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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 20 No. 21 905-727-3300 TheAuroran.com FREE Week of March 12, 2020 

MAKING A SPLASH




Coaches, parents and friends joined local Special Olympics athletes at the York Regional Police Association on Thursday night for the annual Polar Plunge, an annual event which raises thousands for Special Olympics programs in our communities. From left: Shelley Reid, the Banks family, Jeremy Reid, Coach Dan Banks, and Theresa Conrad. For more, see Page 18.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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Rental housing development clears first Council hurdle

By Brock Weir

New purpose-built rental units are often cited as a missing piece of Aurora's housing puzzle, but a proposed new development on Wellington Street West might help fill some of the gaps. Sitting at the Committee level last week, Council signed off on a zoning bylaw amendment that could help pave the way for nearly 60 new rental

units at 145 and 147 Wellington Street West. If ratified by Council later this month, the next phase of the planning process will begin. Property owners have proposed a new infill development on a site which is already home to two multi-unit residential buildings. The plan is for 53 new rental townhouse units to be built to complement of the existing buildings. "When this application was originally submitted to the Town

[there were] 64 units to be constructed on the site," T.J. Cieciora, Principal Planner and President of Starlight Investment, told Council last week. "The new proposal, as revised through the process, and after extensive consultation with the public, has been revised down to 53 new townhouse dwellings, in addition to the existing apartment units, for a total of 260 units that would be on site."

Continued on page 7

Municipal Service Board rejected as option to run Library Square

By Brock Weir

The question of just how Library Square will operate once the multimillion-dollar redevelopment project is completed still remains unanswered, but last week's General Committee meeting went one step towards clarifying the matter. Councillors rejected the possibility of establishing a Municipal Service Board (MSB) to oversee the

Continued on page 16



FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Aurora native Kate Greavette has taken the helm of the York Region Food Network and is spearheading a number of initiatives to challenge local ideas on food supply and food insecurity. For more, see Page 9.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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TOWN OF AURORA Notice Board



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, March 12	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Week of March 16 - No Meetings			
Tuesday, March 24	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, March 24	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee
Thursday, March 26	6 p.m.	Council Chambers	Aurora Appeal Tribunal
Thursday, March 26	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Community Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 31	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, March 31	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council

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

What's Happening

Notice of service disruption

Please see below for a scheduled service disruption at the **Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC)**:

- The SARC pool will be closed from **Monday, March 23 to Friday, March 27**. Please review the AFLC pool schedule for available times during this closure.

Please see below for a scheduled service disruption at the **Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC)**:

- The Spirit of Math Rock Climbing Wall will be closed from **March 23 to March 25** for annual maintenance. Rock Climbing drop-in on **March 24** has been cancelled.

We apologize for any inconvenience. For more information, visit aurora.ca/notices.

Stay busy during March Break. Register now for camp!

Stay busy during this March Break. The Town of Aurora has many activities and programs for everyone in your family to enjoy.

Visit aurora.ca/marchbreak and check out our recreation schedule for the week of **Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 20**.

To register for camps, visit aurora.ca/campprograms.

March Break Mania at the Aurora Public Library

Looking for some awesome things to do with your kids during March Break? Aurora Public Library has many activities lined up. For example, check out **Mad Science - Up, Up and Away!** on **Friday, March 20**, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. This activity is free drop-in for all ages.



The Mad Scientist will make a hot air balloon out of a dry cleaning bag, create a Dinosaur Sneeze and demonstrate how pressure can be used to create special effects in the movies!

For more information and to see a full listing, please visit aurorapl.ca.

What's Happening

Seniors' Active Living Fair on March 28

The Seniors' Active Living Fair will be taking place on **Saturday, March 28** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Admission is free. Enjoy exhibitors, fitness demonstrations, health seminars, grab bags and more.

Visit aurora.ca/seniorsservices for more information.

Club Aurora Wellness Seminars

Register today for Club Aurora's Wellness Seminar - Fitness Machines 101. Session date is **Sunday, March 15**.

Register today for Club Aurora's Wellness Seminar - Postural Care. Session date is **Thursday, March 26**.

For more information, visit aurora.ca/fitness.

John West Memorial "Leaders of Tomorrow" Scholarship Award

The Town of Aurora is currently looking for youth candidates entering post-secondary school who have made a positive impact on the community. You could win \$1,000 with our John West Memorial Scholarship.

Application deadline is **Friday, May 1**. For more information visit aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow.

Register for Spring 2020 Aquatics Programs

Aurora residents can now register online or in-person for our Spring Aquatics programs.

Please check out the *Spring & Summer 2020 Program Guide* at aurora.ca/recguide.

Register now for spring & summer 2020 recreation programs & summer camps

Registration is now open online or in-person for our exciting spring & summer recreation programs. In addition, you can also register for your favourite summer camps.

Please check out the *Spring & Summer 2020 Program Guide* for details or visit aurora.ca/recguide.

Summer camps open house

Join us at our summer camps open house at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on **Saturday, April 4** from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and learn about our exciting summer camps programs. Save 5% off select camp programs when you register at this event.

For more information, please visit aurora.ca/summercamps.

What's Happening



The Town of Aurora believes in recognizing citizens who have made a positive impact and generously contributed to the greater good of the community.

Do you know an individual, corporation or business who has...

- ★ given their own time for the benefit of others?
- ★ gone the extra mile in supporting our community?
- ★ made Aurora a better place to live?

Download a nomination form at aurora.ca/cra or pick up a copy at any Town facility customer service desk.

★ **NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020**

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Please note, we reserve the right to cancel, amend or change the program.



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

APPLY TO JOIN OUR: COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Aurora Council is recruiting one citizen member for the Community Advisory Committee.

This Committee advises Town staff in various issues that affect the Town of Aurora including recreation, facilities and cultural services, parks and trails, traffic and the environment.

You are encouraged to read the Terms of Reference and the Policy before applying to serve on a Board or Committee. More information and applications available at: aurora.ca/committees.

▶ **Application Deadline:** Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

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Tow trucks torched as arson spree continues

By Brock Weir

Two more tow trucks were found torched in the early hours of Friday morning as York Region continues to experience a wave of arsons targeting the industry.

Investigators with the #1 District and #2 District Criminal Investigations Bureaus are seeking witnesses following four “suspicious” fires that were reported to York Regional Police between the hours of 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. on the morning of March 6.

Two blazes were reported in Richmond Hill while two were reported at 64 Wellington Street East and 145 Wellington Street West.

“The first incident occurred at 4.15 a.m. on Wellington Street East in Aurora where CYFS (Central York Fire Services) crews pulled up to a fully involved tow truck fire,” said the CYFS in a statement. “The motor vehicle was parked close to the residence and the heat from the fire melted the siding along the two-storey property and shattered a window on the lower level. This resulted in moderate smoke damage inside the home.

“In a separate incident, at approximately 4.25 a.m., CYFS crews responded to another tow truck fire on Bell Drive in Aurora. There were no exposures and the fire was extinguished quickly.”

Both the CYFS and York Regional Police said they believed the cause was arson.

“All of the fires were extinguished and there were no injuries,” said York Regional Police Constable Andy Pattenden in a statement. “Investigators believe that the fires were intentionally set. The investigation is ongoing and anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious or anyone who may have been driving in any of these areas with dashcams recording is asked to come forward.”

Friday’s fires were the third and fourth cases of suspected tow truck arson in Aurora in just under two months.

Shortly after 5 a.m. on February 4, Police were called to a report of a vehicle fire on Hartwell Way near William Graham Drive. When officers arrived, they found a tow truck that had been on fire but had already been extinguished by Central York Fire Services.

It was the second incident following another suspicious fire on the morning of Sunday, January 26 on McLeod Drive in the Bathurst and Wellington Street West community. In this instance, when Police arrived at the scene – again, shortly after 5 a.m., they found an empty gas container lying nearby.

“There have been numerous incidents of suspected arson involving tow trucks right across the GTA, especially in York Region,” said Constable Andy Pattenden after the February fire. “There have also been shootings and other violence associated with tow trucks. Every incident is being investigated on its own and we’ll keep an open mind to any links in any of these cases.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police #1 District Criminal Investigations Bureau or #2 District Criminal Investigations Bureau at 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7142 or 7242, or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-tips, or leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

Briefly

SEVENTH YORK REGION RESIDENT TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region’s Medical Officer of Health, had “good news and bad news” when he came to the podium Friday afternoon to provide an update on COVID-19 in York Region. Following the diagnosis of six York Region residents with the virus at the beginning of the week, Dr. Kurji reported that while one of the six cases had been resolved, a new one had been diagnosed. The latest case is a female in her 60s from Richmond Hill, a travel-related case of an individual returning home from Iran on Monday, March 2. The risk to York Region residents of COVID-19 continues to remain low, Dr. Kurji stressed, and the virus is not circulating in the community. As advised by the Public Health Agency of Canada, all individuals that have travelled to Iran or China’s Hubei Province in the last three weeks should contact York Region Public Health and self-isolate for 14 days. Residents returning from international travel should self-monitor for 14 days and watch for signs and symptoms like fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Visit a health care provider and call Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 should any of these symptoms develop.

REDUCE RISKS AT LARGE-SCALE EVENTS

Large-scale events may have the potential for public health consequences if they are not planned and managed carefully, according to the Region of York. Large numbers of people in small areas can enable the spread of infectious diseases, which can cause additional strain on the healthcare system. Examples of large-scale events include large conferences, sporting events and celebrating religious, national or international events. As such, the Region recommends a number of measures to reduce the risk posed by large-scale events including: reduce the numbers of participants; stagger the event over two or three days to keep numbers low; keep the session short; avoid crowding and provide extra space for participants; replace buffet-style foods with packaged foods; consider asking vulnerable older adults to stay at home; communicate those who are sick should stay home; communicate in advance individuals under 14-day self-isolation should not attend; increase access to and number of hand-washing stations; promote personal protective practices, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette; provide environmental cleaning like the disinfection of common areas, and offer alternative ways to participate in the event like virtual or live-streamed activities.



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SOUTHLAKE REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE FOUNDATION IS SEEKING BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO JOIN OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Southlake Foundation is a fundraising organization with a strategic plan focused on significant growth in the coming years. Funds raised from our many communities support Southlake Regional Health Centre, a full-service community hospital with clinically advanced regional services in areas including cancer, cardiac, and mental health.

Candidates will bring leadership experience, a commitment to our work and will ideally have previous Board governance experience. The ideal candidates will also live or work in Southlake’s communities.

To complement the existing Board of Directors’ background, the Board is interested in hearing from leaders who possess the following experience: legal; marketing (incl. digital); finance & investment; campaign fundraising. Individuals reflective of the diverse communities served by Southlake are encouraged to apply.

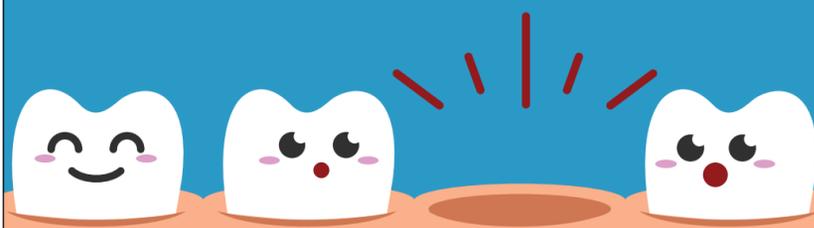
Interested candidates are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume by end of business day on March 27, 2020 by email to the Board Secretary at smullin@southlakeregional.org.

For more information on Southlake Foundation visit: www.southlakefoundation.ca.

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GARAGA EXPERTS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You don't have to solve engagement puzzle: resident

I am responding to an article in the Auroran a couple of weeks ago. It was a report about the Official Plan and Councillors expressed being mystified by the fact that only one resident came to the public meeting to discuss this.

I would like the Council to know why I think people have stopped coming to public meetings.

In the past, I have attended many meetings related to issues around the Official Plan but chose not to attend this one.

My past experience has indicated that the members of Council are not interested in hearing what residents of my part of Town think, so I expect others, like me, have basically given up attending meetings to express any opinion.

I have been an involved citizen and if Council is trying to silence those that don't agree with their plan it has worked. People with whom I have discussed getting involved all indicate that it is a waste of time because they are not heard.

So, as I see it, this is why there is very low turnout to recent public meetings.

Lenore Pressley
Aurora

Cadet makes the grade representing Aurora

Army Cadet Vivian Mullins-Holland recently competed in a Regional Biathlon competition which took place in Sault Ste. Marie on February 8th and 9th. The teen represented 2799 Queen's York Rangers Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Aurora.

After placing 1st in the Junior Female category, Vivian earned herself a coveted spot on Team Ontario for the upcoming National Championships being held in Valcartier, Quebec in March. Competitions such as this give the cadets a chance to challenge themselves in a healthy and fitness inspired environment. Cadets like Vivian put their hard work, leadership and team work to the test day after day to succeed as an athlete and role model for other Cadets.

Mullins-Holland noted that she's "been preparing for the Biathlon competition since last March doing things such as roller skiing, shooting, cross-country skiing and working out."

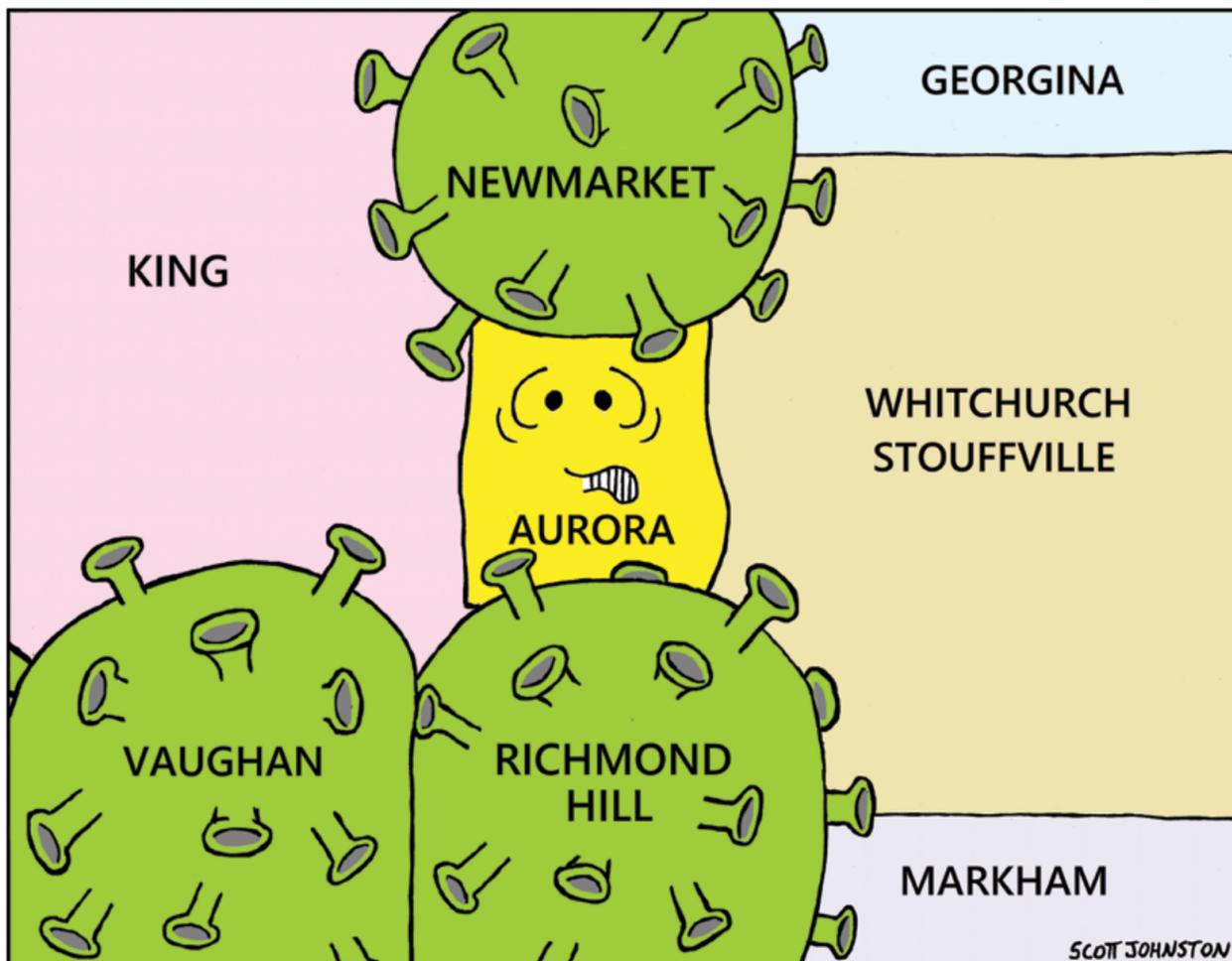
"The best part of Biathlon" she said is "the experience and all the opportunities you can get." Vivian began participating in the sport during her first year in Cadets when she felt it was a unique opportunity. Now competing in her fifth year, she's excited that she'll be representing Ontario at the National Championships.

Getting involved makes a difference to youth in our communities. Our leaders directly influence the development of young people as they become good leaders and citizens. To learn more about the Cadet Program and get involved, visit www.cadets.ca to find a cadet unit near you!

Captain Nicole McKay
Public Affairs Officer
Regional Cadet Support Unit (Central)

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



Connecting, Innovating, Transforming

It is always nice to forge a genuine connection.

Rare these days is the feeling of an instant pull towards another person, one to whom you feel you have known your whole life despite, in reality, only knowing that person for an instance. Opportunities to make those genuine connections are becoming few and far between as so many of our individual relationships these days – whether personal or professional – are often barricaded by a screen.

This has created a very curious environment where one's face-to-face interactions, once they ultimately come, are markedly different than what they once were.

I'm sure you have experienced occasions where you can be having a perfectly productive conversation with someone via a social media platform, text, or email, one in which there is a rapid volley of ideas and planning only to have that conversation punctuated by awkward silences once that screen is taken away and you have to flex your invariably atrophied muscles tied to the gentle art of conversation. It's strange to be a party to an intriguing online conversation, one in which you feel your creative juices easily flow, only to find yourself face to face with the person on the other side with little more to discuss than the weather and the day's less controversial headlines.

Yet, there are some glimmers of hope. A couple of years ago, a lengthy conversation over Facebook Messenger ahead of a planned meeting was abruptly but nicely called to a halt as the other party was concerned about running out of things to talk about before our face-to-face meeting scheduled for a week or two in the future. It was a surprising development, but one which, in the end, felt like a step back in the right direction.

An additional sign of hope often crops up in the course of my work, where I have had occasion to talk to elementary and high school students who increasingly share that they're less and less inclined these days to share the minutia of their life on social media, no longer feeling the instant gratifications of "Likes" and sundry reaction; instead, they're focusing on genuine connections and other more analogue ways to interact.

It was nevertheless nice on Monday to have had a reminder of the value of our hyper-connectivity from somebody who has witnessed the march of technology and our increasingly connected world from the fledgling days of radio to newer platforms like TikTok.

Monday, March 9, marked Commonwealth Day and, as such, The



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

Queen, the Head of the Commonwealth, marked the occasion with a message relayed to the more than 50 former members of the British Empire which now form the basis of this new, friendly family of nations, of which Canada is a key member.

"On Commonwealth occasions, it is always inspiring to be reminded of the diversity of the people and countries that make up our worldwide family," said the Queen. "We are made aware of the many associations and influences that combine through Commonwealth connection, helping us to imagine and deliver a common future. This is particularly striking when we see people from nations, large and small, gathering for the Commonwealth Games, for meetings of Commonwealth governments, and on Commonwealth Day. Such a blend of traditions serves to make us stronger, individually and collectively, by providing the ingredients needed for social, political and economic resilience.

"Throughout my life, I have had the opportunity to see and hear how membership of the Commonwealth family means so much to those living in all parts of the world, often in places that are quite remote. Advances in technology and modern media have now enabled many more people to witness and enjoy – with remarkable immediacy – this experience of Commonwealth connection, in areas such as education, medicine and conservation.

"Looking to the future, this connectivity means we are also aware, perhaps as never before, that wherever we live, our choices and actions affect the wellbeing of people and communities living far away, and in very different circumstances. For many, this awareness awakens a desire to employ our planet's natural resources with greater care, and it is encouraging to see how countries of the Commonwealth continue to devise new ways of working together to achieve prosperity, whilst protecting our planet."

The Queen concluded her message with the hope that "the people and countries of the commonwealth will be inspired by all that we share" and "move forward with fresh

resolve to enhance the Commonwealth's influence for good in our world."

In a world where all too often all too many people are finding inspiration in the things that divide us rather than what can serve as unifying factors, I was heartened by this message. I was also buoyed by the reminder that in this sometimes-frustrating environment that many of the advancements which have served to compound this frustration can be harnessed for the common good.

As the world grapples with the realities of climate change, for instance, it is very true that people are now, more than ever, conscious of how our choices and actions today can both impact tomorrow and, more immediately, have a direct impact on people who seem to live, despite the ease of travel today, in relatively far-flung corners of the world.

This can range from the impact our emissions have on communities and the natural world in Canada's far north to our trash washing up years later on remote shores with barely any signs of degradation.

This year's Commonwealth Day theme is "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming", building on the previous year's theme of connectivity.

"Together, the countries and people of the Commonwealth tackle climate change and its impacts," said the Commonwealth Secretariat announcing the theme earlier this year. "We work to find sustainable ways of using the natural resources of our planet, its land and ocean so that our environment is protected. Together, we work to build peace and harmony through social and democratic development. Together, we encourage inclusive economic empowerment and fair trade so that all people, particularly women, young people, and those in marginalized communities can share the fruits of progress and prosperity.

"Together, we are delivering a common future by connecting, innovating and transforming our societies."

In the lead-up to Commonwealth Day 2020, it's a valuable exercise to consider how we in Canada can encourage inclusive economic empowerment and sustainability and connection, to pick just a few, with an eye towards positive transformation – and what we're already doing.

Many of us have already taken steps in that direction, but there is always room to grow.

And, if you are already doing things in your day-to-day lives and within the community to further these goals, we'd love to hear from you. Please send your thoughts to brock@auroran.com.

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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 celebrating... Family Reunions!

This image (990.8.10) was captured during the reunion of John and Mary Hartman's descendants. The reunion took place on September 6, 1909 and commemorated the 102nd anniversary of the settlement of John and Mary Hartman at the corner of Wellington and Bayview. Pictured in the background is the Hartman Homestead that was built c.1826 and stood for 180 years until it was demolished in 2006. To discover more about the Hartman family, check out this week's Time Traveller's Diary.



TIME TRAVELLERS DIARY

By Michelle Johnson
Collections & Exhibitions Coordinator
Aurora Museum & Archives

Journey to the Crossroads

The year is 1807, and as far as I can tell, this is the farthest back we have been able to push our trusty time travelling contraption.

Armed with some knowledge, but more importantly an abundance of curiosity, I situated myself at the corner of what is now known as Yonge and Wellington Streets to observe some of York County's early settlers. By 1796, John Graves Simcoe's Yonge Street project was complete and it provided a cleared roadway that stretched from Eglinton Avenue all the way to the Holland Marsh. Surely, Yonge Street was my best bet for observing incoming and outgoing travellers.

I watched as a horse-drawn covered wagon drove northward up the road; it was carrying John and Mary Hartman along with their two young daughters, Emily and Lavinna. This family of four was approaching the end of their very long journey from Catawissa, Pennsylvania. They were following Mary's parents, Isaac and Ann Webb, who made the journey to Upper Canada the year prior. The Webbs and the Hartmans were Quakers and, at the time, many Quaker communities in the United States were facing harassment for their pacifist stance in the Revolutionary War.

I glanced at the map I had in my pocket that detailed the Quaker Migration Route – what a journey! The family departed Catawissa, Pennsylvania and travelled along Williamson Road. Like many early roadways, Williamson Road was originally a trail that was well traversed by local Indigenous populations. In 1792, the trail was broadened and built up, creating a clear route from Northumberland, Pennsylvania to Bath, New York. After arriving in Bath, the family headed northwest and into the Niagara frontier, which involved crossing the Niagara River by ferry and traversing around Lake Ontario – all while riding in a horse-drawn (covered) wagon.

Curious to see how the family would adjust, I decided to stay a little while and make use of the time lapse feature. I learned that John and Mary situated themselves near the southwest corner of what readers know as Wellington and Bayview. Soon after arriving in Whitchurch Township (which later become part of Aurora), the Hartmans built a modest log cabin on the property. The family grew quickly and their two daughters were soon in the company of four younger brothers and two younger sisters. In 1816, they purchased the land upon which they lived – 190 acres of Lot 80 Concession 1 to be exact. Records indicate that it was around 1826 when a large family homestead was constructed that overlooked the crossroads, replacing the original log cabin.

The family would go on to
Continued on page 11

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Does Aurora need more
purpose-built
rental housing units?
Yes No Unsure

www.theauroran.com

Previous poll results

Would a Yonge Street "road diet" have a positive impact on traffic?

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
March 10, 2020	35%	59%	6%

Mental Health and Addictions - Roadmap to Wellness

On February 29, I was thrilled to host over a hundred family and friends in Newmarket-Aurora for breakfast at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall. It was a great way for me to learn more about what matters most to our community over coffee and pancakes and share what our government is doing to build healthier and safer communities.

Last week, in my capacity as Minister of Health, we unveiled the Roadmap to Wellness: A Plan to Build Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions System. This new roadmap will provide a clear path forward toward offering Ontarians easier access to higher-quality care and supports in communities across the province.

Every year, 1.4 million Ontarians experience a mental health or addictions challenge, which can have a serious impact on their quality of life including their ability to go to school or make a living. Ontarians have experienced long wait times, uneven service, gaps in care and a lack of evidence-based models in their search for mental wellness. Following extensive engagement with experts, grassroots organizations, health care providers on the frontlines and first responders, as well as people with lived experience, families and caregivers, we have created this roadmap to provide a clear path forward to offer Ontarians easier access to higher-quality services and supports in a connected system for all communities across the province.

Under this cross-government plan, Ontario will enhance the availability and quality of community-based mental health and addictions services and supports, and better connect Ontarians with these services. Enhancing community-based services will also help alleviate growing



CHRISTINE'S CHRONICLES

Christine Elliott, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

pressures on our hospitals and in doing so; significantly support our goal of ending hallway health care.

The new Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence within Ontario Health will serve as the foundation on which Roadmap to Wellness is built. The Centre will enable and drive the effective implementation of the plan's four pillars:

- Improving quality;
- Expanding existing services;
- Implementing innovative solutions; and
- Improving access.

As part of the third pillar, Ontario will launch Mindability, a new, first-of-its-kind program in Canada that will provide evidence-based cognitive behavioural therapy. Cognitive behavioural therapy is widely recognized as an effective intervention for anxiety and depression, the two most common mental health issues faced by Ontarians. Through Mindability, an individual will receive an assessment from a trained mental health clinician and offered a therapy program that addresses the level of need to support their recovery. Services available will include internet-based modules, personal workbooks, telephone coaching, and clinical counseling,

Dancing



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

being wrapped up in rape culture. No way."

On the other side of the equation:

"I'm a mother of only boys," another woman said. "They have expressed concern of rejections. I told them to take chances of asking, because you never know. If rejected, then that's life."

In an interview the principal "denied that Azlyn was 'forced' to dance, but admitted that the school requests students accept all invitations to dance. The dances are part of a physical education curriculum that teaches the kids to do box step, swing, and line dancing."

The principal went on to state that "we want to protect every child's right to be safe and comfortable at school. We also believe that all children should be included in activities."

He added that the school wants "to make sure no kids feel like they get left out."

The mother said she understands the aim of the school's policy: "to help children find the courage to ask classmates to dance by eliminating the risk of rejection. It also limits the tweens' natural tendency to self-segregate into two groups along gender lines for the entire event."

Without the policy, she said, "the kids

as well as face-to-face, group and individual therapy.

Mindability will be funded just like OHIP with no out-of-pocket costs for patients. It will roll out starting in spring 2020 with further expansion planned in the fall.

As part of the fourth pillar, improving access, any person living in Ontario will be able to call, text or go online to learn more or get help by using:

One easy-to-remember and toll-free phone number accessible across the province; and

An easy-to-use website with an online chat function and client resources.

To enable Roadmap to Wellness, Ontario is investing \$3.8 billion over 10 years to create new services and expand programs. The province has started to fill urgent service gaps through immediate investments, including \$174 million more in annualized funding for mental health addictions programs in 2019-20. Together with our partners, we will build a mental health and addictions system where everyone is supported throughout their journey to mental wellness.

My constituency office is available if you require information on provincial services and can be reached at 905-853-9889.

The latest art rotation sponsored by SOYRA is currently on display in our community office. Lucy Quin is a local Newmarket resident and artist who is a Colombian born painter. She has a passion for painting rooted in nature and her fascination for light and shade is reflected in her work. Lucy's works are mood evoking, timeless, vibrant, and realistic original oil paintings. Please come by the office to see Lucy's work.

would likely split, with boys on one side of the gym and girls on the other, and jump around or chat in clusters until the dance ended.

"That's how my middle school dances were and it was great," the mother said. "On the slow dance, the people who wanted to dance would, and the ones who didn't, didn't."

Regarding my time in middle school all those years ago I would have been one of the boys standing on the wall.

Come to think of it, my mom did not even send a fake card to the school to ensure that I actually had a Valentine. That's a column for another day, though. But I digress.

Rejection is a part of everyday life. How one deals with it is an important part of their development.

I can certainly see the school trying to strike the right balance; wanting to include everyone in activities, but also respecting individual's right to say no.

In this particular case, though, the issue is different than ensuring all children in a class have a chance to participate in a sport or activity. This dance involved children coming into another's personal space.

A better solution might involve the teacher, before the dance, requesting a list from each of the students of their top five dance partners. The teacher would also tell the class that they will do the best they can to ensure that each student receives their top three pick, but in order that everyone has a partner, this might not happen.

Thinking about this issue some more reminds me why I am happy that I am not a teacher. I have enough problems looking after one teenage rascal.

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

I was all set to write about the release of the Integrated Regional Resource Plan (IRRP) for York Region, which considers the potential for long-term growth in electricity demand and varying supply conditions over the next 20 years.

According to the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), this 20-year electricity plan "reaffirms electricity needs in the medium- to long-term, including pockets of growth in Markham/Richmond Hill, Northern York and Vaughan. Options examined to meet future local capacity needs, including opportunities for targeted, integrated solutions, and next steps are outlined in the plan".

There are some interesting aspects to this report, but I will save this for a future column as something else caught my eye.

I was checking a news site when I saw the following headline, "A middle school requires kids to dance with anyone who asks. One mom is fighting for her daughter's right to say 'no'".

This story explains how an 11-year-old girl in Utah was excited for her upcoming Valentine Day dance at her local middle school.

"But Azlyn's enthusiasm waned when a different boy, who made her feel uncomfortable, asked her to share a slow dance."

Azlyn tried to politely decline the invitation, but the school's principal rushed over and told her saying "no" was against school rules.

Azlyn's mother was not happy when she heard about this.

"Girls have to learn that they have the right to say 'no' and that those around them have to respect that. I'm not going to quietly stand by while my daughter and all of her classmates are



Christine Elliott

MPP - Newmarket-Aurora



Contact my constituency office regarding assistance with provincial services:

16635 Yonge Street, Unit 22, Newmarket, ON L3X 1V6

905-853-9889 1-800-211-1881 905-853-6115 Christine.Elliottco@pc.ola.org www.christineelliottmpp.ca

Council renews push, advocacy for re-opening Cousins Drive crossing

By Brock Weir

Council has renewed its push to have the Province re-open pedestrian access to the Cousins Drive rail crossing, but it is, in the view of some Councillors, time to put Council's money where their mouth is.

Local lawmakers have approved a motion from Councillor Sandra Humfries requesting staff work with local MPPs and officials at Metrolinx – the Provincial body which oversees the operation of GO Transit – to press for the crossing.

Advocates for pedestrian travel have long-advocated for the crossing's re-opening, but the idea has not found support from Metrolinx, with liability concerns frequently cited as a roadblock.

Councillor Humfries said she knew the Cousins Drive crossing was not high on

Metrolinx's priority list, but said it was worth pursuing.

"We can do one of two things: go forward with Metrolinx and ask staff to investigate what this would cost our municipality to move forward, consider safety, and so on," she said.

Town Staff said despite Council previously allocating funds for a possible crossing, the idea was shut down by Metrolinx, but elected officials continue their support.

"We're just talking about walkability here," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner.

Added Councillor John Gallo: "I am a big supporter of eventually having a crossing there, once [GO's] double-tracked and the whole thing I am even in support of if they (Metrolinx) are not willing to pay, to figure out how to get it done, even if we have to pay for it."

If this is the case, however, Councillor

Michael Thompson suggested it is time for Council to put some hard figures down on what it would take to make it happen.

"If Council wants staff to investigate... and put a report together, I think Council should, in principle, allocate funds," he said. "Is this Council willing to put millions of dollars to open up Cousins? If you are, great, let's have staff investigate and keep pushing for it. That's what it is going to cost to go over or under the tracks. Metrolinx won't even sign off on the cessation of the train whistles let alone pay for a crossing. It is great that people keep asking or this, but I think now with two way all-way 15-minute service, the only option to open this up is either go above or below. If this Council is willing to commit those funds to do so, fine, let's have these conversations."

"If you're not willing to commit those kinds of funds, I don't see the purpose of continuing to advocate for it."

Mayor Tom Mrakas had a similar view, adding: "I had a conversation with Metrolinx last week and they have X amount of funding for the entire Barrie line and they have identified the crossings that they're going to do underpasses over – whatever they are going to do throughout the whole line. They have basically spent all the funding. There is

not one cent more to give out. That is why, as Councillor Thompson mentioned, unless we're willing to basically spend the money to do this, then realistically nothing is going to happen. Are we willing to spend the money to do this? That is what it is going to take. Then there will still be some issues as well."

Councillor Humfries said she was indeed willing to put forward capital funds, noting she believes "it does allow the walkability of our community to continue across Town."

"If staff wouldn't mind preparing a report to let us know what that entails, at that point we can decide once we understand," she said.

But Councillor Gaertner suggested that while she was in favour of continued advocacy, the buck had to stop at the Province.

"At the end of the day it becomes a financial issue and a liability issue," she concluded. "We've got, unfortunately, more that enough places to spend money at the moment, so I think I wouldn't be in favour of this, even though I would love to have it. It just doesn't make sense from a municipal point of view."

Staff estimate a report on costs will be on the Council table this spring, potentially as early as April.

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FLUSH WITH CASH – Aurora's Shawn Farewell took home \$70,290.50 in OLG's Poker Lotto All In jackpot. Mr. Farwell says he was "speechless" when he won and plans to use his winnings to publish his books – a memoir and children's stories. "This win gives me the means to share happiness, positivity and purpose in life," he says.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLG

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Parking challenge is a worry for current residents

From page 1

The proposal has been subject to significant public input, recently hitting the table during the Public Planning process where nearby residents – some of whom live in the existing buildings – spoke out about the impact the development might have on the surrounding community as well as the parking situation for those who might be displaced during the construction process.

A total of 295 parking spaces have been proposed for the completed development, which Mr. Cieciora said represents a single parking space for every residential unit and .1 visitor parking spaces per unit. In the meantime, proponents of the development said they were close to striking a deal with the nearby Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church on Wellington Street West, located approximately 400 metres from the building site, where they would be allowed to erect temporary parking on their large lawn.

“This shows the majority of our tenants will be able to park on site during construction,” said Mark Chemi of Starlight Investments at the same meeting,” noting that some parking spaces will be available

where they currently sit, allocated to residents based on mobility, children, and additional factors. “We have to go through our tenant list at the time of construction, which won’t be for another year, but anyone who has mobility needs will [be able to stay on site].”

In making their pitch, the Starlight representatives underscored the benefits their proposal will bring to Aurora.

“Rental housing is something that is needed in Ontario and in Aurora,” said Mr. Cieciora. “This is an important project and this, to our knowledge, is the only purpose-built rental project that we’re aware of in Aurora that will ultimately add to the range and mix of housing in the neighbourhood.”

Added Mr. Chemi: “We are asking for Council to approve the rezoning application today. I think everyone in the room is aware that Aurora is a great place to live and is a very desirable place to live. Our site benefits from location to many amenities, access to transit, proximity to downtown and great schools. However, there is a lack of rental supply in Aurora and this will bring some [badly needed] units.

“We will continue to work in the community, with our neighbours, with our tenants throughout construction if we are approved tonight.”

While that approval ultimately came at the Committee level, the nearly two-dozen community members who sat in Council Chambers last week to hear Council’s tentative verdict were less than pleased when they left following the decision.

Indeed, Council’s approval came with some reluctance as well.

“This has been a long process and it started in last term that we have been dealing with this one,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas. “I think every step of the way we have been asking the applicant to look at basically some things that are concerning to the residents and to this Council. I think, so far, every step they have come back and they have kind of answered those concerns; maybe not to the best that we would like to see, but ultimately we all need to understand – and we have pointed this out to the residents and to each other sitting here – that there is an appeals process, there is LPAT (Local Planning and Appeals Tribunal), and

I know with purpose-built rentals, if this Council was to say no, you’re going to go to LPAT, LPAT will overturn that decision I guarantee in a second, and all we would do is just waste tax dollars.

“So, when you look at it, it is always about how do we work with the applicant to get the best for our community and for the residents in the area? While it might not be the most ideal, I think, at the end of the day, they have answered a lot of those questions, they have provided us with a solution to offsite parking. Like I said, it might not be the most ideal, but I think this is the best thing for our Town as an overall solution.”

Councillor Sandra Humfries offered a similar viewpoint, reaffirming her commitment to getting answers on behalf of impacted residents.

“We heard the residents loud and clear,” she said, suggesting the establishment of a “hotline” to streamline communications for any concerns between residents, the municipality and developers, “to make sure we listen to all the issues and complaints moving forward [and] do our best to understand that as we move forward.”

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Comprehensive Limited Warranty**	36 months / 60,000 km	36 months / 60,000 km



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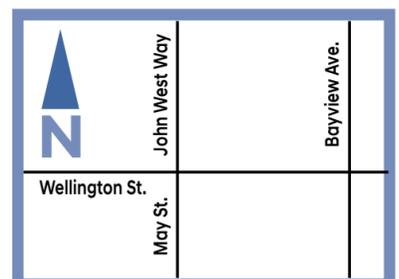


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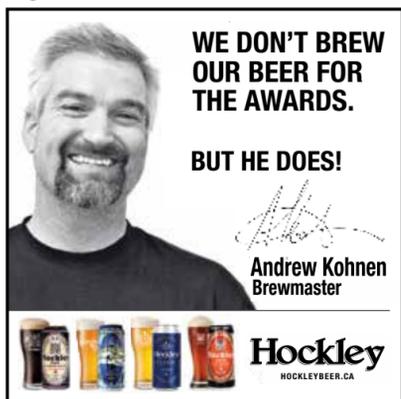
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Shoppers Drug Mart makes "record-breaking" donation to hospital foundation



Derek Ramdeyol (Owner, Newmarket store #998), Ken Mo (Ambassador and Owner, store #955 in Aurora), Francis Li (Owner, Upper Canada Mall), Corinna Jones (Community Event Officer, Southlake Foundation), Itzik Abramson (Manager, store #446 in Aurora), Aga Dojczewska (Manager, Adult Inpatient Mental Health, Southlake Regional Health Centre), Lyndsey Simms (Front Store Manager, store #446 in Aurora), Brandon Marmara (District Manager, Shoppers Drug Mart North Region), David Onizuka (Owner, store #446 in Aurora), and Ritu Mehra (Assistant Front Store Manager, store #446 in Aurora).

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

By Brock Weir

Shoppers Drug Mart locations in York Region and South Simcoe have banded together to make a record-breaking donation to the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation.

On Valentine's Day, Shoppers

"showed the love" for Southlake with a donation of \$27,500 – the largest single donation in support of Southlake to date, according to the Foundation.

Ten participating stores in Aurora, Newmarket, Georgina and Bradford West Gwillimbury chose Southlake as the recipient of their annual "Love You" fall fundraising program,

recognizing the growing healthcare needs within the Southlake catchment area.

"As pharmacists, we see firsthand that our customers are impacted by mental health and we want to do everything we can to support them," said Ken Mo, Shoppers Drug Mart ambassador and store owner, in a statement. "We are so thankful to our communities and our staff for their generosity and dedication, and for embracing this fundraising program."

Shoppers Drug Mart has been a long-standing supporter of Southlake and have raised more than \$218,000 in support of the most urgent needs at Southlake. This year's donation will help support a 12-bed expansion of Southlake's adult inpatient unit, offering patients more privacy, natural light and a better

environment for recovery.

"When it comes to caring for our Mental Health patients, our biggest challenge today is space," said Aga Dojczewska, Manager, Adult Inpatient Mental Health at Southlake Regional Health Centre. "In our communities we are seeing a growing number of patients who are in crisis and in need of mental health care, and we need to be equipped to give them the care they deserve in the right environment to truly support their wellbeing."

Southlake sees more than 34,300 adult outpatient visits per year, and more than 1,200 adult inpatient admissions. The 12-bed expansion will be a lifeline for an additional 400 patients annually, providing patients in crisis with the right space for recovery when they need it most.

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Last week at General Committee, we discussed a long-standing application; an application that came before Council last term. The application would see 56 purpose-built rentals to be built at 145 and 147 Wellington Street West.



Getting Things Done

Mayor Tom Mrakas

pretty congested so availability of on street parking would be limited at best. Council, in the majority, once again told the applicant that we would need to see some concrete steps on how parking issues would be addressed both long term and

When this application first came to Council last term, the application was for 64 units, removal of the existing pool and proposed a configuration that would see the new building setback very close to the property to the east, and there would be a decrease in the overall parking to unit ratio parking.

This was unacceptable to Council. So, the applicant was asked to work with the residents and staff to correct the significant issues that had been identified.

The applicant came back early in the spring of 2019 with a revised plan that saw some changes that would alleviate some of the concerns – the major one being the loss of the pool. The applicant lowered the amount of units from the original 64 to 56 and retained the pool which many of the residents wanted to see. But even with the changes to the application, there were still concerns; in particular, the issue of parking – what happens during construction to the existing residents from a parking perspective? The area is already

during construction.

Fast forward to last Tuesday night and after two years of work with residents and staff the proposal before Council saw one that had 56 purpose built rentals, with the highly used pool to stay, the setbacks were increased to give more room and a parking strategy for during the construction was laid out that would see construction vehicles as well as extra spots needed to use the Lutheran church parking 400m away. The remaining issue of long-term parking was also addressed. It was guaranteed in the application that no current resident will lose a parking spot. And the applicant will also be giving all current residents the first opportunity to move into one of the new rentals.

While we would all like to avoid the disruption, Council could not deny the application for that reason. As I said at the table, if Council was to say no to this application it would be appealed and I can say with no uncertainty that

Continued on page 18

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Food insecurity often hits working residents, minimum wage is not enough: *New leader of York Region Food Network*



York Region Food Network's Kate Greavette is seen at the organization's Seedy Saturday event in Newmarket on Saturday morning. INSET: Caelen, Teaghan, and Jonathan have fun at the event.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

As a child growing up in Aurora, Kate Greavette remembers her parents bringing in veggies from their backyard garden. At the time, she didn't think too much of their efforts and sometimes found herself asking, "Why can't we just go to a grocery store?"

Now, as Executive Director of the Aurora-based York Region Food Network, she is answering that question herself on a daily basis.

Ms. Greavette recently took the helm of the York Region Food Network (YRFN) upon the retirement of long-time head, Joan Stonehocker earlier this year.

She comes to the table after studying International Development and Globalization at the University of Ottawa, an academic path which took her all around the world, exposing her to the role food plays all around the world, from acting as medicine to fostering healthy communities.

"I just love everything about food," she says. "I feel like food is the perfect medium for bringing people together, people of all ages, all backgrounds, all languages – everyone has a connection to food. Even if we have a room full of people who don't speak the same language, food connects them in a way. To me, that is such a powerful tool for community

development."

It is a scene she has witnessed play out many times since she first joined the YRFN in the Spring of 2012.

After graduating from the University of Ottawa, Ms. Greavette says she didn't yet know what she wanted to do with her life and career. She always had an interest in agriculture and health, but didn't know what that meant for her. After a year spent travelling, she took a post-graduate course at Ryerson University in food security where she undertook projects on urban agriculture in the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Upon her return to Aurora to visit family, she first stumbled upon the work of the YRFN and a perfect fit was found.

"It has just been a beautiful journey," she says.

She began work with the YRFN focused on the development of the York Region Food Charter, work which allowed her to develop an expertise in food policy, not just within York Region but across the country. She was given autonomy to find her feet, spearhead the projects she felt were important, and look for ways to address local food security challenges.

"As an organization, we have changed quite a lot over the years," she says. "We started as an organization to coordinate

food bank efforts throughout the Region and over that time we started to look at more sustainable solutions to food insecurity and food insecurity as a systemic issue, knowing that people need immediate access to food, but we need to change the systems we operate in order to have lasting sustainable change."

As Executive Director of the York Region Food Network, Ms. Greavette says one of her primary focuses will be continued work to address inequities within the system. Food insecurity, she says, is a result of "inadequate incomes" and most people experiencing food insecurity are those who are holding down a job.

"Minimum wage is not enough," she says, adding Ontario Works and ODSP are also missing the mark. "On the one side, it is education, making sure we're talking to companies, making sure we talk to our partners, making sure we talk to our governments and letting them know employment practices need to change. People need adequate incomes and less precarious employment. From an advocacy perspective, it is about having those conversations, letting people know the realities of food insecurity and letting people know that food insecurity is a

Continued on page 17



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"Documenting Aurora" exhibit showcases Town's recently lost landscapes

By Brock Weir

If you're a recent arrival to Aurora, the time when St. John's Sideroad was little more than a country road seems like a world away – but things move quickly over the course of a decade or so and, in that time, Anna Lozyk Romeo has been there, camera at the ready.

The Aurora photographer, and creative force behind the popular Living in Aurora blog, has trained her lens on Aurora's changing landscape for more than 10 years, chronicling what once was and what now is.

Her work comes into focus this month at the Aurora Public Library with the launch of the new photography exhibition "Documenting Aurora" at the Colleen Abbott Gallery. Documenting Aurora launches March 16, running through April 27, and showcases the many changes Aurora has experienced between 2011 and 2019, with a specific focus on demolished and restored buildings and the development of local farmland.

"We moved to Aurora in 1997 and for ten years we were just workaholics," says Anna of the lifestyle she and husband Dominic enjoyed prior to the arrival of their son Matthew. "For us, Aurora was a bedroom community. For ten

years, we didn't really see what was happening. After ten years, we decided to have Matthew and I decided to have a change of career."

An engineer by training and practice, she decided to balance her new role as mom while embracing her creativity behind the camera.

A resident of the St. John's and Bayview Avenue community, the rapidly developing area provided plenty of artistic – and sometimes alarming – inspiration.

"We saw changes – old buildings coming down, new land being developed, and it was very progressive," she says.

These changes sparked an interest in history and the civic affairs of this Town and she became increasingly interested in following planning applications to get her and her camera ahead of the wrecking ball. As she delved deeper into Aurora's history, she noticed that what was considered part of Aurora's history began to drop off after the 1950s, and she made a concerted effort to help fill in the gaps.

The first big project she devoted much of her time to was the saga surrounding the historic Petch House, moved from what is now the Smart Centres development near Highway 404 to a lot near Leslie and Wellington, where it was left to decay for years before being restored and



Aurora photographer Anna Lozyk Romeo is pictured with a photograph that will feature in her new exhibition at the Aurora Public Library.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

rebuilt behind the Aurora Seniors' Centre just over six years ago.

"A lot of buildings became abandoned [as lands began being redeveloped] and my photography went from events and walking our streets and trails to actually going to demolition sites," she says. "I followed Petch House for three years."

Her work on Petch House opened doors, and she spent days documenting just about every corner of the former Wells Street Public School before it was transformed into lofts, the reconstruction of a historic farmhouse that once stood at the northeast corner of Bayview and St. John's Sideroad, and, perhaps most meaningful to her, the demolition of the Lundy farm near Leslie and St. John's.

"All of these projects are equally important, but the one I like the most is Joe Lundy," says Ms. Lozyk Romeo of her time watching the demolition alongside former property owner, who grew up in the house and his family. "It was literally the end. You're watching the end of those farmlands while Joe was laughing and telling stories."

In curating a selection of the buildings, landscapes and

streetscapes she has captured over the last ten years, Ms. Lozyk Romeo says it is all about capturing change as it happens before this change is forgotten.

"We're such a busy and fast society," she says. "I wasn't thinking about it when I started taking the photos, but now when I look that them, I see that sometimes we don't actually see what is going on. Change is good, but it needs to be responsible. I want to bring awareness to what is going on around you. History is important, continuity is important. I want to make people aware of what is going on because we're literally losing ground to concrete."

When she began what ultimately became a photography project, she had myriad historic buildings to capture, all in varying states of preservation and decay. As time has marched on, so too have these sources of inspiration.

"Now I don't really have anything to work with," she says with a chuckle. "Aurora has gone through a social and cultural change. We're trying to be a more diverse community and now I think [my photography] is going to be more about culture – people versus land transformation."

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Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar bring sweet Juno-nominated sound to Blues Fest



Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar. Contributed photo

By Brock Weir

“A high-energy, fast-paced soul and rock and roll extravaganza,” laughs singer-songwriter Samantha Martin. Having just been asked to give audiences a bit of a teaser on what she and her band Delta Sugar plan to bring to Theatre Aurora later this month when they hit *Town*, the Juno-nominated singer gets as far as “extravaganza” before ultimately deciding a teaser might spoil it.

“I have no idea how to explain it!” she says.

So, you’re just going to have to come out on March 20 and see for yourself at the opening of the annual Aurora Winter Blues Festival.

The Aurora Winter Blues Festival opens the Festival, alongside Glenn Marais and his Mojo Train band.

“A dynamic frontwoman, she possesses a stunning voice that can summon up tidal waves of spine-tingling emotion in one instance while delicately bringing out the nuances of a gut-wrenching lyric in the next,” say festival organizers of Ms. Martin. “A torrid force of nature, night after night she takes audiences to emotional peaks while leaving them stunned with her sheer pin-you-against-the-wall power. In combination with what she likes to term her ‘co-vocalists,’ Sherie Marshall and Mwansa Mwansa, the vocal blend Delta Sugar produces is pure, unadulterated gospel-tinged, neuron-tingling magic where the sum is even richer than the already soul-melting parts.”

Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar is a hot commodity after their nomination at the 2018 Juno Awards,

which has left their dance cards pretty full.

“The nomination definitely elevated our profile in the Canadian music scene,” says Ms. Martin. “People who may not have heard of us before or saw our name in the category and being nominated for a Juno means you’re in the Top Five according to your peers. It was definitely a wonderful thing to be recognized that way; people are impressed by it, which is wonderful – I was impressed by it! It is definitely a career elevator.”

Delta Sugar was born in 2013. Initially, it was a group of just vocals and guitar, performing as a four-piece band. The group expanded over the years and now often performs as a band of seven or ten.

“I knew I always wanted a larger sound, but it is quite difficult to tour the larger bands, it’s more money for expenses, so we made the decision to do it as a four-piece,” says Ms. Martin. “Nobody else was doing it, so we stood out. In 2018, we released the (Juno-nominated) *Run to Me* and expanded the band.

“Both musically and in the writing process, my focus has always been vocals and melodies and I centre a lot of the music around my vocals and the backing vocals. When I am writing a new song for the record, I always keep in mind: what are the backup vocals going to do here? Everything else becomes secondary focus, equally as important, but I like a lot of space in the music. I don’t like to just be a wall of sound all the time.”

It’s a winning formula, but also one which has helped her create music that is both deeply personal yet universally accessible.

“I feel like my inspiration for writing is usually the ability to stay still a little bit because we have been on a lot of crazy

tours lately and I was having writers’ block, but mostly because I couldn’t slow myself down enough to go inside to find the words in which I wanted to say, the story I wanted to tell,” she explains. “When I write, I need quiet and I need to be still and reflective. The last two records have been about relationships, whether they be romantic relationships, relationships with family members and all that kind of stuff. I tend to write about experiences that I know and things that have happened to me, or things I have experienced but I hope I do it in such a way that is not too specific, so that it can be relatable. There are stories behind the songs but I try and write them in such a way that

they are relatable and applicable to many different situations.”

Ahead of their upcoming Aurora gig, Samantha Martin & Delta Sugar are putting the finishing touches on their new album, *The Reckless One*, which is expected to drop this Spring.

“We’ll be playing a lot of songs off the new album coming at the show,” she teases. “We’re going to be touring Europe in May and June and we’re excited to share some of the music we’ve got cooking.”

To sample some Delta Sugar, come out to the Aurora Winter Blues Festival for its opening night on March 20. For more information, including tickets, visit musicaurora.ca.

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TIME TRAVELLERS DIARY

From page 5

purchase land on the southeast side of the intersection prompting the crossroads to become known as Hartman’s Corners. Within the community of Hartman’s Corners was Hartman’s Grove, which hosted many community gatherings including a victory party for William Mulock (1896) after he secured a seat as a Liberal MP in Laurier’s government. At the time, this was reported as the largest gathering to ever take place in Hartman’s Grove.

Members of the Hartman family continued to own land at the crossroads until 1910 when it was sold outside of the family. The large family house, known as the Hartman Homestead, stood for approximately 180 years before being demolished in 2006.

Safely back in 2020, and passing through the busy intersection of Wellington and Bayview, I couldn’t help but reflect on the complex journey that many families make in hopes of eventually reaching a welcoming crossroad that they can safely call home.

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March Break kicks off with pi – and pie – at Aurora Public Library

By Brock Weir

If you're mathematically inclined, you know that this Saturday, March 14 – or, 3/14 – is National Pi Day and, in honour of the occasion, the Aurora Public Library is kicking off a full week

of free March Break activities with a chance to show off your math skills while satisfying your sweet tooth at the same time.

“This will be our third year celebrating Pi Day at the Aurora Public Library (APL) and you can come here, do some math trivia, show off

your math and arithmetic skills, and you can win yourself a piece of pie!” says Jodi Marr, Manager of Customer Opportunity for APL. “Our plan is to have something every day for people during March Break. We want it to be easy to attend, drop in, whatever – no tickets, no registration. Just come, have fun, and make the best of your week off.

The chance to taste something sweet – or not! – continues on Monday, March 16, when March Break-proper kicks off with a Harry Potter Party from 2 – 4 p.m., suitable for children five and over, accompanied by an adult.

Cast spells, make wands and capture the golden snitch at the party, at which you're invited to wear your best Hogwarts costume.

“One of our most popular features last year was, in the books they have Bertie's Beans, which are jelly beans which can either taste fantastic or disgusting,” says Ms. Marr. “We call it ‘Jelly Bean Roulette.’ Do you get a good one, or a bad one like stinky socks, fresh cut grass, or fish flavour?”

Well, there's only one way to find out!

The fun continues on Tuesday, March 17, with a live reptile show from 2.30 – 3.30 p.m. hosted by Reptilia.

Wednesday, March 18, is all about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at the Library's Super STEM Party from 2 – 4 p.m., with activities ranging from building a bridge, making a volcano erupt, and LEGO arithmetic.

“On Thursday, we're going to try and build an entire city throughout the Library with boxes, cardboard and things like that,” says Ms. Marr. “There will be roads and buildings and whatever else. Whatever somebody wants to bring back to the table to build, we will build and hopefully line it up along the main Living Room space so you can see what people have created.”

The Build A City Activity on March 19 runs from 2 – 4 p.m., and is preceded

from 1.30 – 3.30 p.m. by “Let's Do This!”, an activity for youth between the ages of 9 and 14 to create a Set in Stone photo holder.

Mad Science is the order of the day on March 20 with demonstrations taking place in the Library Living Room from 2.30 – 3.15, and the activities conclude Saturday, March 21 with Fairy Gardens, an activity suited to kids four and up, where you can use your imagination and creativity to design your own fairy garden.

“We did this for our Summer Reading Club last year and you get a little pot that you're able to decorate with moss, mushrooms, sticks, twigs and all kinds of little things that you can put in your garden so the fairies who live in your garden will have a place to call their own,” says Ms. Marr with a smile.

“The Library has so many new and amazing things going on. We have our Creative Studio where people are welcome to drop in and talk about 3D printing, laser cutters and all kinds of cool stuff going on during the March Break and any time. We have a huge contingent of people who like to drop by after school and see what's going on and make a project.

“If you haven't been to the Library before, it is a great place to come. There's something happening every day that will make it worth the visit. We make it as easy as possible for you to engage your kids and engage with your kids and to get something out of the time that you spend here that goes beyond the material. Everything just has so much of an added value that people tend to be very happy with the results: spending time with your kids in a way that is productive and seeing your kids interact with animals, technology, art in ways that you never would imagine them interacting with before – especially in a library space.”



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Week of March 12, 2020



Minor Tigers got Mad in March at tourney



Aurora Green and Yellow face off right on the Minor Tigers logo as Yellow got the first game of their tournament underway.

Auroran photo by Robert Belardi

By Robert Belardi

The Aurora Minor Tigers trademarked the Canadian version of March Madness with a minor hockey tournament at the Aurora Community Centre this past weekend.

Atom, Bantam and Pee wee clubs were chosen to be involved from Friday all the way to Sunday. Aurora Green, Yellow and Purple competed in the Atom division and Aurora Red and Yellow Pee wee, teams took part.

Throughout a weekend of nonstop puck drops and sales of body lotions all throughout the centre, it was a jam-packed weekend for parents and players before the final week ahead of March break.

On Friday, the Atom division kicked off the tournament when the Aurora Purple were trounced by Aurora Green 7-1.

Aurora Yellow had to wait until mid-day before playing their first game in the Atom division against Aurora Green.

In this one, it was the Hunter Lethangue show. His puck control and vision down the ice exceeded the young man past the defence on multiple occasions. Before anyone knew it, it was 2-0 by the end of the period.

Green got back into it in the second period with a goal from Noah Dalcin. But Lethangue had other ideas, burying two

more goals for a 4-1 victory.

“Hunter is a really good player. One of the top two or three players in the league. He’s used to scoring and he came through today. If he has a good game, our team has a good game,” said head coach of Atom Aurora Yellow Jamie Cole.

Yellow went on to tie their second game 2-2 against the Thorold Blackhawks.

On Saturday, Purple and Green went on to lose the rest of the games in the round robin. Aurora Yellow won their second last game, before losing an exhilarating game against Copper Cliff Boston. Down 6-0, the team battled back to bring the game within two.

Boston seemingly shook off the momentum shift and put forth another two goals to finish first place in the group.

On Sunday, Green and Yellow fell in the semi-final games against Copper Cliff Boston and the Thorold Blackhawks respectively; just missing out on a chance for an all-Aurora final.

Copper Cliff Boston took home the trophy, thrashing the Thorold Blackhawks 10-0.

Pee wee

The same despair occurred with Aurora Red and Yellow from the Pee wee division, except both clubs did not make it past the round robin stage with the OCHL Knox, Thorold Blackhawks, Otonabee Wolves and the Newmarket Redmen in

their group.

The only victory for one of the Aurora teams came in the final game when both clubs went head to head to finish off the tournament.

Adrian Smith got Red on the board first, thanks to a nifty pass from Andreas Altinian.

Close to the end of the period, Mujjaahid Karim passed across the hashmarks to Rowan Bab, and received the puck back from Bab on the doorstep to tie it up.

In the second period, both teams added two more goals apiece, lining up a thrilling third period in front of their parents.

With the game down to the wire at 6-4, Altinian scored with 18.4 seconds left in the game to bring the Red

team within one.

Off the draw, Yellow dumped the puck back towards Red’s zone, preventing any play being set up.

Altinian shared what he will do for his playoff games outside of the tournament.

“Just pass up to your teammates when there’s an open net, just go to it, take a shot. Just try to get assists as well,” he said.

The OCHL Knox won the tournament in the end, defeating the Thorold Blackhawks 3-1. A successful weekend for all participants and for the players on the eve of playoff hockey for most clubs.

A special thanks once again to tournament director Mary Ann Cobb and all other personnel for a smooth and safe tournament.

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York9 unveils new Home Kit for 2020 season

By Robert Belardi

York9 FC unveiled their new home kit in front of the community at the Fan Forum event at Dave and Buster’s (D&B) in Vaughan last Thursday.

It was another memorable night for the club as fans and local youth soccer clubs turned out to see the nine stripes’ new kit ahead of the 2020 season.

The kits are sponsored by Macron,

who supply all the clubs in the Canadian Premier League. Written on the collar of the jersey is, “We Are Many, We Are One” expressing their passion and exhilaration for the sport.

On the inside of the jersey, Macron wrote a statement that reads, “For Canadians, By Canadians,” reminding the country that soccer in Canada is here to not only stay, but here to grow.

Fans were permitted inside one

Continued on page 19

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Regional Boys and Girls compete in annual Free Throw Competition

By Robert Belardi

Young boys and girls competed in the Regional Free Throw Competition, hosted by the Knights of Columbus at Ecole Secondaire Catholique Renaissance high school in Aurora last Saturday.

Children from Aurora, Alliston, Beeton, Caledon and other communities, from ages nine to 16 attended.

With 15 regions in Ontario alone, the winners of each age group will be compared to winners in over 60 jurisdictions between Canada and the United States. The highest score will determine the winner, and, if there is a tie, it comes down to a coin flip.

Parents and other family members rose early from their Friday night slumber to get their children on the court as early as 8 a.m. for warm up. The nine, 10 and 11-year-old boys and girls simultaneously

competed, using three baskets on each side of the gym.

The early rise didn't seem to affect the kids. There were some sharpshooters that morning who had their sights set on bringing a trophy home.

Nine-year-old Aurora native Vanessa Lima from St. Jerome Catholic School finished third in her competition. The other Aurora native, Matteo Romanino won first place in the boys' group.

As the 10-year-olds were announced to come up and claim their prize, Richmond Hill native Skye Ruetas and King City's Ethan Geraci took home the gold medal. Nicholas Brozina-Ramos from St. James School in Tottenham, fell short of the top prize after sinking 23 of 25 baskets two weeks prior.

Finally, the 11-year-olds got their time to shine. Oro-Medonte resident Lily Balaisis and Bolton competitor from Holy Family



Auroran photo by Robert Belardi

School, Ethan Edelenji, walked away with gold also.

After a short break and to facilitate a smooth transition from the younger children to the other children, the 12-year-old competitors and above with their families flocked into the gym to warm up.

These children came into the day, with an avid volition to leave the arena with a perfect score. It was seemingly accomplished; at least, judged by the naked eye.

Once the age groups were complete the medals came forth.

Ziannah Encila from Brampton and Nathan Shamana from Maple won the gold in the 12-year-old group. Tottenham resident Emily Turco, who won at St. Michael's a few weeks back, finished with a bronze medal.

In the 13-year-old group, it was an entertaining finish. Isabelle Milne walked away with the gold. As for the boys it came down to a three-way tie in the end, requiring an intense playoff round. Each shooter steps up the line to take five free throws. Whoever makes the most, is victorious.

James Mendoza came away with the victory, with a flawless playoff round.

As the ages went up, the participants went down. There were not enough students to generate a full competition in each age group.

Natasha Griffith beat out Alliston native Tamara Sommer, and Ethan Vaz won it for the boys in the 14-year-old competition.

The last few winners, included 15-year-old Juliano Prospero and Orangeville native Alyssa Trushinski.

The Knights of Columbus always encourage high school students to contact their elementary school should they wish to participate.

Convenor Tim McGrath described what it's like to be a part of the Knights and the satisfaction that comes along with helping the community.

"I find a great benefit of joy when I help out a community that needs it more than most who can stand alone by themselves," McGrath explained.

McGrath went to add on the Knights are interested in hosting this competition for the Paralympians in the near future.

If you are interested in being a part of this free throw competition, speak with your elementary school to find out more information on when the qualifiers are held.

GRAND Re-Opening



GRAND RE-OPENING - BRAND NEW RE-MODEL AT THE LA FITNESS IN AURORA
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St. Patrick's treat from King's "Diva" at Theatre Aurora

By Mark Pavilons

Residents are in for a treat this coming St. Patrick's Day weekend, courtesy of King's own inimitable Diva In The Rough, Catherine Hughes.

After her two sold-out Christmas concerts, which have become something of a tradition in these parts, and a stint on stage starring in the play The 39 Steps, Hughes has teamed up with Theatre Aurora to bring us Lilt, Laughter & Song, A St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

Those of you with long memories will remember that she and her little band of Irish misfits packed the King Museum a couple of years ago with a program of the same title. Never one to rest on her shamrocks, Hughes has written a brand-new show this year, with actors and musicians bringing the audience Irish humour, stories & music. Joining her will be long-time pianist and combatant Don Gunn along with actors Kirsty Campbell, Shelagh Carlini and John Fetherston. Kevin Kennedy will also be singing and playing guitar, and Michelle Charlton

will join the group on fiddle. Hughes and her troupe will bring you readings of stories, snippets of history, much Irish humour and, as always, surprises. Fans of Hughes's soaring contralto will not be disappointed with songs woven throughout the performance.

Hughes has made a point of making the show lively and full of laughs.

"There is a lot of heaviness when you get into the history of Ireland, it's unavoidable. But the humour, moving music and indefatigable Irish spirit is also unavoidable, so I focused on that."

Hughes admits that Irish songs are the toughest for her to sing because they make her emotional.

"It's ridiculous. I can be singing something as silly as a bunch of non-words like 'whack fol de diddle,' and I get all choked up. You can take the girl out of Ireland, but you can never get the Ireland out of this girl, I guess."

There is also a sing-a-long planned for the end of the show. A proper Irish Hooley. Not sure what a "Hooley" is?

Find out by tuning into the Internet mini-sensation "Irish Word of the Day," where Hughes gives less-than-a minute lessons in Irish slang.

It's a very funny social media campaign that Hughes created to promote Lilt, Laughter & Song and it has caught a lot of attention. The Irish Word of the Day has garnered fans around the world, with Irish expats from the four corners sending suggestions for future words. The Irish Word of the Day is featured on Diva in the Rough's social media offerings; Facebook, Instagram and her own YouTube Channel (which also holds some music videos from her CD.)

Lilt, Laughter & Song at Theatre Aurora, slated to run just one night on

March 15, has tickets at \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Seating is limited and reservations are highly recommended. Ticket price includes traditional Irish stew & soda bread. Doors open at 6 p.m. for food and social with pre-show entertainment and the main event begins at 7 p.m. A cash bar will be available featuring a pint of Guinness at a paltry \$5.

Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive in Aurora.

For tickets call the Theatre Aurora box office 905-727-3669 or purchase online at www.theatreaurora.com/tickets

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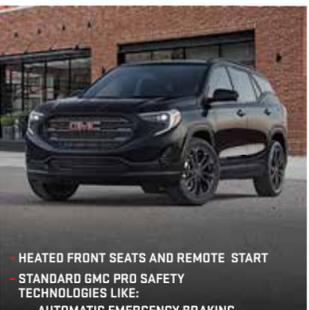




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Costco Shop Cards will be emailed to the email address provided to Costco at the time of registration. The purchase or lease of a vehicle does not qualify for the calculation of the Costco Executive Membership 2% Reward. Offer may not be redeemed for cash. Conditions and limitations apply to this limited time offer. For full program details and for any applicable exclusions see a participating dealer or costcoauto.ca/GM. For Costco Shop Card terms and conditions, visit Costco.ca and search "Shop Card". Tax, title, registration and license fees, personal property registration fees, and additional products and services are not included in the Costco Member Pricing. Offer is valid at participating authorized GM Canada dealers. Offer not available in the U.S. or Mexico. Offer is subject to change without notice. Void where prohibited. 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Councillors look at models to govern Library Square

From page 1

operations of Library Square – which would include 22 Church Street, the approved extension to the historic Church Street School building, and the gathering space planned between it and the Aurora Public Library – in a way that is somewhat arm’s-length from municipal operations.

“Under the MSB model, the Town would continue to own the lands and buildings at 22 Church Street and remain responsible for capital asset funding,” said Project Manager Phil Rose-Donahoe in his report to Council, noting that while an MSB model is unusual for cultural institutions owned by a municipality, it is a model that has been established in St. Catharines. “Once established, the MSB would become the operator of the business, responsible for program and service delivery, facility rentals and bookings, establishing rates and fees, box office administration, financial operations, marketing and promotion, fundraising and employing and managing all

employees and volunteers.

“Such a governance model would require the Town, through Council, to create a body that possesses the expertise at an operational level to implement the Library Square Business Plan and oversee the ongoing operations and programming of the facility. Council would also need to approve the criteria and competencies for the MSB and establish broad policies it needs to follow, thereby controlling the MSB’s scope of authority to some extent.”

Building on his report in Council Chambers last week, Mr. Rose-Donahoe offered Council a number of pros and cons for this model – and others – and, as far as the MSB, the cons outweighed the pros.

On the plus side, an MSB would provide “unified leadership and centralized direction”, a balance between municipal control and an independent board, the integration of existing staff and board members, and, in some cases, lower staff compensation.

On the other hand, there are few examples on which to compare this proposal for Library Square, an MSB could see a disruption to current program delivery, translate into a lengthier transition period for all employees, and limit fundraising potential.

“In analysing the MSB model, it has become increasingly clear that this model poses numerous challenges that make it the least feasible model for the future governance of Library Square,” said Mr. Rose-Donahoe.

More feasible options, he said, are the adoption of a Direct Delivery system where the operations of Library Square would fall under the umbrella of the Town’s Community Services Department, or a Not-For-Profit/Municipal Hybrid Model, one which is similar to the Town’s current agreements with the Aurora Cultural Centre (ACC) for the purposes of delivering cultural programming to the community. (See sidebar)

“If Council agrees that the MSB model is one that should not be pursued, the next step in the review process is to continue to work with

key stakeholders to further explore the Direct Delivery and Not-For-Profit Municipal model to determine which one is the most feasible option for Library Square,” said the Project Manager. “This means continuing to work with stakeholders during a series of process mapping workshops, the purpose of which is to undertake a step by step analysis of the decision-making process for various, real world scenarios that would occur at Library Square.”

Council ultimately agreed with his recommendation, tentatively rejecting the MSB model in a decision that is expected to be ratified at the end of the month.

Speaking in favour of exploring the Hybrid model further were Councillors Michael Thompson and John Gallo.

“Since being on Council since 2010, the ACC has done everything Council has asked of them,” said Councillor Thompson. “They continue to build and improve upon the relationship [between themselves and the Town] and address issues, and I expect that to continue. I still think the current hybrid model we have in place...is still the best path forward.”

On his part, Councillor Gallo said he agreed with Councillor Thompson’s views but questioned the purpose of the report and the recommendation to reject the MSB rather than to simply pick one of the three options to move forward.

“I am just saying, let’s make a decision and if it took a little bit more

time [for a recommendation] I would have been okay with that,” he said. “I would have been prepared to make a decision even before this report, to be quite honest, but I am happy it is here and it is moving forward.”

Mayor Tom Mrakas said he too was prepared to make a decision at the table.

“I think maybe it is in the best interest to say, ‘You know what? Let’s task staff and say we’re going to go for the non-profit municipal hybrid model and have them just specifically work on that, how they can update that, how they can tweak that and give us the best proposal when it comes before us and we can look at that,’” said Mayor Mrakas. “I have gone through this, I have looked at it, I kind of see the one I like and from what I am hearing around the table, I think everyone is leaning towards one model over another. Maybe that is what we do and give staff the proper amount of time so we can have the best solution once the doors open.”

Added Councillor Rachel Gilliland: “I do like the fact we have the opportunity to look at all three models and I think you did pick the right two. What I think we want for the Cultural Centre, if it ain’t broke, why try to fix it?”

Staff, however, cautioned that now is not the right time to make a final decision on Library Square’s governance as more work needs to be done to hammer out just how “the majority of new space” will be used and what the Town’s responsibilities might be in the long run.

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Not-For-Profit model a contender to run Library Square

By Brock Weir

Since its inception ten years ago, the Aurora Cultural Centre has operated in partnership with the Town on delivering cultural services to Aurora.

Now, as Aurora prepares to significantly boost cultural services with the redevelopment of Library Square, this model could be expanded to ensure the successful operation of what is intended to be a significant community destination.

A Not-For-Profit Municipal Hybrid model, such as that currently enjoyed between the Centre (ACC) and the Town, is one of two options that have risen to the top as local lawmakers go over the fine details of how Library Square will operate in the future.

“Not-for-profit governance is a common approach to operating cultural facilities such as the ACC,” said Phil Rose-Donahoe, Project Manager for Library Square, in a report to Council last week. “Municipalities often use third-party cultural groups to provide cultural programming to the community. As mission-driven not-for-profit organizations, they possess the expertise required to run cultural venues and provide municipalities with cost-savings in delivering cultural services. On the other hand, most museums in Ontario started out as projects of volunteer-run, non-profit historical societies, but, over time, transitioned to municipally-run entities as historical societies became increasingly unable to sustain them.”

Among the benefits of a Not-for-profit/Municipal Hybrid Model are expertise in programming, proven governance integrity (as demonstrated in the Town’s cultural services agreement with the ACC), existing partnerships, potential cost-savings, and the ability to allow for municipal oversight.

Some drawbacks of this model outlined by the project manager include the potential for inefficient customer service due to an “absence of centralized leadership”, the potential

for “confusion, duplication, and uneven approaches” to service delivery, some fragmentation in the delivery of Aurora’s Cultural Master Plan and higher public sector compensation.

Given the challenge of maintaining the hybrid model, rather than a complete overhaul of what presently exists, “there is an opportunity to mitigate these challenges by adopting some key improvements” such as expand the ACC’s board membership to include the Director of Community Services, or designate, the purpose of which is to enhance communication between the Town and the ACC; transition the responsibilities of all bookings/rentals to the Town for efficiency and offsetting the Town’s investment in the facility.

While this is the model that received initial support around the Council table last week, the potential for a Direct Delivery model is still on the table.

“As the largest community infrastructure project undertaken by the Town, the Library Square project provides an opportunity for the municipality to re-assess the decision-making process by integrating arts, culture and heritage programming into a refined governance structure,” said Mr. Rose-Donahoe. “Under a municipal direct delivery model, Library Square would become a function of the Community Services Department, which would be responsible for the development and delivery of municipal cultural programming (interior and exterior), theatre performances and box office management, museum administration, rentals and bookings, program registration, facility maintenance and repairs, among other responsibilities.

“A not-for-profit arm (e.g. foundation) is possible under this arrangement and could be responsible for financially supporting cultural services, and local arts and culture in general, by facilitating fundraising and advocacy activities.”

Examples of existing models of this kind include the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts and Flato Markham Theatre.



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*It is the first mild day of March,
Each minute sweeter than before...
There is a blessing in the air....
~William Wordsworth*



SENIOR SCAPE

Christina Doyle

loves it. You can write in a daily journal, gaze into a candle, or concentrate on a prayer; any of these methods can help you slow down and relax and have a clear mind. Anytime, we are fully present in the moment we are meditating!

This month, take the time to find a quiet place

where you can either sit or even lie down comfortably and relax your body. Enjoy the quiet. Meditation has been shown to decrease stress, improve relaxation, enhance emotional stability and increase concentration.

So, those of you who want to improve their bridge playing, do a little meditating first. Would you believe, that meditation can lead to improvement in mental health disorders including anxiety, depression, and attention deficits?

Meditation is being evaluated as an intervention for other mental illnesses as well. It can increase positive emotions.

There are a few reasons why this happens. The simplest reason is the reduction of stress. When we reduce the stress in our system, we return to our natural state of feeling calm, connected to ourselves and confident in meeting the challenges of life.

When we experience this, it feels good, and it shows!

Meditating every now and again is great and you will notice a change with each session you do. However, a regular daily practice of meditation is the key to experiencing the full force of these exponentially increasing benefits.

It has been found that in UCLA

March is here and she gets to have her one last hurrah at winter!

Can you hear the crocuses about to burst forth? Can you anticipate something called ...sun? Yes, it's bubbling in me, too.

I love spring, and I am a hopeless romantic at heart. To our ladies out there, I am sure you have been watching the W Channel with all its glorious, cheesy romantic movies by Hallmark. They always have a happy ending, just the way I like it; no real plot, no real drama, no violence just plain ol' love!

You will have to forgive me but I am a little slow in discovering things, and the one thing I have discovered this month is meditation!

When you hear the word, you probably have this image of being in an unpleasant sitting position called a lotus and your back aching all the while! Well, sorry, that's not correct but it also explains why so many people shy away from "meditation." My apologies if I am speaking to the knowledgeable ones out there who already practice meditation. You already know the physiological, psychological and spiritual reasons why we should engage in regular meditation. It is the glue that holds mind, body and spirit together.

Just like when you are gardening or walking gently, that you become so absorbed that your breathing slows down. It is a healing practice and our body

YRFN eyes compost education centre

From page 9

growing issue in this Region."

From a programming perspective, the York Region Food Network is putting an increased emphasis on regenerative agriculture and environmental sustainability.

To this end, the YRFN is in the early stages of developing a compost education centre which would be a demonstration project for people to come and learn not only how to compost their waste but make a positive impact on the environment. Such a space, she says, will also provide opportunities for participants to explore Indigenous growing techniques, how different cultures understand food, and have meaningful discussions on how food

impacts changing climates.

"A lot of people think of food insecurity and they think, 'This person doesn't have food because they are lazy and not working, it's their own fault, they're not managing their budgets well,' but, for us, we're lucky to have the research to say, 'No, the people who are food insecure are people who are working.' It tends to be the unattached, the people who are the best budgeters and are cooking food at home, for the most part. To be able to better communicate that to the public is huge so people understand what the issue is.

"We often get people thinking that we at the YRFN are a food bank and we often get people who think we're part of the Regional Municipality of York. We are a charity and our focus is on connecting and building food skills in the community. Food insecurity will be solved by increasing people's incomes, but we also know that a lot of people who are experiencing food insecurity, who are constantly worrying about food, who aren't able to purchase food regularly, who run out of food and aren't able to purchase more, we do know that they often forego social events because of that.

"We often hear people won't go out for coffee or they won't go out for dinners with friends because they are constantly worried about money, food and food access. We know that a lot of people who are struggling with food are socially isolated. The purpose of our programs is really to connect people, to reduce that social isolation, build that social inclusion, build those friendships, and we want to build resiliency within that so if people have those community connections, they are more resilient and they have more people to turn to in times of crisis."

For more information on the York Region Food Network, visit yrfn.ca or call 905-841-3101.

Getting Things Done

From page 8

the LPAT (the appeals board) would approve this in a heartbeat. And if the application was appealed? the applicant would most likely send in the appeal for the original proposal which would see us lose the pool and back to the 63 units.

This is why Council, at General Committee, recommended approval of this application on a 5-0 vote in favour. For us to say no – all the work to make this the best possible application would be lost and your tax dollars would be spent fighting a losing battle.

Council, staff, and the residents all worked hard to get the best outcome for the area and the Town and Council will continue to ensure through the site plan process that the landscaping will be the best possible as well as the construction mitigation plan will be in place to ensure the least amount of disruption.

This will need to be ratified at Council at the end of the month.

that long-term meditators had better-preserved brains than non-meditators as they aged.

Participants who had been meditating for an average of 20 years had more gray matter volume throughout the brain, although older meditators still had some volume loss compared to younger meditator; it wasn't as pronounced as the non-meditators.

If you have a few minutes in the morning or evening (or both), rather than turning on your phone or going online, see what happens if you try quieting down your mind, or at least paying attention to your thoughts and letting them go without reacting to them. If the research is right, just a few minutes of meditation may make a big difference.

Therefore, see if you can spare 20 minutes today and find a quiet spot and breathe quietly and deeply and just listen to your breathing as you begin to relax and really do something good for yourself! See you in April! Spring is a-comin'.

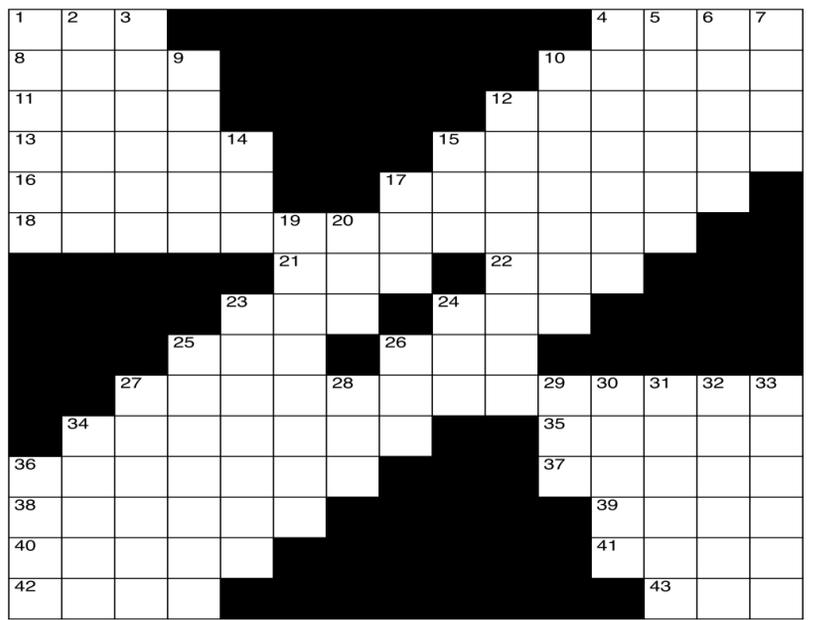
HAPPENINGS AT THE SENIORS' CENTRE

TEA IN THE GARDEN. On Sunday, March 15 from 1:30 to 3:00 you may enjoy tea and delicious treats in the West McKenzie Room at the Seniors Centre for only \$7 if you are a member or \$8 if you are not. You will be surrounded by a glorious array of spring flowers and you are encouraged to wear a flower decorated hat. Tickets are available at Reception until March 11.

QUILT 'N SEW. Do you enjoy quilting, or are you interested in quilting? If so, why not join the quilters on Fridays between 9 am and 3 pm in the craft room at the Seniors' Centre.

HOW TO STAY IN YOUR HOUSE AND BE ORGANIZED. This seminar will take place on Wednesday, March 18 in the lounge at 1 p.m.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A team's best pitcher
- 4. Designer Jacobs
- 8. Hip joint
- 10. A dialect of English
- 11. Portrays
- 12. Panic
- 13. The head of a team
- 15. High priest
- 16. League of Legends locale
- 17. Protective folds
- 18. Treats allergies
- 21. Voodoo spirits
- 22. Single unit
- 23. Unit of measurement
- 24. Brew
- 25. Burundian franc
- 26. Self
- 27. Bengals great
- 34. Making letters overlap
- 35. Piece of pizza
- 36. Illegal drug
- 37. Card game
- 38. The highest point in the development
- 39. Oh, God!
- 40. Wives (law)
- 41. Monetary unit of Samoa
- 42. Supplements with difficulty
- 43. Valentine's Day color

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Warm climate tree or shrub
- 2. Silky case spun by larvae
- 3. Still in existence
- 4. Light, two-stranded rope
- 5. Wear away
- 6. Beginnings
- 7. Essence
- 9. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
- 10. Path
- 12. Repeated tones
- 14. Expresses surprise
- 15. Monetary unit of Burma
- 17. When you hope to get there
- 19. Brighten
- 20. Fifth note of a major scale
- 23. Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
- 24. We all do it
- 25. Scrounges
- 26. Unit of energy
- 27. Begin to be
- 28. Midway between northeast and east
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Succulent plants
- 31. Performer
- 32. Gas station term
- 33. Required
- 34. Soviet monetary unit
- 36. Eating house

PUZZLE SOLUTION

A	B	A	C	A	S	L	O	E	T	A	B	I			
B	A	S	E	L	P	E	R	T	A	I	N	E	D		
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THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

FEBRUARY 26 – APRIL 1

Kingsway Place Aurora (145 Murray Drive) hosts Caregiver Support Sessions with March of Dimes Canada. For those caring for someone who has had a stroke or other chronic illness. Meet other caregivers, share your story, learn about resources in the community, stress management and more! 1.30 – 3 p.m. For more information, contact Victoria at 416-729-4092.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

The PROBUS Club of Aurora hosts their monthly meeting today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North). Today's speaker is Janet Rurak of the York Region Seniors Strategy. For more information on this month's speaker, contact David Brisley at 905-841-0338. New members welcome! Contact Brian Walsh brian.walsh1@sympatico.ca or be our guest at the meeting.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Amnesty International's Aurora-Newmarket Group holds their monthly meeting on the second Thursday of the month, January to May, from 7:00-8:30pm, 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. For more information call Renee at 905-713-6713, or visit www.amnesty.ca and amnestyaurora.wordpress.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

The Aurora Legion will host a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance tonight from 6.30 – 11.30 p.m. at 105 Industrial Parkway North. Dinner from 6.30 – 7.30, music from 7.30 – 11.30 p.m. Entertainment: 20 Flight Rockers. For more, contact Nancy at 905-727-9932.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Theatre Aurora presents A St. Patrick's Day Celebration "Lilt, Laughter and Song", featuring Diva In The Rough Catherine Hughes with the musical talents of Don Guinn. Actors and musicians bring you an evening of Irish music, humour and stories, as well as a boisterous sing-a-long to fill your hearts, and traditional Irish fare to fill your gobs! Guinness available to soothe your soul. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. For more, visit theatreaurora.ca/tickets or call 905-727-3669.

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at the Aurora Public Library (Magna Room), from 3 – 4.30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from francophone to beginners with some conversational ability) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez.fr.

some conversational ability) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez.fr.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Drop by the Aurora Cultural Centre (22 Church Street) for a free March Break "Crafter-noon" from 1 – 4 p.m. Family-friendly art activities.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Canadian Blood Services will host a Blood Donation Event today at the Aurora Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) from 2 – 7 p.m. 96 donors are needed. For more, visit blood.ca.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

The Canadian Federation of University Women hosts its monthly meeting tonight from 7 – 9.15 p.m. at the Aurora Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North). Tonight's speaker is Downsizing Diva Arlene Stephenson who will share how she assists seniors through the challenge of downsizing, decluttering, organizing and moving.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

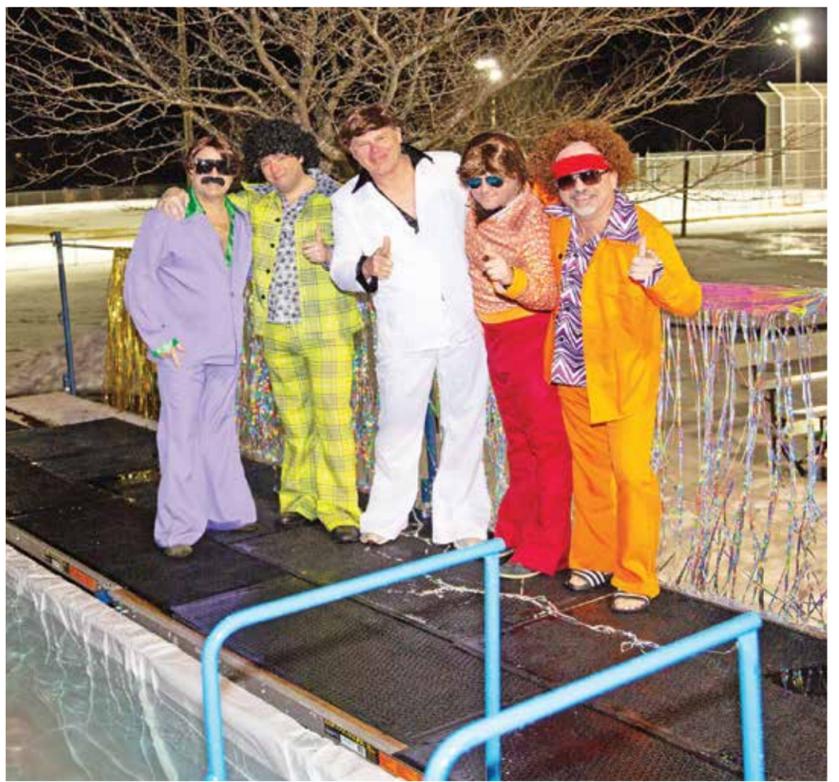
The Aurora Public Library offers a free Income Tax Program today for individuals with incomes up to \$30,000 and families up to \$40,000. Taxes are prepared by community volunteers. In partnership with the CRA. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Further opportunities available by appointment March 31, April 1, 2, 7 – 9). Register at bit.ly/Register at bit.ly/2VvRT2VvRTJ8.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at the Aurora Public Library (Magna Room), from 3 – 4.30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from francophone to beginners with some conversational ability) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez.fr.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

The Aurora Public Library offers a free Income Tax Program today for individuals with incomes up to \$30,000 and families up to \$40,000. Taxes are prepared by community volunteers. In partnership with the CRA. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Further opportunities available by appointment April 7 – 9). Register at bit.ly/Register at bit.ly/2VvRT2VvRTJ8.



POLAR PLUNGE – This year's Polar Plunge, which took place at the York Region Police Association last Thursday night, had a decidedly vintage feel, with many participants donning their best disco duds for the 1970s-themed event.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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York9 gameplay gets underway next month

From page 13

of the showrooms within D&B at 6.30 p.m. to meet the coaching staff, players and club personnel.

At 7.00 p.m., TSN's Luke Wileman hosted a question and answer session with President Angus McNab, head coach Jimmy Brennan and first assistant coach Paul Stalteri.

The Scottish born McNab has succeeded former president Preben Ganzhorn. He has been with York9 for 60 days and says the club has very passionate fans.

McNab has pushed for Friday night football. He said the club must be aspirational in giving young fans the opportunity to be able to attend home matches.

During the Q&A session, McNab responded to The Auroran, King Sentinel and Caledon Citizen's question, on what it means to be a part of the Canadian Premier

League.

"It's massive. To be really, really honest. That's why I'm here. Is because it is the beginning. It's a phenomenal opportunity. It is very much a league on the rise, it is very, very much a lot of competition, that is alerting major teams all over the world. After one year, to get someone as big as Atletico Madrid is huge."

McNab went on to add, this is a massive opportunity for Canadian players in the country, and he is honoured to be a part of something like this ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

During his speech, McNab was proud to announce the latest signing. Aurora FC's winger and Aurora native Max Ferrari joins the club.

Ferrari came on to the stage to say a few words to the crowd. He said he was nervous, but that is what comes with being a professional athlete.

Ferrari explained this a dream

come true.

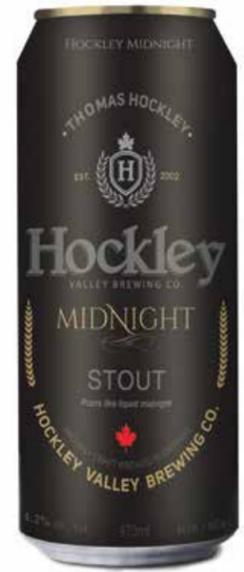
"It's a dream come true. Especially it's my hometown. I get to represent them and I get to play under Jim Brennan. I've known him since I was seven-years-old through Newmarket United soccer club. It's great."

Compatriots Stalteri and Brennan were welcomed on to the stage by Wileman.

Stalteri emphasized that this club must be a community club, influencing the youth soccer players that their goal should be to put on the York9 uniform in the future.

Brennan explained that this club has a lot of talent, they are comfortable in possession and they are hungry. He believes, they are hungry for success and this year, "will be our year."

York9 FC, opens the season at home against the Halifax Wanderers, on Monday, April 13. Kick-off is at 7.00 p.m.



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be occasionally asked to assist in shopping and errands. Must be able to speak and read English. References and First-aid certification required. Certified PSW preferred but may consider non-certified if the fit is right. Rate range: \$14-15/hr. Please email resume to: rose@summitmetal.com

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- Complete all necessary paperwork involved in lease signing and payment collection for newly rented units.
- Work with all current tenants in completing necessary paperwork for renewal units

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

QUALIFICATIONS:

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



Let's Talk.

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