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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 25 No. 29 905-727-3300

The Auroran.com

FREE

Week of April 25, 2024



STUDENT LEADERS – 20 student leaders from across York Region gathered at Magna International's Aurora headquarters on Thursday evening to receive their 2024 Give Back Awards. Held during National Volunteer Week, the ceremony honoured Grade 12 students who have made exceptional contributions to their communities.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Give Back Awards celebrate students and their more than 5,000 hours of community contributions

BY BROCK WEIR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ananya Murlidharan is driven by collaboration.

The Grade 12 student from Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School has fostered that during her high school career and is looking forward to doing that in her post-secondary education as well, pursuing studies in biomedical engineering.

"I plan on ensuring that biomedical technology is more accessible for people in the future to ensure that we're able to use the knowledge we have as a society to help people and make it more accessible to people who are in need, and also make it more accessible to our community because, if we have this knowledge, we must help each other."

Murlidharan's future goals echo the legacy she is set to leave behind at Williams, as well as the contributions that were recognized last Thursday night as she and 19 of her peers were presented with the 2024 Give Back Awards by

Neighbourhood Network.

Held at the headquarters at Magna International on Thursday, April 18 to coincide with National Volunteer Week, the ceremony honoured 20 students from Aurora, King, Newmarket, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Georgina for the contributions they have made to their school environment.

"For 15 years now, Magna's Neighbourhood Network team has been honouring the exceptional volunteer

Continued on page 11

Still time to support local hospital ahead of Sunday's Southlake Run

BY BROCK WEIR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Registration to participate in this Sunday's Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake is now closed, but there are still plenty of ways to support the local hospital's biggest annual fundraiser.

Continued on page 3







15620 Bayview Ave. (LA Fitness Plaza) | (905) 727-9391 18170 Yonge St, East Gwillimbury | (905) 954-9391

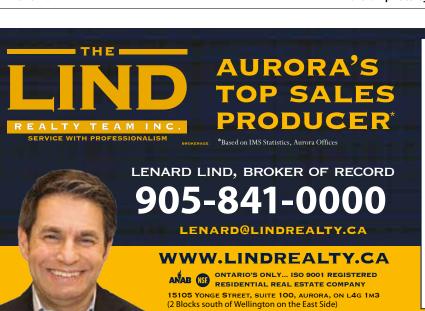


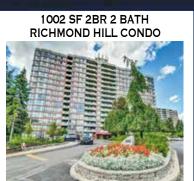




HOME IMPROVEMENTS — Microtel's Amanda and Vivian were amongst the scores of residents and business leaders who flocked to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex over the weekend for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's annual Home & Living Show. For more, see pages 12 and 13.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger





Experience urban living at its finest! This 1002 SF suite boasts an open-concept layout, a balcony with scenic views, and access to top-notch amenities including an inviting pool. Steps away from Yonge Street and Hillcrest
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This 2,030 SF, 4-bedroom semi-detached condo is perfect for first-time buyers and investors. Featuring a family room with patio access, a fenced yard, and a sunny southern exposure. The third-floor primary bedroom offers semi-ensuiteaccesstoa5-piecebathroom.Access to a swimming pool is included.



This stunning home offers over 6500 SF of living space, 6 bedrooms, and a backyard oasis with a saltwater pool. Enjoy soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, and a gourmet kitchen. With a heated shop, parking for 20 vehicles, and a finished lower level, this home has it all!

TOWN OF AURORA

NOTICE BOARD

April 25, 2024



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, May 2	10 a.m.	Video Conference	Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee
Tuesday, May 7	9:30 a.m.	Newmarket CC	Joint Council Committee (CYFS)
Tuesday, May 7	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, May 7	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, May 8	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 9	7 p.m.	Video Conference	Committee of Adjustment
Monday, May 13	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Environmental Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 14	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Finance Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 14	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning
Wednesday, May 15	7 p.m.	Tannery Room	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Wednesday, May 15	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library	Aurora Public Library Board
Thursday, May 16	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

*Committee of the Whole, Public Planning and Council meetings are available to the public in-person and via live stream on the Town's YouTube channel.

Online Skylight Gallery Exhibition



Featured Artist: Cheryl Uhrig - What Comes to Mind

A statement from artist Cheryl Uhrig regarding her work: "I like to capture slices of life in my art. Passing moments that tell a story or evoke an emotion, it's those slices that inspire my paintings, illustrations, and cartoons. It could be an Algonquin pine in the middle of winter. A girl gazing out a window. My dog looking at a snowman. What comes to mind is what I have to paint. Every day is a new adventure. Let the day begin!" Cheryl's art appears in children's books, magazines, and local art galleries. View in-person at Aurora Town Hall in the Skylight Gallery. View online at aurora.ca/SkylightGallery. All artwork is for sale. Please contact Sarah Reynolds at sreynolds@aurora.ca if you are interested in investing and owning a beautiful artwork piece.



Pool season is almost here! As you open your pool, remember that pool water is harmful to aquatic life. Help us keep our streams, creeks and Lake Simcoe healthy by following the proper pool & spa discharge steps. More details at: aurora.ca/pools.

Request for expression of interest - Licensed beverage sales for consumption

The Town of Aurora is looking for interested food vendors for Aurora's Concerts in the Park series on Wednesdays in July and August in Aurora Town Park (49 Wells Street) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is an average of 1000 attendees per concert. Interested vendors would be required to manage, organize, sell, and serve licensed beverages for sale and consumption.

Proposal requirements can be found at aurora.ca/ SummerConcerts. Interested parties are requested to submit their proposal to the Recreation Supervisor, Special Events at sware@aurora.ca by: May 15, 2024 at 12 p.m.

E-Waste Event

If you've recently upgraded your tech gadgets, don't let them end up in the landfill. Bring your old computers, phones, and TVs to the Joint Operation Centre on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for our E-Waste Event.

Let's work together to reduce electronic waste and protect our environment.

Learn more at aurora.ca/WasteEvents.



Workshops - Preschool, Children's & Youth

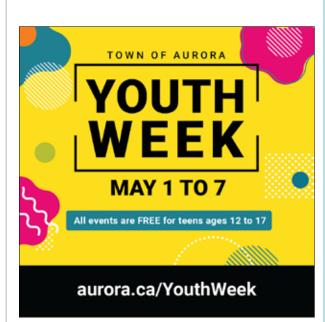
Join us at these exciting workshops:

- · Job Prep (14 to 17 years old) on May 4
- · April Showers Bring May Flowers (6 to 8 years old) on
- · Ultimate Catch (12 to 15 years old) on May 11
- · King of the Castle (4 to 6 years old) on May 14
- · Game On (11 to 14 years old) on May 28

Check out our Program Guide webpage for full details at aurora.ca/ProgramGuide.

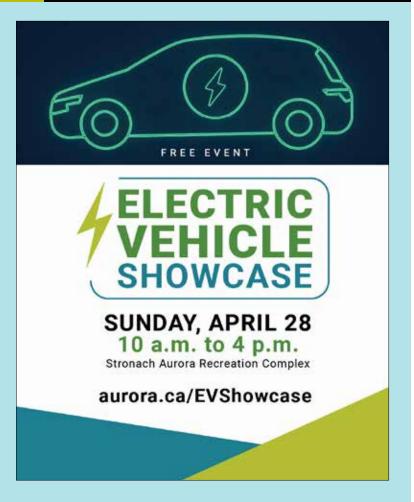
Victoria Day Weekend Holiday Schedule - Programs & Activities

Have fun over the holidays! We have programs and activities for everyone to enjoy. Visit our Holiday Schedules webpage for full details at aurora.ca/HolidaySchedules.





What's Happening









Aurora Town Hall

Aurora! Learn more at aurora.ca/RainBarrel.











Still time to support local hospital ahead of Sunday's Southlake Run

From page 1

The 2024 Run for Southlake is set to take place the morning of April 28 beginning at the Newmarket Seniors Meeting Place on Davis Drive.

With this being the 100th anniversary year for Southlake Regional Health Centre, organizers are hoping each participant can raise at least \$100 for local healthcare – and they can only do so with the help of pledges.

"There are lots of different ways you can support," says pediatrician Dr. Charmaine Van Schaik, Southlake's Chief of Staff. "You can sponsor a friend or community member, you can go online and support a team, you can come out and participate along the sidelines and cheer people on — so many ways to support both financially and emotionally."

Ahead of the run, Dr. Van Schaik says there is "great anticipation" for what Sunday will hold, as is the case for the Doctor every year that participants hit the pavement for the organization – so much so that staff members have broken into teams, some of which she describes as "very competitive."

"As a person who lives in the community, for me it is participation from a perspective of a citizen and supporting the local hospital," she says. "A lot of community fundraising that happens to support hospital equipment literally puts the tools in my hand and that of my colleagues, together with all other healthcare professionals in the hospital, to be able to do the work we do to serve [the community].

"We pride ourselves on providing excellent care to our community – I want that as a clinician, I want that as a citizen, I want that for my parents, and I want that for my patients."

Dr. Van Schaik participates in the Run for Southlake each year and likes to do a "bit of a sprint here and a little bit more of a walk there" to give her the chance to interact with participants along the way. It's important, she says, to learn why they came out and, especially, to thank them for their support.

"There are lots of great teams that come out from our community, some of the teams are older in years, some of them are younger in years and it is really [about] connecting with them as well for the priority they're making for Southlake," she



File photo

says. "Some of them come out for the competitive aspect of things it's a good run for some people who are looking for times for qualifying and training – and they talk about feeling good doing something for their community and hospital. For others, it's that feel-good and understanding that even as some of them are engaging in this, they don't really understand that funding doesn't come from government; it's sharing those conversations along the way, educating people, because if I tell one person who tells another person, it really gets that understanding out through our community on how we really do need and value their support."

The funding in question isn't just for the big things, she notes. It can come down to the "basic equipment that we need right down at the frontlines to make a day-to-day difference."

"One of our strongest attributes [at Southlake] is we have a really strong sense of family and of the care we provide and how we work. One of those really unique things about the Run is you see a lot of that; it's not just the staff families who are coming out, but you see families in the community who are coming out as a collective, be it through teams that are involved, their own nuclear family, but there is a lot of that collaboration that is evident there.

"Come out, show your support – support if you can financially in whatever capacity you can. It will go a long way to really reaching the inside of the hospital and the care we're able to provide."

For more on this weekend's Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake and opportunities to support an individual or team, visit southlake.ca/foundation.

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TOWN OF AURORA

PUBLIC NOTICE



NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

AURORA TOWN COUNCIL will hold a Public Meeting to receive input on a proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment application:

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7 p.m.

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

APPLICATION: The purpose and intent of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment application is to change the land use for a portion of the subject property to facilitate the development of 29 townhouse units.

PROPERTY: 7 Lacey Court

WARD LOCATION: 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: CON 1 PT LOT 81 PLAN 65M2583 BLOCK 12

APPLICANT: 200 Wellington Holding Corp FILE NUMBERS: OPA-2024-01; ZBA-2024-01 RELATED APPLICATIONS: SP-2024-01



PROCEDURAL INFORMATION:

Parties interested in speaking during the public portion of the meeting may attend in person or electronically. To participate electronically, pre-registration is required. For more information, visit: aurora.ca/participation

The meeting will be live streamed at: youtube.com/TownofAurora $\,$

The Planning Report will be made available the Tuesday before the Public Planning Meeting date on the Town's website, by visiting the Agendas and Minutes section, located at: aurora.ca/agendas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any questions regarding the proposed application can be directed to Antonio Greco of the Planning and Development Services Department at 365-500-3103, or by email at agreco@ aurora.ca.

Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services Department at 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON. L4G 6J1, faxed to 905-726-4736, or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and Number.

INFORMATION ABOUT PRESERVING YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS:

If a person or a public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Aurora to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions the Town of Aurora before the approval authority gives or refuses approval of the Officil Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Aurora before the approval authority gives or refuses approval of the Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Town of Aurora on the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning and Development Services.

If you have received this notice as an owner of a property and the property contains seven (7) or more residential units, the Town requires that you post this notice in a location that is visible to all the residents.

DATED at the Town of Aurora, this 18th day of April, 2024

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





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Compensation ask "unfair" says resident

In reply to J. Sanders on the pay increase by Council, perhaps some actual facts are in order on the pay and severance increase.

I'm not one for Mayoral powers, but I am one for accountability as their proposed increase seems excessive for a job that is part-time. If it is now a full-time job based on the workload, then they need to change it as so. A full-time job, and a council member cannot have another job. Facts:

A year severance if a member of Council isn't voted in or doesn't decide to run, seems a bit excessive to me, the taxpayer;

A Councillor stated to me they are expected to work up to 30 hours, yet I was initially told 35. Do they not even know how much time they MUST work? How is this humanely possible when most have full-time job (Gallo / Thompson / Kim?)? My understanding is they only have to show up for the voting meetings - part-

Statements by a Councillor to me indicated that by reducing Councillors by two when they went to the Ward system saved \$350k (four years), with a proposed increase now of \$15k for six Councillors over four years it will cost an additional \$360k....forever....so much for saving us money;

In regards to comparing the Mayor's salary, then why is our Library CEO at \$182k for one Library and the Town Mayor at \$163K? It makes no sense when all the other Mayors I looked up made more than the CEOs of the Library:

- 1. Stouffville Library CEO makes \$126k; the Mayor of Stouffville makes \$156k
- 2. Newmarket Library CEO makes 147k; Mayor makes \$156K
- 3. Based on the above, our Mayor's salary is \$7k higher which doesn't seem egregious, but the CEO's salary does.

Let's compare Newmarket to Aurora: they have seven Councillors with a 30k higher population at 91,481, and we have six Councillors for a population of approximately 61k. Then increase the pay to \$51k that Newmarket is at, but decrease our Councillors to only 4-1/2. This makes it fair as then each Councillor represents appx 13,000 residents. Apples to apples.

I thought I saw a letter to the editor where the reader indicated that a study done on Newmarket Council's pay indicated they were overpaid based on industry standards. That makes me wonder, how fair is the market study on the Council's salaries?

All the Council members ran knowing what the pay was for this part-time position. Were they planning this in advance of being elected? Seems unfair to me.

Councillor responds to April 11 letter from J. Sanders

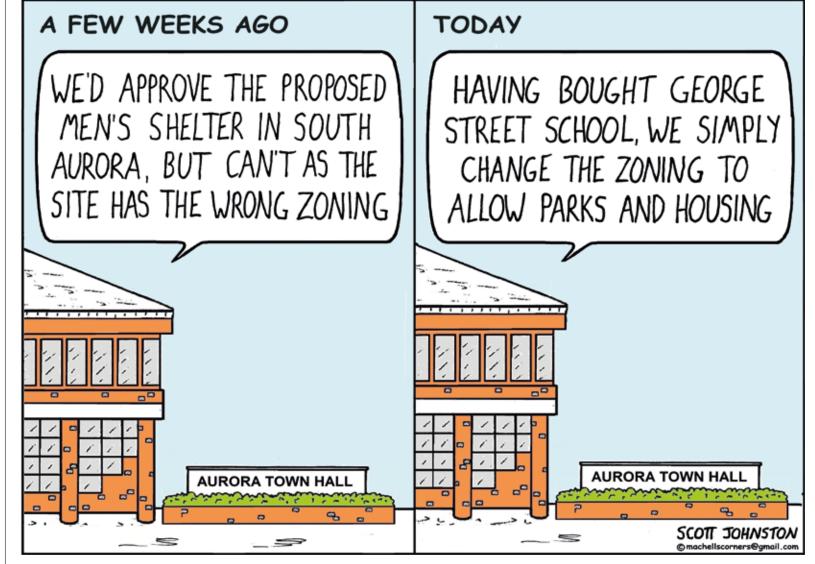
I appreciate you informing voters about the intended use of Strong Mayor Powers; and how they are being misused in Aurora. My understanding is that this is not the case in other municipalities. Why is it happening here?

Also, I want to thank you for your detailed and factual information about Council compensation.

It is clear from watching the Committee's Meetings, accessible online, that the Mayor's used social media to discredit the independent Committee's research and Recommendations. I apologize and thank them for their voluntary work.

> **Wendy Gaertner** Councillor, Ward 3

Machell's Corners



Brightening the gloom

I've never been asked to complete a Proust questionnaire - you know, one of those surveys of the great and good that typically lands near the back of each month's edition of Vanity Fair magazine.

Popularized by French novelist Marcel Proust, it's often been used as a quick and concise way to get to know someone. Think of it as one of our earliest of the dreaded "ice-breaker" activities that few have come to love! But, all in all, it's effective and can indeed shed light on what truly makes a person tick.

Among the 20-odd questions that form the basis of the questionnaire popularized by French novelist Marcel Proust, are:

- 1. What is your idea of perfect happiness?
- 2. What is your greatest fear?
- 3. What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?
- 4. What is the trait you most deplore in others?
- Which living person do you most admire?
- 6. What is your greatest extravagance?
- What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
- What do you most dislike about your appearance?
- Which living person do you most
- 10. Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
- 11. When and where were you happiest?
- 12. Which talent would you most like to have?
- 13. If you could change one thing about yourself, where would it
- 14. What do you consider your greatest achievement?
- 15. If you were to die and come back as a person or a thing, what would it be?
- 16. Where would you most like to
- 17. What is your most treasured possession?
- 18. Which historical figure do you most identify with?
- 19. Who are your heroes in real life? 20. What is your greatest regret?

It's a pretty comprehensive list, but I find any time I attempt to mentally tackle the questions, my answers are almost never the same. It often depends on my mood, experiences



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

picked up since the last time answers were attempted, and even sometimes influenced by the time of year. Some questions are hard to answer at any given time, such as, "What talent would you most like to have?" That's often contingent on whatever hurdles I faced in any particular day.

Answers to three questions, however, often remain the same: #7 - What do you consider the most overrated virtue? Patience – if only because mine is usually in short supply, unfortunately; #4 – What trait do you most deplore in others? Hypocrisy. Oh, and the third? Well, the answer to Question #3 is the same as my answer to Question #4, but I hope that that particular trait exhibits itself only rarely.

Yet, unfortunately, I feel like I have inadvertently been indulging in that more frequently these days.

In this space, and indeed in my day-today life, I try to accentuate the positive. Anyone who read this column during the height of the Global Pandemic, for instance, probably got sick of me grasping for silver linings amidst all that chaos, but, hey, somebody had to do it.

But lately, as much as I've been accentuating, I've been feeling gloomy about the state of the world.

We have wars raging in several parts of the globe, with reports coming out of those war zones increasingly dire with each passing day. We're grappling with the double-blow of rampant inflation and a housing crisis, both of which are working overtime to keep many of us from getting ahead in the world, despite our best efforts. We're seeing an environment where discourse over just about any subject is increasingly fraught with metaphorical landmines and rhetoric that, previously heated, is now scalding. We're living in a time where more and more people seem quicker to anger, keener to narrow their perspectives, and hungry to seek out validation for better and, all too often, for worse.

There are few silver linings to grasp there. Yet, last week our communities served up a wonderful tonic.

National Volunteer Week is a chance to highlight all those people who have stepped up to the plate to simply give their time to a cause close to their heart or foster the change they would like to see - and there's plenty of overlap here.

Here in the newsroom, it always brightens the day when we have the chance to shine a light on person or persons doing good in the communitywhether it's the simple act of shovelling a driveway for someone who can't, or going all in and building the resource to establish a foundation where giving is specialized and can potentially take place in perpetuity.

Last Thursday, for instance, I had the privilege of attending a presentation ceremony for the 2024 Give Back Awards, an initiative of Magna International that presents scholarships to upcoming graduates in York Region recognizing not their academic prowess but rather the ways they have given back to their communities - whether within the school or much further afield.

This outstanding crop of 20 students have done some herculean lifting in the places they call home, tackling issues ranging from: food insecurity; to period poverty; to international philanthropy; to knowledge-sharing; to fostering invaluable - and sometimes intergenerational – human connections at the community, national and international levels; to just lending a hand wherever and whenever it is needed.

Therein was the silver lining: tireless people motivated to make that allimportant difference.

As so many problems plague our world, these students have been propelled to step up and foster change wherever they see the need, and in many cases those needs go well beyond our borders.

The 20 students honoured last week is just a small sample of the countless individuals of all ages who are working overtime - often on their own time and dime - to build better communities. Having the privilege to learn of and cover all their accomplishments certainly helped lift the gloom I was feeling - and hopefully derailed future encounters with that unfortunate answer to Question #3.

To all of our volunteers, thank you for all that you do.

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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to brock@lpcmedia.ca Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.





The Aurora Museum & Archives is bottling up...

The Blues!

This bottle of Prussian Blue (991.43.77) may seem out of place at a pharmacy, being known as the first synthetic pigment and used in the 20th century in the making of blueprints and the cyanotype photographic process. It's possible that Otto Dwight Hess, the pharmacist named on the bottle who operated on the west side of Yonge from the 1930s-1950s, used it in one of these chemical processes. It wasn't until the 1960s that the medical use of ferric hexacyanoferrate, which is to absorb ingested radioactivity in some emergency applications, was developed. In just the right circumstances, the kind of blues you want!



In a significant ruling, released this past Friday, the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) has upheld the Town of Aurora's position opposing the proposed 13 storey condo development application at 1289 Wellington Street East.

Specifically, "The Tribunal finds that a seven-storey height limit on the subject property has regard for Provincial interests, is consistent with the PPS, conforms with the Growth Plan and the Region OP, and appropriately implements the in-effect Town OP."

The OLT's decision sets a precedent that the Town's height restriction of seven stories constitutes good planning,

GETTING THINGS DONE

Mayor Tom Mrakas

underscoring the importance of balanced urban growth and preserving the character of our community.

As I have stated before, Official Plans are the vision for appropriate growth of our community. And it is encouraging to have a decision upholding our Town's right to determine where and how we intensify, as outlined in our Official Plan.

Per the OLT's decision, "... intensification must be done properly and in conformity with surrounding uses, and it cannot be intensification at all costs."

A sincere thank you is owed to the staff who diligently worked on this appeal and to the dedicated councillors who steadfastly fought for responsible development that aligns with the intent of our Official Plan.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email tmrakas@aurora.ca or by phone 905-726-4746. I am here for you.

Home Sweet Home Show



Every year I look forward to the return of the Aurora Home Show.

There's nothing like wandering the aisles and discovering in how many ways your lovingly maintained home is apparently deficient.

Perhaps your driveway needs repaying, your landscaping is unkempt, your furnace needs replacing, or your kitchen is long overdue for an update.

And if you don't think you can afford all of that, there are always various finance and mortgage folks on hand to assure you otherwise.

Kidding aside, there's lots to see and do.

What follows are some random observations from my visit last weekend to the 2024 edition.

Perhaps it was the relocation to SARC, or the results of the pandemic, or maybe my memory is foggy, but unfortunately the Show doesn't seem as "big" as it was back in the days when it was held at the ACC. Even with the reduction from three to two days there seem fewer visitors, vendors and general buzz. However, it was good to see both arenas mostly full this year.

One nice thing about recent versions of the Show is the free admission, thanks to corporate sponsorship.

Another positive experience is the friendliness and enthusiasm of the vendors. I had a number of nice chats with representatives from a variety of

services, some of which I really didn't

INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

Having said that, it always surprises me that in some instances you'll pass a booth that a company has obviously spent a lot of time and effort to set up, where the occupants are sitting looking at their phones. No eye contact. No effort to hand out promotional materials or interest folks in their products. No attempt at all to engage the public. Such a lost opportunity.

I hadn't noticed in previous years, or perhaps I hadn't availed myself of them, but it seemed that every other booth was conducting a raffle of some kind. Baskets of products, free services, gift certificates, travel vouchers, and other miscellaneous prizes ... everyone seemed to be offering something.

Not surprisingly for a Home Show, most booths seemed to be representing designers, contractors, landscapers, financial institutions and various lifestyle/décor companies.

Apart from these vendors, there were a number of local groups such as the Legion, Cultural Centre, Historical Society and Farmer's Market, which offered great a chance to find out about their activities for the coming year.

It seems the Home Show wouldn't be complete without at least one politician setting up shop, and this year was no exception. Perhaps my timing is perpetually off, but once again there was no sign of the actual representative when I went by. I think the last one I actually saw at their booth at the Home Show was Lois Brown, which shows how long ago that was.

I was interested to discover that many of the companies whose representatives I spoke with were based not here, but in Toronto, Uxbridge, Newmarket, Stouffville, King, Richmond Hill, Barrie and other locations outside our borders.

While they were all reputable companies who serve our Town, I was surprised there wasn't a larger representation of Aurora-based companies in the Aurora Home Show, that is sponsored by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

By the same token, well done to the Chamber for (mostly) filling the arenas, and to those local Aurora businesses that did make the effort.

With that in mind, whether you attended the Show or not, one takeaway that we should all practice; whatever services or products one needs, you can never go wrong shopping locally.

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



THE PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS

By Frank Stronach

Canada moves closer to point of no return when it comes to our national debt

There's an old bit of wisdom courtesy of Ernest Hemingway that you go broke two ways: first gradually, then suddenly.

With last week's federal budget, Canada is inching closer to the sudden phase of fiscal disaster.

The Canadian government projects another five years of deficit spending and over a hundred billion dollars added to our already crushing debt. Worst of all, there is no end in sight to government borrowing, and no plan in place to repay that money. It reminds you of the old German proverb: "He who is quick to borrow is slow to pay."

Last week's budget also projects that public debt charges – the interest we're paying on the debt – will climb from just over \$54 billion currently to nearly \$65 billion five years from now, a 20 percent increase.

Ten cents of every dollar of revenue the government brings in is now going straight to interest payments, according to TD Bank, and those interest payments are eating up a bigger and bigger portion of the budget. What's worse, for the first time ever, interest payments on the debt exceed the amount of money the government spends annually on healthcare.

AFraser Institute report on government debt published earlier this year had this grim warning: "Rising government debt has severe consequences for Canadians as more and more resources are directed toward interest payments and away from programs that help families or improve Canada's economic competitiveness."

Although the mushrooming federal debt is cause for concern, when you start adding in other levels of debt, it becomes even more dire.

Combined federal and provincial net debt is projected to come in around \$2.18 trillion in 2023/24. Meanwhile, total debt in Canada – household, corporate and government debt at all levels – is now around 341 percent of total GDP. In other words, our total debt is more than three times what we produce each year.

The consequences of the build-up of debt extend to all corners of the economy: our runaway debt stunts investment, hobbles economic productivity and lowers living standards.

Earlier this year, University of Calgary economist Trevor Tombe said, "we should be thinking about the longerterm future of federal finances and start making difficult choices, because the longer we wait, the harder it will be."

Far from making some difficult decisions, the federal government just made our financial future a lot harder — and probably a lot more painful when the sudden day of reckoning finally arrives and jolts us from our sleep.

Many things in life are not fair. One of the unfairest of all is that the older

Continued on page 19

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Are you a volunteer in the community?

YES NO www.theauroran.com

Previous Poll ould Aurora continue with windrow removal for the 2024-25 winter season?

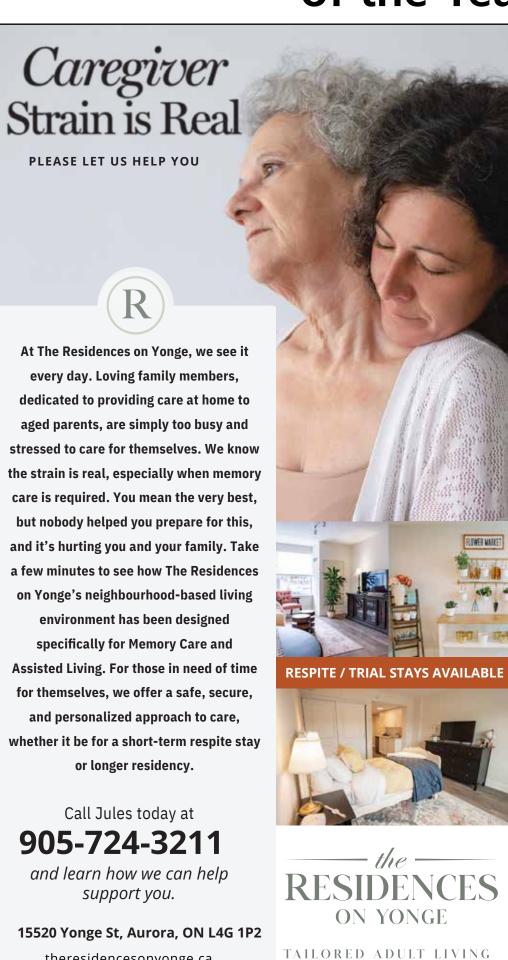






At an awards ceremony held at the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion recently, (left) Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland received her Five Year pin while (right) Aurora branch member Trevor Stephens was recognized after being named Legionnaire of the Year for the District. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

Aurora's Trevor Stephens named Legionnaire of the Year in District



theresidencesonyonge.ca

BY BROCK WEIR

Trevor Stephens, a long-time member of the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, has been named Legionnaire of the Year within the area.

Stephens was named Legionnaire of the Year for District E last weekend.

Nominated by the local Branch No. 385, Colonel Fred Tilston VC Aurora, Stephens was hailed for always going above and beyond for the Royal Canadian Legion through supporting its Colour Party, which is regularly seen on parade within and beyond the community, and for lending a hand and expertise in making Legion-led events extra special.

"Comrade Trevor is a long-time ordinary member of our Branch who has always offered his time and talents to improve the quality of life at our branch," said the local branch in its nomination. "For many years, he maintained the audio-visual equipment at our branch, ensuring that all the microphones, speakers, sound and projection systems are in tip-top shape. Whenever there is an event or a booking of our banquet hall, Comrade Trevor ensures that all the audio-visual needs are met, whether it be setting up microphones, sound systems, projections screens or projectors.

Trevor provides all the recorded music for our official events such as the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph and at the branch as well other ceremonies throughout the year, such as the marching of the Colours at our General meetings. He has even prepared CDs with inspirational music of Remembrance for use at these celebrations. These CDs have been offered freely to anyone who wishes to obtain one."

In addition to offering his

services for a DJ free for Legion dinners, dances, open houses and levees, Branch leadership said he takes special consideration to curate music tailored for Legion guests and in keeping with themes.

"Trevor has been an active member of the Branch's Colour Party and never misses a parade. Also, he has assisted the Ladies Auxiliary with kitchen duties and providing transportation for various zone and sports events. Trevor attends and participate faithfully at meeting of the Branch, Zone and District. He has provided sound for the Zone meetings as well the Beechwood Remembrance service.

"Even though both he and his wife have had health issues this year, Trevor continued to help where needed. He has often come in to do a last minute set up and is always available to assist with issues. Even though he is 80-yearsold, he always volunteers to carry stuff up and down the stairs for the ladies, or he is up a ladder pulling cables for sound equipment, etc. He does this with the most amazing demeanour and always with a story to tell."

The Aurora Legion's new Robertson, president, Bonnie said his reputation as the goto guy for A/V services helped ensure Stephens was on-hand for the surprise presentation in Bracebridge, ON.

"I came up with a ruse to get him there," says Robertson with a laugh. "I told Trevor they were having technical difficulties and they needed his expertise. He was telling me that he had some commitments at our Legion. I managed to talk him into getting his son to help with the stuff at our Legion and have Trevor drive 150 km to Bracebridge to help there. He was overwhelmed when he found out why he was really









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BUSINESS FINANCE



Incoming Shining Hill park's price tag rises by more than \$2.5 million

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM

The final price tag of Thelma Fielding Park, set to be a prominent greenspace within Aurora's Shining Hill development within Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad's northwest quadrant, could see a significant rise.

Going into this week's Council meeting, Council will consider increasing the budget for this park's development by \$2.616 million. The park was previously earmarked a budget of \$4.45 million.

Should the new financial picture be approved by local lawmakers, \$2 million of the total \$7.31 million budget will come from Parks & Recreation Development Charges (DCs), \$2.31 million from the Town's Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Reserves, and the balance through cost recovery from Shining Hill Estates Collection Inc. and St. Anne's School.

According to a report from Sara Tienkamp, Director of Operations from the Town of Aurora, the budget increase can be attributed to a new washroom facility, accessibility enhancements, and a price increase for an artificial turf field set to be built in partnership with St. Anne's.

"The Shining Hill Group received a total of four bids for the park construction and submissions were all highly competitive compared to one another," said Tienkamp in her report. "The cost increase to the budget is primarily attributed to the washroom facility. The original estimate was approximately \$500,000; tender results for the building were \$960,000, and a difference of \$460,000. Building costs for structures have increased significantly and have been confirmed with our neighbouring municipalities for similar structures they have currently contracted for construction.

"Also not included in the original cost estimate was a rubberized surface for the playground/splash pad. This was recommended through the Accessibility Advisory Committee and added by staff as it is the ideal safety surface, requires minimal maintenance over the lifecycle of the playground and allows for easy transition between the playground and splash pad areas. Lighting surrounding the multi-use court was also added to the design as it was recommended through [the Parks & Recreation Master Plan]."

The artificial turf, she added, has contributed a price bump of \$300,000 for "premium" turf required for rugby use and, here, St. Anne's will fund the upgrade.

"In addition, detail design works determined grade challenges that require ramps/retaining walls for accessible access," she said. "Fencing has also significantly increased in height surrounding the field to accommodate the land configuration/layout in relationship to roads and proposed residential units. As the total cost of the park has risen, it has resulted in the contingency being a driver for the increased funding requirement. The preliminary design contingency was 10 per cent; however, as a safeguard it has been increased to 15 per cent.

"It is important to note that this new park includes numerous amenities indicative of a Community Park setting rather than a Neighbourhood Park and, as such, it is expected the budget to construct would be greater than a typical neighbourhood park. Approximately 45 per cent of the cost of the project is for the Community Park with the other 55 per cent representing the cost of the artificial turf field that is jointly funded by the partnership."

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Club, the report notes, is also interested in installing this type of "premium turf" at Sheppard's Bush to meet sport regulations and to support competitive play programs.

"Staff are working with the design consultant on options and the Barbarians are willing to contribute more funding to support the upgrade," said Tienkamp. "Staff support the upgrades as the Town will benefit from the premium turf as it will allow for high-level competition/tournament play, supporting sport tourism objectives as there will be three turfs available for high-level rugby games/tournaments in Aurora at Thelma Fielding Park, Sheppard's Bush, and current rugby fields located at St. Andrew's College.

"The field will also be lined to support other sports such as soccer, field hockey and flag football, which is rapidly growing among women and now an Olympic sport. In addition, the lifecycle expectancy of the turf will be greatly extended realizing cost savings for capital replacement over the long-term."







Fresh, new Aurora Farmers' Market season blooms May 4

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

"May the fourth" be with the Aurora Farmers' Market as it sprouts for another season on possibly the one day of the year most popular with Star Wars fans.

The Market, a popular Saturday gathering space in the spring, summer, and fall returns to Town Park on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Market will operate each Saturday through October 25.

The launch of the new Farmers' Market season coincides with Pollinator Month and this celebration will be marked in many ways throughout the Market space for the month of May.

Following the May 4 Grand Opening, special event days for the balance of the season will include a Spring Festival on May 25; a Strawberry Festival on June 29, which coincides with a bevy of Canada Day-related activities; a Customer Appreciation Day on July 27; the annual Community Corn Roast on August 24; the Harvest Festival on October 12; and the ever-popular Halloween Parades set

for October 26.

In addition to these special event days, September 14 will see the annual kick-off for the Stuff a Truck Campaign. Here, each year the Market teams with NewRoads Automotive Group to encourage

Market-goers to help stuff a truck with a variety of goodies, all of which are donated to the Aurora Food Pantry.

Given the Market opens on May 4 this year, visitors

might expect to see a few attractions for Star Wars fans, including a "Stormtrooper" eager to meet guests.

This Market season will boast an average of 45 vendors each Saturday and organizers say there will be "something for everyone."

The Aurora Farmers' Market has been a firm favourite with residents since it first opened on Temperance Street in 2002. Since that time, it has grown from just six vendors to more than 40 at its permanent home at Town Park.

For more information, visit theaurorafarmersmarket.com.

Keeping Aurora Beautiful at Community Clean-Up









Armed with garbage bags and pickers, Aurora residents fanned out into local neighbourhoods on Saturday morning for the Town's annual Community Clean-Up Day. (Top Left) Members of the Aurora Optimist Club kept the grill going for volunteers at Town Park, which served as the nerve-centre for this year's Clean-Up operation. (Top Right) Harold, Andre, Ron, Rob and Glen were hard at work. (Above Left) Over at Kingsway Place Retirement Residence, Haley, Sareena, John, JP, Lenore, Jenn, Veronica, and Andrea fanned out at various locations around the Murray Drive community. (Above Right) Team Kingsway gets their instructions before setting out.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YORK REGION

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is an aphid-like invasive insect that attacks and kills Hemlock trees. Spring is peak time to spot HWA egg sacs, which look like tiny cotton balls found at the base of needles.

HWA has not yet been found in York Region. Residents and visitors to the York Regional Forest play a vital role in preventing the introduction and spread of HWA.

Report suspected sightings of HWA egg sacs to the Canadian Food

Inspection Agency at cfia.surveillance-surveillance.acia@canada.ca or 647-790-1100.

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Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (Adelges Tsugae) egg sacs look like tiny cotton balls found at the base of needles.





Aurora Art Show & Sale marks milestone 60th anniversary next weekend

BY BROCK WEIR

Creativity is difficult to measure, but more than 10,000 pieces of art over the last six decades is a good place to start.

That is the output of more than 4,000 artists over the years who have showcased their unique perspectives at the Aurora Art Show and Sale, the annual exhibition that celebrates its

remarkable 60th anniversary this year.

Hosted each year by the Town of Aurora, in conjunction with the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA), this year's milestone runs at Town Hall next Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, bringing together more than 300 original pieces of artwork from dozens of local artists.

"The 60th anniversary monumental," says Shelley Ware, Special

Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "It's arguably one of the oldest, longest-standing art shows in Canada, which I really do have to give proud credit to Town Council for supporting the arts as well, dating back 60 years. It is still vibrant and going strong today, which is absolutely incredible.

"For the 60th anniversary, much of the celebration will be focused on the actual artists. Without the artists, we simply don't have the show without the talent they choose to share. Art really tells a story and every artist shares their stories with us each year when they submit their artwork. I find it quite humbling with the array of talent out there, but also with their ability to share their talent on such a wide scale, which really does promote dialogue and invigoration."

Art, says Ware, is a powerful medium "that transcends boundaries and speaks to our souls and enriches our lives in countless ways."

"When you walk into our Art Show, take stock of the emotions you have before you walk into the show and then take stock of them in terms of how you feel once you walk out of the show. It truly does transform you because it has such a powerful ability to evoke emotions, thoughts, as well as to create change." The Aurora Art Show and Sale began almost by chance when the first core group of artists was looking for a place to showcase their talent. The Mayor of the day said Old Town Hall was closed on Saturdays and asked whether they could use that space.

It's a tradition that has endured since

that first go-round in 1964, growing by leaps and bounds each year.

"I think it was forward-thinking in being able to transform a municipal town hall into one of the most beautiful facilities during that time," says Ware. "It's remarkable and that doesn't happen without the magic of a few people. It's the culmination of hundreds of hours of volunteer work within the three days of the show to make it happen, and through the bonding experience and the connections made amongst the artists. It really is an artistic, united front and something that you really have to experience and feel. When you see the art and the transformation, it will all click in terms of the magic that is created and why it has lasted all this time – and will continue to do so in its new home at Aurora Town Square in 2025 for the sixty-first year.

"Next weekend, let your brain have an extended vacation. The leaves can wait, the gardening can wait treat yourself to this unique and free experience during the weekend of the art show. Come to Town Hall, enjoy a free cup of coffee, move through the floors where you will see a minimum of 300 original pieces of artwork and just allow yourself during that time to indulge and invest in your own emotional wellbeing, because it will be a treat to this show."

The 60th annual Aurora Art Show & Sale takes place at Town Hall May 4-5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, visit aurora.ca/artshow.

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You may find that your pain or stiffness affects your work, housekeeping, leisure activities, exercise, sports or other activities. You go to the drug store or to your doctor and get pills to help relieve your pain. But you find the pain keeps returning. Alternatively, the doctor may refer you to a specialist who may tell you that surgery is needed or is an option for you.

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

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

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PARSA'S **PERSPECTIVE**

Michael Parsa, MPP

Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

As approach the final week and of April

prepare to embrace the warmer weather of May, let us recognize this time as an opportunity for reflection and observation.

April 28 holds a significant place in our calendar as the National Day of Mourning, a day dedicated to honouring the memory of workers who have lost their lives or been injured in workplace accidents. It is a reminder of the importance of prioritizing safety in all workplaces and ensuring that every worker returns home safely to their loved ones at the end of the day.

As we look forward to May, we also acknowledge the upcoming observation of Holy Thursday on May For those who

observe this religious holiday, it is a time of spiritual significance, marked by acts of compassion and service. It is a reminder of the values of empathy that bring us together as a community.

As your Member of Provincial Parliament, I am committed to representing your interests, addressing your concerns, and working hard to make our communities a better place for all. Your feedback, ideas, and perspectives are invaluable to me, and I encourage you to continue engaging with me on matters that are important to you.



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Designations

Give Back Awards celebrate students and their more than 5,000 hours of community contributions



Among the 2024 Give Back Award honourees on April 18 were, left, Ananya Murlidharan of Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, and, right, Cameron Stewart of Cardinal Carter Catholic High School. Both are pictured with Janice Tee, Global Director of HR Systems and Projects for Magna International, and Erin Cerenzia of Neighbourhood Network.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



From page 1

achievements of graduating high school students through our Give Back awards program and is part of our National Volunteer Week celebrations," said Erin Cerenzia, Manager of Community Relations for Magna International. "Thanks to your dedication to building better communities together, you have all collectively donated close to 5,000 hours of volunteer time during your high school years and that number is an incredible feat in and of itself, but especially when we consider that our group of recipients did this amidst the challenges of a global pandemic, many, many lockdowns, and, of course, we know that because they're volunteers they're very humble and that probably doesn't reflect their true commitment of service."

These sentiments were reflected by Magna's Kelly Harbridge, who said the students assembled there last week were "inspiring young leaders" who have given so much to their communities.

"Today we gather to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of 20 outstanding young individuals whose unwavering dedication to volunteerism has not only enriched the lives of all those people they have helped but has also inspired us all," he said. "I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the parents, families and teachers who supported so many of these young people, young leaders, along the way. Philanthropy begins at home, as does charity, and so many of these young people here today wouldn't have got involved in terms of volunteering with their communities if it wasn't for all the excellent role models within their families. On behalf of all the parents here in the room, I think you deserve a round of applause for raising some fantastic young people."

This year's recipients include:

Ananya Murlidharan

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School **Ariel George**

King City Secondary School **Aryana Molla**

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School

Avery Moschee

Sir William Mulock Secondary School Cameron Stewart

Cardinal Carter Catholic High School

Carson Wong

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School

Charlie Jackson

Sir William Mulock Secondary School **Eden Traiberg** Newmarket High School

Jaylah Hall

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School **Kiyan Sajadi**

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School

Laurin Windebank Huron Heights Secondary School

Matthew Pang
Sacred Heart Catholic High School

Matthew Pilling Sir William Mulock Secondary School

Michelle Kelly

Dr. J.M. Denison Secondary School **Moira Boland**

Pickering College

Niki Zafar Heidari

Huron Heights Secondary School

Parker Barnard

Huron Heights Secondary School

Prisha Bhavsar

Stouffille District Secondary School **Ryan Zhang**

Ryan Zhang

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School **Sophia Yu**

Newmarket High School

In her citation, which was delivered last week by former Aurora mayor Tim Jones, a Neighbourhood Network ambassador, Murlidharan was hailed for her community-building.

"For Ananya, the act of giving back isn't just personal - she knows it's a catalyst for fostering a compassionate and supportive community that will thrive for years to come. Ananya is the editor of her school's newspaper, an executive member of the Changes by Coffee group, and the fundraising coach for her school's Relay for Life event. She has dedicated her time to tutoring grade eight students learning English as a second language and contributing to the Sringeri Vidy Bharati Foundation. Ananya says all these experiences have instilled in her a lifelong commitment to making a positive difference through harnessing collaboration."

In turn, she said the recognition made her feel like she had an impact on her community and that, in turn, motivates her to continue her work once she has left Williams behind.

"I think it's just about the idea of being able to collaborate with people one-on-one and help people in any way they need it," she said. "I think that helps me as well because I am able to help myself while helping those people. I am just grateful that I can apply almost my knowledge in any way these people require."

This idea of just being able to help is also a driving force with Cameron Stewart, a Special Olympics athlete who attends Cardinal Carter Catholic High School.

"Cameron is motivated to use his own life experiences to inspire others, demonstrating that everyone has the power to make a difference in their own community," reads his citation. "His involvement with Best Buddies, Choir, Special Olympics, Student Council and as a Grade 8 ambassador, shows the integral role Cameron plays as a leader amongst his peers. Beyond school, Cameron extends his generosity by crafting holiday cards for seniors, volunteering at the MCC Care & Share Thrift Shop, the Sharon Temple National Historic Site & Museum, participating in the Town of Aurora Santa Claus Parade, and helping with charity book fairs and other fundraisers.

"Cameron's commitment to daily acts of kindness exemplifies his belief

that everyone possesses the ability to contribute positively in their own unique way."

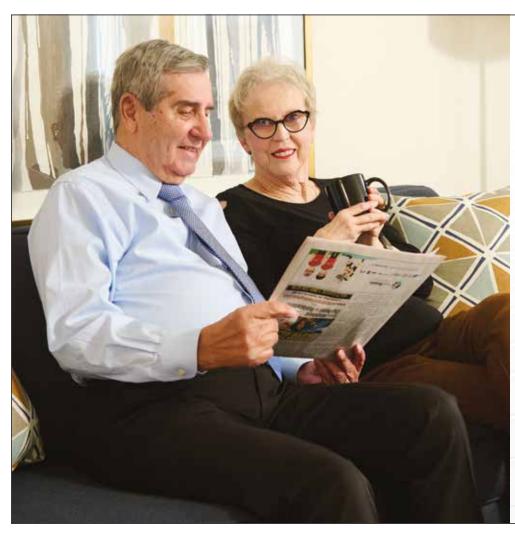
This is exactly what Cameron and his mother, Susan, hope his award underscores.

"In the future, I want to keep giving back to the community because they already give me the world, and now I want to give back to them," said Cameron, counting MCC, the Mission Store, and volunteerism at Newmarket's NewRoads Performing Arts Centre among his favourite opportunities. "If I can give something back to the community, then they can do great stuff out there; they can give a higher experience. When other volunteers go and experience more, maybe they can become role models."

Added Susan: "This just shows the community that Cameron can give back in his own way and that he is able to do everything that every other typical kid can do as well. It's just getting the opportunities and allowing others to see that he is able to give back to the community as they give to him!"

In the coming weeks, The Auroran will shine a spotlight on each of this year's Give Back Award recipients.





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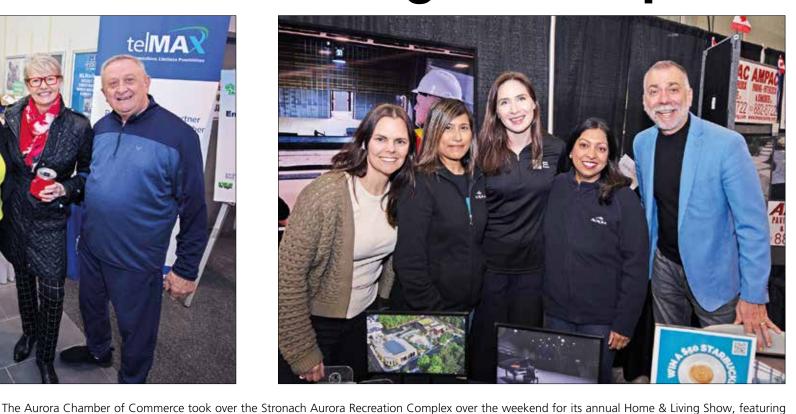
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Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



businesses catering to all your home improvement needs. (Top Row) Visitors to the show included Anthony, pictured with Sandra Ferri, President & CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy, and Chamber Director Al Wilson. Mayor Tom Mrakas also visited



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Spring home improvement ideas





(Clockwise from Top Left) Feroze of Lifestyles Home Creations; Eric, Jason, Michelle, Lisa, Georgia, and dog Stella representing the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog program; Tonnia and Harry of Meridian Credit Union; and Kerry and Kathy of Sheridan Nurseries. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger









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ECO-SMART LUXURY LIVING IN AURORA

Experience eco-smart luxury in South Aurora's Royal Hill. This home boasts exquisite finishes, an open layout, a gourmet kitchen, and a spa-like master suite. Equipped with green technology and offering serene views, it's situated close to amenities and nature for an unparalleled sustainable living experience. Offered at \$2,588,000.



LUXURIOUS 'FERNBROOK' HOME IN AURORA

Introducing the meticulously crafted 'Fernbrook' executive home in Aurora Estates' Princeton Heights. This large lot residence offers high-quality finishes, a gourmet kitchen, and the opportunity to customize details. Features four spacious bedrooms, each with private bathrooms. Offered at \$3,490,000.



LAKE WILCOX LUXURY HOME HAVEN

Soon-to-be-built executive home in Lake Wilcox, on a 150' lot. Offers 4+1 bedrooms, 5 baths, chef's kitchen with JennAir appliances, luxurious finishes, hardwood floors, gas fireplaces, skylit primary suite, finished lower level, proximity to Lake Wilcox Park. Opportunity to personalize finishes for a truly custom living experience. Offered at \$3,200,000.



ALMOST NEW BUNGALOW LIVING

Exceptional 4-bed, 3-bath bungalow. Open concept, 9ft ceilings, hardwood floors, chef's kitchen with quartz counters. Family room opens to a fenced backyard. Luxurious primary suite, finished lower level with extra living space. Conveniently located near amenities, schools, parks, water, and highways. Offered at \$1,078,000.



ZONED FOR HOME BUSINESS, SALTWATER POOL

Fully renovated Richmond Hill executive home, 4-car garage, finished basement, solariums, and pool with waterfall. Ideal for remote work, near schools, parks, and amenities. Zoning allows for 35% of the sqft. to be used for home business! Includes sunroom, indoor hot tub, fenced backyard. Priced at \$2,899,000.



BRAND NEW - DOUBLE LOT SIZE

Experience unparalleled luxury in Richmond Hill with this expansive executive home on a premium double lot. Features an open layout, 10-foot ceilings, a gourmet kitchen, spa-like ensuite, and spacious bedrooms with walk-in closets. High-quality finishes throughout enhance this exquisite property. Priced at \$3,080,000.



90 X 200 FT LAKE WILCOX PARADISE

Discover your secluded paradise in Richmond Hill's prestigious Lake Wilcox community, close to Hwy 404 for easy commuting. This versatile home offers a unique layout, a large front porch for sunsets, and a prime 90 x 200 ft lot. Near Lake Wilcox Park and amenities, it's ideal for renovation or building your dream home.



SPACIOUS MODERN CORNER UNIT

Located in Clanton Park's Express Condos, this corner unit features two bedrooms plus a den, ideal for family living and remote work. Highlights include a gourmet kitchen, high ceilings, and close proximity to transportation and shopping amenities. Offered at only \$777,000.



EXECUTIVE HOME WITH LUXURY UPGRADES

Builder's model home in Princeton Heights, Aurora Estates. This brand-new executive property boasts a 3-car garage, luxury upgrades, and exceptional craftsmanship. Highlights include a marble foyer, white oak floors, a gourmet kitchen, and spacious bedrooms with private bathrooms.

Offered at \$3,999,000.



PERSONALIZE YOUR EXECUTIVE DREAM HOME

Explore this magnificent new 'Fernbrook Homes' property in prestigious Princeton Heights, Aurora Estates. Featuring a customizable kitchen with buyer-selected cabinetry and appliances, this executive home offers luxurious finishes, four spacious bedrooms with private bathrooms, and ample natural light. Offered at \$3,299,000.



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SECTION B

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The Auroran.com

FRFF

Week of April 25, 2024

Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's AGM celebrates 2023 events and contemplates induction of teams starting in 2025



Aurora Sports Hall of Fame President Javed Khan speaks at last week's AGM.

Auroran photo by Jim Stewart

By Jim Stewart

The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's (ASHOF) Annual General Meeting unfolded at the Aurora Public Library on Wednesday evening.

More than 40 members and guests attended the downtown gathering on a drizzly night, but the damp April conditions outside did not affect the warm mood inside as Gerry Miller called the meeting to order and Bob McRoberts delivered the Land Acknowledgement.

ASHOF President and Chair Javed Khan conducted a Year in Review before informing attendees that the organization's biggest event—its 11th Annual Induction Ceremony—will take place at the new Aurora Town Square on November 7, 2024 commencing at 5.30 p.m.

Khan noted that the AGM served its purpose "to showcase and celebrate the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and the great things [that] our 40+ volunteers continue to do every year."

"This [past] year was certainly no exception. We continue to learn and develop as any organization does. 2023 was a very successful year and 2024 will turn out to be another successful year."

The organization's congenial leader acknowledged that the AGM also gave the organization an opportunity "to showcase and celebrate events with all of our volunteers, Directors of the Board, our Hall of Famers, our sponsors, our local media folks, and any other participants from the community who wanted to come and hear about the organization."

The most significant question during the meeting's Q&A session was offered by 2015 Inductee Lowell McClenny who inquired about the induction of teams into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

McClenny was assured by Khan that the induction of teams will be a feature of future induction ceremonies and the Induction Committee is currently drawing up criteria for teams as well as consulting neighboring Halls of Fame regarding how they have inducted teams into their community sports

After the meeting, Khan amplified the process through which ASHOF is prepared to go to induct local teams as early as 2025.

"This question has been on our table for a while. It has now reenergized the members of the Board and the Induction Committee to look at this and understand some of the key challenges that we are going to find. My vision is to be able to take this year and go through what we think will be the best process to induct teams from a logistical standpoint, budgetary, communications, and also learn from other Sports Hall of Fames around our community, including Richmond Hill. The vision would be to have something ready to launch regarding our first teams in our 2025 Class. The question is: Are we going to do this every year or every second year? It's one of many questions we have to work through."

The organization's Financial Report, delivered by Brian Roberts, disclosed that the First Annual Celebrity Golf Classic at Pheasant Run netted ASHOF \$7,600 and the fiscal year ended with a \$1,475 surplus.

ASHOF's committee chairs delivered annual reports including Mike Smith's Corner Stone Committee's summary which promoted the Second Annual Celebrity Golf Classic. It will take place on June 20, 2024 at Pheasant Run GC. Smith noted that 30 per cent of the 2023 tournament's net proceeds were donated to CMHA and 40 per cent of this year's tournament spots are sold. Early bird prices will end on May 15.

He also confirmed that Geranium Homes will be returning as the Main Sponsor of the Induction Ceremony on November 7.

Kristen Dajia delivered the Education Committee's highlights including news that the second volume of a very popular comic book developed by Paul Riley, entitled Heroes of the Hall, is being developed to encapsulate the lives of more ASHOF inductees.

Dajia also noted the success of the "Sports History Alive" initiative that was received warmly and enthusiastically by local schools and retirement residences including Chartwell where the exhibits touched the hearts of attendees who recognized relatives in the photographs and artefacts displayed.

She also pointed out the success of AHSOF's Student-Athlete of the

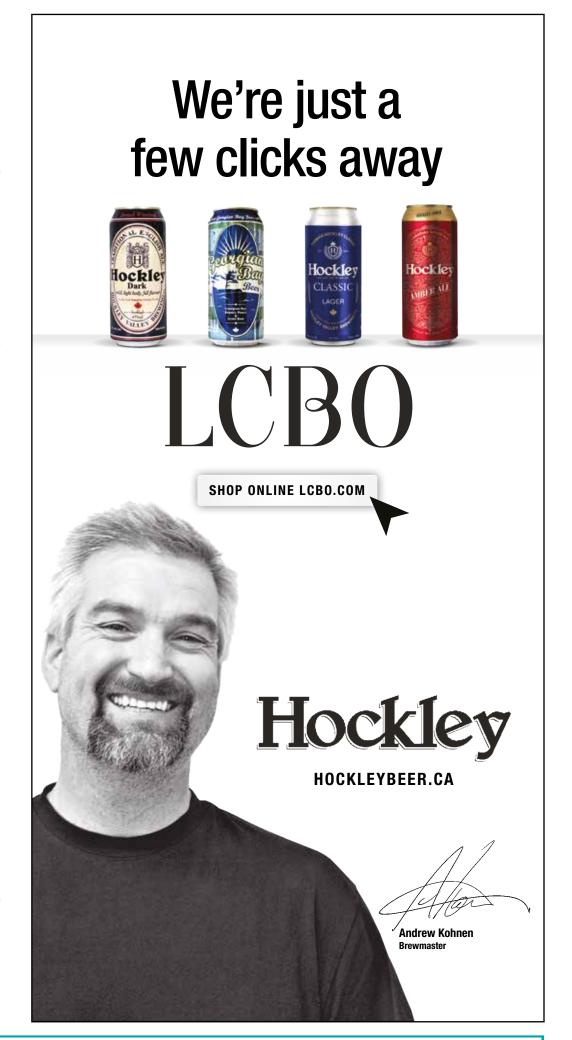
Month—a regular feature appearing in The Auroran.

The Induction Committee's new chair, Melanie Pearson, updated attendees that the 2024 ASHOF inductees will be announced in early June. Pearson also took time to thank Wendy Browne for her invaluable contributions to the Hall of Fame, specifically as the long-time chair of the Induction Ceremony. Browne was recognized as Aurora's Citizen of the Year in 2023.

The meeting ended on a celebratory note when Kristen Fawcett-Dajia's forthcoming induction into the Cobourg Sports Hall of Fame for Track, Volleyball, and Rugby was announced by the ASHOF executive.

The induction dinner to honor the long-time high school teacher-coach will be held June 14 at the Best Western in Cobourg.

All in all, the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame AGM provided an upbeat review of 2023's accomplishments and set the table for the organization's big events of 2024. It was evident that ASHOF's motto "Their Legacy. Our Future" was much on display both in word and deed at the Aurora Public Library on Wednesday.























Caring For Our Community newroads.ca

Mental Health in Motion supports youth – "the urgent crisis of our time"

Annual CMHA fundraiser set for June 9

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM

It's almost time to get in gear, hit the road, and support youth mental health programs in York Region and South Simcoe.

The Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe (CMHA-YRSS) is hard at work planning Mental Health in Motion 2024.

One of the premier fundraisers for youth mental health in the community, Mental Health in Motion will take place Sunday, June 9, at Newmarket's Ray Twinney Complex.

Now in its ninth year, this year's event will see participants able to take part in a Walk or Run of 5 km, and cycling opportunities of 20k or 60k.

"Whether you prefer a leisurely walk, an invigorating run, or a scenic bike ride, Mental Health in Motion has something for you," say organizers. "Bring your friends, family, and co-workers — let's make this event unforgettable."

Funds raised through this year's Mental Health in Motion will once again benefit youth mental health programs, particularly their MOBYSS (Mobile York South Simcoe) bus that provides services to youth "where they live," such as pulling up to schools and recreation centres.

Rebecca Shields, President & CEO of CMHA-YRSS, underscores the importance of raising funds for youth mental health by describing it as "the urgent crisis of our time."

"I am more excited about this year's Mental Health in Motion than I have been in a long time. After the pandemic and everything we learned, we really needed to refresh the event and breathe new life into it," says Shields, noting that staff have been hard at work forging new routes to keep things fresh for returning participants. "I think a big part of Mental Health in Motion is not just the fact we're raising money for a great cause...but also erasing stigma. People want to come out and be together to show that mental health matters and they are supporters of mental health. We really want to focus on making it really visible and make people proud of the fact they are supporting and erasing stigma in our community."

There has been a significant amount of work done over the years to underscore the fact that "mental health is health," but there is still a lot of stigma that needs to be overcome. People who are facing a mental health issue worry about losing their jobs, feeling socially-isolated, or misunderstood over what is actually happening, says Shields.

"I think the youth mental health crisis is the urgent crisis of our time," she says. "MOBYSS is our Mobile Youth Health and Mental Health clinic for ages 12 and up and it goes to where youth are at – predominantly high schools. A youth can walk in, they can get all the kind of services from our nurse practitioner, a youth mental health worker or a peer. Maybe they're coming in because they have a healthrelated issue, but over two thirds are coming in with some mental healthrelated concern. This is where we help kids get fast access to the care we need and it covers [a wide] range.

"Sadly, every year we help people who are dealing with suicidal ideation and our team works really hard to help provide immediate support but also connect to ongoing care. Some youth are coming back for some counselling



Participants had fun for a good cause at last year's Mental Health in Motion event.

Photo courtesy of CMHA-YRSS

support around dealing with anxiety, depression, issues that you face around relationships, families, school, test anxiety. Some youth have issues where they have trauma they need support in dealing with... our team will connect them with the counselling and support they need and ongoing care. Our nurse practitioner is there to ensure it is a whole health approach because youth have the same health issues everywhere and sometimes they just don't have the access or maybe they're embarrassed talking about needing some sort of sexual health information or sexual testing, so that is what we're there to provide so no youth is left behind."

Money raised through Mental Health in Motion, Shields adds, "allows a kid who is in crisis or needs support to have immediate access to care."

"That makes a big difference. It is so important to really focus on our youth. I think the cause matters, it's a fantastically-run and well-organized event. We have been doing this for years and now with the experience of coming together, the energy you have feeling like you're part of that bigger momentum of erasing stigma, of promoting mental health, understanding mental health is health — creating that Caring Community that we all want to be part of is really important."

For more information about his year's Mental Health in Motion event, including how to register, collect pledges, or support a participant who has already registered, visit www.cmhainmotion.ca.



Aurora-King 12U Jays Flock to Budweth Park to plant trees in display of service, unity



By Jim Stewart

Sunday afternoon's tree-planting initiative at chilly Budweth Park, co-sponsored by LEAF (Local Enhancement & Appreciation of Forests) and King Township, was a tremendous success as 500 native trees and shrubs were added to York Region's urban canopy.

Among the courageous planting crews who braved the wintry April conditions was a flock of civicminded Aurora-King 12U Blue Jays who took a break from spring training to participate in Earth Week activities in Nobleton.

Aurora-King 12U Head Coach Glen Nerona took a brief respite from the rigors of tree-planting and stressed the vital importance of community service for his young charges: "We're here to serve our communities of King and Aurora. This is also an important team-building event to get the guys together off the baseball diamond before the season begins. We want our players to build team unity and

be dedicated to service."

The amiable coach discussed the most important lesson to be derived from Sunday afternoon's Earth Week

"It's really important that they give back to the communities through these activities."

The engaging baseball coach and dedicated classroom teacher stressed the significance of skills that connect to both baseball and life outside the ballpark: "The kids are as focused and disciplined in planting trees today as they are during our activities in our winter facility and on the diamond. We insist that they conduct themselves this way on and off the field."

The focus and discipline to which Coach Nerona referred were evident as the group of 12 ballplayersbedecked in their light blue Aurora-King Jays hoodies as an expression of team unity – assembled distinctively on the northern sector of Budweth Park, listened intently to the instructions of their LEAF arborist, and worked diligently at their digging,

planting, and mulching tasks.

It was inspirational to witness this group of civic-minded teenagers improving the urban forest canopy of Nobleton for generations to come. According to Nerona and his coaching staff, the lessons off the baseball diamond will contribute to their success on the diamond.

"Our season starts in May and we've been working out at the Hallmark Facility for months. For today, our goal is to plant one hundred trees and shrubs."

The 12U team's lofty arboreal aim was well on the way to fruition as units of three Jays descended on the prepped lands to plant the native shrubs and trees provided by LEAF and the Township of King including balsam fir, eastern white cedar, white pine, white spruce, basswood, black cherry, bur oak, hackberry, paper birch, red oak, silver maple, sugar maple, trembling aspen, American hazelnut, black chokeberry, common ninebark, fragrant elderberry, sumac, grey dogwood, highbush cranberry, nannyberry, pussy willow, red osier dogwood, serviceberry, and snowberry.

With this flock of fledgling Blue Jays

caring for the diverse urban canopy of Bedweth Park, the future looked that much brighter on a late-April afternoon.

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Walk For Alzheimer's aims to raise \$120,000 for York Region and growing needs

BY BROCK WEIR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

More than 17,000 York Region residents are currently living with dementia - and this number is expected to double in less than a decade.

As such, the services provided by the Alzheimer Society of York Region are needed now more than ever before.

On Saturday, May 25, you can lace up and help support these valuable programs through the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's.

Set to take place at 8 a.m. at Lake Wilcox Park (12895 Bayview Avenue), this year's walk aims to raise \$125,000 to support programs that are not financed through government dollars.

"Dementia not only affects the person living with the disease, but

also their caregivers who often become isolated as the disease advances," said AS York's CEO Kari Quinn-Humphrey in a statement.

AS York notes that this year's funds will go towards social and recreational programs, while also providing services to caregivers and families of those living with dementia, respite support and education.

Helping spearhead this year's walk is Andrea Ubell, Director of Programs for AS York.

Ubell has been involved with the Society for more than 30 years and although she said last year's event was the best yet, she's hoping this one will top them all.

She comes to the table with family experience dealing with Alzheimer's and various forms of dementia. For her, although the walk itself is short in duration, it has a huge impact on the community.

"We've set our goal at \$120,000 because it goes directly to programs and services within York Region," she says. "This is something that touches many of the people who work for us but more importantly the people who walk for us are also touched by this. I am walking in honour of my dad's parents - both of them had dementia and Alzheimer's disease my grandmother's mother had Parkinson's-related dementia so many of us are walking or family we know and in honour of them. It is wonderful to see family units come decked out in matching t-shirts while carrying a picture of their family member they're walking with, and sometimes the families bring their family member out of long-term care or, often, home... maybe with some mobility problems and they have them

walking with them. It is really an inspiring day.

"[Funds will go] to programs that are not funded. We do receive funding from the Ministry of Health for our day programs, for social work, education, but it is not funded 100 per cent. Some of that money will go to buttress those programs but there are other programs that are not funded."

Such programs, she adds, include Minds in Motion to keep brains stimulated, social groups like book and dining clubs, and a burgeoning music project which will see clients receive MP3 players and earphones programmed with specialized music for persons living with dementia.

"It's stuff that they relate to and a lot has been shown about how music is a wonderful way of connecting with people. We have these available to people in the

Continued on page 21

THE PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC **CHARTER OF RIGHTS**

From page 5

generation leaves all of the debts it has incurred to the youngest generation, asking them to pay the bill for many of the goods and services they have never even enjoyed or made us of.

It's ironic that a budget which aims to make life easier and more affordable for young Canadians has instead placed upon them a heavy burden that they will never be able to throw off in their lifetimes.

But a national Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, which I've been strongly advocating for the past year, would get Canada back on the straight and narrow. The charter would require government to balance the budget and reduce our national debt by 5 percent per year over 20 years with the result that we would be debt-free within two decades. We'd wipe the slate clean for the young Canadians and give them a shot at a better quality of life.

To learn more about how the Charter could help turn our economy around, contact info@economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and the Stronach Foundation for Economic Rights (www.economiccharter.ca).

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SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Aurora Cultural Centre presents multiple Juno and Canadian Folk Music Award nominee Julian Taylor in concert. "A unique and important voice on the Canadian Folk Music Scene" - The Globe & Mail. Supporting act Tania Joy opens the show. Tickets \$40 (HST incl); show location NC Aurora Armoury, 89 Mosley St. Time 7:30 pm. For information, and to purchase visit AuroraCulturalCentre. ca, or call the Box Office at 905 713-1818.SUNDAY, APRIL 28 Giant Indoor Garage Sale at the Aurora Seniors' Centre (90 John West Way) today from 8.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featuring White Elephant sale, books, bake sale and more.

SATURDAY, MAY

4 The Aurora Farmers' Market opens its 2024 season today at Town Park. Come by and shop local from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Where Fashion meets Philanthropy! Join us for Beyond the Runway - Painting the Path, where we celebrate creativity and selfexpression beyond traditional boundaries! At this evening of fashion, art and culture at the Royal Rose Art Gallery in Aurora, you will be immersed in the creations of local and upcoming designers and the finest clothing while enjoying cocktails in an exclusive and memorable evening. Designs will be showcased on local models (some of whom you'll recognize!) All proceeds from this event will be donated to three local charities: Girls Inc of York Region-Newmarket; Lighthouse Learning and Development Centre Inc.- Aurora; Hill House Hospice -Richmond Hill. For more information, including tickets, visit royalroseart.ca/beyond-the-runwaypainting-the-path.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Celebrate Mother's Day with a blend of creativity and cultural appreciation guided by Indigenous artist-educator Joy Rogers, as you learn to create a personalized beadwork masterpiece in this one-day workshop for adults 16+. A wonderful way to celebrate the important women in your life together! Workshop fee \$65 (plus materials); for details, and to register visit AuroraCulturalCentre.ca, or call the Box Office at 905 713-1818.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Aurora Cultural Centre warmly invites

you to the public reception for the gallery exhibition Early Bird Gets the Worm focuses on the annual re-awakening of yard-sale season through a curation of kitschy, curious, and questionable works by artists of varying practices, cultures, and identities. Event 6:30 - 8:30 pm with remarks at 7:00 pm. All welcome; light refreshments. Location at the Centre's temporary Gallery space at Aurora Town Hall, 2nd Floor, 100 John West Way. For details, visit AuroraCulturalCentre.ca

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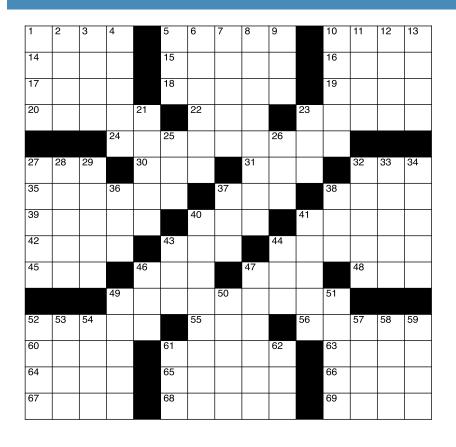
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CROSSWORD

Puzzle No.TAAPR2524 • Solution in Classifieds





CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors 5. Footwear
- 10. A way to disfigure 14. Exchange rate
- 15. Hawaiian wreaths 16. North-central Indian city
- 18. Extremely angry 19. A short note of what's owed
- 20. Criminal organization 22. Mimic
- 23. Try to grab 24. U.S.-born individuals 27. Some are covert
- 30. Order of the British Empire
- 32. Payment (abbr.) 35. Winged angelic being 37. Variety of Chinese
- 38. A way to be anxious 39. Famed wrestler Hulk 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Slang for sergeant 42. Canadian flyers
- 43. Actress Ryan 44. Highly unpleasant vapor
- 45. Body part 46. Halfway
- 48. Consum
- 49. Salts
- 52. Upper bract of a floret of grass 55. Housepet
- 56. Cavalry-sword 60. Symbol of a nation
- 63. Used to carry food 64. Portuguese folk song
- 65. Sharp mountain ridge 66. Ireland
- 67. Where golfers begin Greek mythological sorceress

CLUES DOWN

- 1. "Mad Men" leading mar Water (Spanish)
- 3. Annoy
- 4. Bulgarian capital 5. Japanese title
- Capital of Zimbabwe 7. Giraffe
- 8. A mixture of substances 9. Midway between south and
- southeast 1.0 Staffs
- 11. Turkish title
- 12. Type of acid 13. Thin, flat strip of wood
- 21. Russian river
- 23. Ribonucleic acid 25. Partner to flow

32. By or in itself

- 26. Airborne (abbr.) 27. Earthy pigment
- 28. Genus of earless seals 29. "Key to the Highway"
- 33. Hot fluid below the earth's surface 36. British Air Aces
- 37. Ammunition
- 38. Supervises flying
- 41. Flanks
- 43. Millimeters 44. Where wrestlers perform
- 47. Flightless bird 49. Bell-shaped flowers of the lily fami
- 50. Expressed concern for 52. Flew off!
- 53. Wings 54. Load a ship
- 57. Vigor 58. British title 59. Whiskeys
- Adams: founding father 62. Body of water

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WATER



Walk For Alzheimer's aims to raise \$120.000 for York Region and growing needs

From page 19

community for free so the money will be going to that as well, and there are other things in the works.

"This is our premiere fundraising event in York Region. In fact, you will be joining families walking across the country in the name of Alzheimer's. It is a very important fundraiser for us. For families

who want to participate, that is wonderful, but we can always use assistance throughout the year. We are always looking for volunteers in our day programs, volunteers for this event. In fact, if you've got a high school student who needs some hours, give us a call because they can help on the day of the event. For me, last year, that

was amazing because there were probably close to 50 volunteers involved during that day last year. It has really taken on a mind of its own. You can live well with the disease if you're equipped with the right information and the right supports. Most people live in the community when they are living with dementia with their family

care partners and their families around. For every person who is diagnosed, the research suggests there are 12, maybe 14 family members who are affected and directly supporting the person. It really is a family disease."

For more information on this year's event and how you can support the cause, visit www.alzgiving.ca/yorkregion2024.

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- numerous regions for maximum growth . Be part of an ever growing team, developing new verticals and
- supplements for new revenue and income opportunities

EXPECTATIONS:

- Have a positive attitude
- . Willing to work hard and enjoy rewards in a team environment

· Willing to take chances and learn from your peers

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- · Sales Driven
- · Great Personal Skills
- . Some Sales Skills Preferred but would be willing to train the right candidate Works Well with Deadlines and Budgets
- Organized with an Intermediate Knowledge of Microsoft Excel



HELP WANTED

ONSITE AUCTION for Victor Luukkonen 5555 3rd Line Tottenham ON

SATURDAY MAY 11/2024 @ 10AM

Of household, antiques, collectibles, numerous tools, extensive artwork, vehicles, tractor & misc.

Vehicles: 1957 Studebaker Silver Hawk serial # 7203827. Vehicle has undergone engine and body work with all bills to prove. Odometer shows approx 100,000 miles

1999 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, 350 V8 w/automatic transmission serial # 2G1FP32G6X2109131. Low km, both vehicles selling as is. 1956 Studebaker transmission.

Tractor: Massey Ferguson # 362 WD, open station c/w 932 q/t loader and material bucket. Hour meter reads 2769hrs. 6' George White snowblower, Dearborn farm equip 2 furrow plough, 3pth grader blade, Ford flail

Garden Tractor: John Deere E140 rider mower c/w 48' mower deck, garden trailer, Stihl FS 56 RC whipper.

Household: Solid dining room suite w/table, chair, buffet/hutch, futon, coffee and end tables, bedroom furniture, lamps, desks, sewing machine and supplies, guilts, fine china and glassware, small appliances, nick knacks, Corelle dishes, occasional chairs, Spalding 11x11 screen house (new in box), Cook master electric smoker (new in box), camera equip; dvd player etc; and general household items and furnishings.

Antiques: Hoosier cabinet c/w flour sifter,cookbook holder and sugar bin, ornate china cabinet, wicker, cabinet, gate leg table, book shelves, blanket box, drop leaf desk, hall bench, jug, bowl, basin and stand set, coffee grinder, fish scale, typewriter, office specialty chairs, desks, Northumbria fine china (Lake Louise pattern), figurines, fur coats, carboys, bottle capper, new wine and beer bottles, and much more and boxes not yet opened.

Special Interest: 1980's original IBM computer with keyboard, printer, monitor and disks.

Tools: Genie garage door opener(new in box), lawn mower lift, Makita 16 mm drill, 4.5'angle grinder, Craftsman sabre saw, tap and die set, B&D/DeWalt skil saws, new anvil, vise, clamps, screwdrivers, levels, files, air hammer, Bosch hammer drill, trouble lights, Poulan 50cc chainsaw, storage racks, pipe wrenches, 7' new tile saw, Campbell Hausefield portable air compressor, miter saw, garden hose/reels, pressure washer, B&D new pruning saw, B&D router, easy out set, new socket sets, wrench sets, Mastercraft ½' impact qun, battery chargers, air tools, jacks, Toro blower vac, shop vac, car ramps, Waterloo tool chest, wedges, King bench grinder, sprayer back pak,, rope, chain, gas cans, ladders and so much more. Many items are brand new. Qty of cement block, bricks, paving stones

Parial list only. Keep watching our web pages as we find more items.

If you have been yearning for a "Live Spring Auction?" This is it! Plan to attend

Terms: Cash or cheque w/ID only. All verbal announcements shall take precedence over written material.

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CLOSING 2026 FENG SHUI APPROVED EXTENDED DEPOSIT STRUCTURE OVER 2 YEARS 10 - 11 FOOT CEILINGS 8 FOOT ENTRY DOORS ITALIAN PORCELAIN TILE IN ALL WASHROOMS PREMIUM 6-PIECE APPLIANCE PACKAGE 7 INCH HARDWOOD FLOORING



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