

THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper

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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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theauroran.com

FREE Week of September 24, 2015



AURORA CATCHES HOEDOWN FEVER — Thousands put on their cowboy boots and hats and headed over to the "Magna Corral" on Friday and Saturday for the annual Wild, Wild West Hoedown. (Top) This year's headliner was Dallas Smith. (Middle) This year's fundraising efforts collected \$464,000, which will be shared by 15 area charities. Joining host Beverley Mahood and the Hoedown Girls in the cheque presentation were, from left, Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe, Magna founder Frank Stronach, East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, and Magna CEO Frank Walker. (Bottom) Mahood congratulates King City's Sarah MacRae, 24, who was crowned this year's winner of the Hoedown Showdown. (Main) Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School student Rose Al-Saadi and teacher Adele Ashbourne get the party started at Friday afternoon's Hoedown for area special needs students.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Brock Weir

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Buck lawsuit dismissed by judge

By Brock Weir

An Ontario Superior Court judge has dismissed the defamation lawsuit brought by former councillor Evelyn Buck against members of the 2006 – 2010 Council term after more than five years in the legal system.

Justice Edwards rendered his decision late last Tuesday.

Ms. Buck, a former mayor of Aurora, was a sitting Councillor when she launched her lawsuit against then-mayor Phyllis Morris, then-Councillors John Gallo, Stephen

Granger, Evelina MacEachern, and Al Wilson, and incumbent Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

She cited a July 21, 2009 statement published in local media on behalf of Council coming out against certain posts made on Councillor Buck's blog "that...were highly critical and very disparaging of Town Staff" and outlined Council's course of action to retain "independent legal counsel" to review the postings with an eye of advising them on a way forward.

The statement went on to note their legal counsel recommended they

request Councillor Buck to apologise for her statements, retract them, and stick to Council's Code of Conduct, which she had not signed.

In her lawsuit, Councillor Buck contended the published statement, which was subsequently read aloud by Councillor Gaertner at a televised Council meeting, was defamatory and conveyed she was "incompetent to hold public office, had abused and attacked unidentified senior Town staff, had interfered with the Town's ability to serve the residents of

Continued on page 20

WHY PAY MORE?

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16686 Yonge St., Newmarket (905) 895-4084
Across from Mandarin Buffet Restaurant

Cancer survivor puts a face on Aurora's Terry Fox run

By Jake Courtepatte

Just a few short months into a diagnosis of throat cancer, Tim McClure was making arrangements for his own funeral.

The burial, the procession, even the music.

But, that was six years ago.

On Sunday, he was in front of a crowd at Sheppard's Bush in Aurora talking about going to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats game the night before.

"It was a late night and an early morning," said McClure. "But, I'm thankful I get to have some more late nights in my life."

Continued on page 21

Uses sought for Mavrincac "parkland" following Council decision

By Brock Weir

A search for a practical use for six acres of land recently purchased on Mavrincac Boulevard will soon begin following a Council decision last week, talks which ruled out the possibility of affordable housing on the land.

The land in question is a large parcel that became a rallying point for residents of Aurora's 2B development – the residential neighborhood radiating from the northeast corner of Bayview Avenue and Wellington Street East – after the York Catholic District School Board relinquished rights to the property after rethinking their strategy on building a new school in the area.

Following the outcry of area residents concerned the property developer would turn the land over to further housing, despite existing landowners being assure the area would either be a school or open space, the Town stepped in to exercise its right of first refusal to purchase the land at terms and prices set out in the subdivision agreement executed in 2007.

The Town purchased the land from Minto Communities following a legal battle that fell just short of reaching court.

Last week's decision to somewhat expedite determining a final use for the land stemmed from a motion from Councillor Harold Kim, calling

Continued on page 7

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Monday, September 28	9 a.m.	Council Chambers	Special General Committee* Capital Budget Review
Tuesday, September 29	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, September 30	6:30 p.m.	St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS	Public Planning

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

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



The Town of Aurora proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Sport in Aurora. Please see the upcoming sport events below that support the importance of healthy sport and activities in our community.

Event: Kickit2Winit
Date: Saturday, October 3 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Aurora Sports Dome

For more information, please visit www.kickit2winit.com or call 647-234-3970.

Event: 3rd Annual Induction Dinner Celebration
Date: Wednesday, November 4 6 p.m.
Location: Cole Hall – St. Andrew's College

For more information, please visit www.aurorashof.ca

Aquatic Lane and Leisure Swims

Make a splash this Fall with our leisure and lane swims. Please call 905-726-4770 for schedules and more information or visit www.aurora.ca.

Public Skating in the Fall

Fall is a great time to strap on your skates again! Visit www.aurora.ca for details on the Fall public skating schedule.

Sign-up for York Region's Free Greener Home and Garden Seminar

Emerald Ash Borer and other Tree Pests

Date: September 29 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Schomberg Community Hall, 325 Main St., Township of King

Learn about the emerald ash borer, its status in York Region and what you can do about it.

Also, learn about other invasive tree pests threatening York Region and Ontario, as well as a review of a new application called EDDMapS - interactive tracking and mapping website for citizen scientists.

Register for free today at www.york.ca/seminars or call 1-888-967-5426.

Looking for School Volunteer Hours?

The Town of Aurora is looking for student volunteers at Aurora's Haunted Forest happening October 24th.

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

We need your help!

The Town of Aurora is preparing a Sport Plan and a separate Parks & Recreation Master Plan to guide parks, recreation and sport services to the year 2031.

Please complete our Online Community Survey by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/auroraprs or attend a public meeting in the Fall of 2015 to review the draft plans.

For additional information, please visit our web pages at www.aurora.ca/masterplan and www.aurora.ca/sportplan

THANK YOU

The 2015 Aurora's Ribfest was a huge success and enjoyed by more than 9,000 attendees. In addition to great food and great entertainment, many awards were earned throughout this event:

Rib Teams Results
Best Chicken – Uncle Sam's, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Best Pulled Pork – Ribs Royale – Las Vegas, Nevada
Best Ribs – Bone Daddy's, Fort Erie, Ontario
People's Choice – Uncle Sam's, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The quality of live entertainment and many activities offered throughout the event were made possible with the support by the following:

Generous Ribfest Sponsors:

- Aurora Chrysler
- Canadian Food Services
- Hickory Dickory Decks
- Investors Group
- Motion in Life Chiropractic

Special Thanks to:

- Aurora Rotary Club
- Aurora Tigers
- Magna Hoedown Showdown
- Marquee Theatrical Productions
- Rent Source
- Countless volunteers

PUBLIC NOTICES

Design for Installation of Speed Cushions, Pilot Project

The Town's Infrastructure & Environmental Services department will be holding an Open House/Information Centre to present the proposed engineering design plans for the installation of speed cushions for the following locations:

- Kennedy Street West – McGee Crescent to Murray Drive
- Stone Road - Clift Road to Hawtin Lane
- McMaster Avenue – Hollidge Boulevard to Hollandview Trail
- Mavrinac Boulevard – Borealis Avenue to Spring Farm Road
- Conover Avenue - River Ridge Boulevard to Borealis Avenue

The works consist primarily of the installation of asphalt speed cushions, pavement markings and traffic signs.

The Open House will be held on Thursday, October 1 from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Holland Room on the first floor of the Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way. Town staff will be available to answer questions.

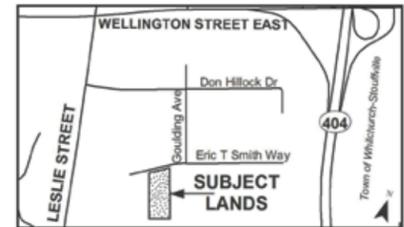
Please drop by to see the plans and provide your comments. If you have any questions, please contact Jamal Massadeh at 905-727-3123, ext.4374 by fax 905-841-7119 or by email at jmassadeh@aurora.ca

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS BY-LAW NUMBER 5764-15 TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND SELL MUNICIPAL LANDS

33 Eric T. Smith Way, Aurora

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora (the "Town") is providing notice of its intention to pass By-law Number 5764-15 on Tuesday, October 13, 2015, pursuant to Report No. PL15-065, for the purpose of declaring as surplus and selling land municipally known as 33 Eric T. Smith Way, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York and legally described as (a) Lot 8, Plan 65M-4324, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, being all of PIN 03642-3452 (LT); and (b) Part of Block 11, Plan 65M-4324, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, being part of PIN 03642-3455 (LT), all together having an area of approximately 3.99 acres, more or less, as illustrated for location purposes only on Figure 1 (below).



The final version of By-law Number 5764-15 will be available on the Town's website, located at www.aurora.ca/agendasminutes, on October 9, 2015 ahead of the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

For further information, please contact Anthony Ierullo, Manager, Long Range & Strategic Planning, at 905-727-3123, ext. 4742 or by email at aierullo@aurora.ca.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Registration is open for all Fall Programs

Registration is now open for a wide variety of Fall recreation programs. From art to cooking, from science to sports and fitness, there is something for the whole family. Programs and workshops are available for preschool, children, youth and adults. For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/recguide

2016 Budget: Have your say!



Budget consultations begin on September 28. Have your say on how your property taxes are being spent!

How can you get involved?

Take the Citizen Budget survey at aurora.citizenbudget.com or www.aurora.ca/citizenbudget and you could win a \$250 Cineplex gift card.

Attend one of the upcoming Budget consultations:

Date	Time	Purpose
Monday, September 28	7 p.m.	Kick-off Capital Review
Monday, October 5	9 a.m.	Capital Budget Review
Monday, November 2	7 p.m.	Kick-off Operating Budget
Saturday, November 7	9 a.m.	Operating Budget Review
Monday, November 16	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library Board, Aurora Cultural Centre Board and Aurora Historical Society presentations only
Monday, November 23	7 p.m.	Hold for Budget Review follow-up if necessary
Tuesday, December 8	7 p.m.	Regular Council – Budget Approval Report

To speak at a Budget consultation, please email csecretariat@aurora.ca

Visit us at www.aurora.ca/budget for additional budget information. This page will be updated throughout the Budget process.

Youth Volunteer Fair

Need volunteer hours to graduate? Want to make a difference in your community?

Coming this autumn, The Town of Aurora presents the Youth Volunteer Fair on Thursday, September 24 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. For more information please call 905-726-4760.

Sign up for the new Aurora Matters E-Newsletter



The Town features a new monthly E-Newsletter called Aurora Matters to help keep residents informed of events and what's happening in Town. The newsletter is available by subscription and will also be posted for reference on the Town website.

To subscribe, please visit www.aurora.ca/auroramatters

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Saturday, September 26, 2015 • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way, Aurora

Electric Vehicle Roadshow

- Ride and drive various electric vehicles
- See EV charging station demonstrations
- Learn more about environmental initiatives from York Region Transit, Smart Commute, Plug'n Drive and Windfall Ecology Centre
- Experience e-bike demonstrations provided by Bionx
- Find out where Aurora's electric charging stations are located
- Learn more about The Town of Aurora's commitment to the environment
- Enter to win the use of an electric vehicle for a week, courtesy of Plug'n Drive

- Face painting for kids from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Charitable barbecue

For more information, please contact The Town of Aurora, Environmental Initiatives at 905-727-3123 ext. 4382 or visit www.aurora.ca



CENTRAL YORK FIRE SERVICES ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

HEAR THE BEEP WHERE YOU SLEEP

Join your local firefighters at Central York Fire Services' annual Open House. Check out fire trucks, ride the Tim Hortons Express train, participate in games and activities, watch firefighter demonstrations, get important fire safety tips and learn how to prepare for emergencies. Firefighters will be serving refreshments, popcorn and cooking up hot dogs. Donations will be accepted with all proceeds directed to the **Hawkins - Gignac Foundation**.

For more information, visit www.cyfs.ca or call 905-895-9222.

AURORA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
1344 WELLINGTON STREET,
AURORA FIRE STATION 4-4

NEWMARKET
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015
10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.
984 GORHAM STREET,
NEWMARKET FIRE STATION 4-1

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Candidates dig deeper on Canadian security issues

By Brock Weir

Candidates vying for your vote in Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill did more to scratch the surface on Canada's security issues, taking the stage at the Aurora Cultural Centre in the first of two Vote Smart debates, hosted by Aurora university student Kelsea Walsh.

In Ms. Walsh's debate, which followed a slightly different format than your typical all-candidates debates, each person on the ballot was given a hypothetical situation and was tasked with addressing how they would

address each situation as a Member of Parliament and if their party formed government.

"One night in the riding, people start hearing gunshots," posed Ms. Walsh to Liberal candidate Leona Alleslev and NDP candidate Brenda Power (Conservative MP Costas Menegakis declined the invitation to participate). "Once investigated by police, it becomes clear that a wide-scale terrorist attack has begun in the riding. Fortunately, few people are harmed, but the incident incites fear into constituents and leads to demand for policy reform to address the situation. Would you propose any

changes on the national scale in light of the terrorist attack? If so, what would they be?"

In response, both candidates suggested measures are currently in place that would make such a hypothetical situation unlikely, but proposed different paths to tackling the matter.

To prevent that scenario from playing out, Ms. Power said Canada's top priority should be to "stop making enemies" and bring soldiers home. It is important, she said, to "shut out" defence lobbyists and stop selling arms around the world. An NDP government will "aim to get respect" for the Canadian government on the world stage, and ensure a place at the table in working with the UN to find peaceful resolutions to various international crises.

"If we build our reputation and start getting the respect that we used to have, we could perhaps retain a seat on the security Council where we would have a voice," said Ms. Power. "I believe the security threats to this country are threats that come from within. By that, I am talking about terrorism, poverty, homelessness, [and] joblessness. I am talking about high student debt load, and I am talking about students who can't find jobs and don't have a future.

"These are the things that are threatening the security of our country. If we build a strong country with a strong economy, if we work on climate change, if we build a better country, these are ways we protect our country and take away the insecurity we are now experiencing."

Ms. Power also said an NDP government would throw out the controversial Bill C51 in its entirety.

From the perspective of Ms. Alleslev, this election has been "framed as a conversation about fear, or about hope," addressing criticisms levelled at the Liberal party for supporting the bill.

With the world changing, it is important to ensure Canada "stays ahead of the advancements that would jeopardize our peace and security," she said. The bill itself had its good elements, she said, including information sharing with organizations within Canada and around the globe, but sweeping powers such as preventative arrests, "what we would call spying", need to be immediately amended.

"We have some of the best public safety organizations, I would argue, in the world," said Ms. Alleslev. "We are really very safe here. It doesn't mean a terrorist attack won't happen, but we do not need to be fearful. Terrorists attacks are often from people who are disadvantaged, who haven't got jobs, who have lost hope, and who have

become radicalized because they feel that is their only option and in many cases there are also mental health issues. The Liberal Party is going to work to create infrastructure and jobs that would hopefully give our youth a much more optimistic outlook and we are also going to make significant investments in mental health, so that I think would address hopefully a terrorist attack."



(Top) Wednesday's all-candidates meeting brought out Brenda Power of the NDP and Liberal Leona Alleslev. The following evening, below, Liberal Kyle Peterson, NDP Yvonne Kelly and Green Party's Vanessa Long took the stage.
Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Newmarket-Aurora candidates tackle housing and food banks

By Brock Weir

In the second Vote Smart debate, hosted by Aurora university student Kelsea Walsh, three of Newmarket-Aurora's five candidates took to the stage for a wide-ranging discussion on issues facing Aurora's northern riding.

In a hypothetical situation posed to the candidates by Ms. Walsh, candidates Yvonne Kelly (NDP), Vanessa Long (Green) and Kyle Peterson (Liberal) were asked how they would address the issue of affordable housing and the cost of living nation-wide. (Conservative candidate Lois Brown declined the invitation to participate)

"The riding is growing day by day," said Ms. Walsh in her hypothetical. "There are more families moving into Aurora and more families in need of homes. Some of these families are Canadian, some are not. Whatever the case, these constituents find themselves doubling up in homes in order to afford the houses they are living in. However, these low-income families often frequent the community food bank.

"Currently, our community food bank regulates distribution per household and not per family. Only one of two families can receive food every week."

In addressing this issue, Ms. Long stressed the Green Party commitment to establish a "guaranteed livable income" that eliminates the danger of "precarious employment" and eliminating the need for overtaxing food banks.

"The situation isn't staying the same, it is getting worse," said Ms. Long. "We're proposing to really change it because if things haven't changed in 25 years, maybe it is time to do something really different. We're talking about making bold changes: a national housing plan, a national building code, and an army of contractors who are doing retrofits. We're talking about \$400 million a year to create 20,000 new units of new affordable housing per year."

For Ms. Kelly, Ms. Walsh's hypothetical situation had already proven itself to be a reality. Food banks across York Region are currently experiencing just such a challenge and they are being "forced to make rules they don't even want to make" because they only have so many resources and don't want to see anyone go without. 841,000 people across Canada use food banks every day, she offered, and 4 million people are actually "food insecure" and food banks were only

designed to be short-term solutions to these problems.

"We need to reinvest for seniors, we need to look at what we're doing with our youth, and we need to raise our minimum wage because more and more people are living on the edge," said Ms. Kelly. "People you wouldn't expect are relying on our food banks. One thing we know that is leading to this substantially right here in York Region is the rise of low-paying, precarious work. We need strong, full-time, good-paying jobs to address this situation. You can't expect your food banks to do this, and to rely on charity to meet basic needs for people across Canada is an absolute atrocity."

For Mr. Peterson, this comes back

Continued on page 20

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Saturday, October 10 ~ 9am - 5pm

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Colours of Fall Concert

Featuring *Blue Radio*, a tribute to Blue Rodeo and *Ultimate Urban*, a tribute to Keith Urban

Thursday, October 8, 2015 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Aurora Town Park, 49 Wells Street
(Corner of Wells Street and Mosley Street)

- Enjoy an evening of pumpkin carving* and live entertainment
- Participate in our old-fashioned community corn roast**

* Pumpkins and carving supplies will be provided while quantities last **A nominal fee applies

Food donations for the local food pantry are greatly appreciated!

Another exciting event brought to you by

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

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

#auroraconcerts

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If Lois Brown were Conservative leader...

Climate Change, the fate of missing and murdered indigenous women and the Syrian Refugee crisis were the three social issues that Lois Brown surprisingly chose to address at the recent All Candidates meeting at Trinity Church in Newmarket.

I want to applaud Lois for choosing these issues that are obviously important to her personally, but have failed to have been addressed in any meaningful way by her leader or by his Conservative government. If a party were serious about climate change, they would not slash funding for scientific research. They would strive to move away from fossil fuel dependency, support alternative energy development and not invest so much in the success of the Tar Sands. Lois herself has a passionate interest in First Nations, but her leader has resolutely refused to launch a national inquiry into violence against First Nations women despite the pleas of provincial premiers, the First Nations community and even Amnesty International.

Harper started out promisingly in 2008 by offering an apology to First Nations but, since then, has ignored issues like the disproportionate number of First Nation children in child care custody and their over representation in our prisons.

The relationship between this government and First Nations has grown increasingly adversarial during Harper's time in office and seen the rise of the Idle No More movement and, most recently, the powerful voice of the first Indigenous Mrs. Universe, Ashley Callinbull Burnham, calling for all indigenous Canadians to vote Harper out of office. If Lois Brown were the leader of the Conservatives maybe we would see the red tape removed blocking the actual settlement of Syrian refugees in Canada and we might see an end to the current Conservative policy, called "cruel and unusual" by our own Supreme Court, that denies health care to many refugees.

If Lois were leader, perhaps the Conservatives would not consider bombing to get at the root of the problem. After all it was the US bombing of Iraq that Harper supported in opposition that created the chaos that gave birth to ISIS.

With a different leader perhaps Canada would once again contribute skillful negotiation and diplomacy to work toward the solution of this awful problem. Any citizen truly concerned about these three crucial social issues needs to look somewhere else than the Conservatives to place their vote.

Unfortunately, Stephen Harper is still their leader and we know his record. Time for a change.

**Tim Greenwood
Newmarket**

Voter not interested in "one man show"

I attended the ALL candidates meeting for the Newmarket-Aurora riding last night and was witness to the pure cynicism and disdain of the public of Harper/Conservative politics.

While the Liberal (Peterson), NDP (Kelly) and Green (Long) candidates represented themselves and their parties ably and congenially, the incumbent Conservative MP did not even extend the courtesy of attending!

It would appear that news reports of muzzling of candidates by the unprogressive Conservative PMO are indeed accurate.

I will not vote for a "one man show" party where ministers are minions and backbencher candidates have little autonomy and virtually no influence on parliament.

**Brian Horton
Aurora**

Machell's Corners



Outfoxed



BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

The summer has left us for another year, and it is just another handful of days before this September is consigned to the history books and, as soon as that has wrapped, the breakneck pace which often typifies the first month following the summer holidays should settle into a happy medium. Well, at least after October 19.

After the sleepy days of summer when many Aurora residents lucky enough to have one spend most of their time at the cottage – or relying on the kindness of cottaging friends – there almost seems to be an increased effort to make up for lost time, wanting to cram two months' worth of activity into a single, unsuspecting month.

Take, for example, this past weekend. It was a very busy time for those of us tasked with monitoring the goings-on in Aurora.

The fun started midday Friday when the organizers behind Magna's Wild, Wild West Hoedown opened up their tent for hundreds of special needs students from across York Region to give them a true festival experience.

Speaking as someone who is often engulfed in political issues facing our community, whether municipal, provincial, or federal, this special Hoedown was a particularly nice change of pace.

The joy emanating from underneath the big top was a veritable tonic to all the less-than-stellar things going on in our world right now. It underscored the good that can be done in the world around us if the right people – and the right number of people – are all rowing in the same direction for the greater good.

The fun continued late into that evening with Night One of Hoedown featuring the Hoedown Showdown and headliner Jim Cuddy, as well as the Home Opener for the Aurora Tigers.

The next evening, headliner Dallas Smith and the Road Hammers took the stage for the main event, while local cadets joined members of the Royal Canadian Legion in lighting individual candles on each grave of a veteran in Aurora Cemetery, creating a sea of flickering red lights, which is a particular sight to behold on a dark, rainy evening.

Sunday got off to a rousing start with hundreds taking part in the annual Terry Fox Run, followed by a charity car show, the 10th anniversary celebrations at the "new" Aurora Seniors' Centre building, and a return of the Legionnaires and cadets as they concluded their commemorations with a traditional drumhead service at the cemetery.

Not being able to be everywhere at once, I was heartened to hear from Jake

Courtepatte, our sports reporter, that this year's Terry Fox Run was an undoubted success. Kudos to the organizers for ensuring, even at a local level, that Terry Fox's legacy endures, strong as ever, even after 35 years, being able to bring together people from all walks of life, regardless of creed or political stripe – again, all rowing in the same direction.

I shouldn't have been too heartened, however, as soon after I received reports on the Terry Fox Run from our man on the ground, my phone beeped. Lo and behold, it was a statement from the Conservative Party of Canada on the Terry Fox Run.

As my inbox has been flooded recently by statements from the leaders of the Conservatives, NDP, Liberals and Greens marking a wide-range of national and religious occasions, I thought this would be a run of the mill email congratulating all those taking part in the runs that got people off their collective duffs in all corners of Canada.

Not so.

It was an announcement from James Moore that a re-elected conservative government would "match donations for this year's 35th annual Terry Fox Run to a maximum of \$35 million, provide capital funding of \$12.5 million to establish the Canadian Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Centre in Vancouver, in conjunction with other levels of government and private donors, [and] renew its commitment to the Canadian Partnership against Cancer, which works with cancer groups and experts across the country to treat and prevent cancer."

This is a laudable commitment, to be sure, and one which would bring significant benefit to all Canadians. But, as is so often the case, timing and context is everything.

"Our government is committed to a publicly-funded, universally accessible and sustainable health care system," said Moore in the statement. "Justin is just not capable of managing Canada's finances and ensuring health transfers keep increasing while budgets remain balanced and taxes stay low.

"Mulcair and the NDP say that they will spend even more on health transfers but haven't said how they will pay for

it. Based on their record in numerous provinces, the NDP will wreck the economy and weaken the services that Canadians depend upon."

And thus, the 35-year legacy of Terry Fox, a legacy which has served as a uniting force, was crassly turned into a political football and springboard for an attempted takedown of other party leaders.

I cannot stress enough how positive this announcement would have been on any other day. Indeed, it would have been spectacular if the Conservative Government marked the 34th anniversary of the Terry Fox Run in a non-election year by matching monies raised by up to \$34 million but, alas, it is not the case.

Apparently, in order to free up this much needed donation and commitment to fighting cancer, voters need to let their ballots do the talking and that's a shame. Money to fight a scourge such as cancer should not be held hostage to the fickle finger of fate wielded by the Canadian voter as a collective, and certainly not in the name of Terry Fox.

CORRECTION

Last week, The Auroran ran a story about an all-candidates meeting held for candidates in the Newmarket-Aurora riding hosted by KAIROS and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, which afforded candidates the chance to lay out their top three priorities related to social issues.

In our segment with Green Party candidate Vanessa Long, there was a typographical error in one of the quotes attributed to her. Below is a corrected reprint of her section.

"Topping the list of priorities of Green Party candidate Vanessa Long was implementing a National Housing Strategy to end homelessness. It is a top priority to "end the inability to afford the homes they live in, which is a particular 'crisis' in York Region.

"Tax havens, tax loopholes, and systems that protect the "ultra-wealthy" need to be eliminated so income can be redistributed to end poverty.

"We have a plan to end poverty, period," she said. "It is not a pie-in-the-sky, we-pulled-it-out-of-our-butts kind of idea; it is a fully costed platform to introduce what we call a guaranteed livable income, which means we take all the programs that redistribute income and we make it so every Canadian gets a standard set income you can then build on. Nobody will be living under the poverty line. You hear that and you're probably thinking it can't be true or else somebody else would have done it. But it has been tried, it worked, and we have a plan to do it."

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Local cub scouts participated in Sunday's drumhead service held at Aurora Cemetery by the Royal Canadian Legion. The annual tradition followed the candlelight vigil held Saturday night to remember local veterans laid to rest in the cemetery and included the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard, members of the Queen's York Rangers and Air Cadet corps, the White Heather Pipes and Drums, Salvation Army, and local dignitaries.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

The Pig Flew the Pen

Well Hallelujah!

Common sense has prevailed.

It seems that Toronto Mayor John Tory has come to the realization, somewhat belatedly in my opinion, that an Olympic bid is not a good idea.

I am not clear how he could reach any other conclusion.

Neighbouring Municipalities such Mississauga – who had been intimately and intricately involved in the success of the Pan AM games – stated baldly that they were not supportive of a bid. In other words, they were not willing to cough up their constituents' cash to help fund this

This was made clear weeks ago, so the 11th hour press conference at City Hall last Tuesday morning about the "no go" position is somewhat puzzling.

As we saw with Pan Am, the City of Toronto cannot host the Olympics alone.

In fact, few of the events would be held in the City proper.

The broad range of Olympic events – from equestrian to white water kayaking – necessitates a variety of locations to accommodate the venues each sport requires. Once Mississauga said it was out, and there was radio silence from other municipalities that would have needed to be involved, the Olympic bid was pretty much dead in the water.

Besides, the bid didn't even have the full support of Toronto Council. While Tory may have been able to submit the letter of intent on his own (and it's not clear to me how he could, in fact, make that decision. I will do a separate column on the powers of the mayor and limits thereto), he would need the support of Council to move forward with an actual bid. And it is pretty obvious that that was not going to happen.

On top of that, the Province had made clear that it had no intention of providing any guaranteed cash to support the bid, let alone the actual hosting of the Olympics. The Feds are in the midst of an election campaign so there's no way any of the parties would engage in the discussion of supporting a multi-billion dollar party. That would seem to be at cross purposes with their current rather feverish efforts towards extolling their fiduciary virtues.

So, to recap – no strong Council support, no support from co-hosting neighbouring municipalities, no support from the Province and no clue about federal support. Again, just what decision was being made today? Why the false spectacle of a "big" announcement? It didn't take a genius to know what he was about to "announce." He had no decision to make; it was already made for him.

Regardless, I am glad that cooler heads have prevailed and the taxpayers of municipalities across the GTA will not be on the hook for the quadrennial extravaganza. As expected, the giddy excitement of the "success" of Pan Am has waned and the reality of day to day difficult decisions around municipal affairs has set in. Just in the past week alone, the multiple issues of massive public housing repair bills, decrepit roads and stalled and stagnant public transit have been brought uncomfortably back to the fore.

Responsible leadership requires making responsible decisions. And, for once, it appears that a municipal leader has acted responsibly.

I think I just saw a pig fly.

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

Aurora's Seniors Centre celebrates its 10th

The Aurora Seniors' Centre celebrated its tenth anniversary this past Sunday with the slogan "See how far we have come!"

The Aurora Senior's Association has come a long way since its inception as the Friendship Circle back in 1964. It was located in the Victoria Hall. Back then, 75 seniors were members. Today, more than 1,400 seniors are active members of the association.

Back then, 500 Aurorans identified as "seniors." Today, that number is significantly higher.

As someone who has reached "a certain age," I was delighted to join the Aurora Seniors Association last year – especially after I saw the well equipped wood shop, complete with volunteer experts to teach me. Wednesday lunches offer wonderful comradeship and I always receive a warm welcome. It's a great deal. Membership is \$25 per year for those 55 and older.

Consider this number: 148. That's the percentage by which York Region's senior population will increase between 2011 and 2031. That's almost four times faster than the rest of the population.

It is increasingly important that governments ensure seniors have the services they need in order to live healthy, safe and fulfilling lives. Staying active and involved is important to both mental and physical health.

By 1977 the Friendship Circle had outgrown its Victoria Hall location and moved into the old Aurora Fire Hall, now renamed the Aurora Seniors' Centre. The group continues to grow.

In 2002 the Town formed a steering committee to look at options. In 2004 the Aurora Seniors Association incorporated as a not-for-profit group. That same year the Town approved construction of a new Seniors' Centre



View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

and asked seniors to raise \$250,000 toward the cost. This request allowed one councillor to lament "the seniors will have to sell 10,000 apple pies to raise that sort of money." In fact, the seniors paid off their commitment within four years – one year earlier than requested by the Town.

In 2005 the new Aurora Seniors' Centre was completed and the Seniors Association, with 600 members, moved in. The 14,000 square foot facility is dedicated to seniors, but also doubles as an emergency operations centre for the Town, and the Town rents out rooms when they are not in use. Between seniors and other users, the building is a very busy place.

No mention of the Aurora Seniors Association is complete without talking about past-president Charles Sequeira. Charles was president between 2005 and 2015. He oversaw the group settling into the new facility, the introduction of new services and programs, and the rapid membership growth. Of course, there are many others who worked alongside Charles to build the hospitable centre.

The Seniors' Centre boasts 160 volunteers who put in an astounding 18,000 volunteer hours each year to run the centre. Charles says that number of volunteer hours is equivalent to about

five full-time Town staff.

"The Centre is a place where seniors can keep active," says Charles. "There are plenty of activities to suit all tastes, from woodworking, to sports to dancing to crafts to cards." He adds "it's important that seniors keep moving and keep active" to make sure they have a good quality of life.

Current president, Jim Abram, adds seniors "come to the Centre for different reasons. In the end, everyone comes for comradeship."

In today's world where seniors are encouraged to live longer in their homes, they can too often become isolated from the community, says Jim. The Centre is the perfect place to get out and socialize.

He adds the reason for the Centre's success is "the excellent partnership we have with the Town of Aurora." From council to staff who work in the building, the Town has been supportive of the Centre and the Association, he said.

Both Jim and Charles stress that the Seniors Association does more than take care of its own. The group is very active in fundraising for organizations like the food bank, CHATS, Operation SMILE, and the Children's Wish Foundation. They also prepared 150 holiday gift baskets last year for less fortunate individuals.

"You can't under estimate the value of volunteering," says Jim. "It builds community and keeps us young."

Thank you to the past and current dedicated Board of the Aurora Seniors Association: President Jim Abram; Vice President Carol Hedenberg; Treasurer Louise Miller; Secretary Sylvia Gilchrist; and Directors Ron Coe, Jan Freedman, Frank Leone, Bonnie Maxwell and Don Stevenson; and Past-President Charles Sequeira.

More Summer Musings 2015

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

First, although the Party Leaders had already participated in a national debate and they have been crisscrossing the country campaigning since early August, to me the real election campaign started after Labor Day.

And what we have seen thus far are a couple of different themes occurring.

On the one hand, the national media say that there is a large amount of voters who desire change while as the same time the polls don't reflect this dynamic.

A National forum poll released the other day in fact showed the Conservatives at 32% the NDP at 30% and the Liberals at 28% nationally.

Another national poll had all three parties within 1% of each other nationally.

In the 905 area, the Tories still enjoy a slim lead over the Liberals with the NDP coming up the middle.

It could be the case that Canadians might not like Mr. Harper but they are afraid of handing the national seals of high office to the NDP or they are concerned about the inexperience of Mr. Trudeau.

Also, according to most polls our two local races will be close.

Lois Brown, the incumbent Conservative candidate in Newmarket –Aurora is being challenged by Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson, the NDP's Yvonne Kelly, the Green Party's Vanessa Long and Jason Jenkins of the Libertarian Party.

South of Wellington in the newly

created riding of Aurora – Oak Ridges – Richmond Hill, Costas Menegakis is the Conservative standard bearer while the Liberal Candidate is Leona Alleslev and the NDP candidate is Brenda Power.

I will be door knocking on behalf of one of the candidates beginning this week. I am interested to hear what local voters have to say.

It should make for an interesting contest all the way to the October 19 deadline.

Second, Toronto Mayor John Tory made the announcement the other day that Toronto would not enter a bid for the Olympics.

Not only was this a wise decision given that Toronto would be up against some stiff competition from the other six potential host cities, but unless the private sector was willing to pick up a large share of the actual event costs, this could have been a financial nightmare.

As we saw with the Pan Am games, the cost of security is extremely high and that was only for a regional event. Imagine what these costs would be for an Olympics.

Second, traffic congestion on the Don Valley Parkway was a big problem during the Pan Am games. Again, imagine the traffic headaches with the amount of

people an Olympics would bring.

To this writer, the only possible way that these games could have worked is if they were run like the 1984 Games in Los Angeles when the Corporate Sector basically paid for all of the venues.

From what I recall, these were the only games in history that turned a modest profit. You might recall the \$50B - yes, that is right - \$50B price tag for the Sochi Winter Olympics.

I am not saying that would have happened here, but with cost overruns and security concerns, you never know.

Finally, and on a totally unrelated item, I read back in July that the Southlake Regional Health Centre is closer to building a hospice after the province said it could go ahead with the construction tender.

According to the article, "the 10 bed residential hospice for patients with terminal illnesses will be built on Queen Street in Newmarket. It is expected to be open in 2017."

You never think about these things until a family member is in need of it.

My mother spent her remaining days in the tranquil surroundings of a hospice in south Mississauga just over a decade ago. I will never forget the time that our family spent with my mother, sitting in the wonderful garden on those beautiful summer days.

The 24/7 care and support that my mother received at the hospice was tremendous. I hope that this new facility will provide equal tranquility and comfort to what our family witnessed first-hand.

This announcement is very welcome news for our community.

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

AURORAN POLL

In this Federal election, how likely are you to vote based on economic issues?

- A) Very Likely
- B) Likely
- C) Somewhat
- D) Not At All

Last week to vote!

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RESULTS TO DATE	A	B	C	D
September 22, 2015	47%	18%	23%	12%

Council sets "aggressive" target in developing vision for Cultural Precinct

By Brock Weir

After collecting dust as a concept in local plans for years, Aurora has now set an "aggressive" target in setting a vision to make the Town's proposed "Cultural Precinct" a reality.

Council last week voted to award a nearly \$59,000 contract to Fotenn Consultants to develop a concrete vision for the precinct, which is planned to be a cultural hub in Aurora's Downtown Core, extending from Town Park and the Aurora Armoury in the east, westward to Yonge Street, encompassing several churches and cultural institutions, including the Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Cultural Centre.

It is proposed to be a cornerstone of the revitalization of Aurora's Downtown.

Despite some reservations around the table last week, Council approved the contract 8 – 0. Councillor Wendy Gaertner was not present at the meeting.

Among those with concerns moving forward with the plan was Councillor John Abel, who questioned the speed in which this was moving forward, not just the aggressive completion target of November 30 of this year, but coming to Council as an add-on item just hours before last week's meeting was set to commence.

"I heard last term it is tough for Council to digest and the public to understand when we have a report dropped upon us at the hour we go into Council for these discussions," he said. "My concern when we have a report dropped upon us at the hour we go into Council for these discussions...is basically the lack of public awareness."

Questioning whether the matter was time sensitive and could be deferred until a later meeting to take in any potential comments from the public, Councillor Abel was told it was necessary to move forward now given the fall target.

"If it gets approved this evening and

dealt with, this will provide additional time for the consultant as well as the public to participate in the process," said Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation. "As you know, Council has given direction that this entire project be completed by November 30 so that the consultant is working towards that deadline."

"The end result we would like to see provided to Council is a vision for a cultural precinct. We want the consultant to provide options to Council with regards to how this particular cultural precinct could develop and proceed in providing cultural services and opportunities for public and private partnerships within this culture."

A consultation session with stakeholders is slated for October 8, Mr. Downey added, which will provide the public with their first formal opportunity sound off with the consultant and express any options, objections and opportunities to be had in the area in question. A "visioning report" will follow and consultants are hoping to have something to present to Council by October 27.

If all goes according to plan, and the final conceptual plan is approved November 30, it will come up for final Council adoption by December 8.

For other Councillors, however, this was hardly a rush and moving forward with something here is long overdue.

"It goes all the way back to the Aurora Promenade plan that was adopted by Council in 2010," said Councillor Michael Thompson who, along with Councillor Tom Mrakas, floated the idea earlier in the summer of retaining a consultant to hammer out this vision. "It was identified then, both from a geographical perspective in terms of the area itself, as well as being one of the key objectives in terms of the quick wins identified in the promenade. At this point, it might seem that we are moving quickly [but this is a] key initiative in the revitalization of the Downtown has been on the books since 2010. That came out of multiple community consultations, consultants' plans, and so forth."

Added Councillor Harold Kim: "Normally I am not a big proponent of consultants, especially when consultants are used in the same type of project over a series of years. This is not something new, and sometimes it takes several years for an idea or vision to absorb into people's psyche and the feeling of comfort around it whether you are buying a new house or you're renovating your basement. Sometimes people want to move quickly. I feel in the last several weeks in discussing this, there is a political will and desire to take."

Briefly

HALL OF FAME HONOURS McCLENNY

A special award will be presented to long-time community contributor Lowell McClenny by the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame at this fall's Induction Dinner. Mr. McClenny, who hosted Sportsbeat on ACI for more than 26 years, as well as helming Aurora Minor Hockey and holding many coaching positions around Aurora, will be the inaugural recipient of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Media Award, which honours individuals who have made a major impact on the world of sport media during their lifetime at either the local or national level. This latest inductee joins the class of 2015, which features Alan Dean, Ken Sinclair, and Mark Heese. The third annual Induction Dinner will be held at St. Andrew's College on November 4.

MAN OF 1,000 VOICES

Music returns to the Aurora Cultural Centre this Friday, September 25, with the latest season of John Sheard Presents: The Great Reunion. The first installment in this annual concert series features Mr. Sheard taking the stage with famed Newfoundland singer/songwriter Ron Hynes. Hynes was born in St. John's in December 1950, and raised in Ferryland. He was a founding member of The Wonderful Grand Band, one of Newfoundland's most popular performing groups, and has released seven solo albums. His debut album, Discovery, released in 1972, was the first album composed of totally original content by a Newfoundland artist. Hynes is a seven-time East Coast Music Awards winner, and past Juno and Canadian Country Music Awards nominee. He was named Artist of the Year ('92) and was presented with the prestigious Arts Achievement Award (2004) by the Newfoundland/Labrador Arts Council. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 on the day of the concert. The show begins at 8 p.m.

WHERE DID YOUR RIGHTS COME FROM?

This year marks the 800th anniversary of King John putting his royal seal on the Magna Carta. This fall, Durham Cathedral's copies of the Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest, the fundamentals of what have evolved to become our common law, arrive at Toronto's Fort York, but you can get a primer on the history of the documents next Wednesday, September 30, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Wednesday's discussion will be led by historical geographer Wayne Reeves, Chief Curator for the City of Toronto, since 2009. A question and answer session will follow the lecture. Admission by donation.

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Event details

Date: Thursday November 5, 2015 **Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: St Andrews Valley Golf Course <https://www.standrewsvalley.com/>
4 Pinnacle Trail, Aurora, ON *Light refreshments will be served*

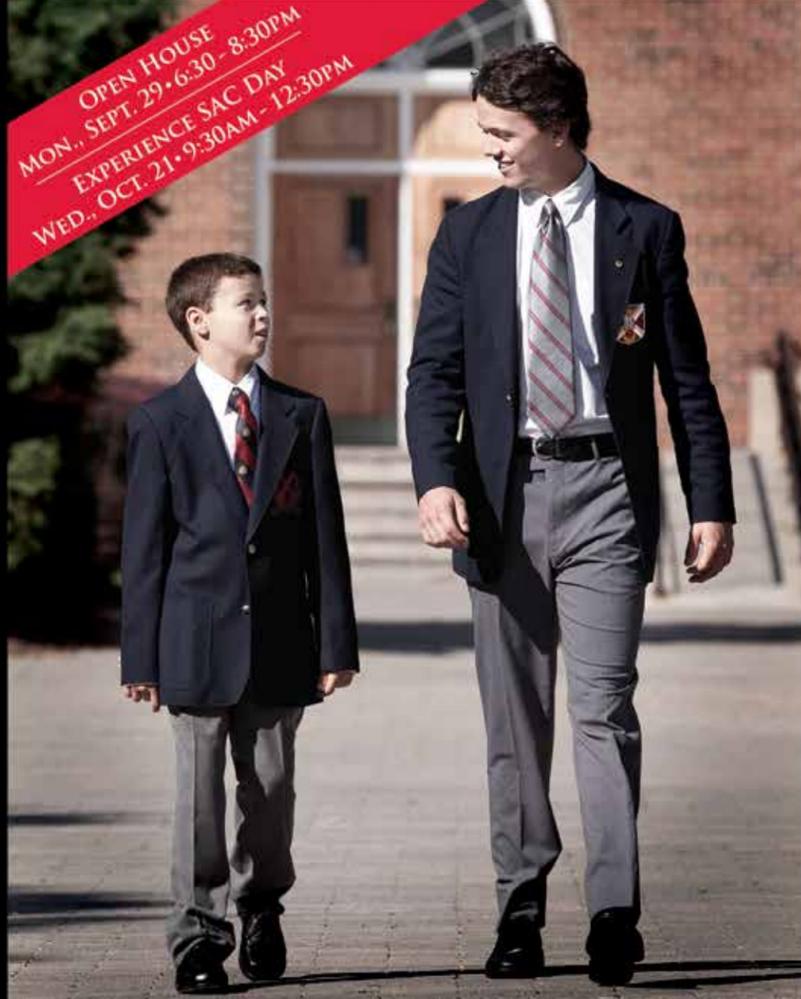
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Mavrinac motion “presupposed” park usage for vacant land: Mayor, Councillor

From page 1

for a report to come back to Council outlining options and prices for future parks and recreational use of the property.

“Myself, and the residents of the neighbourhood, are extremely excited about the next step forward and this motion is to initiate the discussion,” said Councillor Kim, adding he was particularly interested with having such options available to Council for implementation by next year.

In response to the motion, Al Downey, Aurora’s Director of Parks and Recreation, said it would be a challenge for staff to bring back a list of options by the time Council begins budget deliberations this fall, but it is feasible to bring forward some suggestions in early 2016.

Moving forward with a plan for the Mavrinac land would not be informed by any findings coming up in the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is still being drafted.

“The normal process is staff will be developing some conceptual plans that would be presented to the public for their information, as well as their opportunity to provide input to staff on some of the elements they would like to see in the park,” said Mr. Downey. “We would then take that information, refine it, and then come forward to Council with a proposed budget as well as a proposed conceptual plan. Council would then have the opportunity to make modifications to that, or the budget. Once the budget is approved, we would then go back to the public with options.”

Councillors approved lighting a fire on the Mavrinac project in a 6 – 2 vote (Councillor Wendy Gaertner was absent from the meeting for religious observances). For supporters, it was time to take ownership of the land.

“I would think if we asked

this to come back right away, we could get it done right away,” said Councillor John Abel, who went on to make an amendment for the Town to take “ownership” of the land by removing existing fencing, and making minimal landscaping efforts to allow public access onto the property before Council is able to look at the options being explored. “Rather than wait a year and a half with a fence, why not let people walk through there?”

This was generally supported by Councillor Michael Thompson who said “simple things” like taking down the fence might be “helpful.”

Some Councillors, including Councillor Paul Pirri, balked at that suggestion, concerned over potential liability on the land, arguing it would set a precedent of saying to the public “this is your space, use it as you wish right now.”

Councillor Paul Pirri was one of two Council members voting against moving forward with Councillor Kim’s motion. The other was Mayor Geoff Dawe who said he could not support the motion because it “presupposes” the land will be set aside for parks and recreation use without being factored into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This was an opinion shared by Councillor Pirri.

“It excludes a lot of different options I thought could have been on the table,” he said. “I would still love to see some element of affordable housing put on this, partnered with Habitat for Humanity, or other organizations in Town, but not for the whole lot because I don’t think that would be responsible for us to do, but definitely a portion of the lot [of up to 10 homes.] I am happy to get staff to put the pedal to the metal in getting us a report quickly, but to preclude or exclude other elements of this parcel of property, I am not sure if that is the best and most efficient use of the property.”

Advertorial

Breakthrough Treatment Now Available in Richmond Hill

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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Two attempts to have affordable housing included as an option to be explored were shot down by Council with some members underscoring the land was never earmarked for

housing and having further homes built just beyond the backyards of surrounding properties was a possibility neighbours objected to in the first place.

Advertorial

The recent market downturn has everyone in Aurora talking again. Whether it’s about falling oil prices or international economic instability, investors are concerned. What if you could reduce or eliminate such volatility in your portfolio? Could you use some extra peace of mind?

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This week I was talking to a couple



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who I helped avoid the recent market downturn. “We wish we had discovered how to do this years ago,” says Alexandra Katanic of Aurora. “We grew tired of seeing our RRSP go up and down and going nowhere over the past few years. Now we enjoy a fixed return and have stopped worrying about the markets.”

By the way, Alexandra is the owner of Everyday Cooking, and has a wonderful Facebook page for busy families who want to cook easy, economical and healthy meals. Be sure to visit the link from the site below. Don’t forget to tell her I sent you!

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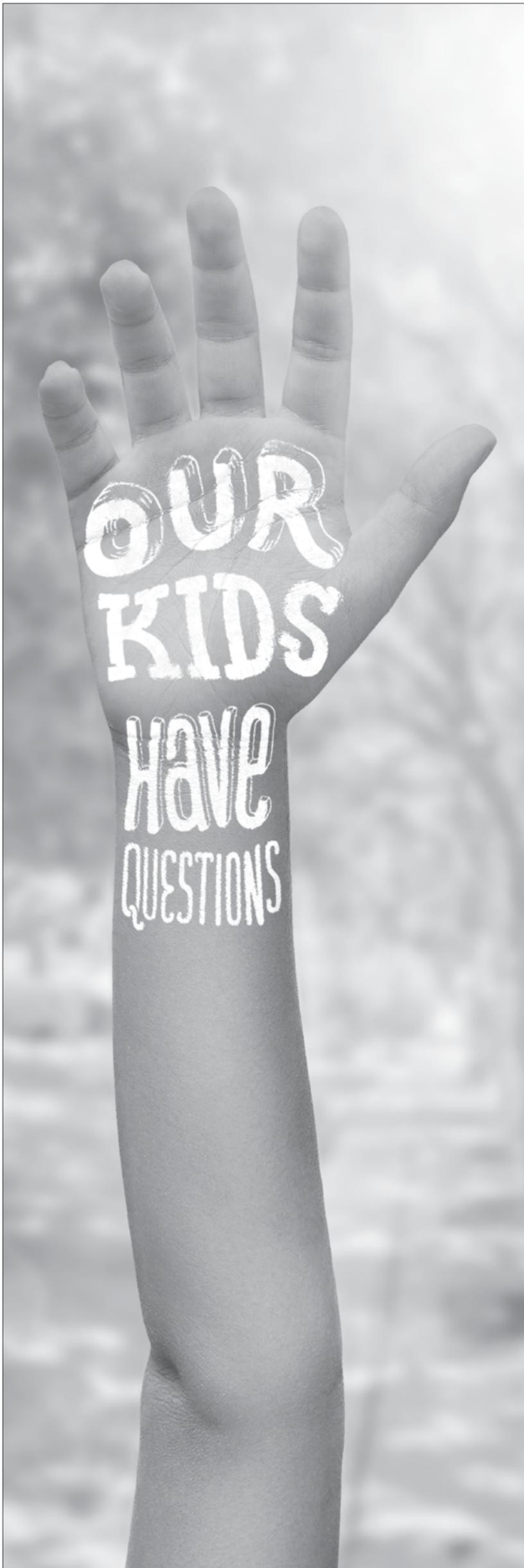
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Interfaith community lays groundwork for Syrian refugees



Jamal Massadeh and Mae Khamissa of the Newmarket Islamic Centre, left and centre, sit on an interfaith committee dedicated to sponsoring a Syrian refugee family to come to the area. They are joined by Raz Khamissa, whose father helped lay the foundation for what is now the Mosque.

Aurora photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church was the site of series of interfaith gatherings on Sunday as Trinity and Aurora United Church welcomed members of the Newmarket Islamic Centre, and members of the community at large, to tackle the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis.

In discussions led by Ian McBride, Executive Director of AURA – the Anglican United Refugee Alliance – a non-profit agency which helps communities sponsor refugees, interested parties listened intently to the ins and outs of refugee sponsorship before meeting afterwards in The Rectory to hammer out the fine details.

The result is Interfaith Resettlement Restitution, which has set immediate fundraising targets to sponsor one refugee family to settle in the Aurora and Newmarket area and, it is hoped, potentially sponsor more families in need.

“We work as a unit,” says Mae Khamissa, representing the Newmarket Islamic Centre. “Everyone will be doing their own individual fundraising but, at the end, together we will work on bringing in one family, and who knows how many thereafter. Having Ian on board guiding us has brought things to light. The paperwork is all going to be taken care of on his side, which makes life a lot easier, knowing 100 per cent of what we bring to this group is going towards the family. That is so reassuring to know there isn't any money going towards lawyers, paperwork or what have you. Every penny will be put towards bringing a family into Canada.”

Ms. Khamissa, who co-owns Omar's Shoes with her husband, Raz, heeded the call of Trinity's Reverend Dawn

Davis, who put out feelers to see if the local Muslim community was interested in getting involved in the joint sponsorship process being undertaken by her church, as well as Aurora United Church.

Adds Mr. Khamissa: “It is not a religious thing. It is not a political thing. It is just trying to make people welcome. It is great that everyone is coming together for this cause.” The Newmarket Islamic Centre itself has its roots in Aurora, first finding its foundation over 30 years ago in the basement of Omar's Shoes. An initiative of Mr. Khamissa's father, Omar, the founder of the business, members of the Muslim community were reaching out to him at a time for a place to gather for Friday prayers. They found a home there.

As their numbers grew, a separate space was needed, and the Mosque as established in a former residential home on Newmarket's Mulock Drive, just east of Bayview Avenue.

“We had no place local to have a congregation to do our prayers, and [my father said], let's open this up to whomever can come,” says Raz. “We started with a group of five or six and built up to a group of 70 or 80, housed in the basement of the store. My dad's hope was that someday there could be a mosque in this area. Obviously, Aurora would have been his first choice, but they found a place almost on the border which serves the whole area.”

In the intervening years, their numbers have swelled to the extent Friday prayers need to be taken in shifts just to accommodate the congregants.

According to long-time resident Jamal Massadeh, a member of the Islamic Centre's Board of Directors

Continued on page 10

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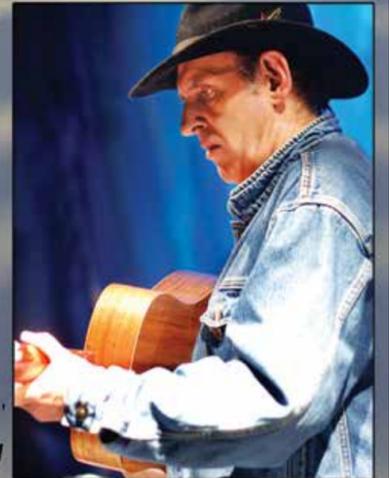


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— THE AURORAN — *Arts & Culture*

Theatre Aurora marks Culture Days at Library

By Joey Ferguson

Marketing and Communications Director

Theatre Aurora invites you to get loud in the library at one of the final events of this year's Culture Days celebrations.

Sepehr Reybod, a theatre arts student, will lead an open workshop on how to harness the power of your voice right in the centre of Aurora Public Library's Living Room.

Reybod is not a new face to community theatre-lovers. He was last seen on the Theatre Aurora stage in That Summer in 2014, a show that won multiple awards in the local ACT-CO Festival. While the actor's training limits his time on stage outside of

school, this rising star is excited to come and share the theatre magic with the local community in a fun, participatory environment.

Whether you're a singing superstar trying to break into American Idol or you need some tools to overcome your stage fright, Theatre Aurora invites you to a sneak peek to what it is like to be onstage - and to discover the power that your voice can have.

While the celebrations flood Aurora on Saturday's Culture Days, members of Theatre Aurora will be busy with rehearsals for the upcoming new season. This year's theme, Creating Connections aims to build upon last year's Family Matters, while exploring some new territory.

With three shows already busy

rehearsing, it is never a slow day at the Theatre.

Theatre Aurora, at the ripe old age of 57, has been a member of the Association of Community Theatres - Central Ontario (ACT-CO) for many years, and is a member of Theatre Ontario. The organization has received many nominations and awards at the annual ACT-CO festival.

We encourage everyone to come have fun at our interactive workshop at the Library on Saturday, September 26 at

3:30 p.m., and to spend an engaging and entertaining evening at our local theatre on Henderson Drive. Tickets to the upcoming season are available at the box office or online at www.theatreaurora.com.

Look for your passport to fun and creativity in The Auroran and at participating venues. Take part in family-friendly activities, win prizes donated by the five sponsoring organizations and make culture part of your daily life.



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September 25, 26, 27, 2015

Committee welcomes help from across community

From page 8

who is also involved in the refugee process, up to 300 families call the Mosque their religious centre and they are welcoming the initiative with open arms.

"We have a lot of things to do, but hopefully we can bring over one family, and hopefully more than one," he says. "This is a great initiative and we're willing to stand up. I think financial help is very important and every member of the community will be able to support this cause."

Adds Mae: "I am most looking forward to seeing this family come down at Pearson. I am looking forward to seeing the joy of their new home,

welcoming them. It is very hard to see a lot of these families running an escaping. It is not just a fact of them running and escaping, it is seeing them separated. Young people are fleeing. I would like to see us help these families find peace and being able to start a happy, good life. What better place than Canada? It is such a great place for us to be contacted by churches to want to get involved, to want to help. We are, by far, the greatest country ever."

To find out how to become involved, contact Aurora United Church at 905-727-1935, Trinity Anglican Church at 905-727-6101, or Mae Khamissa at 905-727-9391.



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— THE AURORAN —
Aurora's Community Newspaper



Local dentist shares passion for African wildlife in new photo exhibition

By Brock Weir

Shame. It is just one word, but it is a singular utterance that summed up a range of emotions for Aurora's Ron Goodlin as he joined the ranks of millions around the world horrified by the killing of Cecil, The Lion in Zimbabwe by American dentist Walter Palmer.

It was a shame Goodlin felt not just as a lover of wildlife, with a particular passion for Africa but, as many people around Aurora might have guessed, as a dentist as well.

"He tracked it for 48 hours as it died a slow, agonizing death," recalls Dr. Goodlin, throwing his hands up in the air. "Are you kidding me? How can you do that? I was ashamed and embarrassed, not just as a dentist, but for the whole human race. What we do to these poor animals and our environment is just shameful."

But there is a palpable sense of pride shared by Dr. Goodlin as he shows off his vivid photographs of lions, rhinos, hippos, wildebeest and zebra in their natural habitat, now available for all to see at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

When Dr. Goodlin was a boy of 15, his father was diagnosed with cancer. At the time, his mother was looking for ways to get her young son's mind off this weighty matter and, while on a shopping trip one day, hit upon the idea of getting him a camera.

"I took it home and thought it was pretty cool and got me pretty interested in it," he recalls.

Influenced by famed World War Two photographer Stu Friedman, who died this month, he became enthralled by the photographic process, particularly as images emerged from soaking paper in the dim light of the darkroom.

"You're hooked," he says.

From there, he parlayed his passion into working on his school's yearbook before heading off for a course at the New York Institute of Photography before embarking on his dental studies. But, there too he was able to exercise his passion, although happening upon a way to do so came out in an

expected way.

In his second year, he and his fellow students were taking a class trip to another dental school in Buffalo and, as a prank, decided to take one of their school's dental chairs as a gift to their host faculty. As such equipment was then worth over \$30,000, that didn't go over so well with the dental brass in Toronto and the future Dr. Goodlin was already skating on thin ice.

Back at home, the school's dean suggested he funnel these high spirits into creative avenues, setting him on the path of taking photos for dental publications.

"By the end of the summer, I wrote a paper on how to do dental photography," he says with a laugh. "I had never written one before, but after second year I was now the world expert in dental photography! After I graduated, I kept this photography business going."

That eventually branched out into fashion and wedding photography before he "got tired of working for everyone else" and charted his own path, setting his viewfinder on landscapes and wildlife – all on his own terms.

In between balancing his work in his successful Aurora dental practice, Dr. Goodlin made his first trip to Africa in 2011. Accompanied by his wife, he says she was skeptical of their expedition at first, but bought her a video camera in the hopes she would be inspired by the nature around her.

"There was no interest; it was like me buying a blender for our anniversary!" he says. "But, the night before, she asked how to use the camera. We landed in Kilimanjaro and went to Arusha the next day. There were a bunch of monkeys jumping around and she thought that was pretty cool. We got back into the truck and turned a corner, and it was like a ride at Disneyland. You turn a corner and there they all are. We saw hundreds of zebras and wildebeests in front of us and my wife is going, 'Wow! Wow! Where's the camera?!' She filmed the entire time."

As he looks over his photographs,



Dr. Ron Goodlin found his passion for photography as a teen, now turning his lens on wildlife around the world. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

Dr. Goodlin becomes wistful of the majestic beauty Africa offers, despite the best efforts of poachers who have decimated populations of elephant and rhinos for their tusks and horns, either for use in the ivory trade or, in the case of rhinos, for aphrodisiacs popular in Asian medicine.

It is not just the wildlife that have captured Dr. Goodlin's heart, this love also extends to the Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania, whom he has visited with fellow doctors to help build schools and provide simple medical treatments to the populations, whether

looking out for their basic oral health, or applying Polysporin.

"I want people to have an understanding of how wonderful these animals are and how horribly humans are treating these animals," he says. "I want my photographs to bring some awareness and maybe give more insight to stop the madness of poaching and killing, and encourage a love of these animals in the wild."

Ron Goodlin: A Lens on Africa is on now at the Aurora Cultural Centre running through November 21.

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FREE Week of September 24, 2015

Tigers break stalemate to earn home opener victory

By Jake Courtepatte

It took almost three periods of action, but the Aurora Tigers gave the crowd of over 600 what they came to see when a late goal sealed a 1 – 0 victory in the Junior A squad's home opener Friday.

16-year old Alex Formenton, a rookie from nearby King City, was able to tip an Alex Boudreau shot from the point through the legs of the St. Mike's Buzzers goaltender, barely crossing the goal line and setting up a late reaction from the crowd.

"It doesn't always have to be a nice goal," said head coach Mark Joslin. "The two points are all that matters."

Despite only finding twine once in the game, the Tigers directed 32 shots on the St. Mike's net, while rookie goaltender Alex Brooks-Potts stood tall for Aurora to earn a 26-save shutout.

"He looked strong in net and that's all we ask for," said Joslin.

A sleeper of a pair of opening periods came after a season-opening ceremony that included the likes of the Storage Wars Canada cast, members of Canadian rock group Platinum Blonde, and Mayor Geoff Dawe. All were out on the ice for the ceremonial puck drop between the St. Mike's captain and new Tigers captain Jordan DaSilva, with the hundreds of fans earning a chuckle when Storage Wars' Roy Dirnbeck took a tumble on the ice.

"It was all in good fun," said Dirnbeck with a laugh.

The ceremony also marked the return of Slapshot, the Tigers' old mascot that had not been seen for a handful of seasons. Slapshot will be making appearances at games throughout the season.

The fun continued into the weekend

when Brooks-Potts continued to solidify himself as a starting goaltender by stopping all fourteen shots he faced in the first period of a Sunday game against the Whitby Fury. But his streak of four periods of shutout hockey was broken shortly into the second, beaten by American-born rookie Justin Allen who has shone for the Fury in the early season.

Formenton and Nolan Dunn answered back with goals of their own in the period, and the game went to the third tied at two.

That was when the Tigers' offence solidified another win for Brooks-Potts with a bang, as forwards Todd Winder, Daniel Mantenuto, and Liam Neuman lit the lamp, Neuman's coming with an empty net to seal the deal. Brooks-Potts stopped all ten shots he faced in the period.

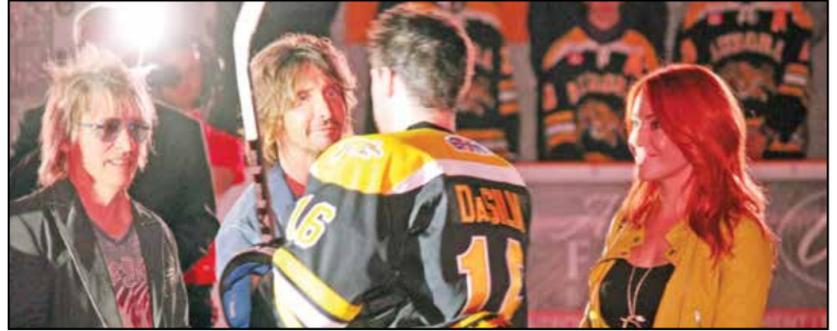
After a dismal pre-season, and an opening nail-biting loss to the Newmarket Hurricanes, the Tigers have once again found their groove by racking up three straight wins.

"They're starting to come together," said Joslin. "They're playing as a team, which is what we've been working on."

The Tigers are in Buffalo for a showcase in the days preceding press-time, taking on Burlington and Mississauga in regular season action at the Harbour Centre.

Hometown fans will not get a chance to see the Tigers at the Aurora Community Centre again until next Friday, when the rivalry is reborn with the Kingston Voyageurs, who stunned the Tigers in seven games in last season's OJHL quarterfinals.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com.



(Top) New Tigers captain Jordan DaSilva shakes the hands of Mark Holmes and Sergio Galli of Canadian rock fame before the Tigers' home opener on Friday. (Below) Jordan DaSilva, Alex Boudreau, and Nolan Dunn celebrate Alex Formenton's goal during the Aurora Tigers' 1 - 0 win over the St. Mike's Buzzers Friday night. Meet your Tigers this Saturday at Real Canadian Superstore from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Aurora Food Pantry. **Auroran photos by Jake Courtepatte**



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The Panther Midget BB team, of 17 girls between the ages of 15-18, entered their first tournament, the Oshawa Lady Generals Fall Classic. They played six games undefeated, coached by Peter Fletcher and Ryan Essex. What better way to begin the season than with a gold medal? **Submitted by Cynthia Walters**

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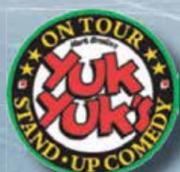
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Athletes and coaches recognized at annual Breakfast of Champions

By Jake Courtepatte

TSN sportscaster Rod Black admitted to a crowd of young athletes Saturday morning at King's Riding Golf Club that one of his most embarrassing moments happened at that first tee.

"There was a little mix-up with the men's and women's tees."

But amidst his amusing stories and quips about everything from fatherhood to politics, he had one message for the athletes: local sports matter.

That was the theme for Sport Aurora's annual "Breakfast of Champions" gathering, an event celebrating the accomplishments of all eight member organizations under the Sport Aurora umbrella that were able to take home a provincial or national championship this year.

Over 140 players, coaches, and other staff were presented gold medals by event chair Doug LeGallais.

"These medals reflect the hard work and dedication put in by our athletes," said LeGallais. "And hopefully can inspire them to continue to work hard to accomplish their goals."

Black, born in Winnipeg but working at CTV and TSN since the early 1990s, has kids in organizations around the Aurora area, including a daughter that plays for the Aurora Panthers and a son who is a student



Rod Black speaks with one of the minor athletes celebrated at Sport Aurora's annual Breakfast of Champions Saturday. Photo by Scott Kimmerer

athlete at St. Andrew's College.

Parents need to understand the positive impact sports can have on their children's lives, he says.

"I can certainly say that my kids are better having played sports all of their lives. The power of sport can shape you into a role model in society."

He also stressed the role of the parent or mentor, and applauded the event for providing recognition to kids and coaches that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Jim Thomson, the new owner of the Junior A Aurora Tigers, former NHLer, and motivational life coach,

once again played emcee for the event. He echoed Black's applause for the event.

"You have a room full of young athletes who are champions, and this morning emphasizes how difficult that is to do," said Thomson. "I take myself back to when I was a kid at hockey banquets and how memorable they were. This is a plateau above that. It's special for everyone in this room, and it's amazing Sport Aurora does this."

Another NHLer, Brad Marsh, returned as a special guest speaker to the third annual bash. Although he enjoyed a successful hockey career spanning 15 professional years, including a three-year stint with the Toronto Maple Leafs, he said he still recalls events such as this that gave him recognition at a young age.

For more information on the event or the organization, check out www.sportaurora.ca.

Ontario All-Stars converge on Aurora for John Traganitis tournament

By Jake Courtepatte

It was a wet and humid downpour throughout the day in Aurora on Saturday, but the action on the soccer fields played on with a little bit of an extra challenge at the annual John Traganitis Tournament, hosted by the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC).

"Apparently the fields were quite slippery," said Kim Warner, social media and events coordinator at AYSC. "But, a lot of teams played through it."

The conditions weren't enough to stop the Aurora Stingers U15 girls' side, dominating both the Kitchener Spirit and Pickering Power on the Saturday in back-to-back shutout victories. It would be the only game Pickering would lose on their way to the championship game Sunday, once again facing the Stingers in front of a hometown crowd.

A stalemate throughout the game, it was the Stingers that came out on top in thrilling penalty kicks to earn gold on home field.

Their counterpart U13 and U14 squads found themselves actively competing against each other in the younger division, with both teams

going 3 - 0 throughout round-robin play. Out of ten teams in the division, they were ranked number one and two heading into Sunday's playoffs.

The U13s were upset by the close-by King City Royals in semi-finals, going down by a close score of 4 - 3. Meanwhile, the U14's booked their ticket to the championship game with a 3 - 1 win over the Leaside Jets.

In the final, they were able to tame the Royals with just one goal in a 1 - 0 victory.

On the boys side, the U13s came closest to tournament glory by coming out on the wrong side of a 1 - 0 semi-final loss to the Ajax Warriors.

The tournament has provided teams from across Ontario with fun, competitive soccer for over twenty years. The "All-Star" teams consist of house-league players deemed to be the best in their league, chosen to come together to compete at exhibition games and tournaments throughout the season.

"It's a fun, relaxed atmosphere," said Warner. "It's competitive, obviously, but it's a way to wrap up the season with some healthy competition."



The U13 Aurora Stingers were the closest boys squad to capture gold in the annual John Traganitis tournament, held at the end of the season by AYSC. Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

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IT'S THE BEST OF RICHMOND HILL AND IT'S GOING FAST.

Public asked for help in designing Aurora's sport plan

By Jake Courtepatte

A number of Aurora residents both curious to listen, and ready to be heard, stopped by the Aurora Family Leisure Complex last Tuesday to discuss the future of sports and leisure in Town.

Todd Brown of Monteith Brown, the project planning consultant overseeing the Town's new Sports Plan, was all ears and eager to hear from the public what needs to be done.

"We need to start looking at what we're doing, and if we're doing it properly," he said. "We need to start looking at the provision of facilities, service levels, matters at all levels."

In the gathering on the second floor of the complex, attendees were asked to fill out a survey, write down their ideas on sticky notes, and were invited to have informal conversations with staff and organizers about changes they would

like to see in local sports.

"Public input is always the number-one priority," said Brown. "It's crucial in understanding what a community needs and wants."

Representatives from around the organizations in Aurora created a diverse crowd, but a few similar ideas were tossed around. The concern mostly seemed to lie among the need for upgraded facilities, providing more time and area for the numerous programs across the town.

Paul Dunbar of the Aurora Soccer Club said there is much public interest in this area.

"The sporting community in Aurora is growing and growing, and the facilities available have to keep up," he said.

Three questions were laid out to the participants, involving what they already like about the town's parks and recreation department, how it can be improved, and what needs to be done for the future.

Al Downey, Director of Parks

and Recreation, was adamant about receiving as much feedback from the community as possible.

"We want to involve the community, obviously," said Downey. "We work for the community, not for us."

The plan is intended to lay out a vision for leisure facilities in Aurora until the year 2021, with the documents going ahead for approval in January 2016.

While Council, Town staff, and sport organization representatives will be heading to the chambers over the next few months to discuss how to move ahead, the next opportunity for the public to get their say will come November 24, when all are invited to Council to discuss plans of the first draft. An official open house is slated for November 26, also in town chambers.

More information can be found at www.aurora.ca/masterplan or www.aurora.ca/sportplan.

Residents are also being asked to fill out a survey to help better planning at www.surveymonkey.com/r/aurorapr.



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Wendy and Jonathan of the Alzheimer Society of York Region (first left and second right) were joined by Bulk Barn's Charlene, Lynn and Ali at the south Aurora store on Monday to mark World Alzheimer Awareness Day.
 Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Raising a cup of coffee can raise awareness of Alzheimer's

By Brock Weir

Chances are you do it just about every day, but with a little careful tweaking, your daily coffee breaks can go a lot further than giving you a much needed jolt of caffeine – they can also raise awareness of a fast-growing problem.

Can a cup of coffee really make a difference for people with Alzheimer's disease? The Alzheimer Society of York Region certainly hopes so, and 20 years' experience is certainly on their side.

Monday was Alzheimer Awareness Day and the Society launched its 20th annual Coffee Break initiative, which invites people and groups to host easy and fun coffee breaks for their friends and colleagues while raising awareness and funds for a disease with which nearly 750,000 Canadians are currently living.

Open to everyone in the community, the Society hopes to get local businesses and groups on board with their coffee breaks and, according to Loren Fried, the Society's President, the "sky's the limit on how big and creative" you can get with your coffee break.

"This is our 20th season hosting Coffee Break events and every year we're amazed at how the community rallies to support us," said Mr. Fried, who heads up the York Region branch of the society from their Aurora headquarters. "It takes teamwork to tackle this disease and it is great to see so many people wanting to make a difference in the lives of those with this disease."

In addition to raising funds, these fundraisers are also intended to reduce stigma surrounding the disease. Reducing the stigma, says the Society, is a vital step in improving the quality of life of those afflicted, while better enabling them to live independent lives with a sense of wellbeing.

"It is definitely a means to increase awareness, getting away from this stigma that someone is senile, or just an old man or woman," says Emily Delaney of the Alzheimer Society of

York Region. "There really is a disease associated with Alzheimer's and however we can get the word out to people to talk about and raise awareness of dementia and what the signals are for the initial onset and what people can look out for in their own family."

As the population ages, this is expected to become a growing problem with the number of afflicted set to top 1.4 million in less than 20 years. Ms. Delaney says there is already an increasing need for respite care, which will be a primary destination for funds raised during the Coffee Break campaign. Many individuals living with Alzheimer's live at home with their spouse, or their children and, through these respite programs, they are able to come to the Society for their day programs to benefit from tailored stimulation while also giving a much needed break to their caregivers.

"We have activities, we have meals, so by keeping their senses stimulated, you are keeping the brain going and slowing down the effects of Alzheimer's," she says. "We need more places and spots to provide day programs and respite care."

Additional funds are also being raised through local Bulk Barn locations, through sales of decals priced between \$1 and \$5.

Over the previous 19 years, the Coffee Break campaign has raised over \$18.5 million nation-wide. This year, on the program's 20th anniversary, they have set a \$1.5 million fundraising goal to take them to \$20 million in 20 years. Locally, the York Region arm hopes to raise \$30,000.

"This is a fundraiser that is a do-it-yourself," says Ms. Delaney. "We provide the kit with marketing materials and you can make it what you want. You can make it as big or small as you desire and it is a wonderful cause. It can be a fun social gathering involving your family, friends or coworkers."

For more information on the program, visit www.alzheimer.ca or call 905-726-3477.

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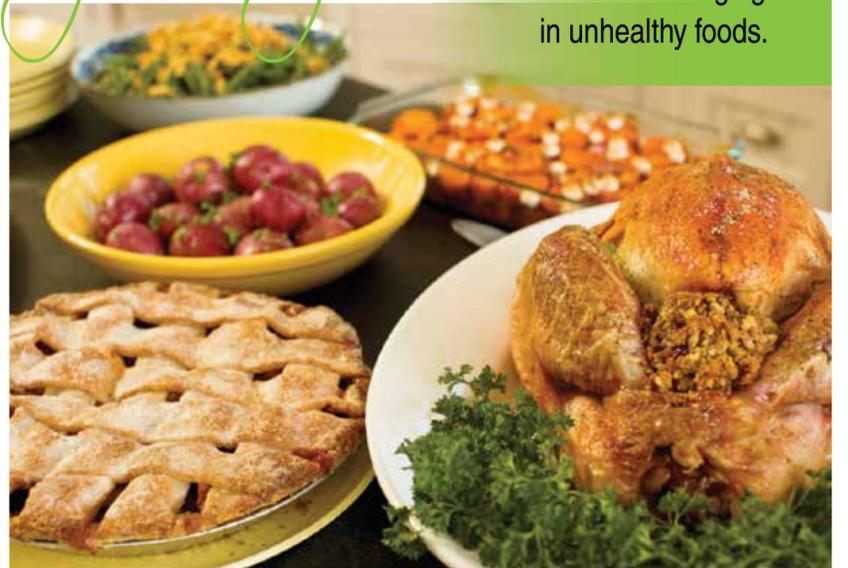
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FEATURE ARTICLE

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving meals can feature lighter fare to discourage guests from overindulging in unhealthy foods.

THANKSGIVING dinner often exceeds 3,000 calories. That is more calories than a person should eat in an entire day, much less a single meal. Many people admit to indulging on bigger portions and more fattening foods come the holiday season, but choosing some lighter fare this Thanksgiving can make the meal healthier without sacrificing taste. Although there are staples of Thanksgiving dinner, many low-calorie foods can be included to make the meal healthier. The following are a few healthy substitutions or alterations holiday hosts can make when preparing their Thanksgiving feasts.



TRIM DOWN the turkey. Play up the main course with aromatic seasonings or unexpected flavors. Use garlic, olive oil and basil to add a boost of flavor to turkey without having to rely on butter or salt. Marinate the bird with lemon juice and citrus marmalade for a sweet, yet pungent flavor. Consider omitting the bread stuffing and making a stew of roasted root vegetables instead.

OPT FOR turkey breast. White meat of a turkey tends to have less fat and calories than the darker cuts. Serve turkey breasts only, which will not only cut down on calories, but also on the amount of time needed to cook the meal.

MAKE HOMEMADE cranberry sauce. Taking the time to make your own

cranberry sauce means you can control the ingredients. Cut down on the amount of sugar used in the recipe or substitute it with honey or molasses.

REDUCE the number of courses. Thanksgiving dinner often features multiple courses. Extra courses can be expensive, but such massive spreads also lead many people to overeat. Stick to two or three courses, and chances are guests will not miss the extra food.

CHOOSE whole-grain breads. Sliced whole-grain breads or rolls paired with an olive tapenade will be flavorful and such breads are healthier than white bread and butter.

FLAVOR vegetables with herbs. Vegetables grilled or sauteed with fresh herbs may be so flavorful they will not need added dressings that tend to be rich or cream- or butter-based. Have a wide variety of vegetable side dishes available so guests can fill up on healthier fare rather than more calorie-dense items.

SERVE only low- or no-calorie drinks. Beverages can add a substantial amount of calories to Thanksgiving meals. Give guests the option of sparkling water or even diluted cider so they're not filling up on sugary sodas or other high-calorie beverages.

Serve **FRESH** fruit for dessert. Create a fresh fruit salad that can be served in lieu of fatty cakes and pastries.

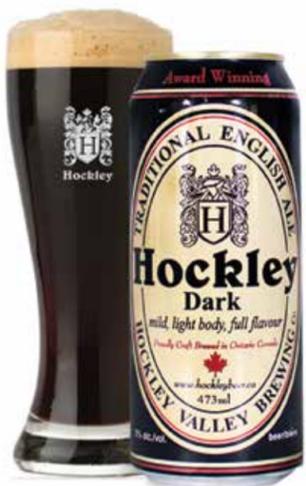
INCLUDE other activities. Do not make the meal the centerpiece of the celebration. Plan activities, such as a game of football in the yard or a walk around the neighborhood. This places a smaller emphasis on eating while giving guests the opportunity to burn off some of their meal.

Happy Thanksgiving Day!

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'My kids are back at school, I've settled into my Autumn routine and the holidays are just around the corner. How can I get my living and dining rooms holiday entertainment ready?'

Whether we want to admit or not, the weather is changing and the holiday season is upon us! We're transitioning from outdoor entertaining – backyard barbecues, pool parties and sunshine to cozy dinners and evenings in. Thanksgiving and Christmas are fast approaching so it's important get ahead of the game and start thinking about these things now!

The biggest dilemma my clients face is how to accommodate a large group of people in an average sized living room. The first thing to consider is furniture layout. During the year your room is set up for whoever lives in the house. Depending on the size of the party you are having you may need to add or remove furniture. For large groups, consider removing a sofa to allow for more room to mingle. This is also the time of year that we bring out occasional tables, or drop leaf tables and use them as an extra server, or as a bar area.

If you're looking to purchase some new furniture, there are a few things to keep in mind. In terms of sofas, a lot of people enjoy the look of a sofa with two large seat cushions instead of the traditional three. This is a tidy look as having fewer seams reduces visual clutter. On the downside, people don't like to sit on the seam where the cushions can separate. So, on your two cushion sofa, you will likely only seat two guests. Something else to consider when choosing your sofa is the size of the arm. If you choose a sofa with a wide padded arm, your guests will have an extra ledge to sit on or lean up against.

If you are planning to keep your existing furniture but need to add some extra seating, there are some really great multi-function pieces on the market now. I love marrying form and function by finding stylish accents and furniture that can also serve as extra seating or storage for your guests. Try swapping out your coffee table for a collection of small ottomans. Pushed together the ottomans act as a cocktail table. As people arrive and the sofas are

filling up, pull the ottomans apart and you have just easily created four more seats! The same effect can be achieved by using a short bench or ceramic garden stools. Another easy seating solution is to buy a set of host and hostess chairs for the head of the dining table. Prior to eating, while everyone is catching up, bring those two chairs out in to the living room for extra seating. Something with a pattern or textured fabric will punch up your décor and feel more like occasional chairs than dining chairs until you need them at the table.

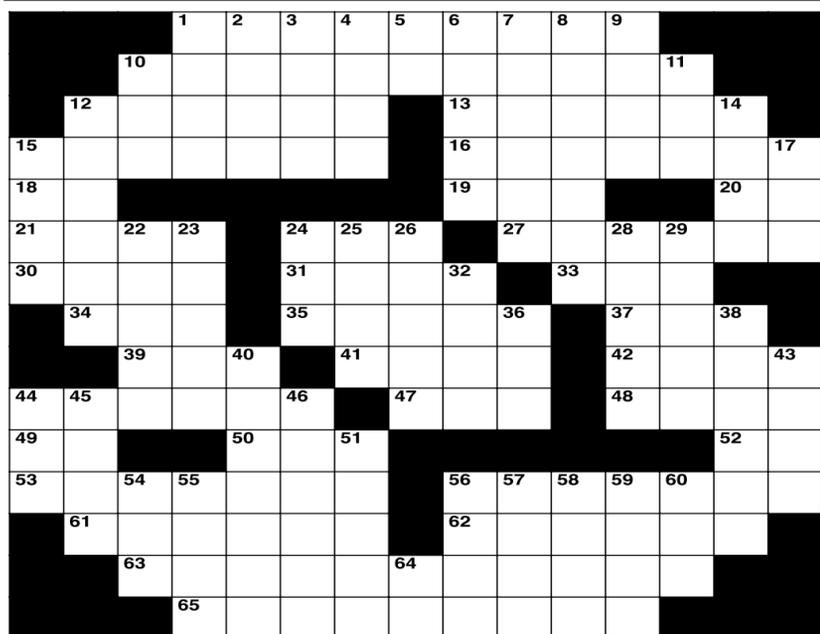
Once you're ready to serve up your delicious holiday meal you will need a sturdy table with durable seating. With the economy in its current state, more and more clients are opting to shop local and want products made on Canadian soil. We're seeing a lot of custom solid wood tables. The wood is all harvested from sustainable forests and made right here in Ontario. You can choose your base style, top thickness, and exact dimensions so that you are sure to seat as many people as you comfortably can in your room. You can hide centre leaves in the table so that year round it's less cumbersome, and expand it when entertaining. You also have the option of doing end leaves if you prefer a seamless tabletop. With a huge variety of wood types, stain colours and textured finishes you can be sure to get the perfect table for your needs. Custom furniture can take anywhere from 6-10 weeks so if you are considering a new table, be sure to get your orders in soon.

There was a time where leather upholstery was the best choice in terms of easy cleaning- those days are over. The number of beautiful fabrics that have built in stain resisting properties is on the rise. This makes it easy to get a fashion forward look without having to worry about spills. Drink up and remember to create spaces that you are relaxed about entertaining in.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Punished
- 10. Cartoon feline
- 12. Productive land
- 13. Playfully mischievous one
- 15. Liquorice-flavored seeds
- 16. Changed or modified
- 18. Used to strengthen and harden steel
- 19. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- 20. Atomic #63
- 21. Missing soldiers
- 24. Payment (abbr.)
- 27. Blood-sucking African fly
- 30. Erstwhile
- 31. Used to have (Scottish)
- 33. ___ Ming; Houston Rocket player
- 34. CNN's founder
- 35. Volcanic craters
- 37. 2-wheeled carriage
- 39. Team cheer
- 41. Lingering sign of injury
- 42. Brews
- 44. Mix with society
- 47. Type of healthcare plan
- 48. Spanish baby
- 49. Expression of sympathy
- 50. Openwork fishing fabric
- 52. Farm state
- 53. Weak-willed (Yiddish)
- 56. Madwort
- 61. Cause to expand
- 62. S. Am. procyonids
- 63. Former German tennis champion
- 65. Professional intent on career

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Black-eyed & sugar snap
- 2. Czech River
- 3. World's longest river
- 4. Canned
- 5. Giant's Hall of Fame Linebacker
- 6. Worn to Mecca
- 7. Fanatical partisan
- 8. Rapturous delight
- 9. Southern Redbelly ___ (minnows)
- 10. Weekday
- 11. Seaman
- 12. A way to bless
- 14. Harper, Bruce and Robert E.
- 15. Ammunition
- 17. Scheduled to arrive
- 22. Sour or bitter in taste
- 23. Closed automobile
- 24. Philemon (abbr., Biblical)
- 26. A way to give information
- 28. 55122 MN
- 29. Scenic French fabric
- 32. Apothecaries' unit
- 36. No seats available
- 38. Extraordinary intellect
- 40. Solomon Islands capital
- 43. Furrow
- 44. Principal ethnic group of China
- 45. Collectable
- 46. Rouse
- 51. Not those
- 54. Serviette
- 55. Coalition with a common purpose
- 56. Maple genus
- 57. Localities
- 58. Asian ox

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

	C	R	U	S				T	A	D					
C	A	E	S	A	R			E	A	R	E	D			
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HOEDOWN RAISES OVER \$460,000



(Clockwise from Top Left) Friday's Hoedown for special needs students was the brainchild of teacher Derek Bunn, third left, who was joined in a cheer by fellow teachers and students taking part in the event. The Road Hammers got the crowd revved up on Saturday night. Among the judges for the Hoedown Showdown finals were Tom Cross, Joan Walker and Steve Hinder. Aurora was represented in the finals by Top 10 Finalist Melissa Suma, pictured here with her mother. Magna – and Hoedown – founder Frank Stronach, here with Beverley Mahood, received an enthusiastic response from the crowd. Hard at work at the grill, cooking up food for thousands. **Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Brock Weir**

Teacher's new spin on Hoedown makes it "all worthwhile": organizers

By Brock Weir

It was a special evening for thousands as they descended on the now-iconic white tent erected on Magna's Wellington Street campus on Saturday night to take in their Wild, Wild West Hoedown, featuring Dallas Smith as headliner.

As Magna Founder Frank Stronach, joined by Don Walker, the company's current CEO, Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe, and the Mayors of Newmarket and East Gwillimbury, flipped over the cheque to reveal a whopping \$464,000 has been raised at this year's two-day event for 15 partner charities, they were cheered on by new and veteran attendees alike.

But, the previous day, the Wild, Wild West Hoedown was being experienced by many people from across York Region for the very first time as hundreds of special needs students from the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board, along with their teachers, parents and caregivers, came in droves to get a taste of the festivities.

The inaugural Special Needs Hoedown was the brainchild of Derek Bunn, a teacher at Sutton District High School.

Pitched to Magna last winter, it was a concept that immediately took hold, although its success had the potential to be marred by labour disruption across both Boards and, indeed, the province. In the intervening months from this initial pitch, however, most of the bones of contention had been resolved, and the path was paved to allow these kids to have a rocking time.

In addition to having some fun under the big top, along with a tasty barbeque, the students were given a flavour of the events big name talent, along with emerging talent in the form of the Top 10 finalists in the annual

Hoedown Showdown, including the ultimate winner, Sarah MacRae of King Township.

"This makes it all worthwhile," said Steve Hinder of Magna for the Community as Aurora's representative in the Top 10, Melissa Suma, took the stage. "When we were approached [with this idea, Mr. Bunn said, 'I may be way out to lunch with this, this may not even be possible, but do you think we could?'] As soon as I heard, I knew we could – and would – find a way.

"We had our plans in place, we had our fingers crossed, we knew about the disruption, but these guys were committed, as I think everyone was, to making sure it happened and here we are. It is a huge success and it is great for our contestants because they are getting a chance to perform before a live audience."

It was a worthwhile endeavour for Mr. Bunn too, who said he was in "awe and appreciation" to Hoedown for realizing this event.

"When I see this tent decorated out and I see kids with mobility issues coming in, having a meal, and being participants in their community and donating to charities, it makes me feel happy," said Mr. Bunn. "We have great talent here today, best cowboys, best cowgirls, enthusiastic schools – and best dancers too. As soon as they walked in, they felt the buzz of the Hoedown, saw the lights and everything, and they were so welcomed by the local theatre community that is dressed up.

"I want them to know they can access resources in their community. People with special needs are not passers-by, are not passive in the community, but they can be part of something like Hoedown."

Watching the event unfold was Tyler Barker, chair of Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee who, as a young man in a wheelchair, is a passionate advocate for people of all abilities and needs.

"This is a great collaboration with the Boards, the volunteers and the teachers," he said. "It just shows how much can be accomplished when people work together. Hopefully this will be even bigger and better next year!"

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Decision could mark end of a long, dramatic road in Council history

By Brock Weir

It took over four years for a judge to make a decision, so when Justice Edwards rendered his decision in former mayor Evelyn Buck's defamation lawsuit against several members of the 2006 - 2010 Council term last week, it was the end of a long and dramatic road in Aurora's political history.

Of the seven players involved in the action on either side, only Councillor Wendy Gaertner remains a duly elected lawmaker. The rest were either eventually defeated at the polls or failed to seek re-election. Nevertheless, the ongoing litigation kept them in close company.

After years of working its way through the court system, the trial formally commenced in the fall of 2013, originally slated for a two week trial before a jury of four men and two women. This two weeks eventually stretched into five, reaching closing arguments before Justice Edwards dramatically dismissed the jury after he contended Ms. Buck's lawyer made an improper submission to the jury, suggesting past cases on which the jury should award Ms. Buck damages.

From there, the matter was entirely within Justice Edwards' hands.

In his 37-page summation of the case, Justice Edwards cast his eye back

to when events began to unfold during a particularly raucous period in the contentious 2006 - 10 Council term in the late spring of 2009, a term characterised by former councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, a character witness appearing in court on Ms. Buck's behalf (and currently a columnist for The Auroran), as "mentally, emotionally and physically exhausting" and, in the words of former councillor Bob McRoberts, "dysfunctional."

"There is, in my view, no doubt that Buck is a person of integrity and honesty, she is equally opinionated and was more than anxious to express her opinions in a public fashion," said Justice Edwards. "Her expressions of those opinions largely lie at the foundation of how it was that the statement was published and this trial ultimately proceeded."

Subsequently, in June 2009, a majority of Council members, said Justice Edwards, "became concerned" about Ms. Buck's blog postings which "were said to be highly disparaging" of senior Town Staff, including the then-Town Solicitor and CAO, questioning their competence and professionalism.

"Plaintiff's Council argued that there is no documentary proof of any employee complaints or concerns regarding these blog posts," wrote Justice Edwards. "However, the Town Solicitor, Christopher Cooper, did testify he found the blogs objectionable in the manner in which they maligned Town Staff and, in particular, the one that cast aspersions on his own professional reputation. He testified he brought his concerns to the attention of the Mayor and Town CAO Neil Garbe.

"While the Plaintiff's counsel may be accurate in his written closing submissions that there were no written complaints from Town Staff, I accept the evidence of Cooper both with respect to the blog's impact on him professionally and the fact he brought to Garbe's attention how he felt about Buck's blog writing."

In rendering his decision, Justice Edwards set out two questions that needed to be satisfied before a ruling could be made: whether Council's subsequent statement on Ms. Buck's blog posting - and a similar statement from John Mascarin, legal counsel retained by Council in the matter - were defamatory to the plaintiff, and whether the statement was "substantially true."

The statement, he said, was accurate in its outlining "disparaging comments about staff" from Ms. Buck "that maligned their professional competence

and credibility", as well as in stating Ms. Buck had not signed Council's Code of Conduct.

"Whether or not Buck had executed a document similar to the Code, and whether she considered herself bound by it even though she had not signed it, does not detract from the fact the statement is accurate when it indicates that every member of Council, other than Buck, had executed the Code. Such a statement was not only accurate, it was true.

"What is particularly telling with respect to the suggestion that the statement and Mascarin opinion were defamatory and contained not only inaccurate, but also untrue statements as they relate to Buck, is that no evidence as called by Buck other than her own evidence that would in any way lend credence to the arguments now made on her behalf to suggest that the statement contained true statements of fact. In my view, Buck read more into the Statement than could possibly be warranted by any reasonably informed reader of that document."

In his conclusion, Justice Edwards says politics is not for the faint of heart and thick skin may be a "prerequisite"

for the field, but this does not mean a politician is "fair game" for those intent on damaging their reputation with "false, malicious and defamatory statements."

"The response by the Council defendants was to publish a statement and the legal opinion that they had received in a similar public fashion, by having it published in the same paper that the plaintiff had published her letter to the editor," he wrote. "One can hardly describe that part of the response as an inappropriate response to inappropriate people.

"As to the publishing of the statement in the other local paper, there is no evidence that the Statement would have reached any more people by being published in the other paper than would otherwise have been reached. Finally, as to the publishing of the Statement in a public forum at a local Town Council covered by Rogers Cable Television, again there is no evidence to suggest that this reached any wider audience than Buck's letter to the editor. In my opinion, the defendants' response was a measured response to a measured audience and in no way exceeds the bounds of qualified privilege attached to that occasion."

Parties have 30 days to hammer out costs

From page 1

Aurora, and had acted unlawfully, had breached numerous provisions of the Code, had acted unethically, and had wrongly refused to apologize."

"In summary, it is argued that the statements published by Council defendants discredited the plaintiff and lowered her in the minds of right-thinking members of society," said Justice Edwards in his 37 page decision.

But, it was not an argument he agreed with, dismissing the case.

"There can be no doubt that politics, whether it be federal, provincial or municipal, is not for the faint of heart," he concluded. "Some might say a thick skin is a prerequisite for any politician. A thick skin, however, does not mean a politician is fair game for those intent on damaging their reputation with false, malicious and defamatory statements. Freedom of speech, whether in political forum or not, does not extend to statements that are untrue and have as their sole purpose an intent to damage someone else's reputation.

"While freedom of speech is a cherished right in a free and democratic society, there are reasonable limitations. The Town of Aurora, like many towns and cities in Ontario, has a Code of Conduct that purports to codify parameters of reasonable conduct for elected officials. One of the provisions in the Town Code is a requirement that elected officials refrain from publically criticizing Town Staff. The reason for this limitation is obvious. Employees of the Town of Aurora are like federal and provincial civil servants. They have no ability to respond to public criticisms made of them in a public forum.

"The plaintiff (Buck) chose to post what I consider criticism of senior Town staff in a public fashion in her blog entries and in her commentary to [The Aurora Citizen]. Members of Town Council have every right to be concerned about such conduct and how it would ultimately impact on those who the plaintiff has criticized in a public fashion. It was not unreasonable on the part of the

Council defendants, acting in their capacity as elected Town officials, to consider what course of conduct was appropriate, and in doing so, to retain the services of outside legal counsel to provide guidance in that regard."

Justice Edwards said he viewed Ms. Buck as "clearly" having a perception she has "an unfettered right to freedom of expression and freedom of speech", but that is limited by the Code of Conduct. The defendants were right, he added, in perceiving they "had a duty and responsibility to set the record straight."

"In my opinion, the defendants' response was a measured response to a measured audience, and in no way exceeds the bounds of qualified privilege attached to the occasion," the Judge concluded.

In an email, David Boghosian, lawyer for the defendants, said they were "relieved" with the decision.

"My clients are relieved that this difficult and emotionally trying time in their lives is now behind them and that Ms. Buck's lawsuit has been determined to be thoroughly unmeritorious, as they were always confident it would be," he said.

Responding to the decision, Ms. Buck told The Auroran she would not be in a position to comment further until she had an opportunity to sit down with her lawyer "to discuss the meaning of the various reasons that were given."

"I can't make a comment until I understand the ramifications of this decision," she said, noting it was unfortunate the defendants' legal fees were covered by the Town's insurance policy. "I regret the Town's resources have been expended to the horrendous extent they were and I don't understand why that was allowed to happen, either. As a taxpayer in the Town of Aurora, I had the same reaction to that as everyone else."

In dismissing the action, Justice Edwards has tasked both parties with agreeing on the costs of the action. If they do not do so, written submissions must be made to the court within 30 days from September 15.

Affordable housing is top priority for NDP, Liberals and Greens

From page 3

to two fundamental issues: housing and food supply. All Canadians, he said, can agree everyone has "the right to healthy and adequate food" as well as affordable housing. Without these fundamentals, many things in life can't be achieved. To address this, Mr. Peterson pointed to the Liberal plan to create jobs through significant investments in infrastructure, as well as their affordable housing policy.

"The best social program in this situation is a good, high paying job," he said. "We need to make sure there

is investment on infrastructure, an advancement in Canadians, and an investment in growth to make that happen. You don't get that way by cutting; you don't get that way by cutting the budget, you don't get that way by cutting programs. Without investment, there is not going to be job creation. That has to be step one.

"Step two has got to be to make sure the housing program that is there addresses the needs. Lack of affordable housing is a real problem and it is a real problem in York Region and Newmarket-Aurora."



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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill candidates will square off this evening in an all-candidates' debate hosted at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School (39 Dunning Avenue, Aurora) by the Aurora and Richmond Hill Chambers of Commerce. 6:30 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

A charity bazaar will be held today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to raise funds for renovating the Romanian Orthodox Church of Aurora. Sample our sweets, goodies and take in a BBQ while browsing through a sale of books, preserves, CDs, DVDs, electronics, home appliances, kitchen items, clothing, and much more! For more information, call 647-338-6077 or email contact@bisericaortodoxaaurora.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

The Tom Taylor Trail Ten Miller kicks off today at Newmarket's George Richardson Park at 8:30 a.m. This year's run supports Inn From The Cold. For more information, visit 4tmiller.ca/registration.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

The Aurora Public Library's Documentary Film Festival kicks off this evening with Art & Craft. Mark Landis has been called one of the most prolific art forgers in U.S. history. His impressive body of work spans 30 years, covering a wide range of painting styles and periods. While copies could fetch impressive sums on the open market, Landis isn't in it for money. Posing as a philanthropist, a grieving will executor, and most recently a Jesuit Priest, Landis has given away hundreds of works over the years. But, after his decades-long ruse is discovered, Landis must confront his own legacy and people clamoring for him to stop. Join fellow film buffs for an evening of entertainment and thought-provoking ideas. All films start in the Library's Magna Room. Free admission.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Newmarket-Aurora's Federal Candidates will square off this evening in an all-candidates' meeting hosted by the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce. The evening takes place at Newmarket Theatre (505 Pickering Crescent) with doors opening at 6 p.m. with the debate to follow at 7 p.m. Questions from the audience.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

The Money Talk\$ Series continues tonight with Economic Stimulus: What happens when it stops? at 7 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library (Optimist Room, Second Floor). This is a free informal monthly discussion and education group to share unbiased financial knowledge in economics and financial planning. A presentation will be followed by group discussion. Pre-register at the Adult Information Desk by calling 905-727-9494 x275.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

GARDEN AURORA: Attracting Birds to the Backyard. Join Paul Oliver as he talks about birds. Paul will share with us some tips and tricks for attracting birds to our very own yards. Meeting of the Aurora Garden Club is held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 8:00 pm. Join us for refreshments and the opportunity to become a member. Further information at www.gardenaaurora.com or 905-713-6660.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

The Aurora Public Library's Documentary Film Festival continues tonight with Cat Ladies. This documentary unravels the real story behind the oft-ridiculed "cat lady", a cultural stereotype and figure of ridicule for women of a certain age with too many furry companions. Through the intimate portrait of four unique "cat ladies", we create a sensitive and emotionally honest portrait of women whose lives and self-worth have become intractably linked to cats. It's not the number of cats that defines someone as a "cat lady", but rather their attachment, or non-attachment, to human beings. Join fellow film buffs for an evening of entertainment and thought-provoking ideas. All films start in the Library's Magna Room. Free admission.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The Probuc 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 this month is David McCulloch, a fitness trainer who trains 55+ adults without using the typical exercise machines. For more information about our speaker, call Cliff White at (905)841-2421. New members always welcome! Call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849 for more information.

35th Terry Fox Run raises nearly \$18,000 for cancer research

In 2011, McClure was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Over the course of the next twelve months, his life and those around him would be impacted more than one could ever imagine.

"I was a real healthy guy, so it was a real blow to me when I was told that I may not live past the next few months."

Fast forward to three months later, and he was doing something that most people would never even put any thought into.

"May 19 was the day I was making my own funeral arrangements. I was even part of putting together the video my family and friends would receive of us in some better times together."

But, following aggressive treatment, he was given the news from medical staff that he was on the road to recovery.

"Tim's life took an almost unheard of turn for the better," said event emcee Greg Smith. "Words like 'miracle' were being used by the medical professionals to describe where he is today."

Since that day in 2011, Tim has gone on to build a foundation that helps guide others going through life-threatening illness. He is honorary chair of the Princess Margaret Foundation, and plays a key role in their Road to Conquer Cancer event, coming next week to the town.

He also touches thousands of people with his message of hope, speaking to professional sports teams, minor sports teams, high schools, universities and hospital foundation events. A book about McClure's story is currently being printed, and he was recently asked to co-author a leadership book to be released in 2016.

"Everyone here represents the hope that one day every cancer victim can have a success story like Tim's," said Mayor Geoff Dawe.

Mayor Dawe said all who were participating Sunday morning were helping other cancer victims become survivors like Tim. Organizer Darlene Morrison said the event was a success, surpassing last year's donation total before 10 a.m. with just under \$18,000 raised.



Cyclists, walkers, and runners converged on Aurora's Sheppard's Bush Sunday morning to raise almost \$18,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Advertorial

Yoga for Over Forty in Aurora in 2015!

As we age and our lives get taken up with so many other things, our bodies often fall to the bottom of our priorities list - and they end up getting neglected. We start feeling aches and pains where we never felt them before. Our joints stop doing things they used to do easily and we put on extra weight. With our bodies not functioning the way they used to we generally start feeling old.

A lot of us take better care of our cars than our bodies. Why not take care of yourself like you do your car? Yoga is like a regular oil change for the joints, ligaments and muscles. It helps us distance our thoughts from self-centered busy ramblings, while gently opening up the heart and mind to experience the world from a fresh perspective.



Yoga helps us distance our thoughts from self-centered busy ramblings, while gently opening up the heart and mind to experience the world from a fresh perspective.

tive.

The body is miraculous and with regular yoga, it can get back to working like it did when you were younger. Andrea Roth has been a yoga teacher since 1979 and has been teaching yoga in Aurora for over 20 years. The Fall session starts Wed. Sept 23rd-Dec 16th 13 weeks 7:30pm-8:45pm in the Lebovic room in the Aurora Public Library.

If it's time to put your body back on your priority list, the Wednesday night classes could be just the thing to get you started. Experience the joy, relaxation and recharging effects of yoga.

More info at <http://www.yogaforlife.ca>, info@yogaforlife.ca or call Andrea 905-505-1324

Menekakis campaign says email was fraudulent

By Brock Weir

Despite York Region bylaws stating election campaign signs should not hit Regional streets before Monday, September 21, candidates in both of Aurora's ridings had their signs dotting Yonge Street on Saturday and Sunday?

But, did the campaign of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill Conservative candidate try to jump the gun ahead of the pack? His campaign says no.

On Saturday morning, The Auroran was included in a mass email to over 140 campaign supports and volunteers purporting to be from the "Team Lead" of Mr. Menekakis' campaign with the subject line "Sign Blitz and Bylaw Enforcement."

"Just an update: If you do get stopped by a Regional by-law enforcement officer, just tell them you are unaware of the Regional By-law that states that Signs on Regional road, the ones we

are putting up this weekend, are not permitted until 21 Sept. Good luck! Go team!"

"Are not permitted until 21 Sept" was underlined.

By Monday, however, Jackie Cousins, the communications person for Mr. Menekakis' campaign said the email did not come from their side and the "matter of the fraudulent email" has been forwarded to Elections Canada for their review.

"This is something we have to figure out right away," she told The Auroran. "I can't tell you where they would have gotten [the email list] from. I am not sure who is even on that list. We will be checking into it, but the email itself is fraudulent. That is incredible.

"The email was not from our campaign. Somebody is impersonating us. Obviously, this is a set up...and we have to track down who this may have come from."

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Design for Installation of Speed Cushions Pilot Project

The Town's Infrastructure & Environmental Services department will be holding a public open house to present the proposed engineering design plans for the installation of speed cushions for the following locations:

- Kennedy Street West – McGee Crescent to Murray Drive
- Stone Road – Clift Road to Hawtin Lane
- McMaster Avenue – Hollidge Boulevard to Hollandview Trail
- Mavrinac Boulevard – Borealis Avenue to Spring Farm Road
- Conover Avenue – River Ridge Boulevard to Borealis Avenue

The work primarily consisted of the installation of asphalt speed cushions, pavement markings and traffic signs.

The open house will be held on **Thursday, October 1** from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way, Holland Room, 1st floor. Town staff will be available to answer questions. Please drop by to see the plans and provide your comments.

If you have any questions, please contact Jamal Massadeh at 905-727-3123, ext. 4374 by fax to 905-841-7119 or by email at jmassadeh@aurora.ca.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123, ext. 4374

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, October 14 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall Council Chambers to receive input on the following planning application.

APPLICATION: The Owner has submitted Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment Applications to permit the development of 101 single detached residential lots with 5.1 hectares of open space on 12.5 hectares of the subject lands.

PROPERTY: 1756 St. John's Sideroad

LEGAL DESC.: Part of Lot 26, Concession 3

APPLICANT: Coppervalley Estates Inc.

FILE NUMBER: SUB-2015-05 and ZBA-2015-09

CONTACT: Additional information may be obtained from Lawrence Kuk of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4343, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the address noted below, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca. Please quote the file name and number.

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

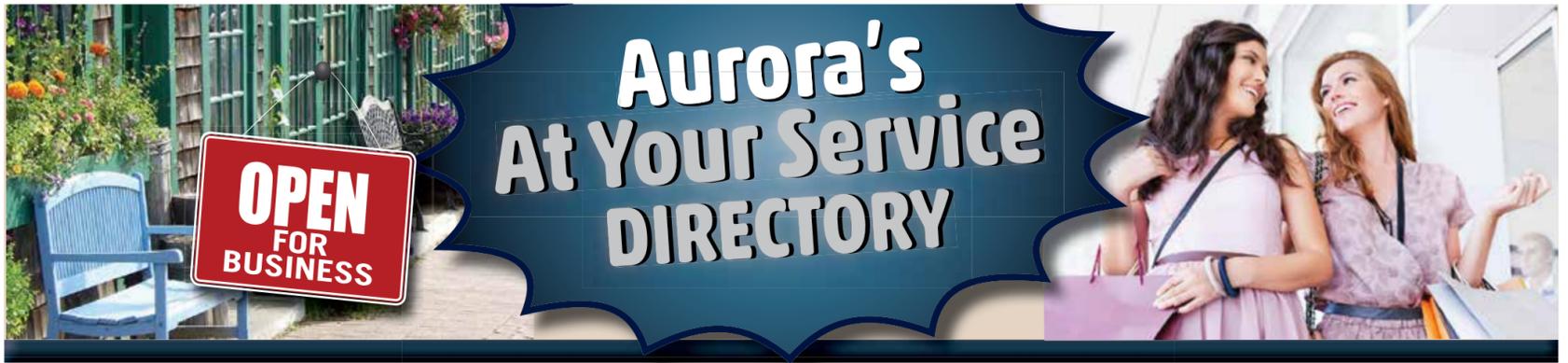
Plan of Subdivision (O. Reg. 544/06)

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora in respect of the proposed Plan of Subdivision before the approval authority gives or refuses to give approval to the draft Plan of Subdivision, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of The Town of Aurora to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Zoning By-law (O. Reg. 545/06)

If a person or a public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora before the bylaw is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of The Town of Aurora to the Ontario Municipal Board. If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora in respect of the proposed Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment before the approval authority gives or refuses to give approval to the draft Plan of Subdivision and the bylaw is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless in the opinion of the Board there are reasonable grounds to do so. If you wish to be notified of the decision of The Town of Aurora in respect to the Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to The Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning & Development Services.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123, ext. 4343



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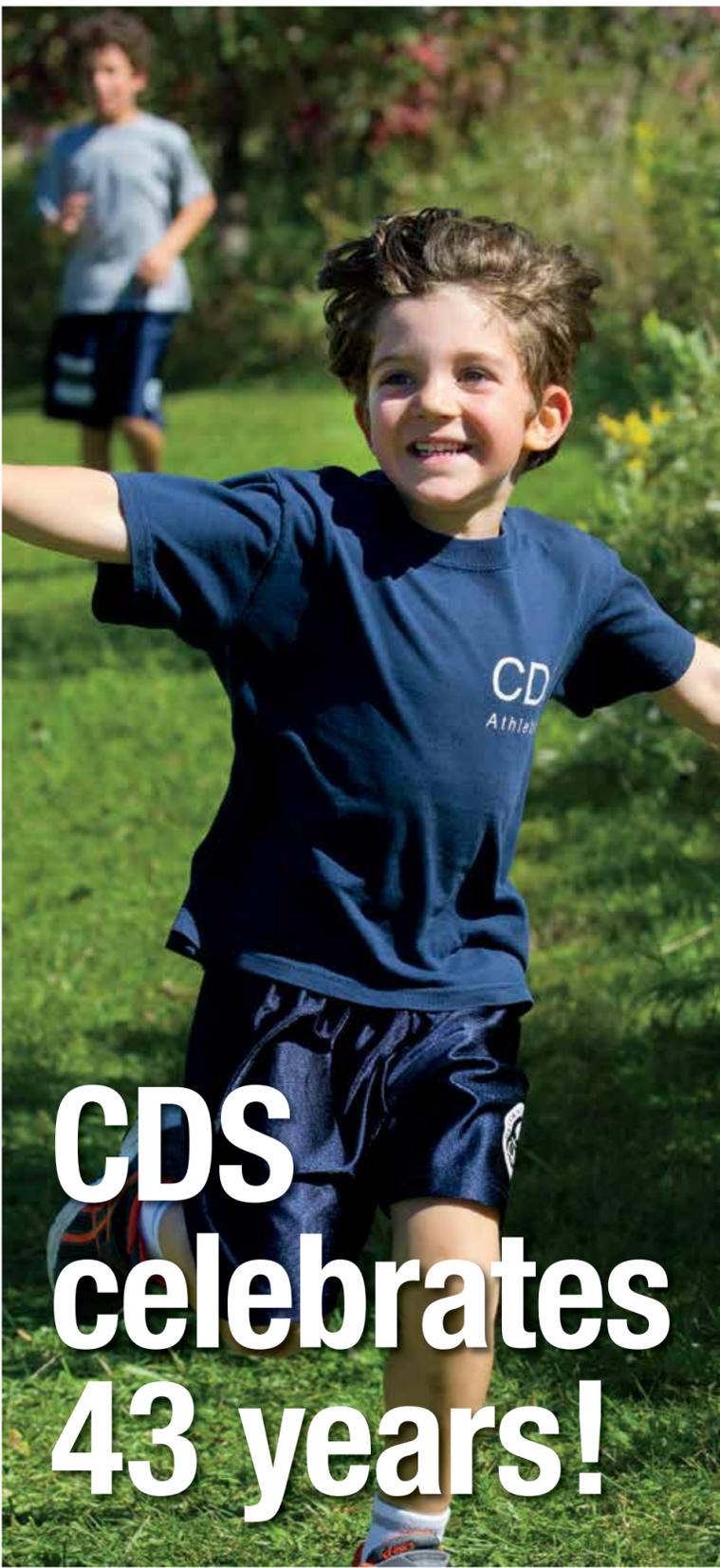
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CDS

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Our 2015 Graduates received 450 admission offers and \$1.85M in scholarships and awards.

The Outdoor Education program in the Junior School further enriches the science and social studies curriculums.



The state-of-the-art Performing Arts Centre enhances our ability to inspire and instruct students in drama and music.



Long-lasting values are established through CDS sports teams, including: self-confidence, discipline, sportsmanship and integrity.



As active participants in serving the needs of others, CDS students learn about the world around them and develop civic responsibility and self-worth.

OUR VISION

The Country Day School is committed to offering a superior educational experience that is sensitive to the needs of each student, enables learning and equips students for life.

CDS Quick Facts

725

students enrolled in Grades JK-12

100

acre campus in King

17

average class size

91

CDS graduates in 2014-15

72

Ontario scholars

450

offers of admission

100%

university acceptance for the Class of 2015

61

athletic teams compete across 19 sports

365

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40+

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