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IHE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 18 No. 20 905-727-3300

theauroran.com FREE

Week of March 8, 2018





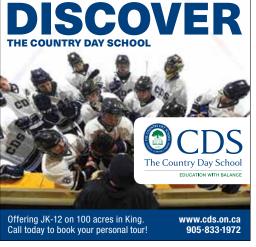


THE HOME STRETCH Leadership hopefuls Christine Elliott, left, and Doug Ford spent the last full week of the short Progressive Conservative leadership race in Aurora's south riding - with Ms. Elliott meeting supporters on Saturday morning and Ford on Monday night. A tight race between the two frontrunners in a four-candidate field, the winner will be decided in Markham on Saturday.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

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Elliott & Ford make final pitch to local PCs

By Brock Weir

to be the next leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party and frontrunners Christine Elliott and Doug Ford spent part of the final week of the campaign making their final pitches to local voters.

With the winner set to be announced after a vote tally in Markham on Saturday, both Ms. Elliott and Mr. Ford made direct appeals to voters in Newmarket-Aurora and Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, each appearing to packed houses of supporters and

party faithful.

The duo are in a tight race to replace former leader Patrick Brown as party They're running in a dead heat leader ahead of the June 7 Provincial election, a race which also includes York-Simcoe PC candidate Caroline Mulroney and conservative activist Tanya Granic

> Brown, who resigned last month, briefly entered the race to replace himself but bowed out less than a week later.

> Ms. Elliott was first to hit Aurora, meeting with neighbours at Aw, Shucks, alongside Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill PC candidate Michael Parsa who has endorsed her leadership bid.

There, she touted her experience

in "standing up" to Premier Kathleen Wynne at Queen's Park.

"We don't have time for a leader in training," she said.

Meanwhile, on Monday night, Doug Ford was welcomed to Oakview Terrace, just south of Leslie Street and Bloomington Road by Newmarket-Aurora PC candidate Charity McGrath, who has endorsed the former Toronto councillor.

"We're going to sanitize Queen's Park," he said. "We're going to make sure we sanitize our own party as well."

For more on their respective pitches to Aurora voters, please see Pages 12 and 13.

Technicalities trump common sense in stable neighbourhoods: residents

By Brock Weir

Lesley Walsh has had enough of local planners burying their faces in technical drawings.

It's time to come out and pound the pavement to get a good idea of the impact infill developments are having on Aurora's stable neighbourhoods, she contends.

Ms. Walsh was one of nearly 200 local residents who overflowed Council

Continued on page 14



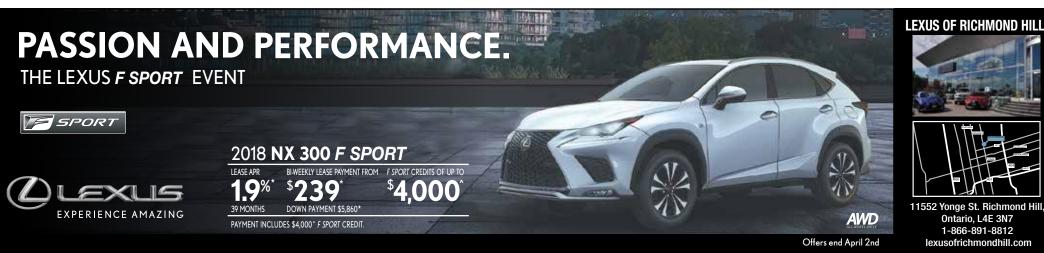


16686 Yonge St., Newmarket (905) 895-4084 **Across from Mandarin Buffet Restaurant**





HELLO, GORGEOUS - Aurora entrepreneurs Kendra Palazzi and Lori Futterer have each been touched by breast cancer in a different way and pooled their experience to have a positive impact on women - and their families - travelling that very personal journey across North America with Gorgeous You. For more, see Page 3. Auroran photo by Brock Weir



Aurora forges ahead without Regional alternate

By Brock Weir

Aurora is going forward without appointing an alternate voice at the Regional Council table.

Council last week ratified its decision to vote down a recommendation from municipal staff which would have seen the Town's Deputy Mayor - a post currently held by Councillor John Abel - appointed as an alternate to represent Aurora's interests at the Region if the Mayor is unable to attend a meeting.

Aurora is currently one of just four York Region municipalities to have a single representative at the Region, along with King Township, Whitchurch-Stouffville, and East Gwillimbury. Aurora's representative at the Regional level is the Mayor and while the Town has been in a long-time

This, apart from getting a second seat, which is a whole other matter, is the next best thing we could have asked for because we always used to say we don't have a second representative and we don't even have an alternate in the case of an absence. "This is what we have been asking for

fight to score a second seat at the table, the ability to appoint an alternate was a second-best solution recently offered by the Province.

Councillors, while sitting at the Committee level on February 20, shot down the idea citing just a handful of

Regional meetings left on the calendar. It was a position reiterated last week despite a last stab by Councillor Abel to revive the idea.

"This is to enhance representation at the Region for our municipality," Councillor Abel argued. "We have only one seat and if the Mayor was unable to attend, we were not allowed to have an alternate. This, apart from getting a second seat, which is a whole other matter, is the next best thing we could have asked for because we always used to say we don't have a second representative and we don't even have an alternate in the case of an absence.

"This is what we have been asking for. For years we have been asking or this. We're not alone in this."

While his motion to reconsider the matter was seconded by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, the rest of Council was unmoved.

"The reason I am not in favour of this now [is] I believe it will be used for political gains with nine months to go before an election," said Councillor Paul Pirri. "I don't believe it is appropriate to be committing the next term of Council and, lastly, we don't run to be Deputy Mayor. We get appointed by Council to be Deputy Mayor and for those reasons I am opposed this right now."

Councillor Pirri, however, said he was interested in "trying to find compromise" and suggested an alternative: taking

Aurora's eight Councillors and rotating the position of Regional Alternate amongst them for the eight months left in the current term.

This suggestion also failed to find traction.

First to speak against Councillor Pirri's proposal was Councillor Tom Mrakas, who rejected the idea of an appointed alternate the previous week.

"I am not in favour of having an alternate to begin with, regardless of who it is, when it is," he said. "I don't think it enhances our representation. I don't think we should be settling for the next best thing, as I have stated before and, quite frankly, I don't know who in the Town of Aurora has been asking, other than maybe some sitting here or some sitting at Regional Council, for an alternate to be made available. I am just fundamentally opposed to having an alternate."

This was a position largely shared by Councillor Michael Thompson who said with just five meetings left, and Mayor Dawe stating he had "no intentions at this time" of missing any meetings, it didn't make sense.

"I think the comments we discussed last week were [to] really put this into play for the next term, like we do many other issues," he said. "I will not be in favour of the amendment."

Added Councillor Jeff Thom: "I still agree with the sentiment that this is something for the next Council to deal with and, if they so choose, they can appoint an alternate to Regional Council."

Similarly, Councillor Sandra Humfryes said the timing of the alternate option was "very unusual" and it "would have been nice if Council had it at the beginning of the term."

"We should have two seats," she said. "I think we have all talked about that around the table. That is why there has been absolutely no personal reasons for my vote. It just doesn't make any sense at the moment."



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Gorgeous You helps women get back into the business of living



Palazzi and Futterer take a closer look at a selection of bathing suits, bras and hats now available through their business Gorgeous You, which is tailored for women - and their families - touched by cancer.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

Bra shopping was always an uncomfortable experience for Aurora's Lori Futterer.

It was uncomfortable, impersonal, and sometimes just plainly frustrating experience – but, just over 10 years ago, this frustration was felt on a whole other

Aged just 37, the young mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, undergoing a double mastectomy and opting against reconstructive surgery.

"I found there was not a lot of selection for young women like myself who still want pretty bras and bathing suits that fit properly, and you don't have to pay through the nose for," says Ms. Futterer. "The shopping experience is very clinical, a lot of women have to buy their products in medical supply shops and, as young women, it can be very frustrating. We always say cancer is hard enough; shopping for underwear, bras and bathing suits shouldn't have to

So, Ms. Futterer, along with friend and business partner Kendra Palazzi, who lost her own mother to breast cancer, set out to make a difference two distinct targets: we have women like and, in doing so, they may have become myself, where we sell a lot of bras and gamechangers.

Last summer, the Aurora duo launched Gorgeous You, a business with a mission to help cancer-surviving women "take back their feminine beauty, power and strength."

"Shopping for a bra is uncomfortable regardless, but when you're somebody like me who is going in and doesn't have breasts and a prosthetic, it is a really awful experience," says Ms. Futterer. "We wanted to bring women a shopping experience where you could shop from the comfort of your own home. Our vision is women can fill up their carts, bring it home, try it on and not feel that awful feeling of being in an environment that just brings back all sorts of awful feelings and memories."

While Futterer and Palazzi have set out to empower women they are both,

in turn, powered by their own personal experienced. They know first-hand the challenges faced by cancer survivors and agree they want to "help women take back what is rightfully theirs dignity, femininity, style and comfort."

Since its inception, Gorgeous You has amassed an impressive - and growing – line of products ranging from bras, underwear, swimsuits and hats, to prosthetics, to therapeutic treatments to help women pre-op and post-op.

"We have got about a dozen manufacturers right now and a good chunk of them are survivors supporting survivors because there just wasn't what they wanted readily available in the marketplace," says Kendra. "They created it, they designed it, they manufactured it. A lot of the options we're bringing to the Canadian marketplace are unique to Canada and not readily available. We're not just breast cancer, we're women's cancers. If you've had ovarian cancer, you're not going to need a mastectomy bra, but there are other products on the site that will help you through the treatment and beyond."

Adds Lori: "We have found there are bathing suits. Then we have people who are supporting their loved ones who are going through cancer treatment. I remember all the flowers and all the food and everything, but flowers die and you're not that hungry when you're going through chemo. We have really cultivated a gift section that is really thoughtful - "

"And helps guide the loving hand towards some nice suggestions," says

As Gorgeous You goes from strength to strength, the women are heartened every day by the very personal feedback that continues to roll in.

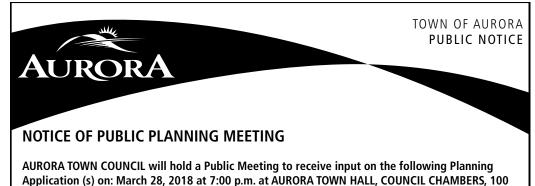
Just before speaking to The Auroran on Friday, for instance, they received a note from a customer who was buying product for a friend on her own personal cancer journey. Appearance

was still very important to the friend and they needed quick turnaround time. Together, they made it work, going into overdrive to get the package off on time – personally wrapped with bows, tissue paper, and a handwritten note.

"I remember a woman a couple mother," recalls Ms. Futterer. "She had a mastectomy eight years ago and

had not put on a bathing suit in those eight years. She called, we had some conversations, and after her bathing suit arrived, she called in tears to say, 'I am going to be able to go to the beach this summer with my eight and 10 year old and feel secure and beautiful. I know it of months ago we helped, a young is just a bathing suit, but this is sort of life-changing for me.' I was in tears as

Continued on page 20

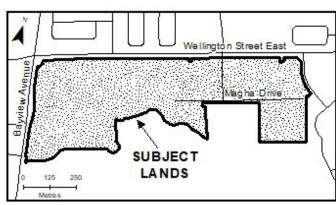


APPLICATION:

John West Way, Aurora, Ontario.

The Owner has submitted a "Block" Draft Plan of Subdivision to divide 37.4 hectares of lands. The purpose of the Draft Plan of Subdivision is to establish the detailed boundaries of the natural heritage system, municipal spine road network and 10 future development blocks. Details for each development blocks will be subject to future Zoning By-law Amendment and Development Applications.

PROPERTY: Stronach South Wellington Lands



APPLICANT: FILE NUMBER: Aurora Bayview Southeast Development Inc.

CONTACT:

Any inquiries should be directed to Lawrence Kuk of the Planning and Development

Services department at 905-727-3123 extension 4343 Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services department at the same address, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and

Personal Information Collection Notice

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/ or its Committees under the legal authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter c.P.13, as amended. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be public recorded and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act. If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G

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The Town audio and/or video records Public Planning Meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council or its Committees, you may be audio or video recorded. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be a public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the

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

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

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora in respect of the proposed Plan of Subdivision before the approval authority gives or refused to give approval to the draft Plan of Subdivision, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of The Town of Aurora in respect of the proposed Plan of Subdivision, you must make a written request to The Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning and Development

DATED at the Town of Aurora, this 8th day of March, 2018.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aurora needs to be GTA "leader" in stable neighbourhoods

It would be wonderful if Aurora became the proud leader in the GTA by recognizing and protecting our stable neighbourhoods – but the policies must be transferred into action!

To date, nothing concrete has been done to ensure that the Official Plan and planning policies were updated in our zoning bylaws to protect older sections of Town from oversized houses. The report to Council from other municipalities will not be available until the end of March - five months after the request was made!

Unless Council makes decisions soon, this will mean that nothing will be improved for the 2018 building season. This is an election year and Council meetings will finish in September. Unfinished business will be passed on to the new Council.

If zoning bylaws are not changed before then, permits for blockbuster houses could extend into the 2019 building season based on outdated standards. Monster houses would continue to be built in our older neighbourhoods.

The proposed study of interim control bylaws is certainly a step in the right direction. However, this study will not address the current zoning bylaws and we wonder if this is just another delaying tactic.

Decisions must be made now to correct obvious errors. Long-term, permanent solutions should be both transparent and enforceable and include meaningful public input.

We, your residents, need Council's help and results before our communities are lost forever! We certainly do not appreciate obvious political delays.

Definite and immediate timelines need to be in place to ensure that issues are resolved sooner rather than later. Our elected representatives must stand up and help us protect these older parts

We have to live with these supersized buildings which are a definite affront to our community values and landscapes.

Peter Smith

Blues fest "sublime": reader

read about the Aurora Winter Blues Festival in The Auroran and on the spur of the moment decided to attend the closing concert at the Wirth Theatre at St. Andrew's College on Saturday evening.

It was a fantastic event! A band of 14 sublimely talented musician - singers -- almost three and one half hours of terrific music!

We could not believe the quality!

Congratulations to the Festival coordinators (and The Auroran) – we will be sure to take in many more events next year!

> Steve Bernardo Aurora

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

Machell's Corners

It's crunch time.

convention in Markham.

down to business.

contenders.

horizon.

polls this June.

By Saturday, Ontarians will know just

who, unless there is another unexpected

calamity, will be the primary challenger

facing Premier Kathleen Wynne at the

It's all down to those all-important

understatement, but Ontario seems

to be weathering the storm well and,

whether you bleed blue, red, orange,

green, or a colour that is determined

closer to the election as issues and

concerns rise to the top, I get the sense

that Ontarians are ready to simply get

But, hey, if you're a political junky,

the race to replace Patrick Brown has

probably been nothing short of an

armchair Super Bowl and everything

here on out might seem rather

anticlimactic. Nevertheless, we will

press on with whichever leadership

candidate is chosen this weekend and

we can size up our three main political

Who would have thought at the

At the dawn of 2018, it seemed

start of the year any of this was on the

pretty clear that after 15 years in power,

the Liberals had a pretty good chance

of seeing the door. People of all stripes

seem to be feeling the pinch, whether

it is rising hydro rates or anticipating a

business hit with the implementation of

and the party had to sail back to port

without a captain. Candidates, party

members and supporters - casual and

otherwise – were left shaken out of their

comfortable view of the future and,

once the shock wore off, had to pull

themselves together to regroup - and

Just days after the political shock

began to subside, it was time to rebuild

but divisions were immediate. There

was debate between party brass,

candidates and supporters on just how

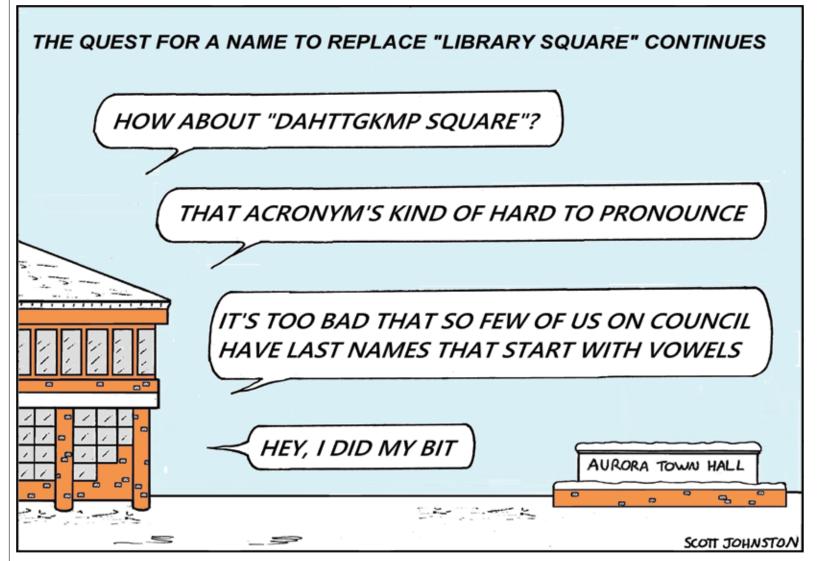
the new leader would ultimately be

thought it would

from a

And then the tsunami happened,

a rising minimum wage.



The Blue Wave



BANTER

Brock Weir

votes, which are still rolling in as you're reading this, before Saturday's tally at standpoint to choose the next leader the relatively impromptu leadership from amongst themselves, an alreadyelected candidate with a riding to To say the last few weeks have been a contest or a newbie candidate with political whirlwind would be a massive a relatively safe riding (I.E. Caroline

> Mulroney in York Simcoe). Others argued that with the incredible progress the last leadership campaign made in signing up new members to the party, they might as well take advantage of them and put it to a general vote of 200,000-ish

> Ultimately, as we know, the second option won the day and once that decided candidates started coming out to try and fill the vacuum, from former MPP and leadership candidate Christine Elliott, political newcomer and freshly-minted York Simcoe candidate Mulroney, to former Toronto councillor Doug Ford, who has repeatedly flirted with the possibility of trying to follow his father's footsteps to Oueen's Park, social conservative activist Tanya Granic Allen and, for a wild few days, Patrick Brown himself.

> What has ensued is a party that is not only looking for a leader, but is, in some ways soul searching, as well.

> As was one of the arguments against opening the party up to a truncated leadership race rather than appointing one of their own to permanently fill the spot, the race has led to the opening of the party platform, a risky move with less than 100 days before Ontario's polls open, leaving a degree of uncertainty as to just what candidates will be running for once the leadership contest has been settled on Saturday.

> Don't get me wrong, a debate on ideas is always healthy, and indeed it is always desirable, but, in my opinion, the safe window to have those discussions had long since passed. Of course, the Party is in this position really through no fault of their own, but deviating too far from what had already decided is undoubtedly a risky business.

> At the start of this campaign, at the start of Patrick Brown's brief tenure

> > CLASSIFIEDS

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PHOTOGRAPHY

cynthia@auroran.com

as party leader, and indeed, at the start of any campaign of this nature, I found – and find – myself repeating the same mantra, hoping that the election campaign that is ahead of us, whether it is Federal, Provincial or Municipal, ultimately turns out to be one of ideas.

It is not enough, in my opinion, to be someone who always votes Liberal, PC, NDP or Green purely out of habit, or because it is what your parents and grandparents have always done, or simply how you perceive your individual vote to impact your bottom line.

Your bottom line is always important, but, as a taxpayer, for example, I have always been of the view that I don't mind paying my fair share of taxes as long as they are going towards programs and services that I believe in and will be a benefit to my town, province or nation.

It is not enough, in my view, to vote Progressive Conservative just because you want to turf Kathleen Wynne, nor do I think it is enough to vote for Kathleen Wynne simply to keep out whichever PC leadership frontrunner, Elliott or Ford, ultimately takes the crown on Saturday out of office.

What is enough is that you vote for the candidate who genuinely aligns with your views and the vision you have for the country, the province, and the municipality.

While attending a rally for Christine Elliott on Saturday, I was heartened by her pledge that if she indeed becomes Ontario's next Premier, her government will go through programs introduced by the Liberals line by line to evaluate each program's value for the dollar rather than simply throwing the baby out in the partisan bathwater. Whoever takes the crown will do well to adopt this approach.

"Whether you like [Kathleen Wynne] or not, you have to admit she's a survivor," said Elliott. "She's a good communicator, she's very intelligent and we know the Liberals are going to throw whatever they can out there to make sure they win this election."

I'm sure that's the truth, but another factor in the Liberals' survival is not, unlike the PCs, stumbling just before they reach the finish line. However this shakes down on Saturday, let's hope the result will be well thought out and based on clear policy and clear ideas.

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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



The Aurora Museum & Archives is asking...

Did you know the first bottle of Coca-Cola was sold on March 12, 1894 in Vicksburg, Mississippi?

In 1886, when Coca-Cola first broke onto the soda market, it was only available to be purchased as a fountain drink. That changed in 1894 when a Mississippi candy shop owner, Joseph A. Biederharn, bottled the drink in his store using a common glass bottle. In 1924, the six-pack bottle carrier was developed and, by the end of the decade, bottle sales of Coca-Cola exceeded fountain sales. This sealed pack of Coca-Cola (994.5.22) dates to 1935 and each bottle has a cap commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of Wilson's Dry Ginger Ale, which was established in

Building supports for Mental Health

I had a chance last week to join a screening of the documentary ScreenAgers sponsored by Newmarket Parent Support Network, the York Region Board of Education, and the Bully Free Community Alliance.

It was a fascinating piece that talked in a non-judgmental way about the impact on our kids of too much 'screen' time; the impact of cyber-bullying and some really helpful suggestions on how to manage screen time in a family. The documentary didn't just deal with kids and their mobile devices but it also raised adult patterns and how we can be just as addicted to our cell phones and video screens.

There was a spirited post-screening discussion that included a teen representative and a community policing officer from the York Regional Police force. A number of teens in the audience participated in the question and answer session and also suggested some great ways to curb too much screen time.

If you would like more information about this documentary, please go to www.screenagersmove.com. this website you can find all types of resources to facilitate discussion and practical application of ideas relating to screen time contracts, helpful tips for youth and adults, basic screen time rules and more.

To applaud those that brought forward this documentary is not enough. It brought to mind for me enough support services for adults, youth, family and service providers in the mental health area. The point was made that evening and has been part of my concern for a very long time that referring to mental health is a widespread category and stretches from what we would traditionally think of such as drug addiction, suicide prevention, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, all the way to cyber-bullying,

"Next up on the agenda is the motion

This was one of the first items to be

The Chair looked

considered at that month's Regional

up from his notes, and addressed his

consideration for some time. As you will

recall from our last meeting, there were

a number of impassioned statements

grown large enough to merit additional

representation at this table. Others

argued that based on the overall regional

population, and the current number of

seats on this Council, a single seat for

that town was the appropriate number

and we have a full agenda tonight, so

I don't think we need to rehash any of

those previously expressed views and

opinions at this time. So, if there are

He paused to ensure that no one

wanted to take advantage of this final

opportunity to bring forward some new

angle on this subject that had yet to be

"It was a pretty lengthy discussion,

for at least the next few years."

no new points to raise..."

considered.

"Some members felt that Aurora had

on both sides of this subject."

"This is an issue that has been under

to provide the Town of Aurora with a

second seat on Regional Council."

Council meeting.

colleagues.



VIEW FROM QUEENS PARK

Chris Ballard, MPP **Newmarket-Aurora**

sexting and general coping mechanisms for all ages and circumstances.

That is why I have been working for over two years now with a coalition of almost 20 organizations to bring some focus and suggestions forward on how to build mental health services in our

What has emerged is a comprehensive recommendation to the Minister of Health to fund a mental health hub in the Newmarket area. This Hub will provide services other than hospital emergency departments for people to get help...for police and paramedics to have somewhere to transport those who need help but are not in full crisis...to facilitate better case management and

The proposal is a result of discussions with a community based group who brought forward their experiences in accessing mental health and addictions services, their experiences with wait lists again – that York Region does not have and in general their experiences with place.

> We do have some excellent service providers in York Region. And they have been a part of the dialogue around needing a mental health and addictions hub. But they are stressed too, both in trying to provide services for our expanding population and in matching their capacity to the needs of the area. Very good work has been done by this

dig into how we can help.

worthy of everyone's support.

It was very exciting to hear that a

as an ambassador for the cause.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2018 Leading Women, Leading Girls celebration this week. Congratulations to all of the award recipients. I will tell you more about them and their many achievements and accomplishments in my next column. I am proud to tell you that this riding hosts one of the largest celebration of Leading Women and Leading Girls in the province. I thank everyone who participated in the in the snow from exhaustion. nomination process.

Be A Donor Month? Everyone is a potential organ or tissue donor bur you should register in advance. For more

As always, I invite you to contact me on any issue. Please call my community office at 905-750-0019, or visit my website at www. ChrisBallardMPP.ca. My email is:cballard. mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

group to identify the real needs and to

The proposal is now before the health planners for our area – the Local Health Integrated Network – and the new Minister of Health Dr. Jaczek. We believe it is a solid proposal and one

local resident, Arlene Lindsay, was being recognized for her work with the Trillium Gift of Life organization.

Gift of Life oversees Ontario's organ donation program and Arlene the founder of the York Region chapter. As the lead volunteer, she and her team can be found advocating for organ donation and raising funds at the Aurora Street Festival, the Stouffville Strawberry Festival, local Santa Claus Parades and the Gift of Life Bowling Tournament among other things. Arlene is a tireless advocate for organ donation and she was awarded a 2017 Trillium Gift of Life Advocates in Action Award in recognition of her role

Did you know that every April is information go to www.giftoflife.on.ca.

Alternate Reality



INSIDE AURORA

Although there were a few glances around the table, the Chamber remained quiet.

"Then, in that case, it's time to vote." He looked around the room. "All in favour of the motion on the floor?"

A series of hands went up. He waited while the Clerk recorded the numbers.

"All opposed?"

More hands were raised

Giving the Clerk another minute to finish counting, and documenting the vote, the Chair finally asked, "Would

the Clerk please advise us of the results?' "It was a tie, Mr. Chair." There was a low murmur from those

assembled.

"A tie?! Are you sure?" "Yes, sir. I checked it twice. Ten in favour, and ten opposed."

"Well then," the Chair said, looking around the room. "As you know, a

motion is defeated on a tie vote. Let it be recorded that this body has determined that there will be no additional seat for the Town of Aurora at Regional Council at this time. We'll reconsider this item again in ...", he checked his notes to see what timeframe had been previously established, "...three years."

"And now, on to the next item."

As the Chair continued working through the agenda, a member sitting a few seats away quietly nudged her neighbour. Indicating an empty seat across the floor she whispered, "Where's the Mayor of Aurora? I thought for sure he'd be here for this."

"I expect he wanted to be, but I hear he's really sick today."

"Too sick to come in?"

"Apparently."

"That's too bad. If only Aurora had followed the lead of King and permanently appointed an alternate to fill the Mayor's place in his absence."

"Yeah," her neighbour agreed. "With that back-up member present, their deciding vote would have carried the motion for an additional representative in Aurora's favour."

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



Alison Collins-Mrakas

The Wonder of the Games

The Olympics came to a close a week ago after weeks of glorious sporting

I was glued to the television watching anything and everything.

Some, I fully admit, I had no idea what they were about or how they were being scored. The various free style skiing events are a case in point. I tried and tried to figure out what determined a "good" run, or frankly, what the heck they were doing skiing down hand rails, but I gave up after one announcer said, "wow, that was a fantastic bloody Dracula 1080." What? Is that good or bad? For the love of god, just tell me who the winner is

The games are always a spectacle. They provide us with the opportunity to witness the personal, often lifetime, achievement of the best athletes in the world. Every person there is the best of the best, the best of each of their countries. Well, aside from that scammer skier "representing" Hungary - Elizabeth Swaney – in skiing.

Suffice to say she is no Eddie the Eagle. At least Eddie the eagle landed some decent jumps. Swaney basically skied like a five year old off a tow rope. I am fairly certain we could pull someone off the streets, slap some skis on them and push them down the hill – and they would do a better job. Just Google it. You'll see. She made a mockery of the event. They are closing the loophole that allowed her to participate.

That aside, there were many, many highs—the sprint to the finish of the mens' biathlon (skiing and shooting) race? Wow. Just extraordinary. The winner decided by the toe of the boot. Athletes flinging themselves across the snow, splayed about

Then there was the magnificent performance of Canada's Virtue and Moir in the Ice Dancing. Beautiful. I cried through the whole thing (while I held my breath of course). And the short track speed skating? Holy smokes! One nail-biting race after another. So exciting. I think it's a shame that we only get to see it once every four years. I would watch speed skating anytime.

There were, of course, some devastating lows. The Canadian women's hockey team won silver, an amazing achievement in a hard fought contest. But it wasn't the result they wanted, and were justifiably heartbroken as a result. The Canadian curling team suffered two shocking losses. Not only did the individual teams not win gold, they did not win any medal at all. The first time ever that Canada walked away without a medal in individual curling (they did win the gold though, in the new Mixed curling event).

Costumes ripped. Blades broke. Poles snapped. Athletes fell, tumbled, crashed their way to unexpected defeat. Devastating for sure.

But they should be applauded regardless of the outcome. They worked hard and did their best. And that is all anyone can ask for – themselves included.

In a few short weeks we get to experience it all over again! The Paralympics are set to begin this Thursday. I cannot wait!

THIS WEEK'S

Do you think the movement led by Florida students will lead to positive changes in American gun laws?

> Yes No Unsure Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!



Long-time cadet leader receives Sovereign's Medal from GG

By Brock Weir

Throughout his distinguished career with the Royal Canadian Air Force, he's flown the Queen, Prince Philip, and numerous Governor Generals, but it was an "awesome" experience for Aurora's Dave Gordon on Wednesday when he stepped through the doors of Rideau Hall for the very first time to receive an honour on the monarch's behalf.

Gordon was among those honoured last week by Governor General Julie Payette with the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, an award, part of the Canadian Honours System, established by the Queen to recognize everyday heroes.

Gordon was recognized for his over 30 years of volunteer with Air Force and

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Army Cadets, and even more volunteer work with veterans' organizations and the Commissionaires Ceremonial Marching Unit.

"I consider what I do as being quite normal for any Canadian, serving others," said Mr. Gordon on what it meant to him to be recognized for his volunteerism. "That is part of the military ethic I was raised under."

Gordon's involvement in the Canadian Armed Forces began in Mississauga in 1959 when he joined the local Army Cadet corps. From there, he attended Kingston's Royal Military College and subsequently served 36 years in the Royal Canadian Air Force.

His duties have varied over the decades, but his dedication to the up and coming cadets has been steady. He has led cadets from as far north as the Yukon and Nunavut and all across the country.

"What has kept my interest in the program is helping other generations to be good citizens because the Cadet movement is about citizenship, it is not really about combat," he explains. "It is about working as a team, being stronger as a team and having fun."

Over the years, Gordon says he has seen the Cadet movement - and those coming up through the ranks – becoming more technically involved through their training programs. In the Air Cadets, it is about far more than aviation, extending into intelligence, computer studies, and physical fitness.

"Biathlon is a really big thing with all three elements of the cadets because some of these kids might go on to be Olympic athletes and you want to germinate that seed in order to let them experiment," he says of teens in the Air, Army and Navy corps. "The cadets are now more diverse than the Canadian primary reserve as well as the military."

A veteran of the Canadian Forces Air Transport Command, Mr. Gordon has recently been using the skills he acquired during his service with Experiences



Dave Gordon receives the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteerism from Governor General Julie Payette last Wednesday

Photo by Sgt. Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall

Canada, a national youth program that facilitates educational exchanges, trips and forums for Canadian youth, a program which has benefited over 370,000 young Canadians.

"Over the last three years, I have been involved with Experiences Canada, moving kids between Toronto and Northern Yukon for exchanges with First Nations on steps on the journey towards reconciliation," he explains. "The program allows groups of 10 or more youth between the ages of 12 and 17 to do exchanges each way. The Toronto area would host people from villages of 300 people in Northern Yukon and our kids would go north. Examples that happened this year was a Peewee hockey team coming down from Rankin Inlet to play the Mimico Peewees. Attawapiskat came down to play Oakville and Oakville went back. It is a very good program and it takes a bit of military discipline to fill out the paperwork but, other than that, it is a totally brilliant support by the Federal Government. "

Transport Command also led to his brush with royalty, helping fly the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh across the country, and across the Atlantic, in 1984.

"I was the lead navigator on the 707 and we went straight over the northern part of Baffin Island [from Vancouver] and we didn't turn the plane until we were on approach to Heathrow," he recalls. "Of course, Prince Philip was up front in the cockpit most of the time because he is a pilot and was really at home in that eight hour flight."

However at home Mr. Gordon was Prince Philip was at the cockpit, he hadn't yet crossed the threshold of the monarch's home in Canada, Rideau Hall, the Governor General's residence, until he stepped up to receive his honour

"It was awesome because I was able to have my son, his wife and my grandson there," he says. "It was the first time I had been to Government House, even though I have flown royalty and Governors General as part of my Gordon's service with the Air crew job, so this was really awesome."

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH



Irish Dancers **SUNDAY | MARCH 11** AT 2:30 PM

"St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic" The talented girls from Newmarket's Irish Dance studio will kick off our St. Patrick's Celebration. Join us for a lively afternoon performance...don't forget to wear your green! Please RSVP



Moving Made Easy FRIDAY | MARCH 23 AT 2:30 PM

Feeling stuck, overwhelmed or anxious about moving? Come out and listen to Monica Black, our relocation transition specialist. She will explain how the moving nightmare can be made easy! Please RSVP



INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH



Townhouse approval on Metcalfe backtracked pending word from Province

By Brock Weir

A proposed townhouse development on Metcalfe Street will have to simmer on the backburner a bit longer after Council backtracked on forwarding the application onto the next level last week.

Going into Council last Tuesday night, Council was poised to accept a zoning bylaw application which would have paved the way for the sale of three homes just west of the GO Station which would have, in turn, set the wheels in motion for an application to replace the three homes with 15 townhouse units to hit the public planning process.

Had Council ratified the decision they had made at the previous week's General Committee meeting, the application for the zoning bylaw amendment would have been accepted by staff, thus allowing it to proceed through normal channels.

It is a proposal that has been making its way through Town Hall for over the year and has been subject to some revisions following concerns raised by neighbours, but by the time the originally-proposed plan for 24 stacked townhouses was presented last week, it had been adjusted down to a 15 unit development of single dwellings.

"The rationale to accept the Zoning Bylaw Amendment application is that the proposal is an infill residential development within the Stable Residential designation and conforms to our use of the Official Plan," said Heritage Planner Jeff Healey in his report to Council. "It is noted that the current proposal is a revision of the previous proposal in order to reduce scale and the number of dwelling units.

"Upon submission of a new complete agreed.

zoning bylaw amendment application, staff will undertake a review of built form and compatibility of the proposed development to determine conformity to all policies [in the] Official Plan."

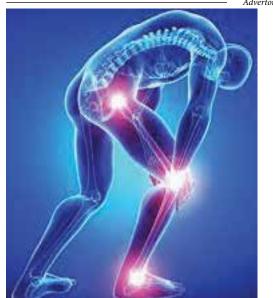
But, despite their initial approval to accept the application on February 20, this changed last week following an announcement from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Bill 139, a bill which has led to the dismantlement of the Ontario Municipal Board in favour of sweeping changes which will invest municipalities with a greater say in how they are developed.

Bill 139, which received Royal Assent in the Ontario Legislature this winter, replaces the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) with a Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, the intent of which is a "faster, fairer, more affordable" alternative to address area planning disputes, keeping things largely arm's length from the government.

Since its passage in December, however, details on just what the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal will entail have been scant, but last week's announcement promised clarity within weeks.

"I think we all received an email from the Minister of Municipal Affairs in regards to Bill 139 and it will take effect by April 3 and the regulations that are still not out will be coming out, so I just want to reiterate what I said last week," Councillor Tom Mrakas told his Council colleagues last week ahead of the final vote. "I would prefer to err on the side of caution as far as the regulations and wait until they are out before we start lifting the two year moratorium on some of these applications coming forward."

Ultimately, the majority of Council



Do you experience lower back pain, pain in the buttocks or leg that is worse when sitting, hip pain, burning or tingling down the leg, weakness, numbness, or difficulty moving the leg or foot, a constant pain on one side of the buttocks and/or a shooting pain that makes it difficult to stand up? You may be suffering with a condition known as sciatica.

Sciatica is defined as compression of a spinal nerve root in the lower back, often owing to degeneration of an intervertebral

Sciatica most commonly occurs when a herniated disc, bone spur on the spine or narrowing of the spine (spinal stenosis) compresses part of the nerve. This causes inflammation, pain and often some numbness in the affected leg.

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

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

Also, you may have heard that there are serious health risks associated with chronic use (or overuse) of medications that include damage to the liver, kidneys and gut.

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According to multiple studies MLS laser therapy appears to be uniquely capable of decreasing the inflammation around the spinal cord and shows great promise in the battle against the devastating sequelae of this condition.

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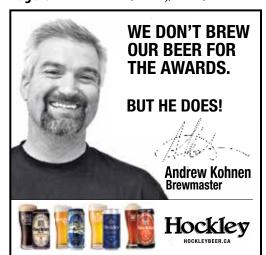
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USINESS



Local food companies get boost in Federal-Provincial partnership



(From Left) Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard, Robert and Francine Johnson of Treasure Mills, Peter Kauffman of Buddy's Kitchen and Mayor Geoff Dawe.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

Agri-food accounts for over \$37 Billion in Ontario's economy, employing over 800,000 people, and shows no sign of slowing down – and both the Federal and Provincial governments are looking to ensure this economic engine remains well-oiled.

Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard was at Treasure Mills, the Aurora-based snack food company, to announce a significant infusion of Federal and Provincial dollars not only to Treasure Mills, but also Buddy's Kitchen, a local dog food company.

Treasure Mills and Buddy's Kitchen are just two of over 300 Ontario food

and beverage companies that received a share in an \$18 million investment through the Growing Forward 2 (GF2)

program, a federal-provincial initiative. Treasure Mills, through this funding infusion, will receive \$90,235 for new equipment to increase efficiencies while Buddy's Kitchen will receive \$19,999 to spearhead market research and analysis to identify opportunities for business

"We value supporting business in communities like Aurora," said Mr. Ballard. "The Growing Forward 2 initiative that is working in the food package and bag around snack cakes with both levels of government." and beverage business to keep and hire skilled people, innovate ways to help with business and increase productivity.

There were 300 projects across Ontario like yours that are helping companies advance their marketing research and analysis, buy necessary equipment to improve efficiencies, and become more productive."

Treasure Mills, which produces nutfree and peanut-free snack foods that are designed to be "school safe," will use their portion of the investment for a new flow wrapper machine which will only enhance their reputation for food

and products of that nature and the ability to improve and drive continued food safety, which is paramount in our business and our brand," said Founder and CEO Robert Johnson. "We're all about kids' safety and our goal is to be the most trusted brand in kids' snack foods. This investment goes towards that. Every time we have a person touching the product you have a risk of contamination and other issues."

Peter Kauffman, founder of Buddy's Kitchen and self-described "Chief Dog Wagger," stressed the importance of these Federal and Provincial investments for any business.

"Success doesn't happen isolation," said Mr. Kauffman. "As an entrepreneur who started in the basement 20 years ago, you don't think that government and the bank are going to be so valuable in terms of that partnership. You can't run your business without recognizing the valued assets that both the Federal and Provincial governments can provide. It is so critical for businesses, especially in the industry we're in: food.

"We're a next generation food company. We don't do pet food, we do food for pets. It is a paradigm shift. Pet owners are no longer just owning their dogs, it's a member of the family and Buddy's Kitchen is uniquely positioned, it is a very seismic shift in how people are spending on their dogs; just as much as they are spending on their children, they are spending on their "The addition of these flow fur babies. It is really remarkable and program is a joint Federal and Provincial wrappers allows us to basically put a we're so pleased to be able to work



UPCOMING EVENTS

Women of Influence Network (WIN) Meeting

Join Us: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at Food in Motion, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm.

After 5 Business Social at Backyard Pool & Spa

Join Us: Thursday March 22, 2018 at Backyard Pool & Spa, 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

Aurora Chamber Insider Session

Join Us: Thursday March 29, 2018 at Aurora Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 am - 10:00 am.

Learn More & Register: www.aurorachamber.on.ca/events

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Save the Date! 37th Annual **Aurora Chamber Golf Classic** Thursday, June 21, 2018 at King's Riding Golf Club

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On Tuesday February 27, The Meridian Credit Union Branches of York Region were pleased to present a cheque for \$10,000 to the Rose of Sharon as a part of Meridian's Good Neighbour Program. Pictured here are Mahtab Djahangirsani, Branch Manager, Meridian Credit Union Steeles and Birchmount Branch Markham; Jordan Cartwright, Branch Manager, Meridian Credit Union, Oak Ridges Branch; Jill Jambor, Community Engagement Coordinator, Rose of Sharon; Caitlin Gladney-Hatcher, Fund Development Coordinator; Rose of Sharon; Barb Hardy, Assistant Branch Manager, Meridian Credit Union, Aurora Branch; and Harry Asbreuk, Branch Manager, Meridian Credit Union, Aurora Branch.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger







The Experience You Deserve





Business impacts need to be looked at during road reconstructions: Council

By Brock Weir

2017 should have been a year "great promise and greater achievement" for his Yonge Street business. Instead, thanks to some longdelayed road reconstruction, 2017 was "a year of disappointment" for Dennis Hirst.

Hirst owns the Yonge Street Winery, a D-I-Y wine operation at the northwest corner of Yonge and Brookland Avenue.

Nestled in a plaza across from the LCBO, his location was at the epicentre of the extensive and protracted reconstruction of Brookland, a process which left business owners hurting and infuriated, he said.

"Our experiences during the months of October, November and December with the construction workers was nothing short of infuriating," said Mr. Hirst, appearing at Council last week to support a motion from Councillor Harold Kim which will look at lessons learned during this project that will help ease the process in future for business owners.

"This motion is progressive and long overdue," said Mr. Hirst, giving kudos to not only Councillor Kim for his support in finding a resolution, but also Councillors Tom Mrakas and Michael Thompson.

"Your genuine concern over the wellbeing of our businesses in our plaza and the safety of residents living on Brookland Avenue has really returned my faith in people, and municipal politics in Aurora is in very good hands. However, three months later, Brookland Avenue construction is not yet complete. There is more finishing work to be done in 2018, although the most stressful part of the project appears to be nearly over.

"How did we fare as a business? Let's just say what should have been a year of great promise and greater achievement became a year of disappointment. Here we are, it's 2018, and despite the new challenges that every local business faces this year, road construction in Aurora doesn't have to be one of them. Let's learn from our history and together let's try not to repeat the mistakes of the past."

Communication between the Town and local business owners was one of the most significant breakdowns, he said, and a process which Councillor Kim aimed to help in his motion, which was ultimately passed by Council.

Through the motion, Councillor Kim called on staff to come back with a report on challenges encountered by residents and business owners in the Brookland area throughout the road project, successes, what was learned through the process, a path forward in engaging business owners, and recommendations that should be included in future road projects.

"The motion is designed to ask staff, as we do in a lot of the projects, to have a look back, review what was done right, review what was not done, what could have been done better, and come back with a report of what a more efficient process would look like with regards to communicating with the business owners," said Councillor Kim.

Some of the issues business owners were facing in this situation – including challenges accessing their businesses and ensuring potential customers knew they remained open during the process - were not being adequately monitored.

"[Open signs] can be easily camouflaged amongst the other construction signs," said Councillor Kim. "Unlike the LCBO, its revenues

probably didn't really decline because serious lack of communication between people would probably climb over steep hills to get their alcohol, but for Wimpy's, the variety stores, it is more of a challenge and people choose to go somewhere further away. [This report] I think is something that is much needed."

Council members agreed, stating that while the report might be much needed, so too is action.

"It would be my expectation from an organizational perspective [that] we always have a process of continuous improvement and we're always evaluating things and learning from it and trying to get better," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "I don't want anyone to see this motion and think we don't do this already, but this might be a more broad perspective."

With this motion, however, Councillor Wendy Gaertner cautioned it is important to consider the needs of nearby residents as well.

"The weather was instrumental in causing problems, and it was the residents in the apartment building and the manager I was in communication with," she said. "To me, there was a

our staff and the manager and, therefore, the manager and the residents. I think we need to look at that. There were cars that got stuck in the mud on the road. I think on one occasion the resident was so mad they actually got the construction crew to push them out and another had it towed. People had to walk and they really couldn't – it was impossible there was so much mud. We just need to take into consideration how it is going to affect the residents on the ground better."

From Mayor Geoff Dawe's perspective, there was already a lesson learned – that maybe sometimes the lowest bidder on any project isn't always the best option.

"We can always improve what we do, but it should be pointed out that with the number of projects we do, we have relatively few bad ones," he said. "This is one of them, but there are relatively few. I think we sometimes put ourselves in peril by picking the least expensive, as opposed to the most qualified. I would like to look at that as well, and maybe that is something the Finance Advisory Committee can look at as well."





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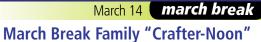
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iovannina Colalillo (AOCA)

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March 15 family theatre

Teachers aim to build students' resilience in an online world

By Brock Weir

You might call it combating fake news

in the classroom, but it is an everyday problem for local teachers.

"They think they are way more tech savvy than the old ladies," says teacher



Teachers Robin Morrison-Claus and Ann-Marie Hulce are pictured at Regency Acres' STEAM Conference.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Ann-Marie Hulse of her students. "When students are looking at their own devices for research projects, it is critical they evaluate what they are looking at. When you Google something, they only look at the first three things that pop up and never go any deeper. Although they are getting information in their hands, is it the best information?"

The answer, she says, is no – and she has the proof to back that up. Have you ever seen a picture of the elusive Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus? Chances are, you probably haven't, but a pretty authentic looking hoax website had kids delving deeper into the make-believe

"We had them for a good 20 minutes before we let them know it was a hoax because it looked real, it had the links, but they were not being critical thinkers," she says. "They are taking things at face value."

Ms. Hulse was recently at Regency Acres Public School for their STEAM Conference, a school-led initiative focusing on building - or re-building resiliency and these all-important critical thinking skills back into the minds of students.

It is an initiative brought into the Regency community by teacher-librarian Robin Morrison-Claus.

"Our kids in this day and age, everything is Google this and Google that, and they don't have any critical thinking skills because if it doesn't come from Google, they don't know how to do it," explains Ms. Morrison-Claus. "It is really that resiliency and critical thinking skills that is the purpose behind all this. The mission is to get them thinking critically, to get them going through more than, 'If it didn't work the first time, I'm done."

Even the younger students, says Ms. Hulse, are apt to walk away from a challenge, always looking to a teacher for testing out new things.

As such, the STEAM event brought together teachers and community leaders to steer students through projects

designed to exercise these somewhat atrophied muscles, from robotics sessions, to D-I-Y kaleidoscopes, to sessions with the Aurora-based Brainy Games.

Students' creative juices were tapped early in the day, however, with a talk with MDA's Natalie Panek, whose robotics company is currently working on a Mars

"When you're up in space a lot of things can go wrong and a lot of things go wrong all the time," she told students. "You're working with a team in order to improvise and come up with new solutions to overcome those challenges and obstacles in order to explore some of the farthest reaches of our galaxy."

Speaking to The Auroran after her talk, she added, "I think usually two things: one that it is okay to fail, that in life we're often going to run into challenges and roadblocks and it is important to keep persevering. The second is even adults don't have it all figured out. Kids will often see a rocket scientist or a geologist who seems to have their career in order and they seem to have it all figured out or are afraid to go down the wrong path. I think it is reassuring for them to hear that we're just figuring out our way, that there are moments we have vulnerability here as well."

With three decades in education under their respective belts, both Ms. Morrison-Claus and Ms. Hulse say they have seen this problem increasing and they are determined to do what they can to stem the rising tide.

"One of the things we're hearing from teacher-employer is the kids who are coming out of schools and going into jobs is kids don't have that critical thinking, they also don't have the creative side of working through it because they are just so used to having everything given to them," says Morrison-Claus. "Employers are looking for places, kids and people who the next steps instead of exploring and have those thinking capabilities, those processes they have to apply to do their job. If we don't develop it now, it is too late by the time they get to university those skills are gone."





Reaching out and building relationships with newcomers is vital, says Church leader



Paul Kang recently completed a two-year term as St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's interim minister. He came into the place of worship at a time of transition.

there have been many people who have joined. This, he says, is a good indication that the healing process is in full swing.

"The mandate was to come to terms with history, but also to clarify the mission and purpose of the church," he **Continued on page 20**



By Brock Weir

Paul Kang came to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at a time of transition.

They were at a crossroads looking for direction, in between ministers and, in some cases, looking for healing and building a new church in a changing world.

They had tough questions to ask themselves and figure out just how they fit in, and these were tasks which fell to Kang, who recently wrapped up a two year stint as St. Andrew's interim minister and, as he heads off to his next assignment, he believes the church has been able to find its feet once again.

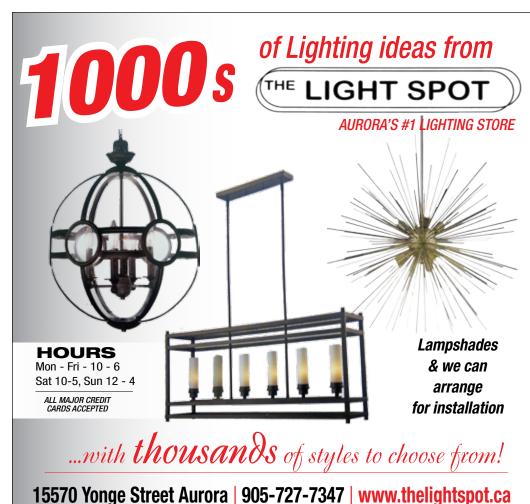
"My mandate was pretty simple," he says. "They felt before they called someone permanent to be here, they wanted to look at themselves, what they are about – and those questions have moved on but, at the same time,

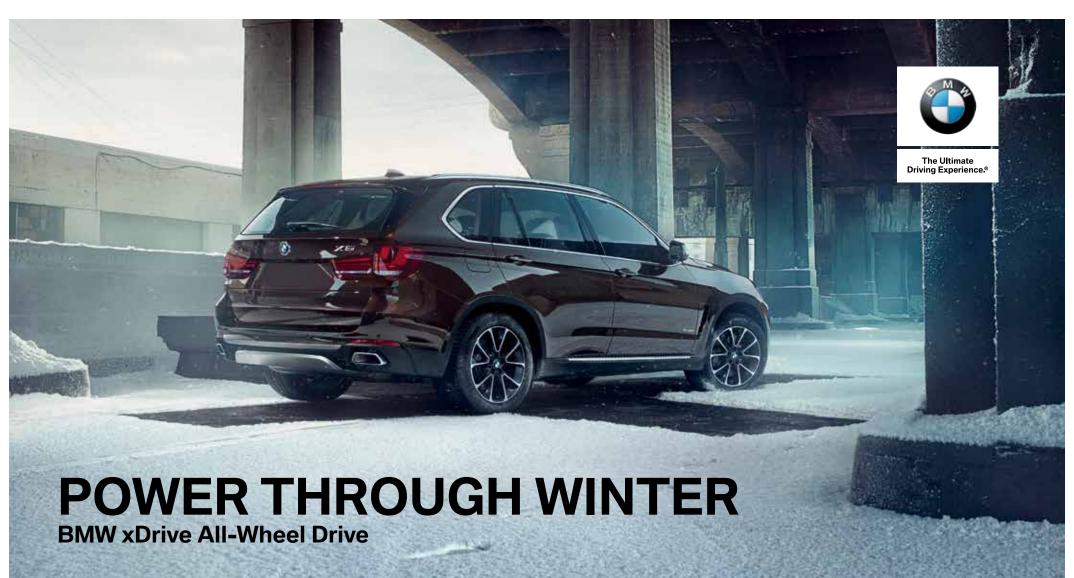
are key. Any organization or family, there is a history here - some of it good, some of it not so good. It was to come to terms with the history, maybe a bit of a healing process, naming what happened, behaviours we are not proud of, ask for forgiveness from God or one another, and move forward. But it is hard to move forward until there is some closure there.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

"As an interim minister, I come in and ask if those relationships are repairable. If not, maybe people are, instead of staying in that inertia, let's move on and figure out a way where all parties can treat each other with dignity and respect. They might not necessarily agree, but at the very least treat each other with respect, with dignity, and part ways."

Since he arrived at St. Andrew's, Kang says he has seen people who





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Ontario facing "most critical election" in its history: Ford

By Brock Weir

It's not about a leadership race, it's about the movement.

contends former Toronto councillor Doug Ford as bids to become the next leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservative party.

Ahead of Saturday's vote tally at a leadership convention, Mr. Ford rallied local supporters Monday night in the riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

He was joined at the rally by Newmarket-Aurora PC candidate Charity McGrath, who endorsed his leadership bid last week, along with a host of other candidates and dignitaries, including Councillors John Abel and Jeff Thom.

"It is not about the leadership race, it is not about this election, it is a movement," he told PC members at Oakview Terrace. "As we have been travelling thousands of miles, driving through the night, visiting towns, I have never seen anything like it."

It is a movement he contents is attracting members of all parties, and even Ontarians who have never held a party affiliation. But, at the end of the day, he said it is all about a choice.

"We're either going to elect a Liberal, or we're going to elect someone who is going to respect the taxpayers, challenge and get rid of the political insiders ... and we're going to make sure we're putting money back into your pocket instead of the government," said Mr. Ford, namesake of his late father who served as an MPP in the Harris government. "Queen's Park is corrupt from top to bottom. We're going to sanitize Queen's Park. We're going to make sure we sanitize our own party as well; the same people who have been controlling the party for 30 years and just itching to get back in there and have the status quo.

"The status quo is unacceptable. To the millions of dollars in contracts, the hundreds of millions of dollars, it's finished. The sole source deals are done. Kathleen Wynne has absolutely zero respect for the taxpayers."

With the crowd fired up, Mr. Ford got down to business, first taking aim at Ontario's debt, which he said Ontarians are racking up \$12 billion in interest a year. Wasted money, he said, which would come to an end if he takes the helm of the PCs and steers them to election victory. He said the blueprint to this would be following the same format set by his brother, the late Toronto mayor

Rob Ford, when he came into power Mr. Ford said would be repealed in with himself as a council member.

"We have a very simple theory, no matter if it comes to business or if it comes to politics: I surround myself with a lot smarter people than myself in their area of expertise, whether it is healthcare, education or culture."

Health care improvements were among the major areas Mr. Ford touched upon Monday night, relaying a story of his time spent in hospital with his ailing brother and seeing shortcomings in the system firsthand. He says Ontario's healthcare system is "absolutely broken" despite the Province having "the greatest doctors in the world." The same, he said, goes for "nurses, healthcare-givers and frontline workers" but these people are "frustrated."

"What we will do to reduce wait times in hospitals and make sure the system starts moving quicker, we will get more nurses to take over from the EMS to allow them to get back on the road," he said. "When I have travelled and crosscrossed the province and talked to tens of thousands of people, one example that stands out is Peterborough [where] there are 7,000 residents that do not have a general practitioner."

Stating he would give doctors incentives to go to Ontario's more remote areas, he added: "Until you talk to these people, you don't realise how desperate they are for healthcare. Whatever it takes to get doctors up there, reducing their taxes, putting in a little medical building for them where people need the help, nothing is more important than our health. Help is on the way, resources are on its way, and most importantly, we're going to listen to the people."

Listening to the people, whether they are doctors, business owners, parents, or just voters in general was a common theme in Monday's speech.

Parents, he contended, were not listened to when Ontario developed its current sex-ed curriculum, which

a PC government and replaced with curriculum he said would be "age appropriate."

"We will make sure parents are consulted...we're going to make sure teachers are consulted and the experts are consulted," he said. "We're going to make sure teachers are consulted and the experts are consulted. We're going to make sure it is age appropriate and we're going to start listening to families. If anyone ever said this in our party a few months ago, even mentioned the word 'sex ed' you were not allowed to run. It is a big, deep secret. I didn't have to take a focus group or an opinion poll to figure this out."

A path forward for Ontario business was also something he said was perfectly

Citing a loss of 300,000 manufacturing jobs, Mr. Ford looked to the recent corporate tax cuts of the Trump administration as a way to bring these jobs back to Ontario.

The carbon tax outlined in the PC's People's guarantee is done, and PC government under his leadership would open up the Ring of Fire, and the cap and trade system would be cut, keeping over \$450 million in Ontario.

"Charities are going to start here in Ontario – we're going to take care of the people first before we take care of anyone else," he said, wondering aloud what would happen if people question potential backlash from the Federal Government. "As [Justin Trudeau's] father said, 'Just watch us.' We will first negotiate hard. Secondly, we will go to the Supreme Court because personally we (Alberta Conservative leader Jason Kenney) don't think it is constitutional to force down our throats the Liberal ideology that we have being seeing throughout the Province...the indoctrination of values a lot of families don't share. But, we will challenge them. We will win, and we will have the independence to thrive again."













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"We don't have time for a leader in training," says Elliott

By Brock Weir

Ontarians are going to the polls on June 7, and, if the Progressive Conservatives form government, they "don't have time for a leader in training."

So says Christine Elliott, one of the two leadership frontrunners hoping to take the helm of the Progressive Conservative (PC) party this week after a heated – and unusually brief leadership campaign.

Ms. Elliott, a former MPP and, most recently, Ontario's Patients Ombudsman, was in Aurora on Saturday morning to meet with local party faithful to deliver her message of proven experience to take on Liberal leader Kathleen Wynne at the polls.

"We need to elect a Progressive Conservative majority government on June 7," Ms. Elliott told the packed crowd at Aw, Shucks. "It is not just because we, as party members, want to win; it's because Ontario needs us to win. We simply cannot afford another four more years of the Wynne Liberals. It is absolutely unaffordable in Ontario right now and we have to win on June 7.

"Just look at what has happened in the 15 years since they came together in 2003: hydro rates are going through the roof, our economy, which was once the envy of Canada, is now faltering, we have business owners who feel they are actually under attack by this government, that people are feeling the Wynne Liberals want them to either fold up their businesses or retire. We can't have that because what is happening is our students are graduating from our colleges and universities with huge student debt and no jobs to go to."

This is not Ms. Elliott's first time running for the PC party's top job. She ran for the leadership in 2009, coming in third behind Tim Hudak, and Frank Klees, and ran for leadership once again in 2015, coming in just behind Patrick Brown with 38 per cent of the vote.

Party members began voting for their preferred leadership candidate on Friday and voting continues through March 8 before the votes are counted and the winner is announced in Markham on Saturday.

"This is a really unusual time, an unusual leadership election because we have a general election in fewer than 100 days," said Ms. Elliott. "There is a lot of work we have to do to hold the party together, there is a lot of work that has to be done there, but it is not as bad as some people would say. We have been hearing a lot of negative things in the last couple of weeks, but I do believe we have a firm foundation. We are ready to go and we're ready to win."

Ms. Elliott used Saturday morning's rally as an opportunity to tout the Progressive Conservative's party platform, a document drafted with input from the grassroots that she said

I truly believe the taxpayers of Ontario would expect that if a program isn't providing any value we shouldn't continue with it. We should then put the money into the programs that we have in our platform that was developed with our grassroots members who have talked to us about what we really need to have

was "great – with one exception."

That one exception, she said, was the proposal for a carbon tax contained within the party's People's Guarantee. Ms. Elliott said she has heard from many people that a carbon tax would simply be unaffordable and put undue burdens on local families.

But, some of the key tenets of the plan she supports are income tax cuts 22.5 per cent for middle income earners – along with increased funding for mental health and addiction. This includes funding for autism, a dementia strategy, addressing the "opioid crisis" and helping people with mental health challenges access services for therapy.

"I have spoken with several families that have daughters with significant eating disorders and they are being told they have to wait a year for service," she said. "If that is the case, we could lose those young people and that is simply not acceptable to me. We also have a problem with lack of long term care beds. I heard a lot about that in my job as Patient Ombudsman.

"We have people in our hospitals: 25 per cent of patients in any given hospital in Ontario at any time that are frail, elderly seniors that can't go home, but they can't leave the hospital because there is nowhere else for them to go. We would build 15,000 long term care spaces within the first five years and another 15,000 in the five years thereafter.

"If we can deal with that issue, we can also deal with overcrowding in hospitals. Many hospitals are routinely operating at over 100 per cent capacity. We hear about 'hallway medicine'... and that is because there are no beds for them to move to. If we deal with the long-term care problem we can deal with a lot of hallway medicine issues."

Before entering politics, Ms. Elliott said she has worked in a number of sectors, including several years as a bank auditor. With that in mind, she said she welcomes the opportunity when Premier to go through each program introduced by the Liberal party line by line and do a "value for money audit...through 15 years of Liberal waste and mismanagement."

of Ontario would expect that if a program isn't providing any value we shouldn't continue with it," she said. "We should then put the money into the programs that we have in our platform that was developed with our grassroots members who have talked to us about what we really need to have. I really would welcome that opportunity to do that line by line analysis. I know one of the other candidates has suggested just cut four cents, six cents, it might even be 10 cents right now, off the dollar, but I really don't think we can do that because then you might be cutting out programs that do have value. I think you need to take the time to go through the program line by line and decide on each and every program."

But, before that can take place, and their platform planks can be implemented, they will, of course,

"I truly believe the taxpayers have to secure power. They might not be able to implement everything right away ("Because when we win we're going to have to see what the economic situation is. As bad as we think it is right now, I imagine we're going to find out it is a lot worse than that."), but she says she is more than up for the task.

> "We need to make sure that we have somebody who is going to be able to go up and stand up to Kathleen Wynne," said Ms. Elliott. "Whether you like her or not, you have to admit she is a survivor. She's a good communicator, she's very intelligent, and we know the Liberals are going to throw whatever they can out there to make sure they win this election. We need somebody who is going to stand up to her and take her on, and I can tell you I have done that many times at Queen's Park in the past and I look forward to doing it in the future."



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Change "inevitable" but should be in keeping with community

From page 1

Chambers Wednesday night at a public forum on the future of Aurora's socalled "stable neighbourhoods."

Wednesday's public open house was convened as part of an ongoing neighbourhood study to determine whether Aurora's zoning bylaw is effective in maintaining the character of the community's existing residential neighbourhoods.

The answer to that question from the vast majority of those in attendance was a vast "no."

"Back in October, Council directed us to undertake the Stable Neighbourhood study," explained Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning at the start of the two hour session. "It encompasses our stable neighbourhood designation, which is our Official Plan policy that identifies types of uses and development in those areas with specific policies. We also have our specific zoning bylaw which regulates the type of development on a given parcel of land and it sets standards with respect to heights, lot coverage, etc."

The staff-led presentation outlined characteristics of existing stable neighbourhoods and defined "compatibility" of new developments within them as "development that may not necessarily be the same or similar to existing buildings in the vicinity, but it has to enhance the established community and co-exist without causing any undue adverse impact."

This was all well and good in the expressed opinions of most of the people in attendance last week, but the existing zoning bylaws fly in the face of this definition, particularly in provisions that new developments not exceed a lot coverage of 35 per cent in these communities.

Aurora's existing Official Plan, ratified in 2011, contradicts zoning



Residents packed Council Chambers last Wednesday night for a public open house on the future of Stable Neighbourhoods.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

bylaw provisions still in effect from 50 years ago, they contend, and it is time for the zoning bylaws to be updated to the standards set in the official plan.

"Seven years have passed that we have been stuck with outdated bylaws and little enforcement," said resident Peter Smith. "It is time for change before our stable neighbourhoods are destroyed forever. In 2018, the lot sizes have not changed but the size of new builds has, in some cases, increased dramatically and are not compatible with our stable neighbourhoods. Some new builds and renovations in our area are very tastefully done and fit well with our community. Others are highly questionable and don't respect the local environment.

"We accept that change is inevitable, but respectfully ask that the values and identities of our older communities be respected. Bylaws need to be changed to reflect and preserve the character of these older neighbourhoods. In Aurora, subdivisions were built at various times to reflect distinctive and individual characteristics, sometimes on a street by street basis. These facts must be incorporated into new bylaws. At present, we are expected to accept the 1968 bylaws which clearly do not apply to our stable neighbourhoods."

This was a view shared by Steve D'Angeli who said he lives in a stable neighbourhood characterised larger houses. People in attendance, he contended, were not against development; rather, they were frustrated with a "discrepancy" between the Official Plan and the reality of the buildings going in.

"I don't think anyone is looking to restrict a developer's right to make a buck, to increase property values," he said. "Nobody here wants property values to go down; I think what people want is compatible development. We have a stable neighbourhood policy and I don't think anyone here can look at these big developments and say the neighbourhood is stable.

"We have people coming in, they don't have skin in the game, and they are changing the culture and the makeup of stable neighbourhoods for financial gain and solely for financial can't have that financial gain, but there has to be a midpoint and balance in a neighbourhood where people can still go out and have a garden that has sunlight.

"I myself don't have any skin in the game, I see both sides, but I think the key issue to me here is your Official Plan and your zoning are not linked. Your Official Plan was updated and your zoning bylaw was not."

With residents seeking answers, Mr. Ramunno told the crowd if Council provides direction to amend the existing zoning bylaws there will be a need for additional public consultation and notices that it is in the works before they can be brought to fruition.

"This is an Open House and it is still going to take some time," said Mr. Ramunno in front of the gallery, which also included the majority of Council members. "My commitment is a report back to Council as soon as we can."

In the meantime, many residents issued an invitation for Council members, planners, and the powersthat-be to come out and assess the situation for themselves.

"In some of the answers we have heard, it just seems people are hanging their answers on a technicality and not looking at something and having any kind of common sense," said Ms. Walsh. "I would like to have people gain. Nobody is looking to say they come to the neighbourhood, and not just be buried in their drawings and have some common sense in line with your technicalities. [You keep saying], 'That's okay, that's okay,' but how can



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Protecting stable neighbourhoods is about the future, not the past: residents

By Brock Weir

communities that have stood the test of time, but protecting local stable neighbourhoods is about the future as much as it is about the past.

This was a message brought to Council members and municipal staff alike as nearly 200 residents filled Town Hall for a public Open House on Aurora's Stable Neighbourhoods study.

For many neighbours, protecting the look and feel of decades-old Aurora enclaves presents opportunities for all stakeholders, but, in order to fully realise the potential, there has to be a "political will" to make the change.

"I believe that development is essential within stable neighbourhoods, as it is in any part of Town" said Neil Asselin, a resident of Royal Road. "That said, development within stable neighbourhoods must be carried out in a way that is more sympathetic to what makes these areas stable and desirable in the first place. Changes to the current bylaws must ensure that the stability of the neighbourhood and the wellbeing of all the neighbours that occupy it are favoured over incompatible infill. It builds on our great community, making it better in the long run.

"To start, we must agree that stable neighbourhoods are just that: they're stable, they're not decaying, and they're not in decline. They don't need rebuilding or redefining. They are an integral part of the Town's legacy and their inherent desirability is a vital feature to the areas around the core and to the Town's identity as a whole. Some are trying to change the channel on this and make this about property values, but I disagree. I see that there is value in the neighbourhood that brought me here to purchase a home two years ago and that is worth protecting."

Development, he continued, is both a necessity and an inevitability if neighbourhoods are to remain vital and relevant, but he said he believes new builds should be carried out in the context of what already exists to "further evolve the interrelationship of the built environment and, in doing so, reinforce, reinvigorate and revitalize" the neighbourhood.

"I know it sounds lofty, but it is a basic concept of always having life in our neighbourhood, but always remembering what the neighbourhood means to us," he said, suggesting a steering group to ensure Aurora keeps focus on stable communities.

A similar view was offered by Wells Street resident Carol Fairclough who said she and her family chose to move to Aurora for its character.

"We love the old neighbourhood," she said. "We loved it so much that when we had twins and needed a bigger house, we moved from one century house to another, slightly larger, across the street. There are 11 other families in a three block radius who have done that very same thing because they don't want to leave the neighbourhood."

Speaking to the packed house, she addressed an earlier comment made by resident Peter Curtis, and said she hoped whatever he was building was in keeping with his neighbourhood.

Mr. Curtis said he had lived in Aurora for the past eight years. A former Cardinal Carter student, he moved back with his wife and are currently in the process of demolishing their Holman Crescent home for something new.

"We have exhausted a lot of effort to actually see if we can keep our wartime house," he said. "We had an engineer come in and check it out. Unfortunately, the cost - asbestos, no garage, no insulation - those things add up and play a factor on us. I understand your perspectives. We're in our mid-30s and we're looking forward to 50-plus years in Aurora, just like all of you guys. This seems to be more of an issue of

size, two-storey versus one-storey. "To put it into context, we're putting something together to put to the

cent. Everyone is talking about infill It might be a bid to protect Aurora development, but this is not so much infill development for us; it is transitional development. I wanted to put that out

Town. It is within the bylaws of 35 per there because this perspective hasn't from another direction. been communicated yet."

Arcand, however, also took issue with We're not filling in something that the word "infill," but approached it wasn't there before."

"The use of the word offends me," he Long-time Aurora resident Claude said. "It is destruction and replacement.



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Week of March 8, 2018

Tigers take commanding lead over Golden Hawks

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Tigers are proving their number-one overall seeding was no coincidence.

Two games into the OJHL playoffs, the Tigers are only a pair of wins away from moving on to round two, after two high-scoring affairs to open their best-of-seven series with the Trenton Golden Hawks.

Close to 400 fans packed the Aurora Community Centre on Friday night for game one against the eighth-seeded Hawks, where it was only fitting that leading point scorer and captain Jake Bricknell opened the scoring just over a minute in.

The Tigers yet found themselves before three straight Aurora goals to win."

from Tyler Davis, Joseph Mizzi, and Anthony Romano gave them a 5-3lead after two.

Bricknell scored twice more in the third, while Davis added his second, for a final score of 8-5 for the Tigers.

Bradley Van Schubert, who was issued a game misconduct for shooting the puck over the glass early in the third, made 17 saves on the 21 shots he faced.

Jack Irvine came in in relief, making four of five saves.

"When you're in the playoffs, you've got to have outstanding goaltending," said Tigers analyst Kevin Dean.

Irvine got the call between the pipes for Game Two, played at the rowdy Duncan Memorial Arena in Trenton, down 3 - 2 at the end of the first, in which Dean said "it's always hard

the game thanks to goals from Austin Tigers can scratch out a win, can put Eastman, Davis, and another pair from the series to bed on Friday back in Bricknell.

Down by three, Trenton desperately pulled their goaltender with over three minutes remaining, beating Irvine to make it a two-goal game.

But with the Golden Hawks pressuring, the Tigers survived the final two minutes thanks to a Trenton misconduct in the final minute of play after some heated exchanging of words from the Trenton bench.

first OJHL playoff start.

"Just an outstanding effort by the goaltender," said Dean. "It was one dandy of a hockey game."

Game Three returned to the Aurora Community Centre on Wednesday

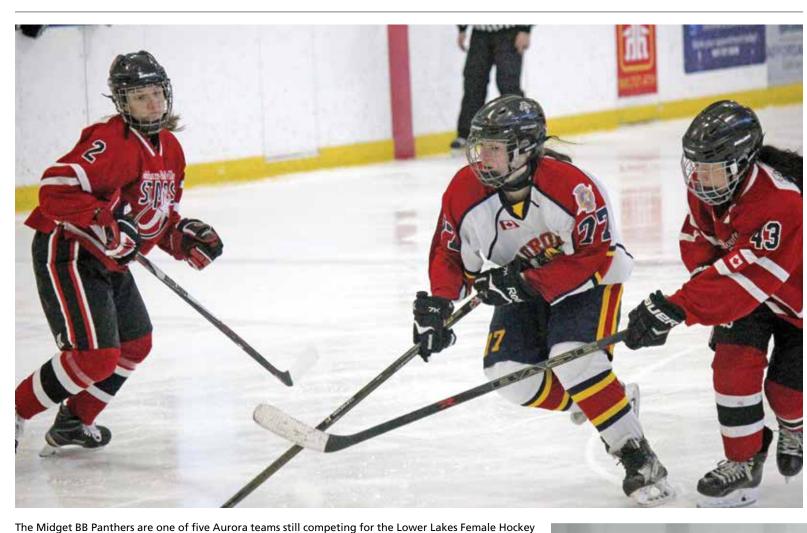
Aurora took a 4-1 lead late in following press time, where if the Trenton.

> If needed, Game Five will go in Aurora on Saturday, with a puck drop set for 7:30 p.m.

> Elsewhere in the NorthEast, the Wellington Dukes lead the Pickering Panthers two games to none, while the Cobourg Cougars are one game away from moving past the Kingston Voyageurs.

The Markham Royals trail the Irvine made 24 of 26 stops in his Newmarket Hurricanes two games to one as well.

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





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Panthers moving on to LLFHL Championship weekend

By Jake Courtepatte

League title.

The Lower Lakes Female Hockey League Championship will feature some Panthers pride.

The Atom A Aurora Panthers squads has booked their ticket to the LLFHL championship weekend, with four others yet to decide their fate.

postseason with a two-game sweep of the Whitby Wolves, allowing just three goals through four games so far to finish first in their division.

Their BB counterparts sit one game back of the North York Storm in their respective semifinal, after pouncing through the Barrie Sharks in round one.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

The Bantam A team leads one game to one over the Barrie Wolves, while the Bantam BBs will compete in a do-or-die Game Three with the Brampton Canadettes after splitting the first two games.

The most seasoned remaining Aurora squad is the Midget BB They continued their perfect Panthers, who need a win in game three after falling 2 - 0 in game one and tying game two 1-1.

> Championship weekend March 23-25 in Canlan York University and Westwood Arena in Toronto.





Caring for Our Community















Saints continue hockey dominance with latest title

By Jake Courtepatte

Count 'em: that's half a decade of the St. Andrew's Saints proving to be the best around in prep school hockey.

The varsity Saints captured their record sixth-straight CISAA league championship at Upper Canada College in Toronto on Friday, a rematch of the 2016-17 final featuring plenty of grudges.

The top two teams in the DI league clashed in Game One at LaBrier Arena on Wednesday, where the Blues took a 1 - 0 lead late in the first, before Isaac Emon tied it for the Saints.

Christian MacDougall found twine twice in a row to give the Saints a 3 -1 lead after two periods, though two straight from the Blues past goalie Aidan Hosein knotted it back up.

MacDougall completed the hat trick to regain the lead, while Ian Maclean added one late for a final 5-4 score.

Needing one more victory to clinch the championship, the Saints travelled

to Toronto on Friday to face Upper Canada in their home barn, where the jeers from the home crowd did nothing to slow them down.

With the Saints up 5-3 late in the second period, the Blues scored twice in the third to send the game to overtime.

Just under nine minutes into the sudden death period, it was Matthew Stienburg who played the overtime hero, clinching the Saints recordbreaking championship.

Hosein earned both of the wins for the Saints.

The Under-14 Saints also captured the D1 title earlier in the day, defeating St. Michael's College by a score of 3 –

As is yearly tradition, the varsity squad will follow up by hosting the National Independent School Invitational Championship on campus this weekend.

Twelve of the top independent teams from across Canada will hit the ice at LaBrier Arena, as well as the Blues home ice.



The St. Andrew's varsity Saints celebrate their sixth-straight CISAA title on Friday after defeating the Upper Canada College Blues in the final. **Photo by Paul Mosey**



The St. Max Mustangs won their third straight girls hockey YRAA Championship with a 2 - 1 series win over Stouffville High School. Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

St. Max Mustangs golden once again in YRAA girls hockey

By Jake Courtepatte

Make it a three-peat for the St. Max their team's performance. girls' hockey squad.

The Mustangs reeled in their third straight York Region title last week in a best-of-three series win over the Stouffville High School Spartans, once again representing the region at the OFSAA championships.

A 2 - 1 win in game one of the series meant the Mustangs could clinch the title with a win in Game Two, where they did so in dramatic fashion, lighting the lamp seven times in a 7 - 1 final.

Julia Cuccia, Emily Gianias, and Natalie Pantaleo all found the back of the net twice, while Claire DiLosa

added a single.

Head coach Kate Treacy said the coaching staff are all "so proud" of

"They've worked so hard all season to clinch another championship," said Treacy. "These girls work together as a team and have been extremely dedicated all season...we look forward to seeing them in action at OFSAA!"

Aurora reached the championship series on the back of a two-game sweep of Markham District in the semifinal, after finishing the regular season with a perfect 6-0-0 record.

Running March 21-23 Cambridge, the battle for the best in Ontario will see the Mustangs take on fifteen teams from across fourteen other divisions.









BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE - Local teams laced up their bowling shoes and hit the alleys on Saturday for the annual Bowl for Kids' Sake, benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of York. Here, members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce hit the Steller Lanes in Newmarket: Sandra Watson, Maryam Golabgir, Seanna Murray, Jack Roeleveld, Kim Robertson and Paul Smith. Meanwhile, Councillors Sandra Humfryes and Tom Mrakas finished a frame for the Town of Aurora team.

Wake up sleepy heads! Its spring! Ditch those black everything your closet and put on something bright and cheer up, things look brighter in the morning.

The long evenings of winter are nothing now

but a goodbye and good riddance! it to a woman who loved it and fit her Enough already with the snow, the ice, the chance of slipping on the sidewalk, good-bye till next time!

Most of us have had the experience of looking at a closet full of clothes and finding nothing to wear to match our mood. The first thing we do, is pull out old reliable, the dark dress, the dark pants, the same sweater and same ol' black shoes. But, what about those other clothes that sit in your closet, what do you do with them?

Spring is the perfect time to take stock of our wardrobes and seriously think about what really looks good on you, what makes you feel beautiful. Do they reflect the person you are within? Every article of clothing you have tells a story.

hoarders and keep everything as if it been in the past. Simplicity just never was our claim to fame. Sometimes it is clinging to the past, and as difficult as it seems, it may be time for you to let go and start anew. I know it isn't easy, but it is a step towards healing, recovery and hope with a positive attitude.

I remember keeping a gorgeous red



SENIOR SCAPE

by Christina Doyle

dress that I couldn't fit into, but I held on to that dress thinking, oh I am sure I can lose 10 pounds and get into the dress. Well, it sat in my closet for so many years that as of last year, I finally let go of the dress and donated

just perfectly.

The emotional attachment I had in giving the dress away, came with a sense of peace and a sigh of relief.

I kept looking at that dress throughout the years reminding me, that you need to lose weight. How depressing is that? Who was I kidding, I couldn't lose 10 pounds just like that – and I didn't lose 10 pounds, I had gained a couple more!

The wind of refreshing change is in the air. Let's take some of those phantoms that sit in our closet and replace them with new ideas about what works for us in our real life and truly reflect our own personality.

Simplicity is a fashion statement every woman and man today can make Unfortunately, some of us are no matter what their personal style has disappoints us. You will realize that less is more and that is the just the beginning ...that it is never too late to change. You don't have to get rid of everything, there will be some pieces of clothing that truly hold a precious memory and those you

Continued on page 23

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Did you know

the Ontario government is creating an entirely new homecare bureaucracy with funds meant for frontline patient care?

> In doing this, they have not consulted with any of the organizations or individuals who have been providing homecare services and dealing directly with patients for decades.

More Care Now is holding a community town hall to discuss changes coming to homecare in Ontario.

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Please RSVP to: morecarenow@gmail.com

Leadership key to future success, says outgoing minister

From page 11

elaborates. "Why are we here? We are a worshiping community, to help people so people feel like they belong. There is an isolation, so we want people to feel connected and participate in a larger purpose."

It was a community he says that was,

upon arrival, one based on "doing." There was no shortage of initiatives at St. Andrew's and no shortage of people looking to become involved, but there was a bridge that needed to be gapped. Pots & Pins, for instance, was a program run by a couple of dedicated volunteers teaching youth how to cook and sew.

A good leader is someone who people are looking to follow. There are a lot of managers out there, people who are willing to do the tasks, but a leader is about inspiring others, being inspired to lead and to lead by example. In the context of this church, I think the leaders we are looking for are leaders who can be a healing presence, who are unafraid to speak the truth in love, to be able to hold people to a higher standard

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where there were no new volunteers to take over - a possible sign of the interest and purpose it still had within the community at large.

Martha's Table is another example. Martha's Table is a weekly affordable luncheon for people in the community which was going through what Kang describes as "the sheer will, effort and determination" of singular volunteer Helen Dawn, who founded the program

She would buy the groceries, cook up to eight soups and make desserts, but despite the number of people who would help, she was the driving force. This driving force, however, came to a halt last year when Helen became sick, leaving the program with a gap.

This gap was eventually filled when Martha's Table came under the umbrella of the ecumenical Welcoming Arms, bringing with it an even larger group of volunteers and a new vitality.

"That is why the church is here today, to make sure people who sometimes feel overlooked feel like they belong from all walks of life; that is evidenced in Sunday worship, Martha's Table, and the Aurora Community Café," said Kang, referencing lastly an ongoing initiative founded in 2017 to give individuals with intellectual challenges the opportunity to build skills while running a café. "It has been about identifying new leaders and a couple of new leaders have emerged. A good leader is someone who people are looking to follow. There are a lot of managers out there, people who are willing to do the tasks, but a as well."

But this program was in a situation leader is about inspiring others, being inspired to lead and to lead by example. In the context of this church, I think the leaders we are looking for are leaders who can be a healing presence, who are unafraid to speak the truth in love, to be able to hold people to a higher standard."

> Over the past two years, Kang says he has seen the church build deeper relationships with other churches and community groups, including the Aurora Cultural Centre, and these newly formed connections are, he says, what the future of St. Andrew's – and any church, for that matter – is all about.

"In the future I see St. Andrew's health and wellbeing very much tied in with the health and wellbeing of this part of Aurora. I think if the welfare of the town thrives, I think most likely this church will be a part of that and will be participating in that thriving," says King, noting that it is important to address the needs of new Canadians, persons with disabilities, and people struggling with mental illness and loneliness.

"I hope this church is at the very frontlines of that type of work because I think that is the type of work that can bring about transformation for the individual and for the Town itself. They are in need of someone to love them or nurture them. As Paul said in his letters to the Corinthian church, love is patient and kind. It requires a lot of patience and kindness. Love is not necessarily emotion, but it is a discipline as well. It is holding them to account and expecting more from them, and to set boundaries

Aurora entrepreneurs heartened by feedback

From page 3

she shared that with me."

Then, adds Kendra, there was a customer in a more remote Ontario community who did not have ready access to stores to suit her needs and, since her single mastectomy, had been filling the void with sports socks.

"It was a gamechanging for her. She walked in one way, we got her set up, and she left the house a completely different woman. It is not about a prosthetic, it is not about a bra, it's not about a bathing suit – it is about a feeling. They are getting back to the business of living."

Gorgeous You, from the humble beginnings of providing a service to

women they wish they had when they were going through their respective journeys, as survivor and caregiver, has grown to an online business with customers throughout Canada and the United States, boasting products from around the globe, and providing customized service to make sure customers get the right fit the first time.

And, on top of that, portions from each sale are donated to Rethink Breast Cancer, a non-profit which supports young women in their 20s and 30s waging their own brave battles.

For more on Gorgeous You – and for more with Lori Futterer and Kendra Palazzi – visit gorgeousyou.ca.



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Teacher charged in connection with sexual assault investigation

64-year-old Vaughan man in connection with a sexual assault investigation involving a teenage female student.

On February 24, the YRP began an investigation after receiving information about a student who was reported to have been sexually assaulted by a teacher.

The accused has been working as a high school science teacher with the York Catholic District School Board at a Markham high school since 1989. Investigators want to ensure that there are no additional victims and are asking anyone with information to please come forward.

Charged is Frank Defina, 64, of Vaughan. He faces two charges of sexual assault, and charges of sexual exploitation and sexual interference.

The charges have not been proven in court and a court date has been set for Newmarket on March 21.

A sexual assault includes any nonconsensual acts of a sexual nature. York Regional Police encourages victims to report incidents of sexual assault, including historical offences. There is no statute of limitations for sexual offences and offenders can be prosecuted well after the date of the offence.

If someone is not ready to report,

York Regional Police have charged a but is, however, seeking support, please contact York Region Victim Services at victimservices-york.org, the Cedar Centre (cedarcentre.ca) or the Women's Support Network (womensupportnetwork.ca).

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police Special Victims Unit at 1-866-576-5423 x7075 or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS anonymously.

Applications now open for Give Back student bursary

If you are a student getting ready to graduate from a school in Aurora, King, Newmarket, or Georgina and think you have made a positive contribution to your community, Neighbourhood Network and Magna want to hear from you.

A \$1,000 cash prize donated by Magna International, the Give Back Awards are presented each year to 20 students from area high schools who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to community involvement.

Applications can be submitted by email (erin.cerenzia@magna.com), mail (Neighbourhood Network, c/o Erin Cerenzia, 14988 Yonge Street, Aurora, ON L4G 1M6), fax (905-727-9779), or online at www.nnetwork.org/GiveBackAwards.





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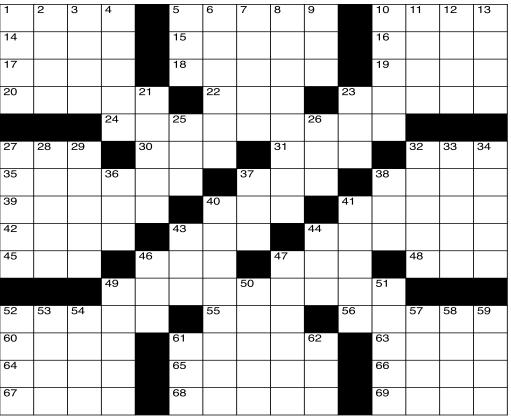
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unpleasant substance 5. Oil group
- 10. One-time Yankees rookie sensation
- 14. Ireland
- 15. Less easily found
- 16. Southeast Nigeria people
- 18. Play loudly
- 19. Elegantly fashionable 20. Open sore
- 22. Frozen water 23. Sacred Islamic site
- 24. "Kokomo" rockers
- 27. Follows sigma 30. Cease to exist
- 31. Cool
- 32. Doctors' group
- 35. Less attractive
- 37. Swiss river 38. Greek sophist
- 39. Grandmother
- 40. Afflict

CLUES DOWN 1. Philippine province

- 2. Shallow channel
- 3. Type of acid
- 4. Cygnus' brightest star
- 5. One who buys and sells securities (abbr.)
- 6. Ill will
- 7. Plant of the goosefoot family
- 8. Intellectual
- 9. Mineral

- 10. Shiny silicate minerals
- 11. Ottoman civilian title
- 12. What you wear when eating BBQ (2 words)
- 13. Soul and calypso song
- 21. Advises
- 23. "The Spanish Tragedy" author 54. Type of sediment 25. Surrounds the earth
- 26. Paddle
- 27. Adjusted
- 28. Succulent plant
- 29. Forearm bones
- 32. Belonging to Egyptian ascetic Apollo's colleague

flour and yeast 42. Actress Rachel Wood

41. Russian pancake of buckwheat

- 43. Not bright
- 44. Western Asia peninsula
- 45. Baseball speedster Gordon
- 46. Golf score
- 17. Bridgeline Digital stock designation 47. Transmits genetic information from
 - DNA to the cytoplasm
 - 48. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo 49. Songs to one's lover
 - 52. Cattle's mammary gland
 - 55. Having ten
 - 56. Fencing sword
 - 60. Scarlett's home 61. Hold valuables
 - 63. Italian Seaport
 - 64. Cain and
 - 65. Bad places to live 66. Large, wading bird
 - 67. Witches

 - 69. Props up the head

 - 33. Type of mental illness
 - 34. One from Asia
 - 36. 007's creator
 - 37. Direct toward
 - 38. Pie _ _ _ mode 40. Large terrier
 - 41. Hillsides
 - 43. Patriotic women (abbr.) 44. Connects words
 - 46. For each
 - 47. Flower cluster
 - 49. Closes a deal
 - 50. Arabian desert
 - 51. Vaccine against poliomyelitis 52. American state

 - 53. Religion practiced in China
 - 57. Hall of Famer Ruth

 - 58. "Layla" singer Clapton
 - 59. Gamble
 - 61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 62. Midway between south and southwest

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THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Theatre Aurora is excited to bring to their stage "Next Fall" by Geoffrey Nauffts. Luke believes in God. Adam believes in everything else. Next Fall portrays the ups and downs of this unlikely couple's fiveyear relationship with sharp humor and unflinching honesty. And when an accident changes everything, Adam must turn to Luke's family and friends for support...and answers. For tickets and further information, visit www.theatreaurora.com or call 905-727-3669.

MARCH 10 - APRIL 28

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Hooked on Tradition, an exhibition featuring the work of the Newmarket Rug Hooking Guild. Hooked rugs tell stories about events, people and communities. Besides their historical interest, they are visually compelling to audiences of all ages. They range from functional to decorative in use, and from primitive to modern in style. The Aurora Cultural Centre is pleased to present an exhibition of over 100 traditional hooked rugs created by members of the Newmarket Rug Hooking Guild.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Amnesty International Aurora-Newmarket Group holds their monthly meeting to discuss current human rights issues and write appeal letters. Held at Trinity Anglican Church (in The Rectory building behind the church), 79 Victoria St., Aurora - all welcome! Free. 7 - 8.30 p.m.

The Canadian Federation of University Women (Aurora/ Newmarket) will mark International Women's Day today with a special event from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at Newmarket's Trinity United Church (461 Park Avenue), Guest Speaker: Fiona Jack, Sex Trafficking Prevention Trainer from Covenant House, Toronto. She will enlighten the audience about Human Trafficking. Covenant House has been working with victims of sexual exploitations since they opened in 1982 (homeless youth are at a significantly increased risk for both trafficking and sexual abuse). She has travelled to York region to our schools and her focus of these talks are about luring techniques and warning signs. For more, visit www.cfuwauroranewmarket.com

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Canadian Blood Services will hold a community blood donor clinic today from 2.30 - 7.30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Church's Lynett Hall (16 Catherine Avenue). It's in you to give.

MARCH 12 – 16

Gift Shop Extravaganza weekdays at Hillary House: Looking for something to do? Looking for a gift for someone? More new and used items have arrived. Come see for yourself! We continue to have china, glass, used books, fabric tote bags, jewelry, and several Aurora-related books including Hillary House, The Story of Dr. Strange, An Aurora ABC, and Postcards of Olde Aurora. Newmarket books include Stories of Newmarket, An Old Ontario Town and Newmarket, The Heart of York Region. Books by Kelly Mathews include Eaton Hall and The Road to Marylake. 15372 Yonge Street, Aurora aurorahs.com.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds 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 speakers is: Blair Dawson, he has written a couple of illustrated books about the wilds of Canada. He is presenting his latest creation on the subject of "All about Bears Facts and Myths Stories". 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 be our guest at the meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Looking for something to do with the kids over March Break? Come to Hillary House (15372 Yonge Street) between 1 and 3 p.m. for a craft session when two crafts will be made available for the Easter season. Donations welcome. House tours will be available and the gift shop will be open. www.aurorahs.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

The Prostate Cancer Canada Network - Newmarket Support Group meets tonight from 6.30 - 9 p.m. at the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place. 474 Davis Drive. This is a peer-to-peer group session with open discussions regarding the disease, treatments and individual outcomes. Spouses are welcome. For more information, call 905-473-

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Writers' Community of York Region: Barbara Trendos didn't set out to write a book. She wanted to fill in the gaps of her father's story. In doing so she ended up writing "Survival (My Father's War as an Air Force Gunner and POW)". Years after she started, she published the story herself. Attend the WCYR monthly meeting on March 18 to hear about Barbara's self-publishing journey. Learn about the challenges she faced and how she turned her book into a publishing success. All are welcome. 1 - 4 p.m. Newmarket Community Centre. wcyork.ca.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22

The Bond Lake Public School Concert Band invites you for two evenings of fun, food, and fundraising at Boston Pizza Aurora on Thursday, March 1 and Thursday, March 22 between 5.30 p.m. and 8.30 p.m. Come out and support the Band in their quest to o attend the 2018 MusicFest Canada Nationals in Toronto this May! "Last year, our band achieved Gold Plus status at the York Region Music Alive Festival which also earned us an official invitation to perform at the 46th annual MusicFest Canada festival. This national competition takes place at the University of Toronto in May, and it features bands from all over the

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

John Sheard presents Wendell Ferguson tonight at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 8 – 10.15 p.m. Guitar magician Wendell and piano maestro John push the boundaries of great music and good taste. Their special guest vocalist Terra Hazelton will keep it all respectable. For ticket information, visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca or call 905-713-1818.

SENIORSCAPE

From page 19

should keep.

They are important to you, but if you have quantity over quality, then go ahead, let it go, give it away and with that you will feel so good.

As Judy Garland once said: "Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else."

Did you know that Amish quilters will deliberately add a mismatched patch to each quilt to remind themselves that only Spirit can create perfectly? We all need to remember that. Just be yourself in what you wear and say. Our best is always good enough. So, enjoy Spring, everyone, and let the warmth of the sun radiate in your hearts as you begin to let go of things of the past.

HAPPENINGS AT THE SENIORS' CENTRE

CLASSES FOR THE OLDER ADULT: You may join classes for the older adult that start in March and early April. Some are held at the Seniors' Centre and some are held at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. For example, Balance Improvements starts on Tuesday, April 10, whereas Essentrics, which is a combination of Tai Chi, Yoga, Pilates and Ballet starts on Thursday, March 22. Registration online starts Monday, February 26 and in person on Thursday, March 1 for residents, and online March 5 and in person March 8 for non-residents.

Colouring Group. No experience is necessary. Come out at 1 pm on Thursday afternoons. Colouring books will be supplied but bring your own crayons for an afternoon of companionship, and laughter, and, of course, colouring!

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. The monthly Seniors Association bulletin is posted on our web site so for all the details on Association activities, clubs, events, bistro lunch menus, sports, and movies to mention a few, and town programs, trips and other valuable information concerning the Aurora Seniors Association, take a look at www.auroraseniors.ca!

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- Will produce stories and bylines for the events they cover
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 - 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
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- An interest in local issues is a necessity, as the majority of the writing for this role will be local

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