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# THE AURORAN

CANADA 150

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 17 No. 50 905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of October 5, 2017 



**SHOWING RESILIENCE** – Hartman Public School students Keira Fraser and Helene Wong, Principal Stephen Helston, and the entire Hartman community have banded together with a strong message after the school was found tagged with graffiti described by police as anti-Semitic and anti-black on Wednesday morning.  
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## “It happened to us, but it is not us” Hartman Public School strengthens resolve after hateful graffiti

By Brock Weir

It was a typical early fall morning for students at Hartman Public School last Wednesday.

But, once they went outside to practice for next week's track and field meet, what they saw was very much out of the norm: graffiti spray painted on a school portable and outdoor infrastructure that York Regional Police are describing as “hateful, anti-

Semitic, and anti-Black.”

They were left shaken but undeterred by what happened but rather than letting it get the better of them, the community has instead used the incident to spur a display of strength, unity and resilience.

York Regional Police were called to Hartman, located on River Ridge Boulevard, just after 9 a.m. on September 27, by the York Region School Board.

Students participating in the cross country practice brought the hateful graffiti to the attention of a teacher who, in turn, called Principal Stephen Helston who hadn't yet reached the school. As soon as he saw the graffiti, proper protocols kicked into high gear signalling police involvement.

“When I spoke with the teacher, he said, ‘You would have been so proud of our kids because they knew it was

Continued on page 22

## Community Café is coffee with a social purpose

By Brock Weir

Coffee has brought people together for millennia, whether it is that first cup in the morning around the breakfast table or the beverage of choice on a quick first date.

This fall, it will continue to bring people together – but the Aurora Community Café is doing something a bit different: it is percolating with a social purpose.

The Aurora Community Café is a new experimental pilot project spearheaded

Continued on page 6



**MAPLE LEAF FOREVER** – Lucy and Diane get their hands dirty painting maple leaves that will form part of a permanent installation to commemorate Canada 150 on Saturday. The duo were taking part in Culture Days, which saw Aurora's cultural groups welcoming people from across town and beyond for a full day of activities for the body, mind and soul. For more, see Page 23.  
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

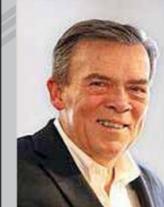


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# TOWN OF AURORA Notice Board



## Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, October 5	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Environmental Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 10	10 a.m.	Holland Room	Governance Review Ad Hoc Committee
Tuesday, October 10	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, October 10	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, October 11	7 p.m.	Aurora Cultural Centre	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Thursday, October 12	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Saturday, October 14	9 a.m.	Council Chambers	Budget Committee (Capital Budget)
Monday, October 16	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 17	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, October 17	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee
Wednesday, October 18	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library	Aurora Public Library Board

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

## Thank You

### 2017 Aurora's Multicultural Festival

Aurora's Multicultural Festival was a great success and with many attendees from different cultural backgrounds. Festival participants had the opportunity to sample tasty food, listen to live entertainment and watch cultural performances.

The live entertainment and activities offered were made possible with the support of the following sponsors:

#### Generous Event Sponsors

- Aurora Family Martial Arts
- Essence Dental
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- State Farm
- TD Bank Group

#### Special Thanks

- Chef Sang Kim
- Chef Donna Olding
- Chef Mario Vena
- Marc LeMoine and Tricia Wright – Outstanding Master of Ceremonies
- Longos



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## What's Happening

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.



AURORA'S

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- Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way)
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## Public Notices

### Notice of service disruption

Please see below for the scheduled service disruption at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex:

- The pool located at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex will be closed from **Saturday, September 2** to **Saturday, October 7** for maintenance. Join us for a free leisure and lane swim on **Sunday, October 8**.

For more information, visit [aurora.ca/aquatics](http://aurora.ca/aquatics).

Please see below for the scheduled service disruptions at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex:

- Spa pool hours will be cancelled on **Saturday, October 7** from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. due to staff training. All regular Aquatic programs will resume at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on **Sunday, October 8**.

For more information, visit [aurora.ca/aquatics](http://aurora.ca/aquatics).

### Notification of intention to access Aurora Hydro funds

Aurora Town Council approved a report which set in motion the public notification process required for Council to consider accessing funds from the 2005 sale of Hydro Aurora.

It is expected that during the fall of 2017, Council may consider accessing funds from the Aurora Hydro Sale Investment Reserve Fund.

Council is now giving at least 30-days' notice prior to approving any allocation of funds. Interested parties can register for updates on this matter by emailing [clerks@aurora.ca](mailto:clerks@aurora.ca).

## What's Happening

### October Skylight Gallery Artist – Local Colour Aurora (LCA)

This month, the Skylight Gallery is featuring artwork from *Local Colour Aurora*, a locally-based group of artists promoting the awareness of visual artists in Aurora and York Region. This exhibition, LCA150+, is a collection of paintings celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday. Artists will display paintings in both oil and acrylic. Wildlife, landscape and fantasy will be explored within the pieces. Regular viewing times are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall, 3rd floor.

### Hazardous Tree removal at Sheppard's Bush

The parking lot at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area on Industry Street is closed to accommodate tree removal activities until **October 6**.

The trees have been identified as a danger to trail users. The majority of the trees removed are Ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle.

Trail closures are clearly marked. For safety reasons, please observe the signs and stay on the designated open trails.

To preserve forest health, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) will plant a variety of native tree species across the watershed. For more information, visit [lsrca.on.ca](http://lsrca.on.ca)

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

## What's Happening

### New hours for Access Aurora

As of **Monday, September 11, 2017** Access Aurora has new hours to better meet the needs of our residents.

Access Aurora will now be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday through Friday. On Tuesdays, the desk will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Access Aurora enables residents to pay their water/taxes, apply for a marriage license, pay a parking ticket, purchase a pet tag, swap out damaged green/blue bins and set-up pre-authorized payments in person at Town Hall.

## Parks, Recreation & Culture Fall 2017 Program Guide



### Register now for fall programs & aquatics

The *Fall 2017 Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Guide* has been distributed to all Aurora residents via *The Banner Newspaper*.

Registrations are now open for our Fall 2017 Programs and Aquatics. To register or to view the guide online, please visit [aurora.ca/recguide](http://aurora.ca/recguide).

### Be a part of the Santa Under the Stars Parade. Applications are now being accepted for floats and marching bands.

Applications are now being accepted for floats and marching bands in the *Santa Under the Stars Parade*.

This well-attended annual event is a much-anticipated day for spectators celebrating the holiday spirit. The parade is on **Saturday, November 25, 2017** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Show your festive spirit and register your float or marching band today.

The deadline for registration is **Tuesday, November 7, 2017**. The application form can be downloaded by visiting [aurora.ca/santaparade](http://aurora.ca/santaparade).

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**AURORA**

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# Hillary House Ball will take you back to 1867

By Brock Weir

150 years ago, Queen Victoria was on the throne, John A. Macdonald was just settling into his new gig, and the former Provinces of Canada, along with the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were going through the growing pains of becoming a new blended family.

Canada was but a mere infant and Hillary House was just four, but the Aurora Historical Society will take you back to these early days of our collective history this month with the Hillary House Ball.

Set for Saturday, October 21, at King Valley Golf Club, the sixth annual Hillary House Ball will celebrate the sesquicentennial of Canada's nationhood with a night of dancing, music, and good food – all in the name of raising funds for the upkeep and much-needed repairs of

Aurora's only National Historic Site.

"Canada 150 has been a big theme throughout our year, but we wanted to make sure it was incorporated into our biggest event of the year," says Erika Mazanik of the Aurora Historical Society. "You will see it as soon as you go in and see the décor. Our volunteers, instead of the typical black and white clothes will be dressed appropriately. It's all in the details.

"There will also be a special surprise from our collection on display [working with the theme]. I don't want to give too much away, but it will be one of the first things you see."

The historic accents will also be found at the tables as volunteers have been hard at work reviving the tradition of hand-made paper flowers.

And traditions abound. One of

the artefacts on display this year will be related to Aurora dances of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Dances and balls have a long-standing heritage in Aurora, with Hillary House boasting a ballroom of its own.

From there, Mrs. Hillary would play chatelaine to Aurora's great and good as they came together for an evening of celebration.

This month's ball, in Ms. Mazanik's view, is the continuation of a storied past.

While the music, food, dancing and silent auctions have all been integral to the success of the Ball five years running, the success of the Ball has been integral to the ongoing maintenance of the house.

This year alone, the Aurora Historical Society has spent nearly \$25,000 in restoration work on the 1863 house, which is celebrated as one

of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic architecture in the country.

Individual tickets are set at \$150 this year, and organizers are hoping to raise approximately \$20,000 from the Ball.

"We feel that is attainable and it all goes towards the restoration of the house," says Ms. Mazanik. "The house is 155 this year and it is constantly needing TLC here and there. We're in the midst of getting reports done to find out exactly the areas of greatest need. We want to make sure we're spending money strategically and not just on anything we think needs to get done next. We're in the process of making sure whatever we raise is well-spent and the Historical Society is fiscally responsible."

*Tickets are on sale now. For more information, visit [aurorahs.com/hillary-house-ball](http://aurorahs.com/hillary-house-ball).*

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You could win \$250 towards your municipal tax account (or equivalent).

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Thank you for your participation!

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Drive centre process needs overhaul**

We went to this center on September 26, so my 16 year old daughter could write her G1 drivers test.

I have never seen anything like it. We arrived around 11.45 a.m. and waiting in the hot sun outside (with the humidity it was +40 degrees Celsius) for over an hour and a half for the privilege of gaining a seat in the waiting room (where it was air conditioned).

Once in the waiting room, for our service requirement, it was about another hour, hour and a half but this varies based on the service you require.

Our wait was only 1 1/2 hours outside in the hot sun--my daughter has heard stories of her friends waiting 4 1/2 hours in negative degree weather!

This is an outrage of poor service! I heard the reason why was because the Fire Department had said there were too many people in the building at one point and slapped them with a \$50,000 fine so they have someone working the door to prevent overcrowding inside.

Luckily, they do let people in to use the washroom, but there is no one providing any update as to when you can expect to go in, or allow for elderly, people with children, pregnant women or the disabled to be accommodated in any way (perhaps they would if you went in to ask but no one comes out and many people just endure and wait and wait and wait!).

Everyone waits with no information about whether they are lining up for the service they need or the time it will take to get inside – and including the time they will have to wait once they get into the waiting room.

The fellow ahead of me waited for the hour and a half while I was there but gave up when he finally entered the waiting room and was told that for the service he required, it would likely be another three hours!

Some people in the line had taken the day off to do this because they require the service to get the paperwork necessary to do their jobs.

This line-up is not a rare phenomenon – someone was working the line selling cold water bottles to people for \$1 a bottle!

I think the whole process is appalling.

This center is the face of the Ontario government to the people! And it is not pretty!

Joyce Deutsch  
Aurora

**Ignoring Official Plan on stable neighbourhoods doesn't make sense**

**(Re: Older neighbourhoods must be protected, Aug. 31)**

Is it all dollars and nonsense?

In 2010, Aurora Council passed the Official Plan, part of which addresses "Stable Neighbourhood Designation."

"The Town of Aurora contains a number of older, distinct residential neighbourhoods that have been designated Stable Neighbourhoods. This plan recognizes the importance of protecting or enhancing these stable residential neighbourhoods. All new development shall be compatible with its surrounding context."

Very large homes with elevated roof lines do not fit in with our older, established communities.

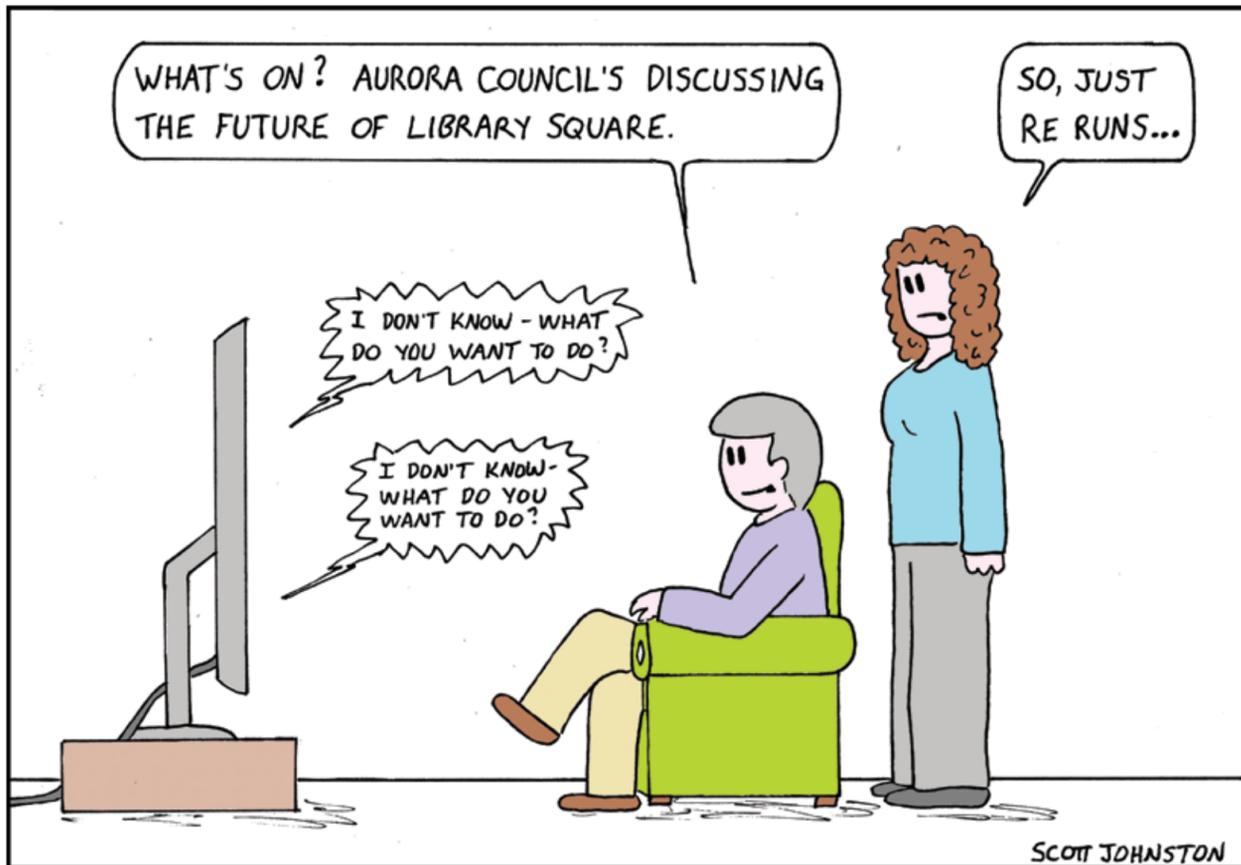
Why are current zoning bylaws not protecting these sensitive neighbourhoods?

Change is inevitable, but must follow guidelines.

To overlook the Official Plan does not make sense!

P.C. Smith  
Aurora

**Machell's Corners**



**Creeping Bluster**



**BROCK'S BANTER**

Brock Weir

"You don't deserve it!" This outburst, yelled by the speaker at the top of her lungs, was not directed at me, but it still sent a shiver down my spine.

The woman, from whom this scream emanated, was sitting two seats to my left.

I couldn't help myself, so I turned around to see just what we were dealing with here, and there she sat with a Cheshire cat grin on her face, subtly looking at her partner – and to those in her immediate vicinity – for some sense of approval in between chomps on her hot dog.

Her husband, boyfriend, partner, whoever, was turned in her direction. Whether or not he provided whatever she was craving I can't say, but what I can say is that she didn't get any from me.

At this point you might be asking what inspired this strange explosion of hostility, and I am more than happy to tell you.

"My grandbabies are going to be really impressed by everything you have done this week, but there are going to be really impressed that I saw The Boss," said Premier Kathleen Wynne after Bruce Springsteen played his first set at Saturday night's closing ceremony of the Invictus Games at the Air Canada Centre.

Bruce Springsteen is, of course, a tough act for anybody to follow, especially a divisive politician, but this was, apparently, the opportunity for the woman in my row near the top of the arena to voice her displeasure.

Yes, apparently the Premier did not deserve to see Bruce Springsteen.

My first reaction was one of disgust, one which I immediately felt the need to register on social media. In expressing said disgust, I posted, "I don't care what your political stripes are, but if you're one of the (expletive) s booing Kathleen Wynne in the ACC right now you are doing a disservice to the Invictus Games. It is not about her. It is not about you. It's about them."

I stand by my words, including my online expletive, but, as soon as I posted, my disgust was tempered by a sense of shame.

Facing a chorus of wholly inappropriate boos at a wholly apolitical event is nothing new for big name politicians, even Premiers of

Ontario. During Mike Harris' tenure, for instance, he weathered a storm of boos and jeers while addressing a SkyDome full of Ontario students in the presence of Nelson Mandela, then President of South Africa, and his wife Graca Machel, at an event entitled, "Mandela and the Children."

I remember this well because, I am sorry to say, that my Grade 7 self was one of the loudest boo-ers in our contingent from Newmarket's Stonehaven Elementary School.

It was a time of frustration for my year. The unions representing our crop of teachers were at continual loggerheads with Queen's Park; we experienced strikes, a revolving door of different prescribed teaching methods, and teachers who were increasingly forthcoming with their own anger at the situation.

This, in no small part, helped fuel the fire but it was certainly no reason to bring politics, particularly politics not fully understood, into a celebratory arena with the world watching. Thankfully, the South African-born teacher leading our particular delegation had the good sense to shut us up, but the horse had already left the barn.

We are living in an increasingly political climate, but we have to make sure that our politics – and the energy we have to express our respective political leanings, whatever they might be – are channelled in a productive way.

Sure, people have legitimate gripes with the Liberal government and Kathleen Wynne herself, but she was not there to extol the virtues (or lack thereof) of her government's plan to hike the minimum wage or all the wonderful impacts they have had on your hydro bill. She was there to support the athletes.

She did not bring politics of any sort into the forum. It is simply not the Canadian way.

Unlike some of the leaders south of our border, I simply can't imagine Ms. Wynne, Mr. Brown, or Ms. Horwath – or Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Scheer, or newly-minted NDP leader Jagmeet Singh

– ever dreaming about coming into an event such as the Invictus Games boasting about the size of their respective caucus.

If they can resist a northward creep of southern bluster, so can we as voters.

Fortunately, the Premier was not outwardly rattled by the cat calls and proceeded to set the correct tone.

"Whether you were in the pool, on the court, on a bike or up in the stands, you felt it," said the woman who apparently did not deserve to tell her grandchildren she saw Bruce Springsteen, addressing the sea of international athletes. "Something very special was happening here in Toronto. We all felt it. It has been our privilege to host the third Invictus Games, and to have the opportunity to see exactly what unconquered looks like.

"The road here was not easy for any of you, but you were determined to take it. Maybe you hope that you were going to prove something to yourselves, but in the end, you proved something to all of us. You're helping everyone to better understand not only the sacrifices servicemen and women make for our benefit but also the invincible strength and spirit in each of you and all of us."

In the end, Prince Harry, founder of the Invictus Games, issued everyone a challenge we would all be wise to heed, whether you want to effect change by volunteering with a community group or helping your candidate of choice sweep in the reforms you want.

"I told you you would be inspired, but I didn't tell you these Games would leave you questioning whether you were living to your own true potential," said Prince Harry, reflecting on the words he shared at the previous week's opening ceremonies. "To the thousands who filled the stands this week to the millions who watched at home let me issue you a challenge: don't just move on from these Games with happy memories. Instead, make an Invictus goal for yourselves. Let the examples of service and resilience that you have seen inspire you to take action to improve something, big or small, in your life for your family or for your community. Let's create a ripple effect of the Invictus spirit across our nations that will be the real legacy of this extraordinary week."

**THE AURORAN**  
Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



AURORA  
MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

## The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating... Thanksgiving! (Monday, October 9)

Did you know that we ironically have Thanksgiving to thank for the TV dinner? In 1953, the Swanson Company was faced with a conundrum when they had 260 tonnes of leftover turkey. A salesman suggested they package the leftover turkey, along with a selection of sides, into trays and freeze it. Economically priced at 98 cents the TV dinner was an instant success, selling 10,000,000 turkey dinners during the first year!

## Tax Fairness



### MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP  
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

Recently, there has been much discussion about reforming the way our Canadian tax system is structured, specifically concerning the proposed tax changes for Canadian private commercial corporations. (CPCC)

As part of the consultation process on the proposed tax changes my team and I hosted a Tax Fairness Town Hall on September 24 at the Aurora Public Library. I want to thank the 70+ community members who attended including doctors, lawyers, accountants, business owners, as well as the over 100 people who sent correspondence to my office.

I was pleased to review all the feedback provided. At the town hall, we had a productive conversation around not only the proposed tax changes (on income sprinkling, passive income, and capital gains), but more broadly on our tax system as a whole. This town hall showed the strength of our democracy; as we came together and had a profound as well as productive conversation.

The town hall highlighted a sentiment that these tax changes were negatively targeting small and medium sized businesses. I want to emphasize that our government values these businesses as critical generators of economic growth in our country. These businesses are not breaking the law, nor are they "tax cheats", by simply taking advantage of the current tax structure as it is.

The following outlines the three proposed tax changes and the responses that I have received from constituents:

**1. Income Sprinkling** – This proposal would limit the ability to shift income from an individual facing a higher personal income tax rate to a family member who is subject to a

lower personal tax rate. The ability to shift this income would be determined through a "reasonableness test". Constituents have expressed concern over the potential compliance burden associated with the "reasonableness test". Overall, many people support the aim of the proposal; it is the practical execution which is the main concern.

**2. Passive Income** – Corporations can earn "passive income" which is income derived from portfolio investments. Corporate income is taxed at lower rates than personal income, giving businesses more money to invest. However, there are times when private corporations earn income beyond what is needed to re-invest and grow the business. In these cases, those who own a private corporation have the opportunity to hold passive investments inside the corporation. The proposal would eliminate the tax deferral advantage on passive income.

The majority of concerns have centered on the need for businesses to build a reserve fund to further invest in the business or plan for parental leave/retirement, or to mitigate the impact of a downturn—which I completely understand as someone who has owned and operated two small businesses,

one of which was a seasonal tourism business in Northern Ontario, after 9/11. Overall, there is limited support for this proposal and constituents believe that these concerns need to be addressed prior to implementing this proposed tax change.

**3. Conversion of Income to Capital Gains** – This proposal would constrain the ability to reduce income taxes by converting dividends (and salary) that would otherwise be received from private corporations into lower-taxed capital gains. The majority of concerns relate to the short implementation timeframe and the complexity of the compliance burden of the proposed tax change if it were to take effect.

Our society needs small businesses, and accountants, and doctors, and lawyers, and all who contribute to our economy. Our economy thrives when each of us contributes to the best of our ability, regardless of whether we are incorporated, self-employed, salaried, or working part-time.

Thank you again to all who have engaged with me in this conversation. I have submitted a report, reflective of constituents' views, to the Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau. I know that this report will assist in informing government decisions on the proposed tax changes, as well as give way for future measures to be taken regarding overall tax reform in Canada.

#### CONTACT ME!

*If you would like to learn more about this topic, or raise any concerns with federal matters, please contact my office!*  
Phone: 905-773-8358, Email: Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca, or Drop in: 12820 Yonge St. suite 202, Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4H1.

## A better way to communicate



### FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

A couple of weeks back, my son had his first day of school, entering high school as a Grade Nine student.

I could not believe it when my son informed that that he was joined by almost 400 other frosh at the school. His Devin's Drive graduating class had approximately 60 students.

How times have changed.

Back in my day, my two brothers and I were extremely excited when we each received a new pair of cougar or Sparks running shoes and (maybe) a new pair of pants and shirt for the first day of school.

Today, besides new pants and shirts, we needed to outfit the junior Somerville with a new computer and a cell phone.

Also, the orientation for the new Grade Nine students is quite a bit different than what I received.

When I entered high school back in September 1979 (yes, I know, that was some time ago) I simply walked to school. There was no grand gathering of the Grade Nines or assemblies or parents accompanying the students. I simply walked into my home room and sat down beside the other nervous frosh.

Today, Aurora High invites the parents of Grade Nine students to accompany their child on the first day. They get to hear about the school, the

activities and meet all the teachers. The grade nines even get the run of the place for the first day as the older students don't even show up until the next day.

This is a much better approach than what I received, that's for sure.

And what is also different from my time in high school, and far better, is the level of communication and interaction between the school, parents and students.

To wit, I just received an e-mail newsletter from the school. It said:

"To keep you informed on all of the amazing, engaging student experiences at Aurora High School, we will continue to update the AHS SCHOOL WEBSITE with important dates to remember."

There were a number of important items in the e-mail but the following caught my particular attention.

Attendance – "Prompt arrival and regular attendance in all classes is key to student success and achievement. We will be updating our call out system to advise parents period-by-period of lates and absences. Furthermore, a weekly update will be sent via email. Parents must verify all absences as soon as possible either by phone or email and notify the school of any anticipated absences and appointments in advance whenever possible."

This is far better than looking at an interim report card a few months from now and noticing that little Johnny/Joanne has been late or missing a whole bunch of classes that a parent is unaware of.

My wife and I also received a nice (group) e-mail from my son's English teacher, introducing herself, and promising to keep us apprised of assignment due dates.

I think this a great use of technology.

Now, if only someone could produce a technology that gets students out of bed, fed and off to school in the morning without the usual admonishments from their parents!

Stephen can be contacted at  
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



## POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

## Thoughts and prayers?

This week I don't really have anything to say as I am at a loss for words.

The US is once again struck by the madness of a mass shooting. Call it a terrorist attack, a lone wolf attack, or call it whatever you want. Naming the event is a somewhat pointless discussion to have right now. It is a distraction; a political distraction, and one I am not willing to engage in.

The facts are that a gunman killed close to 60 people, injured hundreds of others and struck terror into the hearts of literally thousands of people and put a nation – and its neighbours – once again into state of shocked disbelief.

Striking terror into the hearts of people makes you a terrorist. So, let's accept that and leave the dance of semantics aside for another day, shall we?

People are dead. Not because of war. Not because of an accident. Not because of gangland crime, but because someone had access to and was able to purchase multiple high fire power weapons and thus successfully execute a plan to kill as many people as possible.

Again, let's not argue semantics about the type of firearm – scratch that, firearms – the gunman had. Or whether the weapons were semi-automatic or automatic. As if the fact the guns were allegedly purchased legally and then altered provides any solace to the families of those gunned down.

I do not understand the obsession with guns in the US. The right to bear arms, ostensibly to defend oneself, I suppose I understand that. I don't live in the middle of nowhere or in the midst of a high crime neighbourhood, so I can understand, at least intellectually, the argument of those that do that one needs protection of some sort from threats, real or perceived. I understand the argument that one has the right to defend oneself.

But how does the right to protect oneself morph into the right to own multiple high fire power weapons? Who exactly is one protecting oneself against? Marauders? Bandits? A strike force of some kind?

And how is it that one man could own all those guns, all that ammunition and no one thought to say, "hmmmm, why is this man creating his own personal armoury?" Worse, how many other people have a similar cache of weapons? I simply don't understand how their system works. How the right to own a gun translates into the right to own sufficient weaponry to arm a small military force.

The US is awash in guns. I read one estimate that said that "there are more guns than people in the US." That means there are over a third of a billion guns in the US. That is simply staggering. The likelihood that they would give them all up is pretty much zero. So, a debate about gun ownership rights is pointless. We are well past that.

Despite this being the worst mass shooting in US history, I doubt that there will be any meaningful reform of gun ownership regulations. If there were no reforms after Sandy Hook, where 20 children were shot down, I am not sure what it would take, quite frankly, for there to be change.

Maybe someday common sense will prevail.

But, until then, I guess the world will just have to make do with the "thoughts and prayers" of those that make those decisions.

## THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you support peaceful protest in sport?

Yes No Unsure

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

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
OCTOBER 3, 2017	86%	14%	0%

# Bakers wanted to give special needs adults an opportunity to make a difference

From page 1

by several community non-profit agencies and local churches to provide employment opportunities to adults with intellectual disabilities while offering a space for people in Aurora and Newmarket to connect.

It is a brainchild with several parents, including Community Living Aurora-Newmarket, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, as well as Commons Coffee, the mainstay of the Newmarket Farmers' Market which provides employment and teaching opportunities to adults living with intellectual challenges through hands-on work as baristas.

Beginning November 8, this success will begin brewing at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Mosley and Victoria Streets and continuing each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Its purpose is to serve fair trade coffee, tea and fresh baked goods to those



Partners in the Community Café – including Commons Coffee, Community Living, and Welcoming Arms – meet in the hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the hall where the magic will unfold. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

in the community, offer work experience to these adults in a supportive environment, and create a space for the community to come together.

The idea for a café such as this first came from support staff at Community Living, whose clients regularly volunteer at Martha's Table, the affordable community lunch held weekly at St. Andrew's under the auspices of Welcome Table.

This, however, provided these adults with a volunteer opportunity just once a week and that simply was not enough.

"They were looking for other places," says St. Andrew's Rev. Paul Kang. "The idea of creating something else on another day started, and it was also in conjunction with people we meet in the community where there is a lot of loneliness and isolation. There weren't a lot of opportunities for people to come together, and the genesis of this was the need for employment opportunities for people with disabilities and also a space where the community can connect and interact with one another."

The next step was to reach out to Commons Coffee, which has been providing just such opportunities for dozens of York Region adults for over five years.

Commons Coffee was founded by

Susan Popper and her daughter, who lives with autism.

When her daughter graduated from high school they found a shortage of volunteer opportunities within the community so set out to change the status quo.

Eventually they found their niche at the Newmarket Farmers' Market, growing each year, and now providing between 13 and 15 adults under their umbrella who do three or four hour shifts at a time, expanding their business to catering at myriad local events including the recent Harvest Festival hosted at Shepherd's Bush by Windfall Ecology Centre.

"We like the idea of being out in the community and making connections," says Ms. Popper. "There are a lot of the same issues: loneliness and isolation, living at home after graduation doing nothing and watching TV. Parents have to quit their jobs so they can look after them and a lot of them don't know what to do. At Commons Coffee, we provide training opportunities and they are also our partners in business and get paid."

While expertise of the adults working with Commons Coffee has been a winning recipe, your help is needed to help complete the Aurora Community Café's recipe for success.

The adults bring with them all that is needed to give Starbucks a run for its money, but bakers are needed to help complete the picture and impart the skills to help them bake that perfect cookie or muffin. Whether you are a professional baker with a few hours to spare each week, or a home baker keen to share your love of baking with others, the Aurora Community Café would love to hear from you.

They would also love to see your support next Sunday, October 15, at 2 p.m. when St. Andrew's Presbyterian hosts the York Region Community Choir in concert.

Single tickets for the concert are on sale now at \$25 (\$30 at the door, seniors and students \$20) by calling 905-727-6567 and all proceeds will go towards supporting the Aurora Community Café.

"It really boils down to this: when we go to Tim Hortons, they are really busy, but we think there are also people out there in the community who want to enjoy their coffee but also support a not-for-profit business that has a larger purpose – and that is to bring people together from different backgrounds and different abilities," says Rev. Kang. "It's about how we are all a community together."

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<b>8.99<sup>lb</sup></b> 19.82kg Smoked Ramzes or Mars Cheese <del>44.75</del>	<b>5.59<sup>lb</sup></b> 12.32kg Grandma Pork Ham <del>7.67</del> <b>SAVE 23%</b>	<b>5.99<sup>lb</sup></b> 13.21kg "Góralska" Pork Sausage <del>7.21</del> <b>SAVE 27%</b>	<b>15.99<sup>lb</sup></b> 35.25kg Fresh Arctic Char Fillet <del>17.99</del>	<b>12.39<sup>ea</sup></b> Agropur Anco Brie or Camembert Cheese 450g <del>14.49</del>	<b>8.29<sup>lb</sup></b> 18.28kg - Arla Havarti Cheese Creamy or Jalapeno <del>9.99</del>
<b>3.99<sup>lb</sup></b> 8.80kg Ontario Boneless Pork Shoulder <del>4.99</del>	<b>4.99<sup>lb</sup></b> 11.00kg Ontario Pork Tenderloin <del>6.99</del> <b>SAVE 29%</b>	<b>5.99<sup>lb</sup></b> 13.21kg Ontario Outside Round Steak or Roast <del>7.99</del> <b>SAVE 25%</b>	<b>2.19<sup>ea</sup></b> Wolski Cucumbers in Brine Low Salt 720mL <del>2.99</del>	<b>3.69<sup>ea</sup></b> Kodra Cherry Peppers With Cheese 314mL <del>4.99</del> <b>NEW!</b>	<b>4.49<sup>ea</sup></b> Wolski Sour Cherries in Light Syrup 1.5L <del>5.99</del>

**save 29%**

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5.49kg  
**Local Chicken Drumsticks**

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~~14.99~~

<b>1.69<sup>ea</sup></b> Wolski Plums in Light Syrup 720mL <del>2.99</del>	<b>1.19<sup>ea</sup></b> Kamiss Assorted Mustards 180g/165g <del>4.69</del>	<b>4.99<sup>cs</sup></b> .99 <sup>ea</sup> Mangiatorella - 6x1.5L Astoria Bakery Non-Carbonated Natural Mineral Water <del>7.99<sup>cs</sup></del>	<b>2 for 4.00</b> Sunflower Seeds 300g 2.49 <sup>ea</sup>	<b>.99<sup>ea</sup></b> Gerstel Non-Alcoholic Beer 500mL <del>1.39</del>	<b>2.59<sup>ea</sup></b> Tymbark Selected Fruit Drinks 2L <del>3.49</del> <b>SAVE 26%</b>	<b>1.49<sup>ea</sup></b> Astra Selected Teas 20-25 Bags <del>2.99</del>	<b>4.99<sup>ea</sup></b> Tchibo Exclusive Instant Coffee 100g <del>7.99</del>
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<b>2.49<sup>ea</sup></b> Imperial Cocoa or Cream Wafers 415g <del>3.99</del> <b>SAVE 27%</b>	<b>1.49<sup>ea</sup></b> Goplana "Mella" Fruit Jellies In Chocolate Selected Varieties 190g <del>4.99</del>	<b>1.79<sup>ea</sup></b> Storck "Mamba" Chewy Fruit Candies 2.49	<b>1.69<sup>ea</sup></b> Wawel Assorted "Superior" Dark Chocolates 100g <del>2.29</del>	<b>1.69<sup>ea</sup></b> Kucharczyk/Wolski Selected Pasta Noodles 250g <del>2.29</del>	<b>6.39<sup>lb</sup></b> 14.09kg Montreal Smoked Beef <del>8.12</del>	<b>10.49<sup>lb</sup></b> 23.13kg - BOS Smoked Mackerel Fillet <del>13.11</del>	
<b>1.29<sup>100g</sup></b> Mieszko "Klejnoty" Selected Filled Chocolates Bulk <del>4.99<sup>100g</sup></del> <b>SAVE \$7/kg</b>	<b>1.49<sup>ea</sup></b> Maitre Truffaut "Grazioso" Mini Chocolates w/Cream Filling Selected Varieties 100g <del>4.99</del>	<b>5.39<sup>ea</sup></b> E. Wedel "Ptasie Mleczko" Chocolate Covered Marshmallows 380g <del>7.49</del>	<b>2.99<sup>ea</sup></b> Starsky Herring in Cream Sauce Marinated Herring Fillets With Onion In Creamy Sauce 250mL <del>3.49</del>	<b>3.79<sup>ea</sup></b> Starsky Dobreccyna Sausage on a Bun Dobreccyna Sausage on a Bun w/Fried Onions 250mL <del>4.50</del>	<b>4.99<sup>lb</sup></b> 11.00kg Starsky Sauerkraut Stew Bigos w/Meat Braided Sauerkraut w/Smoked Meats <del>5.85</del>		
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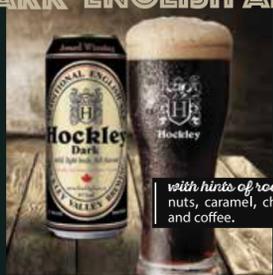
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## Fire hall, new baseball diamonds lead to “largest capital budget in 10 years”

By Brock Weir

A new fire hall serving Aurora and Newmarket and baseball diamonds behind the former home of Hallmark are some of the big ticket items at the centre of a very big capital budget for the year ahead.

Next Saturday morning, October 14, Council will meet to sit down and begin deliberations on the 2018 Capital Budget, and they will have a lot to discuss, as they learned this week as Town Treasurer Dan Elliott introduced a revised 10 Year forecast.

“It is a very large budget this year,” Mr. Elliott told Council last week, crunching the numbers for a capital budget of \$41 million.

The lion’s share of this \$41 million are items accounting for new infrastructure and growth, clocking in at \$27 million, while the repair and replacement of existing assets and amenities will add a further \$13.4 million to the bill.

“This is going to be the largest capital budget that we have had for 10 or 15 years,” he said. “We have the new Fire Hall, we also have build out of the Hallmark playing fields, so there is a lot of capital in those. But, we knew it was coming, we have the funding planned,

and we are able to accommodate that. We’re in good shape. Financially we’re ready for this. We’re able to afford it and our directors assure us that we can deliver on those projects.”

Much of the groundwork has been laid in the continued infusion of existing reserve accounts, a trend which will continue down the line.

“The ten year plan shows an investment requirement of \$261 million total over the next ten years: \$123 million for repair and replacement, \$135 million for growth and new assets, and \$3 million for special projects,” said Mr. Elliot in his report. “The Town’s financial goal is to grow its infrastructure reserve balances to two times the average annual spend requirement by the end of the 10 year plan period.”

In order to achieve this goal, the Treasurer proposes a .5 per cent increase in cash to capital reserves next year, with .7 per cent increase in 2019 and 2020, an increase of .8 per cent from 2021 through 2023, and a .9 per cent increase down the line to 2026 before a full percentage point in 2027.

“This requirement would be funded out of the annual 1 per cent recommended tax increase in support of fiscal strategies, such as this and the continued reduction in the Town’s reliance upon supplementary tax and interest from [the Hydro reserves]. No annual operating budget surplus contributions to these reserves are included in the forecast model as surpluses of this nature are difficult to project. However, contributions of this nature will only serve to reduce the impact of inflationary pressures on the plan and contributions.”

In addition to the fire hall and Hallmark baseball diamonds, additional capital projects proposed in the 2018 forecast include the design for a new recreation centre – a move which was spurred earlier this year through a motion from Councillor Harold Kim – along with the construction of a new parking lot and playground at Stewart Burnett Park near the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, the “continued advancement” of constructing the Aurora Wildlife Park (Ivy Jay Nature Reserve), work on the Aurora promenade, and even more unspecified work on the new Joint Operations Centre.

“Hydro funding is proposed to advance the cultural precinct master plan and the cultural master plan,” Mr. Elliott notes.

“Our staff are trying desperately to maximize the Town’s access to grant monies that are available from the Feds and the Province and we have been very successful in those efforts, sometimes unfortunately, Aurora is seen to be quite healthy financially, or quite affluent financially and we get denied because the sense is we distribute our grant funding based on need rather than opportunity,” he told Council, adding that the new assets coming online in 2C will be a “surge.”

In all, the budget forecast garnered little discussion when presented to Council last Tuesday. Lawmakers are likely saving their comments for next Saturday’s Budget meeting.

Councillor Michael Thompson,

however, had praise for the continued efforts to boost reserves and that Aurora’s Asset Management Plan, an integral component in this 10 year forecast, has been successful.

“It is good to know that we take a sizable amount from the tax levy and put it into our reserve accounts. I am still amazed when I go to AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) conferences and I still see municipalities talking about the need to put together an asset management plan now that it is mandated by the Province. Kudos to you for bringing it forward early for us last term and I think Aurora was certainly one of the forerunners of the development of those asset management plans and it has served us well.”

Advertorial

## You’re invited! Workshop: October 12th

### Learn How Local Experts are Investing in Mortgages

Ever wonder how banks earn big profits? Last quarter, the big 6 banks posted a net profit of \$10.15 billion. According to the Canadian Bankers Association, 56% - a significant portion of their profit - is generated from net interest income, such as from residential mortgages.

Local investors can now follow this proven formula for success by becoming mortgage lenders.

“Our investors **earn between 8% and 12% annually** on private mortgages,” said Victor Camba, a mortgage agent at UNION Capital Management who specializes in matching borrowers with individual investors.

For those wanting to learn more, there will be a free workshop on October 12th in Aurora. Investors will learn how to get involved, and how to examine private mortgage deals in order to maximize returns and reduce risk.

Private lenders can invest using cash or registered funds (such as their RRSP). In return, they obtain similar benefits that banks enjoy, such as predictable and stable monthly cash flow, and “bricks and mortar” security.

It is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain mortgage financing through traditional banks. As a result, these borrowers are turning to private lenders.

A misconception is that these are bad-quality borrowers. “Bad credit? No Credit? No Problem,” are advertisements sometimes seen. This is far from the truth.

In 2016, 2.7 million Canadians were self-employed (Statistics Canada). These people are generally in the sales and services industry, such as Realtors and Contractors. There were also 1.2 million small businesses. These borrowers do not meet the bank’s lending criteria, and are therefore turned down. Their tax return may show a significantly lower figure than what they actually take home as income.

“We take into consideration all sources of the client’s income, including stat-

ed business income, something the banks don’t do,” Victor said. “But we are not going to take undue risk. We will take a calculated risk.”

He prefers to offer loans below 80% of the value of the property to limit losses in case of a housing price downturn. Unlike mutual funds or stocks, a mortgage investment is collateralized with existing residential properties within the Greater Toronto Area, including Aurora and Newmarket. If the borrower defaults, their lender has the legal power to sell the property to recover their funds.

“It used to be investors went to their lawyer or accountant and said, ‘I have a few million dollars and I want to lend this out and make a good return,’” Victor said. “They are still around, but now there are opportunities for the average investor with cash or an RRSP.”

For those who want to invest in real estate without the hassle of tenants or repairing toilets, register online to attend the free workshop. Seating is limited to the first 25 people who register.

#### REGISTER TODAY TO ATTEND

**Date:** Thursday, October 12th at 7.30pm  
**Where:** Aurora Town Hall Leksand Room 100 John West Way, Aurora  
**Cost:** Complimentary

Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Register Online [oct12-lending.eventbrite.ca](http://oct12-lending.eventbrite.ca)

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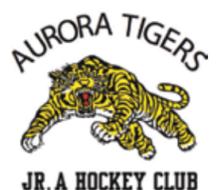
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# Aurora men thank “guardian angels” for second chance at life

By Brock Weir

Brian Golder describes himself as “an older gentleman” but a very thankful one. In fact, he views himself as an older gentleman “given a second chance at life.”

On Tuesday, Mr. Golder had the opportunity to thank those individuals who came to his rescue and helped make this second chance a reality for him.

Rare are the occasions when a man has the opportunity to personally thank the people who helped save his life; and even rarer still are those evenings when two men have the chance to do so as well.

But that is just what happened on Tuesday night when Mr. Golder, along with Fred Osti, were able to personally thank municipal staff and lifeguards for the quick-thinking actions that saved them from death.

“On May 30, the Recreation Staff responded to a medical emergency at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex where there was an unconscious, non-breathing individual in the pool,” said Adrian Wong, Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Aurora, on what led up to Mr. Osti’s rescue. “The lifeguards quickly identified and responded to the individual, cleared the pool and called 911. Lifeguards performed CPR and used the automated external defibrillator. Soon after, Central York Fire Services and York EMS were on the scene and the individual was taken to the hospital for further treatment.

“The Recreation Team provided support through managing the scene, directing bystanders and providing a critical incident stress defusing session for the staff who responded to the incident. Their level of training, preparedness, communication and teamwork were all contributing factors to the success of the rescue.”

Mr. Osti, along with his wife, were on hand to applaud Community Program Coordinator Jodi Alexander, Lifeguard Adrian Bunyi, Aquatics Coordinator Terri Edwards, Lifeguard Nicole Lawlor, Customer Service Representative Courtney Levek, Acting Youth and Community Development Coordinator

Greg Peri, Lifeguards Jennifer Savov and Glenda Wilcock, and Mr. Wong for their work.

“Fred does not remember, but he must have heard my story many times,” said Mrs. Osti. “It seemed like forever, but they got a pulse. All the staff were so caring, so helpful and so determined. The four life guards are Fred’s guardian angels. I hope they will do much more for our community and may God bless them.”

Almost exactly two months later, Mr. Golder was discovered collapsed and unconscious on the floor of the Aurora Public Library’s men’s room by patron Angelo DiPlessibo.

After calling 911, Mr. DiPlessibo alerted Library Staff to the emergency and Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager of Community Collaboration, and, on her first week on the job, Ashley Nunn-Smith, Manager of Content, Access and Innovation, sprang into action.

“They administered CPR and used the defibrillator as directed,” said Jill Foster, CEO for the Aurora Public Library. “They continued CPR until Central York Fire Services, York Regional Police, and York Region EMS arrived and transported the gentleman to the hospital. I know I speak for all my staff in expressing the appreciation and admiration for the quick thinking and decisive action of our two colleagues, Reccia and Ashley. I am proud of my library staff for the work they do day in and day out, but tonight surely is special.

“To everyone’s great relief, the victim’s wife made the effort to come into the Library shortly after the incident to tell us all that her husband was resting and would recover – and that was the best news of all.”

Better still was Mr. Golder along with his wife Velma, were in the audience to surprise Ms. Nunn-Smith and Ms. Mandelcorn with his personal thanks.

“I would like to thank the ladies for the opportunity of a second chance,” he said. “It is very important. I realise I am an older gentlemen, but to have the opportunity to be basically given a second chance is amazing. I thank the ladies, extremely.”



(Top) Fred Osti thanks the lifeguards and Parks & Recreation staff who saved his life after he lost consciousness at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex this past spring. (Above) Brian Golder, accompanied by wife Velma, were also on hand to thank the Aurora Public Library staff who saved his life. All were recognized at Council last week for their heroism.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



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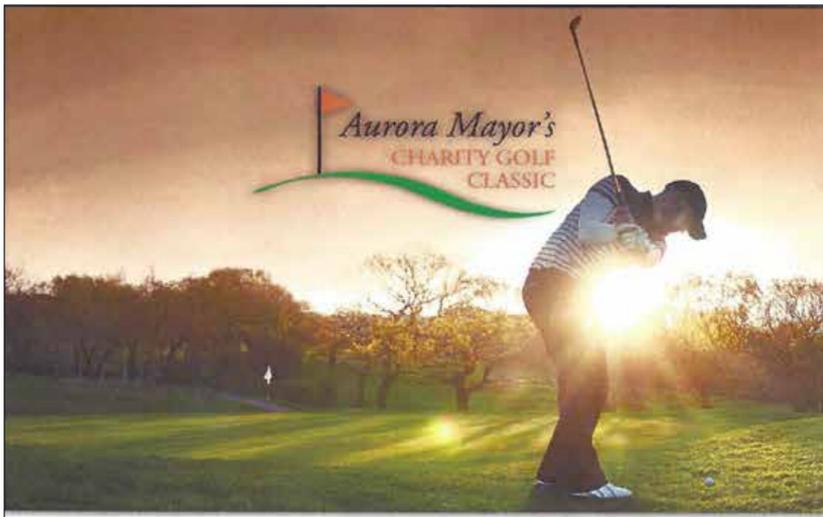
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Mayor Geoffrey Dawe  
Town of Aurora

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**Colours of Fall Concert to take place under "Harvest Moon"**



By Brock Weir

A harvest moon in the sky might not shine down on Town Park this Thursday, but Harvest Moon will in the air as the sounds of Neil Young provide the soundtrack to the Colours of Fall.

The Town's annual pre-Thanksgiving harvest celebration will take place October 5 from 6-8 p.m.

Featuring the traditional free corn roast and pumpkin carving activities this year, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Colours of Fall will be a celebration of Canada.

While the music of Canadian music icon Neil Young, courtesy of the tribute band The Neil Young'Uns provides the headline entertainment, interactive displays from Black Creek Pioneer Village will take concert-goers back to the Canada of 1867.

"This year, Colours of Fall is one of our Canada 150 Signature Events," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "This is the last Concert in the Park at the end of the full outdoor season, and it is a kick-off to the Thanksgiving weekend. This year, Black Creek will provide a really interactive and elaborate display taking us back to those days. People will actually be able to try out the spinning wheel and try out harness-making tools; a very hands-on experience.

"We're also fortunate with the kick-off to the Making Peace exhibition opening October 4 at Town Park, those who come to the Colours of Fall Concert will be able to experience that as well."

Whether they are performing at Ribfest or the pre-Canada Day Party in the Park, The Neil Young'Uns, led by Larry Cariou, have become something of a mainstay on the Aurora circuit. Ms. Ware says the crisp fall air and the changing leaves provided the perfect storm to bring their unique take on Canadiana back to Town Park.

"I hope this year exceeds everyone's expectations and they are able to contribute some moments to the Peace exhibition," says Ms. Ware. "I really hope they are also taken with the Pioneer Village experience and the Neil Young'uns performance."

For more information on the Colours of Fall concert, visit [www.aurora.ca/fallconcert](http://www.aurora.ca/fallconcert).

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# Park auction will benefit patient care at Southlake hospital

By Brock Weir

If you've ever wanted to leave behind a lasting legacy in Aurora – and have your name remembered for generations to come – you will soon have your chance with Southlake Regional Health Centre.

A parkette near the intersection of Thomas Phillip Drive at St. John's Sideroad could bear your name, or the name of your choice, for perpetuity if you have the winning bid at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Southlake Black Tie Gala next Saturday, October 14.

Held every two years, the Black Tie Gala brings together hundreds of community business leaders and "influential community members" to mingle with Southlake physicians, Board members and more for a night of live entertainment, gourmet dining, and a great chance to support the most urgent priorities at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Sponsored by Magna International and Kerbel Group at the Platinum Level, as well as organizations such as Aurora Home Hardware, Priestly Demolition, New Roads Automotive and more, the Town of Aurora last week did its part by putting the parkette up for grabs.

It was welcome news to representatives of the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation who came to Council last week asking for Council to ratify the decision made at the Committee level the previous week to once again make a parkette contribution.

"It is an evening for everyone to enjoy a unique and exclusive event with live and silent auctions, a lavish cocktail reception, a gourmet dinner and live entertainment, and all to support the hospital's most urgent priorities," said David Basco of the Foundation. "As with all hospitals, Southlake does not receive government funding to purchase new or replace equipment outside of capital builds. Critical and basic equipment like beds, surgical tools and machines are all funded through the generosity of the community and through events like the gala we will continue to provide world-class care close to home."

Mr. Basco was joined at the podium by colleague Jennifer Kerr, who not only made the formal ask of Council but highlighted just what such a donation would mean to the lives and treatments of patients.

"Through the donations of parkettes, we have been able to raise over \$200,000 to support the urgent needs of our hospital; items like building the residential hospice, the cancer centre, and purchasing new beds for our patient rooms," she said noting, of course, that the naming rights to the parkette would be sold to the highest bidder.

"All proceeds raised will support the most urgent needs of our hospital. We rely on our generous communities to support the most critical needs across the hospital so we can continue to provide the highest quality of care our patients expect and deserve. The fund will help us provide our clinical staff with the tools they need to make miracles happen every single day."

Last year's parkette auction raised \$11,000 to the foundation and organizers are hoping to up the ante this year.

Despite the enthusiasm with which Council approved the Parkette request, it was tempered by some dismay with a perceived lack of government funding for the local health care provider, and those like it across the Province.

"The Provincial Government funds

nearly 90 per cent of the capital costs, but actually that is 65 per cent of all the costs a hospital needs to operate," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "It is unfortunate that the government doesn't fund more of our operating costs. The rest is basically up to the taxpayers and those who are going to the gala."

Added Councillor Michael Thompson,

encouraging Gala organizers to set a high opening bid for this hot piece of property, "I think we all recognize the importance of our hospital and we all want to be supportive of it. We would certainly like to see it go for as high a figure as possible because we know the money will be put to good use."

This year's Southlake Black Tie Gala

will take place on Saturday, October 14, at the Universal Eventspace in Vaughan. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., with dinner and entertainment beginning at 7.30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$500, benefiting the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. For more information, visit [www.southlakefoundation.ca](http://www.southlakefoundation.ca).



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# AHS sisters aim to empower girls through coding

By Brock Weir

Maya Bishop has always been interested in science and technology, but when she sat down to put her interests to good use in high school computer engineering course, she noticed something a little bit unusual.

She was one of only two girls in the class, leading Maya, now a Grade 12 student at Aurora High School to ask the obvious question: why?

The answer, at least on the surface, seemed to be a simple one. For far too long, when computer tech courses are mentioned young girls see images of “the geek behind the desk.”

“I really got to feel how big of a gender gap there is,” says Maya. “Most people have the geek behind the desk vibe when they hear it, but they don’t understand how amazing that profession is.”

She and her sister Amanda, Grade 10, however, are not content to just quietly forge ahead on their technology and science path, they are aiming to challenge those misconceptions for girls across Aurora and close that gap by hosting female tech leaders for a night of conversation.

Why Code Aurora: A Night of Empowering Girls Through Code will take place October 24 from 6.30 – 8.30 p.m. at Aurora High School and is open to young women from the whole community – and even the guys.

It brings together a group of six women who have forged careers in

technology who will dispel the vibe and encourage up-and-coming talent to see the possibilities before them.

“We want these women in computer fields to share how they got their job and what obstacles they have faced and overcome,” says Amanda. “Our focus is how there are far fewer women. We hope this will help the girls in the community to realise there are jobs in technology they can do, and it is not a ‘man thing’ to be in computers. It is an easy and creative outlet.

“There are so many jobs in technology [and a lot of people] don’t really know what most of them are. You hear titles, but you don’t really know what they mean. I am hoping this event will help me realise more opportunities I have to go into.”

While Amanda hasn’t yet firmed up her possible career goals, Maya is a bit more definite in her plans to continue in the computer sciences and engineering fields.

“When we started creating this event we had to deal with that ‘geek’ stereotype, but then we started seeing the stereotype of the frat boy who is smart who can deal with computers, but we haven’t created anything that is making girls want to go into the field,” says Maya. “They are thinking it is a very male field and working with computers is a male thing.

“The women on our panel are all women in the industry, so they all understand this [gender gap] issue and they all want to help it in some way. I



Maya Bishop, Grade 12, and Amanda Bishop, Grade 10, are bringing together a panel of women working in computer sciences to dispel myths and encourage young women in the community to consider their career options.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

found out while I was researching the issue that girls as early as Grade 5 start eliminating careers; they don’t pick their career, but they start eliminating them, so we want to reach out to the age group of Grade 5s to Grade 12 and try and show them what a career in this area is like because, at that age, all you have is the mentality of the nerd guy. We want to show these girls what it is truly like and [our panellists] are all for it because they see the issue every day, they understand it, and they all want to fix it.”

Coming together to help fix the problem are Modana Ebrahimi, Product Manager for OntarioMD; Wendy Foster, Director of Data Properties at Wattpad; Kate Kurtz, IBM Bluemix Development Manager; Maryam Shoeybi, Software Engineer Achievers; Kaitlin Smith, Producer,

Uken Games; and I-Yana Tucker, Talent Manager at Wattpad.

“We are giving them a pretty open range on topics,” says Maya. “We want to discuss with them their company, what it is like, how they got into computers and why. If you have any questions about the field, you can go ahead and ask what the job is like.

“It is a really unique experience. You don’t often get the opportunity to talk to actual people in the field very often, especially if it is a field you don’t know a lot about. Unless you’re in it, you don’t really get to talk to someone who actually knows what’s going on and what it is like.”

If you’re interested in attending October 24’s Why Code Aurora at Aurora High School, register at [tinyurl.com/WhyCodeAurora](http://tinyurl.com/WhyCodeAurora).



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York Region

# Accessible washroom trailer has regal debut

By Brock Weir

Prince Harry might not have needed to stop and try a new throne on for size, but York Region's new accessible washroom trailer had a regal debut on Friday morning, taking pride of place at the Invictus Games' archery championship.

A grassroots initiative which has seen significant financial support from the Federal Government along with the fundraising efforts from Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Justin Altmann's very public wedding last year, along with financial contributions from the Region of York and communities like Aurora, it is a facility that is a long-time coming from those facing mobility challenges within our area.

Build to comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, the fully accessible washroom trailer features adjustable ramps, push-button access, automated lifts for those otherwise unable to leave their wheelchairs, and expansive areas for caregivers to change individuals and administer food and medication.

For Aurora activist Tyler Barker, the accessible washroom trailer is integral for people with mobility challenges, regardless of age, to experience the same level of dignity as everyone else in the community.

"This will definitely benefit people in wheelchairs, and even people with the Able Network and Kerry's Place," says Mr. Barker of the organizations working with people living with intellectual challenges and autism respectively. "I know they like to come out to events and be as active as possible, but even with individuals in wheelchairs or those who have mobility issues with walkers have to use an accessible washroom with a lift to transport people with higher needs or even a little heavier.

"I hope this will be a big boost across York Region and also for people who need to go inside for privacy issues, whether it is to take their medication or for people with behavioural issues or just get anxious, to be able to go inside, have a drink of water in private and not be out in the open.

"It may be a lot of work, but now people with disabilities can have dignity."

Going forward, the accessible washroom trailer will be maintained by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, which handle bookings for fairs and other community events across York Region. Along with the bookings, Whitchurch-Stouffville will also handle the towing and setup arrangements, with the associated costs picked up by the organizing municipality, so people with disabilities can have a safe, secure and dignified way to use the bathroom and, in turn, have peace of mind in advance of the event.

A driving force behind the trailer is Derek Bunn who teaches special needs students at Sutton District High School. Co-founder of last month's Student Hoedown, which saw over 1,000 special needs students from across York Region descend on Aurora for a morning and afternoon of music and fun, he was at Toronto's Fort York for the washroom's debut, fielding questions from disabled service personnel and curious bystanders along the way.

"Where else would you want it?" said Mr. Bunn of its debut at the Invictus Games. "This is a world event right now and the world needs to see that people with disabilities belong in the community and there is not a better place to have it. People have been asking questions, wanting to know what it is all about, and how you get in touch with Innovative Trailer Designs to make a few.

"It has been a dream and I think it is a great day for people living with severe physical disability. It gives them a chance to get out in the community now and have this at every fair and event in York Region. I think our goal is to possibly approach every municipality to have one of these in their community and, with the support of large corporations like Tim Hortons or the LCBO, it would be nice to have these all across the Province.

"It is taking that next step of integrating people into our community – physically disabled people and even seniors. Now they can be involved in the community and enjoy life."



YRDSB teacher Derek Bunn was on hand to unveil York Region's new accessible washroom trailer, of which Aurora contributed to its construction costs. The reveal took place at Fort York on Friday morning as Prince Harry, inset, watched Canada take gold in the Invictus archery competition.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



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Michael Paluch, Assistant Headmaster, Academics



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FREE Week of October 5, 2017



**ONGOING SUPPORT** – The Aurora Tigers, accompanied by owner Jim Thomson, were suited and booted on Thursday morning as they accepted a sponsorship cheque from Jennifer Copley and members of the Highland Automotive Professionals team. The presentation was a further demonstration of Highland's continued commitment to local hockey and sport.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

## Tigers caught in early season slump

By Jake Courtepatte

After flying out the gate, the roar of the Tigers has been muffled after losses in three of their last four games.

Hometown fans were privy to a double dose of junior A hockey this weekend with home games on Friday and Saturday night, with the Tigers kicking it off Friday against the Georgetown Raiders.

After giving up five goals to the Kingston Voyageurs in the previous game, the defensive troubles continued against the Raiders, as Georgetown went three-for-three on the powerplay in the first period to take a 3-0 lead.

Aurora bounced back to make it a one-goal game with notches from Christopher Giroday and Zach Wilkie, though another quick spurt of three Georgetown goals put the game out of reach, with a final score of 7-4.

Additional Aurora goals were scored by Anthony Romano as well as Wilkie's second of the night.

Hosting the struggling Lindsay Muskies on Saturday was a cruise for the Tigers, who helped Jack Irvine to his first shutout of the year in a 3-0 score.

It was all Tigers in the first period, holding Lindsay to just four shots, while Romano opened the scoring just under three minutes in with a well-place shot under the blocker of goaltender Tyler

Richardson.

The line of Romano, Giroday, and Tyler Davis once again connected in the second period, when Giroday finished off a one-timer at the point to double the Aurora lead.

Jason Stachleback closed out the scoring in the third period, banging home a rebound on a Bryce Martin point shot.

Sunday's matchup in Wellington featured a battle of the top two teams in the OJHL's NorthEast conference, facing a Dukes squad that had lost just one game over the first month of the season.

The Tigers showed no signs of fatigue early on, taking a quick 3-0 lead in the first period thanks to Wilkie and a pair from Elijah Gonsalves. Wellington stormed back with four in a row, taking the lead by the midway point of the second period, though Steven MacLean scored for Aurora with one minute left in the frame to head to the dressing room tied at four apiece.

Wellington beat Irvine twice in the third period, taking a two goal lead with just over two minutes to go, while Wilkie scored with the extra attacker to end the game 6-5.

Despite the losses, the Tigers remain in first place in the OJHL's North division thanks to a 4-0-1 start to the season.

Their 5-3-1 record is two points up

on the Markham Royals and Stouffville Spirit, while sitting six points back of the conference-leading Dukes.

Aurora returns to the ice on Friday in Lindsay, before hosting the Burlington Cougars in an inter-conference

matchup on Saturday.

Puck drop is set for 7:30 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit [www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com](http://www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com).



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## Express earn double gold in hometown tournament

By Jake Courtepatte

Defending home ice was top priority last weekend for the Minor Atom and Atom York-Simcoe Express, both of which came out on top of the annual YSE Steamtrain Shootout tournament.

After a 5-5 tie with the Whitby Wildcats to open the tournament on Friday at the Stronach Aurora Rec Complex, the Minor Atoms rallied back from a Saturday morning loss to Toronto with a 4-2 thumping of the Oshawa Minor Generals, earning a spot in Sunday morning's semifinal.

A 5-0 shutout of the Markham Waxers set up a date with Whitby in the final at LaBrier Arena, where a 2-2 tie was broken in the final few minutes of regulation to secure the win for the

Express.

Colin Ellsworth was named tournament MVP for the Express.

"We are all very proud of the boys," said coach Ken Heinrich. "They were excited to play host at this tournament and to represent YSE well. This win is a great stepping stone for this group and it's a result that we hope will help propel this team on to strong results the rest of the season."

The Atom Express had a perfect round robin through the Friday games, taking down both the North York Rangers and Rideau St. Lawrence Kings. A loss to the Rochester Monarchs on Saturday morning sent the Express to the playoff as the number-two seed, where they once again met Rochester

Continued on page 25

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# Mayor's Breakfast of Champions Spotlight



## Spotlight: Aurora King Mosquito Rep Baseball



The 2016 Aurora King Jays Mosquito Rep Baseball team had an incredible season!

The team consists of 12 boys born in 2005 who began training indoors in February. The team had a busy season planned, playing in the York Simcoe (YSBA)/Toronto (TBA) interlock AA league along with five tournaments and league playoffs.

The team began the season by winning our home Aurora tournament

in early June. We followed that up by winning the Newmarket Silver Bat tournament in July, becoming the first ever Aurora team to win Newmarket's Mosquito tournament.

To challenge our boys heading into playoffs, we entered a tough AAA tournament where most of the top teams in the province were playing. The team was up to the challenge, making it all the way to the championship game before finishing runners-up.

This was the perfect tune up for the team to finish the regular season in first place for the YSBA with a 19-3 record, followed by a successful weekend to win the YSBA AA playoffs with a 3-0 record to clinch a spot in the Labour Day weekend OBA AA provincial finals. The OBA provincial finals bring together the top 12 teams from across Baseball Ontario at each level to compete in a three-day, double knock out tournament to decide the provincial champion.

In our first game, we were matched up with a strong Niagara Falls Falcons team and we were defeated 7-4. This left the boys on their last life: one more loss, and we were going home.

Saturday morning brought another tough match against a strong North Toronto Athletics team from our league who had handed us two of our three regular season losses, but we won a nerve racking 4-1 game.

Next up was Halton Hills Eagles, who we had won and lost against earlier in the season, and we had a strong game to win 9-6. This setup our third game of the day against the Guelph Royals, who we had never played. We had our best game yet to win 15-4 and advance to the final 4 teams on Sunday: Aurora King, Barrie, Niagara Falls and London West. Our Sunday morning match up was London West, another team we had won and lost against this year. We played yet another great game to win

14-1. In the other game, Barrie defeated Niagara Falls, which left Barrie as the undefeated team and Aurora with one loss.

This meant to win the title, Aurora would need to beat Barrie in two consecutive games.

Barrie were the defending OBA provincial champions, and our fierce rivals from the YSBA league. The first game started with Barrie scoring in the top of the 1st, but then Aurora's bats stayed hot and they cruised to a 13-3 win, setting up a winner-take-all final game!

The final game didn't disappoint, and was the closest, most exciting game of the weekend. It was a pitcher's duel with fantastic defense, and the game was tied 0-0 going into the seventh and final inning. Following a Barrie pitching change, Aurora's bats woke up and some great hits and a few breaks lead to scoring five runs. However, Barrie wouldn't go down without a fight. In the bottom seventh, their top of the order strung together a few hits and they got a few breaks of their own. This setup a situation with four runs in, two outs and the tying runner on third base and the winning runner on second base. Aurora was able to get the swinging strike out to clinch a very stressful 5-4 win and the provincial championship!

What a season for Finn, Blake, Gabe, Brennen, Tyler, Fionn, Nate, Darcy, Luke, Nicho, Will and Nathan, along with coaches Jordan, Greg, Dave and Ryan!!



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## Spotlight: Storm Volleyball Storm Riptide

Storm Riptide 16U Boys had an extremely successful 2016-17 season.

The Riptide boys won all four provincial OVA tournaments in their own age group including the provincial championships. Their only tournament loss was in the Canadian Eastern Nationals where the team took silver losing 17-15 in the third set of an extremely close final.

Against 16U opponents, the team finished with a match record of 31-3 (66-10 in sets) against Canadian

opposition. Against 17U opponents, Storm finished the year in the Premier division with tournament results of 4th, 2nd and finally a 5th place finish at the 17U provincial championships.

The team also had success across the border playing in the Boys Winter Invitational in Chicago going 8-1 and finishing fifth to qualify for the US National Championships.

The key to the team's success was every player willing to do whatever the team needed to succeed.

"If someone was struggling at that moment or someone was injured there was always someone ready to step in and help with whatever was best for the team," says Coach Kevin Therkindsen. "There was no personal agendas, without question the success of the team always came before the individual. "I've never been prouder of a group of young athletes, they supported each other no matter what the situation was, it was all about the team."

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## Mustangs shut out Marauders in YRAA football opener



The St. Max Mustangs took down the Markham Marauders 23 - 0 in their YRAA season opener on Thursday.

By Jake Courtepatte

It may only be the first week of the season, but another YRAA championship showdown between the St. Maximilian Kolbe Mustangs and the Huron Heights Warriors seems almost inevitable.

Despite a massive roster turnover thanks to a large graduating class in 2017, the Mustangs were able to roll over the Markham Marauders 23 - 0 in their season opener on Thursday.

With possession rarely leaving the Markham backfield, Jordan Torres, Nolan Lovegrove, and Michael Bazzo all found the endzone for the Mustangs.

Head coach Joe Gaudio leads an inexperienced squad into the fall season, now leaning on Grade 10 student Lukus Dold in

the quarterback position after longtime vet Ben Langlois left for Queen's University.

The Warriors, meanwhile, shut out the Bill Crothers Colts in their opening week matchup, going to the air for a touchdown on their opening drive en route to a 36 - 0 drubbing.

Undefeated in two seasons of YRAA football, the Warriors have taken down the Mustangs in the past two championship bowl games.

This year's final is set for November 18, with the top two teams through the short regular season meeting after the elimination of the semifinal games from the schedule.

The Mustangs take on St. Brother Andre in week two action on Friday, with kickoff set for 7 p.m. at the St. Max field.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte



The Aurora FC men fell 8 - 2 to Vaughan Azzurri on Saturday in the second-to-last weekend of the League 1 Ontario season.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

## Aurora FC falls hard to top-ranked Vaughan

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora FC men drew a tough schedule when they were forced to contend with the Vaughan Azzurri in the second-to-last week of League 1 Ontario play, a team annually ranked among the best in the league.

With the pressure on from the opening whistle, Vaughan opened the scoring just five minutes into play on Saturday at McNaughton Park, never looking back in an 8 - 2 final.

Despite the loss, Aurora head coach Derek O'Keeffe was content with his team's play, with many inexperienced players getting their first taste of the semi-pro game.

"It was individual errors, lots of them," he said. "We gifted them a goal after the first five minutes, our centre-backs gave them the ball. That being said, they went three nil up, we did really well to come back to 3 - 2, showed good character, and I thought out wide we hurt them a lot."

Aurora's two goals were scored just minutes apart right before halftime, off the feet of Ezekiel Uadiale and Basel Rashrash.

"A soft goal conceded by half-time left us going in 4-2, and we were happy enough, but the fifth goal early in the second half killed us," said O'Keeffe. "We didn't press high enough in the second half. We spoke at half-time about pressing them and not giving time on the ball but we just backed off and gave them space and time. When you give that to good players, they are going to punish everything and that is what happened."

While Vaughan finishes off their season tied atop the League 1 East division standings with Woodbridge, Aurora has one game remaining on their schedule, a battle with Toronto Skillz FC for seventh spot in the eight-team division.

Toronto enters St. Maximilian Kolbe field on Saturday with one point in hand. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

The Aurora women return to the turf on Sunday following a two-week break, hoping to climb the ladder in the final game of the season against the 2-16-1 Sanjazz Lions. Kickoff is set for 5 p.m. at Monarch Park Stadium in Toronto.

Aurora's 9-9-1 record is currently good for eighth in the League 1 women's division.

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## Theatre Aurora's new season lays groundwork for anniversary "rebirth"

By Brock Weir

It's an inevitability of any lifecycle, the ultimate end – but, if done right, it can be one hell of a trip.

It certainly has for Theatre Aurora as they put the finishing touches on their latest season, which is the end of a very unique lifecycle all its own.

For the past few seasons, Theatre Aurora has been building its seasons on steps of the human journey, from making decisions, creating connections and, for its 2016-2017 season, focusing on a theme of "borderless love." Now, the 2017-2018 season is here, and its theme is "In Memoriam."

It's not, of course, the end of community theatre in Aurora, but merely setting the stage for what Melanie Hargan, Theatre Aurora's newly-minted Artistic Director says will signal a "new beginning" for the institution as it gears up for its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary season next year.

"I feel it is a new beginning," she says. "We're saying goodbye to one chapter of Theatre Aurora and

opening it up to the next year and to the next 10 years. It is all going to be new and exciting."

The role is a new and exciting one for Ms. Hargan, who takes over as Artistic Director from Sergio Calderon, who originally devised the four season lifecycle theme. She is not, however, new to Theatre Aurora.

"They are a great family," she says of Theatre Aurora and, like any family, they keep pulling her back in.

She seized the Artistic Director opportunity to challenge herself to learn new things, stoking her passion for community theatre which has been burning bright for the last 13 years.

As she looks ahead to the jam-packed "In Memoriam" season, she is looking to dig into her new role with gusto and, in fact, was on site at Theatre Aurora from the outset watching the very first rehearsal for their inaugural show, Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* which opens October 19.

"Each show is going to be different," she says. "As Artistic Director, you are working with the

directors, you are making sure the directors are going towards the vision of Theatre Aurora, and you're making sure that the actors are happy with what is going on in the director process. I need to make myself open to each director so that they feel free to come to me with any questions and any advice. I am just going to try and lead them to make the best of each show and bring out the best in their directors."

Not content, however, to simply act as Artistic Director, she is getting into the actual director's chair with a production of *Next Fall*, which will take place this autumn.

"I have started the whole process," says Ms. Hargan. "I read the play pretty much every day. You really have to as a director. You need to know the characters inside and out and feel the characters."

In the meantime, however, she is familiarizing herself with the full slate Theatre Aurora is offering local theatre-goers.

After the classic visit with *Salesman's* Loman family, the season continues with a "mysterious farce" entitled *The Game's Afoot*, which centres on an actor, renowned for playing Sherlock Holmes, who invites his cast over to his estate for a weekend. Needless to say in a season focused on "In Memoriam" a corpse makes an appearance and the story unfolds.

Once the audience learns whodunit, the next production will

be the Canadian debut of the Tony-nominated musical *If/Then*, which centres on a woman which shows the possibilities of all paths in life's road.

Next Fall follows *If/Then*.

"It is a drama, with some comedy thrown in about a gay male couple," explains the director. "One of them has not yet come out to his family, so it is about that and the pressure it puts on their relationship. I love this play! I have so many friends who are gay and lesbian, and I see the turmoil they go through sometimes if they haven't come out, or if their family members don't talk to them because they are gay. I want to bring that story to life and just show people that this is what is happening to someone inside and to their relationship."

The season closes with the intriguingly titled play *The Attic, The Pearls & Three Fine Girls*.

"I want patrons who haven't been to Theatre Aurora in 10 years to come back and get excited, to see that our reason for the following year is great," says Ms. Hargan of this, and the following anniversary season. "I want the community to put Theatre Aurora on the map. There are so many theatre groups that a little one like Theatre Aurora can get lost in the mix and I want people to be talking about it and get excited."

For more information on the upcoming Theatre Aurora season, and for tickets, visit [www.theatreaurora.com](http://www.theatreaurora.com).

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Gwen Benaway is an award-winning Two-Spirited Trans poet of Anishinaabe and Métis descent. Described as the spiritual love child of Tomson Highway and Anne Sexton, Benaway will read from her collection *Passage* and forthcoming work *What I Want is Not What I Hope For*.

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# THE AURORAN ARTS & CULTURE

## Library Square could be razed by November, ahead of Christmas Market

By Brock Weir

The former homes of the Aurora Public Library and Seniors' Centre could be razed as early as November, according to municipal staff.

The comments were made last week by CAO Doug Nadorozny, who said there is the "potential for demolition" by late November, but that will be confirmed "in a couple of weeks" pending the results of a tender that went out near the end of September.

This clarification of timelines surrounding the development of Library Square came as Council set the wheels in motion on a plan which could see the vicinity of Library Square the scene of Aurora's very first "Christmas Market."

Floated by Councillor Tom Mrakas as a way to not only bring the Aurora community together in a different way but also give residents a flavour of Library Square's potential, his motion to task staff with coming up with a feasibility plan for just such an event received the green light.

"We always talk about downtown revitalization and I think that we're going through some exciting times moving forward with Library Square and the Cultural Precinct area," said Councillor Mrakas in his pitch to Council. "I think this is an opportunity for us to create a new event that can get in on the ground floor before we get to the development of that area that can, in essence, help showcase the area and get the residents engaged in the area, coming back down and making it that gathering place we have always been talking about and help promote it."

A Christmas Market, inspired by the one which draws thousands annually to Toronto's Distillery District would be a unique event in York Region, one which would have the potential to spur economic and tourism development "if done right."

"I think with our staff it can be done right," he said, adding his preferred time for a Market would be after the 2017 Santa Under the Stars parade on November 26. "When I look at it, I envision lights. I envision a setup with market booths, hot chocolate being served, maybe a licensed area, kids skating and just everyone having a good time."

The suggestion of a Christmas Market, or at least the idea of a Christmas Market, was warmly received around the table, with Councillor Michael Thompson stating he was interested to see what staff come back with not only on dates but how it can be put together.

"I am really excited about this motion," said Councillor Sandra Humfries on

what a Christmas Market would mean to Library Square's future. "I know it is a great start to launch exactly what we have been striving for [over] the last two terms. It is one, but hopefully it will be one of an annual."

Added Councillor Harold Kim: "It is a great suggestion and a great way to refocus our efforts in a central part of Aurora, which is Library Square."

Although still enthusiastic about the idea, some Councillors tempered their enthusiasm with some logistical concerns.

Councillor Jeff Thom, for instance, said while he was supportive of the concept, he was not fully on board with the Town shouldering 100 per cent of the costs. He said he hoped a future report would address ways Aurora will be able to partner with community groups to make the event a reality to help offset any cost to the taxpayer.

"I think there will be opportunities perhaps working with the Farmers' Market or local restaurants and food vendors, local establishments, as well as some of the churches in the area," he said.

This was a view shared by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who said she wanted the report to address ways to ensure area businesses are incorporated into the festivities.

She also said that November can bring about unpredictable weather and an alternative plan to the great outdoors should also be considered. Councillor John Abel was on a similar wavelength, suggesting the historic Aurora Armoury at Town Park would be the ideal venue.

The Councillor went on to offer that the former Fleury Foundry on Wellington Street, just west of Yonge, and now home to Bacon Basketware, would be an ideal location down the road for a permanent, longer-lasting seasonal outdoor market.

"The idea is there is there is not enough time to put in an extensive two or three-week market in this time frame right now, but how we can introduce it and get it to that point," replied Councillor Mrakas. "The idea is to have one night this year and grow it."

Mayor Geoff Dawe also supported the report but with a reservation unique from the rest of Council.

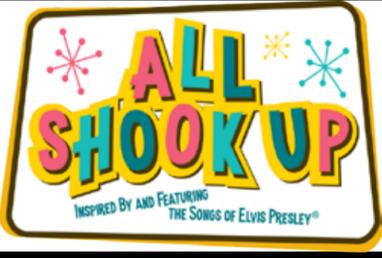
"I am supportive of the concept, [but] I am not supportive of the name because, quite frankly, I don't feel it is inclusive," said Mayor Dawe, adding that holding this event in conjunction with Santa Under the Stars might place an "incredible burden" on municipal staff. "I will support the concept, but that is just who I am and how I think."



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**Speaker:** Gerry Organ  
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For more information & tickets, visit [www.auroraprayerbreakfast.ca](http://www.auroraprayerbreakfast.ca)

# School community sends out clear message after hateful graffiti incident

**From page 1**  
 inappropriate and hateful,” Mr. Helston tells The Auroran. “They understood that imagery and words like that are never acceptable.”

Hartman, he says, is a school that prides itself in creating an inclusive and safe working environment for all students. This was very much the case in the aftermath of the graffiti incident as staff banded together to develop grade appropriate lessons and messages for students that “Everyone belongs, everyone is valued, and everyone is special.”

“Our staff was very supportive and they took the time to respond to questions when they came from different kids,” says Mr. Helston. “We had a little bit of support from our Inclusive Schools team and they spent time speaking with our Grade 6 and 7 classes.”

At the end of the day, Mr. Helston says the parents he spoke to were “just in a state of shock and disbelief” that this could have happened in “their

school, their park.”  
 “They said, ‘This is not who we are,’ and we concurred with that,” he says, adding a letter was sent out to the Hartman community at the end of the day explaining what had happened and reiterating that this was not who they are as a school.

“The graffiti happened to us, but it is not who we are as a school,” he says. “We also put supports in place to help people deepen their understanding. We don’t teach kids what to think; we teach kids how to walk through critical thinking and this is a teaching opportunity for discussion with kids.”

This approach bore fruit on Friday morning.

At the end of each week, students and staff gather for what the school describes as a “Good News” assembly, which is a moment to salute students within the Hartman community who have demonstrated strong character traits and good values.

This time, each and every student, from the smallest Junior



Grade 8 students Keira Fraser and Helene Wong, along with Principal Steve Helston, proudly display one of two murals created by Hartman Public School students in the wake of a hateful graffiti incident last week. Each piece of tape, shaped in an image of triumph, bears hopeful messages from each student – from JK to Grade 8 – on what the school means to them. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

Kindergartener to the Grade 8s looking forward to high school, took centre stage.

The school gave every student a piece of tape. Everyone was asked to write a single word, sentence, or phrase that came to mind on what Hartman Public School means to them. At the assembly, each piece of tape was collected by a Grade 8 student and assembled in two murals designed in the shape of the Hartman School logo, a human figure, arms raised in strength and triumph.

“We got everyone in the school to write what came into their head when they talked about Hartman,” says Grade 8 student Helene Wong. “They talked about love, peace, safety and sharing and a lot of things like that.”

“Happy” was the word that came into the mind of fellow Grade 8 student Keira Fraser.

“When I come to school, I have friends and teachers who are awesome and that makes me happy,” she says.

From their perspective, the initiative is to show the perpetrator of the hateful graffiti that Hartman is “so much more” than that.

“We are a loving school and I think this shows that perfectly,” says Helene. “I wrote ‘safety’ because I am always welcomed here, I wouldn’t be judged here, and it is a very welcoming school.”

As they looked at the completed murals, the students say they want the perpetrator to know that the graffiti did not impact how Hartman Public School students “cooperate” with each other.

“If we could invite the perpetrator to have a really deeper-level understanding about the love and caring that our school exudes day in and day out, that would help along as well in terms of understanding,” says Mr. Helston. “It is about including, caring and thinking about everyone being equal.”

*Anyone with information on this hate crime is asked to contact York Regional Police’s #1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-866-876-5423 x7141, or contact Crime Stoppers anonymously by calling 1-800-222-TIPS, visiting [www.1800222TIPS.com](http://www.1800222TIPS.com), or texting their tip to CRIMES (274637) starting with the word YORK.*



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There was something for everyone as the Aurora's Cultural Roundtable (The Aurora Public Library, Farmers' Market, Cultural Centre, Historical Society and Theatre Aurora) along with the Aurora Museum & Archives and Department of National Defence, pulled out all the stops for Culture Days 2017. (Top Row) Leigha Cooney of the Aurora Historical Society gives Braden Dancy-Aardeen a lesson in good ol' fashioned penmanship. Kids joined Farmers' Market entertainment Steve Falk and Soul Benefit up on stage. Vikki prepared to welcome visitors to the Aurora Historical Society's Yonge Street exhibition at Hillary House. (Second Row) Jan Freedman of Jan's Country Pantry was one of four participating chefs in the Farmers' Market's soup fest. Jessica Li was eager to dig in. Over at the Armoury, the inaugural Trailblazers Music Festival kicked off, a collaboration between local musician Jared Stafford (on drums) and the Aurora Museum & Archives. (Third Row) Music continued through the afternoon and evening with an open mic and several local bands. Over at the Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe Armoury, the Department of National Defence and the Queen's York Rangers welcomed visitors. A number of activities were held at the Aurora Public Library, which also hosted Theatre Aurora's Keen Lloyd and Sergio Calderon with a live reading of the play Visiting Mr. Green.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Brock Weir

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# Award-winning poet sheds light on Indigenous relationship with water through unique lens

By Brock Weir

No matter where we come from, no matter our background, we each have a relationship with our ancestors and history, according to poet Gwen Benaway.

For Benaway, a writer of Anishnaabe and Metis descent, it is fertile ground to explore and that is just what she does in her latest collection of poetry, "What I Want is

Not What I Hope For."

Benaway will read from the collection at the Aurora Cultural Centre next Wednesday, October 11 as part of LIT on Tour, presented by the International Festival of Authors Ontario.

This free ticketed event, hosted by the Centre in conjunction with the Aurora Public Library, will get underway at 7.30 p.m.

Benaway is an award-winning Two

Spirited Trans poet who has been described as "the spiritual lovechild of Tomson Highway and Anne Sexton."

Her most recent collection of poems sheds a unique light on the unique relationship between Indigenous Peoples and water.

"I was thinking about the Indigenous connection to water and the link in our culture between water and women, women as water keepers, life-givers, and a lot of that imagery came through for me in writing that collection," she explains. "My Metis and Anishnaabe ancestors relied on water as a way of travelling across the country as a connection point."

"I think all of us, no matter where we come from, have a relationship with our ancestors and history. I don't think a lot of people in Canada think about that and are disconnected from that. I hope people are reminded of their own ancestral connections through my work and see themselves in that notion of travel, voyage and where you come from."

There is always a pressure on Indigenous artists, and indeed artists from any background "different from the mainstream Canadian culture" to write work that is accessible to everyone, says Gwen, but she adds she doesn't think that should be the goal.

"It is okay to write work that is accessible differently to people," she says, "not to exclude anyone but to actually understand that people from different backgrounds and different audiences are going to see things in the work and be able to connect with

it in different ways. It is important to preserve that difference rather than erase it. It is nice to have work that is personal, that has a connection."

The majority of Gwen's work is personal. A self-described "confessional writer," she says her starting point is always focused through the prism of her own culture and worldview and everything flows from there.

And her own personal prism is a unique one.

While Two-Spirited Indigenous authors are finding their voice and increasingly finding a wider audience, it is tougher going for Two-Spirited Trans writers. Although her latest collection of poetry is called "What I Want Is Not What I Hope For," what Gwen does hope for are more voices to emerge and join her in the public forum.

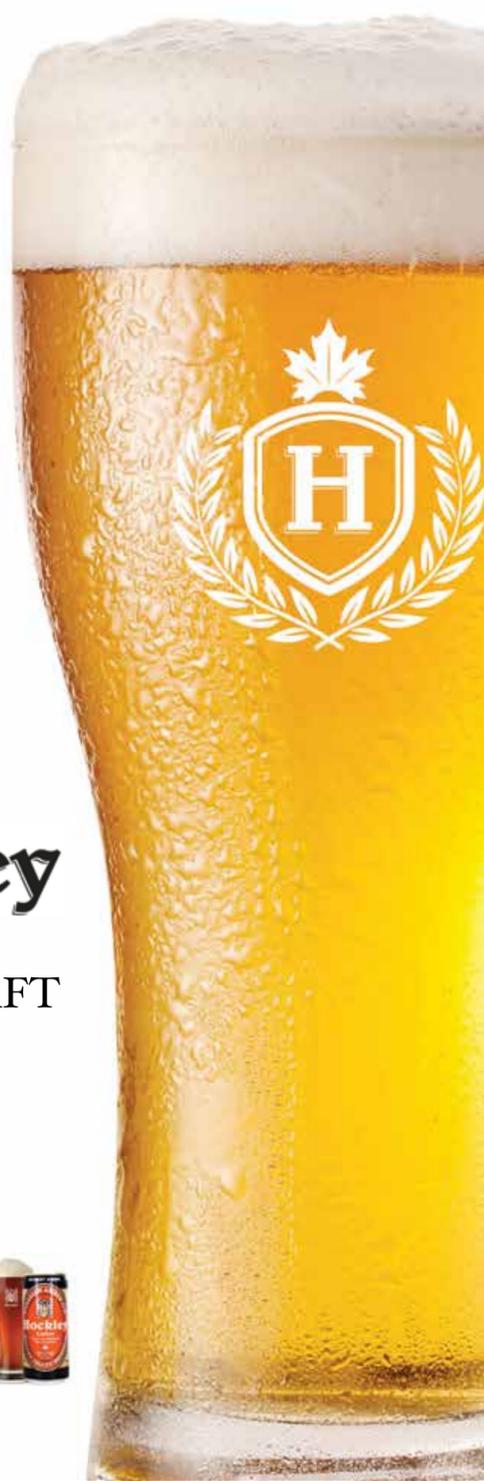
"I think we have a long way to come," she shares. "Indigenous communities, like other communities in Canada, have a lot of transphobia and that has to be overcome. I don't want to be the only one for very long. My effort is to try and specifically get other Indigenous trans women published and in the world because I don't want to be the only one. I want to see more of our voices represented."

For more on the International Festival of Authors Ontario's presentation of Gwen Benaway: Reading and Q&A, visit [www.auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://www.auroraculturalcentre.ca) or call 905-713-1818. Books will be available for purchase at the event courtesy of Blue Heron Books.



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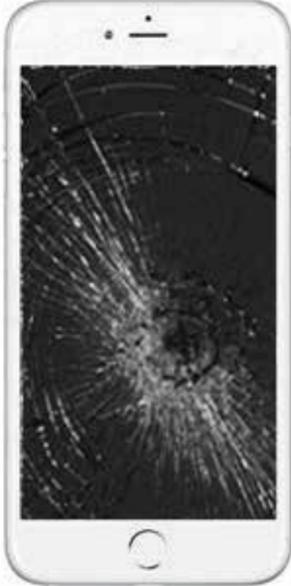
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# YSE sweep tourney

From page 17

in the final after defeating the Toronto Nationals 2 – 0 in the semifinal.

York-Simcoe avenged their loss to Rochester with a 4 – 1 win, securing a hometown sweep of the tournament.

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**READY FOR BUSINESS** – The Aurora Chamber of Commerce held its annual general meeting last Thursday, September 28, at Oakview Terrace in Richmond Hill. Mayor Geoff Dawe, a past president of the Chamber, was on hand to formally welcome the newly-minted Board of Directors for the season ahead.

Aurora photo by Glenn Rodger



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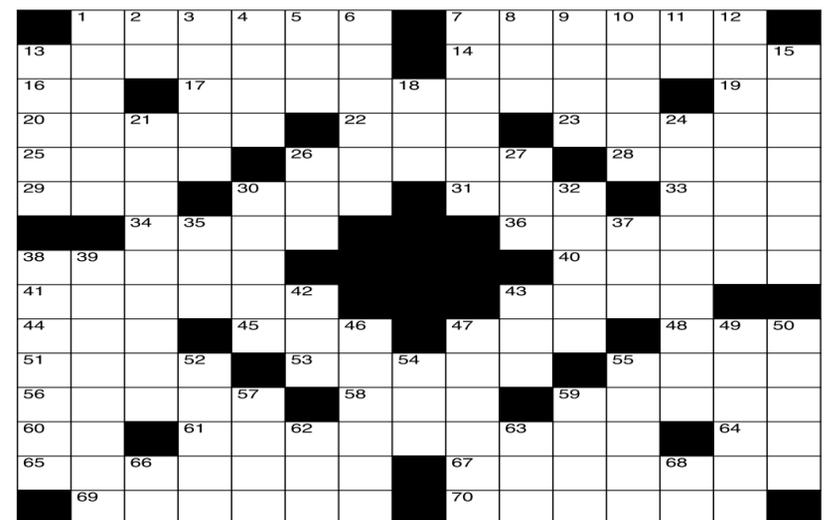
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- Spanish city
- Middle ear bone
- Satisfy to the fullest
- Able to be consumed
- US island territory (abbr.)
- Predatory reptile
- Beachwear manufacturer
- European space program
- Alias
- Metrical feet
- Large integers
- Matrilineality
- Snouts
- Giants’ signal caller Manning
- Pacific Time
- Electronic countermeasures
- “Anna Karenina” author
- Snare
- Sleeveless garment
- More arctic
- Clean off

- Signs
- Common Japanese surname
- Allow
- A way to mark
- Ballplayers need one
- \_\_\_ and cheese
- KGB mole
- Indicating silence
- Capital of Yemen
- A woman of refinement
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand
- Belonging to a bottom layer
- Stephen King novel
- Fire obstacle
- Lumen
- Loud insects
- Energetic persons
- Confession (archaic)
- Witnessing

### CLUES DOWN

- Whiskey receptacle
- Western State
- Cereal grasses
- Needlefishes
- Relating to the ears
- Mathematical ratio
- Dignified
- Pacific sea bream
- One of Thor’s names
- Song of praise
- Equal to one quintillion (abbr.)
- Drools
- Cluster
- One in a series
- Egyptian unit of weight
- Broached
- Skin cancers
- Second sight
- Shock treatment
- Whittled
- Murdered in his bathtub
- 35. A way to soak
- Small piece
- Relating to Islam
- Climbing plant
- Drunkard
- Test for high schoolers
- Least exciting
- Amanda and James are two
- Something comparable to another
- Soothes
- Month in the Islamic calendar
- White gull having a black back and wings
- Japanese seaport
- The south of France
- Batman villain
- British air aces
- Body part
- Clearinghouse
- Manganese

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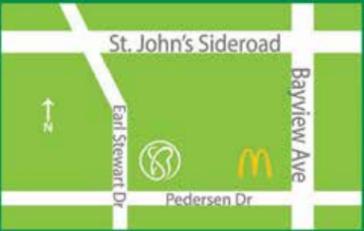
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G	R	A	N	D	P	A	R	E	N	T	S			
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## THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

The Town of Aurora will host the annual Colours of Fall concert today from 6 – 8 p.m. at Town Park. This exciting event will include fantastic fall entertainment featuring a Neil Young Tribute Band, corn roast, pumpkin carving and interactive displays provided by Black Creek Pioneer Village. Food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry are greatly appreciated.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Have pancakes in your pyjamas today at Town Park from 8 – 11 a.m. to benefit the Paediatric Oncology Group of Ontario. Bring your family and friends for Pyjamas and Pancakes. Pancakes are \$5 and donations over \$20 are eligible for a tax receipt from POGO. For many, pajamas mean warmth, coziness, a warm hug at the end of a long day. But for a child with cancer, pajamas can mean a very different thing: time living in hospital while undergoing treatment, long early morning car rides to clinic, sick at home, or missing school and playtime with friends and family.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

The PROBUS Club of Aurora hosts their monthly meeting today from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora. This month's speaker is Tammy Thompson, Certified Financial Planner who will be speaking about "Dealing with probate rules and tax implications." For more information on this month's speaker please call Cliff White at 905-841-2421. New members welcome! Call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849, or come out to the meeting!

\*\*\*\*

LIT On Tour presents IFOA Aurora (International Festival of Authors Ontario) featuring poet Gwen Benaway tonight from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Gwen will talk about and read from her new poetry collection, Passage. Moderated by Brock Weir, editor of The Auroran, Gwen will welcome questions from the audience after the reading. Books available for purchase on site this evening from Blue Heron Books, Uxbridge. Admission is free.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Amnesty International's Aurora-Newmarket Group holds their monthly meeting in conjunction with One Book, One Aurora at the Aurora Public Library. This special Write for Rights drop-in session will have information about current human rights issues, and we will be writing appeal letters. Free. For more information call Renee at 905-713-6713. Websites: www.amnesty.ca and amnestyaurora.wordpress.com.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Get ready for an unforgettable concert experience at the Aurora Cultural Centre with Union Duke, a Toronto folk quintet with an explosive live show. Bridging soulful indie rock with bluegrass and country, the group belts out soaring harmonies with three, four and even five voices. The songs are irresistible, the perfect fit for the heatwave of the dance hall or the cool breeze of the park. 8 – 10 p.m. For tickets and event information, call the Aurora Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818 or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.

\*\*\*\*

The Voices of Joy Community Choir presents Unity in Music tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church. (79 Victoria Street). Guest artists: University of Guelph Chamber singers. Conductor: Marta McCarthy. Free will offering. Tickets available at the door. For more information, contact Jo-anne at 905-727-3290 or Peter at 905-775-7174.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

The Newmarket Prostate Cancer Support Group will host their regular meeting today from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place (472 Davis Drive, Halls 4 & 5). Meet and greet at 6:30. This month's meeting will be a peer-to-peer session with topics to be determined by the group discussion. Everyone is welcome. For further information, call 908-895-1975.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

GranAurora is pleased to present Ted Barris, award-winning journalist, broadcaster, and the author of eighteen non-fiction books who will be discussing his book, "The Great Escape: A Canadian Story." This event will be held at the Aurora Cultural Centre this evening with doors opening at 6:45 for refreshments and shopping at our marketplace. Author event begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Contact granaurora4114@gmail.com or call Lenore Pressley at 905-727-9235 for more information. Books available for sale will be provided by Blue Heron Books.



### JOIN US FOR A SCREENING

of Leonardo DiCaprio's production **BEFORE THE FLOOD** and a conversation about **FACING CLIMATE CHANGE**

with the Hon. Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment & Climate Change

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017**

### Free Community Event

Seating is limited

### PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND

eventbrite.ca/e/facing-climate-change-tickets-38041130044

### Country Day School Performing Arts Centre

13415 Dufferin Street, King City, ON

Registration opens at 5:30 pm

Welcome Remarks 6:00 pm

Screening 7:00 pm, Q&A 8:30 pm

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### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Freelance reporting work for weekly community newspapers and special projects
- Will produce stories and bylines for the events they cover
- Will be paid on a freelance/contract basis per project/story
  - Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
  - Take photographs
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

### QUALIFICATIONS:

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



## Let's Talk.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to [brock@auroran.com](mailto:brock@auroran.com)

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**REGISTERED RECES** required for local school aged child care centres in Aurora. Must have experience working with children ages 4-12 years. Available for part time split shift Monday to Friday 7 - 9 am and 3 - 6:30 pm. Please contact Marisa at [amongfriendsday-carecentres@hotmail.com](mailto:amongfriendsday-carecentres@hotmail.com).

**HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDERS NEEDED** We are looking for responsible individuals with a professional attitude, who enjoy children and can provide a safe, happy environment in their homes. Come and discover the advantages of operating your own home child care in partnership with us. Join us on October 5, at 10:00 am, 15203 Yonge St. Aurora, Tel: 905-841-1314 ext. 332. [www.yorkprofessional.com](http://www.yorkprofessional.com)

**LOOKING FOR PART TIME HELP** for a counter clerk for a store in Aurora, Monday to Friday, 1pm to 6pm. Training provided. Call 416 908 2543



**GARAGE SALE** will be held on Oct. 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th - 10 am - 4 pm by the Sisters of Good Council at the Marylake Grounds by the barn. Rain or shine. Everything must go! Located at 13760 Keele St, north of King Rd, 15th Sideroad.

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**WOW - SHOWSTOPPER RENO + INLAW POTENTIAL!**



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\*based on IMS Statistics, Aurora Offices

\*\*\*Some conditions may apply

# Head starts begin here.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5  
6:45-8:30 P.M.



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- 3** Leaders in academic technology – each student has a school-issued tablet PC
- 4** Extensive co-curricular offerings in music, art, and drama
- 5** Comprehensive athletic program – 71 teams across 21 sports
- 6** Remarkable club offerings and 35 student- and faculty-led groups



- 7** \$2.6M in scholarships and bursaries yearly to over 26% of students
- 8** Canadian and international boarding school representing 23 countries
- 9** 100% university placement rate with over \$1M awarded annually for post-secondary studies
- 10** Network of over 6,000 alumni worldwide
- 11** Educating boys for 118 years
- 12** Over 400 school-wide student leadership opportunities available