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THE AURORED

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 19 No. 40 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of July 18, 2019



Budding baseball player William Trimble and mom Helen Garrett spread the word about the Many Hands, Doing Good foundation last week at the foundation's one-year anniversary family fun night in Aurora.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Many Hands, Doing Good marks first year of giving following Neville-Lake tragedy

By Brock Weir

A name, a number, and maybe a logo or two. That's what's on the backs of your average baseball player when they step out onto the diamond.

But, when William Trimble and his team do so, they do so with a very important message. Instead of a name or a logo, accompanying the number are four hand prints – one large print

surrounded by three more, each one smaller than the last.

The large one represents Gary Neville, while the three smaller ones his grandchildren Daniel, Harrison and Millie, who all lost their lives at the hands of a drunk driver in September 2015.

Together, these hand prints form the poignant and evocative logo of the Many Hands, Doing Good Foundation, a non-profit established out of the tragedy by their mother, Jennifer Neville-Lake, to

support children who have suffered the effects of trauma.

Reflecting Millie's love of music, Harrison's ingenuity and artistic creativity, Daniel's passion for dance, and Gary's fascination with broadcasting, the Many Hands, Doing Good Foundation provides nurturing and therapy to kids through art, dance and music.

These four handprints were proudly displayed by William in Aurora last

Continued on page 23

Pedestrian killed in Wellington Street collision

By Brock Weir

A 67-year-old Aurora woman is dead following a collision on Wellington Street West on Monday afternoon

Just before 4.30 p.m. on July 15, York Regional Police were called to the scene at Wellington near George Street for a report that a pedestrian had been struck by a car.

According to York Regional Police Constable Andy Pattenden, the pedestrian, 67, was transported to hospital but succumbed to her injuries.

Continued on page 18



Wellington Street West was closed Monday afternoon through to the early hours of Tuesday for the police investigation into a fatal collision.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Intercultural festival will celebrate links between Barbados and Aurora

By Brock Weir

There is nothing like food, drink and music to bring people together, and that is set to be a recipe for success ahead of the first Aurora Intercultural Festival: A Celebration of Food & Music this September.

The word “Intercultural” is key to this festival, which will take place at Town Park on Friday, September 7, as a prelude to Aurora’s Multicultural Festival, which will take place in the park on the following day.

“For the past number of years, our community has been taking on a new look with more and more Canadians from various parts of the world, representing a diverse range of cultures that now call their home Aurora,” said emcee Javed Khan at the event’s official countdown launch at Town Park on Friday morning. “Why are we saying ‘intercultural’ versus ‘multicultural’? Multicultural refers to a society that contains several cultures or ethnic groups, people live alongside one another, but each cultural group is not necessarily having engaging interactions with each other. However, on the other hand, intercultural describes communities in which there is a deep understanding and respect for all cultures. Intercultural communications focuses on the mutual exchange of ideas, cultural



The countdown to the inaugural Aurora Intercultural Festival: A Celebration of Food & Wine began at Town Park on Friday morning. Pictured from left: Jeff Edos, Councillor Rachel Gilliland, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Barbados Consul General Sonia Carter, Ron Kellman of Sport Horizons, and Javed Khan.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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* Source: University of Cambridge. "Meals for one: how eating alone affects the health of the elderly." online: <https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/discussion/meals-for-one-how-eating-alone-affects-the-health-of-the-elderly>

norms, and the development of deep relationships. In an intercultural society, no one is left unchanged because everyone learns from one another and grows together.”

This Intercultural Festival, he added, is about “growing and learning together as one community,” celebrating each other’s cultures with “the two most common elements that really bring any community together: that’s food and music.”

There’s one more thing, however, according to Sonia Marville-Carter, Consul General of Barbados in Toronto: Rum.

Ms. Marville-Carter was also on hand Friday to help launch the event. She hailed the program lineup, which will include a full roster of live musicians, including renowned calypsonian Red Plastic Bag (RPB), Barbadian chefs, and a rum specialist.

Additional performers confirmed at press time include Elan Trotman, Jamaal Bowen, and Chef Creig.

“This is going to be awesome,” she said, noting she was particularly interested in plans shared with her by event co-founder Ron Kellman and municipal officials. “I am expecting the entire Town of Aurora [and] all neighbouring towns and cities [is going to be out]. The Barbadian diaspora is going to be out, and we’re going to be bringing bus loads of people here from all over.”

The Barbados Government, she added, is really very happy to be participating in this event for multifold reasons, including the opportunity to promote tourism to the Caribbean nation.

“Once we bring a slice of Barbados to Aurora, we will see that people will be more interested in Barbados. You get a taste of Barbados and spread

the word as well. It’s a twofold thing: we come to you and then you come to us. We love the relationship we’re building with Aurora. Aurora has really opened their arms to us.”


So, why Aurora? The answer to that question was left up to Mayor Tom Mrakas. Council last month approved up to \$5,000 of funding for this event last month following a motion brought forward from Councillor Harold Kim. At the time, Mr. Kellman of Sports Horizon International made his pitch to Council, which struck a chord with local lawmakers and, again last week, Mayor Mrakas hailed Mr. Kellman for his “big and bold” vision.

“I think when you combine people who have that willingness to accomplish something that is unique and spectacular, that’s when you get something that is dynamic and something that is incredible not just for the individuals themselves but our community as a whole,” said Mayor Mrakas. “I’m excited, everyone I’ve talked to is excited, and it is an incredible experience to partner and work with the Island of Barbados. It is incredible to think that what is being offered and brought into our community from Barbados; it is an opportunity we can’t give up and we can’t miss out on.”

This was a sentiment shared by Mr. Kellman.

A festival such as this has been a “long-time coming.”

“When you’re in Aurora, you’re in good company,” he said. “We want everyone to experience this: we want you to see it, feel it, we want you to promote it and celebrate. This is about cultures coming together and doing things. We’re not talking, we’re doing.”



TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

THE TOWN OF AURORA has implemented a mandatory Backflow Prevention Program (BFPP) to protect our drinking water from contamination. The program will require all industrial, commercial, institutional (IC&I) and multi-residential property owners to take action so that our drinking water continues to be safe for consumption.

The Town of Aurora invites you to a public open house that will feature a presentation on the details of the BFPP. This is a great opportunity for IC&I and multi-residential property owners to ask questions and provide feedback regarding the upcoming changes.

Location:

Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, 100 John West Way, Aurora, Ontario


Date:

Thursday, July 25, 2019

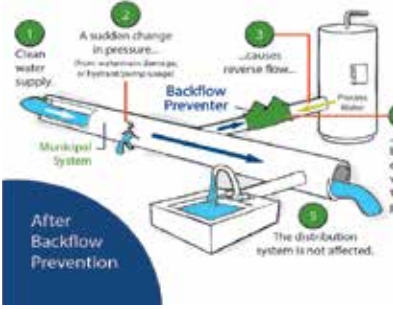
Time:

6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Backflow Prevention Program helps the Town to satisfy legal responsibilities under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) B64.



Before Backflow Prevention



After Backflow Prevention

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New aquatics centre focus of feasibility study

By Brock Weir

A possible new aquatics centre to meet current and future needs – and be a destination for sports tourism – is now being examined by the Town of Aurora.

A feasibility study is now underway that will look at whether new aquatics facilities are needed in Aurora or whether current facilities can be overhauled to better serve the community.

The study will look at whether Aurora needs another pool, how such a facility would be used, how much it would cost to build and how much it would cost to operate.

The Town has retained the services of Stuart Isaac of Isaac Sports Group to carry out the study, which will look at current usage while collecting feedback from sports groups, stakeholders, and residents across the community and the first two public consultation sessions took place at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Isaac began the study last month and unveiled his plan of action at a recent meeting of the Town's Community Advisory Committee. There, he said many avenues were being explored to meet demand.

"We're [initially analysing] existing aquatics facilities and programs here in Aurora, and that includes their budgets, their staffing, their management, their operations, the state of technology, and the environmental friendliness of the systems we're currently using, and then we'll be identifying community needs," said Mr. Isaac.

"There are a lot of opportunities in aquatic fitness these days: aquatic recreation, aquatic sports, and that isn't really tapped in this market with current facilities. I like to say we're identifying the community needs and opportunities and that is an important aspect."

The study will look beyond Aurora, examining like facilities in neighbouring communities, as well as those into the wider GTA, including Barrie and Etobicoke, for their use, market rates, and fee structures, all of which will play a part in developing a financial operating budget for various options that will be presented to Council at a later date.

Groups like the Ducks Swimming Club, the Master Ducks, Special Olympics and the York Synchro Team are among the groups that will be consulted in this study,

along with partners like schools that use the facilities and other groups that currently rent pool space.

"The top priority is the existing programs and users of the facilities," said Mr. Isaac. "The key is the program development and I like to always say program precedes design. It is really taking a look at what those community partners and opportunities and the resident needs are, what we can create, looking at best practices, and other facilities and other communities. Then, how to expand existing ones, enhance programs, and create new programs. That is where a lot of the discussion with user groups and community engagement and partner dialogue comes in.

"The opportunity for sports tourism has come to the surface in a lot of people's interest in this area. It is showing in the newly-developed Economic Development Strategic Plan. There are a lot of opportunities, so part of our job is to work with the provincial and national sport organizations, local clubs that might host events, and try and identify what really is the opportunity for events, and what are the facility stepping stones to host different events?"

An important question the study will look at is the "implication" of adding capital and operational costs to what's already in Aurora, how much this could be offset by added revenue, and the economic impact such a facility would have on the community. Working with the Town's new Economic Development Board, they have identified many moving parts that will help determine the final outcome, including incoming hotels on Aurora's east side.

Whatever the study finds, multiple design options will be explored. It's not a matter of simply sketching out a pool, said Mr. Isaac; it's a matter of looking into different configurations, uses, and technology available. There is significant new technology in the aquatics world that could help mitigate some of the costs the Town currently racks up on existing pools, he said, including different chemical use and energy use that could drop costs by 25 per cent.

"When we look at the site options, it is really important to look at the options we have been tasked to address," he said. "With a [standalone] aquatics centre, we're looking at one that is an aquatics centre only and one that is part of a multisport facility. The second option is really linking to existing facilities. Does it make sense to add a pool to the SARC, if it is another

type of pool, like a 50m pool, that would be added there and then you can really repurpose and have the best integration of all the programs.

"The goal is to come out of this with an integrated overall best practice aquatic program for all of Aurora and

everybody, not just certain niche groups, not just competitive, not just seniors. That is important to keep in mind because part of our study is looking at the impact of a new pool on the existing pools."

The report, he added, is expected to come before Council in August or September.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green Party deserves mention: Candidate

In your June 27 article in The Auroran entitled, “We need to be jobs-focused, says Liberal hopeful Van Bynen”, you’ve quoted Van Bynen as saying “The environment is huge and that is the responsibility of the Federal Government...”

Then at the end of the article: “Challengers in Newmarket-Aurora are expected to include...”

No mention of Walter Bauer, the Green Party candidate, despite the apparent importance of the environment.

The Green Party is the only party with a credible and extensive climate action plan to suit the current crisis.

In the past you may have argued the Green Party is just another fringe party. Today it has two Federal MPs, one Provincial MPP, candidates in every riding, and polling at 14%.

Time to get current. The Green Party has earned a mention!

Walter Bauer
Green Party of Canada

Pipeline direction “disheartening”

Trudeau’s current decisions on the Trans Canada Pipeline are disheartening.

I can’t support a party that would pour tax dollars into pipelines and tankers in the middle of a climate emergency. I know I am not alone in this view.

Mary Kate Spencer
Aurora

One Book | One Aurora
Photography Contest



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Must be a minimum of 16 years of age
- Employees/Board members of APL and their immediate families are ineligible to win.
- Photos must be high-res for print

In Sweetness in the Belly, Lilly is sent to live with a poor family where she earns her keep teaching local children the Qur’an. Throughout the novel, children are featured in the book. This year’s OBOA photography contest features photographs of children: Capture children in the act of discovery!

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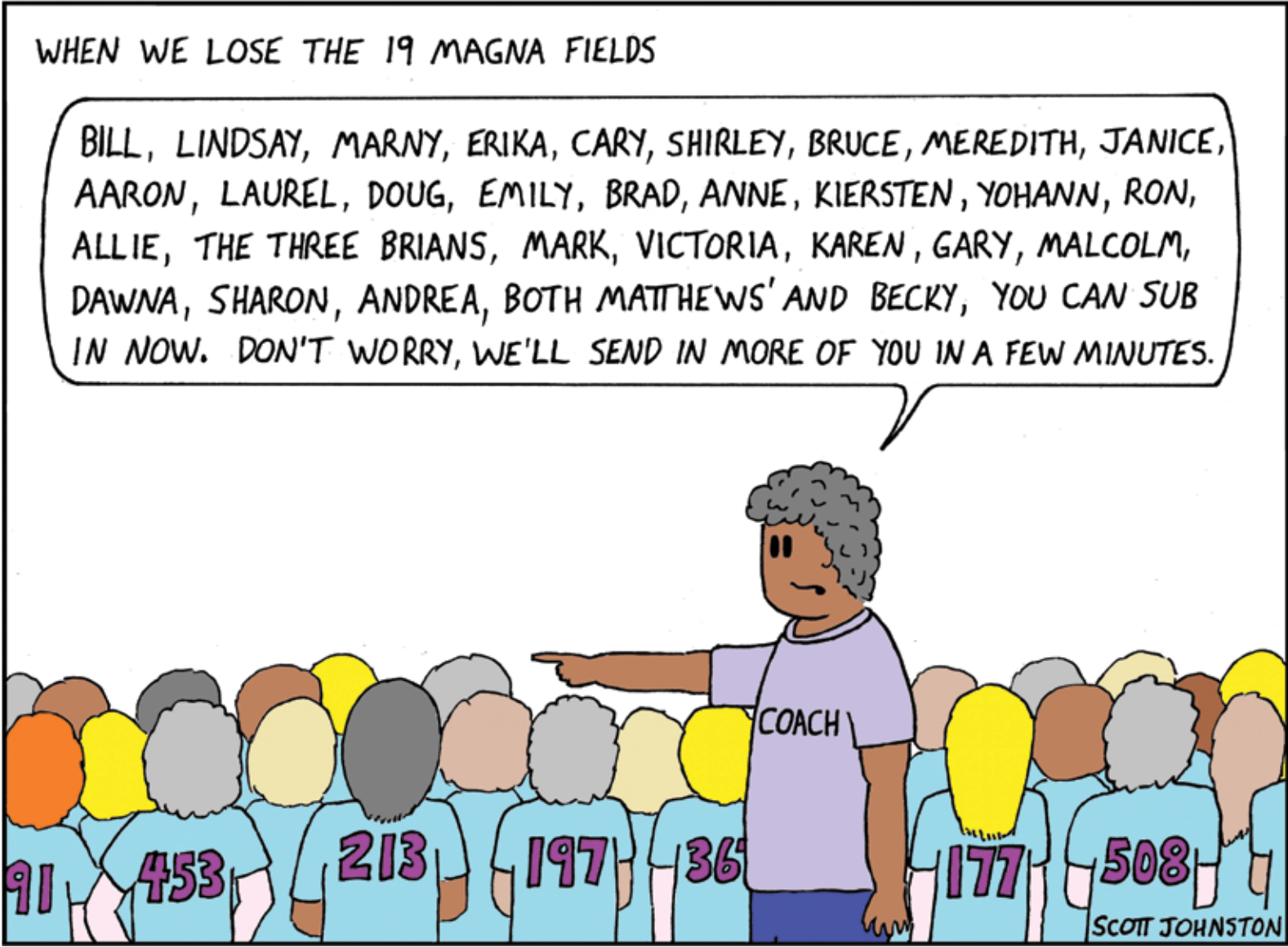
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Very First World Problems



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

We had every reason to grumble. It had, after all, been a really long night.

By the end of the day, most of us couldn’t wait to pull up the covers and drift off to sleep. It wasn’t exactly a smooth day. For some of us, it was agitating, irritating, and maybe even a little bit adrenaline-pumping, so a half-hour with a good book, or a nice, warming night cap before hitting the sack might have been just what the doctor ordered. Whatever your approach, sleep was, this particular night, a welcome light at the end of a long tunnel.

There was a lot to look forward to. Knowing the long day – and night – that awaited, there were freshly laundered sheets awaiting me, popping them in the washing machine the night before and the dryer in the morning, knowing that laundry was the last thing I’d probably want to do when I got home.

After a night cap, as well as a half-hour with a book – trust me, it was a long day – it didn’t take long to drift off. Perhaps due to the sheer exhaustion I was experiencing, it was one of those rare dreamless nights, a time of sleep so solid it would take something particularly alarming to break through.

Unfortunately, that very thing was just around the corner.

I can still hear the shrill sound ringing in my ears.

Emanating from such a small source, the sheer volume of the sound seemed rather unlikely at the time, but it wasn’t a dream, and it was designed to wake you up.

Some of you may have experienced this sound in the early hours of last Thursday morning, but the shrill, ungodly sound I’m referring to rang out in the first half of the 2000s.

For better or worse, I lived in on-campus dorms for the better part of my post-secondary education.

The first of my four undergrad years was spent in a dormitory built in the mid-1960s, a cinder-block structure that was, if nothing else, solid. It was a bare-bones affair, and so was its infrastructure. It was, of course, fully up to code and laden down with technology to keep us safe, but rather than a piercing electronic beep to warn us to get out of the building, a wall-

mounted bell, complete with hammer to get it going, was on hand to do the job, and with a slightly more pleasant sound.

By this time, however, I had risen through the ranks to land in a more modern building where each room was equipped with its very own alarm. Knowing it was there was comforting enough, but the shrill, heart-in-your mouth sound, particularly in the dead of night, was something of a trade off for this small degree of comfort.

When the aforementioned sound rang out, we did what we had to do.

We residents got dressed, bundled up a bit, and staggered outside, still feeling half asleep. We were used to the procedure. For some reason, and the wisdom that has come in the ensuing decade has done nothing to shed light on these reasons, a particular group of people got their kicks from pulling the alarm a couple of times a month.

The drill was the same in each case. By the time we had made our way down the stairwells, apparatus from the local fire department were just rounding the corner. They got out, grabbed their equipment, did a cursory check of wherever the alarm was pulled, saw it was nothing, and, before leaving, they would give whoever seemed to have even the smallest bit of authority on the proceedings a rather stern talking to.

This particular incident, as it turns out, was tragically different.

Thankfully everyone was safe and sound at Carleton that night. The only injuries among us were to nerves and feelings, but while we stood on the sidewalk grumbling and muttering while the firefighters did their work, a family was succumbing to a housefire elsewhere in Ottawa.

Would resources being expended at the university thanks to a prankster have made a difference in the fate of this family? Quite possibly. When we learned of the actual fire the next morning, were those responsible for

raising alarm bells in our student community ashamed, learning the real-life consequences of their actions? One can only hope.

This experience has stuck with me, popping back into my mind every time I hear people complaining the next day about their precious slumber being disturbed when they receive a middle-of-the-night Amber Alert, as many of us experienced just after 3 a.m. last Thursday.

Personally, I have little time for people who moan and groan the next morning about being startled awake from the cacaphony spewing out from their nearby phones and I have even less time, and a whole lot more contempt, for people who have the gall to actually get up, call 9-1-1 and complain about being mildly inconvenienced when police, first responders, and others are trying to find missing children – and waste valuable time and resources in the process.

There are a few pro-tips members of the public might want to follow if this situation arises again – and it will because, as police said after the children and their grandfather were found in Toronto before 5 a.m., their safe return was a direct result of the Amber Alert:

Option One: Read the message, see if it applies to you, and if you can’t do anything to help, go back to bed.

Option Two: If, after reading the message, you feel there is something you can do to help, get out of bed and do it.

Option Three: If you think you might know somebody in the relevant area, pass the information along.

If you’re unable to follow steps one through three, consider Option 4: Think about how you would feel if your own children were missing and someone called 9-1-1 to complain about their missing beauty rest instead of offering a tip leading to their safe return.

And, after pondering the four above points, you still feel your sleep is more important than the issue at hand, think calling 9-1-1 to complain is the most appropriate course of action, all the while diverting resources from issues that actually matter, the problem just might lie within you.

THE AURORAN
Aurora’s Community Newspaper

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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



TIME TRAVELLER'S DIARY

Jacqueline Stuart

Banff, Jasper, . . . and Aurora?

It was a pleasant summer afternoon, that Saturday in July 1931, when the Time Traveller attended the official opening of the Aurora Golf and Country Club.

The new golf course was just west of Yonge, south of Ransom. A plan for a rubber tire factory on the site had fallen through: the jobs would have been welcomed, but not the smell! The land was purchased by two Toronto brothers, Alvin and Francis Morton.

In 1930 the Mortons hired Stanley Thompson's company as the landscape architects for the new facility. Thompson had designed courses at Jasper Park Lodge and Banff Springs Hotel among many others. In Aurora, the naturally undulating land was already equipped with such playing hazards as streams, an orchard, and groves of trees.

The Time Traveller enjoyed watching the exhibition matches organized for the opening day, including one involving keen local golfer Dr. G. W. Williams, but soon his itchy feet sent him exploring.

Back he went to the 1860s. The Yonge Street end of the future golf course land was typical farmland, but when he hiked farther west he came to a sawmill with a water wheel fed by a stream. There was a sizeable pond.

The Traveller was aware that he had strayed from the 1930s golf course land so he headed back toward Yonge, and also forward a good many decades. It was now 1945, and the ownership of the golf course had just changed.

The new owner was Colin S. "Pop" Nisbet, whose Aurora Greenhouses were adjacent to the golf course (the Highland Green condominium building would stand there one day). The course would become Highland Golf & Country Club – variations of this name were used later – and Mr. Nisbet's son Keith, a future mayor, would manage the business. In a few years the property to the west was purchased, allowing expansion of the course to eighteen holes.

The Nisbets sold the golf course in 1956. (They would go on to open the Westview course, east of Aurora.) The purchaser was an investment company and it was feared that the course would be converted to a housing subdivision.

To some extent that did happen, over time and under different ownership. Fairway Drive, Golf Links Drive, and later other residential roads to the west appeared and the course was modified to accommodate them.

In 2014, the golf course closed entirely and soon plans for more residential development were announced.

The Time Traveller attended a meeting of unhappy local residents and recalled that some forty years earlier there had been a similar meeting about the proposed construction of many of their homes.

Just the other day the Traveller went to have a look at progress on the new development. He found the east end of the old course still green, but furry rather than golf-course-velvety. To date all the work seems to have been at the west end, complete with new roads.

He was glad to hear that the stream which had had practical appeal for a miller over 150 years ago will still flow for the peaceful enjoyment of all future Aurorans

The Aurora Museum & Archives is remembering...

Highland Golf & Country Club!

This baseball cap dates to the late 1980s – early 1990s and is embroidered with the Aurora Highlands Golf Club logo. Within very recent memory, this course was still active and we would not be surprised if a few readers still have a hat similar to this one! What did the Highland course have in common with some golf courses out west? Read this week's Time Traveller's Diary to find out!



Hear from my perspective what is important

Every day, my Constituency Office staff receive many calls, emails and walk-ins. Most are related to serious issues that constituents are dealing with - and we're always happy to help in any way possible to resolve their concerns.

Along with those issues, there has also been a noticeable increase recently in constituents who contact us regarding controversies being raised. For this month's column, I wanted to provide you with my perspective on what's important.

- **Health Care Changes** – Ontario spends about \$60 billion each year on our public health care system, but are we really getting the care and services we need for the money we are spending? Our government is making the changes necessary to build a modern, sustainable system that will improve access to care and emphasize a patient-centred approach. We are building a public health care system centered around the patient and redirecting money to front-line services – where it belongs – to improve patient experience, and provide better and connected care. This year alone, we are increasing funding for our public health system by \$1.3 billion. Here in Newmarket-Aurora, we have invested \$71,470 for hospital infrastructure repairs at Southlake Regional Health Centre, nearly \$260,000 for community mental health supports, \$387,200 to build 5 new mental health beds and added 10 new hospice beds at Margaret Bahen Hospice.
- **Education Changes** – The Ontario government is increasing education funding this year. Even so, the hard reality is that student enrollment numbers across the province continue to decrease, which makes it difficult to maintain



CHRISTINE'S CHRONICLES

Christine Elliott, MPP
Newmarket - Aurora

current teacher levels, especially when many schools are already well below capacity. However, the government is committed to ensuring that none of our dedicated, hardworking teachers lose their jobs by providing \$1.6 billion in new attrition protection funding. At the same time, we want to improve the education our children receive so they have the skills they need for successful futures. For Special Education, the government has increased funding for 2019/2020 by \$90 million. For Student Transportation, the government has increased funding by \$92 million. Regarding course selection, it is important to clarify that class size organization, course offerings and staffing decisions are made by the local school board. The government will continue to work with the school boards to ensure program and course delivery meets the local priorities and needs of the students.

- **More Homes, More Choices** (Housing Supply Action Plan) - Current LPAT (Local Planning Appeal Tribunal) rules have slowed the decision-making process to a halt. There is a substantial backlog, preventing housing from being

built and Ontario from growing. The Tribunal estimates that over 100,000 housing units in Toronto are tied up in the backlog, that's 3 years worth of construction waiting to be approved. A two to three-year appeals process, while Ontario is in the middle of a housing crisis, is unacceptable. We received more than 2,000 submissions in our request for ideas on how to address this housing crisis. We took the best ideas from these submissions to create this plan. We will always maintain protections for people's health and safety, the environment – including the Greenbelt – and continue to support our vibrant agricultural sector. We are also maintaining community protections and protecting endangered species.

We have recently launched consultations with our municipal partners on the development of a community benefits charge that takes the politics out of planning. It is important that municipalities have the resources to support complete communities and give the public at large the opportunity to provide input into a strategy through public consultation.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking input from the municipal and development sector on the proposed regulatory approach. There will be regular consultations with municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) between July to November.

By increasing the housing supply, we will help counter the record low vacancy rates, which are driving up costs.

I hope you have found this column to be informative and useful. We will continue to work for the people of Ontario

I encourage you to call us if you have questions of your own. My community office can be reached at 905-853-9889.

Change of Pace



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

It's time to bow to the inevitable, Aurora; the days of zipping around Town in our cars are over.

It's not that cars are being replaced. Despite ongoing efforts by groups like Activate Aurora to get folks walking and cycling, there are probably more cars in Town than ever before. I guess that's to be expected when the population increases by a few thousand people each year.

There are a number of factors for the general slowdown in Town.

The sheer number of cars is one. Others include a reduction in both the once-many stretches of wide-open road, as well as speed limits, and an increase in signs and signals requiring braking.

An example of this is the recent decision to reduce the speed limit on John West Way from 50 to 40 km/h.

It doesn't seem that long ago that north of Town Hall this road was bounded solely by fields and hydro corridors. It was an out of the way route with unobstructed views that did not require excess amounts of concentration behind the wheel.

Now this street is completely hemmed in by apartments, town homes, and even a playground.

New traffic signals have been added, and cars park all along the street, reducing sightlines considerably, especially along the curve by Town Hall.

There's also talk of another multi-storey residential building going in at

its intersection with Wellington, adding even more cars and pedestrians to the already congested mix.

Based on all of these factors, it makes sense to reduce the speed limit.

We may find that it'll even be a challenge doing 40 km/h.

This sort of situation is not limited to John West Way, but is happening all over Town. As the population grows and the remaining open spaces such as those between Leslie and Bayview and south along Yonge Street are filled with homes, our roads are seeing a rapid increase in traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, stop signs, calming structures, bicycles, street parking, traffic circles, driveways, hidden entrances, and of course, cars.

Even turtles are causing speed reductions, as evidenced by the electronic wildlife crossing signs for these reptiles on Henderson. I guess if they have to move slowly, so do the rest of us.

Another seasonal slowdown with which all Aurorans are well acquainted is roadwork. If one isn't braking to avoid pot holes, then you're slowing for the crews working to repair them.

And that's just maintenance. How many delays are experienced now on Leslie as it's being reconstructed? You can probably multiply those hold-ups by a bunch in the years ahead when the GO track crossings at Wellington and other locations in Town are upgraded.

Even when roads are widened to allow for more vehicle traffic, speeds are not increased, and may even be decreased.

Cars may be technologically capable of going from 0 to 60 km/h in a few seconds, but the stretches of open road in Aurora that would allow one to accelerate that fast are now few and far between.

In the grand scheme of things, a 10 km/h reduction here and there isn't much, especially when one can't accelerate to higher speeds, anyway. If anything, it only adds a minute or two to most trips around Town.

In the end, the goal is to reduce collisions and ensure pedestrian safety, and there's no arguing that.

So, when you're behind the wheel in Aurora, take a calming breath, and be prepared to slow down. Wherever you're going, you'll get there.

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

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you see a parking shortage in Aurora's historic downtown core?

Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous poll results

Do you plan to take in Concerts in the Park this summer?

RESULTS TO DATE

JULY 16, 2019

YES

14%

NO

43%

UNSURE

43%

Parking plans for Library Square up for consideration



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BLYTHACADEMYGLOBAL.CA

By Brock Weir

Parking at and around the Aurora Public Library has been a perennial concern amongst library users and other visitors to Aurora’s historic downtown core, concerns which have only been voiced louder since Council approved plans for Library Square.

But local lawmakers will be looking at new on-street parking solutions this week that could help ease the situation.

Up for consideration is a plan which could increase the number of on-street parking spaces by 21 by reconfiguring the north side of Church Street, abutting the south side of the Aurora Public Library.

This solution is one of four that were presented to the public this past spring at an open house which attracted just 15 residents.

The first option presented, according to a report before Council this week from Andria Sallesse, Senior Policy Planner for the Town of Aurora, was a “do nothing” approach that would retain existing street trees, sidewalks and other boulevard features.

“With the redevelopment of the Library Square site and removal of the existing driveways, this option could provide three to four additional on-street parking [spaces] on the north side of Church Street,” said Sallesse, noting this would bring the current complement of on-street parking up to 16 from the current 13.

A slightly different approach to the “Do Nothing” option would add a paved area on the boulevard to make way for three new on-street accessible spaces.

A secondary option, however, would see more concrete changes in the offing.

This option would remove existing boulevard treatments and street trees on the north side of Church Street, freeing up space that would then be used for lay-by parking. This option would preserve the nearby grass and heritage trees within the tree protection zone, creating a total of nine lay-by parking spaces, 11 on-street spaces, three accessible stalls, and one loading space for a total of 24.

But the third option, with a total of 21 parking spaces, is the one being recommended to Council.


“To address potential issues related to the removal of many of the existing street trees on Church Street, and introducing additional on-street parking on the south side of the street, [this option] proposes a hybrid. It removes the boulevard treatment and street trees on the north side of Church Street (west side) in front of the Library, and replaces it with lay-by parking. The boulevard treatment, including the existing street trees in front of 22 Church Street and the plaza would continue to be maintained.

“On-street parking would be provided on the southwest side of Church Street mirroring the lay-by stalls on the north side of the street. This option also limits on-street parking on the south side of Church Street in front of the existing residences. In total, Option 2B could see a total of three lay-by parking stalls, 14 on-street stalls, three accessible stalls, and one loading stall for a total of 21.”

This last option ticked the most boxes, the report notes, finding a “balance between good design, costs and accommodating additional parking demand.” While this week will tell which of the options Council will go for, Sallesse notes in the report that public feedback from each of the options received decidedly mixed reviews.

“Generally, however, participants were supportive of a design option that balanced good streetscape design, preserving existing trees, promoting walkability, and providing additional parking on Church Street and the balance of the site. Planning staff also spoke with two residents and one business owner on Church Street. While some residents on the south side of Church Street preferred the design options that did not include on-street parking in front of their properties, one of the business owners indicated that they were in favour of providing additional on-street parking for their patrons.”

If approved, the recommended parking option would cost an estimated \$93,500.



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Former Newmarket Mayor will carry Federal Liberal banner this fall



Tony Van Bynen, former Mayor of Newmarket, accepted the Newmarket-Aurora Federal Liberal nomination last week.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

Politics can often be a partisan game, but while he was Mayor of Newmarket, Tony Van Bynen was careful to take a non-partisan approach to the job.

This is a new day, however, and Mr. Van Bynen, who decided not to seek Newmarket’s top job for a fourth term last year, has decided to throw off the non-partisan mantle and take up the cause of keeping Newmarket-Aurora a Liberal red in this fall’s Federal Election.

Mr. Van Bynan was formally acclaimed Newmarket-Aurora’s Federal Liberal Candidate at a meeting of the local riding association held at the Newmarket Legion last Monday night.

Formally nominated by former Provincial cabinet minister Charles Beer and incumbent Newmarket Councillor Christina Bisanz, Mr. Van Bynen said it was time to reject “dog-whistle politics” and ensure Canada is on the right course for the middle class.

“Other parties will try to engage in dog-whistle politics that only turns neighbour against neighbour,” he said. “Let me tell you with over 20 years experience in building community, that is not how you go about it. We all must reject this [fearmongering]; the best way to build community is to invest in people and, over the last four years, the Trudeau Liberals have strengthened the middle class. The Wealthiest one per cent are paying more of their fair share of taxes, we have enhanced the Canada Pension Plan to give Canadians a secure retirement, we are supporting 40,000 new child care spaces across Canada. We have the lowest unemployment rate in 40 years and we have lowered the small business tax rates to help them grow. We’re building affordable housing with Canada’s National Housing Strategy. We’re fighting climate change through putting a price on pollution. We have made the greatest investment in science in Canadian History because we believe in science and we have taken the muzzle off of our scientists. We have made historic investments in roads, transit and bridges.

“For those and many other reasons I believe we need to build on the many achievements of the Liberal Government and elect Justin Trudeau as our Prime Minister and to keep Newmarket-Aurora Liberal.”

Indeed, that is the very reason he decided to shake off his non-partisan approach to politics.

In his business career prior to entering municipal politics, Mr. Van Bynen told supporters he has been “fiscally conservative and socially progressive.” As a municipal leader, he said if a proposal made sense and would benefit the community, he worked with officials at all levels of government to make it a reality – including outgoing MP Kyle Peterson and former MP Lois Brown, who will be his Conservative rival at the polls in October.

“So, now people would ask why, after eight years of being in elected office and being politically non-partisan would I choose to run under a party banner. That’s a fair question, and I can say to you sincerely that I haven’t changed; I’m still community-focused and willing to work with anyone with a proposal that is sensible and benefits our community,” he said. “The point is, like Doug Ford, Andrew Scheer’s proposals don’t make sense and they won’t benefit our community. I gave a lot of thought to seeking this nomination when the opportunity presented itself and I genuinely believe that the Liberal party is aligned with my values and what I believe is best for our community and for our country.

“I am genuinely concerned with the direction our country would take if an Andrew Scheer Conservative Government is allowed to go unchecked. You need only look at the last year of chaos under Doug Ford in Ontario to know what will happen. We cannot afford to allow the Conservatives to undermine and destroy the progress we have made.

“Justin Trudeau stood up to Donald Trump and he has and he will continue to stand up to that bully Doug Ford. I truly believe that if Andrew Scheer was elected that Doug Ford will rule. I am concerned about the environment and how quickly Doug Ford turned his back on it, and how quickly he committed to spend 30 million to fight Ottawa to score political points with his base. Now we have two levels of government spending tax dollars to fight each other, but there is only one taxpayer and this, in my view, is an absolute waste of public money – your money.

“I am also concerned with the devastating cuts to health care, social programs, education, environmental protection and those that we have already seen. We shouldn’t kid ourselves; there will be more to come if Andrew Scheer wins and he and Doug Ford continue to download their budgets onto our local municipalities, just like Mike Harris did 24 years ago. Do you remember what the Mike Harris cuts did to education? To the environment? To water quality? Does anyone here remember Walkerton? Long before I entered municipal politics, I took pride in my community and while in office I worked to strengthen a sense of community that we in Newmarket-Aurora could be proud of. I am concerned about how Andrew Scheer and Doug Ford will undermine the hard work that we have done to build that sense of community.”

This election, he concluded, will be “the most important election of our time,” one that will serve as the “real stamp of what Canadians think their future should be and how we should go about achieving that.

“I am excited about what we can do to make Canada and Newmarket-Aurora even better – because better is always possible.”



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St. John’s Sideroad proposal sparks traffic concerns

By Brock Weir

A proposal to build 92 single family homes on St. John’s Sideroad between Yonge and Bathurst has sparked traffic concerns from nearby residents. Applications for the development of 306, 370, 434, and 388 St. John’s Sideroad West recently came before Council at the

Public Planning level, and spurred nearly two hours of discussion between residents, developers and members of Council. It entails 92 single family detached homes over a private condominium road, a road widening, an open space block, and a stormwater management pond, straddling the line between Aurora and Newmarket.

The land is currently designated Oak Ridges Moraine Rural General and, if the proposal is ultimately approved by Council at a future General Committee meeting, it would require rezoning.

The proposal has been in the works for several months and has been circulated to stakeholders, including municipal planning staff, who have noted concerns with the development’s entrance from St. John’s Sideroad, citing the steep grade that would be required and “numerous close calls” with traffic accidents in the area.

The recent Public Planning meeting was the first time proponents and opponents had the chance to voice their views to local lawmakers, with Don Given stepping up first on behalf of the applicant.

“I think this is going to be a very attractive addition to the Town,” said Mr. Given, noting that the site has already been partially developed for different uses.

50 to 60-foot lots, he said, would make for a residential complex that would allow downsizing residents to stay in Town while the development would bring community benefits to the municipality in the form of trails and open space.

“The size of the lots will be 500 square metres and I think that is still a very large lot in today’s market,” he said. “I think it is going to be a nice addition to the quality of housing that is already in this area.”

Nearby residents, however, had a very different viewpoint.

Pierre Geoffroy, for instance, approached the podium with traffic concerns. He and his neighbours already have difficulty turning left from their side of the street onto St. John’s Sideroad and continuous traffic was a sign, he said, that the road was “overbuilt” between Leslie and Bathurst.

“There is virtually no more green space, so people like myself who moved to Aurora for the green space, we have simply run out and we’re going to run out further,” said Geoffroy. “I think the amount of building that has taken place on St. John’s Sideroad from one end to the other has dramatically impacted all of us who live there. There is traffic, traffic, traffic. 92 homes plus the years of building and the dirt that we have had to endure at the end of St. John’s and at Leslie, it is not acceptable. We can’t do this again and again. We have been here for twelve years, lived through Davis Drive construction, lived through Yonge Street, lived through Leslie and St. John’s. Enough, I say. We have had enough construction. No more. This is impacting us who have been here for a great number of years. [All] I have seen is destroying the

beautiful fields. There are no more cows, there are no more horses. The hills have been taken away from Leslie Street. It is a disaster, it’s a nightmare, and now what is being proposed is more houses, more destruction, more traffic, more noise. Enough, I say. Stop this project.”

These views were echoed by Nella Mauceri who rejected a proposal brought forward by Mr. Given that just one entrance, from the previously floated two, would help negate any negative traffic impact.

“The solution is having no entrances to St. John’s,” she said. “The road is extremely congested, it is impossible for me to make a left-hand turn in the morning, I take my life into my hands. Every time our children cross St. John’s to access the south side I am constantly worried someone is going to die. As a former coroner for York Region I have investigated many motor vehicle fatalities and I am going to tell you empirically that it is only a matter of time before somebody dies on St. John’s. It is a very dangerous road and adding another 96 homes is not the solution. It is going to make the problem ten times worse.”

Neighbours’ worries were noted by Council, which ultimately decided to defer the application to a future General Committee (GC) meeting for further discussion.

“On the one hand, it comes down to a quality of life issue for you and your reality on the ground, and you certainly expressed that to your Council,” Councillor Wendy Gaertner told members of the public. “Looking at the Official Plan policies and zoning bylaws that are in place for this area, it is clear that this area was not intended for intensification of this kind. Anything that happens on this land is not only going to effect you and your immediate quality of life, it is also going to affect the environment and quality of life for all of us and I think we need to be very careful about how we develop the land you will be living in.”

Councillor Sandra Humfries told the proponents and the public she felt larger more “executive estate lots” were more suitable for the area, while Councillor Michael Thompson said he wasn’t sure larger lots, leading to a lesser number of homes, would satisfy residents’ concerns.

“I think it is our duty to give the opportunity for the applicant to hear those concerns and for us to have staff work with them and how we can address those concerns and move forward in a win-win situation,” added Mayor Tom Mrakas. “I think it is our duty to look at how we can do this properly, address the concerns of our residents, ensure our Town grows in an appropriate manner and is not over-developed. We have heard loud and clear that if some of the changes and some of those concerns aren’t addressed, it probably won’t pass at GC. Hopefully we can all work together and we can come to that compromise and find something that is suitable for our community and the applicant themselves as well.”

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Vegan Expo York 2019 brings an alternative lifestyle to light

By Adam Vanderkoff

The Aurora Public Library was the place to be this past Saturday for vegans and animal lovers alike. Hosted by York Friends of Animals, the very first Vegan Expo York brought together local vendors, passionate speakers, and some delicious food.

Proceeds of the event will be distributed among various organizations and initiatives with one common goal; the protection and conservation of animals.

The event proved very successful with countless visitors coming throughout the day. Many had already claimed a vegan lifestyle, but there were also those who were simply interested in what it means to be vegan.

This information was provided by the enthusiastic and enlightening vendors who shared their own experiences of switching to a plant-based lifestyle.

“If we can educate the public, I think that is the biggest takeaway” said Kyle Bowles on behalf of York Friends of Animals. “People are getting very engaged in this, so I think there is an appetite to learn more about the message...about the environmental issues, the ecological issues, and the ethical issues that surround this,” he added.

The vendors provided a variety of products that kept visitors interested and engaged. Examples included cosmetics, soaps, winter jackets, cutlery, purses, and ethical vegan cuisine. Products certified as vegan, contain no animal ingredients and are not tested on animals; they are labeled cruelty free.

*It makes me so proud
and excited
but most of all,
it makes me hopeful*

“When I found out we were doing the first (Vegan Expo) in York Region I really wanted to support it,” said Helen Snell on behalf of vegan health and skincare company Arbonne.

Not only are the products themselves environmentally friendly, many companies have implemented packaging that is recyclable and biodegradable in order to match the vegan lifestyle. “All of our packaging is either paper, glass, or aluminum” stated Michele Sauv  of Gridley’s Herbs and Aroma Therapy.

One booth featured hosts Sue Spahr and Alec Bosse, who run an internet show titled “Calling All Vegans”.

This show promotes a vegan lifestyle by discussing issues and interviewing activists and business owners. “[Being a vegan] is recognizing and being aware of the sentience and rights of animals and then trying to live our lives with that in mind,” said Alec.

Added Sue: “It’s not that you give anything up, you actually gain something. Its empowering and you just feel better about yourself.

“It makes me so proud and excited but most of all, it makes me hopeful,” said guest speaker Alice Melissa, founder of Vegans 4 Life. “(Vegan Expo) is a great place if you are

curious about plant-based options or you have just recently decided that you want to eliminate all animal products from your diet,” she added.

Alice noted that the growth of veganism has become a key decision-making factor for many large food corporations. “What I’ve seen year after year, is a growth in the mass of

people that are coming out to these events.”

The future for Vegan Expo York is bright as York Friends of Animals plans to continue communicating and promoting a plant-based lifestyle all across the York Region with the help of other businesses and organizations.



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Newmarket, ON L3Y 2N1
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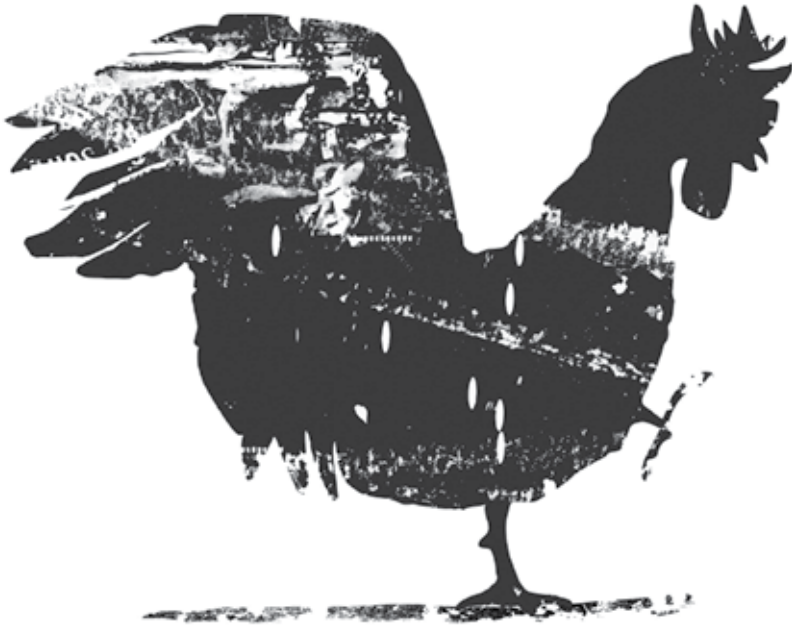


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American Rogues offer stirring Celtic sounds – with a twist – at Wednesday’s Concerts in the Park

By Brock Weir

The stirring sounds of bagpipes can

evoke different feelings in different people, but they might stir something unexpected this Wednesday as American Rogues hit Aurora.



Contributed Photo

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The band, a blend of Canadian and American musicians, will take over the bandshell at Town Park as Aurora’s Concerts in the Park summer series continues.

Offering a mix of Celtic, rock, roots, military and classical music, the show offers something for everyone – including music heard on television shows like Game of Thrones and Outlander.

With its roots in the United States, the first Canadian to join what is now American Rogues was Hamilton-based musician Nelson Stewart. The band was then based in Texas and he brought not only his voice to the group but his skill with the strings.

Until that point, the band was primarily pipes and drums, but he offered a different kind of Celtic flair.

“I started playing Celtic music when I was at McMaster University back in the late 1980s and early 1990s,” Mr. Stewart tells The Auran. Despite being of Irish, Scottish and Welsh descent, Mr. Stewart was actually raised on Italian, Polish and German music, so Celtic was a bit of a change of pace – and there was also a bit of a learning curve.

“When I joined the original version of the band, that’s when I really started to appreciate the bagpipes, the power it brings to the music,” he says. “It was my heritage, but it was actually discovered in university.”

It was discovered in university, but that interest was always in the back of his mind, he explains.

“We knew we had Scottish blood in us, but our Scottish grandmother died when I was little so I didn’t really get to know her too well and my Irish grandfather died before I was even born, so it was talked about in our house, but we weren’t like Mike Meyers’ house where they had tartan hanging on the walls. My sister and I more discovered it on our own, but it was the sound. I am really drawn to the sound of the pipes. It is the power of the warrior music.”

The mission of the American Rogues is “to make our sounds as epic as possible.”

“I want you to feel you’re on a movie set,” he says, adding that one of their most popular pieces is The Gael, which served as the theme for the film The Last of the Mohicans, starring Daniel Day Lewis.

“It’s all about trying to appeal to as many people as possible and have as many ebbs and flows as possible in a show; at one point you can be just sitting there with your eyes closed awash in the music, and then other times people just can’t help themselves, they’re up on their feet dancing. The Gael has those highs and lows, starting off slowly with just one drum playing and then it builds and then the drums drop out and we build it back up. By then, there are three or four drummers playing, the bagpipes are going, the accordion, the fiddle. It was the centrepiece of a [recent] show and by the time we were done we had 14 people playing, including those giant Japanese drums behind us. It was amazing and people loved it. That’s a fan favourite, but I think when you have all these driving jigs and reels, it is nice for people to take a break and just sit back and listen to the music.

“I want people to go away feeling they have experienced as much as possible, emotionally.”

Concerts in the Park take place at Town Park each Wednesday through August. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. For more information, including the full lineup, visit www.aurora.ca.



CONCERTS IN THE PARK



Aurora's Concerts in the Park is in full swing! The series kicked off, right column, on Wednesday, July 3, with the Marquee Travelling Troup. A collection of performances by young performers with Marquee Theatrical Productions, the kick-off concert event was designed for kids and families and featured performances from Marquee productions of The Little Mermaid and Matilda. The series continued last Wednesday, July 10, with Nickelback – A Tribute to Nickelback, which filled Town Park. Concerts continue at Town Park each Wednesday through to the end of August. Performances run from 7 – 9 p.m.

Aurora photos by Glenn Rodger

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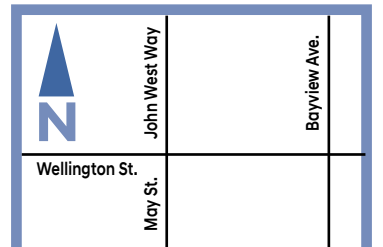
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Cultural Centre staff “excited” over Library Square possibilities

By Brock Weir

Excitement is in the air on the development of Library Square, according to Suzanne Haines, Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre, but, for members of the public, there are still some unanswered questions.

As The Auroran reported last week, current tenants of the Church Street School – including the Aurora Cultural Centre and the Aurora Museum & Archives – will have to find temporary new homes as a significant addition is built onto the historic building as one of the centrepieces of Library Square, but Ms. Haines says it will all be worth it in the end.

“The process is not complete, there is still work that Town Staff are doing, that consultants are doing, reports that still have to go to Council over the next series of months, but I would say it is very exciting; it is very exciting to hear from the people who are coming in, who are discovering [Library Square] for perhaps the very first time and thinking, ‘This is an amazing investment!’” says Ms. Haines. “There are others who are maybe a bit more leery on how it is going to be paid for and what it means for what we have right now.

“The amazing news is this is a vision and a bold idea to create cultural infrastructure for this community, that what has been built here through literary arts at the Aurora Public Library, what we have been doing here at the Cultural Centre, and through the Aurora Historical Society and the work they have been doing over a longer period of time, there is an investment and interest in growing this area.”

At the end of the day, Ms. Haines says the Centre’s Board and staff are “really supportive” of the Library Square project because it will “generate more

activity, more opportunity for artists, more opportunity for the community to be involved in culture,” and bring about more programming opportunities for concerts, live performances and educational programming for the community.

“It is all about what we can activate and build that is cultural,” she says. “It will inspire artists to be part of this community and that creates a very creative and transformative narrative. People will look at this and say, ‘if the municipality is invested in culture, this may be a place for me: a place to create, to live, to share my voice, and what I am trying to create.’ There is a grander opportunity for that to happen.”

The Aurora Cultural Centre recently completed a new strategic plan and, within that plan, there was going to be an increased focus on performing and visual arts and encouraging more professional work to come through the building. The plan also looks at opportunities to grow, forge partnerships within the Aurora community and “break out” of their four walls. While their temporary two-year relocation starting in 2020 will certainly help them get beyond the walls of the Church Street School, it will also give them time to brainstorm the role the Centre can play in making the finished product of Library Square a resounding success.

Questions still linger on the perennial issue of parking in the area, she says, an issue which is set to be examined by Council this week, along with questions on who will ultimately operate Library Square once it is complete, but they are focused on the future.

“We’re trusting the process and because of the collaborative nature of how we have been working with the Town, we’re very confident we’re going to be able to have that conversation with the Town on what that looks like,” says



Suzanne Haines, Executive Director of the Aurora Cultural Centre, looks out the window of Brevik Hall onto the site of Library Square.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Ms. Haines on the future operations. “Does it change the Aurora Cultural Centre entity? I don’t know at this point.

“There is also a question about the name. ‘Library Square’, as a name, has been around for a very long time. This area has been called that for a long time. Certainly a question on whether that should remain or whether it should be called something new, given the fact it is more than just the Library there, is something that is out of my control but it is [feedback] I have heard. [The Centre and the Library] have been partners for years on that programming and continue that narrative and conversation with Bruce Gorman (CEO of the Aurora Public Library) on who is going to occupy and use that space. The whole area is getting this cultural infrastructure update and upgrade and I think that is going to benefit all of the

stakeholders that are here.

“The Board has spent an enormous amount of time on this, and rightly so, because the impacts are important for our organization and for the entire community. What I loved about the last time the Board got together to talk about it, the very first question that was asked was, how do we help make this project successful? What are the tenets that are necessary for it to be successful for the community, for the community outcome being the best it possibly can? What a great way to think about this project. I have a lot of appreciation for that approach. It is about collaboration, it is about partnership, it’s about growing something, where that is not always the way change can be perceived. It can be scary for some. That is not how we’re viewing it here, which is exciting and rewarding for staff.”



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Reserve regiments get federal boost at Simcoe Armoury



Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime, announced the Federal Government's support for Reservists at the Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe Armoury last Thursday.

By Brock Weir

Reservists are expected to be in tip-top shape, fully skilled and ready to go – just as full-time service persons. But being a reservist is a part-time gig with many personnel holding down additional full-time jobs until they're called to serve.

These reservists – including the Aurora-based Queen's York Rangers regiment – received a welcome boost Thursday morning at the Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe Armoury on Industrial Parkway South when the Federal Government announced the awarding of multiple multimillion-dollar contracts that will enhance resources available to Canada's Army Reserves and equipping them for new future roles.

In addition to new Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicles (TAPV), the contracts, as announced by Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction on behalf of the Minister of National Defence, includes \$2 million for new night vision devices and two contracts totalling \$29 million for gas masks, providing improved filter, vision, hydration and breathing capabilities.

"Reserve units like yourselves support local and international communities in times of need," Blair told members of the Queen's York Rangers (QYR) while

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

paying specific attention to their relief work this past spring following significant flooding in central and northern Ontario. "Thank you for your steadfast service to our communities and to our country. We also know that you often deploy overseas to help manage crises, sometimes with very little notice, at considerable sacrifice [from] your families."

"Perhaps the most impressive part of all of this is you do this in the reserves while maintaining a career outside the military. Although you might be part-time service members, there is nothing part-time about your dedication and your devotion to your country. You deserve and will always receive our full support, and that is why Canada's Defence Policy – Strong, Secure and Engaged – was developed with you in mind. It provides a new vision for the reserve force, a vision that will see reservists be fully integrated into the total force."

As part of this vision, Reserve Units have been assigned new roles and responsibilities that will deliver specific capabilities to the Canadian Armed Forces. Mission Tasks have now been assigned to every unit and, according to the Ministry, encompass a wide-range of functions, both current and future, that have a clear impact on Canadian Armed Forces Operations. As such, there will be increased

training opportunities for reservists in the fields of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons, as well as reconnaissance, "detecting and monitoring contamination and surveying and marking contaminated zones."

"You will do these tasks effectively only if you have the right equipment," Blair told QYR members. "[This is why] we're replacing the current gas masks with 62,000 modern respirators better suited to the evolving security environment. Thanks to all the research and testing that went into this advanced mask, you will be able to see better, to drink more easily, and you can breathe easier now knowing that the upgraded filter will protect you against modern toxic materials"

"The majority of [the night vision equipment] devices are destined for the armoured reserve this fall and will give you an advantage in limited or even no light conditions. Whether negotiating terrain, identifying targets, recognizing friendly forces or threats, these new night vision devices will allow us to see more effectively than ever before. We have delivered 500 tactical armoured patrol vehicles at bases across the country."

The Government, he added, recognizes the "evolving roles and responsibilities" of reservists as members of the Canadian Armed Forces and their "critical" importance to national

security. This recognition can be found in new policies aligning the pay received by reservists with the salary of full-time servicepersons "who do the same work and where the demands upon members are actually quite similar."

Thursday's announcement was welcomed by Queen's York Rangers Commanding Officer Lt. Col. James J. Stocker. Speaking to the new tasks assigned the QYR, Stocker said their task is to "produce a formed troop of soldiers, fully integrated and cross-trained with regular force counterparts."

"While the tasks themselves range widely from light open search and rescue to a mortar platoon, to cyber defence, they are all specific and they all require a specific operational outlet," he said. "While the reserves have a proud history of support to operations, both overseas and domestic, and I would note that a number of the soldiers here in this room are recently returned from Atlantis, our flood relief operations, the new mission tasks mean that the reserve units are responsible to produce a formed body of soldiers, trained in these new skillsets, and in support of Canada's defence operation and defence objectives."

The Queen's York Rangers' first such overseas deployment, an entirely reserve mortar platoon, will deploy to Latvia in February.

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Photo: Shannon, Faith & Priscilla – Canada Summer Jobs Students

Summer Jobs

The Canada Summer Jobs Program in Newmarket-Aurora, provides funding to local employers to create quality summer jobs for youth ages 15 to 30.

Hospice is extremely grateful to MP Kyle Peterson for assisting in securing three students to help in our important work. Shannon has made a special impact on our residents and their families. Her compassionate manner and comforting hugs make #hospicemoments each and every day. Faith has been greeting visitors and helping to show them that a residential hospice is a warm and inviting place where there is much love and caring. She also reminds us that a simple smile expresses what words cannot. Priscilla has focused her passion for cooking into wonderful homemade comfort foods in our kitchen and welcomes families to feed their bodies and their souls. We are blessed to have these ladies join us and know that they have made a great impact in their time with us.

Our Volunteers

“Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”

Ann Boden, knows this all too well. Ann has connected with hundreds of caring people as she finds the perfect volunteer role for them at Hospice. Ann shines in matching a gentle soul to visit each of our many community clients who are living with a life threatening illness. She also ensures they are trained and supported each step of the way, whether they are in our kitchen baking treats or writing legacy stories at the bedside.

The Volunteer Services program at Margaret Bahen Residential Hospice & Doane House Community Hospice is supported in part by the generous contributions of Bingo World Newmarket.



Photo: Ann Boden, Coordinator Volunteer Services

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Save the date for Doors Open Aurora 2019

The Town of Aurora and the Heritage Advisory Committee are once again preparing to celebrate our popular Doors Open Aurora Event. This year, Doors Open Aurora features fourteen sites.

Many sites feature historical buildings built in Aurora, or provide unique experiences tied to nature, art or culture.

The 14th Annual Doors Open Aurora event will take place on Saturday, August 17 with most sites open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to explore fourteen fascinating sites in your own backyard. Participation is free! No tickets or reservations are required. Just come out and join thousands of visitors exploring Aurora's hidden treasures, some of which are not normally open to the public.

Discover historic buildings, cultural landmarks and natural sites. Doors Open Aurora is part of the Doors Open Ontario initiative, a community-based celebration that showcases Ontario's built and natural heritage for residents and visitors alike.

The first Doors Open Day Event was held in France in 1984. In 2000, the City of Toronto launched the first Doors Open event in North America.

In 2002, Doors Open Ontario, the first province-wide event of its kind in Canada, was launched by the Ontario Heritage Trust. Doors Open Aurora began in 2006. Since then, hundreds of sites of significant historical character have opened their doors and hosted more than 36,000 visits.

Start your Doors Open day at the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair located on Wells Street in Town Park. Enjoy some of Aurora's seasonal fruits and vegetables, baked goods, handmade jewellery and other crafts. Come early and visit the Doors Open Aurora headquarters located at Town Park to pick-up your Map Guide.

New to this year's Doors Open Aurora 2019 lineup is, the Aurora Borealis Orthodontics site featuring the world's only Star Trek themed Orthodontic Office, filled with screen-used props from all of the Star Trek television series and motion pictures.

The office has gathered worldwide attention and has been featured on CTV and the Space Channel, while also showcased in a myriad of magazines and blogs. During your experience in the office, you will encounter Federation, Klingon, and other alien weaponry and technology, medical devices, PADDS, Borg drones

and alcove, concept art, ships, and yes, even Tribbles, all of which were screen-used.

Also new to Doors Open this year is the Harmony, Heritage, and Haunts Walking Tour. Gifted storyteller and community advocate David Heard will take you on this one-of-a-kind walking tour featuring incredible scary accounts, and the fantastic music connection Aurora has to some global names in the industry. Don't miss the debut of this fun and exciting tour. There will only be one tour, which departs at 10 a.m. from the Doors Open Headquarters in Town Park.

Visitor favourites including the Church Street School, Merlin's Hollow, The Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, The Hillary House and Hillary House Barn are back!

Be sure to visit the Church Street School, constructed circa 1885 in the late Victorian architectural style, which will feature a variety of family friendly events. Join the Scarborough Model Railroaders at the Church Street School and enjoy a model railroad display-Toronto's only dual-scale model railroad club (formed in 1962). Merlin's Hollow contains four unique gardens, including a rock and water garden that has been featured

on CBC and HGTV. Hillary House, Aurora's National Historic Site, noted for its long-standing presence in the community and association with medical history, will also be featured.

The Patrick House will be back again! Former home of famous architect John Bowser, this home exhibits a Georgian Cottage architectural style. The Patrick House will feature displays of art by local artisans during the Doors Open event. Also returning is the Victoria Hall site. Originally built in 1883 for the local Disciples of Christ Congregation, this site will feature the Aurora Poets Society hosted by founder Artist & Poet Deborah Campo. Come out and enjoy a delightful day of poetry, music and storytelling.

Also included are the Aurora Public Library, Mami's Bakery, and Theatre Aurora.

This is the first of a series of articles that will be published in The Auroran. Each article will feature participating sites, activities and historical information.

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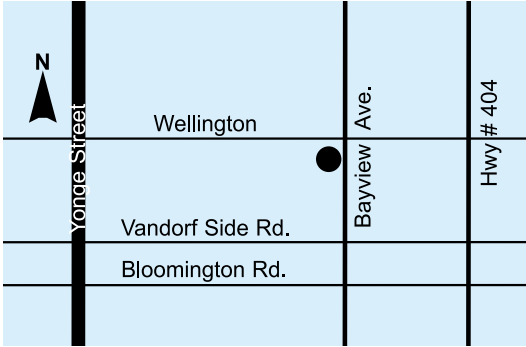
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FREE

Week of July 18, 2019



Thomas to bring Stanley Cup home to Aurora



Aurora's Robert Thomas is bring the Stanley Cup to Aurora on July 29.

Contributed photo

By Jake Courtepatte

Hockey's most prized possession is coming to town.

Aurora native Robert Thomas, of the NHL's St. Louis Blues, will have his day with the Stanley Cup on July 29.

In a partnership with the Junior A Aurora Tigers organization, as well as with the Town of Aurora, Lord Stanley's mug will be open to the public just over one month after Thomas' Blues bested the Boston Bruins in the 2019 Stanley Cup final.

"Robert is very excited to bring the Cup back home and can't wait to share his special day with all those who helped him along the way," reads a release on the Aurora Tigers official website.

"A large turnout is expected for Robert Thomas' Stanley Cup celebration, so fans are encouraged to arrive early! Food and special interactive activities will be set up for all fans to participate in! See you July 29th!"

The festivities are set to kick off at 11 a.m. at Machell Park, scheduled to wrap up around 3 p.m. Thomas and the prized possession are set to arrive around 1 p.m.

The 20-year old St. Louis Blues prospect was honoured in October of 2018 at the Mayor's Breakfast of Champions as the 2018 Athlete of the Year, sponsored by Sport Aurora.

A staple in the York-Simcoe Express AAA minor system from a young age, the Canadian hockey world first caught a glimpse of Thomas on the gold medal winning Team Canada at the 2018 IIHF Under-20 World Championship in January.

The 2017 first-round draft pick of the St. Louis Blues capped off an incredible Ontario Hockey League season as the leading scorer of the Hamilton Bulldogs, leading to hearing

his name called as the league's Most Valuable Player following the Bulldogs championship title in May of last year.

Thomas was leading the OHL's London Knights in scoring when he was traded to the Bulldogs in a blockbuster in January, setting up Hamilton for their successful run.

Though the Bulldogs were forced to give up a promising prospect, four second round draft picks, and a third-round pick to acquire the prized centre-man, the Aurora native led his team the remainder of the season in putting up four goals and 25 assists in 22 games with his new club.

He spent the better part of three OHL seasons with the Knights, catching the eye of scouts after a successful stint in the York-Simcoe Express minor system and with the St. Andrew's Saints varsity squad.



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York9 FC shines in biggest match in club history



Morey Doner cuts up the field with the ball in York9 FC’s 2 - 2 tie with Montreal Impact on Wednesday.

Photo courtesy of York9 FC

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144 WELLINGTON STREET EAST

By Jake Courtepatte

It was history in the making at York Lions Stadium last Wednesday, and the York9 FC squad stepped up to the task.

The first meeting ever between a Canadian Premier League team and a Major League Soccer team ended up in a surprising 2 – 2 tie, the first leg of the third round of the Canadian Championship tournament.

“They will be talking about this one 15 years down the line, sitting there with their buddies saying ‘ah, remember that night against Montreal’,” head coach Jimmy Brennan said post-match. “I’m so proud, watching them today. Seeing them fighting for one another, not backing down. 94th minute they were still at it.”

A scoreless first half led into York9 falling behind 1 – 0 in the 62nd minute, with the MLS squad taking an expected lead.

Yet York9 found a way to crawl back twenty minutes later in the match, with Ryan Telfer volleying in the equalizer. Rodrigo Gattas converted on a well-placed corner kick late in the match and looked to be the hero for the home squad, though an ill-timed penalty in the box in extra time allowed Montreal to tie the game on a penalty kick.

Despite the late equalizer, Brennan and his team were elated with the results in such a historic moment.

“There are special moments you

need to cherish and as a footballer, these are the games you want to play in,” said Brennan.

The York squad continued their solid play back into Canadian Premier League action on Sunday, opening up the fall half of the season with a 2 – 1 win over FC Edmonton.

“We knew it was going to be a difficult game,” said Brennan after the match. “I knew how much (Wednesday) took out of the boys. Coming in they were going to be heavy, fatigued, and you could see it in spells today. It showed the character and the resilience to grind through.”

“It wasn’t the most pretty game. Normally we’ve got that ball moving all over the park, gave it away a little too easy at times. We went to press, weren’t pressing in numbers. You could see we were looking a little tired. That’s why we dropped off. We had to adjust during the game. It was a great team effort by the boys, I couldn’t be more proud of them grinding away.”

Kyle Porter took the home side into the halftime with his first goal of the season, while Ryan Telfer provided the game winner to end Edmonton’s four game winning streak.

“Good teams find a way to win and that’s what we did today.”

York9 returns to action on Sunday in visiting Calgary’s Cavalry FC in a regular season meeting, while the second leg of the Canadian Championship matchup with Montreal Impact goes Wednesday, July 24, at Stade Saputo in Montreal.

Investigation continues into fatal collision

FROM PAGE 1

The driver, a 33-year-old Aurora man was not injured and remained at the scene.

Police declined to elaborate on the circumstances of the collision due to the ongoing investigation, which shut down Wellington Street West until just after 1 a.m. on Tuesday morning.

Police are appealing to any witnesses who have not yet spoken to police, or

anyone who may have dashcam footage of the collision.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police’s Major Collision Investigation Unit by calling 1-866-876-5423 x7704, or to call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS. Anonymous tips can also be left online at www.1800222TIPS.com.

Updates to this story will be posted to theauroran.com.

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For over 40 years Ted Barris’ writing has appeared in the Globe and Mail and the National Post as well as in a wide range of magazines. He has also worked as host/ contributor for most CBC Radio programs and on TV Ontario. He recently retired as a full-time professor of journalism and broadcasting at Centennial College for the past 18 years.

Ted is the author of 19 bestselling non-fiction books, the latest of which, ***Dam Busters: Canadian Airmen and the Secret Raid against Nazi Germany***. It recounts the dramatic story of the May 16, 1943 high-risk Allied Bomber Command mission to fly 19 Lancaster bombers with 133 airmen into the industrial heartland of the Third Reich to destroy power dams on the Ruhr River.

The raiders breached two dams and severely damaged a third. Eleven of the Lancasters made it back as did 16 of the 30 RCAF airmen who participated.

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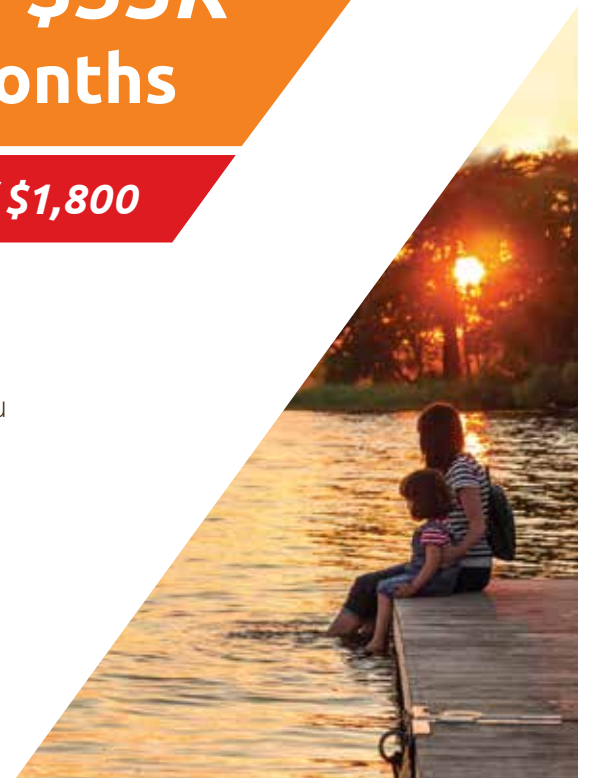
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Foundation provides therapy funding for bereaved kids

From page 1
Tuesday as the organization took over Aurora’s Air Riderz Trampoline Park to raise over \$20,000 for local therapy programs.

William’s mother (and assistant coach), Helen Garrett, was on hand last week. A volunteer with the foundation since its inception, she said the organization means a lot to her.

“I have children myself and my heart breaks for Jennifer, I just couldn’t even imagine,” said Helen. “The fact she is trying to give back to the community even though she lost her own children has a big impact on me.”

Indeed, their story has had a big impact on the community over the last three-and-a-half years, including York Regional Police Constable Andy Pattenden. Working closely with the family in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, they are bonds that have endured and when Ms. Neville-Lake decided to honour her family’s memory by establishing the foundation, Mr. Pattenden was quick to join her efforts as a Board member.

“I have been with the Neville-Lake family ever since the tragedy back in 2015,” said Constable Pattenden. “My role as a media relations officer with the YRP brought me with the family, but there was just so much more there and the connection was so strong. I really wanted to use my skills and abilities to help Jennifer out to bring this organization to life, and now it is my passion – it’s the work I do outside of my real job and a night like this is amazing. We see everyone come together and have a great time, knowing the difference this money is going to make in the lives of kids. That’s why we do it.”

Last week’s event in Aurora was the second annual Family Fun Day.

In the twelve months since Many Hands, Doing Good’s launch at a similar event in Richmond Hill, the organization has grown significantly and has helped a growing number of children.

“We have had feedback from parents who have seen a noticeable difference

in their kids after receiving therapy, primarily with music therapy,” says Constable Pattenden. “They have been kind enough to write us letters [telling us] that the therapy, which they couldn’t pay for themselves, has helped their child immensely and that is the reward for all of us doing this.

“We’re trying to work with various organizations [in the fields of music and art therapy] to raise awareness that this funding exists and that is really what our goal has been in the last couple of years, and we have done a really good job of that. Now, we’re also looking at scholarship opportunities at Centennial College for people who are looking to get into radio broadcasting because that was Gary Neville’s passion. We’re branching out, the more people that are aware of this funding exists, the more applications we’re going to get in and the more money we can give out.”

The July 9 Family Fun Day came just a day after what would have been Harrison’s ninth birthday. He was killed at the age of five, alongside Daniel, nine, and Milly, 2.

Since the inception of Many Hands, Doing Good, Constable Pattenden says mom Jennifer has been left “overwhelmed” by how the community has embraced the cause, helping others while keeping the memories of her father and children alive.

“She was overwhelmed way back in 2015 with the outpouring of support from the community and that is really how this organization got started: there was money left over from the Go Fund Me accounts people had put together and she wanted to use it to help other children,” said Constable Pattenden. “The donations and the community support just keep pouring in. It is allowing us to grow and do so much more and help so many more people. She is overwhelmed at the ongoing support from the community.”

For more information on Many Hands, Doing Good, visit manyhandsdoinggood.ca.

New single honours Neville-Lake children, grandfather

By Andy Pattenden

Northwest Territories (NWT) folk artist, Abe Drennan and Los Angeles based singer/songwriter, producer Jason Manns, along with the not-for-profit organization, Many Hands Doing Good released their new single, titled “Spirits Soared” on July 8.

The song was written to commemorate the lives of Daniel, 9, Harrison, 5 and Milly, 2, as well as their grandfather, Gary Neville who were killed in a car crash caused by a drunk driver on September 27, 2015, in Vaughan.

Drennan, a family friend of the Neville-Lakes remembers seeing a video online of the children dancing and playing together.

He recalls, “The music playing in the background of the video had a lyric with the word paradise, this was the moment that the song began to form.”

He felt the tragedy and the injustice were so great that he was compelled to capture the joy of the children, the love of their grandfather and bring attention to the issue of drinking and driving in the song. He first recorded the tune in his kitchen in Inuvik, Northwest Territories in November 2015.

Upon sharing it with the family, the aunt of the children and daughter of Gary Neville, Josephine Neville, was determined to help share the song with the world.

Josephine called her friend Jason Manns to produce the single EP for her. She set up a recording session in Inuvik between Abe Drennan and Jason Manns.

Manns made the trek to Inuvik in the Western Arctic in the spring of 2016. Never having met before, Drennan and Manns spent a weekend in the iconic Iglu Church in Inuvik recording Spirits

Soared.

Drennan was also working on a full-length album, titled “The Iglu Sessions” at the time and by the end of the weekend, Manns had agreed to produce the full album and the single.

The two became fast friends and began a journey in April 2016 that culminated with the release of the single on July 8, and will be followed by the release of the full Iglu Sessions album on August 1.

Drennan hopes that the proceeds of the single will help Many Hands, Doing Good accomplish some of its goals in the future and bring a measure of peace to the family and to those who have suffered great loss. Download the single at: store.cdbaby.com/cd/abedrennan2.

The not-for-profit organization Many Hands, Doing Good was born from the community response to an unspeakable tragedy. The strength and support that the community came forward with, ignited the desire to give back to that same community in a way that would reinforce the passions of Milagros, Harrison, Daniel and Gary. Milagros’ love for music. Harrison’s ingenuity and creativity for art.

Daniel’s passion and perseverance for dance. Gary’s fascination with everything broadcasting. These are passions that help inspire people to create a positive presence in our community. Their mission is to nurture and inspire children and students who have suffered the effects of trauma through art, dance and music.

Abe is a Canadian Folk Singer as well as an educator and avid crusader for social and environmental awareness. He resides in the beautiful town of Inuvik, Canada nestled over 100 miles into the Arctic Circle.

For more information, visit www.abedrennan.com.



(Left) Many Hands, Doing Good volunteer Helen Garrett with Board Member Andy Pattenden. (Right) Kids, including Rhys, had fun at Air Riderz. **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**



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