennedy Street. An instrumental member of the York Region Gift of Life Association, she is an accomplished athlete herself taking medals in swimming, bowling, and ball at games held by the Canadian Transplant Association. She is also an active member of CHATS, helping with Meals on Wheels programs for local seniors, their walking club, and their telephone reassurance programs.

Having received a life-saving liver donation herself over 23 years ago, Ms. Lindsay says she’s particularly proud to be here to carry the torch through a place she can call her hometown.

“I was ecstatic [when I heard] and it is an absolute honour to carry the torch,” she says. “What an example to show everyone we can actually be here and do it. This is just fabulous. I’m most looking forward, well, to not dropping the torch! Having people cheer me on is going to feel really good, as is knowing I had the transplant, I am here, and I am doing it!”

This was a sentiment shared by Mr. Ballard.

“When the three of you hold the Pan Am Flames high and feel the spirit of the flame in your hands, you carry a very powerful energy,” he said. “When you pass the flame to the hand of the next torchbearer, you are passing the ideals of the community, celebration, participation and pride that reach and inspire people from all walks of life.”

## First Nations dancers bring message of unity to Pan Am celebrations

By Brock Weir

Over the last few years, the White Pine Dancers have become a familiar fixture at Aurora’s community celebrations, often bringing with them a powerful message of family transcending millennia.

As athletes from North and South America descend on the Greater Toronto Area next month for the Pan Am and Parapan Games, this message of family will be stronger than ever as White Pine plays an integral role in Aurora’s ceremonies next Thursday, June 25, marking the arrival of the Pan Am Torch.

“This is what the Pan Am games are all about,” says Aaron Bell, Ojibwa Storyteller with White Pine. “It is a group of family. They may not be from the same countries, but they are all participating in the same sports. It is about unity at the Pan Am games and that is what we’ll be sharing: the ability for nations to come together under one common goal of unity in sport for the benefit of all.”

There is a tremendous “coming together” of dancers to make their Pan Am performances something to remember. To mark the occasion, White Pine has brought together a collective of dancers from Toronto, the Mississauga Nation of New Credit and Six Nations Orillia to welcome the Torch and Pan Am participants.

They plan to line the route as

torchbearers carry their precious cargo up Yonge Street, across Wellington Street and up Industrial Parkway North, before converging at Lambert Willson Park for a late morning and afternoon community party.

White Pine came together with something different in mind. They have seen many dance troupes come and go, but oftentimes they were very “stoic and closed faced” in their performances, says Mr. Bell. They wanted to convey and share their joy, passion, and sense of fun with the audience, be open, and welcome people in with every movement they make, and this is very much their mandate today.

“We always try to leave the audience with smiles on their faces, smiles in the hearts, and smiles in their spirits,” says Mr. Bell. “We try to leave them with a little bit more understanding of what First Nations culture is. We try to create more understanding today so there is less misunderstanding for our children in the future – not just our children, but everyone. If just one person walks away from our presentation with a better understanding of the First Nations culture that has lived beside them for the past 500 years, hopefully their children will have a better understanding and so on. Generations from now there will be a lot more understanding, communication and unity.”



(From Left) Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, torchbearers Melissa Blair, Arlene Lindsay and Dan Phillion, and Newmarket Aurora MPP Chris Ballard and MP Lois Brown.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> - FINALS AT THE HOEDOWN

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Canadian music icon Dan Hill played before a sold-out crowd at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Friday night as the grand finale to “The Great Reunion”, a concert series spearheaded at the centre by noted pianist John Sheard. Mr. Sheard joined Mr. Hill on stage for the concert, along with singer Wendy Irvine, for an evening of classics – both Mr. Hill’s hits and songs he has penned for others – and new material inspired by his life.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



## POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

### Highway to Hell

I have been reading the hysterical media reports about the impending traffic chaos about to overtake the City of Toronto.

The countdown to the Pan Am games has begun and, as the days tick down, the panic ratchets up. Breathless reports in virtually all major media indicate that all modes of transport –save walking and, perhaps, a donkey – will be useless in the face of the coming tsunami of cars, team buses and the like that will be taking over the roadways for about six weeks in July and early August.

I can attest to the fact there will most definitely be utter chaos on the roads. I work at a location where one of the events is to be held. Suffice to say that traffic in and around the facility is already a nightmare. I cannot even imagine what it will be like a few weeks from now where it is expected that we will receive upwards of 20,000 visitors a day!

The subway to the venue is nowhere near complete. Similarly, the roads around it are still a complete and unmitigated mess. Just getting to work right now requires an extra half-hour of travel time (and some Xanax to calm the nerves and suppress the daily bout of road rage that bubbles up). With greatest respect to the poor folks trying to make transit “plans” (and I do truly feel sorry for them), there is no way on God’s green earth that you are going to be able to move that many people in, on or about the facility given the current state of the roads. And the lack of the subway. No way short of a miracle.

Quite frankly, I am not clear why the panic has started now. Personally, I think the pundits are a bit late to the panic party. The alarm bells should have rung loudly years ago when these “games” were awarded. The GTA is already notorious the world over for our torturous commuting times.

How could the powers that be think that adding hundreds of thousands of extra people over the period of a few weeks, to roads already stuffed like sausage casings, was in any way a good idea?

According to the Toronto Board of Trade, of 19 major metropolises surveyed – including Los Angeles! – “...Toronto has the worst average commute in the world”. So, there are already too many people using the roads. There is virtual gridlock on all main access points into the city. And the plan is to add more? Where exactly?

Ah, use public transit they say. Natch. That too is already at max capacity. Anyone who endures a daily commute on public transit will tell you that there’s simply no room for even more people. Maybe the plan is to use those “pushers” like they do on the Tokyo subway? I wouldn’t be surprised.

The bottom line is things are going to get mighty crowded no matter what way you try to get around the city and its environs. My advice: Don’t even bother. Just close up shop and go fishin’.

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

## NEW AURORAN POLL

Does Aurora need stricter rules when it comes to cell tower placement near residential neighbourhoods?  
**A) Yes B) No C) Unsure**

Go to [www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com) to vote!

### Previous Poll Results

As controversy continues to mount over Senate spending, what would be your preferred solution? A) Reform B) Abolish C) Status Quo

RESULTS TO DATE June 16, 2015	A	B	C
	60%	40%	0%

## Ontario Government Wraps Up a Successful Spring Sitting

The Ontario legislature has wrapped up its spring sitting and I’m looking forward to spending more time in the riding. The government made substantial progress in a number of key areas that I outlined below.

Last week marked the one year anniversary of my election as your Member of Provincial Parliament. I want to thank all of you who reach out to me with your questions and input on how to make this great riding, and Ontario, even better.

### Select spring sitting bills that passed:

Bill 6 - Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015

Requires the province to table a long-term infrastructure plan covering at least 10 years and support job creation, training opportunities, economic growth, environmental protection and design excellence.

Bill 31 - Transportation Statute Law Amendment Act (Making Ontario’s Roads Safer), 2015

Strengthens penalties for offences such as distracted driving in order to help keep Ontario’s roads among the safest in North America.

Bill 45 - Making Healthier Choices Act, 2015

Protects youth from the dangers of tobacco and the potential harm of electronic cigarettes; it will also help families make healthier food choices by giving them caloric information when they eat out or buy take-away meals.

Bill 49 - Ontario Immigration Act, 2015

Enables Ontario to maximize the economic benefits of immigration by helping the province work with the federal government, strengthening efforts to reduce fraud and increasing transparency.

Bill 56 - Ontario Retirement Pension Plan Act, 2015

Lays out a framework to create a first-of-its-kind mandatory provincial pension plan that would provide a predictable stream of retirement income to eligible Ontarians.

Bill 57 - Pooled Registered Pension



## View From Queen’s Park

Chris Ballard, MPP  
Newmarket-Aurora

Plans Act, 2015

Provides a framework for the establishment and administration of pooled registered pension plans (PRPPs) in Ontario — a voluntary, low-cost, tax-assisted option to increase retirement savings, available to employees and the self-employed.

Bill 80 - Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment Act, 2015

Prohibits the acquisition and breeding of orcas (killer whales) in Ontario and allows the government to set administrative standards of care for marine mammals.

Bill 103 - Protecting the School Year Act

Protects the school year for 72,000 public secondary students in Durham, Rainbow and Peel district school boards by ending local strikes by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation

### Bills Introduced during spring sitting:

Bill 66 - Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015

Would further strengthen protection of the Great Lakes by reducing harmful algal blooms, protecting wetlands, and monitoring and reporting on the health of the lakes.

Bill 73 - Smart Growth for Our Communities Act, 2015

Would reform the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act to give residents a greater say in how their communities grow; it would also expand opportunities to fund community services such as transit and recycling.

Bill 85 - Strengthening and Improving Government Act

Would strengthen and modernize

## More Musings



## FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents 250 airlines around the world, trying to come up with optimal dimensions for carry-on bags.

Since most every airline now charge checked bag fees, people are trying to carry on even more luggage which results in jammed overhead bins and many passengers (such as yours truly) having no room for their carry-one.

A couple of weeks ago I was travelling back from Calgary. The flight itself takes just under four hours. It was a packed flight. Although my seat was only about half way back in the plane, my ticket showed “Zone 5” for boarding, Zone 5 being the highest designated zone.

I would therefore be one of the last passengers to board the flight.

Prior to boarding, the Air Canada service representative made it clear that the flight was fully booked and that the Air Canada workers would be strictly

enforcing the edict regarding the size and number of carry-on luggage.

The Air Canada employee also stated a number of times over the intercom that they would offer to tag luggage right there, and you could get it upon your arrival. In this way, passengers would not be inconvenienced by having to go all the way back to security to check their bags. A few people took advantage of this service.

Your columnist always tries to reserve an aisle seat as my legs get stiff sitting for an extended duration. I was not able to do this as I booked this flight on short notice. So, I had a window seat.

I was one of the last people to board and there was absolutely no room for me to store my carry-on, which consisted of a slim suit garment bag and a computer bag. I had to try and stuff this under the seat but it would not work.

So, there I was for four hours, with my carry-on beside my legs, forcing me into an uncomfortable position.

Although I much prefer the aisle, I have no problem with sitting in the window seat or middle seat. I totally accept that this can happen if you book your flight close to the departure date.

What I am incredibly mad about it that I paid the same cold cash as my fellow travelers and I did not get treated in an equitable fashion.

Continued on page 17

Before this column returns to the local themes of people, politics and public affairs, below are some additional unconnected, stream-of-conscious and (most likely) incoherent musings and observations regarding the late spring season in Aurora:

My son loves playing house league soccer in Aurora and is looking forward to playing in the local “tournament” this weekend in Aurora. I put the quotes around the word “tournament” because it is really a misnomer. My wife told me that the players younger than 12-years-old play two games on Saturday and have their pictures taken on Sunday.

I recall that in past years, the younger tykes could potentially play a semi-final and a final if they won their preliminary round games.

I wish that the play-off format was still in place. One year, Ryan’s team squeaked out a win in the semi-final and played in the final where they lost in a close game but it was great. There were lot of fans watching and the kids seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Aurora soccer officials should contemplate bringing this back for the younger ones. Since the children need to be here for both days on the weekend, why not?

There was a story in the business press this week about the International



# Car company “questions” decision to host cell tower after outcry

By Brock Weir

Local business owner Michael Carcone is “questioning his decision” to host a potential new cell phone tower following concerns from family, employees and neighbours.

Mr. Carcone, who owns Carcone’s Auto Recycling, on Bloomington Road, told Council last week that he now feels caught in the middle of a dispute that saw neighbours organizing against the tower, intended to provide service in nearby Richmond Hill neighbourhoods as well as cell reception for those travelling the Bloomington corridor.

“I have been contracted by Rogers to assist into cooperating with them in the approval process, however I also have close family, neighbours and many employees that I care about who are all involved with the issue, so now I feel caught in the middle,” he said. “Rogers has contracted to comply with all laws, bylaws and regulations, including those pertaining to the environment, health, welfare, [and] occupational safety. I want Council and all interested parties to know I expect and urge Council to hold Rogers to that promise.

“When Rogers approached me and asked if I would house a cell tower, it didn’t seem like there would be any underlying issue with it. However, with new information being brought forward from surrounding neighbours, I can’t help but question my decision. We were contractually assured by Rogers that there were no unreasonable safety issues with such a tower on our property. The last thing we want is for our neighbours

to feel unsafe.”

Mr. Carcone was just one of many residents to speak up at last week’s Council meeting with many neighbours citing health concerns of having a cell tower in their backyards, including Nadia Romano, owner of Bloomington Self Storage, who said her company was approached last year to host the tower.

“We declined the offer as we did not want to put our children, ourselves, and neighbours at risk by being in such close proximity [to the tower],” she said, citing more stringent regulations on microwaves mandated by Health Canada counterparts in such nations as Brazil and Israel. “The bottom line is the safety guidelines we have in Canada are clearly outdated and do not protect public health,” she said. “We need to join the rest of the world in setting truly protective guidelines for our own health. The priority should be set to protect the health of our citizens and not the interests of companies operating in the wireless industries. I don’t want to put [my three-year-old] at risk for childhood leukemia so someone down the street may have better cell phone reception.”

Area resident Bonnie Kraft also appeared before Council arguing the process followed by Rogers was not in compliance with Industry Canada Standards because those living near the proposed site did not have adequate time to respond to notices about the proposal, a standard set at 30 days. Letters were received in the area on March 23, she said, when a new location was selected by the Tower. It was dated March 18 and stated the deadline for comments was

April 4.

“The new tower is a new project that effects other residents,” said Ms. Kraft. “It requires a new application. It is a clear violation of their requirements and, therefore, the applicant has been non-compliant.”

Speaking on behalf of the neighbourhood as a delegate was Dr. Azam Khan, who agreed that Rogers was not compliant with protocols.

“There is absolutely no need in the Town of Aurora where we have only 40 homes,” he said. “It would be ridiculous for anyone to claim that we need this tower in our neighbourhood. In voting for non-concurrence, we can proceed and work together to update the Aurora protocols since it was developed before the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ [policies] were published in its final form to reflect all the things we have learned in this process.”

Rogers, on the other hand, said they explored all options to find the best

location for the Tower. Its location needs to be within a certain area to address present needs, according to Tatyana Moro, who spoke on Rogers’ behalf. Small cell technology, a solution floated by opponents, would not be adequate, she said, as they only cover 100m distances.

Richmond Hill sites were also explored, including a nearby golf course. This, she said, would have been a suitable alternative, but the site owners were not willing. With other options being taken off the table for similar reasons, Carcone’s was the best available option, she said.

Ms. Moro also rejected the claims there was inadequate consultation. This process began in July 2014 with four public notices published in local newspapers, a notice on the property itself, and 17 notices mailed out providing 48 days to comment. The second mail-out providing a further 17 days for comments was above and beyond what was required, she concluded.

*Delegations bring about change of heart at Council table*

From page 1

gap in the existing policy and now is the time to tighten it. While Aurora’s policies with regards to cell phone towers lay out criteria on co-location amongst companies and how – and how far – the companies must communicate and consult with surrounding neighbourhoods on a selected location, it does not speak to any distances that have to separate such towers from residents.

That will change if Councillors get their way.

“I believe they followed the process as best they could and our staff did an outstanding job from that perspective,” said Councillor Sandra Humfries who, along with Councillor Tom Mrakas, was one of just two Councillors to vote against the tower the previous week. “The essence of the problem here is the location that is being forced upon the residents. This location is the only place Rogers received concurrence for and if they didn’t they would still be looking for a place right now. The policy was followed but I do not agree with this location.”

For her, a sticking point was the fact as presented by consultants from Rogers, that the proposed south Aurora cell tower was actually going to best serve densely populated areas just over Aurora’s municipal limits with Richmond Hill.

“I would have appreciated King not concurring when we had the Bathurst tower set up on their property for only Aurora residents,” she concluded.

This was a view still shared by Councillor Mrakas, who said he was “disappointed” there was not a provision in their bylaws to prescribe a distance requirement, as allowed under guidelines set forth by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

“I wonder why we never actually had any bylaw that spoke to those distances and I think we need to take a hard look at that and set some rules and guidelines for future locations so when carriers come to the Town they know exactly what we are looking for before they come before us and we’re looking at this situation,” he said.

Since Council took its first stab at the matter at the Committee level the previous week, other members came

around to this viewpoint.

“I want to thank staff for following all the guidelines we have before us, but one of the biggest guidelines that is not really covered is the location,” said Councillor John Abel. “These people have lived here for decades in this location and they are being subjected to...this antenna right next to their location and, to me, that is a very sensitive issue. To provide the demands on the growth that is just south of us, that growth has to take on some sort of [responsibility] looking after themselves. Councillor Mrakas took a stand on Canada Post. Other municipalities have taken a stand on the setback [for towers] and I think for a sensitive area it should have a minimum of 200m, if not 400 or 500.”

Also voting against concurrence were Councillors Michael Thompson and Wendy Gaertner, the latter of whom was not present for the previous week’s vote at the Committee level and spoke to the matter for the first time last week. For them, although they agreed with the comments on setting out a distance, there was also inadequate consultation with residents – another strike against concurring with the tower.

“It needs to be written into our protocol that we need to have public consultation with Council, staff and residents,” said Councillor Gaertner. “The specific reason for non-concurrence is land use compatibility of the antenna system and I don’t think this is compatible siting for this Tower. The other thing is the response of the affected residents. They elect us to represent them and that is what we need to do.”

Added Councillor Thompson: “This situation has brought about a need to revisit our protocol and make some of those adjustments to speak to those situations where a tower moves and whether or not it necessitates a second or new consultation. There always seems to be these issues that occur and I think we need to err on the side of engaging our residents.”

With Council’s decision, Rogers and Bell now have the option of taking the matter to Industry Canada for dispute resolution.

Councillor Jeff Thom was not in attendance for the meeting.



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# Regency Acres brings outside inside to inspire students, community

By Brock Weir

Ella and Sienna Greg still can't believe their eyes when they walk into Regency Acres Public School.

Until very recently, the first thing that greeted visitors to the over 55-year-old Murray Drive school were three stark walls of dark red brick. This area, however, has been transformed into an indoor parkland thanks to the expert brushstrokes of local artists and the insights of each and every student at the school.

Regency Acres formally opened their new "parkland" on Thursday at a ceremony attended by an at-capacity crowd of students, teachers and parents. The bright walls, visible from the streets, are dotted with silhouettes of students living out the newly-minted Regency Acres pledge, developed by students to create the best environment possible.

"I think it really represents Regency and how much of a school we are and how everyone together is one big family," says Ella, Grade 8.

Adds Grade 5 student Sienna: "It is really nice because the pledge represents the school at its best. Respecting ourselves, others and the diversity around us touches your heart and it means a lot in the school."

The transformation of the school's atrium was an initiative led by the school's parent council, who financed the project through both their budget and fundraising efforts. Joan Lash, chair of the council, says it was about building a feel of a student-oriented community.

"I am blown away," says Joan of the finished product. "When you drive by at night, it is just such a beautiful, strong colour. It just looks alive all the time and it is very inviting and welcoming."

For Principal Lisa Leoni, it was all about fostering a welcoming environment not just for the students, but the community as a whole. Since the two-month transformation process was completed, she says she has seen this vision realised as kids bring their parents to the building in the after school hours to show off their new parkland space, and neighbours without any particular ties to Regency Acres P.S. coming in to enjoy the atmosphere as well.

Most importantly, however, the incorporation of the new pledge into the "parkland" serves to inspire the kids and staff every day.

"You want students to take ownership over their learning and behaviour, and this is one way to do that," says Ms. Leoni. "There has been a lot of research around environment as a third teacher, so when you redefine spaces and create spaces, it shows kids you care about the environment in which they are learning. There was a value placed on creating an environment that is very welcoming for students and the environment is expressed by things they value, want to create, and want to see happening."

"Students have all taken the pledge and we very much use it as a restorative approach to learning. Oftentimes, this space is used as a reflection piece for students. The vignettes in the scenery reflect the seven core values expressed by the students."

Becky Knowles, a Regency Acres teacher for over 25 years, says she was "blown away" by the philosophical principles brainstormed by the students. From the first splash of paint on the walls through to the finished product, it has truly been a transformative experience for the school – and it has given them ideas on



(Above) Students, parents and teachers of the Regency Acres Public School community joined principal Lisa Leoni and student Mason Kennedy to cut the official ribbon on their recently revamped atrium. (Below) Students Ella and Sienna Greg proudly display the new Regency Pledge, which was developed by the kids and takes pride of place in their new "indoors-outdoors" environment.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



how to incorporate the seven points of the pledge into the future of the school. Anti-bullying messages have led to anti-bullying presentations through to the next school year, as have initiatives to make the sentiments of the students toward equity and inclusivity even healthier than it is now. Healthy living has also become

an important component of the school environment, an initiative Ms. Knowles says is now going "gangbusters." "Kids love this and feel really proud of it," says Sandy Kennedy, a member of Parent Council. "They are so excited and it has been such a positive project."

## Better late than never – Aurora's 2015 Citizen of the Year recognized by Council

By Brock Weir

When Diane Buchanan was named Aurora's Citizen of the Year last month, she had no idea the award was coming and, as such, was enjoying a previously-booked golfing holiday in Myrtle Beach when she received the call from Mayor Geoff Dawe.

Speaking live over the phone to approximately 200 people gathered at the Aurora Seniors' Centre at the May 25 Community Recognition Awards, Ms. Buchanan told Mayor Dawe she was shocked and overwhelmed by the honour – and that was a feeling that spilled over last Tuesday as Council Chambers were filled to capacity by family and friends eager to see Ms. Buchanan accept the gong in person.

"[At the Community Recognition Awards], it was certainly wonderful to recognize all the hard work and dedication of the residents of Aurora at that time and I was pleased to announce then the Citizen of the Year, which was resented to Diane Buchanan," said Mayor Dawe. "Diane, at that time, would rather be away golfing than here, which I really don't understand! [But tonight] we're holding a special event to recognize

Diane to recognize her for her passion for Aurora, her volunteering and her just general demeanour in everything she does.

"Diane has been a resident of Aurora for more than 50 years. She actively supports many, many local organizations, including the Salvation Army, the Optimist Club of Aurora, the Aurora Home Show, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Aurora Farmers' Market. Diane spends countless hours working diligently year after year to make life better for the less fortunate. For the many in the community who nominated her, [the words] 'dedicated', 'supportive' and 'deserving' were mentioned frequently. Tonight we would like to officially – and in person – congratulate Diane for her tremendous contributions and her selfless dedication to the Town of Aurora."

After an ovation from the audience, with her children and grandchildren providing some of the loudest cheers, Ms. Buchanan was front and centre in the Council chamber to receive her award – and a significantly-sized bouquet of flowers – from Mayor and Council. As it turned out, Mayor Dawe noted, following their

phone conversation last month, Ms. Buchanan told him he had cut her short. Neither party were going to let that happen again, as the newly minted Citizen of the Year took the podium.

"At first I just wanted to say thank you and exit stage right, but I thought it would be more appropriate to say sorry, sorry for all the headaches I caused when I planned my vacation months ago having no idea that I was about to be selected Citizen of the Year," she said. "I had no idea the lengths my friends and family had to go to with the people here at Town Hall to coordinate everything to make it all possible."

"When my friends presented me with the award on Saturday before the Community Recognition Awards, I just stood there in complete shock before crying. When they read out the nomination letters, I had no idea what they were talking about but then it started to dawn on me about the third letter in and I was just so overwhelmed and I didn't believe it. I thought they were pulling my leg, but this really isn't something to joke about."

"I just want to say thanks to my nominators, Elaine Steenhorst and

Kimberley Kerr – thank you – and I will try to make the town proud."

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Mayor Geoff Dawe formally presented 2015 Citizen of the Year Diane Buchanan with her award at Council last Tuesday night. Following the presentation, the Town hosted a reception in Ms. Buchanan's honour in the Town Hall's Skylight Gallery before her friends and family kicked up their heels for an evening of fun at the Royal Canadian Legion, of which Ms. Buchanan is a proud and active member.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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# Timberlane redevelopment moves forward following plan review

By Brock Weir

The redevelopment of Timberlane Athletic Club to a new residential neighbourhood cleared an important hurdle last week after studies were conducted to address concerns brought forward by surrounding businesses.

Council gave the green light on a 6 – 2 vote for an official plan amendment to re-designate the site to pave the way for a cluster residential development of 56 homes, along with the water and sewage capacity required.

This recommendation was initially brought forward for Council approval earlier this spring, but was delayed by over a month following complaints from Van Rob Stamping, who requested an independent peer review of the application before Council to ensure, first, that vibrations from the plant would not be felt on the proposed redevelopment site and, most importantly, that whatever is built would not impede on their ability to do business under standards and approvals set out by Ontario’s Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

This further review, carried out by Conestoga-Rovers, indicated that everything was in order.

“Their scope of the work really is to evaluate the principal report to ensure the methodology is sound,” said Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning. “They did review the application, they are aware of some of the concerns and issues. They did ask for additional information [which was] traded back and forth between the two engineers and this final report essentially concludes the industrial activities of Van Rob are below

MOE noise and vibration criteria in consideration of its location. They identified no issues and concurred with the noise and vibration study.”

Although representatives of Van Rob did not delegate to last week’s Council meeting, Councillors wanted assurances on next steps, particularly whether they would be considering legal action or taking the matter to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). Warren Mar, Solicitor for the Town of Aurora, said their representatives are not threatening OMB action, but have provided comments regarding the study itself.

For some members of Council, including Sandra Humfries, next steps should be considered from the municipal end including warning clauses to people moving into the new neighbourhood that noise could still be heard. Others, specifically two Councillors who voted against the application, had other concerns on their mind.

“I have issues with the density,” said Councillor Tom Mrakas. “I think our official plan speaks to two units per acre and I don’t understand why we’re not following our guidelines and our regulations. We have rules and regulations in place when it speaks to density, and this is not just a little bit over – it’s double. To me, the density issue is the big issue. The noise is the side issue and I can’t support this at all.”

Councillor Wendy Gaertner was of a similar view.

“We have a planning process in place for this area in Town. We have spent a lot of taxpayers’ money to defend it at the OMB, we were successful, we

have made exceptions where there are environmental features in place that we can do clustering. In this case there are no environmental features. There is no reason for clustering.”

A larger issue, she indicated was density originally allocated for the lands now occupied by Timberlane was transferred to the Falconwood Homes development, immediately west of the club, leading to a more intense density in that neighbourhood.

“We are double counting land,” she concluded. “The density is very high and it is not because of the necessity to cluster. There are no environmental features. Even though it is so high, it is not taking into account land density that has already been transferred to another development. To me, this is very simple: do we want to protect the environment? If we approve this are we protecting the environment? Are we doing the best thing for our community? Or are we doing the best thing for developers? I think the answer to that question is very simple.”

The answer was not so simple, however, to Councillor Paul Pirri, who questioned whether this would have any environmental impact on the area at all.

“We have a parking lot on this facility at this point in time and we have a recreation complex on this facility at this point in time,” he said. “We’re redeveloping a property. We’re not talking about preserving the environment. There is already a large footprint on this building.”

Part of Mr. Ramunno’s rational in recommending the approval, he said, was notwithstanding the increase in density, the lands in question were

already developed.

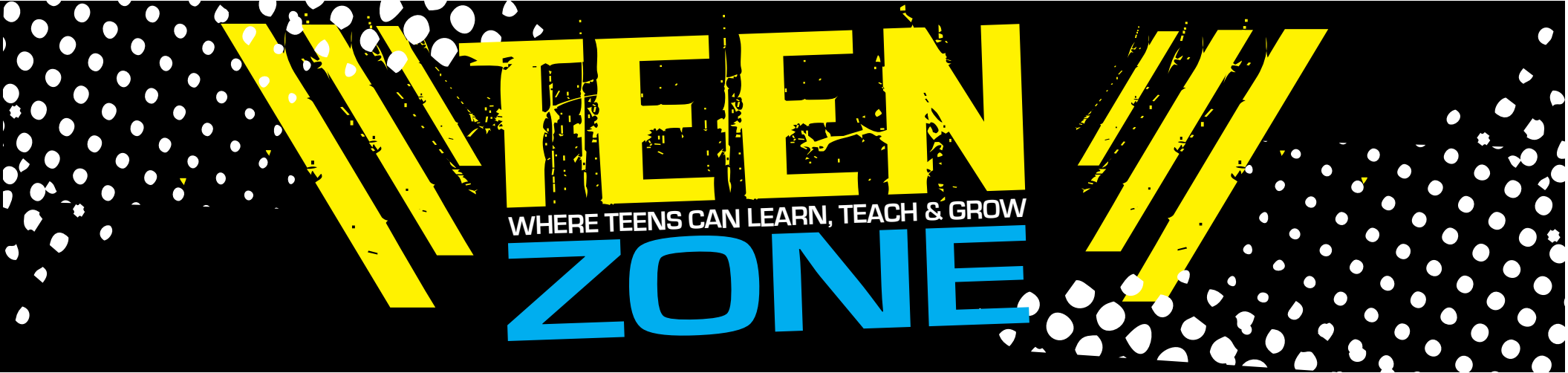
“The lot coverage is not changing based on what is there now, but the overall vision of the secondary plan document, which identified the type of growth we wanted to see in the long term here is in keeping with that,” said Mr. Ramunno.

### Briefly

**CONCERT-GOING CAN BE THIS COMFORTABLE**  
There's something for everyone this summer as the Town of Aurora unveils its lineup for the 2015 TD Concerts in the Park Series. This is the first year the Town of Aurora has partnered exclusively with TD Canada Trust to put on the series, which begins on Wednesday July 8, at Town Park. Through the new sponsorship deal, TD will provide the “Premium Concert Experience.” Prior to each concert, the Town will accept food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry. With every donation, you and three friends have the chance to be upgraded to the front row of the concert to enjoy the music from the comfort of special TD chairs along with complimentary food from area vendors. The series kicks off with a children's concert featuring the talent of Susie Sunshine. The series takes a more mature turn the following Wednesday, July 15, with John Stinson's Tribute to Gordon Lightfoot. The following Wednesdays will include The Megacity Big Band, featuring big band jazz and swing favourites, The Wheat Kings and their tribute to The Tragically Hip, the Latin rhythms of Eliana Cuevas, Tom Leadbeater's Spirit of Nova Scotia, the Dixie Chicklets, and Absolute Journey and their tribute to Journey. For more information, visit [www.aurora.ca/summerconcerts](http://www.aurora.ca/summerconcerts).

**LAND ACQUISITION TO BE DISCUSSED NEXT WEEK**  
Councillors are set to discuss a land acquisition next week which could see a portion of the land at 100 Vandorf Sideroad, near the street's intersection with Industrial Parkway South, come into the municipal fold. If the bylaw is passed at the June 23 Council meeting, this land would be acquired for “municipal purposes.” According to the Town, these purposes have not yet been determined but would be earmarked once the revised Parks and Recreation Master Plan is complete. Aurora has faced a land shortage in recent years when it comes to providing an adequate number of sports fields, particularly soccer pitches, to meet the demands of a growing population.

**ROMANCE FRAUDS**  
The York Regional Police Major Fraud Unit are urging victims to come forward after laying over 40 charges against nine people in connection with romance fraud. Investigations began last July after a woman reported she had been a victim of fraud and Police found groups of individuals from the Toronto area had been operating an organized criminal network targeting women on dating websites. In this instance, the suspect creates a false dating profile and goes to great lengths to make this false identity believable. The suspect will use many methods to build trust and establish relationships, eventually asking the victim for money. If you have any information on romance frauds, contact the York Regional Police Major Fraud Unit at 1-866-876-5423 x.2778 or anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.



## Student-led initiative SPREADS ACROSS COUNTRY

No matter how their exam results turn out as the school year wraps up, students at Dr. G.W. Williams can look back over the course of 2014 – 2015 with a sense of a job well done.

Inspired by the plight of the late Sarah Watkin, a youngster battling leukemia, the students set up Sarah’s Drive for Hope, to get their cheeks of their fellow students – and the community at large – swabbed and registered for the national bone marrow registry.

2015, however, marked a milestone – for the first time all 31 high schools in the York Region District School Board followed Williams’ lead running swabbing events with interest spreading to provinces across the country looking for tips on how to get their schools involved as well.

“This is huge,” says Grade 12 student Haven Moulds, who has been instrumental in Williams’ efforts. “There are schools in Nova Scotia and British Columbia who have been asking. We have had a lot of initiatives in the past at this school that have been really successful, but Sarah’s Drive for Hope was huge, raising almost \$10,000 for the Watkin family. I don’t think

I was surprised by the fact the kids could do it at our school because the students are so awesome and there is so much spirit, especially in mentorship, and people we worked with.

“But, we were amazed at how other schools caught onto it.”

Also instrumental in making this a reality was Sarah’s dad, Mark, who was on hand every step of the way to cheer the students on and foster connections with other schools, and linking them with One Match, the organization which collects the data and maintains the registry.

“All 31 schools have said they wanted to do another drive next year, which is awesome,” says Haven. “I know other school boards have also reached out to One Match to say they wanted to do it as well. One Match is happy because they are growing the registry significantly.”

As demand for tips increased, the students prepared packages to provide the interested schools everything they would need for a successful event, from poster templates to suggested lists of activities to keep their initiatives light and fun. All they had to do once receiving the packages, says Haven, was to call up One Match and set up a date.

“I think that was really got people wanting to do it because it was so easy for them,” she says. “I am quite satisfied and very happy with how it turned out and I think the people who also worked on it are too because it was definitely not a one-person show. We have put it in good people’s hands next year. They are on the team this year, will be on the team next year for sure, and I am happy to see it will continue at Williams.”

Haven is headed to the University of Ottawa this fall, where she hopes to get bone marrow donation drives off the ground in the nation’s capital.

■ WRITTEN BY BROCK WEIR



HAVEN MOULDS AND MARK WATKIN

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 Sonya Arrigo, University of Toronto  
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 Jessica Blum, University of Georgia  
 Rachel Bronshteyn, University of Guelph  
 Esther Bushuev, University of Toronto  
 Kassie Clark, Western University  
 David Cohn, McGill University  
 Fang Connett, Ryerson University  
 Mark D'Angelo, Queen's University  
 Jasper Dhanraj, University of Toronto, Mississauga  
 Diana Di Pede, McMaster University  
 Allison Dickson, Queen's University  
 Alexandra Douramakos, Mount Allison University  
 Peter Elefteriadis, University of Toronto  
 Elliot Eydelman, Carleton University  
 Katia Fedyushchenko, University of Toronto  
 Alexandra Feldstein, McMaster University  
 Alex Finlay, Ryerson University  
 Beth Fournier, McMaster University  
 Sam Gallagher, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 Sjörland Gibson, Western University  
 Santina Glockmann-Musto, Acadia University  
 Rachel Glynn, University of Southern California  
 Mukul Gupta, Western University  
 Olivia Hallis, Queen's University  
 David Hastings-Grgas, Western University  
 Megan Hill, University of Guelph  
 Maddie Horner, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 McKinley Hunt, Queen's University  
 Kate Jones, Western University  
 Zachary Kalk, Dartmouth College  
 Klara Kercz, Chef School, George Brown College  
 Peter Kerrigan, McMaster University  
 Ruilan King, Simon Fraser University  
 Carlos Lam, University of Toronto, Scarborough  
 Nic Later, Dalhousie University  
 Joshua Liggett, Flight Safety Academy  
 Logan Litman, Western University  
 Emma Logan, McGill University  
 Jack Lombardi, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 Michela Luba, Brock University  
 Jacqueline MacDonald, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 Daniel MacGregor, Queen's University

Cheryl MacNicol, Dalhousie University  
 Alexandra Mantella, Queen's University  
 Nicky Mantella, University of British Columbia, Okanagan  
 Christiana Martin, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 Madison Martin, McGill University  
 Rachel Martin, Western University  
 Montana Martz, Western University  
 Liam McCann, Queen's University  
 Carys McFarlane, Newcastle University  
 Sammy Mitri, University of Toronto  
 Jack Mull, Queen's University  
 Katrina Nella, Queen's University  
 Vanessa Nwokolo, King's College London  
 Shannon O'Connor, Western University  
 Valerie Okocha-Ray, University of Toronto  
 Rebecca Palaria, McGill University  
 Vandan Patel, McMaster University  
 Eric Pinto, Queen's University  
 Mia Policaro, Ryerson University  
 Ansley Powell, Western University  
 Alexander Railton, Western University  
 Raeesa Rajmohamed, University of Bristol  
 Melissa Ramnauth, Queen's University  
 Michael Ramnauth, Queen's University  
 Anthony Rea, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 Ellie Reel, University of Guelph  
 Mitchell Romanin, Queen's University  
 Josh Rozin, Queen's University  
 Mario Sardo, Ryerson University  
 Elena Shlepova, University of Guelph  
 Ben Stibrany, University of Toronto  
 Joey Stipec, Queen's University  
 Tristyn Studley, University of Guelph  
 Sarah Sue-Ling, University of Toronto  
 Gloria Sun, University of Toronto  
 Sabrina Tarzia, McMaster University  
 Adam Treen, Wilfrid Laurier University  
 Annika Vels, University of Guelph  
 Ayden Weening, University of Waterloo  
 Hudson Wildberger, McMaster University  
 Adam Wong, Bishop's University  
 Rachel Wong, Queen's University  
 Griffin Wright, Ryerson University  
 Lucas Yang, Carleton University  
 Adrian Zweig, University of Saskatchewan

Collectively, our 91 graduates received more than 450 admission offers to schools in six Canadian provinces, the U.S. and Europe. In total, they were offered \$1.85M in scholarships and awards for their post-secondary education. Well done, Grads! We wish you all the best!

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# CDS

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EDUCATION WITH BALANCE



THE AURORAN — Arts & Culture

Portraits of Giving honours Aurora entrepreneur

By Brock Weir

As a local entrepreneur with a dedication to giving back to her community, Ingrid Kulbach has become a familiar face to many in Aurora. Over the years, she has seen her contacts and colleagues immortalized in the classic black and white photography of Richmond Hill photographer Karen Merk, honoured for their years of making a difference in the world around them. This year, however, it was Ms. Kulbach's turn to receive that call from Ms. Merk who wanted to showcase her in the latest series of her annual exhibition Portraits of Giving. Ms. Merk founded Portraits of Giving to showcase people from across

York Region who have had an impact on their communities in ways large and small, shining a light on them not only through her photography, but also through the written word in a book that accompanies each year's show. "I was very surprised to be included because so many of my good friends and business colleagues in Aurora have been physically involved in helping the community," says Ms. Kulbach, whose portrait is now on display with the rest of the honourees at the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall. Founder of fraktals, a local candy company which she recently sold, Ms. Kulbach was often approached to feature her sweet treats at various community fundraisers, whether they were large scale gigs to benefit Southlake Regional

fraktals founder Ingrid Kulbach is pictured with her portrait by Karen Merk, which forms the 2015 Portraits of Giving exhibition, now on display at Town Hall. Auroran photo by Brock Weir



Health Centre or Markham Stouffville Hospital, or events decidedly smaller in scope to raise money for a particular family in need. At first, she was happy to do so, but soon giving back in this way became a way of life. "It felt like a good thing to do and the right thing to do," she explains. "People who needed help were getting help and it really wasn't anything to think about. The appreciation was lovely too." "This is kind of character in business," adds Ms. Kulbach, casting an eye over the portraits of her fellow honourees. "It is sort of like a socially responsible, good and important thing that I think more businesses are becoming aware of and are participating in now. They talk about this triple bottom line thing where, okay, you're going to be financially responsible, socially responsible and environmentally responsible." For Melony Teague, who authored this year's exhibition book, part of the fun is meeting people like Ingrid and

finding out what makes them tick. "I jumped on the opportunity [to participate in Portraits of Giving two years ago] because it is really an honour to sit down with these people, listen to their stories, dig deeper and pull out what the motivation is behind why they do what they do, and showcase things people might not know about them, including their childhood history, who inspired them and why they give back," says Ms. Teague. "For Ingrid, it is just her attitude. When people ask her to give, it is not a big question for her. She does it because it is the right thing to do. Her attitude is very positive. She is a strong, independent woman, but with a heart of gold – and that is a great combination!"

Portraits of Giving runs at the Skylight Gallery through Friday, June 19, before opening at the King Township Museum on July 6. For more information, including future tour dates, visit [www.merkphotography.com](http://www.merkphotography.com).

Celebrate 400 years of the French in Ontario with music... and poutine

By Brock Weir

A celebration of French Canadian culture wouldn't quite be complete without a full appreciation of poutine, but that just serves as an appetizer for a full day of activities slated for Aurora next Wednesday as the Town marks Fete de la St-Jean. The Aurora Cultural Centre has partnered with l'Association des francophones de la region de York (l'AFRY) with a St. Jean Baptiste Day bash on June 24, bringing the tradition of the annual Quebecois early summer party close to home. Featuring a day of music, arts, and varieties of poutine, the event celebrates not only the Festival but also the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a French presence in what is now Ontario. "Most folks in Quebec know St-Jean Baptiste Day as the Fete national du Quebec – a statutory each June 24...to celebrate identity, culture and achievements of the people of Quebec," says Jane Taylor of the Aurora Cultural Centre. "The celebrations today often focus on music, arts and food, and to this

end the public is invited to enjoy a free after school collection of art activities appropriate for the whole family." The festivities culminate with a ticketed concert featuring Nicolas Pellerin & les Grands Hurleurs, a lively evening of traditional, folk and contemporary French music – all while a poutine cart stations itself outside the Church Street landmark to serve the traditional favourite, which will be allowed into the concert space. "It was a great meeting of the minds," says Ms. Taylor of the partnership with l'AFRY. "It is reaching out not just to the Francophones in the community, but also those who just love Francophone culture. After we saw the great response to the Vend du Nord last year we realised there is a real appetite and enthusiasm for Francophone celebrations in Town. "There is also a sizable francophone population in York Region that are hungry for events that celebrate their cultural celebrations. What I saw here is they are very happy this is happening in their own community and it made sense to go this next step."

Continued on page 15

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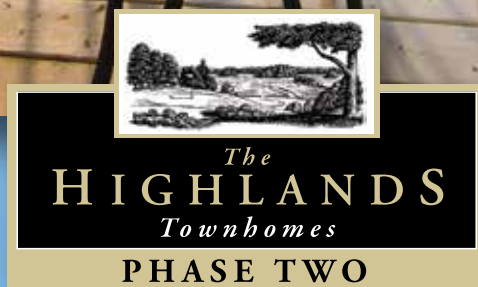
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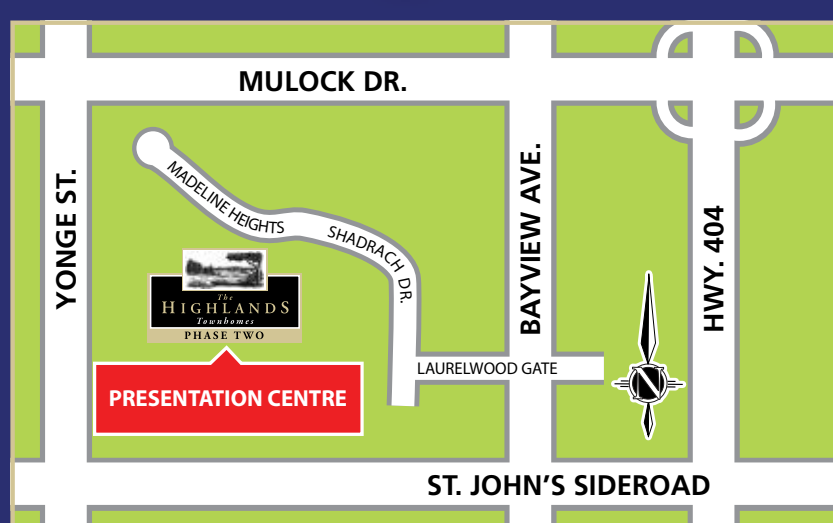
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# THE AURORED

# SPORTS

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FREE Week of June 18, 2015

## Jays win again off heavy bat from Rettie

By Jake Courtepatte

The offence continues to lead the way in Aurora.

It was another double-digit win for the senior Aurora Jays last Tuesday, taking down the Lisle Astros 16 – 6 in their only game of the week.

The twelve hit performance, scored by a bevy of what was mostly singles and doubles, once again proved the power of the Jays’ hitting, of which player coach Michael Keon calls their “best ever.”

“It’s certainly an area where we’ve had no issues,” said Keon. “We’ve always been a big hitting team, and it’s gotten us into the playoffs.”

Ian Rettie has been a large part of that success, going 4/4 in Tuesday’s game while cashing in four runs. He’s now hitting an astonishing .634 on the season, while also leading the North Dufferin Baseball League in runs and hits.

“His numbers are just unheard of. We’ve never had one player so

dominant out there at the plate...it’s amazing.”

Eleven games into the season, the Jays are averaging double-digit production per game with 115 runs in total – a league high. While there is competition offensively from the first-place New Lowell Knights, Keon credits the departure of the now AAA Bolton Brewers as a factor in their offensive dominance.

“Bolton was always kind of our big competitor for output,” said Keon. “We’re always up there in runs...but with them gone, it makes our total look even bigger.”

The numbers should come as no surprise, considering the team is largely made up of the same squad that took the Jays to the NDBL finals last year. Only two players graduated from the junior team, a team that won their own championship in 2014.

Third baseman Phil Hache was one of those two, and has quickly made a name for himself within the senior division. He sits at a .448 average,

with the second-most multi-base hits on the team.

“He’s been great for us,” said Keon.

*We’ve been really impressed with his visibility. Right now it’s just a matter of maturing as a pitcher, and learning how to fight through things, which comes with time. But he’s very promising, and we’re excited to see what he can do.*

“Especially since third base was a position we needed to fill this season... he’s really an overall player.”

Defensively, the Jays have benefited from the arm of Rob Spencer. The ex-Junior Jay has put in eleven innings of work for the Jays this season, giving up only six hits over the span.

Keon says he has a good feeling about Spencer as a solid pitcher for years to come.

“We’ve been really impressed with his visibility. Right now it’s just a matter of maturing as a pitcher, and learning how to fight through things, which comes with time. But he’s very promising, and we’re excited to see what he can do.”

Mostly pitching in relief, Spencer was set to have his first start on the mound last Friday against the Orangeville Giants before rain put a damper on his parade.

With Friday’s game in Orangeville rained out, the Jays schedule is a busy one this week. They go after press time on Tuesday and Wednesday at home against Nobleton and Orangeville, respectively, before hitting the road on Thursday to face the Midland Indians, which should prove their biggest challenge of the week.

“It’s always difficult to get guys out for games so far away,” said Keon. “But we’ll do our best with what we’ve got and keep doing what we’re doing.”

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit [www.ndbl.ca](http://www.ndbl.ca).



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## AKBA homerun derby helps family hit with leukemia



Shane from Hamilton was the winner of the Parents Homerun Derby last weekend at the annual Aurora Rookie Baseball Tournament, posing here with Carson Littlejohn of the Newmarket Hawks and Carson’s mother Cheryl.  
**Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

By Jake Courtepatte

12-year old Matthew Littlejohn was hit with the biggest news of his life in early May.

The seemingly healthy AAA hockey player’s trouble began with foot pain, which a clinic diagnosed as a virus. It spread into both ankle and wrist pain, so much so that he could hardly walk. Another diagnosis for low iron eventually led to an appointment with a gastrointestinal specialist, who confirmed the diagnosis of leukemia in Matthew.

Matthew’s younger brother, Carson, is an athlete himself, playing on the Newmarket Hawks Rookie baseball team. The Hawks were in town last weekend for the fourth annual Aurora Rookie Baseball Tournament, a twelve-team tournament held at Aurora’s Lambert Willson Park.

While the baseball was exhilarating, the highlight of the weekend was perhaps what the teams came together to do in support of Matthew.

The Aurora King Baseball Association was able to organize a fun, yet competitive Parents Homerun Derby on Saturday afternoon between games, where five dollars bought three balls and a chance to show off mom’s

or dad’s hitting prowess.

Kids from all twelve teams were cheering at the top of their lungs whenever a parent from their team stepped to the plate, an exciting hour-or-so of long balls for a great cause.

“It turned out great,” said Patti Mikula, the tournament coordinator. “There were a lot of people that went up to the plate, people got behind the cause here.”

Many of the dads took second or third turns, adding to the pot each time.

While few were able to clear the fence, Shane from the Hamilton team hit a home run on all three balls, much to the delight of his team.

In terms of actual baseball, the Aurora Rookie team fell in three close games to Newmarket, Bloordale, and Ajax. But the real winners were the Littlejohns, whom the AKBA was able to raise hundreds of dollars for to help with Matthew’s treatment costs.

“A little goes a long way”, said Mikula.

A fundraiser has been set up for August 15 for Matthew, including raffles and a silent auction. To learn more or to donate, contact Patricia O’Doherty at 905-717-5857 or Tammy Schmidt at 905-717-1262.



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# Pan Am gold medalist joins Diggers coaching squad

By Jake Courtepatte

Aurora’s Todd Martin has a good feeling about Canada’s chances at softball gold in next month’s Pan Am Games.

He’s already got his tickets and his predictions – including a bold prediction of Canada’s women’s team taking home their first Pan Am gold medal.

“It’s a tough task, but they’ve been getting closer and closer to the U.S. for years,” Martin tells The Auroran. “They’ve got the pitching now...I think it’s finally their year.”

For what it’s worth, Martin has also chosen the men to win gold over Argentina in the return of men’s softball for the first time since 2003. Canada is 7 – 0 in the tournament’s medal history, defeating the United States all seven times in the final.

The ex-pro is certainly entitled to his opinions, having won gold with the men’s squad in the 1999 Games, in front of a national home crowd in Winnipeg. He’s also got a number of other accolades to his career, including six ISC World Championships, a nine-time ISC World All-Star, and named the ISC World’s Most Valuable Pitcher three times.

Following his playing career, he made a move to coaching, working with pitchers at levels both collegiate and professional. His proudest pupil happens to be Jenna Cairra, co-captain of the Canadian National Softball team, who joined the Aurora Diggers for a clinic last month.

“She’s probably the most talented

that I’ve worked with, and I’m pretty excited to see what she can do on the mound in a couple weeks when the Games start.”

He’s also worked with a handful of other players on the women’s team, and played with a few guys still on the men’s roster. But recently, he’s taken up a position with the Diggers that brings him back to the very basics.

Martin’s daughter followed in his footsteps three years ago, the youngest squad he’s ever coached in pitching. He is now a director on the board of the Diggers, as well as the proud head coach of the 10-and-under Mite team.

“It’s neat to be coaching a squad that’s just getting their feet wet,” said Martin, who calls it a “privilege” to be given the chance to get kids started into the game. “Hopefully someday these kids can experience what I experienced at an international level at the Pan Am Games.”

He remembers his 1999 gold medal win vividly – a packed house at John Blumberg Softball Complex, cheering on Martin and his team en-route to a victory over the United States.

“Canada really got behind us,” recalls Martin. “We had wall-to-wall coverage, all the playoff games were on live...standing on the podium afterwards singing ‘O Canada’ in front of 4,500 people was pretty awesome. I’ll never forget it.”

The 2015 Games will host softball at the President’s Choice Pan Am Ballpark in Ajax. Tickets are still available at [www.toronto2015.org/tickets](http://www.toronto2015.org/tickets).

## International polo tournament coming to York Region this week

By Jake Courtepatte

World-class polo players from Argentina, the United States, and across Canada are converging on Richmond Hill this weekend for an extravagant three-day competition and gala.

TheTorontoPoloClubhashostedthe event for over 35 years, which features two international polo matches per day from June 19-21. Guests will also be “wined and dined” throughout the day, with activities happening on and off the field including gourmet lunch at the Ritz-Carlton, pony rides and bouncy castles, a silent auction, and a “champagne divot stomp” – a polo tradition.

And don’t forget to wear your best hat, as there will be a daily hat competition to really honour tradition.

The festivities will kick off Thursday with a glitzy celebration called “Polo Under the Stars,” when a friendly polo match will be played in the evening.

The event isn’t just for show and competition – the name of the game is charity. This year proceeds from Polo For Heart will help the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

“The Heart and Stroke Foundation is dedicated to helping Canadians

live heart-healthy lives, and our volunteers and donors are key to accomplishing that,” said Tom McAllister, CEO, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Ontario.

The funds generated will be used for research at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto, as well as for the use of an MRI to select patients in need of heart surgery.

Funds will also be allocated to Southlake, for the expansion of its Heart Rhythm program, one of the busiest in the country but severely under facilitated.

“Through such initiatives we hope to discover new ways of treating heart disease and stroke and help create more survivors,” said McAllister.

The demand for our Heart Rhythm Program exceeds our current capacity and we need to add to the existing facilities to meet the demand generated by community,” said Neila Poscente, President and CEO of the Southlake Foundation. “With the funding from the Polo For Heart event and contributions from our community, we will soon be able to accommodate more people in our Heart Rhythm Program.”

Tickets and tables for both Polo For Heart and “Polo Under the Stars” can be purchased on line at [www.poloforheart.org](http://www.poloforheart.org).





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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Sunscreen rating  
4. Military mailbox  
7. 12th month (abbr.)  
10. Sunrise Mount of Shandong  
11. Escape from the law  
12. Similar suffix  
13. Pyrrrole  
15. Anger  
16. Blue-billed diving ducks  
19. J.K. Rowling’s pseudonym  
22. Projecting part of a rampart  
23. What St. Helens did  
24. Large integers  
25. Adhesive or digital  
26. Writing providing information  
29. Inscribed upright stone slabs  
33. The night before  
34. Black tropical American cuckoo

35. Heartache from loss  
39. Hush money payer  
42. Geological times  
44. Types of fish eggs  
45. Young pilchard  
48. Lack of momentum  
52. “Blue Bloods” A.D.A. actress  
54. Rust fungi  
55. Make lace  
56. Small larids  
57. Energy Savings Measure  
58. Before  
59. \_\_ Lilly, drug company  
60. Comic book character  
    rooted in Japanese mythology  
61. Radioactivity unit  
62. Tear apart

### CLUES DOWN

1. Posts or stumps (Scot.)  
2. Painter’s board  
3. Containing more fire  
4. In a way, adjusts  
5. 1/100 Serbian dinar  
6. Breakfast egg dish  
7. Throw into disorder  
8. Prisoner on the lam  
9. 1st Hindu month  
13. Treats high blood pressure (abbr.)  
14. A plural of zoon  
17. Ouray Res. Tribe  
18. Doctor of Philosophy  
20. Large quantities  
21. Ladies undergarments  
26. Foot (Latin)  
27. Macao monetary unit  
28. Prefix denoting “in a”  
30. Research workplace

31. Midway between NE and E  
32. Title of respect  
36. Somewhat crimson  
37. Folding paper art  
38. Gradually diminish  
39. Too osseous  
40. Go in again  
41. A citizen of Israel  
43. Irish, English or Gordon  
44. Had a wild disturbance  
45. Helps little firms  
46. They \_\_  
47. Brown, wild & long-grained  
49. Thysanopterous insect  
50. Gandalf actor  
51. Initials of Dannielynn’s mother  
53. “Dragon Tattoo” actress  
    Rooney

## Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

A	S	P	S		I	T	A	L	I	C							
B	R	U	N	O	T	O	N	I	O	L	I						
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A	B	E	T				T	A	C	H							
R	E	A	R						A	N	N						
C	A	N	O	E	S					I	A	M	B				
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						D	I	R	N	D	L			E	S	T	E

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# Tree cutting restrictions on golf courses will have to wait until fall

By Brock Weir

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Another move towards getting rid of an exemption for golf courses within Aurora’s tree protection bylaw will have to wait until the fall.

Council voted down a motion from Councillor Wendy Gaertner last week which would have laid the groundwork for a discussion on whether or not golf courses should be faced with the same restrictions on removing trees from their properties as homeowners and other business owners.

Although Council recently voted to bring the entire tree bylaw up for review later this year, Councillor Gaertner’s motion called for portions of the bylaw related to golf courses be brought forward for this week’s General Committee meeting for consideration.

“We are in total agreement with the motion to bring forward a proposed amendment to the tree bylaw to remove the exemption for golf courses,” said resident Isabel Ralston, appearing before Council in support of the motion.

Ms. Ralston has been an active proponent of removing this exemption for nearly five years. She was one of a handful of Beacon Hall residents who raised alarm bells during the last term of Council over large swaths of trees being removed from the property.

“As preparation of the draft tree protection has been an expensive process, including expensive consultations, we recommend, at the very least, the clause related to the golf course exemption should be addressed as soon as possible,” she continued. “Although the other tree issues, such as the protection of heritage trees, are important...the magnitude of potential tree removal on golf courses is huge compared to the other issues. It is a fact that that thousands of trees in Aurora [on] golf courses currently have zero protection and can be removed at any time without any notice.

“Secondly, and perhaps most importantly, because Aurora golf courses are exempt from the tree bylaw, systemic destruction of trees can occur in order to make golf courses more viable for developers. Removing this exemption would allow the Town and the residents the opportunity to be notified and be involved in decisions regarding tree removal on golf courses. This would thereby reduce any potential non-transparent preparation and grooming of golf course for future development.”

While Council did not speak against the particulars of exploring an exemption for golf courses, some said they were puzzled by the “urgency” of bringing the matter forward this week. Timing, said Councillor Gaertner, is always important when it comes to the “potential destruction of anything” and it was equally important to look at this “as soon as possible.”

Speaking first against the motion was Councillor John Abel. Although Councillor Abel works at a golf course, he said he would be in support of tree permitting on golf courses but, first, it was important to consult and engage “the principals involved.” Moving the matter into this week would not provide the time to do that, he said.

“It is important we engage them and get their perspective on what

this is,” he said. “I have no issue with Council being aware of what they are doing on their lands when it comes to trees and I don’t think golf courses would be either. [By next week] how are you going to be able to manage all that consulting to get a good, satisfactory, effective [consultation] for all parties concerned? It just defies our commitment to community engagement and communication.”

For Councillor Gaertner’s perspective, nearly four years of discussion on this matter was long enough.

“We have consulted with everyone,” she said. “We have consulted with golf courses. They have been to the meeting. They can come back to the meeting. We have done a huge amount of consultation and I think we can go forward with this now.”

Without a clear answer on why this was an urgent matter, however, Councillor Abel compared the issue to “smoke and mirrors”, noting that rushing things often raises issues between Council and residents.

“You have golf courses that are in full session, they’re busy, the staff are working very hard,” he said. “To say they have to come to the table in two days to be consulted is not realistic or fair. I have got to hear what it is why we have to do this. If there are hundreds of thousands of trees being taken down as we talk, that’s what I need to hear.”

Other Councillors were just not content to pick apart a single component of the tree protection bylaw when the whole thing is due to come forward in September.

“I don’t want to be taking bits and pieces out of this because it will never be completed,” said Councillor Michael Thompson. “If we’re going to deal with it, bring it all back and then we will go through the process, go through all the reports, and we will take another stab this term at redoing the entire thing.”

## Bells toll for missing women

By Brock Weir

The usual cacophony of traffic and construction in Downtown Aurora was punctuated precisely 374 times this Sunday, and will conclude a further 748 times this week to remember 1,122 lives.

Trinity Anglican Church sounded the first round of 374 bells this past weekend, heralding a week of remembrance for missing and murdered indigenous women and girls. A further 374 bells are expected to peal on Wednesday afternoon before the final 374 beginning this Sunday at 10.15 a.m. to mark National Aboriginal Day.

This effort is part of an initiative marked with the hashtag #22days aimed at honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which recently concluded its report on the devastating impact the Residential School system has had – and continues to have – on Canada’s First Nations.

#22days is being marked by many Anglican churches across the country, says Rev. Canon Dawn Davis of Trinity, in honour of each indigenous woman and girl classified by the RCMP as missing or murdered between 1980 and 2012 and to “show solidarity with the Indigenous peoples of our country in their cry for justice.”

Rev. Davis said she hoped the show of solidarity would inspire people within the community to support the initiative in their own way.

“Every intentional action that

individuals, congregations and diocese take in this initiative is important, powerful and useful,” she said.

In a statement originally circulated by the Anglican Journal, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, contrasted the “wonderful sound of the bells” ringing out from churches across the denominational divide, to what these peals represent.

“The bell is rung to call people to worship, to welcome the newly baptized, to announce the newly married and to mark occasions of community celebration or mourning,” he said. “For those who have died, the bell is tolled. To ring the bells is, first and foremost, an act of remembrance. To ring the bells is to pray for their families. For some, there has been some consolation in receiving the body of their daughter, sister or mother, to hold it with love and bury it with dignity. For others, there has never been, and may never be, an opportunity for such closure. They live in the anguish of a hope continually pierced by despair.

“To ring the bells is to call attention to this national tragedy and a trend that shows no signs of reversal. To ring the bells is to honour the demand for a national enquiry. To ring the bells is to stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities in their cries for increased policing, protection and emergency health care services, for increased provision for safe houses, and programs for counselling.”

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# Aurora Relay merges with Newmarket this Friday



Luminaries carry a powerful message at each year's Relay.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

**Continued on page 1**  
Ms. Pearson co-founded the team Sole Sisters with her mother nine years ago after her father lost his battle with cancer. Soon after his death, Aurora's Relay for Life, typically held on the Magna Campus, was founded.

"I just knew that is what I wanted to do to honour his memory," says Ms. Pearson. "I got together with a lot of friends and family, and we have stayed with it."

This year, however, will be extra special as three generations of her family take to the field honouring not just their patriarch, but everyone impacted by cancer.

"My daughter has helped out with our fundraising yard sales in the past, but this is the first year she has registered and has fundraised herself," says Ms. Pearson with pride. "She has been selling Freezies in the park after school, which has gone really well, but I want her to realise whatever she is passionate about – whether it is the Cancer Society, or any other charity – that she has the ability at her age."

"It is going to be really special. My mom is still part of the team at 85 and is one of the top fundraisers, so Relay has always been about family for me. It has been a bonding experience for the family to come together and honour my father's memory this way. It just brings us that much closer."

In addition to her daughter, the

Sole Sisters are also welcoming the "Sole Misters" into the fold, bringing in the participation of Ms. Pearson's husband, brother and nephew.

"Cancer has affected both my husband's family and mine, and we just really wanted to make it a family event," says Ms. Pearson, noting that while her husband always stayed at home with their daughter during the Relay, now that she is old enough to participate there was no holding either of them back. "Another one of the Misters, my brother, was diagnosed two years ago."

"Because it was caught so early, which is one of the focuses of the Cancer Society, they were able to remove it and declare him clear without him needing any radiation or chemotherapy. That is so huge because the mission statement of the Society is prevention as well as finding a cure. While it didn't work out for my dad, I still have my brother and he is healthy – and that certainly makes us want to continue on with it."

*Newmarket and Aurora's combined Relay for Life takes place this Friday, June 19 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Newmarket's Pickering College. With a fundraising goal of \$280,000, registration and pledges are still being accepted. To register and participate, visit [www.relayforlife.ca/newmarket](http://www.relayforlife.ca/newmarket) or contact Karen Beaulieu at the Canadian Cancer Society at 905-830-0447 x3833.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

with higher costs later on.

Instead of helping, Mr. Harper has made things worse. He eliminated Income Trusts, destroying about \$25-billion in value from Canadians' savings. He also broke his word by delaying Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement until the age of 67, taking over \$30,000 away from each vulnerable senior.

His only "solutions" have been a collection of tax breaks for wealthier households. None of these changes have helped ease the pending crisis for Canadians anxious about their future.

What we need is a modest, phased-in expansion of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

The CPP, along with the Quebec Pension Plan, is a defined-benefit pension plan that covers every Canadian worker, in every job, in every province. Actuaries have

declared it sound for 75 years—the furthest they will go for any plan. But its benefits are too low. The average CPP monthly benefit is only about \$640.

Mr. Harper has blocked every effort from the provinces to enhance the CPP. His infamous "firewall" letter even called on Alberta to withdraw from the pension plan entirely. Now, on the eve of an election, he's promising a study on changes to the CPP. But a study won't protect Canadians in their golden years.

Canadians work hard. They deserve a pension plan that they can depend on for a dignified retirement.

Liberals are committed to working with the provinces and territories to expand the CPP and lift the retirement savings of all Canadians.

A Liberal government will also restore the starting age for OAS and GIS to 65.

**Scott Brison, MP**  
Liberal Finance Critic

## Francophones get Federal boost

From page 10

York Region's Francophone community also received a boost this week from the Federal Government with a \$50,000 infusion of funding over two years to l'AFRY.

"Many organizations play a key role in the growth and development of Ontario's Francophone communities," said Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois

Brown in a statement. "By supporting the Association, we are helping our local official-language minority community to prosper and participate fully in Canadian society."

*Tickets for next Wednesday's concert are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, and can be purchased online at [www.afry.ca](http://www.afry.ca). For more information, contact the Aurora Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818.*



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COMING EVENTS

JUNE 9 – JUNE 19

Portraits of Giving are now on display in the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall. The annual exhibition of photography featuring people from the York Region community who give back to the world around them is the brainchild of photographer Karen Merk, accompanied by a book of profiles written by Melony Teague. This year, Aurora is represented by Ingrid Kulbach, founder of fraktals.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Local Toastmasters invite you to French Toastmaster Open Doors tonight at the Richmond Hill Retirement Residence (70 Bernard Avenue) from 7.30 – 9 p.m. Join the Toastmasters for a free, inspiring evening of stimulating conversation. Listen to live, festive accordion music, and learn from the insightful lifestyle tips of storyteller extraordinaire Kate Hodgson. For more information, visit [francofun.toastmastersclubs.org](http://francofun.toastmastersclubs.org).

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

The Canadian Association of Retired People (CARP) Newmarket/Aurora Chapter 44 presents the ZOOMER Marketplace today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Newmarket Lions Hall (200 Doug Duncan Drive, Newmarket). Over 35 exhibitors of products and services, plus entertainment and door prizes.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Garden Aurora – Pruning. Join Frank Soltz as he teaches us how to prune, when to prune and why we should prune! Meeting of the Aurora Garden Club is held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 8 p.m. Join us for refreshments and the opportunity to become a member. Further information at [www.gardenaurora.com](http://www.gardenaurora.com) or 905-713-6660.

\*\*\*\*

L'Association des francophones de la région de York (L'AFRY), in partnership with the Aurora Cultural Centre, will host a community Fête de la St-Jean and commemorate the 400th anniversary of the francophone presence in Ontario today at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The group will perform in the evening and workshops and activities will be offered throughout the day.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

PAN AM TORCH RELAY – Cheer the Pan Am Torch as it makes its way through Aurora today. The Opening Ceremony and Torch Launch will be held today from 11.30 – 2 p.m. at Lambert Willson Park (135 Industrial Parkway North) featuring official greetings, past Pan Am athletes, live entertainment featuring the White Pine Dancers and Blue Cloud Drum, a free community barbeque and, of course, the lighting of the torch!

\*\*\*\*

Indoor Pan Am activities continue at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. featuring gym activities, face painting, crafts, and free public swimming.

\*\*\*\*

The Pan Am Fun moves over to the Aurora Cultural Centre from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. with the launch of the Legacy of Sport. Witness the grand opening of Aurora's new Sports Exhibit, meet Aurora Sport Hall of Fame inductees and former Pan Am Athletes. Refreshments will be served. The Aurora Cultural Centre is located at 22 Church Street.

\*\*\*\*

TD Summer Reading Club: The Aurora Public Library's TD Summer Reading Club begins today. Come in and sign up. Read books, win prizes and use your imagination! Read 12 books and be entered into a draw for the Grand Reading Prize! For kids 12 and under. Signups begin the last day of school!

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

The Schomberg Horticultural Society presents their annual garden tour today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A self-guided driving tour of nine fabulous gardens in and around Schomberg and the picturesque Township of King. The gardens range from small town gardens, to a tranquil farm, to large estate gardens. Tickets are sold on tour day at Schomberg's Community Hall (325 Main Street) or sold ahead of time at Black Forest Garden Centre (15455 Keele Street), Pathways to Perennials (4681 Lloydtown Aurora Road, Pottageville), and Sheena's Kitchen (357 Main Street, Schomberg). \$10pp. No pets. For more information, call Barb at 905-939-2216.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Calling All Artists! Art In The Park, a Festival of Artisans, will take over Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with the Aurora Farmers' Market and Kerry's Place Autism Services.

MONDAY, JULY 6

Turtles take over the Aurora Public Library today. Turtles of Ontario is created by fibre artist Rosemary Oliver; this display features replicas of the eight turtles of Ontario. The shells are made of papier-mâché, the wired and stuffed limbs are made of fabric, with paint and hand embroidery completing the anatomical details. Accompanying the turtles is information about the Metro Toronto Zoo's Turtle Tally Program that encourages people to report any sightings of turtles. On exhibit in the Living Room Display Case from July 6th – 31st.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Join the Aurora Public Library's Summer Science Lab today as we transform our program room into a fully functional science lab. Together we will explore scientific principles like force, mass and energy by doing exciting experiments. Some will be messy, some will be loud, but they will all be fun and interesting! 2.00 – 3.00 p.m., Optimist Room, Ages: 6-9. Drop In.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

PARTAGEZ LE FRANÇAIS: York Region's French Language Conversation Group expands to Aurora with a session at Country Style (14980 Yonge Street) from 6.30 – 8 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from beginners to francophones) looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, email [Partagez.York@yahoo.ca](mailto:Partagez.York@yahoo.ca).

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



# Advocate invites community to take a guided walk on namesake trail

By Brock Weir

Fostering a trails system allowing Aurora residents to get everywhere they need to go as off-road as possible has been a long-held dream for Klaus Wehrenberg.

The trails advocate began promoting and pitching his vision in the early 1970s, urging and getting back to nature. In the intervening decades there have been successes and setbacks, but the Klaus Wehrenberg Trail near Downtown Aurora stands as a testament to his tenacity.

This month, this trail segment celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Beginning June 20, the man behind the trail invites residents to come and take a walk with him on a series of excursions to highlight the beauty that can be found right in our own back yards.

"It is about getting people closer to nature and to get them to understand the ecological treasures we have down there," says Mr. Wehrenberg. "We have springs, we have woodpeckers, and indicative species of old growth forest.

It is just fantastic, but there aren't that many people who go that far out of the way and don't have a full understanding. They might walk through the trails for their own exercise, but sometimes they lack the tools to fully appreciate [their surroundings] in a way, so you have to provide them.

"It is appropriate to celebrate it a little bit to get more people appreciative of what we have downtown. We don't have lakesides or any water here to speak of, but we have forests right downtown that are just outstanding."

In the 1970s, Mr. Wehrenberg held a vision for a local trails network where "everyone could walk where they wanted to away from roads" but at the time that wasn't part of the municipal plan then. He began making headway in the 1980s with funding that eventually led to the development of a Trails Committee at Town Hall and, ultimately, a Trails Master Plan, which remains an evolving blueprint for the expanding trails network.

After the trails plan was approved, however, Mr. Wehrenberg stepped away from his advocacy work, feeling burnt

out by the early 1990s.

Council's decision to put his name on a stretch of trail came as a surprise, but it also reignited his passion, a passion for which he has provided a strong and active voice to this day.

"I must admit because [having my name on something] is not important to me," he says. "But, it was important to me in the context of what I am doing because it gives me quite a bit of

credibility. It also led me to increase my dedication. It was an incentive to make sure this work is continuing and I am doing that to this day."

Two hour walks begin on Saturday, June 20, lasting for seven consecutive days through June 26 starting at 10 a.m. For more information, including your start point, contact Mr. Wehrenberg at 905-841-1026 or by email at [ecopal@rogers.com](mailto:ecopal@rogers.com).

## FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

From page 5

The IATA has come up with, according to the newspaper report, "optimal dimensions for carry-on bags, arguing it's time for universal rules."

"The new size would be 55 cm tall by 35 cm wide by 20 cm deep, or 21.5 inches by 13.5 inches by 7.5 inches. The change means that theoretically everyone should have a chance to store their carry-on bags on board aircraft of 120 seats or larger."

That is a good idea, but the real solution is a lot simpler, and it can be used to treat everyone fairly; whether you are the first person on the plane or

the last.

Each seat should have a corresponding designation in the overhead compartment. The volume of space in this area is specifically for the seat holder, unless they want to let another passenger use it.

The airlines can insert plastic holders into the overhead to divide up the area between the requisite seat holders.

If a passenger brings too many carry-ons so that they do not fit into their overhead designated area, then they can try and stow them below their seat or sit uncomfortably for the duration of the flight.

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## Less is a whole lot more in enhancing the Newmarket Volvo Experience



"Go big or go home," is a typical tact deployed by companies trying to keep ahead of the pack; but if you're a Swedish car company, hailing from a land where streamlined design is a way of life, going "minimalist" only serves to enhance the customer service experience.

This is the philosophy of Newmarket Volvo, which unveiled the new Volvo Retail Experience (VRE) in their showroom last week. A first of its kind model in Ontario, and only the second VRE in North America, it is all about "creating an atmosphere of both luxury and comfort, and one that makes people feel like they are in their own living room," says Marcel Algieri, President of Newmarket Volvo.

The new VRE is a blend of Scandinavian design and simplicity without being too ostentatious, he says.

Volvo created the program at their home base in Sweden, an initiative which included their exterior look, particularly an emphasis on glass, which evolved into a global image the company intends to roll out worldwide.

By the time the designs hit North American shores, the company retained a Canadian architecture firm to reinterpret the designs for the Canadian market, creating a template which was then left up to the individual retailers to embrace.

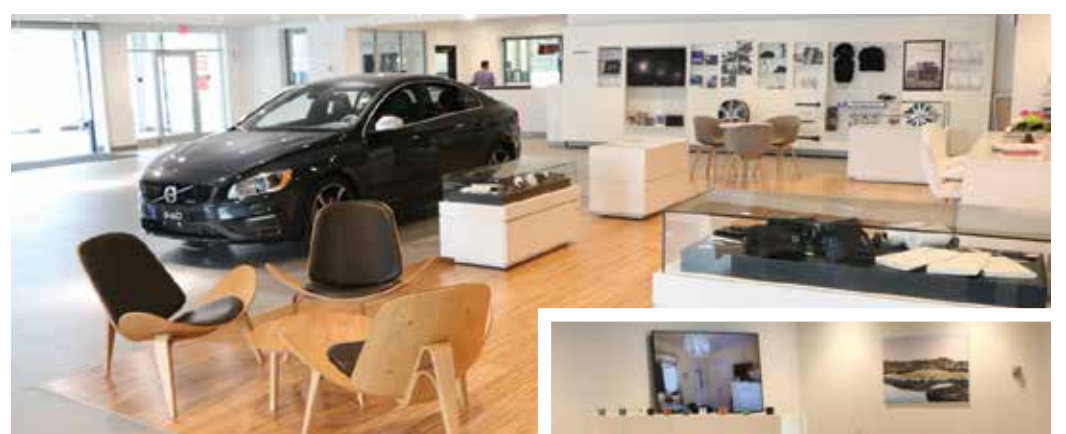
"We have been updating our facility over the last 12 years and the last piece of the puzzle for us was the showroom," says Mr. Algieri, who has been with Newmarket Volvo for the past 18 years. "When I saw the new design, it was absolutely perfect for what we wanted. It was also something that was, in

my eyes, very appealing, and I took the initial initiative to do this. It is a very customer-centric approach and the main focal point of our renovation is the customer lounge, which is probably five times larger than our previous lounge in the store.

"We have created a really pleasing environment for our customers to not only sit while their vehicles are being serviced, but also a place where they can relax – even if they're sitting with one of our sales consultants – and it is a good area for them to interact with our staff."

The designs, on first blush, were visually appealing without being overwhelming, he says. It also allowed them to maintain the unique character of their dealership, which is housed in Newmarket's former Ontario Hydro building. It is a property peppered with nearly 150 trees – a unique feature for car dealerships across Aurora and Newmarket – and this is something they continue to embrace.

In fact, the only thing that held them back from implementing the VRE sooner was a discussion with the Town of Newmarket over the removal of one tree on the property standing in the way of making their dream a reality. As Volvo and the Town of Newmarket reached their conclusion, a Montreal Volvo dealership ultimately beat them by a small window to become the first in North America to roll out the VRE.



"We are able to retain our original building which, to me, is a big part of this community," he says. "By adding the new elements and maintaining the original structure, we were able to stay within our limits of not demolishing and not destroying, and not changing things for the sake of change. I think that is important to our customers, especially our customers in Aurora and Newmarket who are very aware of their environment, their community, and everything we do. The biggest thing I heard from industry people [at the unveiling Thursday night] is they are really focused on image and having to be visible. They said, 'It's too bad you have all these trees. You can drive by here and not see the place.' My answer to that is, 'We actually prefer that. We're not just a car company. We are entrenched in our environment and the trees help us tell the story of who we are and what our goal in life is: to look after our environment, as well as our product and people.'"

While the new "consumer area" is the focal point of the showroom, eyes will also be drawn to a new line of Volvo product which was unveiled in Newmarket in tandem with the Volvo Retail Experience. The Volvo XC90 is the first of a new generation of vehicles coming from Sweden that represents the beginning of an \$11 billion investment in the company by its new owners, Mr. Algieri explains.

"It continues our philosophy that by the year 2020 no one will be killed or seriously injured in one of our new Volvo products," he says. "When I first heard that statement two years ago in Sweden I thought that was pretty bold."

After seeing and driving the new vehicles, however, it confirmed to him they are well underway towards achieving that vision.

A hybrid model, it has a repositioned battery in the centre of the vehicle to create a low centre of



gravity. It is smooth, quiet, efficient and powerful, with enough that it belies its four-cylinder engine. It has the performance of a sports car, he says, and the fuel economy of a much smaller vehicle, producing just 49g of carbon per 100km. A bevy of safety features are also on board including technology that brings you back in your lane, a steering wheel that vibrates if it detects you have crossed a yellow line, and cloud technology that will warn drivers of any dangers on the road as they approach.

If you hit black ice, for instance, the vehicle will beam this information to the cloud and beam back this information to any other Volvos on the road.

"What this product represents to us is what our future product range will be," says Mr. Algieri. "It leads the segment in every category and it has the strongest structure of any car on the market today."

■ WRITTEN BY Brock Weir PHOTOS BY David Falconer



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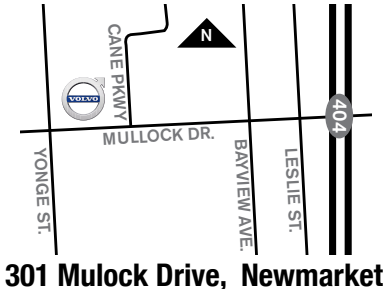


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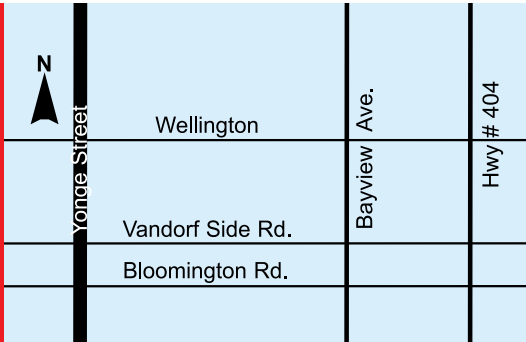
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**Shine those rims and roll down  
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**K**artSTART For another summer the Aurora Classic & Custom Car Club will be hosting its weekly cruise shows on Sunday evenings. Weather permitting, the car shows will run every Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Canadian Tire parking lot located at 14700 Yonge st. until September 13th.



With each week bringing in dozens of cars, vehicles range from muscle cars to all classic cars.

"I like coming every week because it seems there is always a different selection of cars to see," said Brian Roberts, an Aurora resident who says he visits the show each week.

Due to weather, the first car show, held on May 31st was canceled.

"It's a bummer when no cars show up because it is raining," said Karen Williams. "I understand though. The owners of these cars only want to drive them in perfect conditions."

The shows feature other entertainment to offer other than the cars. Each week consists of a weekly sponsor donated door prize, 50's to 60's music that can be heard across the en-



tire Canadian Tire parking lot and an Ice Cream Vendor, so bring your kids along for the ride!

"It's just a fun way to get out of the house and spend a night with the family," said Williams. "We get the kids an ice cream cone and we walk around and look at the cars."

For some, looking at the old cars pull in can bring back classic memories.

“When I look at this car it brings me back to when I was younger,” said Greg Miller, who was looking at a classic dark blue Chevrolet Corvette.

"It reminds me of my friend who use to drive one just like this," he added.

Not only is the car show about looking at cool

cars, but bringing together Aurora residents with a mutual interest.

"I've made a couple great friends from attending these shows," said Roberts. "Because of this show each year a couple of us drive down and go to different car shows across the GTA [Greater Toronto Area] together."

Since the family oriented club's formation in 2000, the club holds 16 cruise nights a summer. The club supports the town's events and does not charge admission for these cruise nights.

For more information about the Aurora Classic & Custom Car Club visit [www.auroracarclub.ca](http://www.auroracarclub.ca)

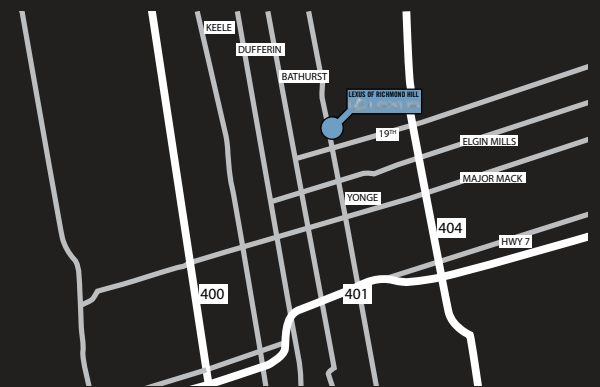
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# VARAC to honour Formula Ford at the CHGP



**This June 17-21 2015** at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park “CTMP”, the Vintage Automobile Racing Association Canada “VARAC” will once again be holding the Canadian Historic Grand Prix. This Motorsport event brings vintage and historic racing machines together from all over North America. This event offers exciting racing action while honouring the legendary drivers and vehicles from the past. This year they will be featuring the Formula Ford.

The Formula Ford is a single seat open wheel race car, which traditionally have been the stepping stone to the top leagues of Motorsport such as Indy Car and Formula 1. Legendary drivers such as Gilles Villeneuve , Scott Goodyear, Ron Fellows, Michael Andretti and most recently Barrie resident Kyle Marcelli all started racing in cars such as these. A couple of mentionable drivers competing in the FF event will be 1960-70s Canadian racing champion and race driving

instructor Gary Magwood and retired Canadian General Lew MacKenzie who’s long time hobby away from military duties has been racing. Magwood has also been chosen to be the Grand Marshall for the event. The “Ford” in the series name is due to the exclusive use of Ford motors over the years since the formula started in the early ‘60s. From a very fragile 1.1 Lire in the beginning to the more current 2000cc engine, many evolutions have come and gone. You can see some of these original cars at the CHGP in June. Along with the featured series will be the vast array of classic and historical sedans racing in their respective classes. Cars such as Mustangs, Corvettes, Porsche, Datsun, Alfa Romeo and Audi will put on a memorable performance in the “Classic” grid. For the fans, Friday night kicks off with a classic “street party” in downtown Bowmanville near the track, featuring cars on display that will race on the weekend. You can take in the local atmosphere and cuisine while enjoying the display. Also, one can participate in the Sunday in the “Field of Dreams” car show, drive your classic out for the day and enjoy a special parking area with fellow enthusiasts and swap stories about the hobby. Touring or ‘lapping” sessions are also taking place during the lunch break for the car show participants. Lots of things to see and do, it’s all happening at CTMP June 17-21 Father’s day weekend. Now that’s an outing tailor made for Dad! Visit [www.canadianhistoricgrandprix.com](http://www.canadianhistoricgrandprix.com) for all the details and schedule.

■ WRITTEN BY **Perry M. Mason**  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF **Paul H. Gulde** and **Ferret Industries Canada web**





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