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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 16 No. 20 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of March 10, 2016



LEADING LADIES – Coinciding with Tuesday's International Women's Day, 12 women from Aurora and Newmarket were recognized as community builders by MPP Chris Ballard and the Province of Ontario Monday night at the second annual Leading Women, Leading Girls Awards Night. From left: Markham Councillor Amanda Collucci, award recipients Vivian Risi, Amanda Benlolo, Manon Labrecque, Robin Taylor-Smith, Lexi Benlolo, Mayor Geoff Dawe, award recipient Cheryl Fraser, singer Stephanie Imseis, MPP Ballard, award recipients Jennifer Copley, Nancy Black, Melanie Bell, Beverley Varcoe, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, award recipients Sanam Juliette Mojgani, Regional Councillor John Taylor, award recipient Lianne Schiavo, and Newmarket Councillor Christina Bisanz. For more, please see Page 3. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

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Syrian family overwhelmed by community support

By Brock Weir

They were about an hour and a half from the nearest border by car when they realised they had to leave.

Settled in one stronghold, they knew they had to go through another stronghold just to reach that border. It took them 22 days with three children in tow, sleeping out in the elements and very clearly in danger. When they finally arrived at the border, it was three more days before they were given clearance to get into a refugee camp.

Over a year later, the family – by now a family of six – was approached by a group of English speakers with an interpreter asking if they would like to

come to Canada.

All they had heard from people living in their camp was of Canada being a cold, dark country where the sun hardly ever shines but after so much turmoil and desperation, they were willing to give it a shot.

This Syrian family was welcomed at Pearson International Airport late last month by members of the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers (IRR), a group of volunteers from Aurora United Church, Trinity Anglican Church, and the Newmarket Islamic Centre.

And, at this point, that is really all we know about the journey this mother, father, and four children took to get here. Working with the international

aid organization AURA, protocols are currently in place to protect the identity of the family as they settle into their new lives in the area, but the journey has left a lasting mark on the numerous volunteers – both inside and outside the IRR and other faith communities – who came together to help them plant roots.

“What’s crazy was they had no idea people were waiting for them,” says Katherine Webster, a parishioner of Trinity. “It blows our mind. It is so inspiring that they would get on a plane to a place that didn’t sound particularly welcoming, thinking there was nothing for them here, nothing for them to count on, [no expectations] of a place to

Continued on page 15

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Councillors call for Regional Chair at Queen's Park
 By Brock Weir
 Aurora lawmakers were in Toronto last week calling for an elected Chair for the Region of York.
 Following Regional Council's decision to vote down a motion from Markham Councillor Joe Li to make the head of the Region an elected position following a Private Members' Bill in the Ontario Legislature from Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard, Councillor Wendy Gaertner
Continued on page 7

Mavrinac property moves closer to becoming parkland
 By Brock Weir
 For over two years, a six acre parcel of land on Mavrinac Boulevard has been touted as “parkland” – either with air quotes or through punctuation here; but, this week, the quotation marks could come off as Council moves towards designating the land for park use.
 The contentious parcel of land, which was at the centre of a dispute between the Town of Aurora, Minto Communities, and the dozens of homeowners surrounding the property, could take shape as a park as early as this spring following Council's tentative decision at the committee level last week.
 Should the Committee's recommendation be approved at Council this week, staff will be directed to come up with a design and development plan for the property with options coming back for Council's consideration by May 3.
 While it still needs to be formally approved this week, the decision was greeted with extended applause from crowds of neighbours who filled Council Chambers last Tuesday to weigh in on the future of the land, and absorb the comments of lawmakers.
Continued on page 8

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TOWN OF AURORA Weekly Notice Board

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Email info@aurora.ca • Website www.aurora.ca

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, March 10	5:30 p.m.	Council Chambers	Property Standards Committee
Thursday, March 10	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Thursday, March 10	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 22	5:30 p.m.	Leksand Room	Finance Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 22	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee*

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



MOVIES in the Park

Call for suggestions!

Movies in the Park returns to Aurora this summer with five nights of outdoor movies under the stars!

We want you to be part of the movie selection process! Send us your suggestions by **FRIDAY, APRIL 29**. Your choice could make it to the big screen!

Mark your calendars! 2016 SCHEDULE

- Thursday, August 4 – Town Park
- Thursday, August 11 – Norm Weller Park
- Thursday, August 18 – Ada Johnson Park
- Thursday, August 25 – Town Park
- Thursday, September 1 – Hickson Park

Please email your suggestions to sware@aurora.ca or call 905-726-4762
www.aurora.ca/moviesinthepark



WHAT'S HAPPENING



The Town of Aurora offers a host of options to make your March Break enjoyable and cost-effective.

Explore and enjoy many fun activities indoors and outdoors:

- Parks and trails
- Skating
- Fitness classes
- Outdoor skate park
- Tobogganing
- Public swimming
- Indoor rock wall
- The Loft for youth

A variety of science, theatre, sports, skills development and discovery camps are available from March 14 to 18 for children and youth.

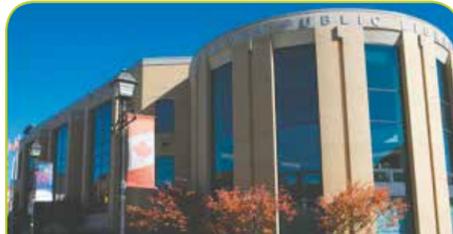
For more information or to register, please visit www.aurora.ca/marchbreak or call 905-727-1375.

Celebrate Canada Water Day – March 22

In recognition of Canada Water Week (March 21 to 27), you're invited to attend a World Water Day event at the York Region Administrative Centre (17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket) on Tuesday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Through a variety of games and displays, learn how our water systems work and what we're doing to protect this valuable resource. Meet the people who help keep our water safe, view educational displays and enter a prize draw.

For more information, visit www.canadawaterweek.com, email environment@york.ca or call 1-888-967-5426



March Break Events at the Aurora Public Library

Free tickets to the Library's awesome March Break events are now available in the Library. Get yours soon to avoid disappointment! For the full listing of events visit www.aurorapl.ca

Food for Fines – help the less fortunate in Aurora!

The Town of Aurora is providing an alternative method of payment for parking infractions. The Town has partnered with the Aurora Food Pantry to help the less fortunate in our community.

In lieu of paying your parking ticket, you can choose to purchase a \$25 gift card at any local grocery store in Aurora, then drop it off, along with your ticket and purchase receipt indicating the balance and activation status to Access Aurora located at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way.

This option is only valid for "Park on Municipal Property without Consent" tickets issued between March 15 and April 15, 2016. Participation is optional.

Thank you to the ticket holders who have chosen to participate. Your contribution will help families and individuals in need in The Town of Aurora.

For more information about this program, please contact the Bylaw Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4240 or visit www.aurora.ca/parking



Digital Innovation for Business Success Conference

Attend this FREE conference to learn, network and grow your business.

Date: Tuesday, March 29
Time: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Location: Meadowbrook Golf Club
11939 Warden Avenue
Gormley, ON L0H 1G0
Cost: FREE! Hot buffet breakfast included

For more information or to register, visit www.eventbrite.ca

John West Memorial "Leaders of Tomorrow" Scholarship Award

The Town of Aurora encourages local students entering their first year of full-time post-secondary study to apply for the John West Memorial "Leaders of Tomorrow" Scholarship Award.

The scholarship honours students who have contributed to the advancement and overall well-being of Aurora.

Each scholarship has a value of \$1,000 and will be awarded to one male and one female student.

This scholarship would not have been possible without a generous donation of funds from former Aurora Mayor, John West, who passed away in December 2013.

As former Mayor and long-serving Councillor, Mr. West provided more than two decades of public service to The Town of Aurora between 1979 and 2006.

For more information or to apply, please visit our website www.aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow

REMINDER

Waste and Recycling – Winter Tips

Please see below for some helpful winter reminders about waste and recycling:

- Place your waste and recycling bins off sidewalks and roadways so the snow plows can safely pass.
- Set out bins in a visible location at the end of your driveway. Collection crews will not dig out or climb a snowbank to retrieve bins, cans or bags.
- Materials frozen inside bins may not be collected. To prevent freezing, try lining your Green Bin with newspaper and keep your recyclables in a dry location.
- Stack recycling boxes to prevent materials from blowing out.
- If materials are hit by snow removal equipment or are filled with snow prior to collection, please clean up the materials.
- If inclement weather or poor road conditions result in cancellation of services, the normal practice is to collect the next day. Please consult your 2016 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar.

For more information on waste and recycling in Aurora, please visit www.aurora.ca/wasteandrecycling or call Access Aurora at 905-727-1375.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Aurora Youth Job Fair

All local part-time jobs. All in one place.

Youth of all ages are invited to attend!

Thursday, March 17
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Aurora Family Leisure Complex

Interviews may be conducted on-site so come prepared with your resume.

No resume? No problem! Sign-up for the Job Prep 101 Course on March 14 and 15. Register online using course code #41701.

For more information, please call Daniel Ridsdale at 905-727-3123 ext. 3128 or email dridsdale@aurora.ca.

Aurora's Juried Art Show and Sale

Aurora's Juried Art Show and Sale is looking for aspiring young artists!

This exciting show is a fantastic opportunity for youth artists looking to gain exposure for their work and even sell a few pieces. Youth artists will also have the opportunity to network with more than 120 professional artists from across the region.

Entry forms are available at www.aurora.ca/artshow

Another exciting event brought to you by

Saturday, March 26, 2016
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Aurora Seniors' Centre
(90 John West Way)

Easter Egg Hunt

- Enjoy EGG-citing activities including an egg hunt, face painting, easter games, craft making and more!
- See adorable live bunnies and baby chicks!
- **Wristbands must be purchased in advance** at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex or at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. *Please note, wristbands will not be sold at the event.*
- Wristbands cost \$5 per child. Children 12 and under are welcome to participate. Parents are free!
- Pancake breakfast offered by the Aurora Seniors' Association and the Optimist Club of Aurora. *Please note, a nominal fee applies.*

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For more information, please call 905-726-4762 or visit www.aurora.ca/easteregg hunt #AuroraEggHunt

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

HEALTHY KIDS Activity Pass

The Healthy Kids Activity Pass is a **FREE PASS** for Aurora children up to 12 years of age. The pass can be used for any regularly-scheduled leisure swim or public skate up to a maximum of 7 times, at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex or the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

Get your pass now!

Visit the Aurora Family Leisure Complex or the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex to pick-up a Healthy Kids Activity Pass. Visit www.aurora.ca/healthykids pass for more information.

Proof of Aurora residency and age must be shown. Limited quantities available. First come, first served. No cash value. Pass expires July 15, 2016.

Use your pass a **minimum of 7 times** and be entered to win an **Action Pack** valued at \$100! Action Pack winner to be drawn on July 22, 2016.

HEALTHY KIDS
COMMUNITY CHALLENGE
AURORA

Windfall
ecology centre

AURORA
www.aurora.ca/healthykids pass

Leading women, girls recognized as community builders



Nancy Black of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is congratulated by Mayor Geoff Dawe and Magna's Steve Hinder.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

By Brock Weir

Leadership can be demonstrated in many different ways by many different women and Newmarket-Aurora's community builders of today were recognized Monday night along with the leaders of tomorrow by MPP Chris Ballard at his second annual Leading Women, Leading Girls Awards.

Held in Newmarket, the ceremony recognized several young and mature women who have selflessly given back to their community through making large splashes, or making a huge difference in the life of an individual.

"The Leading Women Leading Girls Building Communities Award acknowledges and celebrates women and girls who demonstrate exceptional leadership in working to improve the lives of others in their communities," said Mr. Ballard. "These recipients have encouraged women and girls to get involved in non-traditional careers, they are championing and promoting issues such as equality, diversity, healthy and equal relationships, and they raise awareness in the prevention of violence against women and girls and help in reducing racism and discrimination.

"These women and girls encourage others to participate in public service and act as positive role models through mentoring, coaching and volunteering. Our award winners tonight don't only provide a positive experience for women and girls but also for the men and boys they meet."

Realtor Beverly Varcoe was the first to be recognized, singled out for her tireless work for the Aurora Figure Skating Club and her volunteer efforts in CHATS' (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors) therapy dog programs.

"Through this program, Beverly and her therapy dog have brought joy and comfort to the elderly clients, encouraging greater social engagement and many smiles," reads Ms. Varcoe's citation.

She was also recognized for her work with the Canadian Federation of University Women and her spearheading of Newmarket's Zoomer Marketplace.

A familiar face in Aurora's sporting community, Nancy Black, founder and leader of the Master Ducks Swim Program, was also recognized for her work with the local chapter of Special Olympics Ontario and the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, among many other organization and initiatives.

"Nancy continues to be a tireless leader who is an inspiration to all," reads her citation. "She inspires people to live healthier and [more] active lifestyles and is helping to break down barriers for

women in sport."

Also recognized for her contributions to the sporting world was Lianne Schiavo, who has worked as score keeper for the Aurora Panthers, and has spent hundreds of unrecorded volunteer hours in providing opportunities for those interested in Canada's game.

"Lianne is a proven positive role model in everything she does."

A leader within Aurora's Baha'i Community, Sanam Juliette Mojgani was recognized for her work as a role model for youngsters, imparting "moral and spiritual" guidance, volunteering at local hospitals, providing tutoring for younger kids, and myriad other activities.

"She has created an environment for her younger peers to bring about constructive changes to their communities and has promoted kindness, service to humanity, and unity in diversity."

Jointly recognized for their creation of the Father Daughter Snowflake Ball were snap'd Aurora's Melanie Bell and Jennifer Copley of Highland Automotive Group. The Ball, which benefited Girls Inc., among others, will go a long way in making positive changes for girls across York Region. Additional funds were also allocated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of York to support their Go Girls! Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds campaign, which focuses on building and bolstering the self-esteem and leadership skills of girls in the community.

Young leaders were also represented at Monday's ceremony by Aurora sisters Amanda and Lexi Benlolo, both students at Country Day School, who spearheaded the "Pampered Pillowcase" program to benefit the Women's Centre of York Region. The initiative involved gathering wish lists from the Centre's clients to create packages to make them feel good through items ranging from toiletries to cosmetics to slippers.

So successful was the girls' initiative, it has been taken up by the school's Social Justice team as an ongoing endeavour.

Also recognized was long-time community volunteer Robin Taylor Smith, whose community involvement is as varied as past president of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, long-time volunteer with the Aurora Chamber Home Show and the Optimist Club of Aurora. Presently, Ms. Taylor Smith is in high gear helping to organize the annual Run/Walk for Southlake.

"Through her participation as co-chair, she promotes health, fitness and involvement from the community. Robin's activities in the community help improve the lives of women and girls. She is a role model for all women and girls who wish to get involved, lead and make a difference."

Briefly

30 CHARGES LAID FOLLOWING RESIDENTIAL BREAK AND ENTERS

York Regional Police have laid 30 charges against a 38-year-old Markham man in connection with numerous residential break and enters across York Region. In December, investigators began looking into a series of incidents where jewellery and items were stolen from private residents. On December 17, a male suspect was caught on video committing a break and enter into a residence in East Gwillimbury. Through the investigation officers were able to identify the suspect and link him to multiple other break and enters in York and Durham. He has been charged with 17 counts of Break and Enter and Commit, two counts of Break and Enter with intent, six counts of trafficking in property obtained by crime, and five counts of possession of property obtained by crime.

FEELING IRISH?

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style this Saturday, March 13, at the Royal Canadian Legion where the White Heather Pipes and Drums host their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance. Enjoy a dinner of Irish stew with all the fixings along with some great music. In addition to the White Heather Pipes and Drums, live music will also be provided by Delayne Drive. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., and dinner at 6:30. Tickets are \$17 and must be purchased in advance from Legion or members of the band.

SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Savings Time kicks in this Sunday morning at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks forward by one hour before you go to bed, or when you get home from the above St. Paddy's Day bash.



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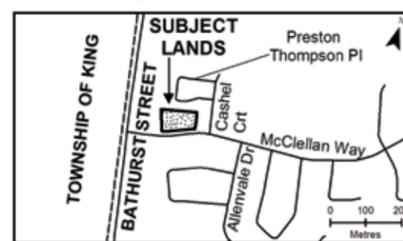


NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following planning application on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m at Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers.

APPLICATION: The Owner has submitted a Complete Application for an Amendment to Zoning By-law 2213-78 to change the zoning from Local Commercial (C1-1) Exception Zone to Local Commercial (C1-X) Exception Zone allow additional commercial and institutional uses to the uses currently allowed by the C1-1 Exception Zone.

PROPERTY: 330 McClellan Way



LEGAL DESC.: Block 32, Registered Plan 65M-2802

APPLICANT: Vello Holdings Ltd.

FILE NUMBER: ZBA-2016-01

CONTACT: Additional information may be obtained from Marty Rokos of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4350, 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.

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 before 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 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.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Same old same old in MPP's report, says reader

(Re: View From Queen's Park, March 3)

Chris Ballard, MPP, could have saved himself some time when he wrote Thursday's column. He could have copied any number of Liberal press releases from the past decade. It was the same old Liberal pabulum we have been served year after year

The Liberals are always "on target" to eliminate the deficit but it is always in the distant future. Can anyone remember the Drummond Report from years ago warning of the problems of Ontario's debt? We are now pouring close to \$32 million every day down the drain just to pay the interest on our massive debt and the Liberals still plan to someday, maybe in just a few years, get around to dealing with this.

It is the same for the green economy. How long have we heard about the huge number of green jobs that are going to be created, someday, in the future? Meanwhile, I wonder how many good real jobs have been destroyed or shipped out of the Province to create these future green jobs that never seem to materialize.

Stay tuned for the next Liberal budget in 2017. For his column on that occasion, Mr. Ballard will only need to copy and paste.

Gordon Clarke
Aurora

Who is kidding who? asks reader

It was with a great deal of concern one read MPP Chris Ballard's item "Ontario investing \$100 million to help owners save energy."

Will this be another in the long string of failed initiatives on the energy file? The energy file which has been so egregiously mismanaged by our Government for the last many years? Remember the Smart Meter program started to "help citizens manage their hydro usage and save money" started by McGuinty? How is that working for everyone? Hundreds of millions spent for zero benefits and ever increasing hydro costs.

This was followed by the cancelled gas plants costing another nearly \$1 billion.

To add insult to injury, while these failed projects were going on we had the exclusive contract given to Samsung costing more billions.

This is the contract that forces wind installations on rural communities whereby the land owners have no recourse to protect their property values. With, and despite these initiatives, we have the highest hydro rates in the country.

Rates that are squeezing homeowners' budgets and driving industry and jobs out of the province.

Wouldn't it be great if our Government got to work on lowering hydro costs versus painting wonderful, cheery horizons that never come to pass?

We have a serious credibility issue here.

John Greenhough
Aurora

Identification for historic photo

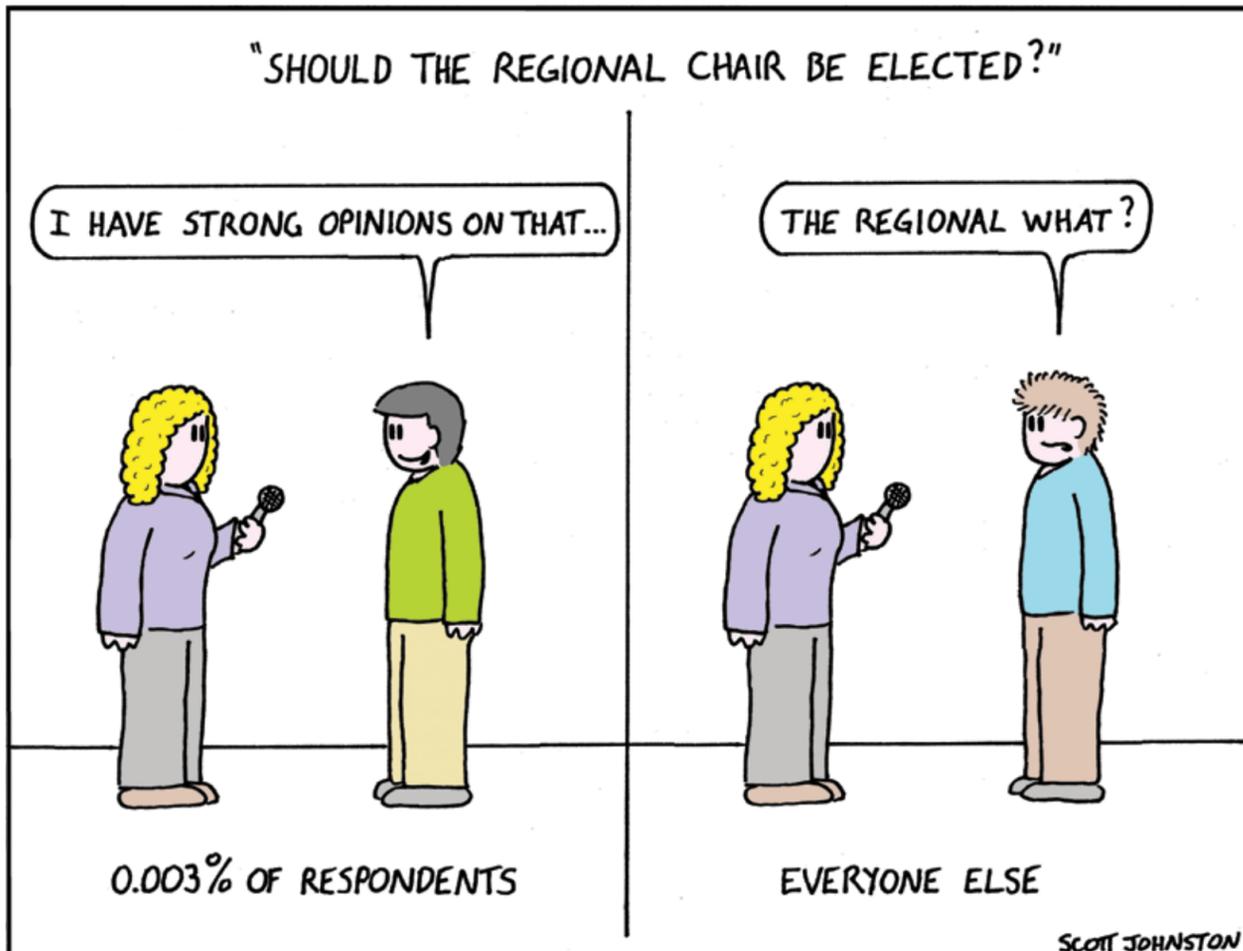
In regards to the photo on Page 5 of The Auroran on March 3, 2016, the person on the left is Helen McIntyre, previous owner of Graystones. My father-in-law, Jim Hammond, thinks the photo is the old checkout counter at Graystones.

Kirsten Hammond
Aurora

To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Machell's Corners



Sunny days, shovelling cares away



BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

So, now it's all melting away. For the foreseeable future, we're set to enjoy warmer-than-seasonal weather, which is perfect for those of you clamoring for the start of spring. For those of us who love winter, on the other hand, the great melt has the snow dissolving just as fast as our dreams of leaving the house in the morning shortly after a nice, hot shower with the resulting signs of steam streaming up from the scalp; our dreams of feeling, just once, the inside of the nose slightly freeze with that first blast of Arctic air; our dreams of feeling the snow crunch underfoot, which can make a rather pedestrian walk (ahem...) all the more satisfying.

Instead, we will have to content ourselves with the one winter wallop we received on Tuesday night, spilling over into the wee hours of Wednesday morning.

By the time the Council Chambers cleared after last Tuesday's meeting, it was clear that we were all in for a mess. After elected members made their tentative decisions on the potential six acre parkland on Mavrinac Boulevard, Aurora's new master plans for Parks, Recreation, and Sport, and an inordinate amount of time on whether or not the back door of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex should be open, and to whom, it was already a messy drive home and who could say for certain what we would wake up to.

After a few sweet dreams, which included a cameo appearance from Charlton Heston dressed as Moses, trying to part the doors of the AFLC, I was woken up early by the blazing sun, emphasized by the beautiful blanket of white on the ground.

Following an internal warmup involving the consumption of a full pot of tea, it was time to tangle with our first real taste of winter this season. The shovel was primed and ready to go the night before, strategically placed by the front door where the shovel itself wouldn't have to be dug out before its moment to shine, the salt was at hand just in case, and it was show time.

At first, since we have been very lucky - or unfortunate, as your view might be - in the snow department this year, it took a few heave-hos to get the muscles to remember what they need to do and, before too long, the machine was well oiled and, for once that early in the morning, my limbs and my core were at one, working together for a common cause. That typically doesn't happen until 10 a.m. at the earliest.

The sun still in full blaze, before too

long it was time to ditch the coat, soak in the sun, and continue on. Before too long, most of the driveway was clear and by the time I reached the windrow, I had had an all-too-rare jaw session with my next door neighbour, and met a new one who waved heartily as she drove by, almost as if to boast about her early start on the shovelling front.

I wasn't bitter; I was proud of her get-up-and-go.

It was a great way to clear the head in advance of a busy workday and to clear any lingering cobwebs from the Council session the night before.

A few clouds, however, appeared on the horizon by the time I got to the office later that morning with a missive from the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto, issuing a call to action to the many members of the flock from Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto.

His call to action, which was read out to congregants at services throughout the weekend under the umbrella of the Archdiocese, encourages members to rise up and speak out to their elected representatives in opposition to the wide-ranging recommendations facing Parliament on Doctor Assisted Dying.

I have previously written in this space about my personal support for Doctor Assisted Dying having watched a loved one, who herself was a proponent of the principle, wither away and languish in a body over which she had no control. Still, I too was surprised by some of the recommendations that came down, including assisted suicide be made available to those under the age of 18, as well as to those living with mental health issues.

The overall principle, however, remains a sound one, in my view, and will clearly be a painful debate for those ultimately tasked by the electorate in making a decision.

"Death comes to us all, sometimes suddenly, sometimes slowly," said the Cardinal in his statement. "Although patients benefit from medication that controls pain, they are fully justified in refusing burdensome and disproportionate treatment that serves

only to prolong the inevitable process of dying. But dying is simply not the same as being killed. We are grateful for physicians and nurses and others who offer medical assistance to patients but it is never justified for them to kill a patient.

"Physicians across our country who have devoted their lives to healing patients will soon be asked to do the exact opposite. They will not be asked to ease their suffering by providing them with treatment and loving care, but by putting them to death. In fact, killing a patient will no longer be considered a crime, but will actually be seen as a kind of health care, complete with legislation to cover it."

He goes onto note that proposed legislation will force medical providers working in places with public funding to "act against their conscience", is intolerant of religious diversity and is "religious discrimination that punishes those who so faithfully serve everyone who comes to them."

It is here where, I believe, the Cardinal's sound concerns, from a religious standpoint, are smothered by a hyperbolic pillowcase.

The aforementioned physicians who have indeed devoted their lives to the healing of patients will not be asked to do "the exact opposite" by "putting them to death," they will be required to consult with their patient on the kind of care their patient would like to receive.

By framing it as a slippery slope where the average health care provider is tasked and required to bump off their patient is akin to arguments used in 2005 in the equal marriage debate that their exclusive matrimonial club would be diluted by becoming more inclusive and, worse, those who firmly promoted the idea the Federal government would force straight couples to ditch their husbands and wives too so they can hook up with their fellow book club members or poker buddies.

And there is not enough space on the page to go over the slippery slope of advocating for the status quo in the name of religious diversity because anyone with a clear mind knows where that debate ultimately turns.

Let's hope our lawmakers go into the debate that will ultimately implement this law with clear minds and hearts, and rid themselves of rhetoric in order to make a clear choice. Unfortunately, it doesn't look like there will be many more chances to do so over a good driveway shovel, but maybe a walk in the woods would suffice.

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The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

**Lips Appreciation Day!
(Wednesday, March 16)**

These brass tubes of Pompeian lipstick date to the 1930s. They were found in Hess Drug Store when it was purchased by W.C. Baldwin in 1957. The drug store was located in the northern building of the Oddfellows Block on the west side of Yonge Street. The site was home to a long line of druggists, beginning with Frank York who opened the first store in 1901. Baldwin closed his store in 1974.



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Hold the salt!

We have had a relatively mild winter. Yes, some folks complain about winter regardless of whether it has been a "real" Canadian winter or not. But, for those who are objective about these kinds of things, and accept that we do live in Canada, there's no denying that we have had an easy time of it this year.

Few days of biting cold, and even fewer episodes of snow...last week's large dumping notwithstanding.

Which brings me to this week's rant: salt use at the GO Station.

There has been little or no snow or ice, so, for the love of Hades, why is the platform literally coated in salt? Why the obsessive need to carpet every square inch of concrete in thick crystals?

I understand there are significant liability concerns, but how many people do you think are going to sue GO Transit that would warrant the excessive application of salt so as to avoid even the smallest potential for ice formation?

When I exited the GO Train at York on Tuesday morning, I was shocked at the state of the platform and walkway. I am not exaggerating when I tell you that there was a layer of salt at least two inches thick carpeting the ground.

It was ridiculous, excessive, and totally unnecessary.

What is the end game here? Remove every speck of ice? Great, but it shouldn't also have the effect of corroding every concrete surface it touches. There's a reason why they have to keep resurfacing the platforms and walkways – because they damage them every winter with their maintenance processes.

Judicious use of salt is effective and necessary. Injudicious use is destructive and unnecessary – with environmental impacts as well as structural impacts to buildings and walkways.

As this is a government-run service, I checked to see what their policy is on snow maintenance. I found this lovely document titled, "GO in the Snow – your Guide to Winter on Go Transit". It is a simplistic, glossy, fluffy thing but a few points stuck out.

"Salt helps reduce ice build-up, but it can also cause problems with GO equipment, such as salt collecting in the doorways, causing them to stick."

No mention of the environmental impacts, just damage to their train doors. To address this terrible problem of sticking doors, they've installed snow melting systems as well as using de-icer instead of salt at "many" stations.

I guess the Aurora GO didn't get that memo.

Public transit is repeatedly positioned as the most sustainable means of moving people around the region. It is the environmentally friendly way to go, and that is true. Getting folks out of their cars and into a train to commute is the most sensible mode of transportation, economically and environmentally.

But that environmental halo is a wee bit off kilter, in my opinion, by the choices Metrolinx makes in regards to winter maintenance.

The winter is almost over, do some analysis now about the use of salt on Metrolinx property.

It shouldn't take too much effort to realize that they've been applying far too much of it, then make a plan to fix it. Use it where's it's needed, and only use as much as is absolutely necessary.

Voila! Problem solved.

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

York Region in Ottawa



MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

are standing committees, legislative committees, joint committees, special committees, and even subcommittees. However, the purpose of all of these committees is to have a portion of elected representatives to carry out functions that are better performed in smaller groups, including the examination of witnesses and detailed consideration of legislation, estimates and technical matters.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, I represent the Minister at the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Estimates. This committee focuses on the effectiveness and proper functioning of government operations as well as on the estimates process. As Parliamentary Secretary, I am not a voting member of the committee (a new rule introduced by this government to achieve fairness on all committees), but I do attend each meeting to ensure that pertinent information from committee is relayed to the Minister.

Canada Summer Jobs Application Deadline

On February 29, my office held an information session on the Canada Summer Jobs Program for local businesses and non-profit organizations. The deadline to apply for funding as

an employer is March 11th. For any questions, please contact my office. We will be announcing information for students to apply in the weeks to come so stay tuned!

Have your Tax Return Completed for Free

If you have a simple tax situation and meet the suggested family income level you may be eligible for this service. Our office is hosting community volunteers from Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) from March 14 until April 25th to help eligible families complete their tax returns. For more information on this program, please visit: www.cra-arc.gc.ca/volunteer or contact my office to make an appointment.

March Break Skating Event!

Please bring your family and join me on the rink! On March 18th from 3.30 – 5.00 p.m. I'll be hosting a free skating event at the Bond Lake Arena (70 Old Colony Rd, Richmond Hill). I hope to see you there!

Come Meet Leona Alleslev at the MP Open House

As your Member of Parliament, I want to meet you and listen to what your priorities are for our community and for our country. I welcome everyone to visit my office on April 9 from 12 – 3 p.m. Bring your family and your neighbors; everyone is welcome to attend this community gathering. If you are unable to attend this event, you can visit my office during office hours from Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact Me!

Come visit my office at 12820 Yonge St. Suite 202, in Richmond Hill. Call (905) 773-8358 and reach me by email: Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca. I hope to hear from you soon!

Signs of Spring

It may be hard to believe with our roller coaster weather lately, but spring will be here within a couple of weeks.

Many people watch for the traditional signs of its arrival, such as longer days, the melting of snow, the return of robins, or the lifting of winter parking restrictions.

But these are universal indications applicable almost anywhere. There are some that are truly unique to Aurora, and that will get you out of the house after a long winter inside.

The one that's most likely to get you into the spring spirit is the annual Lions pancake breakfast in Sheppard's Bush. Nothing says spring like sitting outside with friends and neighbours on a warm(ish) sunny day, surrounded by forests that you can imagine have supplied the very syrup you're enjoying.

That the food is terrific, the location within the heart of Aurora just moments from your home, and that it all supports a good cause, are just added bonuses.

Watch for it the first few weekends in April.

Another great sign of spring is the Easter Egg Hunt at the Seniors' Centre, which features face painting, baby animals, crafts, games, and yes, if you can't wait another week to visit Sheppard's Bush, more pancakes.

Hopefully all the eggs are found by the kids that morning, and an orphaned egg is not discovered some days later by an unfortunate senior when sitting down on an unsearched chair.

Participation is limited. After all,

only so many people (and eggs) can fit in the Centre, so make sure you get your wrist band in advance to avoid disappointment.

Then in mid-April we have the Home Show. Here under one roof are displayed the latest concepts in landscaping, interlock pavers, roofing options, kitchen design, water softening, basement refinishing, composting, energy efficient windows, and all manner of home improvement ideas.

You're bound to come out of SARC with a bag full of fliers and samples, and a general feeling that no matter how well and proudly you've kept up your home, it's not nearly as nice as you thought it was.

Shortly after this event the Rotary Club Frog Race will be held in Tannery Creek. These aren't real frogs, but plastic numbered equivalents that you can back for \$5 each. You can even choose to sponsor your lucky number, if the frog sporting it hasn't already



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

been scooped.

Hundreds of frogs will float downstream towards the finish line, with the winners netting their sponsors cash prizes, and some great stories about how they won the money. You couldn't make that stuff up.

Additional winners, of course, will be the local charities and deserving organizations that receive funding from this event.

Last up in late April is the Mayor's Anti-Litter Day.

It's shocking how messy our Town can get after a long winter, but as the snow melts all the accumulated debris of the past several months reveals itself: coffee cups, newspapers, candy wrappers, fast food packaging, plastic bags, old election signs...the list goes on.

Fortunately, there are numerous Aurora residents, supported by Town staff and generous corporate sponsors, willing to pitch in to pick up all this debris.

Whether they do this out of the goodness of their hearts, or for the traditional free BBQ held afterwards, is not a box that requires checking on the sign-up sheet.

But I personally think it's a bit of both.

The result once the hundreds of bags of trash are removed is that our green spaces, waterways, and roadsides are newly refreshed. Then, the Town is truly ready for its spring close-up.

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

AURORAN POLL

Do you support post-secondary tuition breaks, as outlined in the recent Ontario Budget?

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE	A	B	C
March 8, 2016	53%	47%	0%

Aurora students fly to Kenya with Me to We

By Brock Weir

“What did you do on March Break?”

It’s a question just about every student will be asked when they get back to the classroom later this month and some might already have their answers prepared.

Aurora students Adam Pitters-Fisher and Sydney Stevenson, however, are only halfway to learning what their answer will be once they return from Kenya on a mission with Me to We.

Adam, a Grade 12 student, and Sydney, Grade 11, and both students of Pickering College, left Sunday for the east African nation on a humanitarian mission.

As they joined their fellow students in loading their luggage onto the bus on Friday to avoid any last minute wrangling over the weekend, they knew their trip could follow one of three paths: building a school, building a library, or helping to dig a well.

But this is not a Choose Your Own Adventure Story. They knew from the outset they are likely to come back changed individuals.

“This might sound cliché, but this is going to be a reality check,” said

Sydney. “There are so many different parts of the world and we often get caught up in our own lives and what we’re doing here that we don’t often think about what is going on on the other side of the world, let alone right next door.”

For Adam, who hopes to become a human rights lawyer, he said the trip was bound to be an eye-opener.

“Through this experience, I will come back knowing how some people live, how they are treated fairly, and how there is not really equality in the world,” he said. “I want to advocate to change that and I think this trip is going to open my eyes to the inequities we don’t see every day.”

Pickering College students have a long history with Me to We, which was founded by Craig and Marc Kielburger, an off-shoot of their non-profit Free The Children.

For Sydney, the appeal of signing up for a trip like this was being able to make a difference in such a “global” world.

After being put through their paces and receiving some tips from facilitators on how to adjust a bit of culture shock, by Friday they were in



Aurora students Sydney Stephenson and Adam Pitters-Fisher are now in Kenya, working with Me to We. They are pictured with their bags on Friday before departing for Africa on Sunday morning.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

the zone. Adam joked he was tapering off sugar and caffeine to help ease the transition, first and foremost in their collective consciousness was to keep an open mind.

In addition to their building projects, they were eager to meet the people, including the women of the village they are travelling to, the “mommas”, joining them on their water walks and learning more about the vital roles they play in this developing nation.

“This trip is going to be successful [for us] no matter what we do, whether we’re starting work on the well, building a school, or just meeting the children of the village,” said Adam. “I am excited. I

am ready for the change and I am ready to come back someone different. I am ready to understand what is happening around the world and I am not really afraid of what is going to happen.

Added Sydney: “No matter what, we have a good group going and we’re all going to just dive right in and experience it. I want this experience because we read about it so much and we hear about the different places around the world going through things different than us. To actually experience it firsthand will definitely change my perspective in a good way because we can actually do something about it and think about our world in a different and better way.

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Farmers’ Market aims to stay in Town Park

By Brock Weir

The conversion of the former Wells Street School to a condominium development caused some concern for vendors and patrons of the Aurora Farmers’ Market over the future of the Saturday mainstay on their Downtown Aurora home.

In fact, this was the wish of all parties – but now Councillor Sandra Humfries, Council’s liaison with the Aurora Farmers’ Market, is looking to make sure the principle is enshrined.

With new residents of the Wells Street Schoolhouse Lofts set to begin moving into their new homes later this spring, the occupancy will need a rejigging of the Market’s configuration with the east side

of Wells Street devoted to market vendors on Saturday morning. But, it is hoped by both the Market and Councillor Humfries that the slack can be absorbed within Town Park.

This idea, however, recently received pushback from municipal staff, including Al Downey, Parks and Recreation Director, who said having vendor vehicles in Town Park would present liability concerns.

Councillor Humfries Notice of Motion, which is set to be discussed later this month, calls for all parties to work together to develop a new layout in Town Park.

“I am hoping it will [receive staff support],” says Councillor Humfries. “Based on the last discussion, it doesn’t sound very positive but the residents really want to keep the market in the park. It is what differentiates our Farmers’ Market from other communities.

“I get comments from all over saying there is an ambiance at Town Park that is not in many other markets, so we want to keep it there. It works and we want to do everything we can to reduce any liability and we’ll make sure we get it there. I am really hoping we [all] work together to find a way to get there.”

Some of the legwork is already done, she adds, working with Fire Prevention Officers at Central York Fire Services to come up with a plan for Wells Street that would not be of concern.

“They took a look at the plan and were very comfortable having vendors on the east side of Wells Street,” she says. “The plan is to do as much as possible keeping the Town safe, reducing liabilities for sure, but working together with staff and Council to get everyone into alignment, where everyone is safe, and we can still have a great Farmers’ Market in the park.”

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Dawe, Gaertner, Thompson make submissions at Chair hearing

From page 1

was the first representative from Aurora to appear before the standing committee on Mr. Ballard's resulting piece of legislation, Bill 42.

There is "a lot of interest" in the community, she said on the election versus appointment of the Regional Chair, as occupied now by former Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emmerson, adding she said she believed she could "accurately say... there is an overwhelming support" for an election.

"This is a position of power, influence and responsibility," she said. "It has been said many times the person holding this position should be elected by those people they are going to serve. That is in keeping with our democratic principles."

For many of the committee members responding to Councillor Gaertner's comments, it translated to them as a call for further engagement and she was asked if she had heard any arguments in favour of the status quo.

"I haven't heard anything compelling," she replied. "We put forward a motion [at] Aurora Council supporting the election of the chair. The vote was eight to one, with the Mayor speaking against it. I think that our municipality is very interested in not having the status quo. I have heard

If we, as Councillors, are accountable to the residents through Municipal Election, I believe that the Regional Chair should be accountable in the same fashion to all those who live within the Region

a couple of issues [with an election]: One, that it is expensive, but we're talking about democracy. If we're going to spend our money somewhere, let's spend it to enhance democracy."

Councillor Gaertner also cited concerns of a possible "power struggle" between southern York Region municipalities and the northern tier in being adequately represented, but that paled in comparison to "democracy", she added.

"Change is hard and there are always issues and often [unforeseen] issues, but I think in this case, we have been talking around and about this for so long with many good minds," she said, responding to Mr. Ballard. "I think we can anticipate pretty much anything that is going to happen."

Mayor Dawe was originally slated to appear before the committee on Wednesday afternoon, but pulled out due to a scheduling conflict with the official launch of the 2016 Run/Walk for Southlake. Making his submission in writing, he questioned Councillor Gaertner's view on the community buy-in for an elected chair.

"Based on what I have heard, I cannot make that same statement," he wrote. "I have heard from exactly three people on this. The first was MPP Ballard's constituency assistant, the second is Councillor Michael Thompson, who brought forward a motion to support Bill 42 at our Council

and the third is a local resident who is very engaged in local politics. That's it. There is no general interest, let alone overwhelming support for this issue."

In his statement, he outlined several reasons he does not support electing the Regional Chair, including a view previously offered at Regional Council criticizing the Bill for specifically targeting the Region of York, and the greater need for a governance review of the Region as a whole where Aurora is one of several municipalities "under-represented" by just one member at the table.

"Our [Regional] Council, vote overwhelmingly in favour of a governance review which, among other items, included 'manner of electing the Regional Chair,'" Mayor Dawe wrote. "Our Council, and me, are not against [an] elected chair, but we are not in favour of a 'solution' that may address a perceived lack of democracy but does not address the real issue of overall governance."

Flying the flag for Aurora at last week's session in Toronto were Councillor Michael Thompson, himself a member of the Run/Walk for Southlake Committee, and resident Catherine Marshall. In his delegation, he said people do not "get a chance to speak" to the selection of the Regional Chair.

"If we, as Councillors, are accountable to the residents through Municipal Election, I believe that the Regional Chair should be accountable in the same fashion to all those who live within the Region," he said. "In Aurora, 43 per cent of residents' tax dollars go to the Region. That's a larger portion to the Town and yet what say do the residents have on how their money will be spent or was spent? Being more accountable means giving residents a voice and/or vote on who will lead the Region."

"In an elected system, candidates for regional chair would need to share their vision for both the region and Aurora, and explain how they would plan to address the issues that matter most to the residents. During the last election, we had no idea what, if any, thoughts the chair had on regional growth, transportation, affordable housing or even who was going to run for regional chair.

"In my opinion, the election of a regional chair would provide an opportunity to raise awareness of regional issues and allow the community to weigh in on the discussion and play an active role in the shaping of our future. To me, more public engagement is not just a principle of good governance but leads to a more effective and efficient government."

Putting off a decision on electing the Regional Chair pending a governance review, he added, is something that can be done in-house at the Regional level and is a secondary issue.

"Sometimes at the Council table we say, 'Let's stick to the motion at hand and try not to stray too far,'" said Councillor Thompson. "To me, that argument is a separate argument."



LIFE IN THE FAST LANE – Aurora Scouts hosted the public for the breakneck Kub Kar Pre-Trial Competition, held at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on Saturday, welcoming all Cubs and Scouts from Aurora and Ballantrae. Youth aged 5 – 17 raced their Beaver Buggies, Kub Kars and Scout Trucks designed and built by the kids and teens themselves in tests of speed and durability.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Councillors hope to have park options for Mavrinac land this spring

From page 1

In a near-unanimous decision, Council opted to back the neighbours in their fight to keep the property green space. The land was initially earmarked as the site of a new school by the York Catholic District School Board but, when the Board released its rights to the property, the Town moved to exercise its right of first refusal to buy the land at terms – and prices – originally set out in the area’s 2007 subdivision agreement.

After legal wrangling with Minto, the Town ultimately purchased the land from Cash In Lieu of Parkland reserves, at the 2007 prices, but the Town’s draft new Parks and Recreation Plan recommends the property be sold and the proceeds returned to reserves to secure parkland in other “less serviced” areas of Aurora.

“The Cash-in-Lieu that came out of this community should go back into this lot,” said Councillor Harold Kim, referencing an option before Council to sell the land to another school board or school developer. “It is not just an optics issue, there is a trust issue between the residents and the Town in terms of buying this land and selling it off to another school when there is an opportunity here to build something even better for the residents.”

A similar view was offered by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who questioned the relevancy of the Town’s current Parks and Rec plan which states there are no gaps in parkland in Aurora’s 2B neighbourhood.

“[That is] because there was going to be a school with a park there,” she said. “That situation has changed and, of course, the Parks and Rec Plan in 2010 couldn’t have known that.”

Councillor Paul Pirri, who has previously spoken about his difference of opinion with Mavrinac-area residents on the future use of this property was not present at last week’s General Committee meeting, leaving Mayor Geoff Dawe to be the one dissenting voice on proceeding with this land as a park.

He supported the initial recommendation from Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey “not to proceed with fully developed parkland

at this time” pending a further report to Council on “other potential options” for its use.

“The reason I support the staff recommendation is we also have a Master Plan Mr. Downey and the consultants have been working on for quite a while and we haven’t even discussed that,” said Mayor Dawe. “We’re already going outside what may or may not be in that document so we haven’t [even given] the courtesy to look at the staff report with respect to the new master plan.

“We seem to be portrayed as the bad guys on the disposition of this land when it was the school board. I have never seen the school board held accountable for their decision, which I find very annoying, to be frank. Cash in Lieu should not be considered territorial. I don’t think it is appropriate to say that housing in this particular area contributed to the pot has to go back into that area. That is not the concept of how the Town works, certainly not my understanding of how the Town works.”

Compounding this, he added, were delegations from neighbouring residents earlier in the evening who presented very different ideas as to the kind of park that was needed in the area.

“We took 17 years to come to a decision on what to do with the youth centre and we’re finally looking at what to do with Library Square 16 years after the decision was made,” he concluded. “This is not to say I am in favour of selling it, it is not to say I am in favour of keeping it. It is to say I am in favour of looking at staff’s recommendation as to how that serves the entire community.”

For other members of Council, enough time had passed to get down to business.

“Two-and-a-half years later, we’re finally starting to talk about what we can do with the property and I think that is the better discussion,” said Councillor Michael Thompson. “I would like to see us start moving the conversation towards what we can do for the benefit of the neighbourhood and the community rather than a discussion on what we can get for it if we sell it.

“60 days is not enough time to have a final decision on the project, but that is

not what I am looking for. It is to continue to move this issue forward. The report will probably show some of the concept drawings we had previously but more importantly it will alleviate the issue of using the space for the time being, the

cleanup, maybe it is a community project to help clean it up, but let’s get the ball rolling, have the timelines, and start to outline the process in terms of how we’re going to move forward with the decision.”

But what kind of park do residents want?

By Brock Weir

If Council decides to follow through this week on last Tuesday’s decision to proceed with a design process for a new park on Mavrinac Boulevard, it will first have to start with what kind of a park the neighbourhood – and the Town in general – wants and needs.

While area residents have presented a nearly united voice on securing the land for a park, school or open space, in line with the “premiums” they argue they paid for their own homes, some have expressed differing opinions on what amenities would benefit the area.

“We have splash pads and we have playgrounds, which is great for kids under 10,” said resident Michelle Boyer, referring to the playgrounds, skate parks and water features in nearby Ada Johnson Park and Hickson Park. “We have nothing for tweens, nothing for kids, nothing for old people. There’s lots of multigenerational families in my subdivision. Old people can’t walk 20 minutes over to 2C to parkland, according to the new path system. We have to stay in our subdivisions, we need greenspace, we need parkland. We don’t need any more playsets.”

Neighbour Charlie Muscat weighed in with similar views, who suggested a multi-use park where kids could get in touch with nature, provide parents and grandparents with a safe place to take the kids, and, for seniors, a quiet pace to relax.

But, for Catherine Collister, the Mavrinac Property presents an opportunity for children to get back to basics with the all-important concept of play. Children, she said, are the community’s “most vulnerable

citizens” and they need people to speak up on their behalf.

Play, she said, “is the universal language spoken by all children” and this is something Council should take into consideration when forging ahead with a park.

“I would urge Council to take the statistics and facts you have heard [over this debate] and wrap them in your values, in your experiences, wrap them in your own memories of childhood when outdoor play was a rite of passage,” she said. “Some of you will remember hide and seek, Red Rover; others may recall arguing about rules in kickball or stickball or taking turns at jump rope or creating imaginary worlds out of forts. I would suggest everyone in this room has taken part in this type of play and shared similar memories, from long summer days to a few precious after school hours. Child-organized play may have filled much of our free time.

“It takes a village to raise a child. We hear this all the time, but if we believe this to be true, then our children are Aurora’s children and Aurora’s responsibility. We have to provide an environment in which these children can grow and flourish. That environment must include parkland, greenspace, [and] recreational space. We want Aurora’s children to be able to create the same memories we experienced. In order for them to do that, they first have to have a place to play.

“This is a rare precious parcel of land that will play a key role in our neighborhood. It will contribute to the community’s wellbeing and the wellbeing of Aurora’s children.”



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Hit the pavement in May for annual Run for Southlake



Ryan Denis, Director of Communications for Nature's Emporium, Kyle Peterson, Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, Mayor Geoff Dawe, Vicky McGrath of sponsor Nurse Next Door, Neila Poscente, President and CEO of Southlake Foundation, Jeff McGrath, sponsor, Nurse Next Door, and Joe D'Addario, Title Sponsor and President of Nature's Emporium.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

Runners, take your marks.

Plans are underway for the 2016 incarnation of the Nature's Emporium Run or Walk for Southlake, a charity fun run to bring much-needed funds to Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Executives, volunteers, and sponsors gathered at Spero Restaurant in Newmarket last Wednesday for the official kick-off, with the event only eight weeks away, set for May 1.

"There has been a lot of buzz within our office," said Neila Poscente, President and CEO of Southlake Foundation. "We're starting to see the excitement building in the community."

The fundraiser is one of many that play a crucial role in the continuing evolution of Southlake, as hospitals do not receive funding for new hospital equipment, outside of capital builds. Southlake depends on community support to update their tools and equipment.

Close to 2,000 runners took part in the 2015 event, raising over \$280,000 for the Centre. More than \$1 million has

been raised since the event's inception.

Nature's Emporium returns as the title sponsor for the third year, led by Joe and Mary D'Addario.

New this year is the cancellation of a registration fee for participants, announced by Co-Chair Steve Hinder. Instead, Hinder and his team ask that every adult participant raise a minimum of \$75 in pledges.

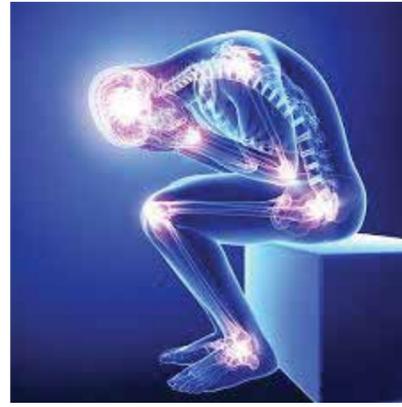
"We made this change because it was important to recognize that, first and foremost, the Run or Walk for Southlake is a fundraising event," said Hinder. "What's great about this change, is that now every dollar you raise is not only tax-receiptable, but you also know every dollar goes back to Southlake to support the great work they do."

Prizes will be added as incentives for higher pledges, including a 2016 Run or Walk t-shirt with \$100. There will be an athlete's village on site, as well as stage entertainment at Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, which is where the run kicks off.

Find out more about the cause at southlakefoundation.ca.

Advertorial

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SOUTHLAKE
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EMPORIUM



THE AURORAN ARTS & CULTURE

<p>Music & Events</p> <p>this Winter at the Aurora Cultural Centre</p> <p>For tickets/info: 905 713-1818</p> <p>auroraculturalcentre.ca 22 Church Street, Aurora HST applicable on all tickets</p>	<p>March 11 8 pm concert</p>  <p>Great Artist Music Series proudly presents Soyeon Kate Lee, piano</p> <p>\$34 Adult \$28 Senior Student</p> <p>Generously sponsored by Bonnie & Norbert Kraft</p>	<p>March 15 1.30pm play</p>  <p>Family-friendly March Break play for ages 3 – 103! Cinderella</p> <p>\$7 per person, or \$25 for a family 4-pack</p> <p>Presented by DuffleBag Theatre Co.</p>	<p>March 17 1-4 pm art drop-in</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day FREE Family Art Drop-in!</p> <p>We're sporting the wearing of the green today, with themed art activities, plus beautiful live harp music by "The Song of the Nightingale" and complimentary refreshments in the galleries.</p> <p>All are welcome; FREE admission</p> <p>Generously sponsored by Rafferty & Russell Sutton Group Realty Group</p>
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SHAKING THE BLUES AWAY – The Aurora Winter Blues Festival arrives this Friday and Saturday at Theatre Aurora, but revellers got the party started early this past Saturday night, packing Highland Automotive for the second annual Blues Bash. (Clockwise from Top Left) Turbo Street Funk headlined the event, which raised awareness for Festival beneficiaries Blue Door Shelters and CHATS. Artist Dubi painted this portrait of Jimi Hendrix during the course of the evening, which was auctioned for \$1,250 at the end of the night. The Blues Bash provided an opportunity for youth bands from The Arts Music Store to perform. Dancers from Artistica Dance Studios also prepared a special number. Inset: Festival co-founders Helen Gushue and Jamie Macdonald address the crowds. **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**

Aurora Orthodontics is Moving!

Dr. Ali Shojaei and his team at Aurora Orthodontics will be relocating the practice to **15480 Bayview Avenue, Aurora** (right beside Goodlife Fitness) effective March 4th, 2016.

As we begin our second decade (yes, it's been 11 years!) of providing excellent orthodontic treatment results in this community, Dr. Shojaei is excited to relocate to our 'long-term' home. He is looking forward to serving this community for the rest of his career!

To celebrate our second decade and our move to our permanent home (and **to reduce the risk of concussions and dental injuries to our children**)

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Please call us to arrange an appointment for the fitting of your complimentary mouthguard at **905-727-8783** or email us at staff@brace-your-smile.com



COMING EVENTS

- visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.
- SATURDAY, MARCH 13**
The White Heather Pipes and Drums presents their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Dance on the night where everyone is just a little bit Irish this evening at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Enjoy a dinner of Irish stew and all the fixin's along with some great music. Performance by the White Heather Pipes and Drums and live music provided by Aurora's own Delayne Drive. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 6.30. Tickets are \$17 and must be purchased in advance from Legion or Band members.
- MARCH 14 – 18**
The Aurora United Church will hold its March Break Vacation Bible Camp on these dates from 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon for kids 5 – 12 years of age. Binions Hall, Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. The theme is "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." Children will hear amazing stories, play fun games, make incredible crafts, sing great VBC songs, enjoy tasty snacks and explore faith/life issues. To register, call 905-727-1935.
- TUESDAY, MARCH 15**
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Cinderella, a production of the "Nearly World Famous" DuffleBag Theatre Co. The class fairy tale – acted with wit, humour – and a twist! Perfect for ages 3 – 103. Tickets \$7/each, or Family 4-pack at \$25, plus HST. For information, or to purchase tickets, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.
- WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16**
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents two March Break art workshops for kids. Designing Furry Friends for ages 6 – 9 (9 – 11.30 a.m.; \$30), and Printmaking Explosion for ages 10 – 15 (12.30 – 4 p.m.; \$50). Join artists/instructor Christine Stewart for a day of art-making and discover new techniques. Advance registration required; all materials included in price. For details, or to register, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 17**
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents St. Patrick's Day Free Family Fun from 1 – 4 p.m. Family art activities throughout the afternoon in the Pine Tree Potters' Activity Room. Enjoy beautiful harp music from The Song of the Nightingale, Kim Michele, along with complimentary lemonade and cookies. Thanks to generous event sponsor Rafferty & Russell Realty for this free family event. Drop in event; no registration required. For information, call 905 713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.
- SUNDAY, MARCH 20**
Partagez le Français! This free French language conversation group welcomes adults from francophones to beginners looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. 3 – 5 p.m. at Country Style Deli and Bistro (14980 Yonge Street).
- SUNDAY, APRIL 3**
Partagez le Français! This free French language conversation group welcomes adults from francophones to beginners looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. 3 – 5 p.m. at Country Style Deli and Bistro (14980 Yonge Street).
- MONDAY, APRIL 4**
The Aurora Community Arboretum will hold their Annual General Meeting this evening at Town Hall in the Holland Room beginning at 6.30 p.m. with a meet and greet. The formal meeting commences at 7 p.m. You must be a paid up member in order to vote at the meeting. Membership is \$20 per year and funds go towards planting and maintaining the Arboretum.



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Aurora's Women's Institute moves well beyond jams and cakes



Members of the fledgling branch of the Aurora Women's Institute, Cheryl, Jayne, Catherine, Maureen, Laura and Ann, show off some of their handiwork at a recent event. They next meet on Thursday, April 7. **Supplied photo**

By Brock Weir

If you think a Women's Institute, once a mainstay of every Canadian community, sits around and makes jellies and flower arrangements all day, think again. Aurora's Women's Institute is back and they're looking to become better than ever.

Reconstituted by residents Cheryl Davies and Jayne McBain last August, they were encouraged by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) to bring the "W.I." and challenge their long-held image of jelly makers and knitters.

"Unfortunately, the Women's Institute in Ontario was dying," says Ms. Davies. "There has been a resurgence in the W.I. in the UK, so they looked to see what they were doing to attract new and younger members. It was just engaging with young women again and going back into the schools to try and engage with young women to get the politicized."

In its heyday, Canadian W.I.s were

"movers and shakers" in the public sphere and they want to get there again.

A native of Liverpool, Ms. Davies came to Canada and settled in Aurora with her son just over eight years ago. While her son was quick to plant his roots, Ms. Davies says she was looking for a sense of belonging. With that initially outside of her grasp, she hopes the Aurora W.I. can become a "first port of call" for any new woman coming into the area.

"If you don't know anyone and you're new to Town, you get to meet your neighbours and folks in the coffee shop, but it can be isolating moving into a new town or a new part of the world," she says. "I want this to be that first foundation point where they can make friends and make connections and start planting roots."

In the meantime, the W.I. is making inroads into the community. To mark their 119th anniversary, the FWIO created a children's book and tasked local branches to make quilts and teddy bears to distribute, along with

the books, to local groups in need. Late last month, they made their impressive donation to Yellow Brick House, keen to support an organization which in turn supports young families.

The first focus of the Aurora W.I. is "social and community development." Although Ms. Davies likens their group to a "tiny acorn", she says she hopes they can grow into a mighty oak as advocates for supporting causes related to autism, including support for adult living options and day programs, as well as the rights of grandparents.

"We're open to all members of all walks of life and backgrounds," she says. "I believe all women have something to offer, whether it is a skill or even their very being. The larger we become, the more impactful we will be in this community across all ages. I see this as being something for women in each stage of life, whether it is through the college years, motherhood, empty nesters, retirement, bereavement or widowhood. Every woman is looking for something different from the W.I. and I feel at this moment in time, because we're that little acorn, we can't meet everyone's needs but in time we will be able to."

"Given its connotation and history, people seem to think of the W.I. as women who make jam and sell cakes; that part is there, sure, and something we will always carry on, but there is much more of a push towards political change. The W.I. wants a rebirth, still recognizing what they achieved in the past and moving forward to inspire and aspire young women to be active members of the community. We're still a tiny acorn, but the world is our oyster!"

For more on the Aurora Women's Institute, look them up on Facebook, visit www.fwio.on.ca, contact them by email at auroraWI2015@gmail.com or call 905-395-4229.



MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

The early morning trilling of a host of birds in my backyard is a sure sign that spring is just around the corner, and what a relief that will be. Although this winter was milder than usual, it seemed to drag on forever. Now we can look forward to the trees beginning to bud and the early spring bulbs popping up in the garden.

For me, it's a beautiful and positive time, with everything coming back to life.

The arrival of spring also means that the Farmers' Market will begin its outdoor season in about a month and a half, and people can once again plan their Saturday mornings around a trip to the Market to meet friends for coffee, breakfast and shopping at their favourite vendors.

In the meantime, there are still two Indoor Markets at the Armouries for you to attend. The next one is on Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and we hope to see you there.

These are the vendors who are expected to be there:

The farmers will include 19th Avenue Farm, the Abbott Family Farm, Oakridges Finest, Pioneer Brand Honey and Kind Organics.

The food vendors will include Cosmo's Smoked Meats Ltd., Catharina's Kitchen, Green River Coffee, Nicole's Cakes, Nutmeg Bake Shop, John Abraham's Projet Christina Marie and Sasha's Sweets.

Among the artisans you will find the Bear's Den, Nancy Wood, Eva Nagy, Green Leaf Designs, Kibo Natural Body Care products, Limitless Jewels and Beading Mama.

Although Attilio of Attilios Olive Oil won't be at this Indoor Market, we sincerely hope that he will be well enough to join us again for the outdoor season. Here is some interesting background information about this delightful gentleman.

Attilio was born in Santa Francesca, Veroli, Italy in June of 1935, at home. His birth wasn't registered until a week later because there were no cars to take

them to the town hall. He was unable to stay in school beyond Grade Three because the family needed him to work on the land.

He was the youngest of seven children but the older boys had gone to fight in the war. The family lived off the land and had chickens, pigs and sheep. They needed Attilio to become a shepherd boy. They also grew wheat, vegetables, potatoes, grapes and olives. They made their own olive oil and canned their food.

At the age of 25, Attilio went to work in Germany so he could send money home to his family. Unfortunately, his father became ill and he returned to Italy to care for him. After his father died in 1965, Attilio immigrated to Canada with his wife and 2 children as he wanted a better life for his family. At that time, he had 5 siblings living in Canada. He immediately went to work in construction, sold windows, vacuum cleaners and shoes to feed his family, now consisting of six children. According to his children, Attilio worked tirelessly to provide only the very best for them. For example, he never bought juices from the store but would buy boxes of fresh oranges to squeeze. The family ate vegetables from their garden and only the best meat.

Attilio's olive orchards are in Veroli which is south east of Rome. Some of the trees in his orchard are up to 700 years old. Every year, Attilio returns to Italy to care for his land and harvest his olives. The trees are lovingly cared for as they were passed down from his beloved father. For Attilio, the life of each tree represents the life of his father and forefathers before him. He harvests only in the traditional way, picking only by hand. When the trees are pruned, the sheep graze on the clippings and grass, creating the best natural fertilizers. The family says that love begins from the soil to the trees to the olives to your table. To view his most recent harvest, go to www.attiliosfinefoods.com

See you at the Indoor Market!



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FREE Week of March 10, 2016

Dukes down Tigers in first two games of Conference quarterfinals

JD Falconer races Wellington's Jacob Hetherington into the offensive corner at the Aurora Community Centre on Sunday. The Dukes lead the Tigers 2 - 0 in their best-of-seven conference quarterfinal series.

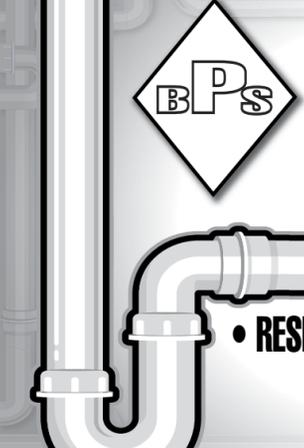
Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte




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By Jake Courtepatte

Two games into the OJHL postseason, the Aurora Tigers are still trying to solve the Wellington Dukes: a task that has taken them all year.

A 0-4 record in the regular season has turned to 0-6 after a pair of low-scoring games put the Tigers in a deep hole during the OJHL Conference quarterfinals.

The fifth-seeded Tigers visited the fourth-seeded Dukes at the Wellington Community Centre for Game one on Friday, with the Dukes striking first beating goaltender Josh Boyko four minutes in.

Boyko settled in for the rest of the period, as well as the entire middle frame, while Noah Delmas had the Tigers' first goal of the 2016 postseason on the powerplay to tie it at one.

The heartbreaker came with only 38 seconds left in regulation, when Wellington's Matt Adams found the back of the net despite Aurora providing most of the offensive pressure.

Boyko was good, but his Wellington counterpart Olivier Lafreniere was better, making a whopping 42 saves in the contest to Boyko's 23.

Liam Ham and Daniel Mantenuto added assists in the 2 - 1 loss.

Over 350 fans packed the Den at the Aurora Community Centre Sunday night to see the Tigers at home for the first time this postseason, and were treated to some early theatrics. Just over a minute into play, Drake Board centered the puck to Alex Formenton from behind the Wellington goal line to open the scoring before some fans had even found their seats.

But penalty trouble followed the Tigers for the rest of the period, forced to kill off two 5-on-3s, the second of which saw Jacob Panetta sending a one-

timer past Boyko to tie it after the first.

Wellington took the lead in the second period, when Boyko was fooled by a tipped shot that fluttered over his shoulder. They added to the lead a few minutes into the final frame, when Boyko was forced to contend with a handful of players crowding his crease.

Austin Gerhart made it close with ten minutes to go, picking up his own rebound and burying it to make it 3 - 2. It's as close as the Tigers would come, once again outshooting the Dukes, this time 39 - 32.

Finding the back of the net only three times over the first two games, the Tigers must now win four games in the best-of-seven series before the Dukes can grab two.

"What it comes down to is you need to score goals," said owner Jim Thomson. "End of the day, you have to put the puck in the net. (Boyko) can stand on his head every night, but if you only score one, two goals a game, you're not gonna win."

Boyko took the reigns as the Tigers' starting goaltender when ex-OHLer Alex Fotinos went down with injury, and went on to own a 2.27 goals-against-average with a save percentage of .919 through 27 games.

"He's been a beautiful surprise," said Thomson. "When Fotinos went down, we always knew Josh, we kept him because we knew he was a great athlete. He was quick in the net and he's taken full advantage of his opportunity."

Game three is on deck for this Wednesday at 7p.m. following presstime, with Game four set to return to the Den on Friday. Puck drop is at 7:30p.m.

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



Members of Aurora Grove Public School's Intermediate Boys Basketball Team are cheered through the halls of the school by their fellow students ahead of a special celebration in the gym. The team hoisted a new pennant to the top of their gymnasium after taking the championship title.

Auroran Photo by Glenn Rodger



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Morgan Barron goes into the offensive corner in Game 1 of the CISAA D1 final. The SAC Saints swept Ridley College in the series.
Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

SAC Saints are CISAA hockey champions, again

By Jake Courtepatte

The St. Andrew's College Saints continue to cement their legacy as one of the top hockey prep schools in the country.

For the fourth year in a row, the first hockey team took home the championship trophy for the CISAA's elite D1 division, blowing the competition out of the water all season.

Rolling through Upper Canada College in the best-of-three semifinal series 6-3 and 4-0, the Saints met Ridley College in the championship matchup; the only team to beat them in league play all year with a 4-2 loss back in late November.

LaBrier Arena was the venue for Game One on Friday, where Ridley gave the reigning champs a scare by potting the opening goal late in the first period. But it was the Saints that cruised from there, regrouping in the final five minutes of the period on three quick goals from Corey Andonovski, Kody Clark, and Regan Kimens.

Mitchell Martan added some insurance in the second, and Andonovski earned his second of the game in the third for a 5-1 Saints win.

Game Two on the road Saturday was

a much closer affair, if only to allow the Saints to win in spectacular fashion. Trading two goals apiece by the closing minutes of the third period, junior forward William Sirman played the hero by scoring the game-winning, and series-clinching, goal in the final minute.

Andonovski and Clark also got on the board for the Saints.

Cole Chapman was a wall between the pipes in the final series, stopping 54 of the 57 Ridley shots he faced.

The U12 Saints also have bragging rights as independent school champions, capping off a perfect season last week with a 4-2 win over Crescent School in the final.

Their local dominance all but proven, the first hockey club still faces perhaps their toughest challenge of the year this weekend, hosting the second annual National Independent School Invitational Championship along with UCC's Wilder Arena. Independent schools from across Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will converge upon LaBrier Arena starting Thursday and ending Sunday.

The Saints, ranked first in NISC rankings, open the tournament against Appleby College at Labrier on Thursday. Puck drop is 10 a.m.

Minor Bantam A Tigers stage comeback to stay alive in OMHAs

By Jake Courtepatte

The Minor Bantam A Tigers are in a fight to keep Aurora's hopes of a provincial championship alive.

Falling behind two games to none in their first-to-six-points OMHA semifinal series with the Quinte West Hawks, one more loss meant elimination for the Tigers.

A 4-1 win on the road Saturday kept Aurora in contention, sending the series back to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on Saturday.

No strangers to setting themselves up for a comeback, the Tigers fell behind 1-0 in front of a large and raucous crowd just over three minutes into the game, but were able to shut down the Hawks for the remainder of the period, taking a 1-0 deficit into the first intermission. Their best chance in the first fifteen minutes came off the stick of Justin

Just, who was frustrated after ringing one off the crossbar.

Heavy pressure from the Tigers was the story of the second period, but it was the Hawks who struck again in the final minutes of the frame, an end-to-end rush for a 2-0 lead heading to the third.

The Tigers, refusing to give up after failing to capitalize on a two minute 5-on-3, finally broke the goose egg with four minutes to go, a sneaky wraparound by Lucas Wilhelm.

Less than a minute later, Gavin Hunter used some impressive hand-eye coordination to bat a rebound out of the air in front of the Hawks' crease, sending the game to overtime.

The extra frame solved nothing as the series heads to a sixth and deciding game, set in Trenton after press-time Wednesday. The winner will go on to face the Amherstburg Stars in the

Continued on page 14

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The Minor Bantam A Tigers came back to a 2-2 tie Sunday against the Quinte West Hawks to tie their OMHA semifinal series. **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

High priorities dominate new Parks and Rec plans

By Brock Weir

If Aurora's Master Ducks Swim Club is hoping to have a new pool in Town soon, they might have to tread water a little bit longer.

Council is set to move forward with devising an implementation strategy for the Town's new draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Councillors took their first detailed look at the plan at the Committee level, which identifies a number of high priority needs for Aurora when it comes to providing recreational space and programs to meet the requirements of a growing community.

Among them are taking a look at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex with an eye towards a possible expansion to include a new gymnasium, multipurpose space, a fitness centre, and other amenities. Working in tandem with this is a recommendation for a feasibility study on adding a six lane 25 metre pool to the Aurora Family Leisure Complex or, if that is not workable, an aquatics space in another area of Town.

"The input we are getting from the user groups, primarily aquatics user groups, is there was quite a push to come forward with a new facility," said Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation. "Quite frankly, the consultant wasn't convinced we needed a new aquatic facility immediately and perhaps we should be looking at other opportunities to provide that service."

"[The consultant] believes the level of risk right now is very low with regards to our need for a new facility. I think the Ducks might disagree, but we're not going to get agreement [from everybody]. The position is if you can build a case for the need for an additional aquatic facility that case needs to be built."

On dry land, additional high priorities identified in the draft plan include a possible reconfiguration of the Magna and Lebovic rooms at the Aurora Public Library, currently

rented out by the Town of Aurora, to become library space and finally making a plan for Library Square.

"I am hoping we will have an opportunity to start moving forward as we're entering the second half of the second year of our term and we don't have a lot of time," said Councillor John Abel.

Outdoors, a sports field complex of three fully-lit rectangular fields is a high priority, as is the construction of an artificial turf field at Stewart Burnett Park near Leslie Street and Wellington Street East, and looking for further partnerships within the

I am hoping we will have an opportunity to start moving forward as we're entering the second half of the second year of our term and we don't have a lot of time

community to provide sport and recreation space.

"This is a big chunk of activity for Council to digest," said Mayor Geoff Dawe, asking for the high priorities to be prioritised one step further. "One of the issues we're going to have to look at is [where we talked] about tennis courts and one of the elements here is in the 'northeast quadrant.' We're going to have to be very clear when we decide what is the northeast quadrant and we have to be very clear when we come up with that criteria."

While Councillor Harold Kim expressed some misgivings about a possible new fitness club at the SARC, similar to Club Aurora currently in operation at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex as it "competes" with private business, Councillor Wendy Gaertner put in a word for Aurora's seniors.

She called for a rethink on how parks allocation is determined because, as the population ages, what's considered walking distance to a park might be an evolving concept.

Midgets top Minor league standings

Continued on page 13

championship series, set to kick off next week.

The Midget AA squad, Aurora's top

minor team and the only other one still alive in the OMHAs over the weekend, bowed out in four games to the Ajax Knights in four games culminating on Saturday.

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Let Soyeon Kate Lee be your guide on a classical “musical adventure”

By Brock Weir

“It’s a Scriabin sandwich,” jokes pianist Soyeon Kate Lee, as she puts the finishing touches on the plan for her upcoming Aurora concert.

Ms. Lee is set to hit the stage of the Aurora Cultural Centre this Friday, March 11, and in devising her set list, one of her first stops was the extensive work produced by Russian composer Alexander Scriabin.

Scriabin’s later works are generally more familiar to classical music aficionados but there are a lot of new gems left to mine.

“I am introducing [some of his works] which are rarely performed

Newcomer family offers thanks to Aurora, Newmarket communities

From page 1

live, and to go ahead and do that with four children under the age of six?”

Mae Khamissa, an Aurora resident and member of the Newmarket Islamic Centre, was on hand at the airport to welcome the family. When they left for Canada, the family heard no shortage of “doom and gloom” stories about Canada, she says, but as they settle in, the family says they have found the exact opposite to be true.

“They are just so eager,” says Ms. Khamissa. “One of the first things the dad said at the airport was, ‘When do I start work?’ We chuckled because it shows that they are not here to just sit and wait around. They basically want to get going. They wanted to get into the whole work mode, to help out, to get on their own two feet.

“They are just so blown away by the kindness from everybody and Canadians and how people are just willing to do things.”

So far, she says, the family has “settled in beautifully.” The kids who are old enough are now enrolled at school, settling into the routine, and adapting nicely. They love it, says Ms. Khamissa, and they can’t wait to go out every day to learn and be with their friends and teachers.

“This is coming from not having a whole lot to such an incredible, warm structure,” she says.

It took a bit of work, however, to pull this warm structure together.

The IRR ramped up efforts throughout the community to collect all the essentials – from furniture to bedding – to make a house a home. The volunteers came together to clean the apartment from top to bottom, hang curtains and shelves, and organize the incredible amount of donations received by the community at large.

“By [the time my husband put up the shelves] the dad was very much a part of this,” says Ms. Webster. “He was there with the tools right along with us, helping to get the house ready, which is difficult because English is not the first language they speak, but he is learning very quickly. We are overwhelmed by the commitment from our communities. People who have nothing to do with the churches or the mosque have stepped up and are teaching ESL, are willing to show people around on transit and [those who speak Arabic] have offered their services as dentists and doctors taking on patients.

“People have a genuine desire to help with no thought of return and who genuinely have a gift for one particular aspect or two.”

While regulations prevent us from having a sit-down with the new local family, they have a message to send along to the members of the public who have helped them on their journey so far.

“They would like everyone to know how grateful they are and how amazed they are that strangers would have so much to offer,” says Ms. Khamissa. “Coming off the plane and not knowing what this place is all about, who these people are, they found they instantly had a family and they are dumbfounded at that.

“They can’t believe the kindness of strangers in this community as well.”

or heard, not because they are not accessible by any means, but simply because his later works are much more famous,” says Ms. Lee. “His idol was Chopin, so I am programming a few pieces by this Russian artist who was madly influenced by Chopin and I am going to start with a piece he wrote when he was only 14 and had a crush on this girl.

“It is unbelievable he was able to do that at such a young age and you can hear the influence of Chopin immediately.”

Ms. Lee knows all about talent budding early. She counts her parents as her chief influences. Although they are not musicians, they gave her the open-mindedness and discipline essential to following her dreams to the grand concert halls of the world to more intimate venues like the Aurora Cultural Centre.

“Piano recitals began in salons and they were meant to be intimate

experiences,” she says. “I always prefer to be in a smaller setting. While it is exciting to play in bigger venues, and that comes with a different kind of pressure, but for piano recitals, I like the intimate setting because you can really experience the music viscerally.

“Oftentimes in these big halls, it is really as if the music is taking place rather far away from you and I think, especially in this day and age when everything is so in your face and up close, that is why classical music has been having problems in maintaining an audience; the experience is just not visceral enough.

“When you sit five feet away from the performer or a string player or pianist and you are engaged in everything they are doing and you can hear the smallest, most quiet sound from the instrument to the roaring grandness of our dynamic then there is no way not to be moved and excited by this music.”

As a performer, Ms. Lee aims to introduce audiences to “unusual” and occasionally underperformed pieces, interspersed with the familiar, to create a “moving” experience. In the end, it is a “conversation” between herself and the audience and a “synergetic collaboration.”

“I want to use this evening as a musical adventure and hopefully I will be a very good guide,” she says. “I hope at the end of the concert the audience comes away with being in touch with the essentials of life, the beauty of art, and with an excitement to find new jewels that maybe they were not aware of before within these pieces.

Soyeon Kate Lee returns to the Aurora Cultural Centre this Friday, March 11, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$34 for adults, and \$28 for seniors and students. For more information, visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

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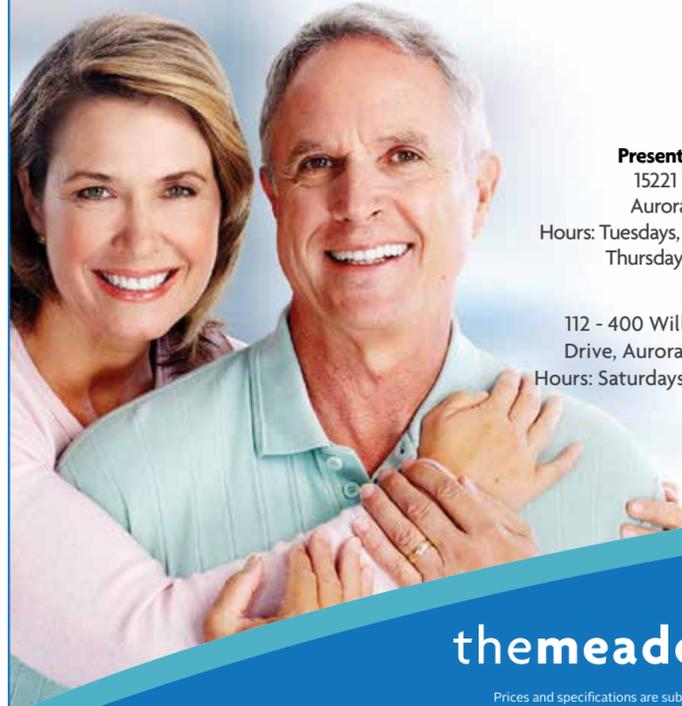
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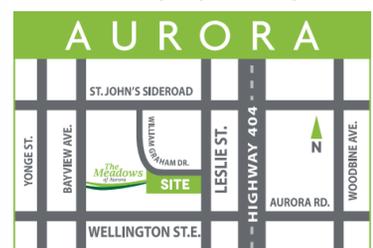
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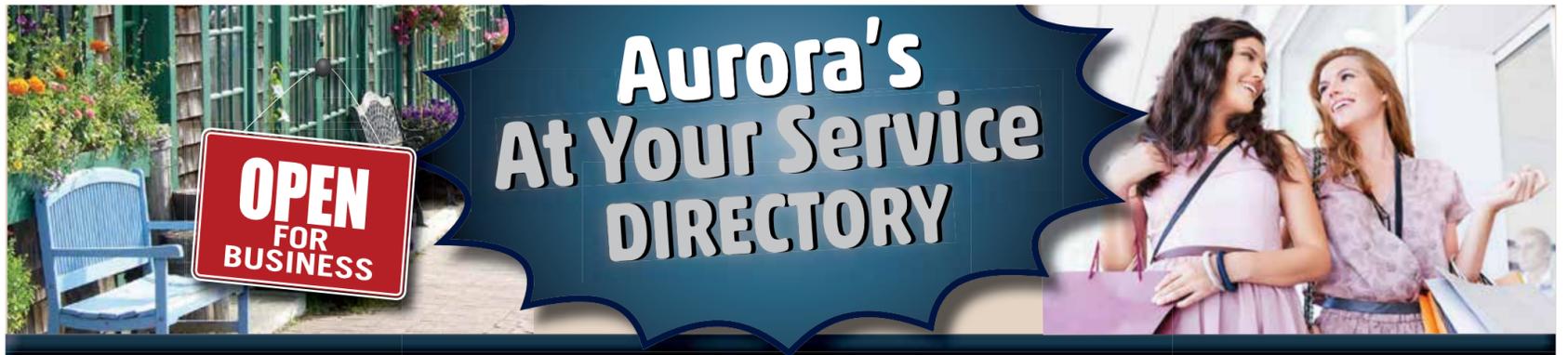
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DEATH NOTICE

Cunningham, Mary Lynn E. (nee Beauregard)



Peacefully at Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket, ON. On Saturday March 5, 2016 in her 69th year. Cherished wife of Vern of Aurora, ON. Stepmother to Tracey and her husband Todd Howard of Richmond Hill, ON., Steve and his wife Jennifer of Burbank, California. Second mother to Chase M. Cooper and his wife Stephanie of Aurora, ON., Katie Rincker and her husband Daniel Cohn of Hamilton, ON. Adored Nonni to Samantha, Alexandra, and Christina Howard. Survived by her brothers Dick, Norm and his wife Stephanie, Gary and his wife Eileen, and Sharon Beauregard. Predeceased by her brother Ron, and parents Denis and Bette Beauregard. Auntie Mame will be fondly remembered by her many nieces and nephews. A special thank you to her devoted friends Jane Rincker, Susan Parsons, Ann White, Carla Cooper, Daniela Parravano, and to the Emergency and I.C.U. staff at Southlake Hospital. Friends may call at the Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora (905 727-5421) on Thursday March 10 from 6-8pm. A Memorial Service will be held in the chapel Friday March 11 at 10am. Donations to The Rose of Sharon www.roseofsharon.com would be appreciated by the family. On-line condolences may be left at www.thompsonfh-aurora.com

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- Bookkeeper, A/R, A/P, Trial Balance, WIP exp. a must
- Assemblers (Mechanical) Bolton \$14-15 / hr.
- Heavy Labour \$15-18 / hr
- HVAC Technician G2, ODP, 313D req'd.
- Welders ... All position MIG, Days and Afternoon shifts, \$17-18 / hr
- CNC Machine Operators, Full Time, Bolton-A & N shifts
- Resumes only, no phone calls
- Only qualified persons will be contacted

DaveG@motivatedstaffing.com
905-951-6330 Fax
905-951-6300 Phone
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Reporter for Local Community Newspaper

Come join a dynamic, fast paced, growing entrepreneurial company looking for an energetic Reporter with a passion for community, sports and news. The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover local sports and community events.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Produce multiple stories and bylines each week. Some general stories may be required to meet editorial quotas.
- Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
- Coordinate and edit content and columns submitted for publication
 - Take photographs
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
 - Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle
 - Reporting experience an asset
- An interest in local issues is a necessity, as the majority of the writing for this role will be on the local events in the Community.



Let's Talk.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to **zach@auroran.com**

Administrative Assistant and Sales/Marketing Support

Come join a dynamic, fast paced, growing entrepreneurial company. A rewarding, lucrative opportunity, with lots of experience to be gained for the right candidate.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assistant to the General Manager.
- Assist and support the Sales Team.
- Paperwork associated with the advertising ordering and billing process
- Servicing and communicating with current and prospective clients
- Day to day banking, bookkeeping and office support
- Performing needs analysis, developing and implementing sales campaigns
- Developing territory: Contact with current and prospective clients
- The opportunity to work in the advertising sales and marketing department for our Newspapers, Billboards, Radio, Flyers, Online and all niche products.
- All other duties as assigned by the Manager

EXPECTATIONS:

- Great organization and time management skills to efficiently complete: support, EA and admin duties.
- Willing to work outside the box at a variety of tasks, in an ever-growing entrepreneurial company.
- Possess good oral and written communication skills.
- A positive attitude and care about your clients.
- Sales-driven and interested in building sales portfolio. Growth and results oriented.
- Willing to learn different facets of the organization, being independent and a self learning, while also asking all necessary questions of the manager.

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- Works Well with Deadlines and Budgets
- Experience in Microsoft Excel
- Great interpersonal Skills
- Some sales skills preferred but willing to train right candidate.
- Sales Driven
- Must have their own vehicle.
- Willing to work in and around- Aurora and King City.

COMPENSATION:

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Let's Talk.

EMAIL RESUME FOR CONSIDERATION:
Zach Shoub zach@lpcmedia.ca



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Offer(s) available on select new 2015/2016 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from March 1 to 31, 2016. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. Other lease and financing options also available. *0% financing for up to 60 months plus up to \$4,000 discount available on select 2015/2016 models. Discount is deducted from the negotiated purchase/lease price before taxes. Maximum \$4,000 (including \$500 competitive bonus**) discount is offered on a new 2016 Forte Sedan LX MT (F0541G) only. Certain conditions apply. See your dealer for complete details. **\$500 Competitive Bonus offer available on the retail purchase/lease of any new 2016 Forte, 2016 Sorento, 2016 Sportage, 2016 Optima and 2016 Optima Hybrid from participating dealers between March 1 to 31, 2016 upon proof of current ownership/lease of a select competitive vehicle. Competitive models include specific: VW, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Hyundai, Honda, GM, Jeep, Ram, Pontiac, Suzuki, Saturn, Chrysler, Chevrolet, Subaru, Mercedes-Benz, Lexus, Land Rover, Infiniti, Acura, Audi, Lincoln, Volvo and Buick vehicles. Some conditions apply. See your dealer or kia.ca for complete details. The Kia Sorento received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact multi-purpose vehicles/midsized SUVs in the proprietary J.D. Power 2015 U.S. Initial Quality Study/IQM. Study based on responses from 84,367 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 244 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of U.S. owners surveyed from February to May 2015. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation. Visit NewRoadsKia.com for full details.



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Michael Croxon
President
The NewRoads Automotive Group



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