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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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FREE

Week of October 8, 2020



Sabrina D'Angelo, the newly-appointed Head of St. Anne's School is pictured with St. Andrew's College Head of School Kevin McHenry at the stately St. John's Sideroad home that will be transformed into a new independent girls' school.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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SAC expands focus to developing "world's next great female leaders"

St. Anne's School to be opened in northwest Aurora

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For more than 120 years, St. Andrew's College has taken great pride in "turning boys into men." Now, after nearly 95 years at the southwest corner of Yonge and St. John's Sideroad,

the independent school is branching northward to "develop the world's next great female leaders."

On Friday, St. Andrew's College (SAC) announced plans to open St. Anne's School, a new independent school for girls – the first in York Region – within the Shining Hill development on the northwest quadrant of the intersection.

Once complete in September 2022 or September 2023, St. Anne's School will offer day classes for more than 350

young women in a Jacobean manor on St. John's Sideroad previously owned by former SAC parents Anne and Andrew Dunin.

An all-girls school has been part of SAC's strategic plan for nearly a decade and the Dunins, along with Shining Hill, SAC Head of School Kevin McHenry, the Town of Aurora and the Region of York, have been working diligently to make the vision a reality.

"For more than 120 years, St. Anne's School will offer day classes for more than 350

Continued on page 13

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Details of Library Square property deal will remain behind closed doors

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Details surrounding the \$7.5 million purchase of Yonge Street buildings between Mosley Street and the Aurora Public Library as part of the overall vision of Library Square will remain behind closed doors – at least for now.

Council last week voted against a motion put forward by Councillor John Gallo that would have seen all

Continued on page 8



CULTURE DAYS AT HILLARY HOUSE – Helen, Jan and Linda are pictured enjoying refreshments on the lawn of Hillary House National Historic site as the Aurora Historical Society hosted a "Harvest Tea" to mark Culture Days 2020. For more on what's in store, see Page 14.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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This month's cover story

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TOWN OF AURORA

Notice Board



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, October 8	7 p.m.	Video conference	Committee of Adjustment
Tuesday, October 13	5:45 p.m.	Video conference	Finance Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 13	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning
Wednesday, October 14	7 p.m.	Video conference	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 14	7 p.m.	Virtual meeting	Aurora Cultural Centre Board

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

What's Happening

Thanksgiving Long Weekend

The Town of Aurora municipal offices will be closed on **Monday, October 12** for Thanksgiving Day. If you have a municipal emergency please contact 905-727-3123 to be directed to our after-hours services.

Have a safe and relaxing long weekend!



Online Skylight Gallery Exhibition Artist: Ramona Ricken

Perceptions...the Beauty that Surrounds You is a collection of colourful paintings in which the artist aims to inspire thought provoking emotions and self-reflection. The viewer is encouraged to explore their connections to their immediate environments. Rather than presenting a factual reality, these paintings offer an illusion created to conjure the realms of the viewer's imagination at any age. Individuals all observe life differently through the lens of their own experiences. Art is said to be subjective, and with this exhibition, the only correct perception is the viewer's own. Enjoy the journey. You can now see works by Ramona Ricken in Aurora's Online Skylight Gallery throughout October.

View this online gallery at aurora.ca/skylightgallery.

In-person Council meetings are back

Reminder: Council has resumed in-person meetings and the public is invited back into Council Chambers to attend or delegate.

Anyone who is interested in attending an upcoming meeting is required to fill out and submit the screening registration form: aurora.ca/councilandcommittees. Registrations must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the Tuesday of each meeting and attendance is limited to the first 20 people.

Masks must be worn at all times when entering Town Hall and Council Chambers. Meetings will also be live streamed on the Town's YouTube page.

Delegations will be allowed by video conference, phone or in person. To delegate at a meeting, please visit: aurora.ca/en/your-government/public-participation.aspx.

For more details, visit aurora.ca/councilandcommittees.



Starting in October, the Town of Aurora will be educating residents on the residential waste limits. Aurora residents can place up to three-bags or containers for pickup every other week on regularly scheduled collection days. We would like to thank residents for doing their part in helping to reduce waste in our community.

As outlined in By-law #5590-14 section 4.16, the number of items put out for collection from any premise on any collection day shall not exceed a total of three garbage bags and five bulky items. Bulky items include non-metal items such as furniture, mattresses, box springs, plastic lawn furniture, toilets (separated) and carpeting.

All garbage should be placed in a Town approved container or a black plastic bag. Garbage bags or reusable containers with contents should not exceed 23 kg (50 lbs). Garbage containers cannot exceed 1.33 litres (25 gal). Effective January 2021, garbage bags will not be collected beyond the Town limit.

Waste beyond the three-bag limit will have a non-compliant sticker placed on it and will not be picked up. If you have extra waste, please hold onto the items until the next waste collection week or drop it off at the closest waste depot transfer station.

For more information on waste depot locations, hours of operation and fees, please visit aurora.ca/wasteandrecycling.

For questions about the three-bag waste limits please call 905-727-1375 or email info@aurora.ca.

What's Happening

Aurora Seniors' Centre now open

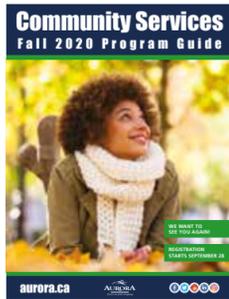
The Aurora Seniors' Centre is now open with limited activities. Facility cleaning and sanitization will be a priority. Hand sanitizer will be located throughout the facility. Participants will be required to practice physical distancing and wear a face mask or covering in accordance with York Region's guidelines.

For more information please visit aurora.ca/activeseniors or call 905-726-4767.

Club Aurora Fitness Centre now open

Club Aurora is now open with new safety protocols in place, including controlled access, limited capacity and scheduled time blocks for patrons. Our group fitness classes are also operating on a modified schedule.

For more information on what to expect when returning to Club Aurora, visit: aurora.ca/clubaurora.



Fall 2020 Community Services Program Guide

The Fall 2020 Community Services Program Guide is available for online viewing at aurora.ca/recguide.

Register online for programs and drop-in activities at aurora.ca/eplay.

Recreation at home

It's easy to stay actively engaged at home with more than 100 online resources available on our *Recreation at Home* webpage. These activities are for all ages. They contain a collection of games, activities and ideas to keep you and your family actively and engaged at home.

For more details, visit: aurora.ca/recathome.

Pre-registered Lane Swim and Aquafit

The Town of Aurora is pleased to offer Lane Swim and Aquafit swim times during the fall (Leisure Swim is not available at this time). Registration is now open (pre-registration is required), no more than 7 days prior. Swim schedule is subject to change. If you have any questions, please contact Gregory Peri at gperi@aurora.ca at AFLC or Terri Edwards at tedwards@aurora.ca at SARC.

Register online at aurora.ca/eplay.

Call for vendors - Aurora's Christmas Market

The Town of Aurora is looking for vendors for Aurora's Christmas Market this year. Do you know someone who is interested in being a vendor? Tell them to apply today!

For application details, visit aurora.ca/christmasmarket.

Help build Aurora's future - Virtual Visioning Workshop

Where will housing, industry, offices, shops and roads go in the future? The Official Plan will help answer these questions. Share your vision for Aurora at our upcoming virtual Vision Workshop on **Thursday, October 22** from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Self-guided walking tours are also available.

For more information and to register, please visit engageaurora.ca/opr.



What's Happening

2020 COLOURS OF FALL Concert

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8
6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
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Pre-registration required. Limited space.
Register at e-play.com using program code #20224

Food donations for the **Aurora Food Pantry** are greatly appreciated. For seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

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Haunted Greenhouse is new spin on Forest tradition

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A haunted greenhouse may conjure up images of windowpanes pockmarked by rocks or Morticia Addams cutting the red blooms off her roses for just the right creepy touch. But, like so many things in 2020, that is all set to change as the Town of Aurora transforms its greenhouses at the Joint Operations Centre into the perfect socially-distanced Hallowe'en extravaganza.

Aurora's Haunted Greenhouse, which takes place from October 24 – October 30, is this year's answer to the annual Haunted Forest. Although the Haunted Forest, which attracts hundreds of young ghouls and goblins to Sheppard's Bush each year, is a no-go this season, the Town wasn't about to let the pandemic get in the way of serving up something spooky.

"Back when we were in Stage 1 and transitioning to Stage 2, we started looking at Hallowe'en, the second-largest holiday celebrated in Canada next to Christmas," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "We wanted to make sure there was still something based on whatever condition our community was going to be in by October. Knowing we couldn't do mass gatherings at Sheppard's Bush, we tried to figure out if a drive-thru concept would work, but it came to us we could turn our greenhouses into a haunted experience."

The Joint Operation Centre's (JOC) greenhouses not only grow the lush seasonal plants and blooms that decorate the landscape during the spring and summer, they are also used to store Yonge Street planters

over the fall and winter. With the space available, Ms. Ware and her team were almost overwhelmed by the possibilities on how they could translate the Haunted Forest experience into something indoors and spread over several days.

"We tried to research other similar events and couldn't find any, so that upped the ante of our challenge overall, but fortunately the Town has three connected greenhouses that is going to enable us to package two for a family [experience] and the third where people have the option to go for an extra thrill," says Ms. Ware. "Once they exit the scary greenhouse, if they choose to go that route, we will actually have four haunted cabins set up to increase their experience."

"In this Haunted Greenhouse, you may come across an actual full-scale bathtub and you may find Ariel the Mermaid in it. As well, some of the famous displays that are on the Haunted Forest's scary trail and cabin are being reconfigured and brought back with some of the famous characters. On the family side, we're dealing with a slightly smaller footprint, so I think you're going to see the best of the best brought together in a very different sequence."

Between October 24 and October 30, there will be 12 chances to take part in the Haunted Greenhouse experience, and pre-registration for wristbands is required at \$3 per person and bookable through the Town's ePlay platform at aurora.ca/eplay.

"We want people to be totally comfortable and confident in their safety so people can focus on the fun and engaging aspects we're trying to offer to them," says Ms. Ware, adding that as soon as registered

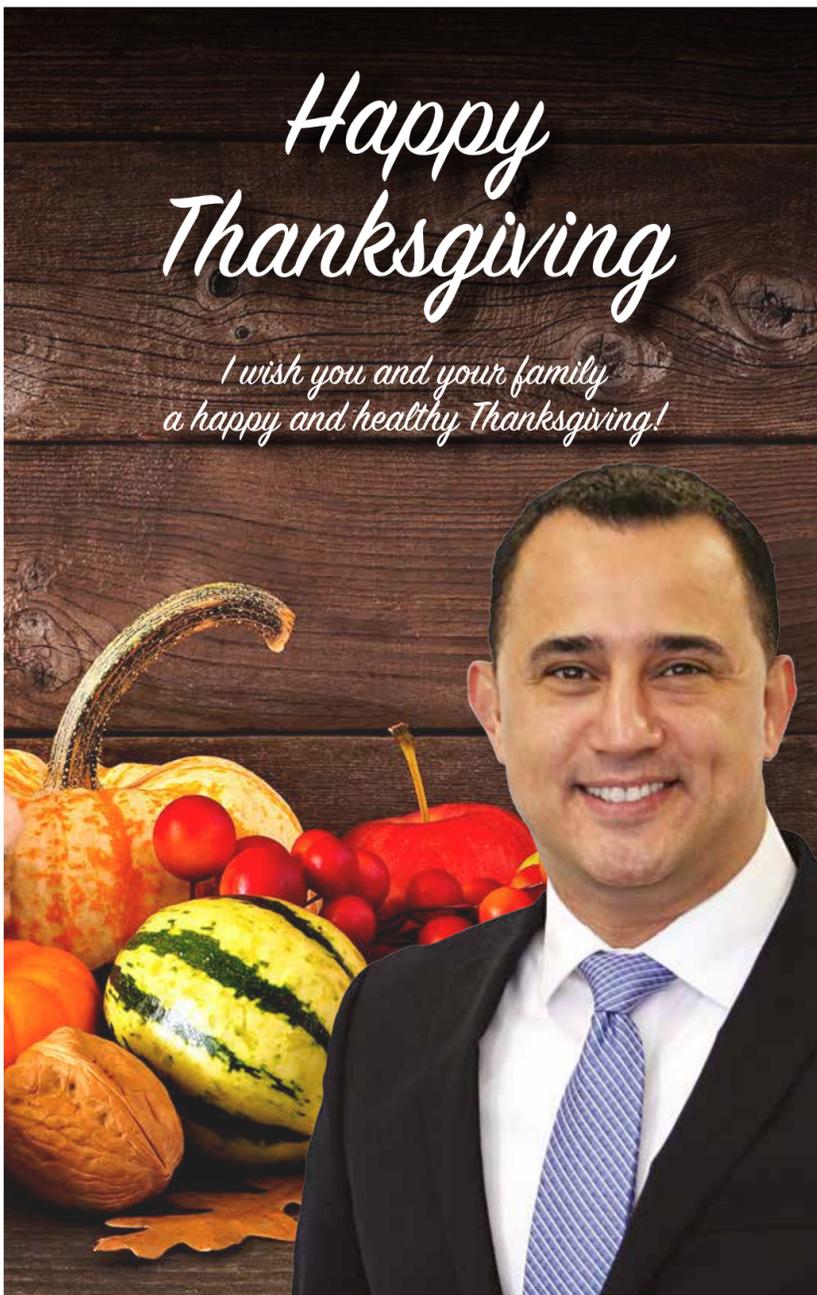
participants find their places in the socially-distanced lineup outside the JOC the entertainment experience will already be underway for waiting revellers. "Provincial orders are a minimum standard and we have gone extensively beyond to ensure that we're providing a great experience and one that people can kind of forget that we're in a pandemic and be able to take this kind of joy and experience every element of surprise and enjoyment that has gone into it."

"This likely might be the only Haunted Greenhouse in Ontario. It is right here in your own back yard, so I challenge and invite everyone to come out and to see Aurora's community creativity at its finest

as we literally transform an empty greenhouse and turn it into a haunted attraction I hope will have so much traction that hopefully this won't be the only greenhouse next year.

"There are a lot of moving pieces to this, and with the Haunted Forest we went from a one night event spanned over three hours to now a six night event, four hours each night, and there is not a chance we could do this without Marquee Theatrical Productions, the Aurora Scouting Group and the Knuth Family because this has been a huge undertaking."

For more on the Town's Haunted Greenhouse, as well as their Hallowe'en-in-a-Bag package, visit aurora.ca/hauntedgreenhouse.



MICHAEL PARSA, MPP
Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill

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GARAGA EXPERTS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Reader questions
COVID measures**

I read your recent piece about preparing for a lengthier stay within extended domestic sheltering, relative to COVID-19 bubbles and the second wave.

But then I also Googled about Novel Corona Testing and specifically the Wiki on "COVID-19 Testing." Please be aware I do not possess a degree in Medical Science or Advanced Biology, but it seems after review of what was contained there, that we should question out where health authorities are headed with staunch reactionary measures to curb COVID-19's viral spread.

If there are bona fide actions to be taken, then it's justified. But they are in the process of performing the shut-down of our country, numerous bankruptcies and great upheaval. Does the related virus spread quandary always justify that never-before-utilized action?

And despite that, the public must always retain a right to refuse mass vaccinations.

Inoculations require a personal informed permissive decision. What is contained inside the vaccines should not be patented proprietary secret. And certainly not something our government should easily insist on or demand from us their absolute 100% use.

Mike Gough
Aurora

Greenbelt should be expanded: Coalition

The Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition advocates for the expansion of the Greenbelt, both as a way to protect forests, water, and farmland, and as a way to ensure growth and development happens in a way that builds healthy communities that are sustainable in the long run.

One of the key reasons we do this, which has become even more crucial over the course of the past year, is that we know that the way we utilize our resources has a strong impact on our capacity to respond to disasters, which are becoming more frequent.

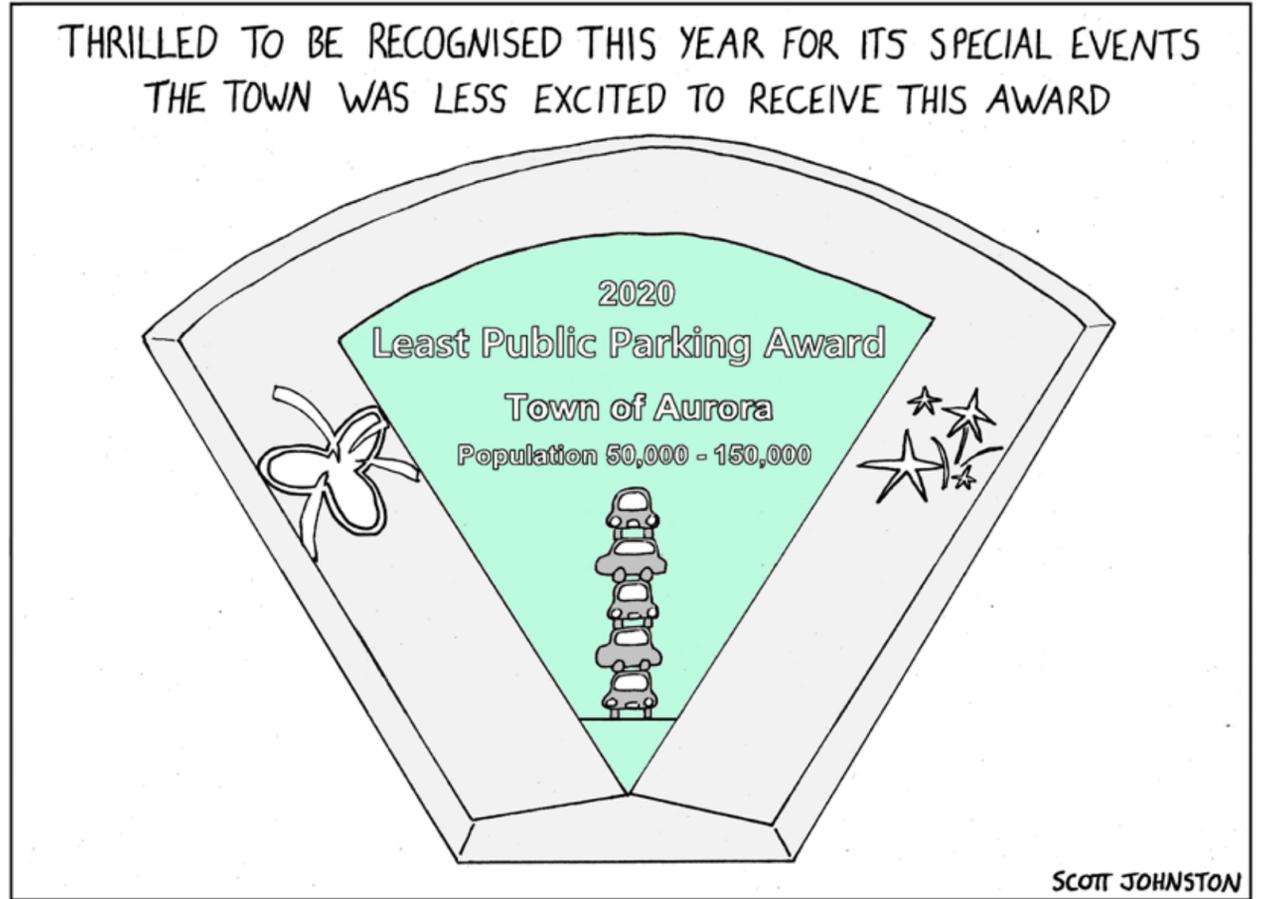
How and where we build our communities are key components of our resource use and, consequently, our ability to respond to disasters and climate change. For example, consider someone who is retired and living in an area where the nearest grocery store requires driving for several minutes. This circumstance isn't unusual in Simcoe County. Now consider what the options are for this individual if they lose access to their vehicle or roads are closed. How do they continue to access food in a safe and reliable way?

And what about their proximity to a doctor? Again, is a car required to access safe and reliable healthcare? While these are concerns that feature prominently for seniors, they are also indicative of equity issues, with those who are less able to afford a car being forced to carry a greater burden relative to those with a higher income. These same problems also exist for youth and those with disabilities. But these are the kinds of communities we continue to build as we sprawl into green spaces and farm fields - communities that are unaffordable for many and only useful and accessible to a small portion of the population, not everyone.

For this reason, we are proud to be a part of Just Recovery Simcoe, an alliance between 40 groups and businesses from across Simcoe County proposing solutions that focus on

Continued on page 15

Machell's Corners



“When it’s time to change you’ve got to rearrange”

As we continue full speed ahead into the next phase of our collective battle against COVID-19, I can't help but wonder how the lessons learned from our first round with the virus will inform how we get through the second and firmly stomp the curve back into the ground.

Of course, as I wrote in this space last week, we have all, whether we wanted to or not, altered our behaviours out of sheer necessity.

We have changed the way we work, we have reconfigured how we mark milestones in the lives of our friends, family and ourselves, how we keep in touch with those we love who didn't make the initial cut for our now-popped social bubbles, and all but thrived on new and creative ways to maintain our mental, physical and spiritual health.

While I think it is fair to say that many of us have re-thought our own individual places in the world, to my mind the greatest lesson we all might have under our collective belts is just how adaptable we really are.

A few short months ago, unless you already worked remotely, how many of us had a full handle on the wonders of the Zoom meeting? Of course, looking back over those same months, we couldn't have imagined experiencing Zoom fatigue either, but these and other platforms have proved by and large that if you did most of your work over a computer anyway the morning and evening commutes were not the necessary evil we once thought they were.

How many of us truly appreciated the impact of buying and supporting local? Sure, keeping your money in the community in which you live is naturally something most of us already aspired to whenever wherever possible, but the first wave truly drove home the point that a simple purchase at a local establishment, whether a retail outlet or even a local restaurant for takeout and delivery, can be a make-or-break on whether the dreams of our friends and neighbours live or die.

Many popular annual events were scuttled at the outset of the pandemic from a logistical perspective but, once organizers adapted and become more comfortable with the present reality, they took what they learned from those early days to re-tool their visions in new socially distanced or virtual ways.

Take, for instance, the recent success of Southlake Regional Health Centre's annual Run for Southlake. Originally slated for the end of April, the early realities of the pandemic made the event impossible in its original form. After a



**BROCK'S
BANTER**

Brock Weir

pause, the event was re-launched as the SL5K, opened up to a field much wider than Southlake's catchment area in York Region and southern Simcoe County, and, with money still rolling in, was a success beyond the Southlake Foundation's wildest expectations.

Undoubtedly, the present and ongoing situation has placed increased focus on the very real needs of our hospitals and the frontline workers that keep them going 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

For many of us, the basic needs of such health centres was an important lesson. But many of these needs not directly related to the pandemic are not new, and a fulsome awareness in the wider community is a more-than-welcome development.

From the earliest days, we did our utmost to work together to ensure our hospitals were well-equipped to handle an unknown onslaught. And although we did our individual best, some of us were able to do more than others.

Businesses, such as Beattie's Distillery in Alliston, were among the many such enterprises around Ontario that turned at least a portion of their business over to the production of hand sanitizer for frontline workers and everyday individuals alike. Others, such as those in Newmarket, reconfigured their operations to produce homegrown medical grade facemasks for hometown heroes.

Doctors, dentists, and other like professionals donated whatever material goods they had on hand to the wider cause, while those who were proficient with their sewing machines or needles, made masks of their own to help others protect themselves.

People who didn't have such textile talents focused on distribution while others still, including those who were most proficient at social media, directed their energy on promoting their initiatives and even driving up sales to benefit local worthy causes.

For some, however, the simple act of

wearing a mask not only provided a lesson but almost drew a line in the sand.

In the first wave, it was up to local jurisdictions – such as Regional and County governments – to determine the use of masks in indoor settings, with allowances made for individuals with legitimate medical reasons to not do so.

Theirs was not a decision that these upper-tier levels of municipal government and health units made lightly, and they had no shortage of public input on which to base their decision.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, a significant portion of this public input only served to highlight individual ignorance and selfishness as many opponents decried an infringement on their rights and freedoms to... well, presumably get sick and spread the virus, with little or no heed paid to the rights and freedoms of individuals to go out their front door without being needlessly exposed to a potentially deadly illness.

This patchwork approach simply didn't work and sowed seeds of confusion from municipality to municipality. But here's one more lesson learned: the buck ultimately stops at the Province.

On Friday, the Ontario Government released new public health measures in response to the continued surge of new COVID-19 cases, including the mandating of the use of face coverings and masks in all public indoor settings across the Province, including businesses, facilities and workplaces (with a few exceptions); something that once upon a time seemed all but impossible, or so we were told.

“With Ontario's recent alarming growth in the number of COVID-19 cases, our government is taking further action to help stop the spread of the virus and avoid future lockdowns,” said Health Minister Christine Elliott. “These are difficult but necessary decisions that are being made to keep the public safe, especially our seniors and vulnerable citizens. Everyone must follow public health guidelines if we are going to stop the spread and contain the second wave.”

But, in my view, a Province-wide decision on the wearing of masks and face coverings was not an altogether difficult one. Nor was it a novel decision, as many individuals, groups and stakeholders have been calling for it since the start of the pandemic.

As far as lessons go, even ones that come late in the game are no less valuable. Now, it is a matter of translating what we've learned into action – whether it is masking up, supporting local, and ultimately adapting to what is, alas, an ever-changing landscape.

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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



The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

The Autumn Harvest & Thanksgiving!

This postcard was sent to Aurora resident Rose Fricker in October 1910 by her Aunt Elora. It reads:

"Hello, Rosie,

"How are you? Hope you're well you know so as you could enjoy your Sunday dinner and [illegible] Thanksgiving also I hope you don't get sick eating the goose and too much plum pudding, Ha Ha Ha. I remain as yours, Aunt Elora."

Happy Thanksgiving, Aurora



Time Travellers Diary

By Michelle Johnson
Collections & Exhibitions Coordinator,
Aurora Museum & Archives

A Makeshift Thanksgiving

Just like that, Thanksgiving is around the corner and for many of us it will look and feel a bit different this year. If this was a typical year, many extended families would be making plans to gather and catch up on everything that has happened since the last time they saw each other. Given that Thanksgiving might feel a bit less familiar this year, I set out to find another moment when Thanksgiving may have looked a little less, traditional.

After some scouting, I landed on Monday, October 12, 1936, which happened to be Thanksgiving Monday. I normally luck out weather-wise when I'm time travelling but that certainly wasn't the case this time, and I just so happened to be attending an outdoor event!

The occasion was the Aurora Cycling Club's annual road race and meet.

Although the Club was in the habit of holding a meet each year, it wasn't typically held on Thanksgiving, which made this a bit of an anomaly. The five-mile road race began promptly at 10:30 and despite the muddy and windy conditions a massive crowd had gathered.

I couldn't help but notice how many people were willing to break with their usual Thanksgiving Monday traditions to come and watch the race. The competition was fierce with Cliff Chapman narrowly beating out Muir Teasdale with a winning time of just over 14 minutes. Members of the crowd remarked how this was considerably fast considering the strong headwinds. Chapman was now the proud owner of a beautiful cup donated by Cousins Dairy.

The shorter afternoon events were scheduled to take place at Cousins racetrack but unfortunately a tremendous downpour the night before meant that the track wasn't in racing condition.

After some quick planning, and approval from Town Council, Victoria, Metcalf, Berczy and Mosley streets were all blocked off and transformed into a makeshift racetrack. Given the late notice about street closures, Constables Dunham, Fleury and several citizens ensured that the course was kept clear of any traffic.

Not to be outdone by his road race victory, Cliff Chapman swept the afternoon matches and took home the top prize in the one mile, half mile and quarter mile senior categories.

Along with his teammate, Harold Foster, he also won the team race. It looks like Aurora had quite the cycling star in Chapman.

As I was preparing to end my journey back to 1936, I wondered if Chapman ever thought back on his 1936 Thanksgiving cycling victory. Was it a story that he would share with family years later, prompting curious minds to ask how he got to ride his bike all day on Thanksgiving?

Then I realized, perhaps Thanksgiving 2020 presents an opportunity to try something different and out of the ordinary.

Sure, I won't have bragging rights from a road race, but maybe I'll have some unfamiliar and random stories of my own to share with family once we can all safely gather again.

Yonge Subway Extension – Can't Wait

The Yonge Subway Extension (YSE) would extend the Yonge – University Line north on Yonge from Finch to Highway 7 in Richmond Hill. The YSE has been a priority for York Region for over 16 years and is long overdue. The Province of Ontario has committed to fund the project. The federal government, unfortunately, has not.

When I asked the Minister of Infrastructure why the government refuses to invest, her response was they are waiting for a business case.

York Region submitted a business case in 2009 and then again in 2013. In 2017, the Federal Government invested \$36.3 Million for a preliminary design and engineering study. Why invest millions if the value of the project is in question?

Asking for a business case in 2020 is not prudent fiscal management, it is merely an excuse to delay the project further. The YSE business case is obvious.

In 1945, when the city boasted a mere 925,000 residents, the Toronto Transit Commission report stated "The present congestion of traffic on Toronto streets threatens the very economic life of our city. There must be a gradual separation of public and private transportation vehicles both of which are now trying to operate on narrow city streets."

With over 1.2 million people, 52,000 businesses and over 636,000 jobs, York Region is already larger than Toronto was in 1945 when the Toronto Subway was approved. Over and above that York Region is one of Canada's largest and fastest growing municipalities and an integral part of the GTA economic region.

The GTA (City of Toronto and Durham, Peel, Halton and York



MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

Region) has a population of 6.8 million representing 18% of Canada. The GTA is forecasted to grow to 8 Million by 2030 and 10.2 million by 2046 representing 51% of Ontario's population and 25% of the estimated population of Canada. The GTA is the second largest financial district in North America, and home to 40% of Canadian business headquarters which generate approximately 20% of Canada's GDP. An investment in the YSE benefits not only York Region, but also the GTA, the Province of Ontario, and Canada as a whole.

The Toronto Subway system has been a centerpiece of economic growth for the GTA. At an average of 1.6 million weekday riders, it is the third busiest subway in North America behind only New York City and Mexico City. The Yonge – University Subway line alone has a weekday ridership of almost 800,000 people with almost 100,000 passing through Finch station each weekday. The Yonge Line is bursting at the seams and the demand only increases. Even with COVID-19 and the changes that might result after the pandemic, there is no indication that will change.

The Yonge Line ends at Finch but the GTA, and commuters in desperate need

of a subway, do not. Commuters with a destination north of Finch, are only able to drive or take a bus, and neither option is as fast, seamless or environmentally friendly as a subway.

The statistics in 2011 showed Yonge St congested and slow, with over 40,000 vehicles daily between Finch and Highway 7. Highway 400 and Highway 404, the alternate north south route to the west and east respectively, are increasingly gridlocked.

Taking the bus is an inefficient and time-consuming alternative. Busses are challenged to meet the equivalent capacity and frequency of a subway while also being forced to contend with traffic and weather delays.

The YSE business case is also sound from an economic growth and environmental stewardship perspective. Businesses choose to invest in areas that are supported by good public transit. The YSE is forecasted to create 60,000 jobs and 88,000 housing units and will drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by removing at least 3,000 busses and countless cars off the roads each day.

The YSE is a priority that will further expand on key elements to reduce congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and further connect GTA communities by investing in a "Union Station of the North."

The YSE can't wait and it is unconscionable that the federal government is unwilling to invest.

The real question should not be whether the Yonge Subway line should be extended but rather how do we ensure it continues far beyond Hwy 7, to Wellington in Aurora and Davis Dr in Newmarket ...starting NOW.

Fourteen years of predictions

The Auroran newspaper will celebrate its twentieth anniversary in October.

Time sure does fly!

As I have been periodically doing over the past few weeks, I will continue to share some thoughts/reminiscence of special moments that have occurred during my time writing for this paper.

I have been writing a column since 2006 and as many loyal readers know, I like to make political predictions. Unfortunately, I am usually not close to the mark at all.

Based on my record in predicting elections, I won't be headed for Las Vegas, or Casino Rama any time soon.

Outside politics, the only time that I can recall rendering a correct prediction was with respect to the Men's NCAA basketball tournament pool.

As a fan of the Indiana Hoosiers, I have chosen them to win every year in the office pool for the past twenty-some years. And they did win it...in 1987.

There is, without a doubt, a betting theorem now being developed by a PhD mathematics student somewhere in the bowels of academia called the Somerville Co-efficient.

It is very straightforward – "Bet in opposition to the actions of Stephen Somerville and, 99.6 percent of the time, you will be successful". The dissertation should be a best seller!

A couple of examples of my excellent political forecasting are in order.

Witness this excerpt from my November 2006 column:

"By the time that you are reading this column, the municipal election will have already taken place. This will not stop me today (November



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

10), however, from a favourite past time – making electoral predictions.

"Just keep in mind, that I confidently predicted that Kim Campbell would win one hundred seats in 1993!

"A couple of tools were utilized in arriving at my predictions.

"First, I attended two out of the four public campaign events. All three-mayorally candidates and nineteen of the twenty council candidates were in attendance.

"Second, I drove around the town, looking at how many candidate signs were actually on front lawns as opposed to public / municipal property.

"Third, I had the benefit of a poll that one of the Council candidates had commissioned. The poll was done right after the Sports Council debate on October 26. The poll was conducted by phone and had 700 respondents. The survey question: "If the election was held today, who would you vote for?"

The names of the mayoralty candidates were given.

The results:

Jones – 42%

Kean – 32%

Morris – 26%

"Ok, my fearless predictions:

"Mayor Tim Jones wins by about 350 votes

over Ms. Morris. Voter turnout breaks 45%, a huge increase from the 2003 election.

"You heard it here first (ok, last.). And by the way, the Leafs will win the Cup next June!"

Or this excerpt from my November 15, 2015 column, published just before the Federal election in which Justin Trudeau and the Liberals won a majority government:

"Looking at the national contest, as a result of seat re-distribution based upon population, the number of contested seats will increase from the current 308 seats to 338.

"At dissolution, according to Wikipedia, the Conservatives currently held 159 seats, the NDP 95, the Liberals 36, Independents 8, Bloc Quebecois 2, Green 2, Strength in Democracy 2, with 4 vacant.

"I predict that it will be a Liberal minority government with the Tories within a few seats, in the closest election since 1972 when the Liberals won 109 seats and the Progressive Conservatives won 107 seats.

"The Liberals will win 131 seats as compared to 124 for the Tories and 66 for the NDP, while the Bloc Quebecois will win 16 seats and the Green one seat.

"And lastly, the Jays will defeat the Kansas City Royals in five games to win the American League Championship and then go on to defeat the Chicago Cubs in six games to win the World Series!"

I know that readers will be looking forward to my prediction prior to the next federal election. As they say, even a blind squirrel finds a few nuts!

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Should trick-or-treating go on this Hallowe'en?

Yes No Unsure

www.theauroran.com

PREVIOUS POLL

Do you plan on getting the flu shot this year?

RESULTS TO DATE
October 6, 2020

YES
60%

NO
35%

UNSURE
5%



Christine Elliott
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Happy Thanksgiving

The safest way to celebrate is with those in your household.
If you attend a small gathering, remember to keep 2 metre distance,
wear a face covering indoors, and wash hands thoroughly and often.

Investments coming for remote learning in COVID-19 hotspots, including York Region

Long-term care outbreaks continue spread

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As new cases of COVID-19 continue to surge across Ontario, particularly in Toronto, Ottawa, Peel and York Region, the Province of Ontario is ramping up funding for remote learning opportunities for students.

Premier Doug Ford and Education Minister Stephen Lecce announced a \$35 million investment to hire more staff and provide further infrastructure to “targeted communities” on Monday.

The money is allocated from the Province’s previously-announced \$1.3 billion plan to safely re-open classrooms. Monday’s funding will go towards providing increased distancing between students through the hiring of additional teachers, early childhood educators and educational assistance, while also providing remote learning supports through the hiring of more teachers and other educators as well as provide devices to families who have opted away from an

in-class experience.

“Our priority as we enter the flu season is to ensure our schools take every preventative measure possible to ensure students and staff remain safe,” said Mr. Lecce. “We are delivering this additional funding – targeting those communities with higher rates of transmission – to ensure we prevent the spread and maximize the safety of Ontario families.”

York Region’s inclusion as a targeted community came as two Aurora schools were added to the list of educational facilities under surveillance for COVID-19: ESC Renaissance at Bloomington and Bathurst and Cardinal Carter Catholic High School just east near Yonge Street.

Schools under surveillance are those “with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 case among staff, students or visitors, where there is currently no evidence of transmission within the school,” according to York Region Public Health.

Aurora, as of Tuesday, has 2 active outbreak situations.

At the continuing outbreak at Sunrise Aurora on Golf Links Drive there were 5 residential cases of the virus confirmed

at the seniors’ residence with a total of 8 confirmed cases amongst the caregiver population.

A third outbreak has also been declared at Chartwell Aurora (formerly Resthaven). By October 6, there was 1 confirmed case of the virus among the staff population. No cases were reported amongst residents. The residence has seen two previous outbreaks of COVID-19 which were subsequently deemed closed by the Region.

A previously reported outbreak at a licensed child care centre is now classified as resolved.

“The number of our outbreaks, both in the workplace environment as well as in long-term care homes and other community care settings has been increasing,” said Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, in his weekly COVID-19 update. “The numbers of cases on a daily basis remains at a relatively high level and the proportion that we cannot attribute to other causes seems to be growing, so it is extremely important that we redouble our efforts to get this outbreak controlled again.

“We did it once and we can do it again.”

As Thanksgiving approaches this weekend, Dr. Kurji urged residents to limit celebrations to their own household, but if other members of the family are invited to take part in family activities beyond the immediate household, he urged people to restrict their gatherings to no more than 10 individuals and maintain physical distancing wherever possible and to wear masks otherwise.

“The flu season is approaching us and very shortly the flu vaccine will be available through physicians’ offices as well as pharmacists,” said Dr. Kurji. “Please remember we encourage everyone over the age of six months to get the flu shot. By getting the flu shot, we will be reducing the numbers of flu-associated

hospitalization, and so keeping healthcare capacity available for COVID-related cases. In addition, we will be reducing the burden on the testing system as it is often difficult to distinguish between flu and COVID-19. Also, in the first wave, we found that many flu-related outbreaks were precursors to COVID-19 outbreaks.

“Now, we need to double our efforts with respect to getting this outbreak under control. The rules are the same: physical distancing by two metres or more, wearing masks where physical distancing is impossible or where it is required under the law, and washing your hands frequently, not going out if you are sick, getting the flu shot, and going for testing if you have symptoms or have been in contact with a case of COVID.”

ASSESSMENT CENTRES

Following recent directives from the Province, Southlake Regional Health Centre has moved to offer COVID tests by scheduled appointment only.

Patients can now make an appointment to visit Southlake’s COVID-100 Assessment Centre by registering at southlake.ca. The website outlines specific criteria for those who can be tested, which is a list updated following updates from the Ministry of Health on September 24.

AURORA STATS

As of Tuesday, October 6, there were 22 active cases of COVID-19 within the Aurora community.

To date, Aurora has seen a total of 193 cases of the virus, 156 of which are now marked as recovered. 15 cases have ultimately proved fatal.

15 of the active cases are attributed to local transmission or close contact, 5 to institutional outbreak, 1 related to a workplace cluster, and 1 to travel.

York Region, as of October 6, now has 456 active cases of COVID-19. Since the start of the pandemic, the Region has seen a total of 4,493 cases of the virus, with 257 fatalities. 3,880 cases are now marked as resolved.

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Virtual Southlake Run surpasses \$150,000 goal – and there's still time to show your support



Participants in the SL5K got moving in a variety of ways as the Southlake Run went virtual.

Contributed photo

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The 2020 Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake may have taken a different form this year, but the virtual SL5K run has been a resounding success for the local hospital.

Thanks to more than 800 participants, the Southlake Foundation handily surpassed their \$150,000 fundraising goal, and with dollars still rolling in through October 15, they were well on the road to a further \$10,000 in much-needed funds.

"We had 850 participants, which is about half the number that we had originally anticipated for an in-person event, yet we surpassed the fundraising goal and I believe it is because those who participated were committed to doing more of the peer-to-peer fundraising and they achieved that," says Sheila Tilotta, Interim President & CEO of the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. "We have seen our community come together over COVID and support Southlake and I think reaching the goal is that continued

support for the community for our hospital, knowing that we're still in this and we're in this together."

Joining the community in rallying for Southlake were teams of frontline workers and other hospital support staff. 23 hospital department teams participated in this year's SL5K out of a total team roster of 91.

"They know firsthand what the hospital needs are," says Ms. Tilotta. "They have seen the need for more fundraising, especially with COVID and some of the demands that were placed as a result of it, and some of the urgent equipment. Many of them live in the community; they don't just work here. That's the consistent message I heard from staff throughout COVID was we 'really appreciate what the community is doing for us, but what can we also be doing?' I think part of our success is...they were participating in the run and also paying it back to Southlake.

"What that says to me is that people really rallied around the need. For example, our top individual fundraiser was the same person last year and they

raised more than double of last year's total. There were definitely people focused on the run and I can only speculate

it was because we're home, we're not commuting, and we're all community-

Continued on page 17



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Council looking for partners to redevelop Yonge and Mosley corner for Library Square

From page 1

closed session reports on the purchase of 15157, 15165, and 15171 Yonge Street placed on the Town's website for all to see.

"I think it is definitely important, especially with these types of dollars, we let the public know the details of the purchase and the reports that were before us that helped make our decision," said Councillor Gallo, speaking to his motion on September 29.

Councillor Gallo has been an open critic of the land purchase since it was announced this past summer and made it clear from the outset that he would push for the information presented in Closed Session be made public.

While he conceded there would need to be some redactions made to the report due to provisions set out in the Municipal Act, he said it would be worth the effort.

"I think this is a good thing and we'll be transparent and let the public know the details around a \$7.5 million purchase," he said.

Councillor Gallo found support for his motion from Councillor Wendy Gaertner who said as the deal is closed, now is the right time to make the information public.

"I don't want the public to say we're holding the information back for some reason," she said. "It is completely appropriate to do this now."

But Council colleagues and Municipal staff had a different viewpoint.

"While I agree with the intent of the motion to provide transparency to the residents, I am concerned with the timing of doing [this] now," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "We are actively trying to market the property and work with developers on the future development of that corner. I think that in releasing all that information now there is a potential of putting the Town at a disadvantage. While I believe that transparency is important, you have to balance transparency with confidentiality and protecting the best interests of the Town."

"I am happy to release all the information at the appropriate time. I don't feel it is now while we're still actively trying to market the property."

Patricia DeSario, Solicitor for the Town of Aurora, echoed this viewpoint that "this might not be the right time to release this information."

"There may be items in the reports that could potentially prejudice the Town and any strategies or negotiations it is looking for in the future," she said. "If it is something that Council does want to do... then certain parts of the report would have to be redacted."

Agreeing that releasing the report now would be a "disadvantage" to the Town were Councillors Harold Kim and Sandra Humfries. Councillor Humfries, for instance, said she was initially supportive of Councillor Gallo's motion and "there is nothing to hide" but hearing that releasing the information could put the Town at a "disadvantage" made her pause.

"I would hate damaging that opportunity [for the overall plan]," she said.

Mayor Tom Mrakas added he didn't see the urgency in releasing the reports at this particular moment in time.

"Do we need to provide transparency? Absolutely," he said. "We heard from our Solicitor that we still have a lot to do on this property. We do so many things where we designate properties historic, we bought this property and why do we do these things? We do them to put ourselves in a better position for the Town, for our residents, for us to be able to do something better for the Town. We put ourselves in a better dealing position [and] we lose that if we just put it out."

"It is not the right time. Will we put

I think it is definitely important, especially with these types of dollars, we let the public know the details of the purchase and the reports that were before us that helped make our decision

it out? Will the public know every single detail? Absolutely. If it wasn't being stopped by confidentiality, I would tell everybody exactly. I have no problem. I am all for transparency, but at this time I am not for us losing our upper hand when dealing and moving forward with the redevelopment of this property and ultimately the revitalization of our Downtown Core. If we want to hurt the revitalization of our Downtown Core, then let's go ahead and do that. I am not for that. [We are here] to make sure the Town's best interests are upheld."

But Councillor Gallo was firm in his frustration with the process.

"I just get a sense that clearly I am out of the loop because I am not aware of negotiation, any of that. We spent \$7.5+ million of the Town's money and they know zero about the details around that. If I am cherry picking, maybe, but I have no problem whatsoever in releasing anything that was in closed session that can be released. I have no problem with any of that. This particular one, because it is \$7.5 million +, and I believe the residents of the Town of Aurora, it is their money, they need to know the details around this now."

"I have read the report, there is nothing in there that could cause harm to the corporation. A sentence or two, let's remove them if that is the case. The purchase price is public, there is no hiding that. The details around the two reports should be public and I don't understand the rationale behind this. I think I do, but... hopefully the public will see that as well."



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Week of October 8, 2020



York9 FC forward secures loan deal in Scotland



Michael Petrasso
Photo courtesy of York9 FC

By Robert Belardi

Scottish Championship side Dundee F.C. has secured York9 FC striker Nicholas Hamilton on loan.

The 24-year-old forward didn't have the chance to compete in the Island Games this summer due to a difficulty with his work permit. But now, the Jamaican-born forward who can also play as a winger, will have the opportunity to join a Scottish side coming off a third-place finish last year in the country's second division.

Hamilton is Dundee's second signing in the past three weeks. The club recently brought on 34-year-old Dundee native and

former Blackpool, Liverpool, Stoke City and Reading midfielder Charlie Adam to the squad.

The loan move expires at the end of June 2021 when Hamilton is expected to return to Canada and to York9 FC.

Managing Consultant Angus McNab confirmed his father is a season ticket holder and he will keep close tabs on Hamilton. He also confirmed in the announcement McNab will be seeking other loan opportunities to his players.

And this week he did just that.

Days after York9 FC secured a multi-year extension with Michael Petrasso, the club announced via Instagram, Petrasso

has been loaned off to Barnet Football Club.

The 25-year-old winger had a tough spell at the Island Games, persevering through injuries that kept him off the pitch.

Nevertheless, the former Queens Park Rangers, Oldham Athletic, Coventry City, Leyton Orient and Montreal Impact returns to England once again.

In a wonderful few weeks of soccer news, notable matches took place.

In the English Premier League, Tottenham Hotspur defeated Manchester United 6-1 and Aston Villa shocked last year's champions Liverpool with a 7-2 victory at Villa Park, moving into second place in the league behind Everton.

Over in Italy, Lazio and Inter Milan tied 1-1. Napoli did not make it to Turin for their Serie A showdown against Juventus. Multiple-players in the Neapolitan side tested positive for COVID-19.

In Spain, Barcelona failed to secure a victory over Sevilla drawing 1-1 while Real Madrid defeated Levante on the road 2-0.

In France, Marseille and Lyon drew 1-1 as well in their derby.

Keep an eye for this weekend as Everton take on Liverpool this Saturday as well as Arsenal go up against Manchester City.

In Italy, the "Derby Della Madoninna" is set to take place on Saturday as well as Inter Milan take on A.C. Milan.

New gymnasium at SARC to be reconsidered at Budget

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The construction of a new gymnasium at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) will be considered by Council once again during discussions over the Town's 2021 Budget.

Local lawmakers approved a motion from Councillor Michael Thompson last week which puts the potential construction of a new multipurpose gym at the Wellington Street East leisure facility back on the table after discussions in previous years saw the idea relegated to the backburner.

Councillor Thompson's motion called not only for the potential expansion to be added to the 2021 Budget discussion, but also for a multi-gym option be presented as well.

"Through [previous discussions] it was mentioned that at one time when the SARC was being designed there was discussion around having a gymnasium,"

said Councillor Thompson last week. "It was originally planned and then a decision was made not to include it. There were even drawings available that showed where the gymnasium would have been, had it gone forward.

"Council did make a recommendation to refer it to Budget, have this conversation, and, as we know, as it unfolded, the conversations got larger and larger with respect to [the potential acquisition of] Bloomington lands [and] we also threw Hallmark lands within that, as well as the expansion of SARC....and the creation of an aquatics facility at the SARC.

"While I still want Council to focus on [whether or not to proceed with the aquatics centre], I want to put this back on the table for discussion at Budget time. In the event that Council doesn't decide to move forward with the aquatics facility...I still believe strongly there is a need to add a gymnasium to the SARC to complete that facility."

Continued on page 12

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Hometown hockey hero Barclay Goodrow among 2020 Stanley Cup champs

By Robert Belardi

The San Jose Sharks went to Tampa Bay for a date with the Lightning last December. Sharks forward Barclay Goodrow was out with his parents walking after dinner and professed his admiration of Tampa Bay's arena and location.

He loved how the hockey arena is right off the water and how warm the weather is.

"He said, 'you know if I was ever traded, I can come here,'" Goodrow's mother, Janice, recalled.

Little did Barclay know he planted an unintentional seed. It was, of course, only a hypothetical.

In February, Janice and her husband John spent the weekend in New York for the Sharks' road trip. They always do that. Barclay departed with the team to head to Philadelphia while his parents grabbed a flight back home.

While driving back home to Aurora, Janice and John received a phone call from their son. He had been traded to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

"We were shocked because...nobody really had any indication that he was going to be traded. It was literally 20 minutes before the deadline."

Tampa Bay General Manager Julien BriseBois sought Barclay. He dealt Anthony Greco and a first-round pick for Barclay Goodrow and a third-rounder. He needed a big centre and after Barclay scored the game-winner in the first round of the

playoffs against the Vegas Golden Knights last season, Sharks general manager Doug Wilson was persuaded to offload his centre to Florida.

Little did Goodrow know the seed he had inadvertently planted was about to blossom into reality.

Goodrow was the second significant move in eight days before the deadline. On February 16, the Lightning acquired New Jersey Devils forward Blake Coleman.

Following an arduous move from California to Florida, from one lifestyle to another, both Janice and John wanted to check in on Barclay and his girlfriend Madison.

It was March 12 and no more than 30 minutes upon arrival in Tampa Bay, Janice and John saw the NHL had decided to shut down. Goodrow's parents flew home early and that was the last time they would see their son for six months.

What seemed to be a lost season was swiftly recovered by the NHL. The bubble was introduced. The playoffs were back. Finally, there was hockey, but at a cost. Players sacrificed their time with family as a move away meant they wouldn't be able to see their loved ones.

From their home in Aurora, the Goodrow family watched as the Country Day School alum helped his team secure second spot in the round-robin.

Their first-round matchup was a familiar foe; the Columbus Blue Jackets. The Lightning opened up the series with a victory in Game One that saw both teams go head-to-head for five overtimes.

After fighting off last-season's demons, the Lightning went through the Boston Bruins. Then they went through the New York Islanders. For years, pundits criticized the Lightning's inability to win the Cup with the squad they've had and singled out Jon Cooper for not finding success.

Well, they had the chance in a Cinderella story that emerged out of the western conference.

The Lightning had a date with the Dallas Stars.

Originally, the NHLPA permitted spouses and girlfriends into the bubble, but with many of them in the United States and those who worked would have to book off more than a month of time due to quarantine protocols, a maximum of four family members were allowed to fly over to Edmonton.

"We quarantined for two weeks. We quarantined from the fourth of September to the 19th, when we went out. Because it was a moving target date, we didn't know when we were going," Janice explained.

She and her husband had to be ready. The NHLPA sent a charter flight to pick up parents in other areas and it was only parents on the flight to Edmonton.

On the plane, Janice and John got to know a man named Craig Campbell. He said to the couple "you want to see me at the end," Janice said.

He is one of the Cup Keepers who carries the illustrious Stanley Cup trophy to the winning team.

Janice and John had to quarantine upon arrival. Four negative COVID-19 tests were the ticket to roam within the bubble that cordoned off hotels and the Rogers Place from the rest of Edmonton.

They watched the first two games of the finals on television.

Then, it was finally time to see their son, whose joyous reaction said it all.

The family got together with an NHL camera crew to take part in a life-in-the-bubble series the league was recording before Game Three.

At night, the long-awaited moment came to watch a game live for the first time months, in a box high up in the arena with food and beverages available.

The Lightning led the series 3-2 heading into Game Six. Five years ago, in 2015, against the Chicago Blackhawks, the Lightning lost the Stanley Cup finals 2-0 in Game Six handing the Blackhawks their third championship in five years.

Here, the Lightning reversed history. They defeated the Stars in Game Six, 2-0. The franchise brought home their second Stanley Cup.

Time to see Craig Campbell again, and time for the Goodrows to celebrate with their son Barclay, who becomes the second Aurora native in as many years to win it all (Robert Thomas last year with the St. Louis Blues).

"On the ice, after they won the cup (because we were allowed to go on the ice with them), and then into the dressing room, that was an experience. Coop said to us, 'we got this Cup because of those trades we made,'" Janice said.

"He said, 'I gave Barclay his job and he

did it.' He was so thrilled and so excited."

The last time the Lightning were crowned champions was back in 2004, when the team defeated the Calgary Flames in seven games for their first ever Stanley Cup victory.

Traditionally, players could bring the cup back to their hometowns. However, this year, Janice Goodrow says that isn't going to happen. They hope that will change in 2021.

But for this year, Aurora and potentially Country Day School, won't be able to enjoy the presence of the 89.54-centimetre trophy.

Until then, for the Goodrow family, it's a moment they'll never forget in one of the most unique competitions the NHL has ever seen.

Janice and John say they were thankful for the chance to go to the bubble to see their son and watch his Stanley Cup triumph with the Tampa Bay Lightning unfold.

The family commended the determination from the NHL to plan a bubble to ensure the season is finished and a champion is crowned. She admired the valiant efforts from all players and their families.

Gym to be reconsidered at Budget

From page 11

Considering a new gym once again would provide more opportunities for sports tourism, including tournaments, the Councillor contended.

"The aquatics facility does not include the construction of a gym, so Council may decide if the future of the SARC is to do both [but] I just want to put this back on the table for conversation so, at the end of the day, this is one thing we want to make a decision on: whether to move forward or not. For me, it is a holdover from the last term that needs to be resolved one way or another."

While Council approved the motion to bring discussion forward, they largely held their opinions on whether this was a worthy project close to their chests.

"I am fine with moving the discussion to budget," said Councillor Harold Kim. "It is all the motion is requesting, so I am happy to oblige."

Councillor Wendy Gaertner expressed a similar viewpoint, adding that although she was fine with bringing it forward for discussion, there were some logistical issues to consider.

"I was in the Council Chamber when the decision was made to not do the gymnasium," she said, referring to earlier talks leading up to the eventual construction of the SARC. "That gymnasium was actually going to be a youth centre and there would be little parking involved. When this came to us recently, we had an idea of how we could get some more parking [but] that wasn't successful."

"I don't know how we could add onto this facility without having extra parking, so it could go to Budget. I am fine with that, but parking is the big issue."

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St. Anne's will welcome up to 380 girls to new school



St. Anne's School will be housed in this Jacobean-style manor house near the northwest corner of St. John's Sideroad, part of the Shining Hill development. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

offer, including financial aid programs for students to make their independent education as affordable as possible.

Most independent schools are steeped in a storied heritage, and St. Andrew's College is no exception. As he looks towards St. Anne's School as the next chapter in SAC's history, Mr. McHenry says the only word to describe the feeling of being able to help steer the establishment of a new independent school from the ground-up is "exciting."

"I am thrilled it is finally here," he says. "For me, personally, it has been a passion of mine since I set foot on this campus. There have been so many ups and downs, particularly in the last two years. We have been trying to get the deal done, and it has been a roller-coaster. Now that it is done and we're ready to go, it is exciting. We feel very good about our plan."

For more on St. Anne's School and what it has to offer, visit stannesschool.ca.

From page 1

Andrew's College has taken great pride in our leadership role as we have turned 'boys into men' and strengthened our communities at every level," said Mr. McHenry in a statement. "We recognize our responsibility to evolve and lead in a manner that will meet the requirements of the world for the next 120 years, and providing the same educational opportunities for girls is an important part of that responsibility. A school of this calibre will be uniquely positioned to contribute significantly to the field of girls' education and the development of strong, influential and empowered female leaders in our community and around the world."

Added Mayor Tom Mrakas: "St. Andrew's College is a world-class facility that has brought international attention to the Town of Aurora. People know that their children can flourish both academically and personally here. I am thrilled at the possibility of welcoming an all-girls school to our thriving and vibrant community."

Once complete, St. Anne's will offer

classes for girls in Grades 5 through 9 in its first year, adding a grade each year until they have reached Grade 12.

St. Andrew's College is one of the rare independent schools in the Greater Toronto Area to offer single-sex education for boys. While many independent schools shifted to co-educational programs in the 1970s and 1980s, SAC followed a different route. Maintaining single-sex education was a conscious decision, but one that has been re-thought in the ensuing decades.

"19 years ago, when I started at St. Andrew's, and I am now in my twelfth year as Head, I was always keen on finding a school nearby that would be a separate girls' school," said Mr. McHenry. "That is a really difficult thing to do because of the expense of the land and all the capital expenses, but it was added to our Strategic Plan in 2011.

"That caught the eye of many of our constituent groups, but it just didn't materialize. I always maintained a very strong relationship with a family who had a son here in the late 2000s, we continued to talk, and that is where we ended up. It has

taken a great leap forward, and we finally got it done!"

The concept might be done, but there are still a few more hurdles to clear before St. Anne's School can open its doors. In addition to being re-zoned from its present residential use, the expansive mansion will need to be brought up to code for use as a school.

"We have a master plan for the campus, but right from the get-go, the house is large enough to accommodate about 380 girls," says Mr. McHenry. "Our master plan is quite robust, but it will depend on fundraising to add facilities. We are working on that and have already begun. Hopefully, we will be quick, but we're good with what we have and we can operate a very fine school with what is there right now."

Until the finer details are ironed out, Mr. McHenry, along with St. Anne's newly-appointed Head of School Sabrina D'Angelo, will work diligently with the Town, the Region, and Shining Hill to make their plan a reality. There are also plans within the community to build awareness for all of what St. Anne's will have to



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Trailblazer Music Festival returns for second evening October 16

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you missed last Friday's performances at the 2020 Trailblazer Music Festival, there is a second chance to see emerging local artists perform at the historic Aurora Armoury on Friday, October 16.

The Trailblazer Music Festival, a joint venture between the Aurora Museum

& Archives and local musician Jared Stafford returned to the historic venue at Mosley and Larmont last Friday, just in time for Culture Days 2020, with performances from The Beresfords, Rob Watts, and local student musicians.

For the second of two installments, scheduled entertainers include Ian Marc & Sara, Treeline and former Aurora Teen Idol Louisa Barbosa.

"It is exciting to get back on the stage again, especially doing something for the Town," says Louisa, who says opportunities to perform live during the pandemic have been few and far between. "I love the community and I love when everybody comes together safely to support live music.

"I think during lockdown it really made me appreciate music a lot more because I couldn't go out and play, so I realized just how special that is for me. Now, finally being able to slowly get back into doing live shows and feeding off the energy of an actual crowd means everything to me and I am super-grateful for it."

When she takes the stage next Friday, Louisa says she has prepared a set primarily of original music with a few covers thrown into the mix.

"I have been writing a lot, so my catalogue has expanded considerably," she says. "As a song-writer, I have to acknowledge the fact I am restricted to my own point of view, so a lot of my songs are about personal experiences. [Over the last few months of the pandemic] I think there has been a recurring theme of finding my identity

and self-reflection during my songs, especially my most recent ones, because I have had all this time at home to think about who I am, what I want to do and how I can be better. I think that theme is very present in my more recent music.

"I just want the audiences to feel seen. I think the things I write about are pretty universal experiences. If they can related to any of the lyrics and enjoy the music, that is all I could ever want."

Louisa will be joined on stage by Treeline.

The two artists have shared a bill together on many local open-mic nights in York Region and Treeline too is eager to get back in front of a live audience.

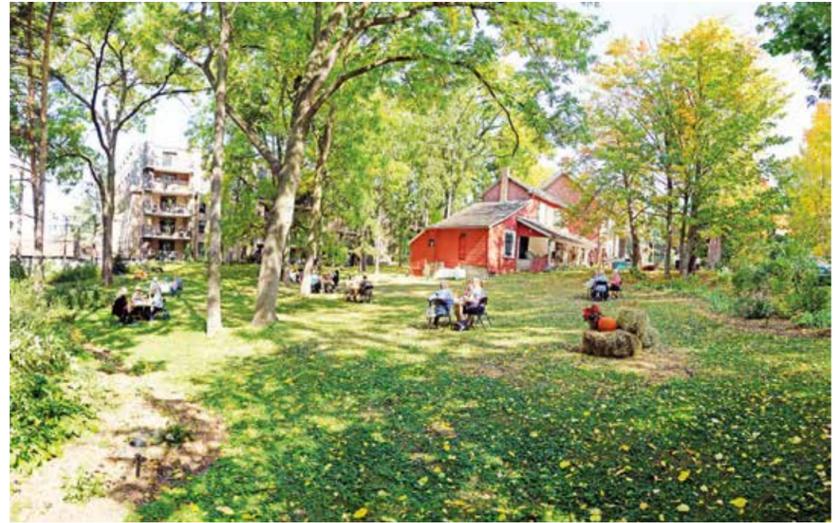
"In April, we were supposed to go into the studio to start recording our second EP and that is right at the launchpad of the present situation, which put everything on hold," says Treeline's Gregory Swain. "I really like what Aurora does with music – and anything I can do to support Aurora."

For more information on the second installment of the 2020 Trailblazer Music Festival, including how to register for a limited number of socially-distanced spaces, visit aurora.ca/culturedays and select "October 16" from the drop-down menu. The website also provides a full list of local Culture Days activities through October 25.

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HIGH TEA – It was a beautiful day out on Sunday, September 27, as the Aurora Historical Society hosted a Victorian Harvest Tea at Hillary House to mark Culture Days 2020. The Historical Society, and many other local cultural groups, have a full program of activities planned to mark the occasion, which runs through October 25. For more on in-person and virtual activities, visit aurora.ca/culturedays.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Getting Things Done

Mayor
Tom Mrakas

At Council last week, we had a few motions on the agenda put forward by members of Council.

I wanted to focus on one of them and that is the motion put forward by Councillor Thompson to move the Town towards audio recording of closed session meetings.

This motion was first brought forward in 2009, during the 2006-2010 term of Council, and has since been re-tabled twice in subsequent terms.

Each time this motion has been defeated with Councillors raising concerns about being held accountable for what has been said behind closed doors.

But I am pleased to say that this Council voted – unanimously – in favour of taking the next steps towards recording Closed Session meetings of Council; opting for greater transparency and accountability of Council deliberations.

We have seen in the past when an investigation of an allegation regarding Council is launched that without a transcript/audio or even video recording of the conversation, there is no true account of what transpired. Folks can say whatever they want, make allegations and mischaracterizations of discussions – secure in the knowledge there's no record of what actually occurred.

It's why the Ontario Ombudsman has specifically recommended it as

a means to ensure transparency of and accuracy of records regarding closed session meetings. It's an important mechanism to ensure that there is an accurate record of what was – and was not – said, discussed and decided in a closed session meeting.

I have always said that what I say in a closed session meeting is exactly what I would say in open session. What you see is what you get. There should be no issues with moving to recording closed session meetings as it will help protect the municipality, the individual and the residents from unwarranted and frivolous allegations, and ensure greater transparency.

I am glad that Council passed this motion unanimously and thank Councillor Thompson for bringing this item back this term.

I am looking forward to knowing that the words of Council are recorded and there can be no mistake as to what was said. That is true transparency.

That's all for this week. As always, if you would like to get into contact with me please feel free to do so anytime by phone 905-727-3123 ext. 4746 or by email tmrakas@aurora.ca and if you would like to sign up for more newsletters and Council updates, please let me know and I will add you to the growing list of Aurorans that are staying informed.

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GARAGE SALE

will be held on October 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th. 10 am - 6 pm by the Sisters of Good Council at the Marylake Grounds by the barn. Rain or shine. Everything must go! Located at 13760 Keele St, north of King Rd, 15th Sideroad.

NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Anyone with claims, prior to December 23, 2019 against Richard J. Goodwin, of 77 Devins Drive Aurora, Ontario L4G 2Z5, please submit information to SVLaw, P.O. Box 1240, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6N6 Attention: N. Melchers. By the final date of October 9th, 2020.

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- Marketing and/or Communication education would be a great fit

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Let's Talk.

EMAIL RESUME FOR CONSIDERATION:
employment@londonprop.com

London Property Corp.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

increasing the health of people, our communities and nature.

We want our communities to be healthy, accessible and affordable for everyone. We want government money to be spent efficiently in ways that benefit the health and wellbeing of people first and not subsidizing profits for a few. We want governments to cherish and protect nature, so that current and future generations can live in a healthy and beautiful world

just as we did.

These ideas are not new and many communities around the world are putting them into action. We can too. COVID has exposed our obligation to take care of each other and our natural world. We can no longer continue to ignore the plight of people, communities and nature.

For more information: www.justrecoveryimcoe.ca

Margaret Prophet
Executive Director
Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition

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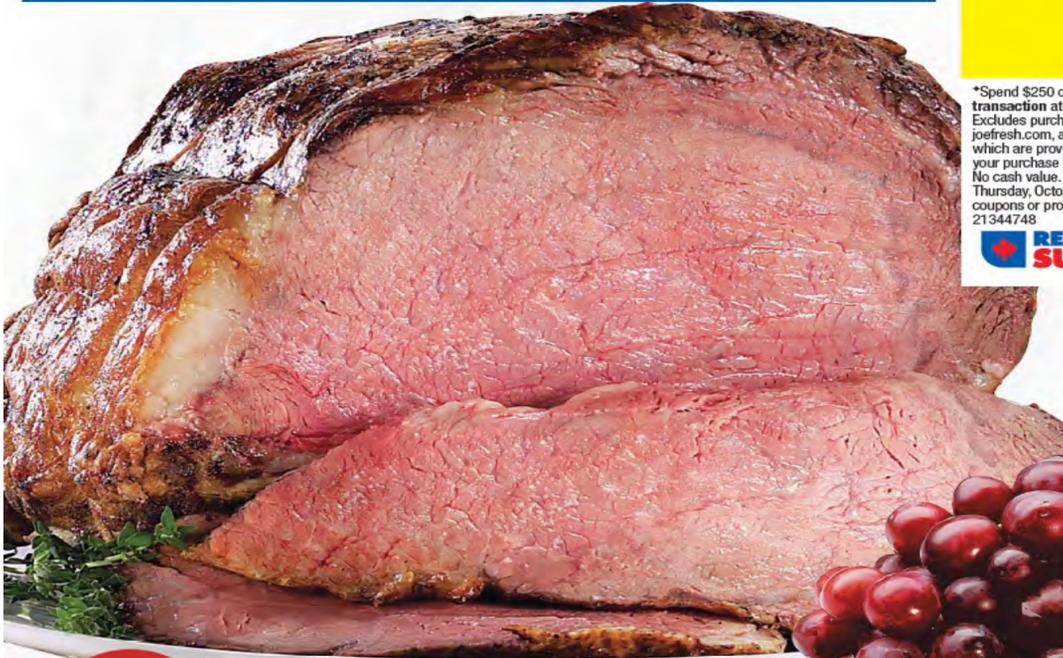
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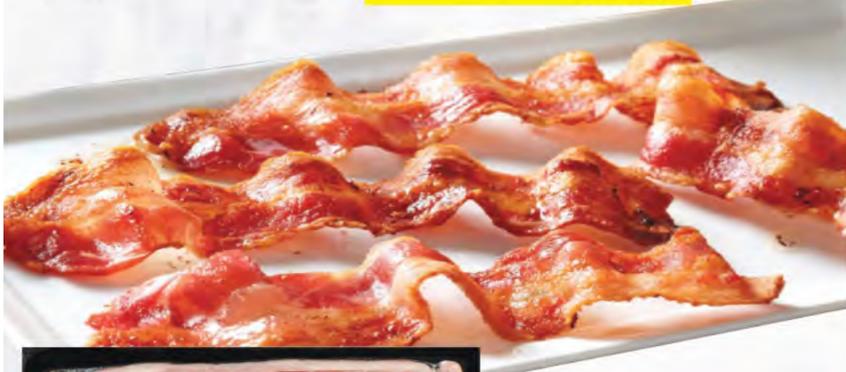
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Burnbrae or Grayridge large eggs 30 pack brand varies by region 20839347001 20987491001

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7⁴⁸ EA



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4⁴⁸ EA



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9⁹⁸ EA



Cashmere bathroom tissue 24=48 rolls 21186207

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Zombie Hunt is family fun benefiting St. John Ambulance

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Trick-or-Treating is in doubt. Vampires now have to maintain social distance. Witches are having to rethink their morning broompools. Goblins are recalibrating whatever it is they usually do at this time of year. But zombies? They're all around York Region, if you know where to look – and St. John Ambulance of York Region is here to help.

If you're looking for a way to have some spooky, but family-friendly fun this Halloween season, look no further than the York Region Zombie Hunt, hosted by St. John Ambulance.

On now through October 31, the York Region Zombie Hunt is a large-scale 31-activity scavenger hunt that allows families to get out into their towns and cities in a safe way, participate in some spooky activities, all the while helping build community spirit.

It is a fundraiser not only for St. John Ambulance (SJA), but is also a way to support local business.

"Our original plan was to do a Zombie Walk because we felt it tied in well with our youth programs, but now we can't have a whole bunch of people together!" says SJA York Region's

Jason Colterman. "We brainstormed and figured we could do this like a scavenger hunt with prizes and instead of walking down Yonge Street dressed as zombies, we're working with local businesses to help support them as well."

The Zombie Hunt kicked off October 1 and since its launch participants have been able to enjoy several activities, most of which will still be available for participants who join in mid-stream.

One of their first events was a collaboration between organizers and an area-based makeup artist who provided tutorials on how to harness the power of theatrical makeup to unleash the zombie within. Another activity, this time in partnership with Reptilia, was a photo-op with a live tarantula.

"There are a lot of activities happening and we're still working on getting it all together," says Mr. Colterman. "You can sign up at any point and almost all of the challenges can be done at any point as well. They are just going to be promoted on certain days. You can still capture the zombie makeup tutorial package, post the photos online, and you'll be entered into a draw – and every challenge has a draw."

"This is a great event that not only

supports St. John's but it creates an entertaining atmosphere for you and your family while also supporting the local community as well. All of our sponsors are all local sponsors within York Region. So, we're not going after supporting great big corporations and whatnot, it is really a grassroots community-building exercise. And it's fun for the whole family; it doesn't all have to be super-scary and it doesn't all need to be pumpkin patches!"

Proceeds from the Zombie Hunt will benefit a variety of local programs spearheaded by the St. John community, including youth leadership programs which gets teens out in their neighbourhoods for community-building and self-improvement, their Medical First Responders programs, and their popular therapy dog initiatives.

"Our medical responders are not the paramedics [from the Region], they're all volunteers and they volunteer their time to help the local community," says Mr. Colterman. "Some of them may be paramedics, nurses or doctors in their day-to-day work life, but they commit their time to giving back to the community as volunteers and help those who are in need, which is an incredible thing to do."

To participate in the 2020 Zombie Run, registration is \$10 per Zombie, \$25 for a ghoulish family of two adults and up to three children, or \$150 for a team of up to 10 individuals.

Registration and further information can be found at yzombiehunt.com.

Everyone who registers will receive a Zombie Survival Kit this November. All prize draws will take place in the first week of next month.

SL5K funds will support COVID-19, Mental Health programs at Southlake

From page 7

facing now."

As the Southlake Foundation looks to wrap up SL5K donations by mid-month, they are set to turn their attention towards a new fundraising campaign now underway with a special focus on building capacity for mental health needs.

Proceeds from the SL5K are deemed "flexible funds" which can be allocated to various hospital services and equipment purchases as they are needed, a concept which proved beneficial during the first wave of COVID-19 and will be beneficial in this second wave. These flexible funds can also help their mental health campaign towards the finish line.

"Flexible funds are always our priority and that is because as COVID has taught us, the priority needs of our hospital can change on a dime," says Ms. Tilotta. "Flexible funding is always the most urgent need in the hospital so the most immediate needs can be met. If somebody was wanting to restrict their funds, mental health and/or equipment will be the next broad categories. Our mental health campaign is a \$7.5 million campaign kicking off in October, that will very much rely on the community for support. Flexible funds can be used for equipment,

they can be used for mental health, they can be used if there are more COVID-related equipment that is required during this second wave. Flexible funds will allow the hospital clinicians to utilize the funds fastest and to the highest priority.

"Thanksgiving kicks off the Season of Giving and this year health care is more important than ever. It is a message we have heard a number of times. Our community has rallied behind Southlake and we are thankful for our community for what they have done and what they continue to do. I think we would all agree that this is not over. They have now declared that we're in a second wave of COVID and we very much know that there will be more COVID needs, but more importantly there are a number of mental health needs. COVID has had an impact on mental health and we're already seeing that increased need there. We will be focused on meeting that need and hopefully our community who has already been very gracious will feel grateful and also want to support in that way."

For more on the SL5K and how you can still contribute to the cause, visit runforsouthlake.ca or call 905-836-7333 x5108.

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One Book | One Aurora Photography Contest

In her novel *Scarborough* Catherine Hernandez offers a glimpse into a community that finds dignity in unexpected places. COVID-19 has made us look at community in new ways.

The Challenge: Submissions must respect the physical distancing we are currently practicing to keep our community safe. **Send your entry to:** brock@ipcmedia.ca **Contest Deadline:** Friday October 30, 2020



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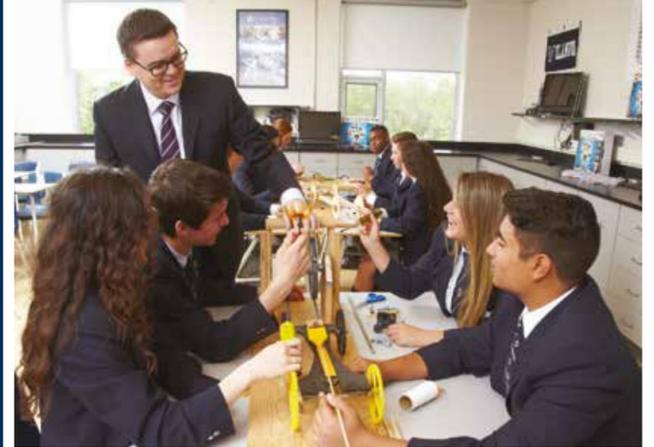
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* Photos taken pre-pandemic

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A SMARTER HOME: Tech innovations for every room

(NC) With technology advancing at such a rapid pace, cool gadgets are becoming the norm in many homes. These innovations are so much more than showpieces, and in many cases can provide time-saving solutions to real, everyday problems.

Here are must-have tech innovations for key rooms in your home:

• **THE LAUNDRY ROOM:** A recent survey shows that 46 per cent of consumers state mould and odour as their top frustrations when it comes to front-load washing machines. If this is a concern for you, consider upgrading to GE Appliances' new UltraFresh front load laundry pair, which can help prevent the growth of odour-causing bacteria without needing to wipe down the machine or leave the door open after each load. The washer features wider gaskets angled to allow water to fully drain after the wash cycle, and built-in vent systems that remove excess moisture. Antimicrobial material is also incorporated in the seal, gasket, dispenser and pump to further prevent the growth of unwanted – and potentially smelly – bacteria.

• **THE BEDROOM:** Waking up is hard to do, especially with an annoying alarm clock beeping at a jarring volume. Inspired by nature's sunrise, the Philips Wake-Up Light uses a unique combination of light therapy and sound to help wake you up in a more natural way. The colour of the morning light changes gradually from soft dawn reds through warm orange to bright yellow.

• **THE BATHROOM:** It's a well-known fact that everyone's voice sounds better in the shower. Ready to take your skills to the next level? Kohler recently released a spa-worthy showerhead with a built-in wireless speaker that delivers up to seven hours of music, news and more by pairing with your device via Bluetooth. You can even connect it to other speakers, so your family members can listen to the same song when in different rooms in your home.

• **THE HOME OFFICE:** Over the last few months, many of us have been adjusting to work away from the comforts of a typical office setting. If you're looking to up your home office game, check out the HP Tango X Smart Home Printer. This printer connects to all of your devices and works with your voice assistant. Because it uses a two-way cloud connection, you can print from anywhere without having to access your home Wifi. It comes in beautiful charcoal and indigo finishes.

www.newscanada.com



By Julien Laurion
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

Dear Big Tuna- My husband and I recently came into a bit of money, not a lot, but enough that we would like to make some home improvements. We are long time residents of Aurora and are also considering downsizing in a couple of years. What do you recommend?
Sincerely, Sci-Gal

HI SCI-GAL, that is a great question! Every budget is different, but for all levels there are always some affordable options for home improvements to ensure you maximize your Return on Investment (ROI). A warning with improvements: these are not fool proof as they are subjective. A classic example is installing a backyard pool, typically this is a lifestyle decision for the family and not the next buyer. However, there are some areas that you can focus on that do improve both enjoyment and resale of your home.

A great place to start would be with a minor bathroom renovation. What is minor? Well, it can be as simple as changing the bathroom fixtures, painting, upgrading the lighting, changing the vanity and in some really dated homes remove the carpeting! Minor projects are those that do not require a lot of work and can be done in a weekend. This type of upgrade can often provide with over 100% ROI

versus doing a major renovation. Major projects such as; removing walls, making the room larger, changing the location of shower, will yield about a 93% ROI upon resale of your home. The difference in return is due to increased costs in construction.

Two other big ROI improvements areas to consider are landscaping and outdoor entertainment spaces. Upgrading or improving the landscaping of your home typically will provide you with a 100% ROI. Adding or improving a deck or patio space will give you an average 90% ROI. These are popular options as they do not interfere with your indoor living space.

A word of caution, the ROI data is based on the "average" finishes I discussed. No matter what room or area you decide to spend your money on remember this golden rule: Do not spend more than necessary to get your investment back! It is a balance.

Sci-Gal, if you are concerned with ROI rather than your enjoyment factor and if you're not working with a

Realtor; who can help advise you – call Big Tuna! - you can always go online and review previous sales that are comparable to your home and in your neighbourhood. I always tell my clients to consider the next buyer when preparing a home for resale. Unique and extravagant is not always best option!

Julien Laurion AKA Big Tuna is a local Real Estate Sale Representative with Royal LePage Your Community Realty in Aurora. I am a real estate agent who has expertise in both Real Estate and Renovations and has been involved in this community for over 20 years. If you have a question for my monthly article or if you are considering buying, selling or leasing a home please feel free to call or email me directly at (416) 402-5530 or julien@bigtuna.ca or by alternatively visiting my website www.bigtuna.ca or Facebook page @bigtunarealty

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fall home maintenance tips



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(NC) Now that fall is here, it's time to get your new home ready for winter before the inclement weather arrives.

However, it's important to know that if issues arise in those first seven years that can be traced back to a lack of proper homeowner maintenance, they won't be covered. To ensure that your warranty rights are protected, here are some fall maintenance reminders for your new home:

- Check your windows and doors inside and out for any cracks or separations around the frames. Apply caulking to any damaged areas. This will prevent water penetration or heat loss.
- Look for damage or wear to the weather-stripping on your exterior doors and replace if necessary. This keeps warm air from seeping out of your home.
- Inspect eavestroughs and downspouts. Remove any leaves and debris that can create messy, smelly blockages that could build up over winter. If you see cracks or seam separations in your eavestroughs, fix them with caulking.
- Shut off your home's exterior water supply and drain all exterior water lines and hoses. You should leave the taps open a bit – this will prevent any remaining water in the lines from freezing and damaging the water supply line.

- Have a professional roofing company inspect the roof to ensure that shingles, flashing and chimney caps are all in place and properly sealed.

- Clean and test all your exhaust fans, including dryer vents, stove vents and furnace vents. Clean or replace your furnace filter and consider having your furnace serviced to prepare it for winter.

- Inspect your gas or wood-burning fireplace and chimney dampers, and have them serviced or cleaned if necessary.

- Test all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are in good working order.

Find a full list of home maintenance tips at tarion.com.
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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

Designer tips to bring global *style home*

(NC) This summer, see the world from the comfort of home with globally inspired design. From the Greek Islands to the Santa Fe desert, Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour marketing expert, shares her advice to bring the aesthetic of some of the world's most exciting destinations into your home – no travel required.

SANTORINI: Create a calm and refreshing space with a palette of timeless Grecian blues, whites and greys. These serene Mediterranean shades have classic appeal that will never go out of style. Looking to refresh your kitchen? "Make your light-coloured countertops pop by painting your lower cabinetry a vibrant shade of blue, like Lazy Sunday 830," says Grech.

BOSTON: If your style is a mix of classic and contemporary, take inspiration from the heritage hues and aesthetic of Boston. You can easily bring the feel of this east-coast city by adding warm toned plants and greens to your home. "Perennials such as coral bells and sedums are easy to care for and will add beautiful pops of warm colour to your front or backyard."

CAPE TOWN: Bring the vibrant and bold colour palette of Cape Town to your home by adding accents of pink and orange. Bathrooms and powder rooms are ideal spaces to experiment with bolder colours – painting a wall or vanity in a bright shade will create an uplifting space that energizes and rejuvenates. "Since bathrooms can be the most susceptible to water and steam damage, be sure to use a product such as Benjamin Moore Aura Bath and Spa, which provides a luxurious matte finish designed for high-humidity environments."

SANTE FE: Add warmth and comfort to your living room or home office with an earthy colour palette inspired by the desert landscapes of Sante Fe. Shades of gold, muted oranges and accents of turquoise create an eclectic and collected feel that complements styles ranging from classic to minimal.

www.newscanada.com



Minimal style with maximum comfort

(NC) Minimalism is getting maximum attention these days, since this style of design no longer needs to have hard edges or be uncomfortable. The new approach celebrates nature and serenity without sacrificing warmth and comfort. Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour marketing expert, shares her three tips on how to create a warm and inviting minimalist space in your home.

BUILD ON YOUR BASE COLOURS: Like all good design, minimalism starts with the basics. The first step to beautiful design is selecting your colour palette of two to three colours that you will use throughout your space. Warm neutrals like creams, beiges and greys will help create a timeless and subtle starting point that lets your décor shine. "Neutral paint colours like Thunder AF-68, White Heron OC-57 and even a muted rosy hue like the Colour of the Year 2020 First Light 2102-70 are ideal choices for an inviting minimal space," says Grech.

ADD NATURAL TEXTURES. The key to an inviting design is thoughtfully adding texture and layers. Natural materials and textures have a calming effect and add softness to minimal spaces. Complement your neutral base colours with woven rugs, wooden chairs, rattan furniture and plants to add depth and visual interest and create an inviting and serene look. Group accessories in neutral shades together – think antique whites, sun-bleached beiges and stormy greys to create a harmonious look that is easy on the eyes.

DO IT YOURSELF: Consistency of colours, textures and tones are essential when creating a warm and inviting minimal space. One way to achieve a consistent look is to paint wooden furniture and cabinets to create a unified and complementary set of tones throughout your home. "Painting wooden furniture and cabinets is an approachable do-it-yourself project. There are two key elements to properly painting furniture: first, smooth out any uneven textures using sandpaper. Second, make sure you use a high-quality paint designed to minimize brushstrokes, like Advance interior paint from Benjamin Moore."

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My buyers can't wait to call this home

Ask A Realtor®

We have viewed homes online and we'd like to downsize in a few months. What are a couple of tips that we could follow for this home that would make it more appealing to buyers?

As you look at the personal home space, depersonalizing is the next step because in the home in question many tend to display collections, family and personal photos, material goods gathered from experiences, travelling and some may hold onto furniture items and textiles that have been upgraded over time in hopes to use them again at a vacation property or keep for family members when they enter the real estate market. Editing is the first step to making a home feel larger and if assistance in this area is needed there are organizing specialists who can further assist with inspiring this next level of clearing to occur.

Painting out a home in light neutral paint colours will give a lighter airier feel to the walls, ceilings and trim work in the home and a more modern feel. In the case where there is darker flooring, the home will still have a feeling of coziness even with light walls. The neutral backdrop may help Buyers decide how they will then personalize the home once purchased with their own preferences.

Pot lights have a way of lifting the height off a ceiling and if adding more lighting by a licensed electrician is not a consideration, be sure to have ample lights for each room in good working order to lighten and brighten every corner for future buyers as they tour the home for sale.

Interior home maintenance extends to repairing drywall where there is damage, replace dated cabinet hardware and faucets throughout the home, maintain and service furnace and hot water tanks, inspect the caulking around showers, baths, sinks and windows. Reduce squeaky door hinges, ensure closet doors operate smoothly and remove carpet stains to give a better first impression.

A clean and fresh smelling home will always be appreciated by Buyers. Pay particular attention to floors, carpets and windows in addition to furniture surfaces. More Buyers will appreciate natural essential oils diffused throughout the home and not smelling smoke, pet odours or chemical smells from commercial deodorizers.

Once these initial steps have been taken a staging consultation may further be of benefit to aid with furniture placement and decor ideas.

The exterior of the home matters, trim trees, weed gardens and add topsoil to flower beds or mulch to keep moisture in. Eavestrough gutters should be cleaned of debris and downspouts should extend at ground level away from the home.

A storage cube may be a great solution for clearing out multiple visual stops throughout the home that may detract from the Buyer being able to maneuver through the home physically and also to stop them imagining how the current homeowner lives in the home and instead envision themselves in the home when they can see with less distraction. Goods are loaded in the storage container and picked up from the home and stored until the cube is then re-delivered to a future address.

Call a REALTOR® today to assist you to design a home Seller's action plan custom to your home before placing the home for sale.

– Written by Connie Power

Connie Power is Manager, Real Estate Sales Representative CNE® SRS® ABR® SRES® for RE/MAX Hallmark York Group Realty Ltd., Brokerage serving York region and beyond. Empowering you in real estate!

***Not intended to solicit those currently under a real estate contract

Real Estate Market Update – Aurora

Allured to Aurora Living



September's Aurora housing market unofficial numbers are in and home sales outpaced September of 2019 in a big way.

There were 123 Freehold homes of all descriptions sold across Aurora's ten neighbourhoods, a fifty percent increase in comparison to last year. The average pricing was 19 percent stronger at \$1,253,685. If we remove the highest and lowest sales for the month to find the median price across Aurora the numbers are 20 percent stronger at \$1,075,000. There were 45 homes that sold between \$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999 last month which was a 66 percent improvement in purchases made in this price range. Ten homes sold for greater than \$2,000,000 compared to 4 sales in this price range in 2019. On average it took 21 days for homes to sell in September and Seller's typically yielded 101 percent of the asking price.

Examining the September condo market there was 75 percent more action taken with the 35 condos of all descriptions that were sold compared to 2019. The average pricing for all types of condominium townhomes and apartments combined was virtually level year over

year at \$623,009. Typically condominium sales sold in 30 days, twenty percent less time than the prior year.

The Greater Toronto Area which includes York region continues to attract many moving from the Toronto core for better value, greater square footage and more property and for lifestyle decisions that may have been shifting to the favour of the suburbs for a while.

Call a Buyer Specialist REALTOR® today, book a face to face appointment virtually or safely in person to put together a strategy to help you successfully buy your next home.

– Written by Connie Power

Connie Power is the Manager, Real Estate Sales Representative CNE® SRS® ABR® SRES®, for RE/MAX Hallmark York Group Realty Ltd., Brokerage serving York region and beyond in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Empowering you in Real Estate, Call Connie today to make an appointment to discuss your next move at (905) 726-0856.

*The statistics provided herein were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board; Statistics and Counts for York Region, Aurora for September of 2019, 2020.

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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

Stay safe from electrical fraudsters

(NC) Now more than ever, it's important for you to be aware of the fraudulent services that could put you and your family at risk – physically and financially.

Last year, the Electrical Safety Authority received more than 350 anonymous tips of unlicensed contractors performing electrical work in Ontario. These fraudulent workers put homeowners and their families at risk of electrical shock, fire, and even death.

To help keep you and your family safe, follow these tips:

HIRE A PROFESSIONAL

You wouldn't think twice about hiring a lawyer, accountant or mechanic, and you would never trust an uncertified doctor to perform a surgery – so why would you trust an unlicensed contractor to do electrical work in your home? In Ontario, only a Licensed Electrical Contractor can legally do electrical work for hire, and they will file the

necessary notification of work (permit) and provide a Certificate when work is complete.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

When looking to hire a Licensed Electrical Contractor be sure to do your research. This includes asking for their ECRA/ESA licence number and verifying it. This number should be on their work vehicle, business card, and any paper and estimates related to the job. Unlicensed contractors often can be identified by the use of unbranded vehicles with no licence number visible or may falsely use the licence number of another contractor.

LOOK FOR RED FLAGS

You may know someone who can do the work cheaply, but consider the real cost if something goes wrong. If a contractor asks you to file a notification of work in your name, offers a discount if you pay them in cash or won't provide a receipt, they may not be licenced to perform electrical work.

Before starting electrical work in your home, find or verify a Licensed Electrical Contractor in your area. Visit esasafe.com.

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UPGRADED TOP TO BOTTOM



Stunning fully customized 3200 sq ft home in South Aurora overlooking protected land offers lofty 10 ft cings with 9ft on 2nd floor as well as in finished bsmt plus 23 ft cings in living room. Stained Hrdwd flrs thru-out, plaster crown moulding & panel moulding wall treatments, lrg custom kitchen w/ Island & marble counters open to spacious family rm with floor to ceiling windows, huge bdrms all with ensuites, marble counters, walk in closets, 2nd flr laundry, chic hotel style master suite, fin bsmt with 2 bdrm Nanny/Teen's suite with wet bar/kitchenette, triple tandem garage & more! **\$1,838,000**



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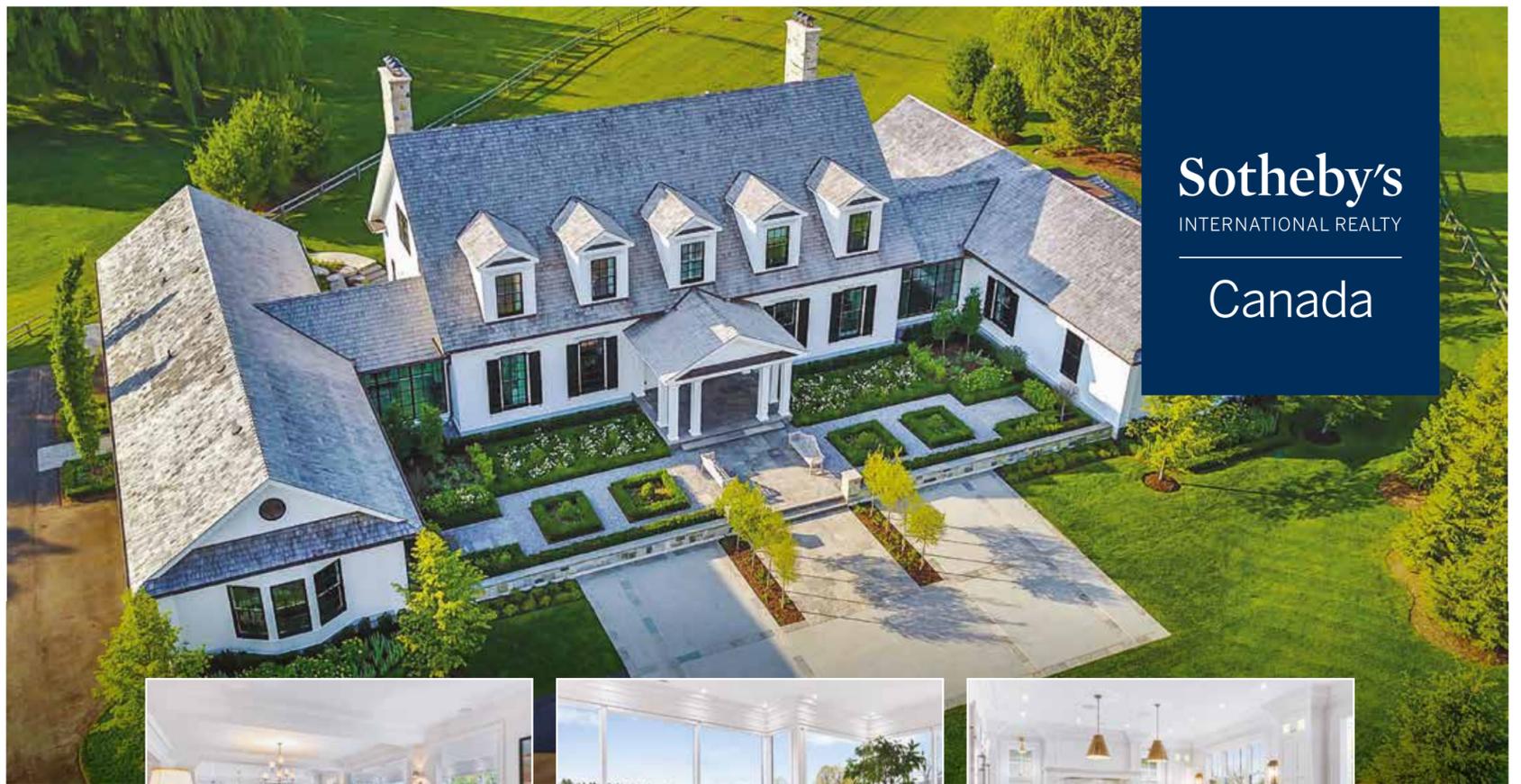
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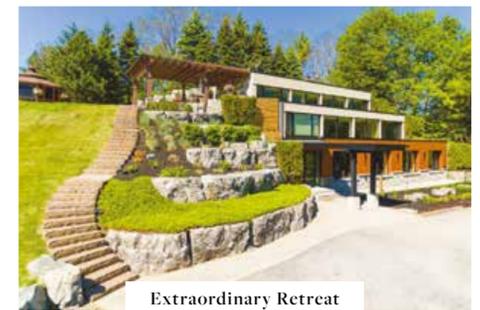
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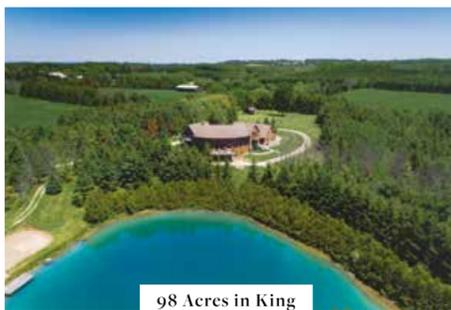
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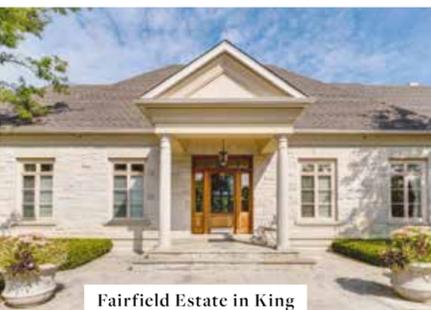
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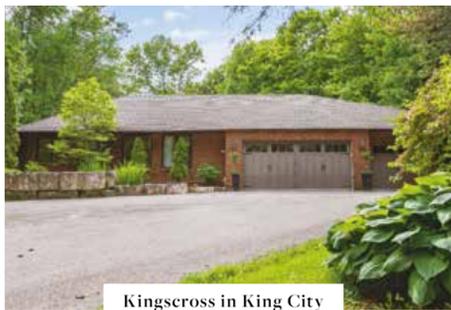
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416.960.9995



VILLANOVA
COLLEGE

GRADES 4-12 CO-ED • KING CITY, ON

**Please
Join Us!**



FALL VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE DATES

OCTOBER 21 – GR. 9

OCTOBER 23 – GR. 7/8

NOVEMBER 18 – GR. 9

NOVEMBER 20 – GR. 4/5/6

- STEM & AP Programs
- University Preparatory
- Catholic Tradition of Academic Excellence
- Tuition Assistance
- Grade 7 and Grade 9 Entrance Scholarships

Please register at
www.villanovacollege.org
or call 905-833-1909

* Photos taken pre-pandemic



VILLANOVA
COLLEGE

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VC by the Numbers

545

ENROLMENT

33
ACRE
CAMPUS

Grades
4-12



650

UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE
OFFERS FOR CLASS OF 2020

16:1



Average Student
Teacher Ratio

100 PERCENT

UNIVERSITY
PLACEMENT

AVG. 12,000

Service hours completed annually
by VC Upper School students