





HE AURORA

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE Week of November 19, 2015





Refugees should be welcomed with open arms: Aurora volunteers

By Brock Weir

On Friday morning, representatives of the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR) were pumped and ready to go.

The group, a collective of members belonging to Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora United Church, and the Newmarket Islamic Centre, were buoyed by a change at the top, feeling they "had the nod" to move forward with their plans to sponsor at least one refugee family from Syria to settle in the area.

For them, the policies of the new Trudeau government left them "excited... the gates are open", in stark contrast

to what they felt was something of an "uphill battle" in making their plan come to fruition.

Just a couple of hours after meeting at Trinity to discuss their next steps, word of the terrorist attack in Paris broke.

Despite calls from some quarters for governments around the world to take a second look at their policies regarding the flow of refugees from Syria, this local group remains steadfast in their excitement and drive to make a marked difference in the lives of at least one family fleeing in search of a better life – and this is an excitement and drive they hope to spread throughout the community

regardless of faith.

"The Canadian government has assured the public they will not back down on their commitment to bring 25,000 refugees to Canada and they will be chosen in a safe and responsible manner to deal with possible security risks," says Katherine Webster, a member of Trinity serving on the IRR. "We were relieved to hear this and gladdened by the knowledge our government has not responded to this tragedy with a knee-jerk reaction that could potentially affect the lives of so many in need of our support.

"We cannot be a nation that gives into

Continued on page 17

Council sounds off on electing Regional Chair By Brock Weir

It is an issue that has been simmering on the backburner for years, but local politicians are set to turn up the heat this week on electing the Chair of York Region Council.

Regional Councillors are set to consider a motion from Markham Regional Councillor Joe Li calling for significant changes in how the leader is chosen. Currently, the Regional Chair is elected by members directly elected to Regional Council. Their chosen one could be anybody elected or otherwise - with little to no input from the public. It is a

Continued on page 12

Highland Gate redevelopment headed to the OMB

By Brock Weir

Proposals to transform the former Highland Gate Golf Couse into a 180+ unit housing development and condo complex are bound for an appeal at the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Highland Gate Developments Inc. formally filed their appeal Tuesday

Executive Vice President of Land Development for Geranium Corporation, the company which has partnered with landowner ClubLink, the move came after experiencing

a perceived delay at the last Public Planning meeting devoted to the proposal on October 28.

"We have now had three statutory public meetings and a community information meeting and at the last meeting, the staff report recommended staff now be directed to go and prepare a comprehensive report with recommendations and options and bring that back to Council because the review process is complete and there is no further technical work to be done on the applications," Ms. Shindruk tells The Auroran. "Council selected instead to schedule another public planning meeting on a date yet to be

Continued on page 20



SPEND-A-HALF DAY Friday, November 27

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afternoon after earlier informing the Highland Gate Ratepayers Group they were headed in this direction. According to Cheryl Shindruk,

A name you know... people you trust!





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TOWN OF AURORA

Weekly Notice Board

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Time Location **Council Chambers** Friday, November 20 10 a.m. Monday, November 23 Council Chambers 7 p.m. **Council Chambers** Tuesday, November 24 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 24 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 25 7 p.m.

Procedural By-law Review Workshop Council Chambers Council **Council Chambers** 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

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



Get ready to get out and play Aurora!

RBC Sports Day in Canada is a national celebration of the power of sport to build community and get Canadians moving. It takes place on Saturday, November 21 in communities across Canada.

The Town of Aurora will offer various FREE events for Aurora youth and residents. Events will take place at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC), 1400 Wellington Street East, and the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC), 135 Industrial Parkway North.

Pull up your socks, tie up those running shoes and join more than a million Canadians who are celebrating sport across Canada during the Year of Sport!

Activity	Time	Location
FREE Public Skate	11 a.m. to 12 p.m.	SARC
FREE Public Leisure Swim	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	SARC
FREE Indoor Walking Track	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	AFLC
FREE Outdoor Skate Park (weather permitting)	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.	AFLC
FREE Indoor Rock Climbing Wall (waiver required)	1 p.m. to 3 p.m.	AFLC
FREE RBC Learn to Play Zone & Open Gym – ages 9 to 17	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	AFLC
FREE Drop-in at The Loft Double Shot Basketball Challenge – ages 12 to 17	1 p.m. to 4 p.m.	AFLC
FREE Day at Club Aurora Fitness Centre — ages 12 to17 (waiver required)y	1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	AFLC

For more information contact Loriann Ierullo, Recreation Supervisor, Special Projects at lierullo@aurora.ca or 905-726-4763.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Temporary Road Closure for Annual Santa Under the Stars Parade

Please be advised that vehicular traffic will be temporarily prohibited along Yonge on Saturday, November 28:

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. YONGE STREET WILL BE CLOSED from St. John's Sideroad to Wellington Street and Wellington Street to Batson Drive (northbound traffic only). All side streets between Wellington Street and Batson Drive will be open. Southbound Yonge Street will still be open until 5:30 p.m.

3 p.m. to 8 p.m. OLD YONGE STREET WILL BE CLOSED (southbound only) from St. John's Sideroad to Twelve Oaks Drive. Northbound Old Yonge Street will be open for through traffic.

5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. YONGE STREET WILL BE CLOSED from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Henderson Drive; ENGLEHARD DRIVE WILL BE CLOSED from Edward Street to Industrial Parkway.

WHAT'S HAPPENING



The Aurora Museum & Archives wants to hear from you!

Do you have a special story, memory or object related to a site within Library Square and the surrounding area known as the Aurora Cultural Precinct? If so, the Aurora Museum & Archives wants to hear from you! Your submissions will be used to develop a future exhibition featuring the Aurora Cultural Precinct, the area bound by Mosley Street, Larmont Street, Metcalfe/Church Street and Yonge Street. To submit your story, memory or object to the Aurora Museum & Archives, please contact Michelle Johnson at mjohnson@aurora.ca

For a complete list of historic sites and to learn more about the Aurora Museum & Archives, please visit www.aurora.ca/museum

Don't miss the Re-Purpose Event supporting **Aurora Museum & Archives!**

Browse through used books, DVDs, CDs and vinyl for some great finds.

Saturday, November 21 Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Location: Aurora Armoury 89 Mosley Street Aurora, ON

All proceeds support the Aurora Museum & Archives. For more

information, please call 905-505-1190.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Trails and Active Transportation Committee

Budget Review



AURORA 2016 BUDGET

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

STATUS	TOPIC
Complete	Capital Budget Review Monday, September 28 • 7 p.m.
Complete	Capital Budget Review Monday, October 5 • 9 a.m.
Complete	Operating Budget Monday, November 2 ● 5:30 p.m.
Cancelled	Operating Budget Monday, November 16 • 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Complete	Aurora Public Library Board, Aurora Cultural Centre Board and Aurora Historical Society Board Monday, November 16 • 7 p.m.
Upcoming	Budget Review Monday, November 23 • 7 p.m.
Uncoming	Council – Budget Approval

Tuesday, December 8 • 7 p.m

This meeting is scheduled to discuss the recommended Operating Budget for Council's approval. If you missed previous meetings, catch up by downloading the most up-to-date budget information from www.aurora.ca/budget

Public input is welcome

To speak prior to a budget meeting, we encourage you to register by email to csecretariat@aurora.ca or call 905-727-3123 ext. 4227. Residents can also sign up in-person prior to each meeting.

Get involved!

Send your comments or questions to The Town of Aurora:

ourtownbudget@aurora.ca 💟 @Town_of_Aurora or #aurorabudget2016

facebook.com/TownofAurora

905-727-1375

All meetings are held at **Aurora Town Hall**, 100 John West Way. Please note, the meeting schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date budget information and meeting schedule, please visit www.aurora.ca/budget

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

It's that time of year again! Snow and ice are due to arrive soon. Please ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the street, over sidewalks or onto the roadway. This is hazardous for residents and severely hinders the ability of our Infrastructure and Environmental Services staff to plow our roads and sidewalks.

For more information, please call 905-726-4751 or visit

CLUB AURORA Seminar Series - Exercise Program **Design Fundamentals**

Monday, November 23 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Program Room C Register at www.aurora.ca/e-PLAY using course Code 40315

t Plan and s & Recreation Master Plan

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You are invited to attend a Public Open House to review the draft plans and to provide your input prior to finalizing the plans. Join us on Thursday, November 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, 100 John West Way. www.aurora.ca/masterplan or www.aurora.ca/sportplan











COFFEE WITH THE MPs Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leona Alleslev and Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson met with The Auroran last week to discuss their goals before being sworn in this month.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

New MPs excited to be dual voices for one Aurora

By Brock Weir

They still have to pin down locations for their new constituency offices, but Aurora's newly-minted Members of Parliament Leona Alleslev and Kyle Peterson are already working from the same playbook: one Canada, one country, one Aurora.

"But, with two voices," jokes Ms. Alleslev, MP for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

It has been a busy few weeks since the October 19 Federal Election which sent these two rookie MPs to Ottawa to be Aurora's voices in the two ridings which

Mr. Peterson, MP for Newmarket-Aurora, was in Ottawa just last week to be officially sworn in on the job and Ms. Alleslev will follow suit this Monday, November 23.

"Something about the swearing in makes it concrete and real," says Mr. Peterson.

Add Ms. Alleslev: "I took an oath to join the Canadian Forces and I am very excited about this next oath when I will actually have the weight of the office on me. I am excited because it is an honour to be able to serve and I don't take that responsibility lightly."

Since Election Day, the MPs have been busy assembling their team, receiving orientation and hearing from constituents. Mr. Peterson says invitations to community events have been flying in fast and furious, with his dance card filling up even on the day immediately after the election, and constituents have not been shy about sounding off on the issues that matter to them.

"Canada Post didn't do us any favours the Monday after the election saying they were basically putting everything on hold," says Mr. Peterson. "It seems that the community that was most affected by that decision was Aurora just because of the timing and the way things were being rolled out. A couple of people have come up to me with some immigration problems and everyone has a lot of ideas right now and it is nice to hear from them. It runs the gamut, for sure."

Both MPs watched with pride as the new Prime Minister's cabinet was sworn in at Rideau Hall. There was a certain energy in the air, they say, with enthusiasm etched on Mr. Trudeau's face.

Alleslev. "This is a government of the people, not only in terms of the diversity and the depth of cabinet by simply of virtue of making it open and accessible. This is starting as we mean to go on: a government that believes they are of the people and for the people and the people, therefore, have the opportunity and the privilege of being able to see that and that was exciting [of the swearing-in]. You can feel the energy of 'we want to be part of our government and we want to be part of the future we are building together."

But as high as energy is at the moment, both MPs concede there are challenges ahead. The Liberals have set the bar high and now it is time for them to deliver both nation-wide and in the two ridings these individuals now represent.

"The biggest challenge is going to be the ambitious platform we have put forward and being able to demonstrate that we can make good on it in a timely fashion," says Ms. Alleslev. "There has been a perception that governments move slowly but at this point we don't have the luxury of time. We have a high unemployment rate, we have an economy that that is perhaps not as strong as we would like it to be, we have a global environment that is providing its own challenges, so we do not have the luxury of time. We have fantastic plans and approaches, now we have to demonstrate in a timely fashion that we can make good on those and start the ball rolling to make sure we end up with the results we are looking for from these initiatives."

Adds Mr. Peterson: "It is clear now the budget probably wasn't in as good a shape as we might have thought hearing the Conservative position during the election, so there is going to be an additional economic challenge of a budget that probably wasn't balanced after all. We're starting from a step behind than we would have thought."

"But perhaps we had a feeling it wasn't going to be as optimistic and positive as we thought," interjects Ms. Alleslev with a smile. "We are more than ready or that, but we literally have to hit the ground running."

The Auroran's bi-weekly space for Aurora's Members of Parliament to communicate with you resumes next week. Mr. Peterson and Ms. Alleslev will take it in turns with Mr. Peterson getting the ball

Briefly

SATURDAY BOOK SALE SUPPORTS AURORA MUSEUM

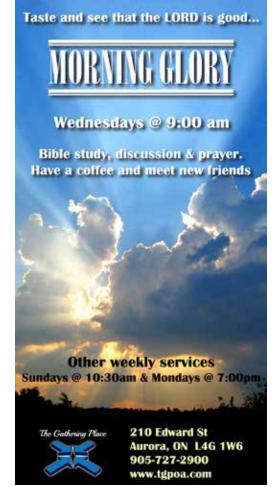
If you have a book lover – or even a movie lover – on your Christmas list this year, head over to the Aurora Armoury on Saturday for a good cause. Local historian David Heard will host a Fall Book Sale at the historic drill shed on the southwest corner of Larmont Street and Mosley Street. All proceeds will benefit the Aurora Museum and Archives. The sale runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features a "massive selection" of hardcover and softcover books, DVDs, CDs, and LPs - yes, genuine vinyl - at bargain prices. No book will be priced higher than \$5, says Mr. Heard.

RING IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH THREE NEW EXHIBITIONS

The Aurora Cultural Centre is getting into the swing of the season with the opening of three new gallery exhibitions. The galleries will be filled with the magic of the holiday season with three shows in a variety of media. As always, the entryway to the Centre will be decorated by talented volunteer "elves" Maureen and Margaret, who once again offer a stunning welcome to the 1886 schoolhouse. Opening November 25 is Snow Days: Reflections on Winters Past by Dave and Ross Rheaume, a collection of paintings reflecting a love of art, history and storytelling. The following day opens Threads of Tradition: An Exhibition of Handmade Quilts by Angela Krotowski featuring ten holiday-themed pieces preserving cultural heritage, family history and special loves. Rounding out the program on December 1 is Enchanted Realms: A Journey of Magic and Wonder by Mahtab Abdollahi and Josee Savaria.

FACES OF RECOVERY

If you've struggled with - or have been impacted by - an eating disorder and have felt like you're alone, that is certainly not the case, and the Aurora-based Eating Disorders of York Region's Riverwalk Wellness Centre is looking to dispel the myth through their Faces of Recovery Campaign. All are welcome to participate in the free Faces of Recovery's Fireside Conversation on Saturday December 5, from 11, a.m. to 12,30 p.m. at the Thornhill Community Centre (7755 Bayview Avenue, Room B5). Members of the Faces of Recovery Campaign invite you to join with them in conversation to speak about recovery and to answer questions that may arise concerning emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical health and wellness in the recovery process. Registration is required: info@edoyr.com.





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TOWN OF AURORA **PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Reconstruction of Algonquin Crescent and Haida Drive

The Town of Aurora intends to reconstruct Algonquin Crescent and Haida Drive from Algonquin Crescent to Aurora Heights Drive in 2017, subject to budget approval by Aurora Town Council. Interested residents are invited to attend a public meeting to view the engineering design plans for

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall, Holland Room. There are no formal presentations scheduled. Town staff and engineering consultants will be available to discuss the proposed plans.

For more information, please contact Glen McArthur, Municipal Engineer, at 905-727-3123, ext. 4322, or by email to gmcarthur@aurora.ca

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

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CANADA 150 AD HOC COMMITTEE

Aurora Town Council invites residents to apply to participate as a citizen member of the Canada 150 Ad Hoc Committee. Five (5) citizen members are required. The application deadline has been extended to Friday, December 4, 2015.

For more information, please call 905-727-3123, ext. 4227. Any member of the general public residing in Aurora may apply.

What is the application process?

Appointment to Committees is open to all residents of Aurora, or owners of land within the municipality, or a tenant of land for business tax purposes in Aurora. Applications must be submitted to the Town on the approved application form. Application forms and additional information can be picked up at Aurora Town Hall, or by visiting the Town's website at www.aurora.ca

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Clerk and submitted by email to pthoma@aurora.ca or by fax at 905-726-4732. Applications can also be submitted by mail or hand delivered to 100 John West Way, P.O. Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1.

905.751.1661

toppers.ca/aurora

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123, ext. 4227

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Highland Gate article had "omission", says reader

Your most recent article summarized the October 28 Town Planning meeting regarding the Highland Gate development proposal once again opted to omit any mention of ClubLink as owner and developer of the golf course lands.

It is ClubLink that owns the land. ClubLink that is once again trying to develop the land (it is their right, yes, but they are pushing for too much) and, most importantly, ClubLink that is avoiding all social responsibility and failing to live up to its good corporate citizenship, and they should be named publicly so that everyone knows all of the players involved in this ongoing story.

Geranium Homes is constantly painted as the bad guy here. Please be a responsible journalist and tell the full story: ClubLink and Geranium are really one entity in this story.

Aurora

A more "appropriate addition" to Cenotaph park

In his recent letter to The Auroran newspaper, Klaus Wehrenberg puts a human face on war. He recoils at the prospect of a "tank" sharing the Peace Park with the Cenotaph. The Canadian War Museum seems a fitting place for the tools of death and destruction.

A more appropriate addition to the Peace Park would be recognition that an Aurora Methodist preacher's boy, studied at the Church Street School, went on to win the 1957 Nobel Prize for Peace and become Canada's 14th Prime Minister - Lester Bowles "Mike" Pearson.

Gordon Barnes

work.

undecideds.

CHAMP proud to carry torch

Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, made up of members and graduates of CHAMP who are dedicated to teaching

Amputee veterans started The War Amps nearly 100 years ago, and later created CHAMP to share their knowledge and assistance with us. Operation Legacy allows us to honour them and carry their legacy into the

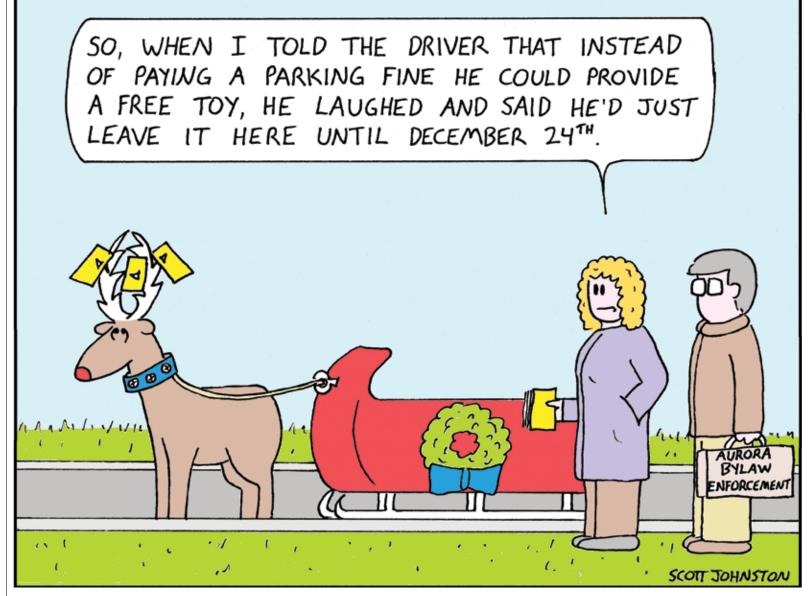
of the end of the Second World War. On Remembrance Day, it is important for Canadians to reflect on the significance of this anniversary and the sacrifices

privilege to participate in many events that will always stay in my heart. I cherish the times I get to talk with honourable veterans because hearing their stories first-hand makes me appreciate how hard they fought for our country. I am honoured to pass on the torch of remembrance to younger generations, so they too can be proud to

Operation Legacy Member, Ottawa

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

Machell's Corners



At the gates



BROCK'S BANTER Brock Weir

point."

Despite grey and gloomy skies on Friday, I left Trinity Anglican Church

I am not a religious guy by nature,

and the light I felt did not spring from

a service in particular, rather it was

from a meeting I just had with three

women who have been driving forces

behind Aurora and Newmarket's

fledgling Interfaith Refugee Resettlers

group: Mae Khamissa, Karen Kines,

and Katherine Webster. It had been

a few months since I first met with

Ms. Khamissa to discuss the initial

foundation of the group, which has

brought together members of Trinity,

Aurora United Church, and the

Newmarket Islamic Centre, and I was

asked to sit in on a meeting that day to

discuss how far they have come in their

all-too-often rickety beams of good

intentions, they have developed a

well-oiled machine, complete with an

abundance of volunteers that have

divided themselves into committees

designed to cover every single base that

might be needed by a family fleeing the

dangers of Syria for a better life in the

interfaith group. It is not a group that

is limited to those who subscribe to

one particular organized religion -

Christian, Muslim, or what have you

but one that welcomes volunteers

from all faiths, no faiths, and the great

planted by Trinity over 30 years ago

are still germinating. In the late 1970s.

a group of 12 volunteers from Trinity

sponsored a family of Vietnamese Boat

People. While some members of this

family still live in the vicinity of York

Region, many have dispersed across

Ontario. Evidently, however, they still

keep in touch and word has gotten

back to them about Trinity's latest

families who were supported by Trinity

who were Boat People and they heard

about this and although they aren't

members of our congregations said,

'we have a moving van. When the time

comes and you need us, call us and we

will help these people and do whatever

you need us to do," said Ms. Webster.

"That is what we are looking for. The

interfaith community comes together

to bring the community together in

a goal. The faith is not the point; it is

the community involvement that is the

"There have been two men from

humanitarian effort.

I was also struck by the fact that seeds

What struck me is this is a true

Aurora and Newmarket areas.

From a foundation formed on the

with a bit of sunshine.

As I prepared to head back to the office, Ms. Kines left me with this thought: "We are not any different than those folks in the sense that we all want security, we all want to raise our children in a safe place. We just want to have everything the world can offer us. We can now help those folks to have those things they desire and we desire."

This view of all rowing in the same direction was bolstered by Ms. Khamissa who summed it all up, saying it is all about humanity, about people who have been taken away from what they have known, and are looking for a better life.

Had the day ended right after this meeting, it would have ended on a high note. Unfortunately that was not the case.

Shortly after the meeting, I was Toronto-bound for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. This is normally a yearly excursion for me, but after missing last year's event for a variety of reasons I was particularly eager to take in everything the event had to offer. It did not disappoint. Following a special presentation by the Countess of Wessex to Wind Reach Farm, a horse facility that provides therapeutic riding for those living with disabilities, I toured around, made a late lunch of all the wonderful samples farmers and producers had on offer, and settled in to watch some very wellgroomed cattle be paraded into the Championship ring.

As I stood on the sidelines watching the bovine beauties, however, I turned around to find no less than nine members of the Toronto Police Services standing behind me. After momentarily considering whether I had sampled something that wasn't actually a sample, I saw a cluster of cops forming on the other side of the ring and then, stepping away from the action, saw them walking the length and breadth of the event.

Wondering what was happening, I took my silenced phone out of my pocket and got my first word of the terrorist attacks in Paris that had happened just a short time before. Evidently, Toronto was not taking any

chances with a potential soft target like the Royal Winter Fair and responded accordingly.

What happened in the City of Lights is, to be sure, a devastating event, not to mention additional attacks in other, less Western parts of the world such as Beirut that same day, and the lasting ramifications are, at this writing, still unclear.

Transfixed by the news for the rest of the afternoon and evening, I couldn't help but feel clouds forming on the sunshine with which I left Trinity.

Indeed, social media confirmed my fears when I saw a number of people posting racist and xenophobic rants and diatribes about not only Muslims in general but specifically those trying to flee Syria in the hopes of a better life.

Places like Canada, they said and shared, should close the gates to immigrants, egged on by their questionable followers.

Charity should begin at home, ranted others, as their own brand of bobbysoxers chimed in with pithy words of agreement without actually making any firm commitments they were going to put their best foot forward and look into adopting a child languishing in our foster care system, donating a disused winter coat to someone on the street bracing for the freezing weather sure to come, or that they would get off their collective duffs to even donate a can of Chef Boyardee to their local food bank.

Empty words, empty sentiments. Don't get me wrong: It would be great if those complaining and ranting from the comforts of their own laptop actually follow their own advice and do something for those in need here at home, and countless community groups would benefit. But the reality is, they're not.

Rants on social media these days only seem to lead to positive progress in places like, say, the Middle East.

These women of the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers, and the countless volunteers that are part of this group, are not letting what happened in Paris diminish their enthusiasm. In fact, it has probably galvanized the group to double down in the face of these reactionary challenges. And we, as Aurorans, will be all the better for it.

Those looking to start fresh from the terror that has ravaged the Middle East are people who are conscientiously rejecting the influx of fear and barbarism that has infected their homeland. They are the future and we should welcome them with open arms.

of Remembrance

I am a graduate of The War Amps and its Operation Legacy, which is the younger generation about the importance of remembrance.

This year marks the 70th anniversary made so we could lead better lives.

Operation Legacy has given me the live in this amazing country.

Celeste Blanchard, 19

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Brock Weir brock@auroran.com



ROYAL RIBBONS

Aurora's Jan Freedman of Jan's Country Pantry (and Market Musings columnist for The Auroran) took home a healthy haul of ribbons this past weekend at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. In the Jams and Jellies category, Ms. Freedman won first place for her Seville marmalade with ginger and her savoury rosemaryapple cider jelly, a third place with her cranberry port jelly and ninth for heritage tomato jam. In the Pickling competition, she took home second for tarragon white asparagus pickles, sixth for mixed fruit chutney and fruit chill sauce, and 10th for mint peach salsa.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Remembering their families, too

When this column is published it will be well past November 11. All the poppies will have disappeared and the wreaths at the Cenotaph put away for another year.

I debated writing about Remembrance Day, fearing another column could contribute to an overload of commentary about how we should feel and what we should do to honour both those who have served our nation in past and those who serve today.

This time of year I think about relatives who served our nation. Too many did not return to loved ones. Others came home maimed in body and mind. Come Remembrance Day, I think about the affect their sacrifice had on their mothers, fathers, siblings, friends and communities.

The world is rightly in uproar over the attack on citizens in Paris. With the thoughts of possible future conflict in mind, I decided to write about Remembrance Day. I am sensitive to the thought of sacrifice, knowing the involvement our local reserve unit, the Queen's York Rangers, has had in recent world conflicts. War is no longer an abstract idea when you have got to know many of the young men and women who could be involved.

This column is courtesy of MPP David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. He wrote this tribute and delivered it in the House as part of the annual all-party tribute to Remembrance Day. I was moved, and felt it needed to be shared with my community. I had the honour of reading it at the Aurora Legion Remembrance Dinner and was asked for copies.

Here is my column, courtesy of Minister Zimmer:



View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP Newmarket-Aurora

November 11 is Remembrance Day. Tributes are offered throughout the country and in this room. We recognize veterans' sacrifices.

We talk about defending democracy and freedom, and those are noble ideals, but on another level, sometimes I think we forget to ask ourselves the very important question: What did their sacrifices actually mean in terms of the individuals, their families and their friends?

I think there is an obligation on us to try to understand their sacrifice in these very personal ways: what it meant to them, what it meant in their minds and what it meant in their hearts. I think we have an obligation to try and feel the pain and the grief of their mothers, their fathers, their siblings and their friends.

Friends, it is impossible to comprehend, in the safety of our homes, in the safety of our careers, in the safety of this room, exactly what that meant. How are we to understand what it must have felt like to be shot at and bombed, to suffer grievous wounds, to die from grievous wounds or to be maimed? But this is the visceral reality of what it is like to serve in defence of these noble virtues of democracy and

freedom.

All of their names are chiseled on the various cenotaphs throughout the province of Ontario: in smalltown Ontario, villages, big cities, rural communities and high school remembrance plaques, all over the province. But how many of us, passing a cenotaph, passing one of these high school plaques, take a moment to pause and just look at the names on those plaques and ask ourselves: "What did it mean to them and their families at the very personal level?"

I think that our obligation on this Remembrance Day is to try to feel that reality, that danger, that fear. Each of those individuals faced horror, fear, danger, and then all of those emotions must have also been felt by their parents, their siblings and their friends. Our obligation is to understand the magnitude of their risk and their sacrifices, and to respect them for that.

Let me tell you a very human story to drive home this point. Mrs. C.S. Woods of Winnipeg, Manitoba was invited by the Canadian government to the national Vimy monument unveiling in the late 1920s. There's a picture of her in a magazine of the day that covered it. She is standing there quietly, saluting in a very frail, dignified, but brave manner.

This is what the caption under the photograph says: "Among the Canadian pilgrims who attended the unveiling of the Vimy...memorial was Silver Cross Mother Mrs. C.S. Woods of Winnipeg, who lost eight sons in the war." That day she wore all their medals on her jacket. Just let that thought sink in: a mother, a

Continued on page 17

The Federal Conservative Party – now what?



Now that the Federal Election has taken place and the Liberals have a majority, what's in store for the Federal Conservative Party?

Unlike after the 1993 election of Liberal Jean Chretien when the Progressive Conservatives were left with two seats nationally, the Federal Conservatives are in relatively good shape today, holding ninety-nine of the three hundred and thirty-eight seats in the House of Commons.

Since former Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently announced his intention to step aside as party leader, electing a new leader will be one of the tasks that will need to be accomplished.

I do hope that the party takes its time on this.

Alberta MP Rona Ambrose has been selected as the interim leader so we don't need to rush into this. I hope we pick a leader sometime in 2017 so that lots of potential leadership candidates come forward, including – from my perspective – someone from outside the House of Commons.

I am not talking about a Conservative premier (because there aren't many) making a run for the Leadership, but rather someone from the private sector with a strong resume.

In the coming days and weeks you will hear lots about prospective leadership candidates.

A couple of things will be guiding my decision-making process as to whom to support.

First, what personal accomplishments – either in business, education, public policy or volunteering can this person point to?

Second, do I believe that this man or woman has the potential to connect with voters in the large urban areas like

FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver where our party has been shut out recently?

Third, which part of the political spectrum does this candidate come from – far right, centre or left/centre?

I do believe that we need someone who is a moderate and can put a friendlier face on the Conservative Party. And this point will become even more important if Mr. Trudeau follows through on his promise to forsake the "first-past-the-post" electoral system in time for the next election.

Depending on the type of electoral system chosen, it will most likely mean that building coalitions between voting blocs will become very important for the Party Leader in the future. (More on this in my next column.)

And fourth, what are the three or four main policy goals of the prospective candidate?

Once a new leader is chosen, then the party can get on with the very hard work of strengthening itself; recruiting new party members, raising funds and developing policy alternatives for the next election.

Speaking of policy, I am also very interested to see how the Party develops policy alternatives going forward.

Much has been written about the paucity of new policy offerings from Tories during the campaign.

My hope is that all party members will have the opportunity for their say on policy going forward and that we have learned our lesson from this electoral setback and our recent provincial election losses.

I think the federal Conservatives should take a page from their Ontario cousins.

Back in the early 1990s the party developed a plan that was discussed and debated within the various riding associations, and then at regional policy workshops before final resolutions were adopted after rigorous debates at a provincial wide policy meeting. These final policy resolutions became part of the party's platform.

The Federal Conservative Party should adopt this approach.

Party volunteers were energized, as they had the opportunity to make and influence party policy. This certainly did not mean that they won everything that they wanted - as the Leader and his campaign team crafted a campaign strategy and theme out of the policy resolutions - but the grass roots were consulted, and listened to.

So, why is all this important to me here in Aurora in the late fall of 2015 as Mr. Trudeau's Liberals will be holding power with a good sized majority until October 2019?

It is important for the simple reason that a democracy best functions when you have opposition parties that are ready and able to potentially govern.

Knowing that the other guy can do the job is a great way to keep the incumbents on their toes.

This is especially important now, given the state and the challenges in our economy.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Time for Frank Talk

I generally ascribe to the belief that all politics is – ultimately – local, but given the horrific events in France, it is difficult to write about local political matters without seeming somewhat out of touch or self-involved.

Clearly, local "issues" are mighty small in comparison to those experienced by the people of Paris, or threats of violence faced by millions of people across the globe on a daily basis. It feels wrong to gripe about petty local politics or even broader regional issues when so many others are dealing with a tragedy on a scale that we can scarcely imagine, let alone live.

So I will hold my originally planned piece on the inadequacy and inequity of our public transportation system for another day. Instead, I want to focus on media coverage of the tragedy in Paris.

I have watched CNN's wall-to-wall coverage on the events as they unfolded and continue to unfold. Christiane Amanpour is one of the best, sharpest and most astute foreign correspondents out there. She has been excellent in her reporting, hard hitting, refusing to put forward the simplistic pablum that other commentators feed to the masses.

Other pontificators are not nearly as good and, as a result, we have been subjected to some pretty appalling statements and equally appalling attendant proposed "solutions." The US presidential candidates are the most egregious of the pontificators. Ted Cruz' suggestion that Syrian refugees should be subject to a "religious" test is odious in the extreme.

Aside from the sheer insanity of the suggestion, in the most practical terms, how would this even be achieved? And more important, how is this helpful?

There appears to be two main camps amongst the pundits. Some state categorically that this is a matter of religion, that "these" people have beliefs that are fundamentally at odds with western values. Others believe it is a matter of extremists using religion to cause schisms in the broader society of humanities that they seek to exploit for their own deranged goals and that anyone who does not espouse their warped worldview is the enemy regardless of their religion.

I do not pretend to have a solution. Really, what is the solution? How does one address the clear and urgent need to provide assistance to desperate people fleeing the very people who seek to destroy us as well? The fact that at least one of the terrorists held a Syrian passport (real or forged) and passed into Europe as a refugee further complicates the matter.

If the situation was easy to solve, then it would have been solved already. The folks trotting out simplistic, black and white "solutions" to this highly complex matter should just pipe down. Let the grown-ups do the talking.

I believe we have a right to protect ourselves. This will require us to have some uncomfortable conversations to achieve that goal, but I also believe we have a moral duty to help those in need, which will similarly require us to challenge our beliefs about both "others" and ourselves as well.

To our political leaders at home and abroad I say, now is the time to work together, not score cheap shots to gain political advantage. In the end, any advantage "achieved" is on the bloodied backs of those at the forefront of this tragedy.

NEW AURORAN POLL

Should the Regional Chair be a position elected directly by the citizens of York Region? A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

Do you think a decommissioned light armoured vehicle should be placed at the Aurora Cenotaph?

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

ILTS ATE	17, 2015	YES	NO	UNSURE	
RESU TO D	November	41%	58%	1%	

Town looks for ways to crack down on door-to-door sales

By Brock Weir

If you've opened your door to find someone on your stoop claiming to



represent the Town of Aurora, there is a chance that simply wasn't the case - and those actually representing the Town are now looking at ways to clamp down on potential fraudsters following last week's Council meeting.

The move came following a Notice of Motion from Councillor Tom Mrakas, who stated the "financial well-being and personal safety of Aurora residents is of the utmost importance," and seniors in particular need more protection from "unethical, misleading and/or aggressive door-to-door salespeople."

"While we all realise that not too long ago there was some misrepresentation at the door, someone going around misrepresenting themselves saying they were from the Town of Aurora, we don't know the whole story, but that is what we are hearing," said Councillor Mrakas. "It is our responsibility to look out for the personal safety of our residents.

"There are many municipalities across the country that have regulations when it speaks to door to door sales and print advertising materials, and I think it is best if we send it back to staff to have them create a bylaw, maybe using some of the language from other bylaws from other municipalities and bring back what would work for us in Aurora to be able to protect ourselves."

Indeed, Councillor Mrakas' motion called for a proposed bylaw to be brought directly before Council in the

first quarter of the New Year, for some Councillors that was moving a bit too fast. The motion was amended that the bylaw coming forward be accompanied by a report back to Council outlining various options Councillors should weigh before moving forward.

"I agree with the spirit of this motion and I agree it is something we should take a look at it, and I am surprised, quite frankly, the Town doesn't have a specific policy on this, but there are some Council directives and policies that are already in place and I think if we did have a report that indicated what we have in place, perhaps where there are gaps, then we can perhaps, as a Council, better aim our efforts on what we would like the new bylaw to say," said Councillor Jeff Thom, calling for a further report.

Councillor Paul Pirri also supported local bakery is set to let the world in. a further report.

"At first blush, this was something I was in favour of moving forward on right on the spot because there are some good examples of these bylaws in place in other municipalities across Canada," he said. keeping specifically to Aurora and the Municipal Act, I would like to see a full picture of the context in which this bylaw would exist."

According to Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Bylaw Services, there are currently some provisions in the Town's existing Licencing Bylaw dealing with door to door salespeople. Additional legislation, she noted, is also included in the Consumer Protection Act. It would be helpful, she said, for her department to report back on related bylaws and provisions currently on the books and make some recommendations for additions and amendments that would "oversee these types of activities as well as enforcement, because there will be an impact on enforcement."

"When this first came up a while back, I didn't really know how we would be able to enforce this, but I think it is important to still have a bylaw on the books that would be directed specifically to this," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

Added Councillor Sandra Humfryes: "I am looking forward to an updated bylaw. It looks like we have some information in our bylaws, but perhaps a little bit more information in terms of how it can protect our residents, these things."



MPP Chris Ballard, Cookie It Up owner Shane Smith, and Arthur Potts, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Cookie it Up set to rise with Provincial dough

By Brock Weir

Cookie It Up has been one of Aurora's best kept secrets for over 30 years, but thanks to some provincial dough, the

Cookie It Up received a grant of \$27,000 from Ontario's Rural Economic Development Fund on Monday. Joining Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard in making the presentation was Arthur Potts, Parliamentary Assistant to the "But, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural

> With the grant money, the bakery hopes to create five new jobs while at the same time increasing competitiveness on the international export market.

> "This program invests in corporations, municipalities agencies that are supporting rural and economic growth," said Mr. Potts. "In this case, we essentially have an urban factory that is buying product from rural companies in order to help rural communities, farmers, etc., expand their operations."

> Mr. Potts added this is all part of Premier Kathleen Wynne's commitment to create 127,000 new jobs by the year 2020 and these investments of more than \$187 million so far in over 600 products have retained over 37,000 new jobs.

> "The aroma in Aurora is just spectacular," he added. "They are using a whole bunch of fresh, natural ingredients. When Paige Sillcox started this company in 1983, it was actually her way of creating employment for herself as she funded her studies at York University. Now, 30-odd years later, she has turned this over to Shane Smith and he is continuing in that direction to build the concept even further.

"[In this program] we can invest in an urban environment as long as the particularly seniors, [is needed]. I benefits are going through rural Ontario would like to see something that would and there is a direct connection. With protect them a little bit more from the ingredients that are being used here, that qualifies it."











Sport Aurora Invites you to Sports Day in Aurora

November 21st, 2015, marks the national celebration of RBC Sports Day in Canada. Sport Aurora Program Manager, Laurie Mueller exclaims, "RBC has made this day, Sports Day, to celebrate the power of Sport and to help build the community and get Canadian's moving! That is their mission, and it will impact the movement of Sport Aurora's Activate Aurora Program by encouraging our community to get active and get involved!"

Sport Aurora invites the community to go and see some of the other sport programs happening in Aurora on November 21st, in support of RBC National Sports Day in Aurora.

Aurora Skating Club – Judy Sherin Memorial Arena - 9am–11:45am- Figure Skating

Aurora Community Tennis Club – McMahon Park – 12pm-11pm

Aurora Lawn Bowling Club – McMahon Park - 12pm-11pm

Central York Girls Hockey Association - Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex-12:15pm-9:45pm - Pfaff Arena

Ducks Swimming Club – Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex – 6am-9am Aurora Tigers Jr A Hockey - Aurora Community Centre - 7:00pm-10:00pm - Aurora

Community Centre - Ice #1, Tigers vs. Wellington Dukes

For more information on these Events please go to http://www.aurora.ca and visit Get Out Aurora & Play!

For more information on this release contact Laurie Mueller, Program Manager of Sport Aurora at 905-713-5027.



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TV host, disabled sports champion take their spots in Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

disabilities."

By Jake Courtepatte

Last week, The Auroran touched on two new inductees into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's hallowed halls: volleyball star Mark Heese and Canadian tennis icon Kenneth Sinclair.

This week, we shift focus to the Hall of Fame's two other newest members: Alan Dean and Lowell McClenny.

When Mr. Dean, a long-time advocate in establishing sports programs for the disabled, took the stage at the annual induction dinner, the first thing he acknowledged was that his journey in sports has been a little "different."

Having arrived in Aurora fifty years ago, he has been involved in community sports since the beginning, joining the Aurora Soccer Club shortly thereafter.

"Everything was going swimmingly, when one fateful day, August 5, 1974, I got hit," he said. "My leg was broken, and thirty hours later I was an amputee fighting for my life."

To Mr. Dean, St. Andrew's College was an apt setting for the dinner: it was there a teacher from the prep school, Gary life shortly after the incident through swimming.

His association with St. Andrew's doesn't end there. In the late 60s and early 70s, he refereed soccer games at the school, recalling the good times he had on the job with 2014 hall inductee Ben Steenhorst.

It was after attending a seminar for disabled athletes and meeting those in a similar condition that Mr. Dean was inspired to continue in sport, and was able to reach the podium twice at the 1976 Ontario Games.

He went on to be instrumental in the forming of the Ontario Amputee Sports Association later that year as well as the Canadian Amputee Sports Association in 1977. He had spells as president of both.

"I got to meet so many talented and influential people, and made so many memories...it's been an absolutely amazing experience for me."

Having traveled to all corners of the globe as an ambassador and delegate for many different organizations, Mr. Dean was humbled in his acceptance of his latest honour.

"If I would have thought this would happen to me 40 years ago, I would have said 'ha! No chance.' And sometimes I really have to pinch myself."

He closed off his speech by telling the crowd to look at life's challenges as opportunities.

"I've been very fortunate in my life to

take advantage of this, and I encourage you all to take advantage of your own

Mr. Dean joins Ken Sinclair as the 2015 inductees into the "Builders" category of

While he acknowledges that it was "interesting" to once be interviewed on Iranian television, he claims it was not the same as being interviewed by his fellow inductee, Lowell McClenny, on his long-time TV program Sports Beat.

Mr. McClenny's induction was a first for the hall in its three year history, receiving the inaugural Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Media Award for his run of almost three decades on Aurora Cable.

His speech began with a trip to the past, reciting his opening lines that Aurora residents heard throughout his time as host of the popular Sports Beat.

"Welcome sports fans, to this week's edition of Sports Beat Aurora. Yours truly Lowell McClenny, I'm your host. Tonight we are here at the prestigious St. Andrew's College where we are involved with the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame induction. I West, helped Mr. Dean ease into his new if they can be interviewed on the show, spread to other parts of the mouth. but you're all too old."

> The last line drew quite a laugh from the large crowd of attendees.

To Mr. McClenny, the induction has enticed him to review tapes over the past few weeks from his many shows, and



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remember the fun he had on Sunday afternoons in a repurposed house on Yonge Street.

"We gave a voice for the sports community," he said. "I know a lot of people tonight that have been on the show.

It was an opportunity for kids to be a hero or sports personality for a week."

He was quick to thank Jim Irvine, the founder of Aurora Cable in 1969, for helping to build, in his opinion, "the best Continued on page 19

Mouth piercings: good or bad?



Dr. Pasha Nasirzadeh, **Wellington Aurora Dental**

Everyone goes through a phase, usually in their younger years, when questionable fashion decisions are the norm. It could be a tattoo, those baggy rayer pants everyone had in high school, or a wacky dye job. I've seen a lot of piercings over the years, too. True, piercings can look cool, but when it comes to those on the lips and tongue they can be harmful to your oral health.

> Studies show that the stainless steel pieces that serve as piercings tend to accumulate bacteria in the same ways as our teeth and tongues.

While oral piercings are only found in around 5% of young adults there are many studies examining their effects on oral health, particularly that of the teeth and gums. These studies show that the stainless steel pieces that serve as piercings tend to accumulate bacteria in the same ways as our teeth and tongues.

Our tongues, for example, play host to a great deal of bacteria, which means that piercings in this area can get pretty gross. The unfortunate news is that some people with tongue piercings aren't careful when it comes to giving their pieces a regular cleaning. Excessive bacteria gathering on the piece can cause severe

Lip piercings also cause difficulties with chipped teeth. When patients chew their food or grind their teeth at night they may sometimes bite down on the piercing. The sensation, and the outcome, is the equivalent of biting down on a piece of rock. This can be painful and destructive; chipped teeth aren't always a simple fix.

We also see a good deal of gum inflammation and irritation in patients with oral piercings. This is a result of daily wear and tear from simple actions like talking and eating. Worse than irritation and inflammation these actions can cause gum recession that exposes the root of the tooth and compromises the tooth's health. Gum recession is a serious issue. Treatment involves difficult, often painful surgery.

I understand that piercings are a form of self expression, and I don't want to position my comments in opposition to this type of personal freedom. With that said I do recommend reserving piercings for body parts like ears and noses, and avoiding the mouth if possible. If you do have lip or tongue piercings you should be aware of the potential side effects. Give your piece a good cleaning from time to time, and be sure to have your dentist check your gums to make sure there are no issues with recession.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything in my column, please do have been asked by many people tonight inflammation in the tongue that can also not hesitate to get in touch drpasha@ wellingtonauroradental.com





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Aurorans want Cultural Precinct to be "civic focal point", say consultants

By Brock Weir

The results are in and the survey savs residents want Aurora's "Cultural Precinct" to be a focal point for the Town.

This is the word brought to Council last week by Michael Scott and Sarah Miller, two consultants tasked with devising a design and vision for Aurora's cultural heart that could finally bring some momentum to a project that has seen several starts and stops over the last 15 years.

Aurora's Cultural Precinct is a vision that radiates westward from Town Park, encompassing several area landmarks including the Aurora Cultural Centre, a number of heritage homes, several churches and the Aurora Public Library before hitting the east side of Yonge Street.

Talks have taken place with local lawmakers, stakeholders, comments were received at visioning sessions and a community walk through the neighbourhood, and an online survey was recently concluded. While the results of the survey are still being studied, preliminary results show that 64 per cent of respondents prioritized maintaining the facades of heritage buildings.

77 per cent said the maintenance of green space was important, 49 per cent cited walkability as very important, while 72 per cent said they warmed to the idea of "Aurora's Cultural Heart" being an "appealing opportunity for growth."

"The important part of any story is the vision," said Mr. Scott. "What we have developed here, I think, is a vision that very succinctly captures what we have talked about with the community. It is really based on the idea that we want to set the Cultural Precinct [as] not only an attractive environment and people-focused district that is strongly connected to the Town's centre and adjacent neighbourhoods, but also connected to other community destinations. [We need to] build on this as a larger puzzle.

"It will also become, in our view, an opportunity to celebrate a local community hub that has year-round activities that serves as a local point in particular for the arts, cultural, tourism and creative industries. We have discussed having the need for additional cultural facilities that build on things, most notably the Church

Street School and how to set the precinct apart from other areas in Town and make it a focal point for the future."

The Cultural Precinct, he added, should be "the fundamental true heart" of Aurora with innovative design elements, integrated land use, engaging programming while also serving as the hub of a creative economy that will "set Aurora apart" from its neighbours. The hub, he noted, should be one of artistic creation, innovation, production and presentation – but to make it happen, it needs to have the "necessary vision and resources" to make it a reality.

When the consultants began their study of the Downtown Core, they wanted to understand its "connections" to the public and surrounding areas. It should be a district that has a clear sense of arrival and transitions, with strengths that should be highlighted. They explored opportunities for a perceived parking crunch in the neighbourhood, and alleviating parking concerns around Town Park, including changing the existing spaces to parallel parking.

"People shared they love Town Park events," said Ms. Miller. "They wanted to see a larger space for the museum, that came out loud and clear, maintaining heritage landmarks in the precinct was important, [as well] as guidelines for infill development [while maintaining] a small-town feel.

It will also become, in our view, an opportunity to celebrate a local community hub that has year-round activities that serves as a focal point in particular for the arts, cultural, tourism and creative industries. We have discussed having the need for additional cultural facilities that build on things, most notably t he Church Street School and how to set the precinct apart from other areas in Town and make it a focal point for the future.

"While they appreciated this would be a focal area for Aurora and an opportunity for growth, they also felt that the small town feel needed to be maintained. We saw some shared vision for both municipal staff and the public as being the maintenance of architectural character and quality, the redevelopment of certain buildings the community, streetscape improvements and the potential for street closures and traffic calming in certain elements of the precinct."

A further public meeting to discuss the future of the Cultural Precinct is planned for Saturday, November 28. A final vision and concept plan is targeted to be presented to Council in the first week of December.

In the meantime, however, the Cultural Precinct is likely to next come before Council at the November 24 Council meeting following a motion from Councillor John Abel. In his motion, the Councillor calls for an additional study to be carried out for a "vision and conceptual plan" for a Cultural Precinct across Yonge Street for Temperance Street, ideally within the first quarter of 2016.

"There is an area bounded by Yonge Street to the east, Mill Street to the west, Wellington Street to the north and Tyler Street to the south with many significant historic buildings and buildings of heritage value which could be considered the Cultural Precinct West or Temperance Street Cultural Precinct and could benefit from a study," said Councillor Abel in his notice of motion.

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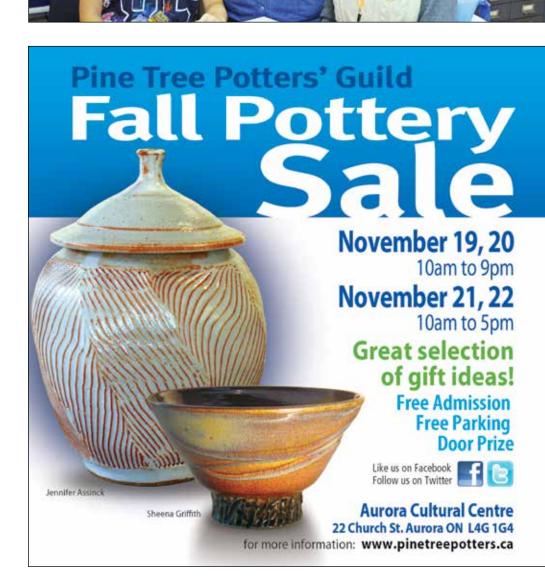
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Aurora artists put their best work forward this 13 artists opened their home studios – or took advantage of other gallery spaces around Aurora - to show off their works, ranging from paintings, to pen and ink drawing, to vivid photography capturing local places of beauty and international attractions.

> (Clockwise from Top Left) Photographer Claire D'Aurore and painter Willo Rodriguez take a break from the tour at a sushi and snack bar set up at the Patrick House, a relatively new gallery space at a transformed heritage home on Temperance Street at the corner of Tyler. The Patrick House hosted several artists on the tour, including Carol Beaver, Judy Bobsin, and Mariana Badescu.

> Art lovers were welcomed into the pristinely preserved home of Shirley Binns in Aurora's Northeast Heritage District, not only to view the art but see a demonstration of the artist

> Artist Meredith Blunt also had an array of completed pieces on display in her Wellington Lanes studio, as well as works in progress. Christine Valentini, co-founder of the studio tour, was assisted by granddaughters Erika and Krystal Ringhofer, at her Old Yonge Street workplace.

> Fellow co-founder Deborah Campo, centre, had no less than four floors of paintings, photographs, and poetry on display at her home studio at the Charles Darrow Co-Op.

> Additional participating artists were photographers Margarete and Ralph Bruner and Angela Durante Dukat. All will be featured in a future edition of The Auroran.

> > **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**



AHS Speakers Series launches Wednesday with British home children

By Brock Weir

Sandra Joyce always had some question marks surrounding her father, but what those questions were was the ultimate query.

She knew he had come to Canada from the United Kingdom and, while growing up, he was her best friend. But once she hit puberty, all of that changed. Something shifted and she was never quite able to put her finger on why.

On a trip to Halifax after he died, Ms. Joyce, a journalist by trade, stopped by the research room at Pier 21 to look up her dad's immigration records. What she found surprised her. Always believing he came over to Canada as an adult, she discovered he actually came to Canada as a young child from an orphanage in Scotland. He was a British Home Child, though she scarcely knew what the term meant.

Home children were orphaned children – or, at the very least, children placed in orphanages by their parents – to come to places like Canada to live (and ultimately work) on farms until the age of 18. For lack of a better term, to become "indentured workers."

"My dad never gave me any indication this was the case, and it was quite startling," says Ms. Joyce. "As I did research into his background and into the history of the whole child migrant scheme, it helped me understand him and also a large part of Canadian history. One in ten Canadians are descendants of home children."

Ms. Joyce, who shares this story in her new book "The Street Arab", hopes to shed light on this murky portion of Canadian history along with fellow author Karen Mahoney at Hillary House next Wednesday in a special historical talk hosted by the Aurora Historical Society (AHS).

While the story of Ms. Joyce's father illustrates the negative impacts of the Home Children scheme, Ms. Mahoney's story illustrates the opposite side of the

coin. Her husband's grandfather had home children on the farm and they were such a part of the family her husband himself did not know that they weren't.

"We present the full spectrum of what was happening to the British home children," says Ms. Joyce. "I hope that if people don't know where their family came from they dig deeper. It will help explain a lot to them and it will also explain a lot about Canadian history, which is really a lot more interesting than some schoolchildren think."

It certainly helped explain a lot to Ms. Joyce.

"My father was a very reserved man and I never understood why things changed between us," she says. "I thought I had done something wrong in order for him to change his whole behaviour towards me. When I found out he had gone into care at the age of nine and had no real experience of family until we were there, he didn't really know what to do. He didn't know how to behave towards children, siblings and his own children. When they were brought over here, they were expected to work, so they lost their whole childhoods.

"This is why this isn't part of our collective public knowledge because for the children who were part of this scheme, once they were at the end of the indenture at 18 they would really want to put it all behind them. They were often stigmatized in the communities around them, made to feel they were inferior, made fun of and, more often than not, isolated, ignored and not really accepted into the family or allowed to speak to the other children in the family. Once they hit 18, they would carry on and become part of the general public and didn't want it hanging over their head."

As Ms. Joyce delved deeper, sparks were ignited to learn more. She was astounded by the sheer number of children who participated in the program through the 1930s and the fact some parents simply signed away their parental rights, perhaps in the belief their kids would have a good life, with

good food and fresh air. For many kids, however, that was an ideal rather than a reality. Now, she tells their story.

"My hope is this becomes more a part of our history like some of the other groups have been able to do and it is very important to understand that because history is what makes us who we are as Canadians, what makes us different," she says. "If we understand our history, then we can be better Canadians and look forward much better."

This latest presentation in the AHS Speaker Series gets underway this Wednesday, November 25, at 6.30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 per person and \$5 for members of the Aurora Historical Society.



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Regional Council to debate Thursday how Chair is chosen

From page 1

system that should change, according to proponents of Councillor Li's motion, but others aren't quite as convinced.

Aurora Councillors convened Tuesday afternoon for a Special Council meeting to discuss Councillor Li's motion, which supports Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard's Private Members Bill to scrap the current system in favour of a Regionwide General Vote. It was put on the table by Councillor Michael Thompson who called on his colleagues to show their support for change ahead of the Regional meeting.

"It is important for anybody to be accountable to the public," said Councillor Thompson. "When you look at what Chris Ballard has brought forward and what Regional Councillor Li has brought forward, I think it is an opportunity for us to revamp the system and we should take advantage of that. It might mean better representation for Aurora, so there is an opportunity for

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accountable to the public, as well as how Aurora can have a better say at the Regional level."

At present, Aurora's lone voice around the Regional Council table is Mayor Geoff Dawe. While municipalities with just one Regional vote have continually fought for greater representation around the table, Mayor Dawe said he was unconvinced electing a Regional Chair was the right way forward.

"If you had asked me five years ago before I was elected, I would have said, absolutely, it was the right thing to do. [but] having been involved with it, you think maybe there are some better ways to handle this."

While Mayor Dawe said he believes the idea of an elected chair "has merit", an election at large where one person has to run a campaign throughout the entire Region of York might be cumbersome and cost-prohibitive.

"What hasn't been given any airplay at all up to this point is the cost to run

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both elected representation that is more an election," said Mayor Dawe. "Where will all that money come from? One of the comments made to me was, 'I don't like the system the way it is now because the perception is there are too many backroom deals to make this happen.' Are we naïve to think there wouldn't be any pressure? Where is that money going to come from? Is there not going to be any pressure that comes from raising those kinds of funds? Pressure to raise those funds in the first place? What becomes associated with that?"

> This is a view shared to some degree by Councillor John Abel. While he said ahead of this week's Special Council meeting he would support the motion before them because it is a system that has been adopted in some other Ontario jurisdictions and lends the process some transparency, he said whoever throws their hat in the Regional ring will need to have a lot of resources behind them.

"The success of a campaign may be the person that has the most funding behind them and might not necessarily reflect the person best suited and I think that is a bit of an advantage when the Regional Council votes," said Councillor Abel.

Also supporting an elected chair is Councillor Tom Mrakas, who characterised the position as the most powerful within York Region and yet is "really not held accountable to any of the taxpaying residents in York Region."

He rejected the concerns over the costs of running a campaign.

"You could use that logic for any election, whether Councillor, Mayor or anyone," he said. "If that's the case, let's eliminate all financial backing for everyone. I find it difficult to use that argument for one position but not the other. It is not a straight-across concern when it comes to elections as a whole, so why should it be for this one position?"

Get ready to "Run. Jump. Play. **Everyday!**" in Aurora

By Brock Weir

If Gemma Goldstein was going to have to sit at work, she wanted to do so knowing she was making a difference and now, here in Aurora, she is doing just that – aiming to get kids off their butts one activity and recipe at a time.

Ms. Goldstein is spearheading the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, a partnership between Windfall Ecology Centre and the Town of Aurora to improve the health and fitness of local youngsters and those who guide them.

Launched earlier this fall, the program is currently conducting a needs assessment study looking at opportunities across the Aurora spectrum to foster a "supportive environment to enable healthy behaviours, healthy weight for children, and related support behaviours from their parents and the community."

"Before we aim to increase capacity or implement and evaluate [a program] we need to know what is actually

going on in the community," says Ms. Goldstein, the program's Project Manager. "It is our first undertaking and we are evaluating the situation in the community right now, looking at what the current health, economic and well-being situations are and looking at what assets we have in the community already, including programs that are already in place, and barriers, and that is going to be going through in November."

Come next month, the plan is expected to kick into high gear with the development of an action plan and an official launch event at a handful of local schools by January. At Family Day's Arctic Adventure at Town Park, they hope to launch the program further with a splash, but details are currently under wraps.

The first component of the program, however, is on the launch pad this Saturday. Entitled "Run.

Continued on page 13

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The sunny skies of the previous Sunday did not carry through to Remembrance Day on Wednesday, but crowds – including the choir from St. Joseph Catholic School, veterans and members of the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Legion's Colour Guard – turned out in droves to pause on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. **Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger**

Veterans, families, students gather on the eleventh day of the eleventh month

By Brock Weir

When Laurie Cook pinned on her grandmother's silver cross and her own mother's silver cross pendant on Wednesday morning, she did so with pride.

This was once an exercise which filled her with sadness. But, over the passage of time, this sadness gave way to a very unique sense of pride, a torch Ms. Cook hopes is carried by future generations.

And there she stood, ramrod straight in a vivid blue coat, her grandmother's silver cross catching the briefest glimpse of sunlight on an otherwise dreary day, standing tall among those who surrounded her – students from nearby schools.

"This is in memory of my father who was killed in December, 1944, in a Lancaster aircraft over Germanv." she said. "At that time, the mothers of the airmen or soldiers were given the Memorial Cross on a bar and the wives were given the pendant. Each have the name, rank and number of [my father] Frank Coulson."

Ms. Cook had just turned eight when her father was killed. She still remembers military brass knocking on her family's front door to tell them Coulson was

missing in action, but she remembers little about the man himself, as her father left to fight when she was six and meetings were very limited after that.

"He was apparently a daredevil in his younger days," she said with a smile. "My husband, who also served in the Air Force, happened to meet up at the cemetery in Germany a few years ago with the brother of the pilot in my dad's crew. He just happened to be there at the same time. He told us 'although some of the crew would say, Oh, I can't fly today, or I have a cold, Frank Coulson never said he couldn't fly.' It was really good to hear that from somebody else.

"[On Remembrance Day] there is a sense of loss, but a sense of pride that because of him, and many, many more, that we have the freedom we have in Canada today. At ceremonies like this, there is a sense of pride. I don't feel much sadness anymore, but it took many years for it to go away."

Veterans as venerable as 102 attended Wednesday's ceremonies at the Aurora Cenotaph, alongside politicians from every level of government, including newly-minted Aurora-Oak Ridges-Newmarket Member of Parliament Leona Allesley, herself a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and

community organizations.

"We have lots left to do as countries and nations," said Dave Franklin, President of the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion. "At our Veterans' Dinner on Saturday night, I made a short speech extracted from our Legion Magazine. We heard the outcry of Never Again, but it is happening again. We have hundreds of thousands of innocent people being slaughtered and millions on the run. We cannot fail to answer the signals that are being called out to us. It is an obligation

representatives from a multitude of and a duty for us to protect the innocent and the weak, and we have done so in the past and I am sure we will do so as and when we are needed.

> "I would like to thank all of you for coming out on this day that reminds all of us how the weather can impact on how we feel. Imagine being surrounded by cannon fire, exploding mortars and bullets whizzing by our bodies as we are experiencing bad weather on top of it. Fortunately, we do not and we are not in our country subject to that kind of an environment."



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Saturday brings Sports Day to Aurora

From page 12

Play. Everyday!", this theme focuses on physical activity and will be a component of various activities being held around Aurora to mark RBC Sports Day, including free public skating and swimming at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, rock climbing and an RBC Learn to Play Zone at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, and free time at The Loft youth space, also at the Leisure Complex.

The second component will zero in on food. Working with the York Region Food Network and York Region Public Health, the Healthy Kids Community Challenge is working towards developing programs aimed at increasing the availability of healthy food and getting kids into the kitchen to learn how to whip up some tasty, healthy treats.

"We are going to have twitter posts focusing on physical activity and sport, but later on I am going to be putting up healthy recipes for kids to try out," explains Ms. Goldstein. "We are going to have healthy cooking clubs, work with local supermarkets to make their cooking classes healthier and less

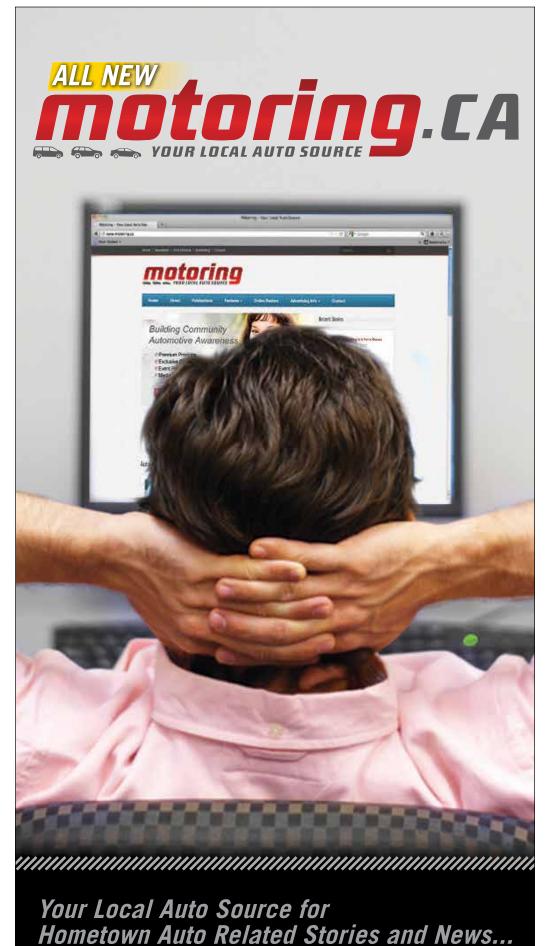
focused on cookies and cupcakes, and more on teaching kids the basics of how to cook."

Windfall Ecology Centre was established as a non-profit social enterprise focused on building sustainable communities. Healthy kids, she says, is a natural extension of that mandate.

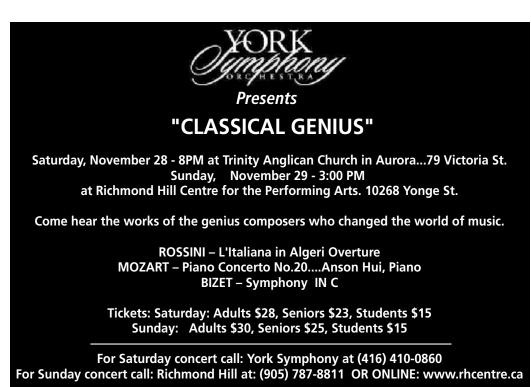
"This is why I went into non-profit," she says. "When kids start off life on the right foot, your whole life changes. If kids get a healthy diet and physical activity, it has been shown to improve performance at school, it has been shown to improve life later on whether it is [better] health and less hospital visits, less heart disease and things like that, but also in academic ability later on, performance at work, and things like that. It affects their whole life and I wanted to make a difference from the beginning.

"We're focused on the zero-totwelves and it is really trying to make a difference from the beginning."

To follow the initiative on Twitter, hit @ FitKidsAurora or visit them on Facebook at facebook.com/fitkidsaurora.

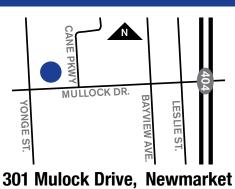


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Tigers remain first in Northeast during five-game home stand

By Jake Courtepatte

The Junior A Aurora Tigers are in good shape for the rest of November, exclusively in their favourite venue – the Aurora Community Centre.

OJHL's Northeast division by a thread, following a 1 – 1 weekend in which division rivals the Markham Royals put up back-to-back wins.

Aurora was barely able to slip by the basement-dwelling Lindsay Muskies on the road Friday, a team tied for the second-highest loss total in the entire 22 team league.

Drake Board continued to prove why he is one of the most prolific goal scorers in Junior A hockey by opening the scoring just four minutes in. Aurora's defence shut down Lindsay to allow just four shots on Alex Brooks-Potts in the first period.

But the Muskies broke the shutout bid shortly into the second, as Newmarket's Owen Barnett potted his first of the season to even the score.

Darren Iwai, a first-year Tiger out of the SAC Saints program, has been impressive as of late with his third goal in five games later in the period.

Jordan DaSilva put the Tigers up 3 – 1 early in the third on the powerplay. Lindsay pulled within one just seconds after killing a penalty midway through the final frame, but Brooks-Potts stood tall for the remainder to earn his eleventh win of the season.

Saturday's matchup with the Wellington Dukes in Aurora was an interesting one – it was the first for goaltender Alex Fotinos, having only joined the team late last week after being released from an ECHL tryout last month.

Up 1 - 0 off a powerplay goal from Evan Kearns, two Wellington powerplay goals in the second period played the spoiler in Fotinos' debut loss. Despite outshooting the Dukes 38-28, Aurora left empty-handed as Fotino stopped 25 shots in the 3-1game.

The 20-year old has spent the last four seasons splitting time between the OHL's Barrie Colts and Windsor Spitfires. His tenure with the Junior finishing off the month playing A club may not be a long one - he is expected to join the Acadia Axemen of CIS hockey for the winter semester, But they are hanging on to the having worked out with the York and University of Toronto clubs this season.

> The loss leaves the Tigers with a slim three-point lead on Markham atop the Northeast, arguably one of the league's weakest divisions to date this season. The Royals also have two games in hand on the Tigers.

What cannot come at a better time, however, is the five-game home stand the Tigers are set to continue this Friday, culminating on November 29. Saturday's home loss was the first the Tigers have experienced in regulation since October 2, putting



Drake Board brought his team-leading goal total to 12 in the Aurora Tigers' 3 - 2 win over the Lindsay Muskies on Friday. **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

Two non-divisional matchups Saturday. are on tap this week as the Tigers

up a home record of 7-2-2 this season. the Wellington Dukes (13-10-1) on

For stats, schedules, and more host the Orangeville Flyers (13-8-2) information, visit www.auroratigers. Friday at 7.30 p.m. before welcoming pointstreaksites.com.



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Dominating offence the factor in Huron Warrior's YRAA championship win

By Jake Courtepatte

Huron Heights Warriors entered Saturday's YRAA football championship as the overwhelming favourite.

That is not to say that their opponents, the St. Maximilian Kolbe Mustangs, were not worthy opponents; despite reaching the Tier 1 final for the first time in just a six-year tenure, the Mustangs dominated the remaining

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The Huron Heights Warriors routed the home field St. Max Kolbe Mustangs 42 - 3 in the YRAA final on **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

York Region competition this season, outscoring all but Huron 97 - 26 throughout fall play.

But an unorthodox offensive strategy wasn't enough to fool the tried-andtested methods that have made the Warriors program the powerhouse it is.

A 29-yard field goal off the foot of kicker Jack Camplin was all the Mustangs offence could muster, while the Warriors rode an explosive second guarter en route to a 42 – 3 victory.

The atmosphere looked like an American football movie classic, with hundreds of fans coming out to cheer both sides under the lights of St. Max's state-of-the-art field. Huron took first possession, using their size and strength to rumble more than 80 yards downfield, a drive eating up most of the first quarter.

Quarterback Colin Grant snuck in from the three-yard line for the major, the first of four touchdowns for the eventual game MVP.

The Mustangs countered with a strong first drive of their own, led by the bullet of an arm on quarterback Ben Langlois, whose offence employed an interesting hurry-up strategy that had his side lining up just seconds before the snap.

It seemed to be working, with the ball on the Huron 19 after an unnecessary roughness call on the defence, but the Mustangs had to settle for the field goal at the start of the second quarter.

From there, it was all Warriors. Huron put up three more touchdowns in the quarter, as well as a field goal, for a 31 - 3 lead at the half.

On the other side of the ball, Langlois' offence couldn't rally after halftime, giving up a pick-six as well as two safeties in the final two quarters for an end score of 42 - 3.

Mustangs head coach had nothing but good things to say about his team's season after the game, and rightfully

"We were up against one of the top teams in the country. They played their hearts out and I'm proud of what they were able to accomplish this year."

Ending the YRAA season with a perfect 6 – 0 record, Huron's quest for provincial gold has the team ranked 15th overall in the nation on www. canadafootballchat.com, and eighth provincially.

This year marked the 12th straight YRAA Tier 1 final appearance for the senior Warriors, and the seventh title in that time.

The Warriors advance to meet the Northern Ontario champion Superior Heights Steelhawks in the Simcoe Bowl, set for Dec. 1 at 10.30 a.m. at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Superior Heights put up 48 points of their own in a 48 – 21 win over the Widdield Wildcats to win the NOSSA division. The team from Sault St. Marie enters the game ranked 20th in Canada.

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Soccer star Kaylyn Kyle visits AYSC

By Jake Courtepatte

It isn't every day that a young athlete gets to train with one of their sport's brightest shining stars.

But the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) gave their members the opportunity on Saturday when they brought in Kaylyn Kyle, a long-time member of the women's Canadian national soccer team. Kyle is one of the most capped women in the team's history, representing internationally on almost 150 occasions since 2004.

"We're excited to have Kaylyn come to Aurora and share her knowledge and vast experience she's gained over her career," said AYSC Executive Director Jimmy Brennan. "This is a great opportunity for our players to interact with one of the top players in the country."

Kyle led the large group of young hopefuls in a pair of on-field sessions at the Aurora Sports Dome, teaching skills

like dribbling, passing, and even penalty kicks. During lunch break, participants were given the opportunity to ask Kyle about her success in soccer.

"It's great to be interacting with the younger players," said Kyle. "If I can teach them anything then it's worth it."

Kyle is also a Right to Play ambassador, a global organization that uses sport to educate and empower youth.

"Playing sports is more than just about competition, it's about teamwork, social skills, communication... obviously sports have played a large role in my life, and I hope it does for those that are here today too."

The 27-year old from Saskatoon first joined the senior women's team in 2008, earning a gold medal with Canada at the Pan Am Games in 2011. One year later, she captured bronze with the team at the 2012 London Olympics.

She recently joined the Orlando Pride of the National Women's Soccer League.



Many ways to show your support for refugee family and interfaith group

From page

anger and fear; we should do our best to oppose extremism. We are a generous people and we should open our doors to the flood of refugees, not close them."

Ms. Webster, a child of a Canadian diplomat who grew up in far flung corners of the globe says the IRR might come from a place of faith, but they have a "tremendously Canadian" perspective. She says she watched with dismay as Canada went down what she describes as a "xenophobic route", but that was not the Canadian way.

This is a view shared by Mae Khamissa, a member of the Islamic Centre, and one of the founding members of the IRR. For her, it is all about humanity – full stop.

"These are just innocent families that have been taken away from what they have known and what they have, and at the end of the day we really don't care," she says. "As long as they come here and we can show them the kind of people we are and what we have to offer, we are really looking forward to welcoming them."

There is still a lot of work to be done before the IRR can put out the welcome mat for their first refugee family. Working in conjunction with AURA, a Canadian charitable organization assisting in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees, they have formed their subcommittees, are well underway in raising the funds necessary to host a family - \$30,000 is recommended - and they are divvying up responsibilities for when the time comes.

Since their formation earlier this year, they're now seeing "real, tangible progress", getting their police checks and undergoing training for working with vulnerable individuals.

"There will be feelings of misgivings, of fear, of worry and all the things that psychologically come with being a displaced person," says Ms. Webster. "The training speaks to that, but also how to best deal with that and what resources to use. While we're all very keen to help and support these people to Canada and a free life, we're not necessarily counsellors. We can't counsel them through what they have seen and what they have been through in their journey. AURA will give us all the support to get the first year underway."

But, as the saying goes, it takes a community to raise a child. A refugee family from a war-torn country might be an entirely different prospect, but the spirit still applies, says Karen Kines of Aurora United Church.

"We really would like the community to come together, not just our own [faith] communities, but the larger Aurora-Newmarket community to be open to the idea that they might want to donate towards future families coming," she says.

Volunteers of all faiths – and no faiths – are welcomed, just "good citizens of the world", they say Participation can include people who might have a few hours a week to help teach the family English, train them on how to use public transportation and access services, have one afternoon a week to take them shopping, or even simply invite them over for a dinner.

Landlords should also take note—before the family arrives, the IRR needs to secure a place for them to stay. They simply need a reasonable house with at least two bedrooms that is clean, affordable, safe, and close to schools. The refugee family needs to be close to their support network, they say, and any landlord can be assured of payment because rent and maintenance will be coming directly from the IRR rather than the refugee family themselves.

"It is not an expectation of the family that has arrived here to cobble together rent," says Ms. Webster. "It is here, it is a safe bet, the home itself is supported by us. There is no risk."

Until they get word on just how many will be in their first family, however, they don't know exactly how much space they will need in a future home. When that becomes clearer in the weeks ahead, the group is prepared to hit the ground running.

"We know it is happening and it is going to happen quickly," says Ms. Khamissa. "We just have to be prepared for that, and I think we are. It is so crucial to know that when you have these three communities together there are more hands to be able to help. Other groups have come to us to say they have tried and then they realize they're not going to have the time to do this and that. Here, I think we have ample volunteers and that is what is going to make this a successful community.

"The key thing is the interfaith part. Being a joint interfaith community, we have all the resources pulled together and we have people who will be willing to say, 'You know what? I can do that.' We want to show them how Canadian we are. This is who we are. I can't stress that enough. That is what Canada is."

For more information on the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers and how to make a contribution, whether financial, time, or services, email irrctee@gmail.com. Donations will also be accepted through the mail – payable to the faith group of their choice with "Refugee Fund" noted on the cheque – at Interfaith Refugee Resettlers, c/o Trinity Church, 79 Victoria Street, Aurora. ON L4G 1R3.

View from Queen's Park

From page 5

father, a family—eight sons.

I did a little bit of research into the background of Mrs. Woods. She had 12 children, 11 sons, all of whom enlisted; two were underage, and eight never came home. Need I say more? I think we have an obligation to ask ourselves how we comprehend that sacrifice of her sons, and of her husband and of their

siblings. How do we honour it? How do we remember it? That's our challenge. That's our responsibility on this day of remembrance.

I invite you to contact me on any issue. Please call my community office at 905-750-0019, or visit my website at www. ChrisBallardMPP.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.





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Remembrance Day DVD project leaves legacy spanning generations

By Brock Weir

Separated by nearly 100 years, they share a desire to serve their country. What drives – and drove – them might be different, but the spirit remains the same.

They are part of the backbone of Aurora and now they are brought together through a new DVD, now at Aurora's elementary schools, created as a legacy project by Aurora's Sesquicentennial Committee.

"They were supplying iron ore to Germany and Churchill wanted to stop it," recalls 102-year-old naval veteran Allen Griffiths on the film. "We were up there [in Scandinavia] laying mines to prevent the cargos going by ship to Germany and it was a very, very dangerous task we had. We were outgunned, outshot by airplanes, got hammered terrible, lost a lot of men. The rate of death in submarines is 98 per cent. Only two of us survived on average on the trips, and I am about the only one alive today that can go back that far."

Not far behind, however, is 92-yearold Carl Beddel, who served in the Battle of the Atlantic.

"We were happy to get back, but a lot of our buddies didn't," he said. "That was the sad part. The happy part was we were home, safe, and since we experienced several years of the war we were different than our buddies."

But Elizabeth Cannon and her buddies are all rowing in the same direction as members of the Queen's York Rangers Army Cadet Corps. On the DVD, Cannon says in her first year she wanted to leave the program because it was tiring, perhaps boring, and just one more thing to do at the end of a long week at school. But then, something changed.

"I realised all I was getting out of it, the different skills and the people I was meeting," she said. "To those who join cadets, wait it out. That first year of anything, not just cadets, that first year of high school when you think. 'this is gonna suck.' I am in my third year of high school and I am so happy. I am loving it. I don't want high school



Members of Aurora's Sesquicentennial Committee and the production crew from 2Thumbs Up Productions presented copies of their Remembrance Day DVD to Council last week

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

to end and I don't want cadets to end. The people I see here every night for the next two years I might not see again and I want to get as much time with them as I can."

The Remembrance Day DVD had its premiere at Aurora Town Hall last Tuesday night, the eve of Remembrance Day itself, before an audience of Council and public alike. Introduced by former councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, Chair of the Town's Sesquicentennial Committee, which was tasked in planning Aurora's including Aurora resident Donna milestone 150th Birthday Celebrations, she said the presentation picked up on a thread left after the 2013 party.

designed a year-long celebration for Aurora's 150th birthday and there were four different events spread out across the whole year," said Ms. Collins-Mrakas. "The theme of the Sesquicentennial year was the celebration of past, present and future. The Committee's final legacy project was the creation of a DVD that Rangers program and I would just like could be used to educate students not about war but of the sacrifices that have been made and a renewed look to the future.

Call for Details

(Or cash back instead)

"This video took a look at the significance of Remembrance Day, as told through the eyes of the individuals that sacrificed their freedoms, to ensure we could hold onto ours."

In addition to veterans and cadets. the DVD brings together the stories of currently serving Armed Forces personnel, local educators who have used Remembrance Day as a learning tool in the classrooms, and the moving accounts of Silver Cross Mothers who lost their sons in the theatre of war, Beek, whose son, Corey Joseph Hayes, was killed in Afghanistan.

The video left Council at a loss for

"It is very hard to say anything after a remembrance like that," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "Thank you very much to the Committee for ensuring we have this. In Aurora, we have many young people and families that are part of the Queen's York to thank them."

Added Councillor Michael "That Thompson: was simply remarkable."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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CLUES ACROSS

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- 4. Used to be United 7. Upper left keyboard key
- 10. Invitable ruin
- 12. Consumed
- 13. N.H. Maine river
- 14. Sen. Thurmond
- 16. More (Spanish)
- 17. Oh, God!
- 18. Designed chairs
- 20. Insect living in organized colonies
- 21. Anglo-Saxon theologian, c.700 59. Leather strap for hawks
- 22. Ecclesiastics
- 25. Magic incantation
- 30. Swan Lake and Don Quixote 31. Affirmative
- 32. Conspiracy

- 33. Citizen of Stockholm
- 38. Light brown
- 41. Roman judge
- 43. Sonny & Cher classic
- 45. Chopped mixture for stuffing 48. Am. Nobel physicist Isodor
- 49. Maya of Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- 50. Expressed pleasure
- 55. In bed
- 56. Finnish
- 57. Canacol Energy stock symbol
- 60. UA fraternity est. 3-9-1856
- 61. Low, sideless cart 62. They
- 63. Single Lens Reflex 64. Point that is midway between
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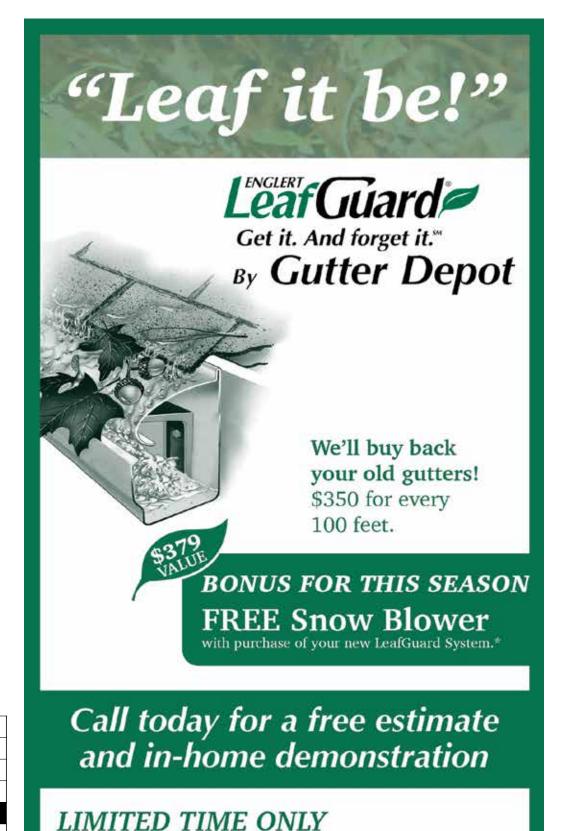
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Murrow, Sullivan & Koch
- 2. Carrying bag 3. Countess of Grantham
- 4. Key fruit
- 5. One kept in readiness 6. Bring back to normal
- 7. Avid
- 8. Lots of 9. Formal close (music)
- 11. Dad's partner 13. Point that is one point E of SE 45.
- 15. Myself 19. Minor disagreement
- 23. Promotional materials
- 24. Bahama capital 25. Rudiments of a subject
- 26. Bleat
- 27. Right linebacker
- 28. Flower petals

- 29. Early culture of Gr. Britain
- 34. Worldwide internet
- 35. 7th Greek letter
- 36. When born (abbr.)
- 37. Before
- 39. Existing forever
- 40. About name
- 41. Myanmar monetary unit
- 42. Island north of Guam 44. Soft
- _ Castell, makers of pens
- 46. Excessively fat
- 47. Eliminates
- 48. A Hindu prince or king in India
- 51. Carrier's invention 52. Possessed
- 53. Deserve through action
- 54. Doyen 58. A way to change color

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

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Financing Available

*New sales only. Not available with other offers.



Celebrate in Merry Measure

The Evergreen Choir will be celebrating the Christmas season with their annual Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 12. Tickets are only \$5 each with children 14 years and under free with a ticket.

As always, the choir will be singing songs of the season with some members singing solos or duets. We are also pleased to bring the Impromptu Brass, a local group of five musicians, who not only will be playing the processionals and recessionals but also accompanying the choir in two selections as well as playing on their own on two occasions.

It should be a fun afternoon. The audience is always invited to join in with the sing-alongs, which are a part of every Evergreen Choir concert. Dr. Richard Heinzle with be directing the choir and accompanied on the piano by Hadara Jacoby.

Jim Gilchrist will be the Master is sponsored in part by Hollandview Trail Retirement Community and with entertainment and a great meal.

refreshments will be served at intermission.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 7, was a great success. The woodshop members had many articles for sale, including Christmas trees as wooden puzzles, wooden toys and beautiful pens. The kitchen volunteers were kept busy all day serving coffee, muffins, sandwiches, etc. The Craft Room, where the food was served, was always full. The Knotty Knitters had a table as did the sewing people. Ann's Bake Table was also very busy. All in all, it was a great day. A big thank you goes out to the many volunteers who helped to make the day such a success.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

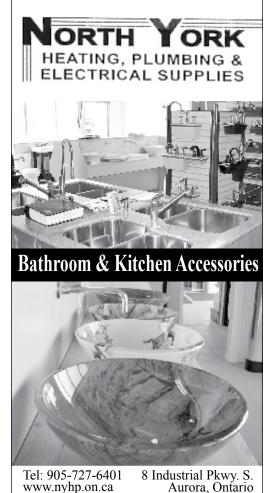
Talking of things Christmas. the annual Christmas dinner will be held on Wednesday, December 16. Tickets are going very quickly. The cost is \$30 for members of the of Ceremonies once again. The event Aurora Seniors' Association and \$40 for non-members. It is a fun evening

Tickets are available at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Christmas is always a wonderful time of the year and the Aurora Santa Under the Stars parade is a highlight of the season. Get out and enjoy it on Saturday, November 28 from 6 pm to 8 pm. It's a fun thing for children of all ages to enjoy.

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





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ASHOF dinner gives Sports Beat viewers blast from the past

From page 7

community cable internet station we will ever see."

Aurora Cable's station manager, Steve Mitchell, also received warm regards, for "believing in Sports Beat Aurora and helping making it what it was."

Mr. McClenny thanked the countless volunteers, who worked behind the cameras to produce the show, whom "without their dedication the show never would have aired."

Last but certainly not least, he a good one."

acknowledged his family and wife Carolyne of 52 years, who in the early years of the show helped type out the results from the local papers.

"And also, even up to the last show, taped every segment on our VCR."

He closed his speech as he opened it – in the same manner as he did in his over 1,800 aired episodes.

"Well sports fans, that's the show for the week. Remember, sports and drugs don't mix. If you're gonna be a sport, be



make our communities better. Nominate someone age 6-17 for a 2015 Ontario **Junior Citizen** Award!

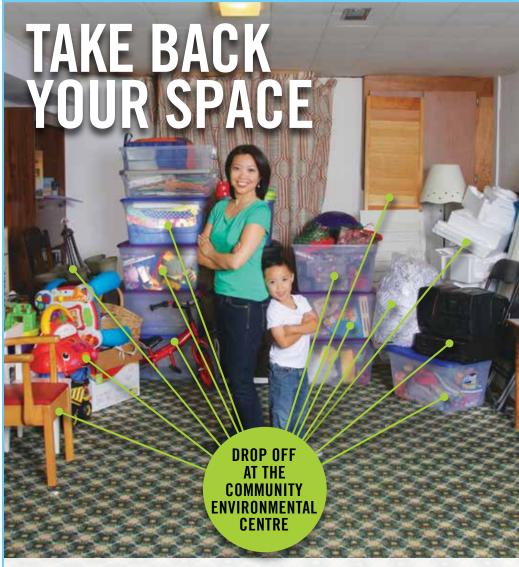
Annaleise Carr, 2012 and 2014 Ontario Junior Citizen, Simcoe, ON At 14, Annaleise Carr was the youngest person ever to swim across Lake Ontario. Two years later, Annaleise swam across Lake Erie. Combined these efforts raised awareness and hundreds of thousands of dollars for Camp Trillium, a family camp for children with cancer. Her book, Annaleise Carr: How I Conquered Lake Ontario to Help Kids Battling Cancer, inspires others to take on great challenges and help their fellow citizens.

Do you know someone who is involved in worthwhile community service, is contributing while living with a limitation, has performed an heroic act, demonstrates individual excellence, or is going above and beyond to help others? If so, nominate them today!

Nominations are open until November 30, and nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 905-639-8720 ext. 4439.







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9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday Friday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday

9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday





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COMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Guest speaker is Heather Auld, a Principal Climate Scientist with Risk Scientists International Inc. For more information. call Cliff White at 905-841-2421. New members are always welcome. Call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849 for more information.

NOVEMBER 19 - 21

Aurora's Wavestage Theatre Company presents Stephen Sondheim's "Company" at Newmarket Theatre. On the night of his 35th birthday, confirmed bachelor Robert contemplates his unmarried state. Over the course friends -"those good and crazy people, his married friends" explain the pros and cons of taking on a spouse. The habitually single Robert is forced to question his adamant retention of bachelorhood during a hilarious array of interactions. For show times and ticket information, visit

NOVEMBER 19 – 22

The Pine Tree Potters' Winter Pottery Sale will be held on the above dates at the Aurora Cultural Centre. 22 Church Street. Hours of operation are Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is free parking available, free admission and a beautiful door prize. A great selection of holiday gift ideas. Visa, Mastercard and Interac accepted. For more information, call 905-727-1278 or visit www.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Aurora's own Paul Neufeld with his Jazz Quartet. Enjoy classics from the last century - from Coleman to Ellington, Monk to Morton. Tickets \$22 advance, or \$22 day of concert, plus HST. Cash bar. For information, or to purchase tickets, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Buy a book and support the local museum. Local historian David Heard will host a used book sale at the Aurora Armoury (Southwest corner of Larmont Street and Mosely Street) today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Aurora Museum and Archives.

Newmarket's Elman W. Campbell Museum will host their Christmas Gift Shop Sale today from 9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Get a jump on your Christmas shopping. Unique gift, glassware, Christmas decorations, home décor and much more. Cash only. Presented by the Friends of the Museum and all proceeds benefit the museum. For more information, please call 905-953-5314 or email elmanmuseum@rogers.com. The museum is located at

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFIJW) Aurora-Newmarket meets today from 7.15 - 9 p.m. with a presentation by the Aurora United Church Chancel Choir and fundraising raffle. Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora, All are welcome, For more information, contact Judy Craig at 905-895-8713.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Aurora Historical Society Speakers presents: British Home Children presented by Sandra Joyce and Karen Mahoney, tonight at 6.30 p.m. at Hillary House National Historic Site (15372 Yonge Street). \$7 per person, \$5 for AHS members. For more information call the Society at 905-727-8991.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Join the Aurora Tigers Junior A Hockey Club for the first ever Student Night. Playing will be the Aurora Tigers vs. Stouffville Spirit. Proceeds support the Jumpstart Foundation to aid local children with financial needs get involved in organized sports. We will also be having a Shoot the Puck contest with prizes such as a Mac Computer and an iPhone 6s. Win more prizes in the Puck Toss and 50/50 Draw. Enjoy a bake sale of delicious treats. Only \$7 with a valid student ID (\$12 adults). Aurora Community Centre.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Santa Claus is Back! Santa's coming to town tonight from 6 – 8 p.m. for Aurora's Annual Santa Under the Stars Parade. Dress up in your winter woolies with a cup of hot chocolate and join us for this year's starry parade which Murray Drive.

The York Symphony Orchestra celebrates "Classical Genius" tonight at Trinity Anglican Church featuring works by composers whose outstanding talent revealed itself in early life and whose legacy remains undiminished today. Concert features young Canadian piano prodigy Anson Hui, 11, who performed to great acclaim at Carnegie Hall in 2010. He will be playing Mozart's Piano Concerto #20. 8 p.m. For more information, call 416-410-0860

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Le Francais Free French Language Conversation Group: This group welcomes adults from Francophones to beginners looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones or stronger speakers are encouraged to share their language skills with less strong speakers. 3-5 p.m. at Country Style (14980 Yonge Street).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Carve Your Own Christmas/Holiday Ornaments, a 2-evening workshop, with a second evening following December 9. Great for beginners, or enhance your skills, and create beautiful, one-of-a-kind gifts, 6.30 - 9 p.m. each night. \$50, plus small materials fee. Please register in advance at 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca

The Money Talk\$ Series continues tonight with Buying Equities: The Minutiae of Order Placement. This free, informal monthly discussion/education group intended to share unbiased knowledge in economics and financial planning gets underway in the Magna Room of the Aurora Public Library at 7 p.m. Presentation will be followed by group discussion. Pre-register by calling 905-727-9494 x275.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents an evening opening reception for three holiday gallery exhibitions. Join artists Dave Rheaume and Ross Rheaume, Mahtab Abdollahi and Josée Savaria, and Angela Krotowshibitions featuring mixed media, holiday-themed exhibitions featuring mixed media, paintings and quilts. All exhibitions continue until December 19. For information, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents A Victorian Christmas Afternoon, featuring A Christmas Carol by the Humber River Shakespeare Company. An annual family favourite at the Centre, with treats, refreshments, and live music before the show. Enjoy the Holiday Artisan Pop-Up Market in the galleries today from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Tea at 1 p.m.; theatrical performance at 2 p.m. Tickets \$ 16 each, or \$50 for a family of four (plus HST). For information, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca

The Aurora Seniors' Association's Evergreen Choir warmly invites you to our Christmas concert "Come Celebrate in Merry Measure." Come and enjoy an afternoon of singing and good company with performances by our guest artists, The Impromptu Brown and cincolor and company and company large and the direction of Sp. solos and sing-a-longs, all under the direction of Dr. Richard Heinzle, with our accompanist, Hadara Jacoby. Our appreciation to the Hollandview Trail Retirement Community for their sponsorship of this event. 2.30 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre (90 John West Way). Tickets are \$5. Light refreshments will be served at intermission. For more information, call 905-726-4767.

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents a Holiday Artisan Pop-Up Market. Stroll the galleries and discover beautiful handcrafted, unique and local gifts. Pop-Up Gallery admission is at no charge; event runs 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

The Aurora United Church Choir and Handbell Ensembles present their annual Christmas Concert today at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora. Freewill offering. There will be opportunities to join in the carol singing and refreshments will be served after each

concert. For more information, call 905-737-1935. **NOVEMBER 6 – MARCH 31**

The Aurora Historical Society presents the Fourth Annual Art at the Manor. For the fourth consecutive year, the Society is proud to present Art at the Manor at Hillary House National Historic Site. The exhibit showcases pieces by local artists who are influenced by the world around them. For more information, visit www.aurorahs. com or contact Erika at 905-727-8991.

Disappointment all around over Highland Gate

From Page 1

determined. "We have had ample consultation with the ratepayers" association, the residents, the public meetings, the technical work is complete, the review process is complete, and we just felt it was time to exercise our right to go to the OMB. We had hoped not to do that. We were hopeful Council would make a decision. That did not happen, so this is where we are today."

Ms. Shindruk characterizes the discussion process as one which has been fraught with "starts and stops," but says she remains hopeful discussions will be able to resume and out of those discussions with them will be a "meeting of the minds."

If they are looking for a "meeting of the minds", they may have found one on disappointment. Dave Newton, President of the Highland Gate Ratepayers Group, says they had been planning a meeting with the developers and the Town this Thursday, November 19, but after that proved undoable the ratepayers suggested shifting talks to November 25.

"That is what I believed we were working toward," says Mr. Newton. "However, today I have been told they have used that as cancellation in its entirety and have decided they

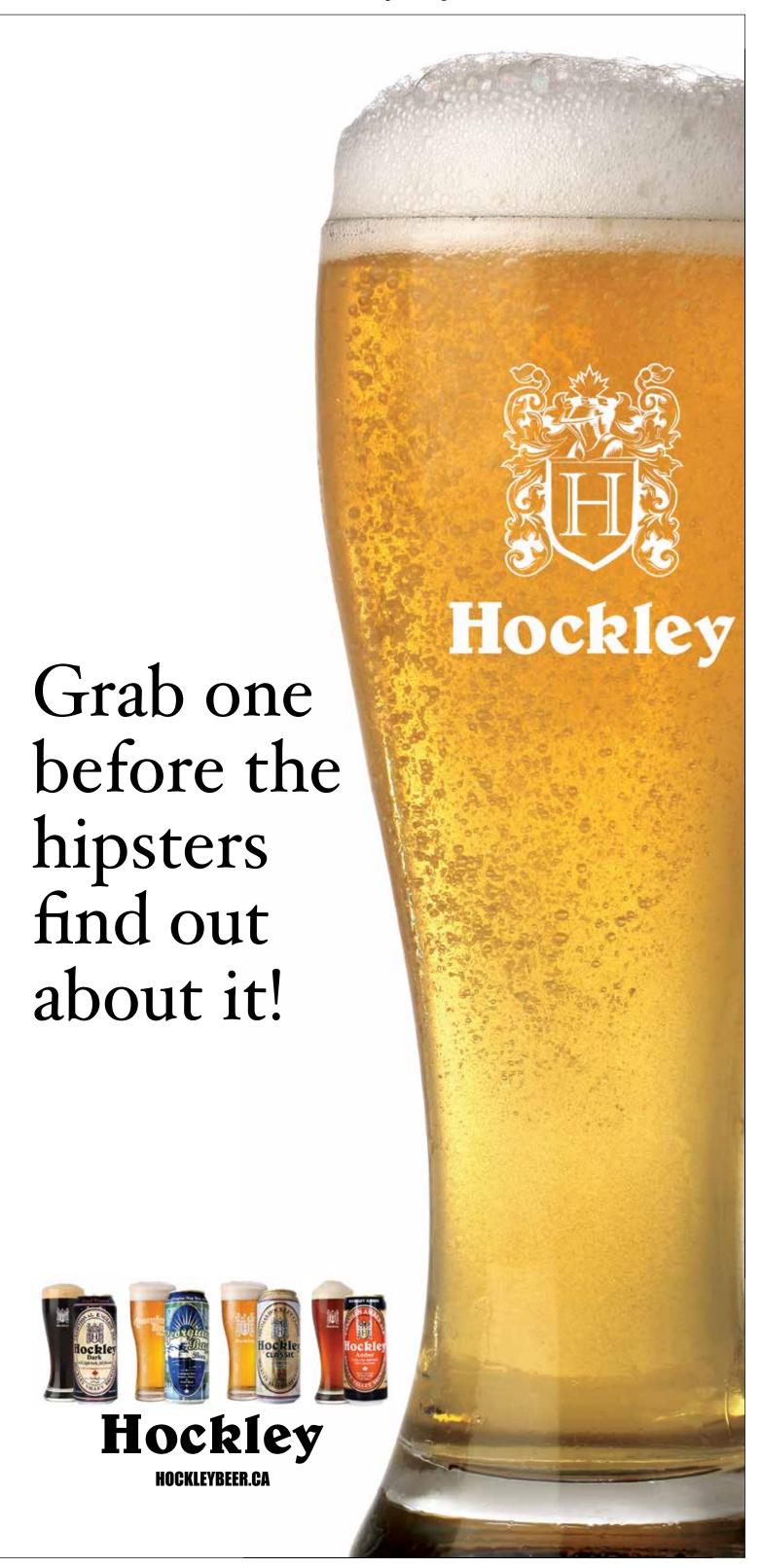
would like to exercise their right to go to the Board. This is not something I was hoping for. I was hoping for a different resolution, but they have the right to take it down this road.

"This has been a long process thus far. We had hoped we would be able to continue to develop a counter-proposal and at this point we are still going to do so. However, it is [now] going to be in a much more formal process. We have a commitment to have something to the developers before December 1, so we are certainly committed to meeting that."

Over at Town Hall, there was also a degree of disappointment. Prior to Tuesday's announcement, Councillor Michael Thompson said news Highland Gate was heading in his direction was a missed opportunity.

"Obviously, if this goes to the OMB, I am disappointed a solution couldn't be found," he said, looking to a redevelopment project on Vandorf Road and Industrial Parkway South as a good news story. "I always look at Timberlane as the great example of us, Council, and Brookfield all working together to find a good solution."

On Tuesday afternoon, after the Town received the appeal package from Highland Gate Developments, Mayor Dawe said he wanted to go through the extensive documents prior to providing further comment.







AURORA WILDGREEN

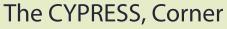
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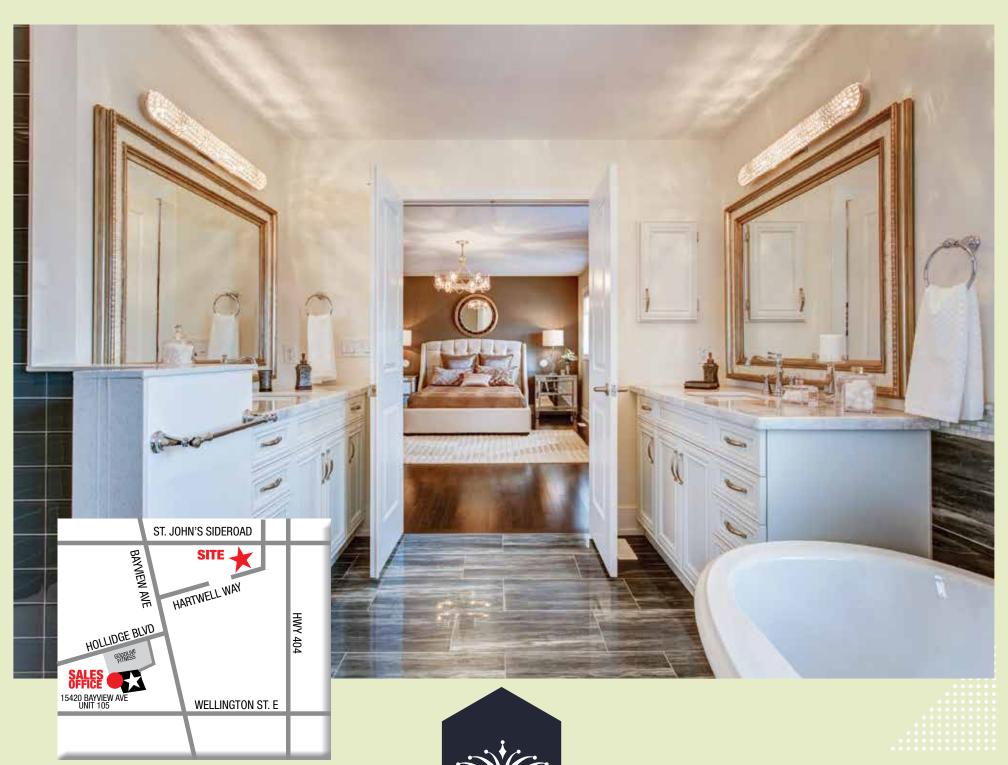
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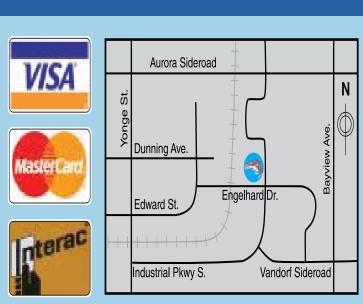
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Winter is just around the corner, but winter parking restrictions are here until the spring thaw. This past Sunday, Aurora's winter parking restrictions for on-street parking went into effect. It is a fairly routine procedure, after all your cars need to be off the road to make way for snow plows, but Aurora has decided to shake things up a bit to help make merry for local kids in need this holiday season.

urora has launched the 2015 Toys for Ticket Program. In the spirit of the holiday season, within a two-week timeframe, every person who receives a parking ticket in Aurora for "Park anytime between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.," can pay their fine by donating a new, unwrapped children's toy. No gift cards will be accepted.

Toy donations will only be accepted at Aurora Town Hall until Wednesday, December 9 at 5 p.m. Toys will not be accepted after this date.

All you need to do is bring in the toy in its original packaging, the toy's original receipt (no copies or emails) and the parking ticket itself. The value of the toy must be equal to or exceed the amount owing on the fine.

Toy donations that total the early infraction payment will be accepted only within the early payment period. Donations of more than one toy will be accepted as long as the total cost is equal to greater than the parking fine amount.

Parking ticket recipients that donate a toy with a value less than the amount owing are required to pay the remaining balance. All toys will be donated to local toy drives. So far, however, the snow plows haven't had to

come out but the bylaw remains in effect through April. In the meantime, it's time to get your car And while recent predictions about the severity of

our pending winter may be mixed, being prepared for the worst of it can ensure your car remains in peak condition and you remain safe throughout. One of the first steps to safe winter driving is

ensuring all aspects of your vehicle are prepared. While many think that may stop at getting your

winter tires on, there is far more involved.

"Regular, routine maintenance can help improve your gasoline mileage, reduce pollution, and catch minor problems before they become big headaches," said Tony Molla, Vice President of communications at Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

One of the first things they recommend is reading the owner's manual for your vehicle and following the manufacturer's recommended maintenance schedules to ensure your car is at its peak performance levels. Making sure engine performance and driveability problems are addressed is next, followed by replacing dirty filters and changing both your oil and filter as specified in the manual.

More recently, car dealerships, mechanics and tire sales businesses have been addressing the issue of all-season tires, and some of the myths. Some have begun calling them three-season tires, as while they are functional in the winter, they do not provide the same kind of support, traction and safety as winter-specific tires, specifically in areas that receive harsher winters.

In order to help encourage drivers to put on winter tires rather than sticking with their 'all'-seasons, most automotive insurance companies have included a discount on insurance packages for drivers.

Most dealerships or places that will change over your tires also provide options for packages to completely winter-ready your car, including rust-proofing sprays and other techniques to help protect your car from the salt and sand that hits the roads.

With the more recent harsh winters we've seen in the area, the importance of having both a backup-plan and an emergency kit in the car have been realized by many.

Emergency kits can help drivers who are stranded until help arrives, and should contain essential supplies as well as items that can provide comfort and safety for all in the vehicle. Recommended items include a snow/ice scraper, shovel, sand or other traction aid, tow rope or chain, booster cables, road flares, flashlight, first aid kit, extra clothing and footwear, blankets, a candle, a small tin can, matches, non-perishable emergency food supplies and a fire extinguisher.

Utilizing free resources to help ensure a driver is aware of the best winter driving practices and strategies is also beneficial. Last year, Young Drivers of Canada released a new website designed specifically to provide information and safe driving tips for winter driving. The website was launched due to a perceived increased need for drivers to be more prepared in southern Ontario.

The website includes a variety of things such as online courses, lists of tips, video clips, and a Winter Driving Quiz to test your winter driving IQ.

It's also important to remember that driving habits need to be changed accordingly. Abrupt accelerating, braking and going around corners too quickly can cause skidding and sliding. Remembering to keep extra space to allow time for breaking in the case of the emergency is also important for avoiding accidents.

For more information on safe winter driving, you can visit the CAA, MTO or Young Drivers Winter Driving websites.

■ WRITTEN BY Brock Weir with files from Tabitha Wells



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■ WRITTEN & PHOTO BY Perry M. Mason

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Four-Wheel Drive All-Wheel Drive

Unless you're an avid fan of automobiles, you likely aren't aware of the difference between four-wheel drive (4WD) and all-wheel drive (AWD). Although many people believe the two terms are interchangeable, they're actually quite different, and knowing these differences can help you significantly on your next car buying hunt.

Four-Wheel Drive

4WD is designed for the vehicle to go over uneven terrain, such as mud, dirt, gravel, etc. If you live in a remote area with a lot of unpaved roads, 4×4 may be your best bet, especially if you have to go up and down a lot of hills.

Four-wheel drive is at its best when you're driving forward, since it does an excellent job propelling the car forward.



However, it's not as effective when you need to turn.

In a proper turn, the inside wheel needs to move slower than the outside wheel, since it doesn't need to cover as much ground. Since 4WD distributes power evenly, you could lose traction during a sharp turn, so it's important to turn your four-wheel drive off when you're driving on even terrain.

Although 4WD can be very beneficial, you'll have to pay for the added value at the pump. Since your vehicle will be heavier, the added weight will cause your car to work harder, thus putting a damper on your fuel economy.

Finally, since 4WD is really only optimal for off-road conditions, you probably don't want to bother with it if you live in the city, as it may just end up costing you more money. In this case, you can go with two-wheel drive or AWD instead.

All-Wheel Drive

While four-wheel drive is intended for off-road use, AWD is the exact opposite.

Like 4WD, all-wheel Drive provides power to all four tires. However, unlike four-wheel drive, many AWD systems deliver power to a set of wheels, instead of distributing it evenly among all four. If the car detects that the vehicle is slipping, it will compensate by shifting its power to the opposite axle, in hopes of finding traction.

The disbursement of power between axles depends on the vehicle, but all AWD systems work to shift the power when slippage occurs. If you're unfortunate enough to start skidding on a cold, icy day, all-wheel drive can kick in to help save you from a serious collision.

It's sometimes very difficult to clearly see ice on the road during the winter, especially at night. While you'll obviously still need to drive with caution, all-wheel

drive can help to keep you safe when you most need it.

Lastly, all-wheel drive isn't just useful during winter. It's helpful whenever the roads are slippery, which means you may still need it during the rest of the year when it's raining out.

Which is Better?

While 4WD can be useful for drivers who live in a rural, temperate area, Canadians who do a lot of their driving on paved roads should purchase all-wheel drive when the option is possible.

AWD will help you to grip the icy roads much better, and the superior weight distribution will make turning much easier. Since it is great in all weather conditions, you can feel more comfortable every time you buckle up.

■ WRITTEN BY NewRoads Automotive Group



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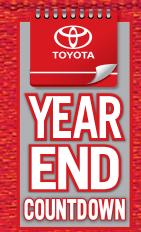




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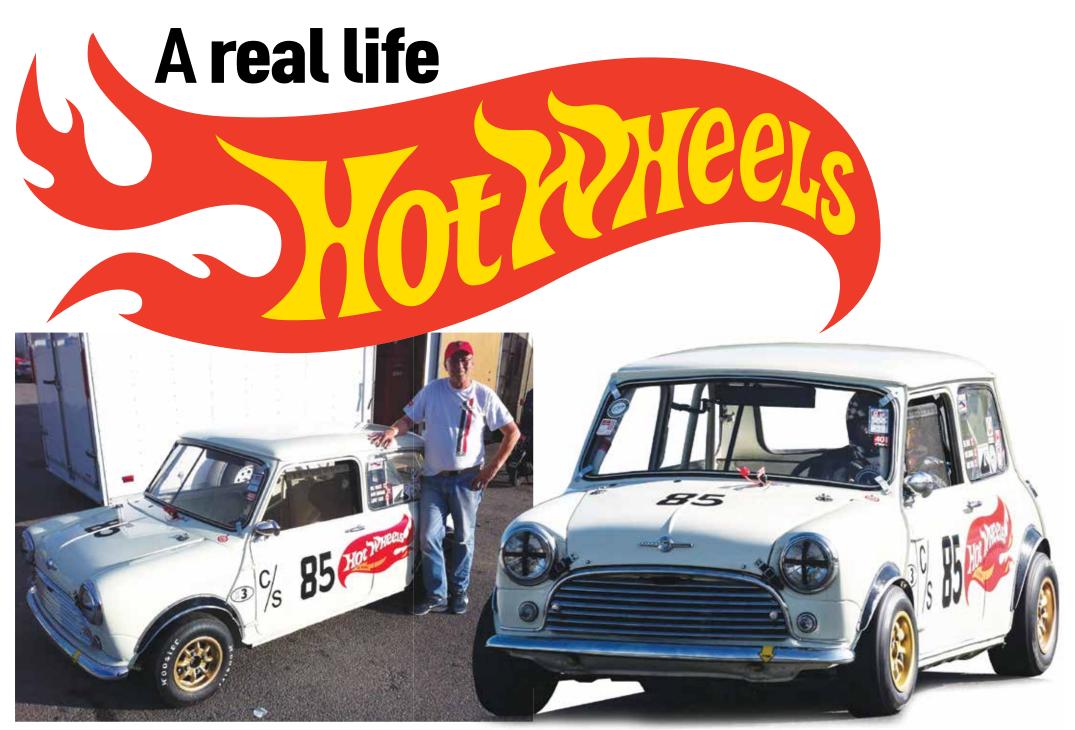


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Larry Coste of London Ontario, loves driving historic race cars. A successful business owner, Larry spends his down time behind the wheel of his 1965 Morris Cooper S, better known as the iconic "Mini".



arry's original Mini was worn out he says, and a new project needed to be started. Being ■a big fan of of auto racing and following motorsport history in Canada, Larry combined his two passions into a reality. Canadian driving champ Bill Brack raced a car not unlike Larry's in the 1968-69 seasons with Mattel Hot Wheels sponsorship. I think we all have played with a Hot Wheels car during the



years, whether ourselves or with the kids but Larry on the other hand is playing with the real thing here! The original car was destroyed in competition back in the day, but in 2003, Larry built his car to be a tribute to Brack and Mattel Hot Wheels for their 35th anniversary. Getting permission to replicate this wasn't a problem from either Mattel or Brack, they were thrilled and assisted with the information to get the car looking correct. During the course of the race seasons that followed, Larry and his #85 have had numerous wins and a 95% podium finish rate. On a couple of occasions wins came at the Watkins Glen historic races and the other at the Canadian Historic Grand Prix with Bill Brack behind the wheel of this little beauty. It was just like the old days with Brack putting on a good show and adding a little "pedigree" to the car. It's great to see Canadian Motorsport being remembered and honored this way. If you would like to see this car and other fast classics compete, come out to a VARAC club event and enjoy the show. If it's your first auto race or you attended back in the day, the sound and smell of these cars on the track will excite all and bring back memories. For more information visit www.varac.ca

■ WRITTEN & PHOTOS BY Perry M. Mason

Majority of Canadians don't know the most important factor in tire safety

ankook tire recently set out to gauge Canada's knowledge of basic tire safety and preparedness as we head into winter driving season. According to the Hankook "Get a Grip Winter Tire Safety Poll," the good news is that the majority of Canadians (64 %) use winter tires.

Atlantic Canada ranks second after Quebec for winter tire use (86%) and the prairies, notorious for bad winters, ranked highest, next to BC, for not using winter tires (AB, 53%; SK/MB, 58%; and BC, 59%). The bad news is there seems to be confusion over when to switch to winter tires, nearly half of all Canadians (42%) didn't know when to switch; four in 10 Canadians (36%) don't use winter tires at all and nearly seven in 10 Canadians (68%) did not know the most important factor in tire safety (tire pressure).

Drivers get a failing grade when it comes to appropriate frequency for checking tire pressure. Sixty per cent don't check tire pressure frequently enough. Jeff Bullock, Hankook spokesman and 33-year industry veteran, knows a thing or two about tires.

"Forty-two per cent of Canadians indicated that they didn't know when to switch to winter tires," he says. "The correct answer is when the temperature drops below 7° Celsius. Winter tires are made from a type of rubber that can perform in cold temperatures."

According to the poll results, women, more than men (47% of women and 41% of men) switch to winter tires because it is critical to road safety. As for the timing of when to switch, it was those with the least driving experience, the millennials, who got it right. Sixty two-per cent correctly stated that putting winter tires on the vehicle was dependent on temperature. Interestingly, the biggest group that does not use winter tires are the 55 plus crowd, 44% of whom said they do not use winter tires.

"The tire's air pressure is the most important safety consideration, no matter what time of year it is," he says. "When you see stats like one third of Canadian drivers only check the tire pressure twice a year or less, that's concerning. If you think about it, the tire is the only thing keeping your car on the road. Tire pressure checks are an early warning

system. If that pressure gets too low, or you get a flat while driving, you can lose control of the car. It's very dangerous, especially in winter conditions."

When it comes to checking tire pressure, the worst offenders were in Quebec, with 68% not checking frequently enough and 11% never checking. With age comes wisdom. Canadians over the age of 55 were most likely to correctly state tire pressure is the most important factor in tire safety. However, 61% of them still got the answer wrong!

When it comes to winter tires, manufactures are constantly innovating. Hankook's Winter i'cept iZ features the latest tire design technology to ensure consistent grip in both icy and snowy driving conditions. This studless tire features an interlocking 3D sipe design for aggressive tread block that gives you great traction. Going deeper into the tread, the spuit hole technology channels liquid out of the tire to deliver better handling, breaking and to increase wet condition performance and minimize hydroplaning.

"Hankook is constantly innovating to deliver the latest tire technology," says Bullock. "Gone are the days of noisy, clunky winter tires. Today's tires are quiet, safe and performance oriented, even in the worst weather. There is lots of information to help you pick the best tire for your vehicle at hankooktire.ca."

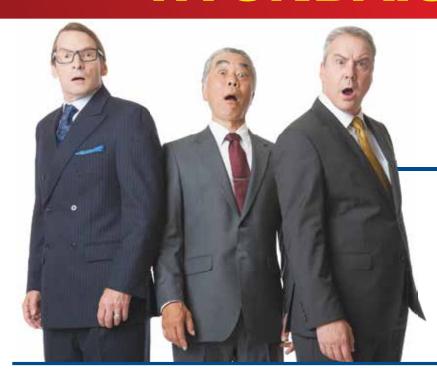
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■ WRITTEN BY Mark Pavilons



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Doane House Hospice Mazda Giveaway Winner

This year we teamed up with a local charity, Doane House Hospice for an amazing giveaway! One lucky winner walked away with a brand new Mazda3!

We would like to congratulate Karen Maio on buying the winning ticket! Together we raised approximately \$10,000 for Doane House!

The Doane House Hospice is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life through non-medical support for those affected by life-threatening illness. Doane House has been serving the community of north Aurora, Bradford, East Gwillimbury and Newmarket for many years now. We're proud to give them our support in their endeavours!

Thanks to everyone who joined us in this amazing contest! For more info on the Doane House Hospice visit: http://www.doanehospice.org/

■ WRITTEN BY **NewRoads Automotive Group**







Lexus of Richmond Hill is a Division of Weins Canada. ‡Drive Mode Select with Snow Mode not available on NX models. ~2016 IS 300 AWD F SPORT Series 1/2016 NX 200t F SPORT Series 1 shown: \$47,935/\$50,685. ^\$1,500 AWD Credit is available on the cash purchase/lease/ finance of new 2016 Lexus IS 300 AWD models. Limited time offer is subject to change or cancellation without notice. *Lease or equivalent trade in, \$0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$20,948. 60,000 kilometre allowance; charge of \$0.20/km for excess kilometres. *Representative lease example based on a 2016 NX 200t sfx 'A' on a 40 month term at an annual rate of 3.9% and Complete Lexus Price of \$44,135. Monthly payment is \$499 with \$4,400 down payment or equivalent trade in, \$0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$24,344. 60,000 kilometre allowance; narge of \$0.20/km for excess kilometres. Complete Lexus Price includes freight/PDI (\$2,045), EHF Tires (\$29), EHF Filters (\$1), A/C charge (\$100), and OMVIC Fee (\$10). Taxes, license, registration not included, Lexus Limited time offers only apply to retail customers at Lexus f Richmond Hill. Dealer order/trade may be required. Offers are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Offers expire at month's end unless extended or revised. See Lexus of Richmond Hill for complete details



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RVR GT AWC model shown

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Mirage SE model shown[‡]

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1 Receive a set of Yokohama/Dunlop Winter tires at no extra charge with the purchase of any new and unused 2015 Lancer (excluding Lancer Ralliart and Lancer Evolution), Lancer Sportback, RVR, 2015 and 2016 Outlander/2015 Mirage (excluding Mirage ES 5MT model) from October 1, 2015 to November 2, 2015. Winter Tire Package includes four steel wheels, four winter tires, TPMS (not available for eligible 2015 Mirages), mounting, balancing and installation up to a maximum \$1,400 value based on retail cost of installed wheel and tire package. See your dealer for details. * Mitsubishi First Auto Program applies to Lancer, Sportback, RVR and Mirage vehicles (excluding Mirage ES 5MT), is applicable to all approved Scotiabank first-time automotive finance or lease purchasers and must be combined with Scotiabank Subvented Finance or Lease Rates. Rebate amount will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Some conditions apply. Please see dealer for details. ^ \$1,500 loyalty rebate available on the purchase of any new 2016 Outlander model to current owners and eligible others. Amounts vary by model and will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes. Loyalty rebate applies to vehicles purchased and delivered between October 1, 2015 and November 2, 2015. Other conditions apply. ° \$2,500 in no-charge extra features applies to 2015 Lancer SE Limited Edition vehicles purchased from October 1, 2015 to November 2, 2015. S800 consumer cash discount applicable on 2015 Lancer SE vehicles purchased between October 1, 2015 and November 2, 2015. Consumer cash discount will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes and will take place at time of purchase. Some conditions apply. See your dealer for details. § AWC standard on RVR SE AWC, Limited Edition and GT/Lancer SE AWC, Limited Edition SE AWC and GT AWC. S-AWC standard on Outlander GT. † Estimated combined city and highway ratings for non-hybrid sub-compacts based on Natural Resources Canada new testing methodology; Mirage highway 5.3 L/100 km (53 mpg), combined city/highway 5.9 L/100 km (48 mpg) and 6.4 L/100 km (44 mpg) in the city for CVT-equipped models. Actual fuel efficiency will vary with options, driving and vehicle conditions.** Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or mitsubishi-motors.ca for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Some conditions apply





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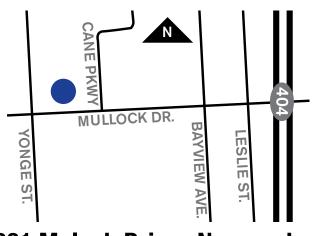
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