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CANADA 150

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 18 No. 14 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

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12-year-old Lillie Clark-Gerin, above, a student at Hartman Public School, was one of the thousands of women and men who took to the streets of Toronto for Saturday's Women's March. Both she and her mother say they were (inset, right) inspired by the messages of their fellow demonstrators and (inset, left) found dialogue with supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump to be a valuable exchange. **Supplied photos**

Mothers and daughters march for their sisters

By Brock Weir

Over her 12 years, Lillie Clark-Gerein says she has always been passionate about women's rights – and the rights of all people.

But, when she got up on Saturday morning and put on her "Power to the Girls" t-shirt, donned her knitted pink "pussyhat" and hopped on the GO Train with her mother, her passion kicked into went into high gear as she joined the thousands of women and men for Toronto's Women's March, one of a series of demonstrations all around the world protesting the politics

and policies of U.S. President Donald Trump.

Their "pussyhats", part of a worldwide movement to take back the word while creating a potent symbol for the fight for equality, added to the sea of pink flowing through downtown streets.

"The speakers had some empowering words," says the Hartman Public School student. "[It showed me] that we should not be afraid to speak out and we can use our voice. Seeing all the different and diverse people there, different age groups and races, different genders – everyone was so unique and it was

really cool."

In the lead-up to Saturday's demonstration, Lillie says she didn't share her plans with any of her friends "because I know others have different opinions, but those she told before their departure, however were pretty much on the same page when it comes to President Trump, she says.

"My opinion is he is not a great guy and he really shouldn't be President – I don't know how that much power got into his hands," says Lillie, noting that people need to remain positive over the next four years. "Try not to think about

Continued on page 13

Centre celebrates 40 years of serving York Region women

By Brock Weir

"We're calling this a cause for celebration," says Catherine Madden, Executive Director of the Women's Centre of York Region, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in the community.

But, while the Women's Centre (WCYR) gears up for a celebratory open house on January 31, as well as a series of programs and initiatives to go on throughout their milestone year, the celebration is slightly tempered by the reality of the situation: in an ideal

world there would be no use for the WCYR in the first place.

"The ideal would be to put ourselves out of business and nobody would need us, but I think we have to look at the positive side of things that if women need us, we're glad that we are able to be here and we have the support of the community and our funders to continue to deliver the work that we do."

Founded 40 years ago by two women as J & J's Women's Counselling, the WCYR has its roots in offering

Continued on page 12

New strategy for economic development draws criticism

By Brock Weir

This winter, Aurora will chart a new course on economic development, but the priorities set out in the new vision have drawn criticism from local business leaders.

Council is set to review the implantation of a new "hybrid" economic development model which, along with the hiring of a new Economic Development Officer, will see the creation of an expanded Economic Development Board which

Continued on page 14

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TOWN OF AURORA

Weekly Notice Board



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Tuesday, January 31	5:45 p.m.	Leksand Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, January 31	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, February 1	4 p.m.	Leksand Room	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 2	7 p.m.	Leksand Room	Environmental Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 7	9:30 a.m.	Newmarket	Joint Council Committee
Tuesday, February 7	5:45 p.m.	Leksand Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, February 7	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee
Wednesday, February 8	7 p.m.	Aurora Cultural Centre	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Thursday, February 9	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Thursday, February 9	7 p.m.	Leksand Room	Economic Development Advisory Committee

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

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 aurora.ca

Open Forum

As of January 24, 2017, Open Forum will be held at 6:45 p.m. Open Forum allows members of the public to voice opinions on subjects of municipal concern.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017 • 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
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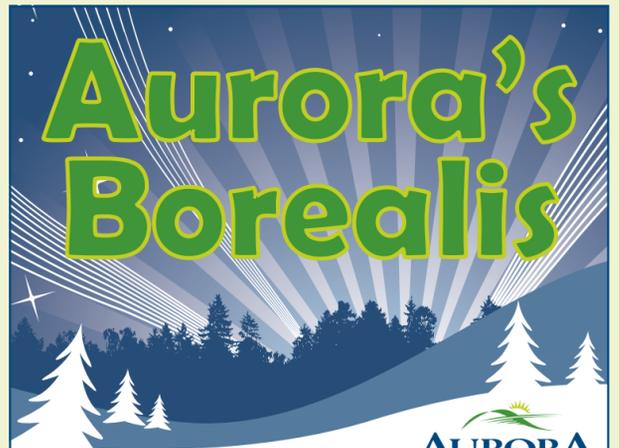
ENJOY LIVE ENTERTAINMENT <i>First Nations presentation</i> <i>Ice-carving competition</i> <i>Muskoka Wildlife animal show</i>	GET ACTIVE WITH WINTER SPORTS <i>Hockey shootouts</i> <i>Snow shoeing</i> <i>Snow tubing</i> <i>Body zorbing (inflatable body bubbles)</i>	BRING THE KIDS! <i>Inflatables</i> <i>Fishing game</i> <i>Mini golf</i>	...AND BRING YOUR APPETITE <i>Soup for Smiles at the Armoury hosted by the Optimist Club of Aurora*</i> <i>Food vendors on site*</i>
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*Nominal fees apply.

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Don't miss Aurora's Borealis

Visit Aurora Town Park every evening from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. until February 20, 2017 and enjoy the beautifully lit trees and festive atmosphere. Aurora Town Park is located at 49 Wells Street. For more information, please call 905-726-4762 or visit aurora.ca

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What's Happening

Summer Camp Early Bird Registration

Save 10 per cent on the cost of select summer camps when you register from **February 27 to March 10**. The Early Bird discount applies to the following camps: Tots of Fun / Kinder Camp / Sports Camp / Adventure Camp / Arts Camp. For more information about summer camps, please visit aurora.ca/campprograms.

Reminders

Renew Pet Licences by February 15

In Aurora, pet owners must license their cats and dogs who are 12 weeks of age or older. Licences must also be renewed no later than **Wednesday, February 15**.

For your convenience, the Town of Aurora offers online pet licence renewals at aurora.docupet.com, or in-person at the following locations:

Aurora Town Hall, Access Aurora, 1st floor - 100 John West Way, Aurora
York Region OSPCA - 16586 Woodbine Avenue, Stouffville

For more information, please contact the Town of Aurora's By-law Services Division at 905-727-3123, ext. 4242 or licensing@aurora.ca

Aurora expands textile pick up as of Monday, February 6

The Town of Aurora in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York and Textile Waste Diversion is pleased to provide Aurora residents with new, convenient options for re-purposing used clothing, textiles and household goods.

Effective **Monday, February 6**, residents of Aurora can contribute cloth items and home décor of any kind including clothing, curtains, towels and bedsheets.

Gently worn and reusable items are welcome, as well as any clean, dry and odourless items. This includes ripped or damaged textiles which can be recycled, plus items such as purses, eyeglasses and single shoes.

Textiles and housewares must be placed in plastic bags marked clearly with a "T" or items will not be collected. Collection will continue to take place the first Monday of each month throughout 2017.

Thank You

Town of Aurora 2016 Salvation Army Kettle Drive generates approximately \$67,500 in donations!

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the 2016 Salvation Army Kettle Drive in Aurora was a tremendous success with approximately \$67,500 raised in support of the Salvation Army's community programs and services.

Support for the Kettle Drive has continued to build since it was championed by former Aurora Mayor John G. West from 1979 to his retirement in 2006.

On behalf of Aurora Council, I would like to thank Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and all of the Councillors who volunteered their time at a kettle.

Thanks to the many individuals and groups who volunteered their time and to the following businesses for hosting a kettle:

- LCBO, 14824 Yonge Street
- LCBO, 15830 Bayview Avenue
- LCBO, 94 First Commerce Drive
- Metro, 1 Henderson Drive
- Canadian Tire, 15400 Bayview Avenue
- Walmart Supercentre, 135 First Commerce Drive
- Real Canadian Superstore, 15900 Bayview Avenue

And of course a huge thank you to everyone who donated at a kettle.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and enjoyable 2017!

Sincerely,

John Abel

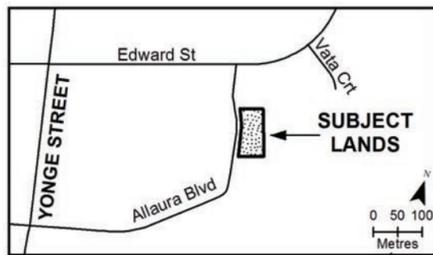
Deputy Mayor

Public Notices

Sale of Public Lands: Part of Lot 26, Allaura Boulevard

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS A BY-LAW TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND SELL MUNICIPAL LANDS

Take notice that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora (the "Town") is providing notice of its intention to pass a by-law on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017**, pursuant to Report No. PDS16-065, for the purpose of declaring as surplus and selling land legally described as Part of Lot 26, Registrar's Complied Plan 10328, designated as Part 2 on Plan 65R-33023, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, being all of PIN 03644-0126 (LT), having a total area of approximately 0.88 acres, more or less, as illustrated for location purposes only on Figure 1 (below).



The by-law will be available on the Town's website, located at aurora.ca/agendasminutes on **February 10, 2017** in advance of the Council meeting to be held on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017** at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way. For more information, please contact Anthony Ierullo, Manager, Long Range & Strategic Planning at 905-727-3123, ext. 4742 or by email to aierullo@aurora.ca.

Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

The Town of Aurora's outdoor ice skating rinks are up and running for the 2017 winter season. The rinks are located at the following parks:

- Ada Johnson Park 60 Hartwell Way
- Confederation Park 30 Glass Drive
- Machell Park 2A Aurora Heights Drive
- Town Park 49 Wells Street

All rinks are lit for evening enjoyment until 11 p.m. Please note, the rinks are unsupervised and are for shared use hockey and pleasure skating. The conditions of our outdoor rinks is entirely weather-dependent. Updates regarding the condition of the skating rinks are posted on the Town's website and social media feeds.

What's Happening

Junior Chef Competition

Calling all budding junior chefs! Apply today for our Junior Chef Competition, held during Aurora's Arctic Adventure on **Monday, February 20**. The competition is open to kids between 9 and 14. For more information and to download an application form, visit aurora.ca/arcticadventure. Applications must be received by **Wednesday, February 1**.

Club Aurora seminar – Lower Back Care

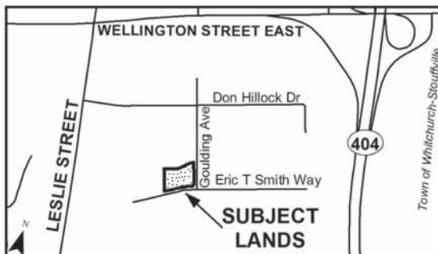
Join us for a Club Aurora Seminar Series on **Monday, February 6** from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and learn about winter lower back care. This seminar will provide you with tips on how to prevent back injuries during the winter season. aurora.ca/fitness.

Monthly Walking Club

Join us at the AFLC indoor track on **Thursday, February 16** at 10 a.m. for our **free** Older Adults Monthly Walking Club. There will be healthy snacks provided by Chartwell Retirement Residences, along with a fitness professional from the Club Aurora Fitness Centre. Additionally, some months will also feature a healthy living seminar. aurora.ca/activeseniors.

Youth Movie Night

Calling all youth! Join the Aurora Youth Engagement Committee for a showing of Jurassic World at our movie night on **Saturday, February 4** from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at The Loft. For more information, visit aurora.ca/youthprograms.



The by-law will be available on the Town's website, located at aurora.ca/agendasminutes on **January 27, 2017** in advance of the Council meeting to be held on **Tuesday, January 31, 2017** at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

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

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“Ground breaking” textile collection set to start February 6

Textiles and other goods collected as part of last Saturday's municipal e-waste collection await pickup this week from Textile Waste Diversion, a partner with the Town on a new, expanded door-to-door collection.

Photo courtesy of the Town of Aurora



By Brock Weir

A pilot project to over 3,000 Aurora homes took than 23 tonnes of textiles out of the waste system last year alone.

Starting February 6, the Town of Aurora, along with Textile Waste Diversion, is kicking it up a notch, expanding their door-to-door textile collections Town-wide and expanding their collection to include not just cloth but home décor and housewares.

Through the new program, all you have to do is bag your items, mark the bags clearly with a “T” and leave them on your doorstep the first Monday of each month through 2017.

“It’s a new program and we just want to give residents more options,” says Amanda Cutler, Waste Coordinator for the Town of Aurora, noting since the pilot project, which served specific pockets of the Aurora community, the CO2 was reduced by an estimated 171,808 pounds.

“Some residents still want to give to charities, and they can as well, but this is another option to show residents we do care about the environment, we do want to divert more stuff from landfills, and this is another way they can do it if they want to participate. We have the green bins and the blue bins, but we want to continue moving forward and going above and beyond in these programs.”

It is certainly above and beyond for the Town of Aurora, but it is also above and beyond for Textile Waste Diversion. (TWD)

“We’re excited about our program’s expansion [in Aurora] because textiles have such a positive impact on the environment when you’re actually able to recycle them, which is something that is very new in Canada,” says Daniele Siggia, Vice President of Development for TWD. “This is not something Canada has approached up until now, but getting textiles out of the waste stream is something that can be done very quickly and very efficiently and Aurora has proven that.”

“We started with a very small pilot project that was easy to manage to make sure that we could get all of the kinks out and as soon as we saw that it worked and it was generating some really positive potential, and great carbon reduction numbers, they decided to expand the program exponentially. What Aurora is

proving is that getting to zero waste with textiles is easy, it can be done, and is a big priority for textile waste diversion.”

TWD operates province-wide, but the Aurora approach is slightly different for the company because, Ms. Siggia says, the yields are so small by comparison. Elsewhere in Ontario, much of the collected textiles are sent overseas, particularly to nations in South America and East Africa. As far as Aurora’s textiles are concerned, just 11 per cent is exported overseas, with the bulk being reused in North America.

35 per cent goes towards industrial reuse such as upholstery, stuffing, and rags. 10 per cent of that stays in Canada and the rest is sent to the United States, she explains.

“50 per cent of what we collect we’re actually able to use in the Canadian second-hand economy at this point, and I would like to see that increase exponentially,” says Ms. Siggia, adding that they do not want to negatively impact charities that work in the same sector. “We’re still streamlining how we want to manage [other household goods that will be collected] and I want to change it. Right now we’re distributing to local charities as we go, but I would like to set up an actual formalized process where charities can take their pick. We’re kind of in flux about that one, but I would like to see it perfected in the next month or so.”

Perfect or not, what is set to begin a week Monday is something of a game changer, says Ms. Siggia.

“Right now, most municipalities are not involved in textiles whatsoever, and some of them have really restrictive regulations that make it difficult for anybody to operate, even in the private sector or the charity sector. Although TWD is expanding right now, it is slow growth.”

“What Aurora did is different in that they got ahead of the problem and said instead of trying to eliminate the sector, let’s try to blossom it into something that will actually reduce waste at the end of the day. They made that a priority and reverse-engineered. They aligned with a company that was interested in sector development, but didn’t want to go into competition with charities. Charities have been the backbone of the sector since it started, so there is no reason to eliminate them from the equation. They

can be an integral part of it. What we need to do is focus on that 85 per cent, so systems were put in place to capture much of that.

“This is something that everyone in Aurora can get behind; whether they want to give to their favourite charity or support a Town program, we’re just urging people not to throw their

textiles in the garbage.”

If you’re looking to de-clutter, the waste collection starting February 6 includes clothes, curtains, blankets, footwear, housewares, jackets, linens, glasses, purses, hats, belts, soft toys, and even sports equipment. Items not being accepted include furniture, appliances, or, of course, hazardous waste.

Briefly

19-YEAR-OLD MAN CHARGED WITH HIT AND RUN

A 19-year-old Aurora man has been charged with fail to remain following a collision with a pedestrian on Saturday night. York Regional Police were called to the area of Metcalfe and Wells Streets at 9.25 p.m. on January 21. The victim was transported to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The car involved in the collision was described as a 2004 Black Nissan and the driver, the 19-year-old man, was later identified and charged with assault with a weapon, dangerous driving, and driving without a license. Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact the York Regional Police’s 1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-866-876-5423 x7141, or call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS.

FREEDOM FAIR

Women’s Support Services of York Region marks Human Traffic Awareness Month next Tuesday, January 31, with the inaugural Freedom Fair: The Freedom Fair aims to bring together all those who are fighting against human trafficking both locally and internationally to recognize their efforts and to raise awareness within the community. The Fair runs from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre and will include open mic performances, as well as information booths, refreshments, and an art market. Entrance by donation. For more information on the organization, or how to perform or volunteer, contact the Women’s Support Network at 905-895-3656 or visit womensupportnetwork.ca.

POWERSTREAM DONATES MORE THAN \$205,000 TO UNITED WAY

PowerStream has made a donation of \$205,145 which will be shared between the United Way of Toronto & York Region, as well as the United Way Simcoe Muskoka. The results of PowerStream’s 2016 Employee United Way Campaign, it was raised through payroll deductions, a corn roast, employee bingo, 50/50 draws, and a company charity golf tournament.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't discount walking!

(Re: In Good Company, January 19)

I appreciate that Mayor Dawe is writing about healthy lifestyles, and that our Mayor heads up a Task Force on Physical Activity.

Healthy food is also mentioned, namely the upcoming "Choose to Boost Veggies and Fruit" initiative by the Windfall Ecology Centre.

Healthy food and exercise are indeed well recognized as cornerstones to staying healthy, and to prevent health problems.

What disappoints me is that under the article's extensive list of suggested physical activities there is no mention of walking.

Walking offers a fine opportunity for daily physical activity.

Aurora's trails network is there to facilitate this most basic human activity.

Such activity, unlike the many sports that require registration fees, scheduling, and often expensive equipment, walking you can do anytime, anywhere, on the spur of the moment, whenever it is convenient. And equipment? Well you need only what you wear daily: your shoes. No costs, period.

If done on trails, walking will get you into fresh air, away from car exhaust and noise, and allow you to ponder a few thoughts.

More attention should be paid to that physical activity.

If we would put more walk-friendly infrastructure into place, in line with what is set out in the Aurora Trails Master Plan, then this basic activity could soon contribute substantially to further our goal to become Canada's Most Active Community.

Walking needs to become a part of Aurora's fabric of life.

We are on the right track with our Mayor's Task Force on Physical Activity. Now, we shall have to put a few extra dollars into each year's capital budget to be able to pay for the necessary infrastructure: for more off-road trails through nature, and especially for more walk friendly crossings of major roads, and the rail tracks.

I hope this makes sense to not only the Mayor, but to the other Members of Council, as well.

Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora

Youngsters learned a lot at Seniors' Centre workshop

One of the programs offered to youth this past fall by the Town of Aurora's Parks and Recreation Department was an afternoon workshop over two Saturdays in November for boys and girls aged 7 - 10.

The project was to make a speaker for a cell phone.

The students laid out saw cuts with pencil and square, and drilled holes for the screws that held the three pieces of wood together, and finished the outside with sandpaper.

Many thanks to the Aurora Seniors' Centre for their workshop, and Ron Coe in particular for his efforts in making the prototypes, for his instructions, and cutting the wood pieces.

The children certainly gained an appreciation for making a wood project by themselves.

One youngster saw his sister's dollhouse kitchen lacked a cutting board, so he made one by gluing popsicle sticks together. He brought it to the next session to trim the ends square

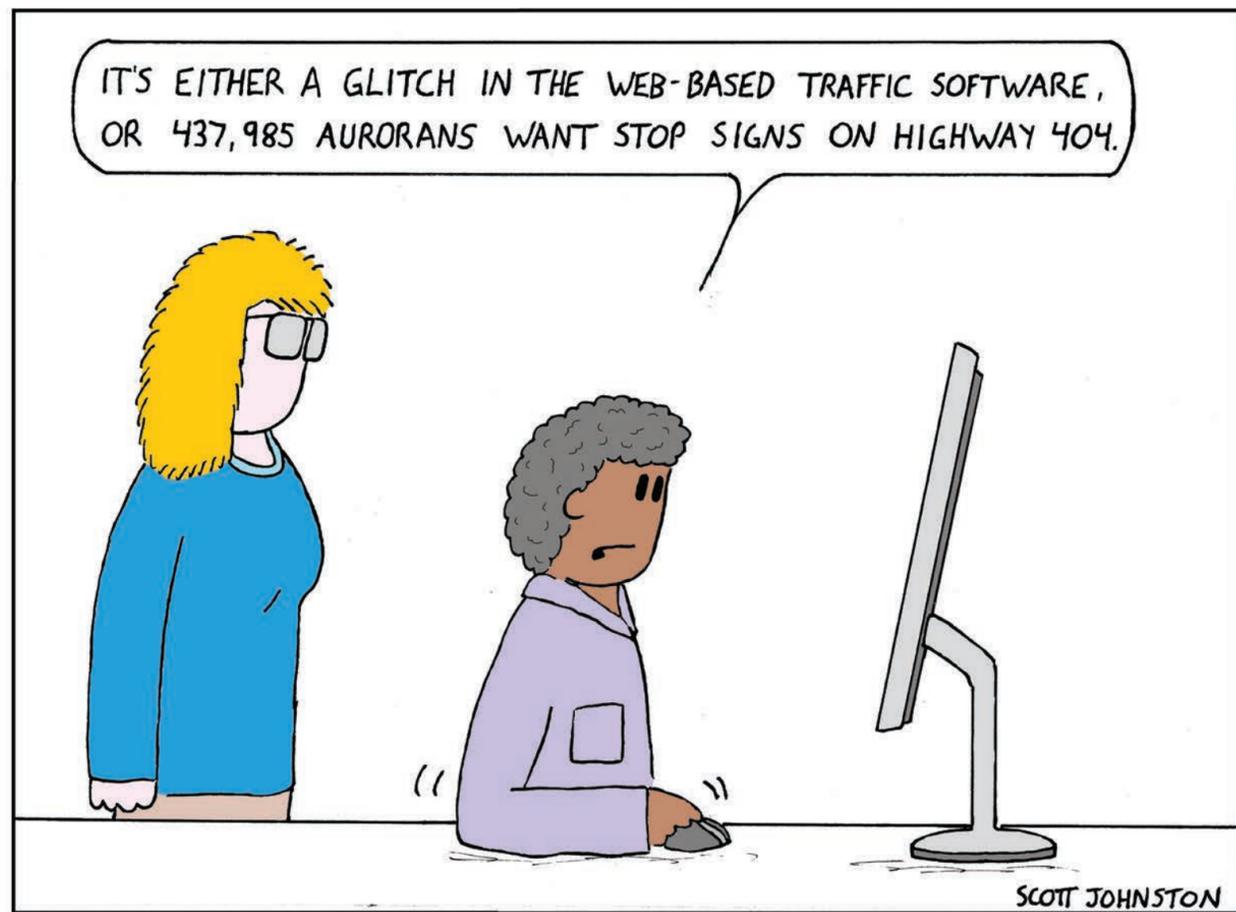
Thanks, Ron, for helping to deliver this program!

Bill Otton
Optimist Club of 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



Ctrl-Alt-Facts



BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

When local figures in the sports and athletics community launched their efforts to put Aurora on the road to becoming Canada's most active community by 2020 just a couple of years ago, they often waxed sentimental.

They longed for the days when kids were encouraged to climb trees - and take a scraped knee or two like a champ - without helicopter parents hovering nearby.

They spoke longingly for the years, which really don't seem all that long ago, when kids could grab a group of their neighbours or classmates, a ball, and a net and get into an all-day session of street hockey.

They wanted kids to get out in the great outdoors by turning off their devices and tuning into the world around them.

It's an ideal, and one I didn't realise I longed for until it was put right under my nose.

Had they not underscored the fact this simply doesn't happen as much compared to when I was growing or when my parents were growing up, I might not have noticed. But, it made me more aware.

In fact, it made me so aware that just last year, while tackling a treadmill at a local gym facing out the window looking west, I smiled in spite of myself at a group of kids devising a seemingly complex game in the adjacent parkette out of little more than a garbage can and a park bench, with nary a phone in sight.

That was just this past summer, and I was facing in the same direction this past Saturday night, this time with my neck craned upward from that infernal machine, my eyes darting between two TV screens suspended from the ceiling like a spectator in some sort of demented, absurd tennis game.

The TV immediately to my left featured CNN and its bank of talking heads discussing and debating the significance of the newly minted U.S. President's activities on the first full day of public office.

The one to the right showed CP24, which had broken away from coverage of the heartening scenes of Women's Marches around the world, including Toronto, to show the first press briefing of the new White House order.

It was a sight to behold as the new Press Secretary berated the press for its accurate reporting of the less than overwhelming crowds who turned out to see the inauguration of #45, compared to shots taken at #44's first inauguration at the exact same time from nearly the exact same vantage point.

Despite the clear evidence to underscore the truth, the Press Secretary insisted it was the largest crowd ever to

witness an inauguration.

Almost as if he didn't believe the untruths he had to read out from his prepared statement, he emphasized the effort to which he was trying to sell this hogwash by ending his sentence with a forceful "PERIOD" punctuated by a verbal exclamation mark rather than a full stop.

This was not carried live by CNN, rather clips were shown a few minutes allowing, allowing them to get their ducks in a row to puncture further holes in the very leaky boat the Oval Office sent out in a vain attempt to rescue its bluster.

Not content with the "PERIOD!" the next morning, Kellyanne Conway went on TV to defend the statement, telling journalists and the public at large that these were simply "alternative facts."

In addition to the days were parents were content to let their kids climb trees, scrape their knees, and get a good game of shinny going, I now long for the days when "alternative facts" were called what they are: outright "lies." (I also long for the days when people identifying as "alt-right", or called the same as others, were once again "neo-Nazis" and "white nationalists/supremacists" but that is a column for another day).

Now, I'm not one to want to stifle any sort of creativity and, I mean, embracing the retooling of outright lies to be "alternative facts" more appealing to the fragile worldview of your base, is fertile creative ground, but a line must be drawn somewhere.

Nevertheless, let's explore this concept a bit further.

Don't be too smug. Aurora is no stranger to "alternative facts" and we have seen them presented from all angles from all sides on any variety of topics ranging from the formation, composition, and, in some cases, exoduses of all varieties of festivals, as well as the myriad municipally-involved (or municipally-inspired) lawsuits that were, until very recently, a true hallmark of Aurora.

Still, what a world we would be living in if Town Hall launched a marketing campaign to its citizens claiming that despite all evidence to the contrary,

historic Yonge Street is still a bustling hub of activity...it's just the demand for the empty storefronts is just so "yuge" that landlords simply can't pick which A-list retailer they will allow to grace their space.

Or, that chicanes were just so successful in the northeast quadrant of Yonge and Wellington that they were actually taken out to teach under-appreciative neighbours a lesson.

Or, that reducing Yonge Street to one lane in each direction fizzled because it would have been such a boon to Yonge Street shops that they simply couldn't handle the increase in foot traffic.

Or, one-way streets in the Downtown Core would significantly improve traffic flow.

Or, that internal polls showed that northwest residents actually adore the King cell tower looming over their properties as the lattice work reminds them of eating in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.

Or, that back in 2010 Mayor Dawe's message of "Put the Aura Back in Aurora" was almost as successful as "Make America Great Again" in making voter turnout skyrocket to bring about change.

Or, that the Municipal portion of your tax bill didn't actually go up by 3.1 per cent, rather a low, low 2.1 per cent plus a further one per cent to boost municipal reserves.

Or, that despite countless residents living and working in the area saying the contrary, numbers show there is actually no parking problem in the downtown core.

Okay, so some people actually tried to make the last two happen, but it didn't - and doesn't - fly.

As this saga continues to unfold south of our border, I was initially concerned that this profession would be rendered obsolete as so many people gravitate towards sources (and I use the term loosely) tailored specifically towards their own worldview, their "alternative facts", branding everything else that might challenge said worldview or prompt them (egads!) to be critical thinkers as "fake news," but Saturday's Women's Marches and outright outrage stemming from the White House trying to make "alternative facts" a thing has given me hope that there is an appetite out there to be served the truth.

News outlets serving Aurora might seem, in the grand scheme of things, to be a smaller fish in a larger media pond, but I for one am firm in my resolve to stand up in the face of "alternative facts."

If we all do so, every little bit will help defend the democracy on all levels we hold so dear.

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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



The Aurora Museum & Archives is asking...

Do you remember this bonfire?

This massive pile of wood was set up in Town Park for VE Day Celebrations in 1945.

Contact the editor at brock@auroran.com if you have any photos or memories of this event.



MP's Report

Kyle Peterson, MP
Newmarket-Aurora

Happy New Year!

I hope you and your family have had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2017.

I know my boys were excited for Christmas and to celebrate the New Year too. I was pleased to attend the Town of Aurora's Family First Night event and celebrate the New Year together with many of you.

This year will be a special one as Canada celebrates its 150th Anniversary of Confederation in 2017.

The Town of Aurora has many special events planned and I look forward to celebrating our 150th Anniversary year together, and to seeing many of you.

This past weekend, we held the first meeting of the Newmarket-Aurora Constituency Youth Council. Our youth council consists of 10 young people between the ages of 16-24 years old.

The purpose of the Youth Council is to provide a platform for our youth to share their ideas and discuss matters important to them, our community and our country. I was quite impressed with the input and discussions at the meeting.

Canada Summer Jobs Update

The application period has now been extended until February 3, 2017.

Canada Summer Jobs provides funding for not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with up to 50 or fewer employees.

Not-for-profit employers can receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial/territorial minimum hourly, as well as employment-related costs. Public-sector employers and small businesses can receive up to 50 per cent of the provincial/territorial minimum hourly wage.

If you have hired a student in the past, you know how beneficial it can be for your organization.

This is an important opportunity for our local students to gain the much-needed skills and experience to contribute to our community and for their future employment goals.

I encourage you to take advantage of this great program and apply for funding for students that you require to help you.

For more information on CSJ, visit the Canada.ca/Canada-summer-jobs, a Service Canada Office or by calling 1-800-935-5555. For more information or assistance regarding CSJ's, please contact my Constituency Office.

And finally...

Finally, I would like to invite all community members to join me this Saturday, January 28, 2017 for a New Year's Family Skate from 5:45 - 7:45 p.m. at the Magna Centre, 800 Mulock Drive in Newmarket.

It will be an evening of skating, fun and a great opportunity to connect with other community members. I hope to see you there.

I will be returning to Ottawa on Monday, January 30, for the beginning of a new session. I am proud to be working hard on Parliament Hill on your behalf. I'm very proud of the work we have done so far, and look forward to the work ahead in 2017.

As always, feel free to contact my Constituency Office should you require any information or assistance on Federal matters. The office is located at 16600 Bayview Avenue, Suite 202, Newmarket L3X 1Z9. Tel: 905-953-7515 or by email at Kyle.Peterson@parl.gc.ca.

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you agree with the sentiments expressed by those in Saturday's Women's March?
Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

Should the York Region District School Board consider future growth when planning new high schools? Yes No Unsure

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
JANUARY 24, 2017	82%	9%	9%

Those are the facts, Jack!

I know that primary school is a distant memory for many, many folks but the lessons learned in kindergarten should serve one well throughout one's life.

They are foundational. Fundamental. Basic things like how to tie a shoelace, how to share your toys, understanding right and wrong, truth and lies. These are the types of lessons that are taught at a very young age and reinforced throughout one's life – in school, at home, in places of worship and interactions with other people.

A general set of precepts that civilized society understands and adheres to.

Well, let me rephrase that: precepts that society generally – or ideally? – adheres to.

As we are seeing right now, unfortunately, I fear that the lessons learned at age 5 have faded from our collective memories. How else to explain the current state of affairs where up is down, black is white and a fact may be a fact only if it's not an alternate fact? When some folks feel no compunction at all to tell the truth and get darn right ornery when presented with facts that don't serve their version of reality?

I can't believe I have to say this, but there are facts folks. Things that are true. And there are things that are not true. That is reality. Again, this is something we learn when we are very young; that there are facts – generally accepted to be the truth – and there is fiction, which is generally accepted as being not the truth.

To simplify it even further, we're taught that when something is



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

demonstrably true – say, that the sky is blue (and please don't give me a lecture on light refraction...). That is a fact. And when something that is demonstrably false, say that chickens have eight legs, that is not true.

So far so good.

I think everyone can agree at least conceptually that there are certain things - called facts - that are true. And that there are certain things that are not true.

But what do you call things that are not true?

Here's where it gets tricky for some folks. If something isn't true, that means it isn't a fact. So, what do you call it? I guess it depends on who you are, where you are and what you are trying to say – or not say. They could be falsehoods or misstatements, misapprehensions or my favourite – “misspoke.”

What's missing from that list? How about lies? Because for the most part, the purveyors of these “misstatements”, these “false statements” are in fact flat out lying.

A five year old can see it, for heaven's sake. So, why are folks so afraid to say it?

Yes, the word “lie” is a fraught

term. It implies intent. That you are knowingly saying something that isn't true. So, using that term seems to cause conniptions amongst the punditry.

I have no idea why. When someone says something that is clearly, demonstrably false, such that any reasonable person would know as much, then making such a statement is not misstating a fact, it is not “mis-speaking,” it is not even stating an alternate opinion. It is lying. Period.

The fact that we are even having a debate about what to call a lie is, quite simply, astounding to me. But, we're now in a universe designed by Kafka. Where we have facts and “alternate” facts, not truth and lies. And lest you think this is all about Trump and his appalling talking heads who have parked their principles and common sense at the front door of their new offices, it is not.

This penchant for stretching, exaggerating, misstating and out-and-out lying pervades public discourse at virtually every level, from national to local. Trump's team just does it on a grander scale.

Personally, I think we're teetering on the edge of a cliff. Actually we're hanging onto the edge of that cliff by our fingernails.

We're about to fall into the abyss of lies, where no one will believe anything a party leader says. Or worse, they'll believe everything their chosen party leader says regardless of what it is they're saying and believe that everything anyone else says is a lie.

We need to pull back from that cliff. Or suffer the consequences.

Not Just About the Kids!

Recently, I have had discussions with many people of all ages and with varied interests about how to “activate” Aurora.

It has been an enlightening experience and I thank all those who have taken the time to share opinions. There is no shortage of them.

One important theme has arisen: it is the notion that Activate Aurora is focused on children and the problem of obesity and type-2 diabetes in that population. People seem aware of our efforts to work with schools, teachers and sport providers of physical activity to kids.

All agree that it is a strategy that makes sense, because if we build movement skills and physical activity early, then people acquire competence as movers and confidence to continue throughout their life.

Building an active community however goes beyond the kids and schools.

I recently attended the Older Adults Network meeting of Activate Aurora, where twelve leaders of programs offered in Aurora were present to discuss activating adults in our community. This Network has reviewed the size of the adult population in our Town and is now reviewing the services being offered. Surveys are being prepared with the help of Dr. Michelle Silver, Assistant Professor of Anthropology/Health Studies at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus and the Institute

of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation.

The resulting analyses will help identify gaps in service levels and move forward with training and programming. Our Seniors Association is integrally involved, as are CHATS, local Seniors Residences and the Municipality through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. Of course, Southlake Regional Health Centre is at the table. In fact, most organizations who work with older adults are involved, and more are joining each month.

Some interesting information has been uncovered. The most recent Community Health Survey has identified adult obesity rates.

Our own 2016 Aurora census data shows the size of the adult population by five-year bands for both genders. These studies show that Aurora's adult population is consistent with the baby-boomer influence seen elsewhere. Plainly put, Aurora's adult population is growing and programs for them are needed to help them get



ACTIVATE AURORA

Ron Weese

or stay active.

Activity patterns have also been studied and it shows that each person has a unique activity “trajectory”; that is, every person can trace their physical activity pattern as they age. For adults, this trajectory often gets altered. Marriage and kids, a job or job change, an illness or injury or financial difficulties can cause lifestyle changes that pull them off their trajectory. For some reason, in adulthood they don't often re-engage. Re-engagement strategies appear vital for them returning to their normally active lifestyles.

For adults who have never been very active, inactivity can be traced back to a lack of skill acquisition and movement confidence. Most adults report that they had limited interest or opportunities for physical education in early years or they didn't participate in extra-curricular sport and recreation. Helping these folks build fundamental movement skills in a supportive environment is now referred to as ‘functional fitness’. Its purpose is to help adults become better “movers” and attain the confidence needed to get out and be active. More to come on this in future columns.

Activate Aurora is working with our local providers through the life of the project to bring activities for all ages. Join US! At www.activateaurora.com to stay informed and learn how you can participate.

Junior Chefs invited to come out for some friendly Family Day competition

By Brock Weir

If you have ever flipped on shows like Chopped Canada Junior and wanted your chance to duke it out in the kitchen for culinary supremacy, you may soon have your chance much closer to home.

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for what they hope will become the first annual Junior Chef Competition, which could be a centrepiece of next month's Family Day celebrations – Aurora's annual Arctic Adventure.

A call for all budding Junior Chefs, the Town is now accepting applications for youth between the ages of 9 to 14 to step into the kitchen and do friendly battle with their peers – and having their work reviewed by a real professional chef.

Applications must be received by the Town by Wednesday, February 4, and if they have at least four participants, the new Junior Chef Competition will take place in the historic Aurora Armoury.



Budding chefs do the washing up after a recent family cooking course hosted by Windfall Ecology Centre in conjunction with the Town of Aurora. If you're between the ages of nine and 14 and love to cook, read on to find out how you can show off your skills at February's Arctic Adventure!

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

"Everyone who participates is going to make one dish," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "The base of the dish is going to be consistent, but the contents of the mystery box might change – and the number of participants we have

overall will determine how we structure the challenge but I can't even say what the cooking apparatus is because it will give away what the base of the dish is! The base dish will be consistent, but the items in the box is where their innovation is going to come from."

Depending on the number of participants, Junior Chefs might have to show off their culinary skills in heats. The culinary masterpieces will be sampled by a panel of judges – including at least one professional chef and members of Aurora's Youth Engagement Committee – who will use their eyes and taste buds to evaluate the taste and appeal of the dish, how it looks, the final presentation, and how the Junior Chefs used the ingredients in the mystery box.

"You can try many different things and the dish could literally fall apart at the execution mark, or it could turn out to be a home run!" says Ms. Ware.

With the inclusion of a professional teaching kitchen at the revamped Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Aurora has hosted a Junior Chef summer camp for the past two years, as well as additional Junior Chef programs in the spring and fall. Ms. Ware says the uptake of the program is a clear indication that there is an "appetite" amongst Aurora youth to become more involved in cooking – thanks in no small part to shows like Chopped Canada Junior.

"Those shows have such an appeal

that we thought, why not try it?" she says. "Clearly this is new territory for us, but we want to make that competition available for the youth. We're providing a really unique experience for the youth, who will be supported by their families. The competition is on Family Day and one of the requirements for the youth participating is they have a guardian with them for support. I think it will be a fabulous opportunity between today and the competition for families to spend time in the kitchen preparing meals.

"Maybe you have children who already like the process of cooking, but maybe this is also a new family tradition that you can introduce into your household. I know in our generation it was always the parents who did the cooking, but in this new generation coming up, they are a lot more hands-on, so whether or not a child has taken one of our programs, I do believe there is a culinary interest out there, and this is a great family time experience they can have as well because if they do register for the competition, they have that motivating factor to be prepared for February 20. Maybe some families will be trying some dinner dishes or breakfast dishes to formulate or make themselves."

And the best part? While there might be a chef whose dish does ultimately reign supreme, it is all about fun and nobody is going to get chopped. All participants will get a certificate recognizing both their participation and their experience.

"We want to provide a new experience that is going to be focused on fun, not on being chopped," says Ms. Ware. We're hoping that as Arctic Adventure is on Family Day and as these youth prepare for the competition, hopefully it is an opportunity for them to spend time as a family as they prepare or get warmed up with their culinary skills between now and the day."

If you – or your parents – think you have what it takes, visit www.aurora.ca/arcicadventure to apply for the Junior Chef Competition. The deadline to register is Wednesday, February 1.



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Singer Angel Forrest takes the stage set up Saturday night at Almac Industrial Systems. The party served an appetizer for the month-long series of events, beginning February 4, leading up to the Aurora Winter Blues Festival.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

MusicAurora launches three-festival mandate

By Brock Weir

Music lovers filled an Industrial Parkway South warehouse transformed into Aurora's premiere music venue on Saturday night for the formal launch of the Aurora Winter Blues Festival – and its new “parent” MusicAurora.

Over 200 revellers filled the warehouse of Almac Industrial Systems for the invitation-only party headlined by award-winning singer Angel Forrest and featuring The Cara Lea Band.

It wasn't just a party to set the tone for February's month-long program all leading up to the Aurora Winter Blues Festival on February 24 and 25, but the true launch of the newly-formed collective MusicAurora, which aims to bring three music festivals to Aurora and be a “hub” for local talent.

“MusicAurora really is an umbrella organization and we're rolling three festivals under MusicAurora – the York Simcoe Youth Music Festival, the Aurora Winter Blues Festival (AWBF), and the newly-launched summer music festival,” said AWBF co-founder Jamie Macdonald. “It is going to

give us huge economies of scale and will mean bigger and better things coming to the Town of Aurora moving forward.”

This year, the sounds of summer will ring out from Town Park thanks to the relaunch of the Aurora Music Festival, which debuted last summer at Highland Park.

A passion project of John Abel, the Councillor was on hand Saturday night to give the new festivals a boost.

“The summer festival will be in August and will feature Youth in Music and some great headlining acts,” said Councillor Abel. “We're looking forward to seeing you all on the long weekend in August at fabulous Town Park.”

In the meantime though, the attention of MusicAurora is focused squarely on the Aurora Winter Blues Festival.

The fun kicks off Saturday, February 4 in the showroom of Highland Automotive with the AWBF Blues Bash, headlined by the All-Star Jam Band. Featuring great music, door prizes, a live and silent auction, and lots of food, the event also serves as a showcase for CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors) and Blue Door Shelters, two local non-profits that will once again benefit from festival proceeds, along with the AWBF Youth in Music Program.

Continuing from February 4, Aurorans can take part in several pop-up music performances in various locations around Town, as well as enjoy programs organized by Festival partners the Aurora Cultural Centre and Royal Canadian Legion.

On Friday, February 10, the Aurora Cultural Centre hosts the Friday Night Blues Party featuring Diane Brathwaite and Chris Whitely. The following weekend, on Saturday, February 18, Groovestra will blow the proverbial roof off the Royal Canadian Legion at the “Raise the Roof” Rhythm & Blues Dance, which will also help support the Legion's fundraising efforts for a new roof.

Then, the following Friday, February 24, the AWBF kicks into high gear with the first night of the Festival proper.

Starting at 7.30 p.m. at St. Andrew's College – a first for the Festival, which previously used Theatre Aurora as a base – “Masters of the Blues” takes the stage, featuring the Downchild Blues Band with special guests the Spencer MacKenzie Band.

The Aurora Winter Blues Festival concludes Saturday, February 25 at 7 p.m., again at St. Andrew's College, with “Lady Plays Guitar” featuring renowned musicians Sue Foley, Suzie Vinnick and Cecile Doo-Kingue.

Tickets for the February 4 Blues Bash are available online from the Festival website, www.awbf.ca, as well as from CHATS and Blue Door Shelters. Tickets for the February 10 and February 18 events are also available online as well as from the Aurora Cultural Centre and Royal Canadian Legion respectively. For a full roster of activities, and tickets to the February 24 and 25 Festival, visit the website.



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FREE Week of January 26, 2017



Aurora's Brayden LaChance contended with 121 shots over two losses to the Markham Royals and Cobourg Cougars over the weekend. **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

Tigers snap losing streak but face elimination

By Jake Courtepatte

Though not yet officially eliminated, the Aurora Tigers' 2016-17 season is all but over.

With the roster stripped to the barest of bones, the Junior A club gave up close to 200 shots in a weekend that saw the Tigers go 2 - 1.

Facing a Markham team on Friday that is looking to clinch their spot in the Ontario Junior Hockey League postseason, the Royals came out pressing while cruising to a 5 - 1 win at the Markham Centennial Centre.

For the Tigers' part, Brayden LaChance saw a whopping 61 shots, while Luca Esposito was the only Aurora player to find the back of the net.

To those longtime Tigers fans, a familiar foe was between the pipes at the other end of the ice, in goaltender Marcus Semiao.

Semiao spent a season with the Tigers in 2014-15 when they won the OJHL regular season title, eventually traded to Markham and spending some time with the OHL's Ottawa 67's. He stopped 33 of the 34 pucks he faced, and brings his team to within one game of clinching a playoff spot.

Backup goalie Jake Sabourin got the call between the pipes for Saturday's home game with the Toronto Jr. Canadiens, the first meeting of the year between the two clubs.

Mel Melconian earned his first junior hockey hat trick in a back-and-forth contest, with the Tigers eventually earning the win 5 - 4 in double overtime.

Scoring both of the Tigers goals while down 3 - 2 heading into the

third period, Melconian tied the game midway through the third period on a giveaway by Toronto goalie Andrew Cippolone behind the net.

Both teams exchanged a goal apiece to close out the regulation period, taking a 4 - 4 tie to extra time.

It was Eric Holland who earned the extra point for the Tigers, stealing the puck off a Canadiens defenceman in the Aurora end to go in on the Toronto net uncontested.

A deke to the backhand by the Tigers' captain allowed him to slide it between the legs of Cippolone, giving the Tigers their first win since November 25.

Sabourin was outstanding while filling in for LaChance, stopping 40 of the 44 shots he faced.

Unfortunately, the celebrations didn't last, as LaChance was shellacked with sixty shots by the Cobourg Cougars in a rare Monday game two days later.

Part of the Trenton Golden Hawks' annual OJHL Showcase, it was the Cougars that put on the show with three multi-goal performances, taking the lead just three minutes into the game and never looking back.

With ten games remaining on their regular season schedule, the Tigers are within two games of being officially eliminated from postseason contention. They bring a record of 6-32-1-4 into February, with the season running out on February 24.

Aurora has not missed the postseason in six seasons, dating back to 2010-11.

The Newmarket Hurricanes are clinging on the eighth spot by four points, chased by the Lindsay Muskies. In the Northeast conference, the Golden Hawks, Cougars, and Whitby Fury have already clinched.

This week is a slow one on the Tigers' schedule, set to host the Cougars (33-11-0-1) at the Aurora Community Centre on Sunday.

Puck drop is at 7 p.m.

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

Road to Ontario Championship begins for Tigers

By Jake Courtepatte

Nineteen Tigers teams have their sights set on a provincial championship in 2017.

With the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playdowns kicking off last weekend, hundreds of teams from across the province will get the opportunity to hoist the OMHA Cup.

While the Aurora organization has experienced a successful year as a whole, perhaps Aurora's greatest opportunity at a championship lies with the Novice AA Tigers, who lost just two games over the regular season to claim the York-Simcoe season title.

They opened up their first-round OMHA series with the Richmond Hill Stars at the Aurora Community Centre on Sunday afternoon, cruising to a 7 - 0 victory to take a 2 - 0 lead in their first-to-six-points matchup.

The Minor Atom AA squad, taking on the rival Newmarket Redmen in a Battle of Yonge Street, have jumped

out to a 3 - 0 lead following a win and a tie over the weekend.

With most teams competing in one game over the weekend, the Atom A, Atom AE, and Bantam AE Tigers have taken an early lead over the Innisfil Winterhawks, Newmarket Redmen, and Orillia Terriers, respectively.

The PeeWee A Tigers could clinch their ticket to the OMHA quarterfinals at the ACC on Friday, after two straight wins against the Richmond Hill Stars to open the tournament.

Aurora, who lost just three games all year, were second only to the Barrie Colts in York-Simcoe standings.

Five other Aurora teams will move right into York-Simcoe competition for the local crown.

The Minor Bantam AAs have already taken the lead in their YSHL opening series, defeating the Innisfil Winterhawks 3 - 1.

For schedules, visit www.auroraminorhockey.com.



The Atom AA Tigers topped the Markham Waxers 4 - 1 on Sunday to even their OMHA playdown series at a game apiece. **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

Aurora well represented in U-18 international football



Lucas La Brier, Yiannis Spetsakis, Adre Simmonds, and Liam Gracey, all St. Andrew's College students, joined Team Ontario for the International Bowl in Dallas last weekend. **Photo by SAC Athletics**

By Jake Courtepatte

Five of the Aurora gridirons' best had the chance to represent their province and country against the

United States.

The St. Andrew's College Saints sent wide receiver Luca La Brier, running back Adre Simmonds,

Continued on page 14



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Get your head in the game with some fun at first ever STEMfest

By Brock Weir

Want to try your hand at coding, or maybe make a mini-robot to call your own?

Show off your skills in Science, Technology, and Math (STEM) this Saturday, January 28, at the Aurora Public Library's (APL) first ever STEMfest.

With an hour of code and featuring hands-on activities with Littlebits, Raspberry Pi, Cubelets, 3D printing, and demonstrations from the Aurora Bats and the Aurora Cheetahs – the two teams from the Library's First Lego League Junior – it is designed to bring a little fun, not to mention learning, for the whole family.

“Over the last couple of years, we have been getting more and more pieces of technology for people to play with and

they have been really, really popular,” says APL's Reccia Mandelcorn. “But, we have never put them together in one big program. We thought we could create a little festival with some of the products that we have to get people interested in developing their technology skills and we thought a festival would have full families come in.

“We found that even the technology that is appealing to people as young as five or six years old, their parents love it as well. The idea, in the same way as books, is that it is family literacy and we read together, and technology literacy is part of our current age and is part of where we're going. We're saying come and play together!

“What is so neat about this is it is all so much fun. You're learning, you're career-preparing, and you're having a really good time.”



The Aurora Public Library's Children's Librarian, Polly Ross, shows off some of the goodies that will be available at this Saturday's inaugural STEMfest. Photo by Cindy Shaver

A self-proclaimed “disaster” when it comes to these programs and activities, Ms. Mandelcorn did not shy away from getting her feet wet – metaphorically speaking, of course. She dove in, making a “tiny little robot thing with blinking lights” with Cubelets. (“I tried that one because it was recommended for the youngest children and I thought I wouldn't feel too bad if I failed that one!”).

It was not completely unfamiliar territory though. Recently, the children's librarian brought Littlebits into a staff meeting and throughout the meeting there were beeps and honks ringing out from the hands of certain board members as they snuck in some

fun. “You couldn't put it down – like potato chips!” says Ms. Mandelcorn. “We found with technology, it really is intergenerational. The kids catch on really fast, but the grandparents like to play too. Anything with technology, with coding, is going to be integral to every single career that is coming up. Art is so multimedia in terms of plays and music, and I was speaking with a young man not too long ago, who is a med student, and before that he became an engineer so he could learn how to do all the engineering as he is hoping to help restore the ability to walk for people with spinal injuries. Technology

Continued on page 17

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Leslie Street underpass costs continue to rise

By Brock Weir

This year, the Region of York is set to begin a significant reconstruction of Leslie Street through Aurora, but the costs of two pedestrian underpasses set to be built between the Region and the Town continues to rise.

Council approved going 50-50 on the costs of two pedestrian underpasses for Leslie between St. John's Sideroad and Wellington Street East last fall, setting a budget of \$753,624, back in November of 2015.

But, that was then.

As debate continued over the future of two additional underpasses since proposed, and since nixed, the price has continued to go up on the two approved underpasses, with the cost for Aurora's share now nearly \$902,000.

"The Regional Municipality of York Transportation Services Department has advised that their tender process for the reconstruction of Leslie Street has been completed," said Aurora's Parks Manager, Jim Tree, in a report before Councillors this week. "The actual bid prices have resulted in a significant increase in the cost of the underpasses such that the Town of Aurora share has increased by an additional \$148,336. This brings the Aurora 50 per cent share of the two underpasses to a total of \$901,960, which exceeds the current approved budget of \$753,624.

"The Regional Municipality of York has not offered any additional information or explanation for this increase other than to indicate that the project prices are simply a reflection of the current market prices based on the scope of work specified in the tender documents."

Council members could move to press the Region for this additional information this week, similar to how they questioned project increases for the two additional underpasses this past fall.

Previous discussions had Council members questioning the usefulness of the underpass project, but supporters

argue they will prove vital connections between the communities now being built on the west side of Leslie Street towards the burgeoning business park developments set to transform the east side of the street.

The Region of York initially tasked Aurora with committing to its half of the funding by the end of 2016, but the two bodies have since agreed to a new deadline of March 1. Should a final decision not be reached by the First of March, the project will not continue, Mr. Tree advises.

They have the option of not proceeding with the underpasses but lawmakers are advised this "would not be in keeping with the Trails Master Plan Policy where grade separated crossings of major arterial highways are the preferred method of crossing."

Should the underpasses be ultimately built, there could be more work for Aurora to do.

"The underpasses have been designed and tendered without the inclusion of illumination components or other security measures as [The Region] has taken the position that these additions would not be eligible for Regional funding assistance," says Mr. Tree. "In addition, access to the underpasses from the road surface will not be included in the underpass construction works as this is also viewed by the Region to be outside of the shared cost.

"In view of this, and in the event that illumination and road access to the underpasses is desired by the Town, these features will need to be considered at a future date. It is also expected that the underpasses will not be opened until completion of the associated trails-related work estimated to be completed within the next four to five years. Should it be determined that illumination and roadside access to the underpasses is required, staff will provide Council with further information and cost implications in this regard in future reports and capital budget submissions."

Advertorial



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Some people are born with a congenital form, but most develop spinal stenosis as part of the degenerative process. A few do not feel any effects of the narrowing, but as part of the aging process, most people will eventually notice radiating pain, weakness, and/or numbness secondary to the compression of the nerves or spinal cord.

In lumbar stenosis, the spinal nerve roots in the lower back become compressed and this can produce symptoms of sciatica—tingling, weakness or numbness that radiates from the low back and into the buttocks and legs—especially with activity.

You go to the drug store or to your doctor and get pills to help relieve your symptoms. But you find the symptoms keep returning. Alternatively, the doctor may refer you to a specialist who may tell you that surgery is needed or is an option for you.

However, many people are hesitant to have surgery given its invasive nature. It is important to know that although surgery is sometimes necessary, it is considered a last resort in most cases.

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NEXT GEN VIEWS

Wyatt Savage

My opinion on snow days

All parents know we have snow days often enough to argue about it, especially in my house where during every snow day there is the same argument between my parents, my brothers and me.

As a reminder, when the school board cancels buses, schools remain open, but very few kids (three per class) actually show up to school on "snow days" because our school has very few students who walk.

Here's why parents keep their kids home:

They legitimately can't drive their kids to school

Some parents say they can't go to work because they have to drive their kids but they never drive them anyway

The parents think the kids do nothing at school, so they won't miss anything by staying home

Here's why kids go to school:

- To get ahead on current projects
- Their parents say there is no reason why they should stay home because the buses are cancelled
- Their parents can't stay home to take care of them

The solution to all of this is simple,

solved by me, a 13-year old: If you go to a school where 10 per cent of kids take the bus and the rest walk, then having the buses cancelled has practically no effect on the school.

It should just be treated like a regular school day for these students. On the other hand, schools that have 90 per cent of kids being bused should just close the school for the day.

Buses being cancelled affects the entire school. This decision should be up to the school to close or not.

Also, if the weather is bad enough for it to be a snow day and the buses need to be cancelled, then it is also not safe for the teachers to drive to school or for the parents driving their kids as well.

In conclusion, I think schools should decide if they stay open or closed on a snow day based on how many students are impacted by bus cancellations. This would especially impact me since my Mom forces me to go to school no matter what the weather!

Wyatt Savage is a local grade 8 student at Lester B. Pearson Public School with two younger brothers, a dog, a cat, and an interest in writing. He's a curler and a baseball player. This column is a young Auroran's perspective.

06 February
Monday

2017

Annual General Meeting of the Aurora Historical Society

Monday, February 6, 2017

7pm to 9pm

Magna Room, Aurora Public Library

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Aurora, ON

Guest Speaker: Jacqueline Stuart,
What Else Happened in 1867?

Year in Review, AHS Business, Plans for 2017,
Elections for the 2017 Board of Directors

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Women's Centre of York Region has evolved to meet changing needs

From page 1

free counselling to women in the community who felt they needed it and didn't have access to either the funds or the resources of getting that support elsewhere.

That philosophy remains at the core of what they do today, serving

"women who have identified the need and desire for positive change in their lives" through unique programming addressing a wide array of needs, at little or no cost, in a safe and inclusive environment.

Their mandate is to "fully support each woman on her personal journey

of discovery in order that she thrives fully" operating on an anti-oppressive, "anti-racist framework."

"Counselling has always been the foundational piece of what we do," explains Ms. Madden, who joined the team as Executive Director two years ago. "As the organization has grown, we have made sure that the programs and the services we have brought to the organization over the 40 years still are very complementary to each other. We don't just add a program for the sake of adding a program, it has to have logical sense in that trajectory that it has to move a woman forward and letting a woman pop in on that era or trajectory where she needs us versus where we determine she needs to be."

According to Ms. Madden, York Region women seek out the Women's Centre for a variety of reasons. In many instances, it is a case of low income and providing women access to free services they might not otherwise be able to afford. They are also seeing more and more women coming in preparing to re-enter the workforce to support raising their children, or looking for work once their children are grown.

"It's a matter of looking at what their skills are and what their new career might be for them, so they can support themselves or support their family," says Ms. Madden.

There are also life stresses, and it is here their life skills programs kick into high gear, consistently operating above capacity with virtually no advertising. These life skills run the gamut from boundary setting, to conflict management, and even money management.

"I think one of the things that sets us apart and has been there right from the beginning is the fact that we offer our services at no extra charge," says Ms. Madden. "We haven't moved at a fee for service or sliding scale model. We have been able to continue to keep our operational expenses at a level that meets the funding that we have and therefore continue to be able to offer

those services at no charge.

"From a funding perspective, we're strongly accountable back to our funders, which ranges anywhere from the Ontario Government right down to the Regional government in terms of meeting their targets and their objectives which are being driven through the community and through the statistics they create. If they are looking at things like mental health, we're accountable in terms of our feedback and our numbers and our commitment to the services."

The WCYR kicks off their 40th anniversary with their January 31 open house, which Ms. Madden says will "truly be a celebration" and a reminder to the community not only that they welcome volunteers, but they are always here to serve. In addition to new programs, which will be launched later this year, they are hoping to reach out to "community champions to come to the table" to help them realise their \$100,000 fundraising goal.

"We're looking at a way that other folks can help us send an additional 40 women through our program in 2017 and 2018 which equates to about \$35,000," says Ms. Madden. "It is about \$850 per woman from our perspective to serve one client through the programs and services we provide. We are looking to take that 40 and turn it into another 40 and serve more women, but with the community support, rather than looking to find funders in the community because the funder dollars are always at a high competition amongst all those other great community organizations that are serving women and men in the community."

"We have a little bit of an identity crisis. There are some people in the community who don't know we exist. When I tell people we're celebrating 40 years a lot of people stand back and say, 'Wow, I have never heard of the organization.' [Our clients] could be your sister, your mother, your wife, or your neighbour. You don't always know who needs the support of our organization. We're trying to do as much as we can from as little as we get."



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No Princely opening for Diamond Jubilee Park playground

By Brock Weir

There will be no second princely outing for Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park.

Prince Harry has declined an invitation from the Town of Aurora to formally dedicate the Town's new accessible playground, now under construction at the John West Way Park, the signage for which was formally unveiled by his uncle, Prince Andrew, Duke of York, back in 2014.

Aurora formally issued the invitation for the younger son of the Prince of Wales to dedicate the playground, which is to be fully wheelchair accessible, when Prince Harry is in Toronto this September to preside over the Invictus Games.

Prince Harry founded the Invictus Games as an Olympics-style sporting event tailored for wounded and injured

servicemen and women. The Town said they saw a perfect alignment between an event designed to be fully accessible and a fully accessible playground, but time constraints got in the way of another Royal Visit.

"The Prince was extremely grateful for your thoughtful invitation," wrote Heather Wong, Assistant Private Secretary to Prince Harry, responding to a letter to Mayor Geoff Dawe. "Having given careful consideration to the possibilities, however, I very much regret that His Royal Highness reluctantly feels he must decline.

"Prince Harry will be attending the Invictus Games but judging from previous experience, the schedule during the Invictus Games gets very busy and therefore it is not possible to add any further engagements at this time. I am sorry to send you this necessarily disappointing response,

but do hope you understand."

Nevertheless, construction continues on the fully accessible playground.

Significant work has taken place since the fall to clear out existing trees and shrubs to make way for the new playground equipment, which will be followed by work on sensory features more tailored towards adults, seniors, and those looking for a bit more of a relaxing experience.

Formally Civic Square Park, Council approved a tender of nearly \$360,000 for the construction of a fully accessible playground and parkland on the site, which was re-named to mark the 60th anniversary in 2012 of the Queen's Accession to the Throne.

A fully accessible playground, along with other amenities, including a sensory garden, was proposed by Councillor Paul Pirri to make the park something of a destination, and concept plans have been making the rounds since 2014.

Following sign-off from the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee, approvals that were a long-time coming, according to some members of Council, the path was cleared to break ground on the playground.

"Based on the input received from the attendees at the two open house meetings, staff believe that sufficient public consultation has occurred and that the final design of this park is representative of the comments received during the process," said Mr. Downey last year, outlining public suggestions ranging from parking to seating within the park, as Council prepared to give it the green light.

"In addition, our Accessibility Advisory staff member and our Accessibility Advisory Committee have both had an opportunity to make comments and review the proposed park plan and are satisfied with the design."

A full review by the Accessibility Advisory Committee was something of a sticking point when Council revisited the plans for Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park in May. Council faced a recommendation to move ahead with the plan without a final design hitting

the table of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, a move which rankled some in Council chambers.

Demonstrators consider next steps

From page 1

it too much and just keep marching."

This is a sentiment Lillie shares with her mother, Corrie Clark.

Ms. Clark, a mother of three young women, said it was important for her to share the day with Lillie because she feels President Trump's policies have the power "to set the world back 50 years" when it comes to racism, bigotry, and misogyny.

"I fear for the world and the racism and bigotry coming back again when I thought we had progressed to a much more enlightened position," says Ms. Clark. "I think this generation is now distant from remembering the Second World War, the Vietnam War, and Martin Luther King as a speaker. They're not exposed to perhaps the segregation and racism in their own country. Being a North American child is a privileged first-world sort of existence and I don't think they have ever seen those problems. Unfortunately, I think they still exist.

"What Trump has done is brought to light that those issues are still there and he has given them an excuse to express them. I need [my daughters] to be very aware that the fight isn't over. They need to be aware of that and they can go forward to stand up and change that."

As Ms. Clark took in the demonstration and absorbed the words of the speakers, she also observed a group of individuals supporting President Trump standing near police wearing their red "Make America Great Again" baseball caps, made iconic by the Republican candidate on the campaign trail

It was a moment of dialogue and perspective for both sides, says Ms. Clark.

"I asked them if they were having a tough day because they were right by the police," she says. "They said, 'Yes, we are.' There were a few people who tried to get violent and aggressive with them and they said it has been scary

at times walking and being threatened by people. I said it was good they came out because we all have differences of opinions."

But, she wanted to know more, particularly whether they believed in everything the newly-minted President has been selling. They said they do, she said, but only so far as business. When she pressed them about women's rights, she said they stressed "people need to understand we're people as well, we just have a difference of opinion, and it is not personal."

While Ms. Clark says it is important to separate the political for the personal – "politics is business and business is politics" – the policies are personal too.

The participation of local women in Saturday's Women's Marches was not limited to Toronto.

American-born Aurora resident Jennifer Ettinger was in the United States with her daughter's cheer team, and they took in a similar march in Indiana.

An author and lifestyle coach, Ms. Ettinger says she is very proud to be an American, she says, and the USA remains "home" to her. But, when she looks at the state of her homeland how, she says she is "frightened."

"I see a country I don't understand and it breaks my heart. On the day of the election, my homosexual friends were posting of fear. I had one friend texting in a total panic attack for his safety. So, when I see women and men coming together to have their voices heard, I feel it is a bright light during dark days. I am glad my daughter witnessed thousands of people attending the rally, to see the impact one person can make. I will continue to do what I can, as a woman, as a mother, as an American to help heal my country.

"It was beautiful for the young girls to see, that women can be so powerful and have the strength of rallying together in a time of need. It's healing. Now the question is: what are the next steps?"

I need my daughters to be very aware that the fight isn't over. They need to be aware of that, and they can go forward to stand up and change that



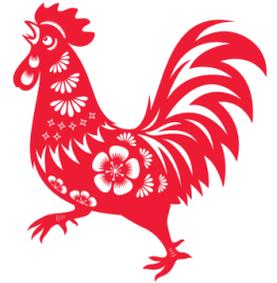
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Economic efforts should focus on “selling” Aurora: Committee

From page 1
will pave the way for greater autonomy and creativity in enticing local businesses to Aurora.

According to the plan, the creation of a new Economic Development Board

will bring a new mandate along with it. The intent, according to the plan, is to “focus on the expansion of services in strategic areas that offer the greatest return to Council.”

These recommendations include

the expansion of existing business retention programs, the relaunch of Aurora’s Business Concierge Program, and expanded responsibilities when it comes to enhancing tourism and marketing.

“In late 2012, the Town of Aurora undertook over 150 business visits as part of the Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) program,” said Doug Nadorozny, Aurora’s CAO, in his initial pitch to Council on the new mandate. “The goal of this program was to identify opportunities and actions to assist local businesses. This program resulted in a number of successes in quickly and efficiently addressing both opportunities and challenges highlighted by local businesses.

“Statistically, a significant proportion of new job creation is generated through existing business growth and networks. Moreover, maintaining an active and healthy relationship with local business is at the core of economic development. Based on best practices and recent business BR&E efforts locally, it is recommended that the Town expand and formalize a business visitation program, building on the previous work done in BR&E... targeting 500 business visitations each year, meet with the 10 largest employers semi-annually, identify and address red flag issues raised in business visitation within 30 days of the visitation, and regularly update and implement an action plan that addresses longer-term issues raised by local business where appropriate.”

While the intent of the new shifts in economic development were greeted warmly by EDAC, it drew significant criticism from some members of the Committee, who did not see the merit of expanding a program they saw as falling far short of the success line.

“I have no problem with the direction, the interest, the passion, the philosophy, or the need; I’m there,” said EDAC member Marilee Harris. “I have a lot of problems with the actual document a far as what you have decided this expanded function is going to do. I am really concerned that Councillors think that these are good actions for an Economic Development Expanded Resource to be taking. You talked about doing more interviews with business, and it was a great success. I don’t know what success it was and I have been on this committee for six years.

“We only did one survey when [Councillor Michael Thompson was] Chair and we weren’t even allowed to have input into the questions let alone hear the responses because it was a Regional initiative. To frame that as something that is successful that we should expand is way out of line – and an abuse of taxpayers’ dollars to redirect funds to do more of something that we did once in the six years I have been on this committee that didn’t have any impact. To state that it did and we should expand it and to have Councillors agree

to that I think is an embarrassment. I would be embarrassed if I was a Councillor.”

Ms. Harris also had strong words for the plan to fund a great deal of these new initiatives from apparently under-utilized funds set aside for Aurora’s Community Improvement Program (CIP).

The CIP program was established to give business owners, primarily along Aurora’s Yonge and Wellington Promenade and its offshoots, funds to improve their properties and make it attractive for incoming businesses, including dollars for façade improvements.

Few applications have come forward since the fund was established and staff recommended these dollars would be better used to spur economic development activity in other areas.

Ms. Harris, however, said this was a symptom of another problem.

“Council approved spending money to get consultants in to do a great deal of good work on the value of a community improvement plan,” she said. “It is a great idea. We all agreed it would be a great idea. We endorsed as a committee that Council approves

putting some money in the budget. It is not being used, it is not being used because it has not been marketed.

The recommendations, she concluded, were “misleading and inappropriate” and moved dollars round with “questionable logic.”

Time and effort, she contended would be better spent with a focus on selling Aurora, a recommendation which struck a chord with Councillors attending last month’s EDAC meeting. Staff members, including Mr. Nadorozny, also agreed that sales need to be a focus.

That sales focus, he said, should also be in “making sure we’re front and centre at York Region” making sure they’re talking about Aurora in their planning and marketing.

“This is a concern of the whole N6 CAOs group in terms of the Region’s role for economic development and how to get the smaller communities that comprise York Region [to get business leads],” said Mr. Nadorozny, referring to York Region’s six most northern municipalities compared to the “big three” of Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan.

Added Councillor Tom Mrakas: “I agree that we need to be more sales oriented when it comes to economic development and I do agree that it has to be at the Regional level, so I agree that we have to have a strong representation at the Region selling Aurora.”

Councillor Tom Mrakas added that Council should take the Committee’s concerns and criticisms to heart.

“Committee members would like to have some input,” he said, asking for assurance there would be further opportunity for them to weigh in on the new mandate. “We have always relied on them. Council has only approved the concept in principle.”

To frame that as something that is successful that we should expand is way out of line – and an abuse of taxpayers’ dollars to redirect funds to do more of something that... didn’t have any impact

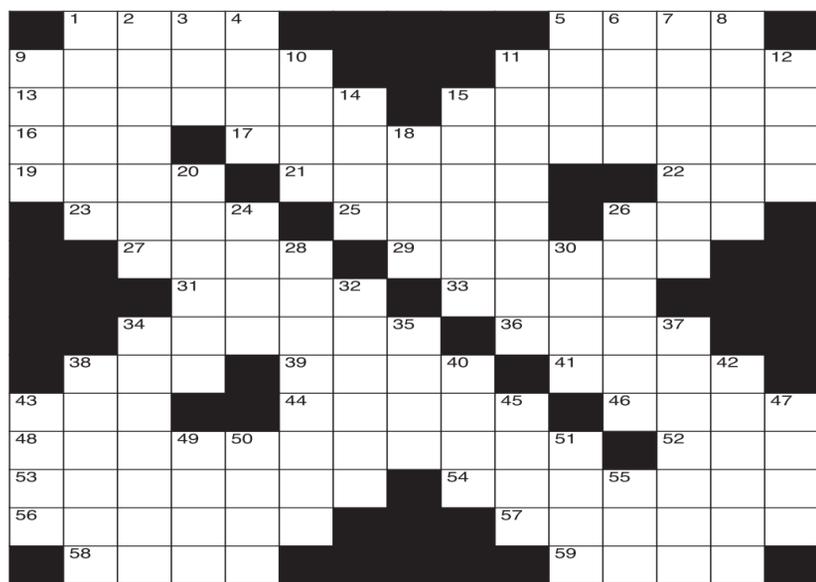


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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Newts
- 5. Taxis
- 9. Ski down these
- 11. Solace
- 13. Thieves of the sea
- 15. Diacritical mark
- 16. Frost
- 17. Enmities
- 19. Furnace for baking
- 21. Founder of female institute
- 22. Eight
- 23. Earl Grey and chamomile are two
- 25. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 26. Dull, unproductive pattern of behavior
- 27. A large and hurried swallow
- 29. Large nests
- 31. A way to choose
- 33. Grocery store
- 34. Drains
- 36. Hawaiian wreath
- 38. Where fish live
- 39. Get rid of
- 41. Beyond, transcending
- 43. Uncastrated male sheep
- 44. Asserts
- 46. Snoopy and Rin Tin Tin are two
- 48. Windy City footballer
- 52. Green veggie
- 53. Director
- 54. Conditioning
- 56. Spoke foolishly
- 57. Legislative body
- 58. Square measures
- 59. Cheek

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Call forth
- 2. Front legs
- 3. Third-party access
- 4. Hairlike structure
- 5. Ghanaian money
- 6. Settled down
- 7. Ill-natured
- 8. Choose
- 9. Mountain in the Slovenian Alps
- 10. Samsung laptops
- 11. Inquire into
- 12. Not slow
- 14. Thailand
- 15. Front of the eye
- 18. Kentucky town 41549
- 20. Extreme disgust
- 24. Not fast
- 26. Smelled bad
- 28. Portended
- 30. Leader
- 32. Comedian Noah
- 34. Course
- 35. Sloven
- 37. Perfect places
- 38. A vast desert in N. Africa
- 40. Monetary unit of Angola
- 42. Clerks
- 43. Canadian law enforcers
- 45. Without (French)
- 47. Having wisdom that comes with age
- 49. Delicacy (archaic)
- 50. Grows older
- 51. Bitterly regrets
- 55. It’s present in all living cells (abbr.)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

D	A	R	D		B	E	D		S	E	A	M					
A	R	E	A	S		U	S	A		E	D	D	A				
D	E	E	D	E	D		E	C	G		A	W	A	Y			
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E	D	D	Y		S	S	C			S	U	L	A				



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Novice Tigers collect "Pucks for Charity"

By Pina Blakley

Aurora's Novice AA Tigers started hunting for abandoned pucks throughout the different rinks they played at while playing in the Preston Tournament in mid-January.

Hunting for pucks has become a regular team occurrence for this group of eight-year-old boys but over this past weekend it has evolved into much deeper meaning that extends beyond

this group of hockey players, and their hockey family.

This group of boys conferred in dressing rooms and throughout the hotel hallways, deciding that they would sell the pucks they had collected and donate the proceeds to charity.

They unanimously claimed their love for hockey and couldn't imagine what life would be like without the game and that every child should be able to experience "hockey and all that



it brings."

This generous group of boys didn't want money to impose a barrier for those families who struggle financially to be the reason a child did not get to experience the hockey.

Once back at their home rinks, the boys quickly started to execute their plan, channelling their abundance of energy and began hustling around the rink asking people to support the cause and buy a puck from them.

Their endeavour to raise money from the pucks they had collected became real with the kind gesture of a

generous stranger as she donated \$100 to their cause as she too believed that every child should have the opportunity to experience hockey.

In less than a week the boys have raised over \$275 and have set a goal to raise \$1,000. For anyone who has already been approached by the boys at the rink, thank you for the support, and for anyone that would like to support this initiative created by the young players of the Novice AA team, please contact Pina Blakley (pinablakley@gmail.com) or Emily Stewart (emjstewart@gmail.com).

THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

JANUARY 7 - 29

The Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) celebrates its 30th anniversary with a show and sale of artwork from 55 artists at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. A public reception will be held on Saturday, January 14 from 1-4 p.m. and will feature the music of the Aurora Winter Blues Band, hot local cider and other refreshments provided by Michael-Angelo's Market Place. In honour of Canada's 150th birthday year, the exhibit will featuring artwork with a specifically Canadian theme.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

The Women's Support Network will mark Human Trafficking Awareness Month today with a "Freedom Fair" from 4-7 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. The Freedom Fair aims to bring together all those who are fighting against human trafficking, both locally and internationally to recognize their efforts and to raise awareness within the community. Let us unite to end the human trafficking because everyone deserves a chance to make their own choices. All are welcome to join this event, which includes information booths, an art market, open mike, and refreshments. For more information, to donate to our event, or to perform or volunteer at the event, please contact the Women's Support Network at 905-895-3646.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Members of the Faces of Recovery campaign from Eating Disorders of York Region's Riverwalk Wellness Centre, invite you to join them in conversation to speak about recovery and discuss questions concerning emotional, social, mental, spiritual, physical health and wellness in the recovery process. They will discuss the "Stages of Recovery" framework and how it can be used to explore the possibility of making change; barriers to change and healthy coping strategies will also be part of the conversation. Caregivers and supporters are welcome to attend. Hosted at Riverwalk's relaxing art gallery living room, complete with an art show, at 15213 Yonge Street. No registration is required.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Celebrate the start of Black History Month with the York Regional Police today at their Aurora headquarters. The Police will host a morning of celebration from 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon at 47 Don Hillock Drive featuring fellowship, music and refreshments. For more information, visit www.yrp.ca.

BLUES BASH - The Aurora Winter Blues Festival (AWBF) kicks off tonight with the third annual Blues Bash at Highland Automotive. (15783 Yonge Street) from 7 - 11.30 p.m. The AWBF Blues Bash Festival Kickoff event is one of the must-attend social events in Aurora. The annual fundraiser for local charity organizations is a happening event which hosts two live music stages, dancing, silent and live auction, food stations, licensed bar, the Blues Brothers, Live Painting to the Beat by Dubi and many other fun activities. The evening showcases the talents of local youth

and professional musicians for an upbeat and memorable night of music. Don't miss out on this amazing night, which sells out every year! For more information, visit www.awbf.ca.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

The Aurora Historical Society hosts its Annual General Meeting in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library this evening from 7 - 9 p.m. Featuring guest speaker historian Jacqueline Stuart, a Year in Review, Plans for 2017 and more. 2017 Membership is required to vote. Directors and committee members wanted. For more information, call Mary Beth Hess at 905-727-8991.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. This month's guest speaker is Elaine Cheral on the topic of "The Power of the Pen." For more information, visit www.handwritinganalysis.toronto.com. If you are interested in becoming a member, please call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849, or be our guest at the meeting.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Amnesty International - Amnesty International holds their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 9, from 7.30 - 9 p.m. to discuss current human rights issues and write appeal letters. Held at Trinity Anglican Church (in The Rectory building behind the church), 79 Victoria St., Aurora - all are welcome! For more information call Renee or Len at 905-713-6713. Website: www.amnesty.ca.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The lead-up to the Aurora Winter Blues Festival continues tonight at the Aurora Cultural Centre with the "Friday Night Blues Party" featuring Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whitely from 8 - 10 p.m. The Centre is proud to collaborate with the Aurora Winter Blues Festival for a night of hot blues! The finest couple in Canada's blues scene graces our stage with their five-piece band. As the venerable jazz and blues bible Downbeat Magazine said about Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whiteley: "It's a rare and good thing when two talented performers join forces." Audiences, critics, and blues lovers all over North America and Europe seem to agree. Doors open at 7 p.m. for an 8 p.m. start. Tickets are on sale now - \$30 in advance or \$35 on the day of the concert - from the Aurora Cultural Centre. www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE? Join the Aurora Historical Society today from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. for a jewellery making workshop, just in time for Valentine's Day. Come to Hillary House to make a hex nut bracelet, a gift box, and a card for your loved one. Must be 16 year of age or older to participate. Space is limited; contact 905-727-8991 or email leigha.cooney@aurorahs.com to register.

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

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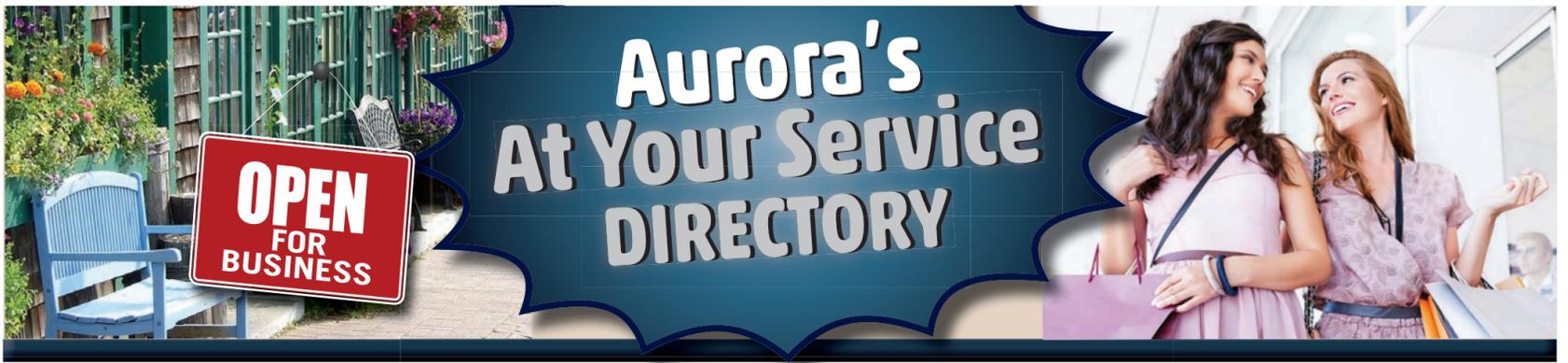
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St. Max defensive back joined standouts

From page 9

defensive end Liam Gracey, and linebacker Yiannis Spetsakis to the International Bowl, held last week in Dallas, TX.

“We are extremely proud of all four boys,” said Len Gurr, head coach of the Saints football program. “Not only was it a great honour for them to represent Ontario on such a big stage, but they also once again served notice that some of the best football players in the province continue to suit up for the varsity football Saints.”

The largest international football competition in the world, the high schoolers had the chance to take the field at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Broadcast on ESPN, Team Ontario played under the lights of some of the game’s biggest stars when they took on Team USA’s Under-18 Select team.

“To have four members of our SAC’s Football program earn a place on Team Ontario is an impressive

achievement for St. Andrew’s football, and speaks to the calibre of young men in our program,” said Gurr.

All four Saints players are in their Grade 11 year at the independent school.

Though Team Ontario fell to the highly skilled defense of the Americans by a score of 21 – 7, La Brier was on the receiving end of Ontario’s only score of the game, a twelve yard pass for the major with just under four minutes on the clock.

He was named team MVP after the game, totaling over 100 receiving yards.

Joining the Saints standouts on the field was St. Maximilian Kolbe product Matt Vassos, a senior and staple defensive back for both the Mustangs and the York Lions.

One of six Mustangs players to be named to the YRAA All-Star team in early December, Vassos backstopped St. Max to the second best defensive record in the York Region league, second only to the champion Huron Heights Warriors of Newmarket.

Library continues expanding tech literacy programs

From page 10

is so into every single career we’re looking at.

“If you want to survive in this world, you need technology. We, as a library, want to extend our literacy to give young people – and people like me who are learning a little bit later – the skills to understand what is going on in the world around us and to have fun while doing it.”

Coming through the door on Saturday, participants will be handed a passport they can get stamped at any or all of the tables, which can then be dropped into a box for a ballot draw. You can do everything, or you could even spend your whole time coding or building something with Raspberry Pi. It’s totally up to you.

Come for the fun, and stay for a presentation from members of the Bats and Cheetahs as they show off the results of their Creature Craze Challenge project, which explored concrete projects related to bees and animals who live with bees in their natural habitat – real world applications for time-tested products and here, the kids will be peer mentors to participants.

STEMfest takes place at the Aurora Public Library this Saturday, January 28, from 2 – 4 p.m.

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- **Factory Machine Operators (10 spots)..... \$15.00 / hr**
Rotating shift
- **Health & Safety Coordinator**
- **Territory Energy Audits and Sales**
- **General Factory / Warehouse Workers... \$15.00 / hr.**
 - Resumes only, no phone calls
 - Only qualified persons will be contacted
 - Accommodations for job applicants with disabilities are available on request for your recruitment process.

DaveG@motivatedstaffing.com
905-951-6330 Fax
905-951-6300 Phone
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FULL TIME POSITIONS

WAREHOUSE

- **Packagers, Days \$15.00 / hr**
5 week assignment
- **Forklift, Reach & C/B Cert., \$16.00**
Day & Afternoon shifts

MANUFACTURING

- **Quality Manager \$75K**
- **Production Manager \$65K**
- **Production Supervisor \$45K,**
Rotate D & A shifts
- **Quality Technician, \$17.00 / hr,**
Rotate D & A shifts
- **Maintenance Electricians & Mechanics (Lic.) \$30 +/ hr**
- **Machine Operators \$15-16 / hr.,**
Rotate D & A shifts
- **Plant Manager...Concord..... \$90K**
 - Resumes only, no phone calls
 - Only qualified persons will be contacted
 - Accommodations for job applicants with disabilities are available on request for your recruitment process.

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