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THE AU 20 YEARS RAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 21 No. 22 905-727-3300

TheAuroran.com

FREE Week of March 18, 2021



Public Health nurses – and Aurora residents – Hannah Murray, left, and Sonja Mitkovska were among the team members at the ready at a Region-operated vaccination clinic at Richmond Green in Richmond Hill on Friday morning. Richmond Green is one of a growing number of clinics being launched as more COVID-19 vaccines arrive in Canada. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

PICKERING COLLEGE

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, April 15
6:30 p.m.

Registration now open:
www.pickeringcollege.on.ca/auroran

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Vaccination is "race against time" as variants are unpredictable: Region Aurora passes more than 1,000 total cases of virus

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

We're in a "race against time" rolling out COVID-19 vaccinations as new variants of concern are unpredictable, according to York Region Public Health.

On Monday, the Province launched

its new Provincial booking system for vaccines with a continued focus on inoculating residents born in 1941 or earlier. The launch of the new system coincided with the release of more than 19,000 vaccination appointments by York Region Public Health, with more appointments expected to roll out as various inoculations continue to arrive.

More than 60 per cent of residents

in the 80+ priority group had received their first doses by the start of the week, with almost 70 per cent of health care workers in the highest and very high priority groups receiving theirs.

"These are incredible milestones to celebrate," said Dr. Faren Karachiwalla, York Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health. "The more

Continued on page 6

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STUDENT SHOWCASE – Christina DiPaola holds a giant razor created by Aurora High School student Kaida Cheah as part of the annual Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts. Physically installed at Town Hall, the exhibition and associated programming can now be viewed online. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

Grads, Cultural Centre go online for Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Placed on a plinth amongst a Gillette razor fashioned out of papier mache and a discarded boot, molded out of clay, created to represent a piece of footwear left out and taken over by the elements, the headless form of a woman might, at first glance, go unnoticed.

Continued on page 17

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NEWMARKET RIVERWALK COMMONS! REBUILT 'CHIC' MASTERPIECE!

Newmarket Riverwalk Commons! Rebuilt 'Chic' Masterpiece! Wow! It's a beauty! Complete rebuild & finished on all 3 levels! Soaring 10ft ceilings both floors! Open Concept Plan, Gourmet centre island kitchen with Caesarstone counters & top of the line S/S appliances! Quality casing & baseboard & Custom built ins! Master with enticing ensuite! Bath access to all bedrooms! Professionally finished open concept lower level! Steps to Fairy Lake, Downtown Main Street's attractions!

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\$2,999,888

TOWN OF AURORA Notice Board



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Monday, March 22	7 p.m.	Video conference	Council Workshop/Education Session
Tuesday, March 23	5:45 p.m.	Video conference	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, March 23	7 p.m.	Video conference	General Committee
Wednesday, March 24	7 p.m.	Video conference	Anti-Black Racism and Anti-Racism Task Force
Thursday, March 25	6 p.m.	Video conference	Aurora Appeal Tribunal
Tuesday, March 30	5:45 p.m.	TBD	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, March 30	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council

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

What's Happening

Take your taste buds on a tour of Aurora!
Town of Aurora in partnership with the Canadian Food and Wine Institute and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is proud to bring Auroralicious To Go to Aurora. Explore Aurora's culinary delights from a variety of local restaurants during Auroralicious To Go starting on **Friday, March 12 to Sunday, March 28**.

Auroralicious To Go gives patrons an opportunity to Savour The Flavours of Aurora by purchasing from the prix fixe (fixed price) program that many local restaurants are participating in. With so many fantastic restaurants and diverse cuisines in Aurora to choose from the only challenge will be in deciding which establishments to order from. Based on the Provincial Guidelines during the timing of Auroralicious To Go, some restaurants may offer dine-in as well as take-out.

For more information on this initiative or for interested restaurants that would like to participate, please email auroraliciousON@gmail.com. For a current list of participating restaurants and their available menus, please visit exploreaurora.ca.

What's Happening



Online Skylight Gallery Exhibition Artist: Amanda Gallagher

For the month of March, Aurora's Online Skylight Gallery is featuring works by artist Amanda Gallagher in her show, "Remnants and Revelations". The show highlights selected memories of travel and retreat, and studies how these moments are transformed into two dimensional nostalgic images. The exhibition reflects on why certain scenes become memorable and encourages the viewer to reflect on their own memories, traveling dreams, or living vicariously through someone else's artwork. These moments of serenity are captured on canvas using images of Canadian rural retreats and nostalgic travel photographs as references. Acrylic, oil, and spray paint are used as the mediums of expression.

View this online gallery at aurora.ca/skylightgallery.

Aurora reopens some programs and services in the Red-Control zone

The Region of York, including Aurora, is now in the Red-Control zone of the Provincial Framework. Staff have been finalizing plans to allow residents to participate in some Town programs and services while respecting health and safety guidelines.

The following Town amenities are set to reopen with strict guidelines and restrictions:

- Club Aurora Fitness Centre is now open. Pre-registration is required. Visit aurora.ca/fitnesscentre for more information or to register.
- Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC) and Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) pools are now open for lane swim, learn to swim lessons and Aquafit classes. Visit aurora.ca/aquatics for more information or to register.
- Indoor ice pads are now open for public skate, senior skate, adult skate and stick and puck programs. For more information or to register visit aurora.ca/skating.
- AFLC Chartwell Walking Track is now open. Visit aurora.ca/fitnesscentre for more information or to register.
- AFLC Gymnasium Drop-Ins are now open. Visit aurora.ca/aflcdropin for more information or to register.

Town staff will continue to provide safe programs and services to the community in accordance with provincial and regional health department regulations. These include controlled access, limited capacity and scheduled time blocks. As per provincial and regional health department regulations, all participants are required to wear a face mask or face covering when entering, exiting and travelling throughout the facility and maintain physical distancing.

Details on Aurora's reopening can be found on the Town of Aurora's Reopening webpage at aurora.ca/reopen.

Staying at home is still the best way to protect yourself and others. For a full breakdown of the Red-Control zone public health measures, visit the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework webpage.



Earth Hour 2021

See you under the stars, Aurora. This year's #EarthHour takes place on **Saturday, March 27 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** Nature provides us with everything - from the air we breathe, to the economy we rely on! Switch off and show your support for our home!

John West Memorial Scholarship Award

Students in our community entering their first year of full-time post-secondary study can apply for the John West Memorial "Leaders of Tomorrow" Scholarship.

Deadline to apply is **Saturday, May 1**. For more details, please visit aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow.

What's Happening



Spring & Summer 2021 Community Services Program Guide

The Spring & Summer 2021 Community Services Program Guide will be delivered to all Aurora households with The Banner on **Thursday, March 25**. You can view the program guide online at aurora.ca/recguide.

Online registration for recreation programs starts on **Monday, March 29**. You can register for Aquatics programs starting **Monday, April 12** at aurora.ca/eplay.



Town of Aurora has created a variety of exciting and interactive Take Home Kits to enjoy in the comfort and safety of your own home. From preschool to children, youth to adults, we have something for everyone. Kits must be purchased online.

For more details, please visit aurora.ca/takehomekits.

April Break Schedule

Have fun over the holidays! From **Saturday, April 10 to Sunday, April 18**, we have family fun activities for everyone to enjoy - swimming, skating, gymnasium, fitness classes and more. Programs and activities will take place at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (A.F.L.C.) and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (S.A.R.C.). Pre-registration is required for all programs and activities. Register online at e-PLAY.

For more details and to see schedules, please visit aurora.ca/holidayschedules.

58TH ANNUAL AURORA ART SHOW & SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 1 & SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021
10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.
Aurora Seniors' Centre
90 John West Way

- Youth ages 12 to 17
- 18 years of age and older for the adult category

Deadline for submissions is **Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

AURORA
Presented by the Town of Aurora in association with the Society of York Region Artists

THREE BAG OR CONTAINER LIMIT

DID YOU KNOW?

Town of Aurora residents can place up to three (3) bags or containers out for pickup every other week on regularly scheduled collection days.

All garbage should be placed in a Town approved container or black plastic bag.



No more than 133 litres or 50 pounds maximum. No loose material, all items must be bagged and tied.

Effective January 2021, bags will not be collected beyond the limit.

Additional waste will have a non-compliant sticker placed on it and will be left behind.

Additional waste can be kept until the next waste collection week or dropped off at the closest waste depot transfer station.

As outlined in **Bylaw #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 (3) garbage bags and shall not exceed a total of five (5) bulky items.

For more information, please visit: aurora.ca/wasteandrecycling
905-727-1375 • info@aurora.ca



AURORA'S HELLO Spring!
SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021
9:30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
SCHEDULE A TIME SLOT TO ATTEND
AURORA SENIORS' CENTRE • 90 JOHN WEST WAY

- Spring Family Fun
- Outdoor activities including an interactive walking trail
- Activity bags (for those 12 & under)

Plant your own Spring flowers
Have your photo taken with the Easter bunny
\$3 per person • 30 minute time slots
Pre-registration on Aurora's e-PLAY is required
COVID-19 safety protocols

aurora.ca/hellospring
905-726-4762 • #HelloSpring
Please note, we reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

Spring Break Arts Buffet

Create from the comfort of home, and stay engaged this Spring Break making art, playing games and getting up on your feet to move around in this half-day, week-long camp.

Opt to use your own tools - materials list provided - or choose full package which includes all materials, a free t-shirt and tote bag, available for pre-arranged curbside pick-up.

📅 April 12 - 16 ⌚ 9:30AM - 12:30PM or 1:30PM - 4:30PM
🎨 Art kit included: \$125 • Art kit not included: \$105
📍 For details, and to register, visit: AuroraCulturalCentre.ca

Aurora Town Hall

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Magna cancels 2021 Hoedown due to health restrictions

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Revellers will have to wait a little while longer for a good excuse to spiff up their Stetsons.

On Thursday, Magna announced that for the second year running the annual Wild, Wild West Hoedown was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The Hoedown is one of York Region's biggest annual parties, regularly raising more than \$500,000 each year over two nights, which is then split equally between 20 organizations and non-profits serving the community. These charities won't go without these necessary contributions, however. The auto parts giant will be supporting 30 organizations through the Magna Hoedown Community Fund.

"In keeping with this spirit of

Hoedown, I am proud to announce on behalf of Magna and Neighbourhood Network the Magna Hoedown Community Fund benefiting thirty local charities in lieu of this year's event," said Swamy Kotagiri, CEO of Magna International. "Thank you to our Magna employees and the community for your ongoing support of the Magna Hoedown, and for helping us spread joy, not germs throughout the pandemic."

Spreading joy and not germs has been the mantra of Neighbourhood Network since the early days of the pandemic a year ago.

Although existing public health restrictions have long cast doubt on the 2021 Hoedown, the move to cancel it outright is not a decision that organizers made lightly.

"At Magna, giving back is a

cornerstone of our Fair Enterprise culture," said the company in a statement. "We invest in our people and our communities to make positive social and environmental impacts globally, and right here at home. The Magna Hoedown is part of this legacy of giving and has united York Region residents to support charitable organizations and raise almost \$14 million over three decades.

"The planning required to deliver the high calibre successful Magna Hoedown we all know and love is typically a year-long endeavour by Magna's Neighbourhood Network team. Given the considerable lead time needed for an event of this magnitude as well as the evolving public health guidelines related to the pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event.

"As we continue in the fight against

COVID-19, it is more important than ever to support local charities who are providing critical services to our communities. This is what the Magna Hoedown tradition has always been about: neighbours coming together and raising much needed funds for important causes."

As important as raising funds is, the Magna Hoedown has also been a significant draw for music lovers into the Aurora community. Thousands of people gather under the big top each year to not only enjoy established country headliners but scores of aspiring country stars looking for their big break through the Hoedown Showdown competition.

"While we are, of course, sad to miss out on another year of Hoedown fun, the decision is responsible given the circumstances," said Mayor

Continued on page 17



TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

AURORA TOWN COUNCIL will hold a Public Meeting to receive input on a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment. TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.

APPLICATION: The Town of Aurora has initiated a Zoning By-law Amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-Law 6000-2017 for general housekeeping purposes. The purpose and effect of the proposed Amendment is to implement landscape strips in all zones, increase the maximum driveway width in Employment zones to safely accommodate truck turning movements, provide an approach for rounding up or down of numbers to provide consistent interpretations and enabling staff to correct minor technical errors without having to undertake a Zoning By-law Amendment.

The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment will apply to all lands across the Town and therefore a key map is not attached. At this time, there are other applications, under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13, as amended, pertaining to the lands affected by the proposed amendment. Please contact the Town for additional information.

The meeting will be held at Town Hall, but will not be open to the public. Only Council and required staff will be present. **If a member of the public would like to view the meeting or provide input they must do so electronically.** The meeting will stream live from the Town of Aurora YouTube page at [youtube.com/TownofAurora](https://www.youtube.com/TownofAurora)

CONTACT:
Additional information and material about the proposed amendment is available for public review at the Town of Aurora office located at 100 John West Way, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Any inquiries should be directed to Edward Terry of the Planning and Development Services department at Eterry@aurora.ca. Prior to the meeting, comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services Department at the same address, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca.

Personal Information Collection Notice

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees under the legal authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter c.P.13, as amended. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be a public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act. If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 905-727-3123.

Audio and Video Recording of Council and Committee Meetings

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

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Aurora to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Aurora before the proposed Official Plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body:

- i. is not entitled to appeal the decision; and,
- ii. may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

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

DATED at the Town of Aurora, this 18th day of March, 2021.

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



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

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

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

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

Download a nomination form at aurora.ca/cra

★ **NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021** ★

905-726-4762 • aurora.ca/cra • #AuroraCRA



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






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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to Premier from concerned residents

The Conservation Authorities Act was introduced in Ontario in 1946 in response to devastating outcomes from poor land use policies.

Currently there are 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs) throughout Ontario whose mandate was to prevent disastrous development on flood plains, protect wetlands, green spaces, the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Greenbelt, the Niagara Escarpment and other environmentally sensitive areas throughout Ontario.

We say the mandate was to prevent and protect because with the passage of the budget bill on November 20, 2020, schedule 6 which was embedded in the bill gutted the ability of CAs to regulate development and gave MZO's (Ministerial Zoning Orders) the power to override any Conservation Authority's recommendations in order to obtain development permits.

In other words, once an MZO has been issued, local Conservation Authorities must grant the permit for development even if environmental concerns and local rules are violated.

We, the undersigned would like to make the public aware of the damage the misuse these MZO's have caused and will cause under your Conservative government:

- Gutted the mandate of Conservation Authorities
- Clandestinely issued permits for Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass which were rejected by past governments because of irreversible damage to valuable farmlands including the Holland Marsh.
- Highway 407 is underutilized making the need for the 413 redundant
- You have asked the Township of King and York Region to pass an MZO that would destroy the Mary Lake Property on the Oak Ridges Moraine to build a hotel and retirement home.
- Plan to install water and wastewater pipes through rivers in the Greenbelt which will open it to inevitable development.
- Allow development to destroy The Duffins Creek wetland in Pickering – one of the GTA's few remaining coastal wetlands. The plan is to pave over this 50 acre environmentally vital site to make way for a warehouse!

In 1971, the Ramsar Convention was signed with the aim of halting the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve, through wise use and management, those that remain. In 1981, Canada joined this group.

Premier Ford, we are not against development but are diametrically opposed to any development on environmentally sensitive lands. Perhaps these areas are the easiest to develop but the cost to Ontarians today and unto the seventh generation will be irreparable.

Please work with developers to find other land for growth and infrastructure that will not destroy our environment.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gross
Aurora

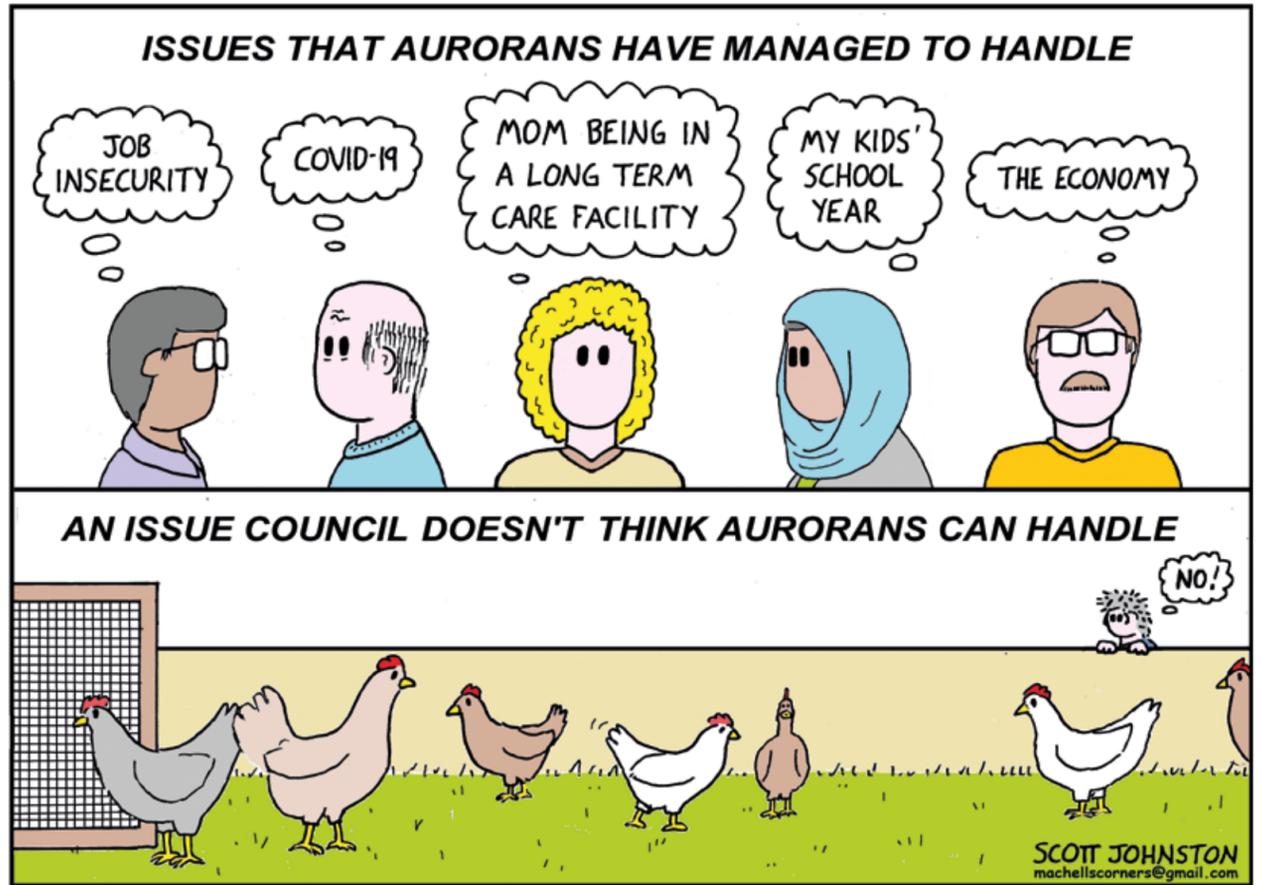
Lenore Pressley
Aurora

Sharon Willan
Aurora

Kate Whittingham
Aurora

Dorothy Zajac
Newmarket

Machell's Corners



In Debt for the Light

By the time you read this, it will likely be the second half of the week.

As I write this, however, we're at the start of a new one.

How did you spend it? At the start of the week, were you brimming over with the possibilities ahead or, were you like me, eyes trained to the finish line and ready to get this week over with, body clock thrown into disarray, much keener on the possibility of the next week coming up?

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not a naysayer. In fact, I might even be a little optimistic, but starting the week with one less hour of sleep under our respective belts, is very often a tone-setter.

Once again on Sunday we found ourselves springing forward, a marketing phrase if there ever was one. Springing forward into a new season invariably spreads the positive vibes. It's also a harbinger of the arrival of longer daylight hours, which is always a good thing. As we get wrapped up in all the positives, however, we lose sight of the fact that we're going to lose an hour right up until the moment when we have to set the clock. It leaves most of us wondering, "Why are we doing this all over again?"

March isn't the only time when the hop-skip-and-jump march of time begs that exact same question. We do it again, albeit with considerably more consternation when we have to "fall back" – a phrase which is much more accurate and to the point.

Yet, in the Fall, we relish that extra hour of sleep, at least until the darkness sets in.

But this time around we bemoan when that 60 minutes are taken away from us... until we're fully charged enough to appreciate a glorious window of time when the sun doesn't start setting at the ungodly hour of 4 p.m.

That brief moment where the actual act of springing forward is executed might seem like a slog, but it is a boon across the board in the long run, particularly for those of us who live with the aptly named Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.). We enjoy it while we can and by the time the days start getting shorter and shorter come the start of the summer, we cherish those hours knowing that the fall gives way to a slippery slope of darkness.

And completely unnecessarily. Daylight Savings Time is a relatively recent addition to our cultural tapestry.

In Ontario, it was adopted in a piecemeal process with the communities of Port Arthur and Orillia being among



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

the first, as decreed by their respective mayors within the first two decades of the twentieth century. The idea being to have more daylight hours in which to work.

Since its general adoption, several changes have been made to the overall principle, while moves to have it abolished have generally fizzled on the table.

But tweaking the system has proved possible in many instances, as long as it has been backed by political will. In 1986, for example, the United States government extended Daylight Savings Time to a start on the first Sunday in April, before an inevitable fallback on the last Sunday in November. In the first decade of the twenty-first century, the second Bush administration made further changes to the policy, mercifully moving up the start of Daylight Savings Time to the second Sunday in March before a conclusion on the first Sunday in November.

As is the case with so many pieces of legislation stemming from our neighbours to the south, we naturally followed suit to keep pace and have been reaping the benefits ever since.

But there comes a time when one can only improve the situation so much before its usefulness is questioned to the point of bulldozing any foundations it once had. We seem to come to this point every few years until momentum is redirected or otherwise lost in favour of some sexier endeavour.

This past fall, the Ontario Legislature passed a bill introduced by MPP Jeremy Roberts that would, in theory, make Daylight Savings Time a permanent state in the Province.

"Recent studies have started to suggest that the time change may be causing much more harm than good," wrote the MPP in October. "Firstly, there have been several studies that the time change is having no material effect on our energy consumption, as any savings at one time of the day are inevitably eaten up by the other end. In fact, the

US National Bureau of Economic Research released a study that concluded daylight savings time might actually be wasting energy because heaters and air conditioners were being kept on later to account for extended afternoon daylight. Furthermore, we have seen adverse health outcomes from this practice.

"The time change is a wartime practice that no longer serves its original purpose. It is causing more people to be depressed. It is likely leading to an increase in heart attacks, strokes and, potentially, suicides. It is likely causing more fatal car crashes and workplace injuries. Finally, it is decreasing our productivity. This begs the question why are we keeping it."

There are two factors, he concedes, that have to be considered before a further shift in time can be implemented in a practical way – getting other jurisdictions in our time zone, such as Quebec, New York and Florida, to follow suit not the least among them. But the benefits, he says, will be multifold. Not only will it provide Ontarians – and Quebecers, New Yorkers and Floridians – more daylight hours in the evening and a reprieve from the negative physical and psychological impacts of shifting the clocks, but it could also aid, he argues, in our recovery from COVID-19.

"Ontarians are facing challenging times during COVID-19," he says. "Alongside the public health challenges, we are also seeing mental health issues spiking and ongoing economic issues. As we contemplate how to tackle these problems, I would posit that ending the biannual time change and shifting to permanent daylight savings time is a credible part of a stimulus plan. In fact [a] JPMorgan Chase study... argued that making DST permanent may be an effective stimulus, and more effective than other policy measures."

I don't know if I'm completely sold on that last part, but taking a step down that road can't be anything but in the right direction. Now we just have to wait for Quebec and a handful of American states to row the same way.

It has been an exceptionally long winter and the extra hours of sunlight will only serve to brighten the light that continues to grow at the end of our collective tunnel. But we know the positives that arrived on Sunday are only temporary and we're in debt to the system by an hour. I don't know about you but, after the year we've been through, wouldn't it be nice if this debt was forgiven?

THE AU2020RAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper

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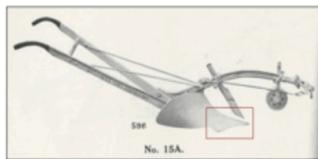
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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating... The Spring Thaw!

As the ground finally thaws, farmers must prepare their fields for seeding. For millennia, the plowshare was where the steel met the soil, cutting a furrow that would be overturned by the curved moldboard. This plowshare (78.5.1) is said to come from an Aurora-made Fleury garden plow, as shown in the inset image. The term "share" comes from the Old English "scear" meaning "that which cuts." Nowadays, plowshares are best known from their Biblical reference, "swords to plowshares," which gained new significance in the 20th century in the redirection of defence funds to other programs.

Vaccine rollout & an announcement

In this month Christine's Chronicle, I am pleased to share with you updates on Ontario's vaccine rollout, as well as a local funding announcement that recently took place.

COVID-19 vaccinations in York Region and Ontario are well underway. As of March 16, over 1.2 million vaccine doses have been administered across the province and over 288,000 people have received both their first and second doses.

The Ontario government is committed to ensuring that Ontarians who want to be vaccinated will be able to, as supply increases. I know everyone is eager to receive the vaccine, and as the province continues to build capacity, it is also making it easier and more convenient for individuals to book and receive the vaccine as quickly as possible.

On March 15, the Ontario government launched a provincial booking system and customer service desk to support COVID-19 vaccination appointment bookings, starting with individuals aged 80 and older. If you or someone you know is aged 80 or older in 2021 (born 1941 or earlier) and wish to make an appointment, you can visit ontario.ca/bookvaccine to make an appointment through the provincial booking system. When booking an appointment, individuals will be asked for information from their green Ontario health card, birth date, postal code and an email address and/or a phone number. At the time of booking, eligible individuals will schedule their first and second vaccination appointments.

Individuals who still have a red and white health card, or who require assistance with booking, can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488.

In addition to the new provincial booking system, individuals living in York Region can continue to book vaccinations



CHRISTINE'S CHRONICLES

Christine Elliott, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

appointments by visiting the website set up by York Region Public Health: york.ca/covid19vaccine.

Due to limited vaccine supply from the federal government, vaccination appointments are currently only available for individuals turning 80 or older in 2021 as part of Phase One of Ontario's vaccine distribution plan. Starting in April, the online booking tool and call centre will extend to additional age-based groups that are part of Phase Two.

The Ontario government also recently announced that it is expanding the delivery channels available to administer COVID-19 vaccines to include pharmacies and primary care settings. As part of a vaccine delivery pilot program, select regions are now offering the AstraZeneca vaccine to eligible Ontarians aged 60-64 in pharmacies and through primary care providers. At this time, York Region is not among these regions, but as supply increases, the pilot will be expanded to more regions. All vaccinations available through pharmacies will require an appointment to be made in advance. Primary care providers will not be taking appointments by request but will be contacting eligible Ontarians aged 60-64 directly to book an appointment.

In addition to the great news about

COVID-19 vaccinations, our community has also received new funding from the provincial government. At the end of February, the province announced more than \$3.8 million over the next five years to create two new community-based programs to provide more young victims and survivors of human trafficking in York Region with access to the supports they need. BridgeNorth will provide a survivor-led peer mentoring and day program for children and youth and Cedar Centre will provide trauma-specific, rapid-response therapy to help children and youth who have experienced sexual exploitation. The Ontario government has made it clear that ending human trafficking is a priority, and this funding will go along way towards supporting victims of human trafficking and protecting our most vulnerable from this terrible crime.

Finally, last month, I was pleased to join Conversations with Neighbor, for a second local podcast on our Newmarket-Aurora community. In this new episode, we are joined by special guest Adrian Bain, Executive Director for the Newmarket Food Pantry, for a discussion about resilience and how the Newmarket Food Pantry is supporting our community. During the podcast, we also discuss the new community kitchen that the Food Pantry plans to launch using the funding they received through the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Grant. To listen to the podcast, please visit the Christine's Updates section of my website, www.christineelliottmpp.ca.

As always, should you have any questions about these updates or other provincial matters, please reach out to my constituency office by calling 905-853-9889 or emailing christine.elliottco@pc.ola.org. We are here to support you.

Love On...



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

lot of books. As an aside I asked my wife recently if I was on the cover could this sell a lot of books to female fans and she instantly replied, "Yes...for sure; the books would be used for kindling!" Ouch.

Third, I thought to myself that this was going to be a waste of time, boring and stupid case. However, as I started to read the case material, I became fascinated.

The reason being that I soon discovered that the management of this company really understood their target market. The numbers were startling; how many women read these books, how many times they would be repeat buyers, etc.

Again, I found myself participating in the class discussions quite unexpectedly.

Fast forward thirty years to today.

Given the pandemic and the lockdown that we have been in I have been watching a lot of news, hockey, and thank the lord for the Golf Channel.

But I have also found myself, when I emerge from my mancave (ok, it is not really a mancave, it is a simple chair and a TV) in the basement to watch some shows with Julie, we watch some of them on the

When I was in business school almost thirty years ago, we were taught through a variety of methods.

These included traditional lectures, role-playing in simulation exercises, listening to special guests and business cases.

The business cases were usually from the Harvard Business School or Western's Ivey School of Business.

A lot of the cases were about telecommunication companies which I found extremely boring and I usually did not pay the most attention in class.

Maybe that is a major reason why I graduated on the Dean's list – if you inverted it, I would have been near the top of the class. But I digress.

There were two cases that I vividly remembering reading and discussing with my classmates.

The first case was about the Disney Corporation.

I have always been a fan of Disney and religiously watched the show on Sunday evenings with my parents and two brothers as we grew up in the 1970s.

I participated vigorously in the class discussions about the company.

The second case was about the Harlequin romance enterprise.

As soon as I opened my case book and saw the title three things immediately crossed my mind.

First, I recalled standing in line every week with my mom when I was a young child as she paid for the groceries and people would be looking at those books beside the check out.

Second, I thought of those covers that had Fabio on them. I think having him on the cover, no matter the story line, sold a



Time Travellers Diary

By Jeremy Hood

Councillor Thelma Fielding: "Aurora's Lady Lawmaker"

I gently landed the Time Machine, in invisible mode, near our main intersection.

It was December 11, 1951, the morning after the election for the next year's Town Council. One incumbent Councillor had made local history the year prior, and I hoped to find out all I could about her before the results were read, and before we would find out whether she would return for a second term.

As I wove through the crowd at Scanlon's Bakery, I paused, overhearing a local telling a visitor about Thelma Fielding, Aurora's first Woman Councillor.

Thelma rode into local politics a virtual unknown in late 1950, defeating her rival Ralph Tucker by a mere 21 votes to take one of six places on the Town Council.

While her win was celebrated, the local paper reflected in the first months of 1951 some of the challenges of ingrained sexism that she would face. Alternatively referred to in print as Mrs. or Councillor Fielding, and sometimes the "Lady Lawmaker," she was excluded by the almost wistful nicknaming of Council as "The Boys," while later editorials expressed worry about whether or not she would be bored attending Council meetings.

On the contrary, Councillor Fielding would become a prominent voice in Council during the year. She was among those who pushed successfully for the installation of parking meters on Yonge St., in an effort to curb the issue of long-term parking. She voiced her concerns about the preservation of the Public School on Church St., and the use of the Mechanics' Hall for the community rather than industry.

However, she also promoted, as part of the By-Laws/Industries Committee, bringing new industrial facilities to the Town, provided they were outside of residential areas!

Word of Councillor Fielding's kindness also got around, as she received front-page positive press for her successful motion in Council to assist a destitute local woman who was unable to afford her medicine.

The motion passed, but not without pushback from other Councillors, one of whom insisted on raising the woman's water rate upon discovering that she was a tenant. Compassion won the day, and the woman would ultimately receive \$23.00 from the Town, the amount amended by Thelma Fielding to cover the water rate increase.

The next month, Councillor Fielding was interviewed by the local paper that highlighted her struggles and successes, and which concluded that her election to Council had been a wise choice.

It seemed her popularity was growing, and a second term was in her sights.

That brings us to the morning after, as I awaited the results of the election, the showdown was between Councillor Fielding and another woman, Jean Moffatt.

Finally, the results rolled in – and our two female candidates seemed to have split the vote – with neither having enough votes to take a seat!

As much as I had hoped our Lady Lawmaker would take the day, Aurora in 1952 was to have an all-male Council again. I hopped back in my Time Machine to pen this article, and promise to investigate more about the years of women's rising influence in Auroran politics.

THIS WEEK'S POLL

Should Aurora consider
a new name for
Library Square?

Yes No Unsure

www.theauroran.com

RESULTS
TO DATE
March 16, 2021

YES
0%

NO
100%

UNSURE
0%

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Aurora passes more than 1,000 total cases of virus

From page 1

we protect the most vulnerable and those at highest risk of COVID-19, the more lives we can save and sickness and grief we can prevent.”

York Region Public Health has been providing vaccinations to eligible residents through six clinics across the community, including one added this week at Vaughan’s Maple Community Centre.

“To ensure appointments are available to everyone who is eligible, we really encourage people to book just one appointment per person and cancel

any appointments that you do not intend to use,” said Dr. Karachiwalla. “Looking ahead, we do plan to complete vaccinations for those in the first phase of the priority vaccination distribution plan for the Province and move to the next age and priority groups (see over) as quickly as possible. We know you are anxious and eager to get the vaccine, and for that we are glad, but we continue to ask people waiting to be patient. We are committed to ensuring that everyone who wants to receive the vaccine will have the opportunity and we will openly communicate when it is your turn.”

York Region is currently aligning its rollout plan to the Ministry of Health’s decision to increase the time between the first and second doses of all available COVID-19 vaccinations in Canada for up to 16 weeks. According to Dr. Karachiwalla, the change allows more people to get their first doses.

“The first dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine has been shown to give about 92 per cent protection after two weeks of getting the dose, which is a very high rate of effectiveness,” she said. “After the second dose, the protection is pushed up further to 94 or 95 per cent and that protection is expected to last for many more months. The whole point of the second dose is to boost and lengthen how long you are protected for.

“With rates of COVID-19, including the new variants of concern being as unpredictable as they are, and without an unlimited supply of vaccines for every single person to have two doses right away on schedule, it is a race against time. The quicker we can get the most number of our residents vaccinated in the short term, even with one dose, the better it is for everybody. More lives can be saved and we can have a better shot of revitalizing and healing our communities before more COVID-19 potentially takes hold. We are actively looking to reschedule second dose appointments impacted by this change, but it will take us some time, so please do continue to be patient with us.

PROVINCIAL BOOKING SYSTEM

Although the Province has rolled out a new Ontario-wide vaccination system, not all York Region clinics made the transition to the new platform, instead continuing the rollout locally.

At press time, five of six clinics were expected to stick with the local system into this week at York.ca/covid-19vaccine. The move to keep the majority of local clinics temporarily on the Region’s platform was described as an “operational decision.”

Nevertheless, the new Provincial Booking platform and customer service desk was launched at 8 a.m. on March 15 for people ages 80 and up.

“We are making steady progress in the execution of our vaccine distribution plan, and the launching of the online booking system is another major milestone,” said Premier Doug Ford in a statement. “In this phase of our plan we are still offering vaccines to our most vulnerable, so I encourage everyone aged 80 and older to use the portal to book an appointment. For everyone else, please be patient, as we get more supply, the vaccine will be offered to more people.”

Added Health Minister and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Christine Elliott: “The provincial booking system will be critical in supporting the next phase of Ontario’s vaccine rollout as more vaccines become available. We know everyone is eager to receive the vaccine, and as we continue to build capacity, we are making it easier and more convenient for individuals to book and receive the vaccine as quickly as possible.”

For more, visit Ontario.ca/bookvaccine. Here, residents will be guided to make an appointment through the provincial booking system, or their local public health unit if there is a local public health unit booking system or call centre in place. When booking an appointment, individuals will be asked for information from their green Ontario health card, birth date, postal code and email address and/or phone number. At the time of booking, eligible individuals will schedule their first and second vaccination appointments.

Individuals who still have a red and white health card, or who require assistance with booking, can call the Provincial Vaccine Information Line number at 1-888-999-6488.

GRIM LOCAL MILESTONE

Over the last seven days, two more Aurora residents have succumbed to COVID-19.

On Wednesday, March 10, York Region Public Health reported the death of a 75-year-old male from Aurora who lost his battle at Southlake Regional Health Centre on March 7. He experienced his first symptoms on February 23, the same day as the onset of symptoms. He was the 41st resident to lose their battle with the virus.

The 42nd death, this time a 75-year-old female, which took place on Friday, March 12, was announced Sunday. The woman in question died at Southlake after seeing her first symptoms on February 17 and receiving a positive test result on March 1.

Both deaths are attributed to close contact.

Close contact and local transmission are the sources of the majority of active cases in Aurora.

Over the weekend, Aurora’s total cases of COVID-19 since the start of the global pandemic last year crossed the 1,000 threshold with 1,020 by Monday, March 15. Of these cases, 935 are now marked as recovered and 43 cases remain active.

35 of these are attributed to local transmission or close contact, 5 to institutional outbreak, and 3 to workplace cluster.

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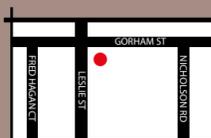


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Older adults, hotspots will be focus of vaccine rollout's second phase

BY BROCK WEIR
 EDITOR
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

Older adults and individuals living in COVID-19 hotspots will be the focus of Phase 2 of Ontario's vaccine rollout.

The Province detailed the second phase of the program as more vaccines rolled in, leading to a revised timeline on what was previously presented.

Phase 2 is expected to begin next month "with a focus on vaccinating populations based on age and risk," said the Province.

This approach, they said, is "designed to save lives, protect those at risk due to serious illness and to stop the virus from spreading."

"Due to the incredible work of an army of people we have a solid vaccine distribution plan and we are ready to get needles into arms as soon as the doses arrive," said Premier Doug Ford in a statement. "This is a true Team Ontario effort and we are mobilizing our greatest asset – the people of Ontario. Vaccines will be administered in hospital clinics, primary care settings, mass vaccination sites, mobile clinics and pharmacies across the Province by dedicated, caring and compassionate frontline health care heroes."

Phase 2 will centre on older adults between the ages of 60 and 79, along with individuals with specific health conditions and some primary caregivers. People who live and work in congregate settings and some primary caregivers will also be eligible, as will people who live in "hot spots" with high rates of death, hospitalizations and transmissions. Certain workers who cannot work from home will also make the cut for Phase 2.

"Thanks to the hard work of our healthcare partners and frontline workers, Ontario's vaccine rollout is making a positive difference and helping to save the lives of some of our most vulnerable," said Health Minister

Christine Elliott. "We continue to ramp up capacity and are committed to administering as many doses as quickly as possible to every Ontarian who wants a vaccine."

As of midday Friday, the Province said 820,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered, with 269,000 individuals now fully immunized. More than 95 per cent of long-term care residents are also fully immunized and work continues with these living settings to vaccinate staff and essential caregivers.

"The fight against COVID-19 continues to be our government's top priority," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "With the approval of the AstraZeneca vaccine, and now the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and with increased supplies coming into the Province, this gives us renewed focus to get even more Ontarians vaccinated sooner. We have made tremendous progress and ask that Ontarians continue to stay the course to protect themselves and keep their families, friends and communities safe."

Phase 3 will be rolled out when vaccines are available for every Ontarian who wants to be immunized, the Province noted.

On Monday, the Province launched an online booking system and a Provincial customer service desk to answer questions and support appointment bookings at mass immunization clinics after public health units in York Region, Simcoe-Muskoka, and other areas, began the process of distributing appointments based on their own platforms.

Although it has not yet done so, is anticipated that the majority of the Province's public health units will migrate over to this system.

"As supply increases, Ontarians will be able to get vaccinated with the three Health Canada approved vaccines in several new settings," said the Province. "In addition to hospitals,

mobile clinics and mass vaccination clinics, the province is working with the pharmacy sector and with primary care professionals to offer vaccinations in primary care settings and community locations in collaboration with public health units. A pilot for pharmacy

vaccine administration is planned for mid-March in select regions, including Toronto, Windsor and the Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington region, followed by specific primary care pilots in collaboration with public health units."



AT THE READY – York Region Public Health officials prepare to welcome residents 80+ at a vaccination clinic held at Richmond Green on Friday.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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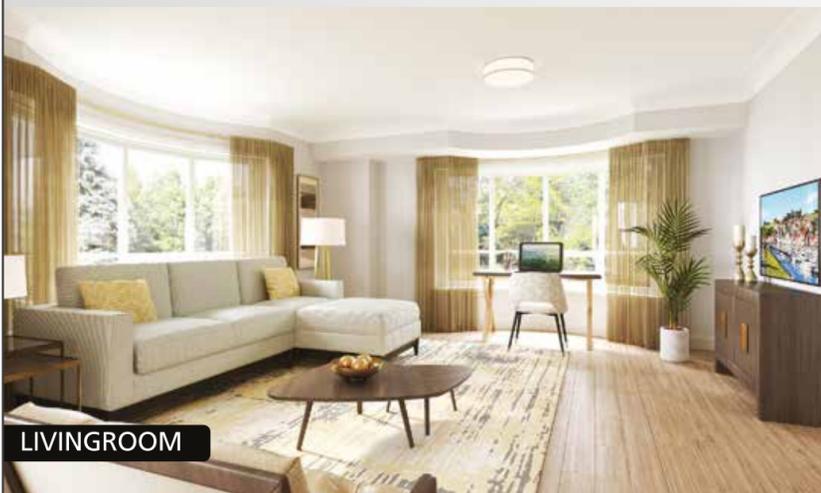
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Library Square on track for completion in August 2022



Construction continues on Library Square, with recent work including the demolition of the Church Street School's rear staircase addition and elevator shaft. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A final name for Library Square could be determined this Spring, but that uncertainty is not stopping progress on the \$52 million downtown revitalization project.

According to updated timelines presented to Mayor Tom Mrakas and Councillors Harold Kim and Michael Thompson at last week's meeting of Aurora's Finance Advisory Committee, Library Square and its associated amenities, including the addition to the historic Church Street School building and a bridge connecting it to the Aurora Public Library, is expected to be complete for occupancy in August 2022 with final completion slated for the following November.

"The project is generally on track," said Lianne Jalali of the Town's Project Management Office, in her report to the Committee (FAC). "The west entrance tower to the Library has now been completely removed, excluding the foundations. Interior demolition continues on the first and second floor of the Library. Temporary ductwork and HVAC units

are being installed at the east and west elevations of the Library. This will provide interim heating during the disconnect and relocation of the existing rooftop units. Excavation of the future elevator pit, located within the first floor Magna meeting room is underway."

Work also continues at the Church Street School, with the north stairs of the building and elevator shaft demolished as excavation and underpinning is related to the building's original rubble foundation.

"The project budget has been baselined for \$51,939,700 (including HST). Chandos's (contractor) contract price excluding cash allowance amount of \$1,615,250 will be tracked separately as the various areas of scope are implemented throughout the construction project," said Ms. Jalali. "Currently there are over 27 contemplated change notices (CCNs)... and four request for change orders issued by Chandos - any potential costs for these will be drawn from the construction contingency."

In addition to a status update on Library Square, the FAC also were brought up to speed on other large capital projects, including the new fire hall presently under construction on Earl Stewart Drive, just south of St. John's Sideroad.

The project update on the fire hall bills the progress of the build as "satisfactory" with a delay in the scheduled completion date.

"The installation of foundations and all footings are complete," said Ms. Jalali. "Structural steel is complete. The installation of steel decking and core floor slabs commenced on February 17, 2021. The installation of underground plumbing is at 90 per cent completion. Coordination of servicing to the site for hydro and gas are ongoing; however, dates for installation have not been confirmed yet.

"The delay in the project delivery date is a result of soil conditions and installation of the helical piles."

The station is now expected to be ready for occupancy by March 7, 2022 with total completion set for June 1 of the same year.

The total project cost is now expected to be \$13.655 million.

While Council members had little question about the timelines as they relate to Library Square, Councillor Harold Kim raised questions on the status of the fire hall, particularly with the project's

contingency budget to account for the unexpected.

"In terms of the fire hall costs, it seems that 75 per cent of the contingency is already taken up and we still have more than a year left until completion," he said. "Based on our expectations, do we still have some room in the contingencies or should we be a little concerned?"

Fielding this question was Rachel Wainwright-van Kessel, who said the biggest risks surrounding the fire hall are now behind them.

"At this point in time, because we have now gotten to the point where we have the structure starting to take shape and also because of the additional work we did with our contractor and with our architect working together quite closely in the redesign of the fire hall to [be] within budget, there were a lot of synergies that were gained there and [they were] actually able to look at things in more detail," she said. "He was fairly confident that for the contingency we should be okay because we're above ground. The biggest risk was what we would find in the ground."

Hampton Inn proposal continues its way through Committee

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For nearly a decade, Aurora was without a hotel to call its own.

Last fall, a new Holiday Inn Express was opened in Aurora near Highway 404.

A second hotel, a Microtel Inn & Suites, just down the street is expected to be ready for occupancy.

Now a third, a proposed Hampton Inn & Suites, is continuing its latest phase of moving through Town Hall.

Last week, members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee received the latest plans from developers on the six-storey 122 room hotel. The Committee is tasked with reviewing planning proposals through the lens of accessibility, inclusivity and making sure any potential barriers are broken down before any groundbreaking takes place.

What was before Committee last week was the third proposal for the

site located at 4 Don Hillock Drive, across from the York Regional Police Headquarters near Leslie Street and Wellington Street East.

The Committee found no objections to the proposal, noting the progress made to date on the site.

"We provided comments in terms of providing consideration for a Hoyer lift from platform beds in any of the accessibility suites," said Mat Zawada, Accessibility Advisor for the Town. "They went over the actual minimum for accessible suites in this specific hotel application. There was consideration for utility switches and amenities to be on wheelchair height in any of the accessibility suites. Consideration for barrier-free path of travel from the accessible parking spots to the front entrance ensuring that the front structural pillar does not prevent path of travel. There were no issues in terms of barrier-free path of travel."

The latest hotel proposal will be subject to further meetings in the Public Planning process.

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Get up to speed for youth mentorship with Move for Kids' Sake



BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There is practically no limit to the number of ways you can stay active. You've probably already set aside some time during our days at home to get the blood pumping in one way or another. So, why not get the blood pumping in whatever way you can to support youth in the community?

That's the aim of Big Brothers Big Sisters of York with their Move For Kids' Sake, a virtual event which is taking the place of the organization's popular Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser.

On now through March 31, Move for Kids' Sake encourages people to stay active and have fun, all the while raising money for much-needed mentorship programs for youth across York Region.

"In response to COVID-19, we had to transition our signature Bowl for Kids' Sake event into a different type of virtual fundraiser and we really wanted to focus on the aspects around mental health and how we can get our participants engaged in a fundraiser that not only, yes, raises funds for our programs but will also support their

mental health by physical activity," says Suzanne Boucher, Fundraising and Events Coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of York.

"We have had such great feedback so far. We're in our third week right now of this virtual campaign and everyone is having such a good time. We have people doing push-ups all the way up to snow shoeing. We have people who even decided to do a hot wings-eating challenge. It's all over the place and [as of Thursday, March 11] we're almost at \$13,000 raised, which is incredible."

With a goal of raising \$25,000 to help facilitate programs matching boys and girls in the community – "littles" – with older mentors – "bigs" – they are well on the way to crossing the finish line. But however successful they have been so far, the money they have been able to bring in pales in comparison to their bowling event.

"Compared to Bowl for Kids' Sake, we are really down with numbers at this time," says Ms. Boucher. "At this time, we would have 500 – 600 bowlers signed up and for Move for Kids' Sake, right now we have 44 participants. That is a huge difference, but we're still trying to get people engaged."

Underscoring the importance of these fundraising endeavours is the increased demand for virtual programs stemming from the global pandemic. Over the holiday season, for instance, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York (BBBSY) reached out to virtual learning programs throughout York Region on their Go Girls program, a group mentoring program for young women.

After holding a virtual Go Girls session, uptake was significant and from these pre-winter holiday engagement sessions to coming back to the office after the New Year, BBBSY saw 600 families sign up for the initiative.

"That is more than what we usually serve in a year, so the need is great right now, especially because of the isolation that our children are experiencing right now," says Ms. Boucher. "Just seeing that number shocked us and that is why we had to get going with Move for Kids' Sake, trying to get more funds because, at the moment, we don't even have enough volunteers to serve those children. We want to use this event as awareness to raise funds so we can keep these programs going and also have the awareness that we still do need volunteers as well."

It is not too late to sign up for the Move for Kids' Sake challenge and collect pledges, nor is it too late to head over to the

BBBSY website to pledge your support for an already registered individual team.

Every little bit goes a long way, says the organization, and each dollar will go towards programs that will improve youth mental health across the region.

"We have a virtual swag bag where we have some local organizations and businesses here in York Region that are donating their services so we have a personal trainer on board who is donating a personal training class, we have a yoga company that has generously donated an online virtual yoga class for all of our participants. We have weekly contests going on and a raffle where...for every \$100 that is raised, you get a raffle ticket for your chance to win some exciting prizes. There's still lots going on and we are really excited to hit that goal for this year."

"If someone doesn't have the time to participate, we're really encouraging people to just sponsor or donate to teams that are already signed up. We have a couple of former bigs and former littles that are signed up. If they want to go in and support them in their journey right now, we're really trying to push that across as well."

To do just that, or to sign up for Move for Kids' Sake, visit york.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/moveforkidsake.

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Spring forward into art with Cultural Centre's Centre-Pieces



Christine DiPaola and Stephanie Nicolo of the Aurora Cultural Centre prepare their "Centre-Pieces" totes for distribution at Town Hall this week.

Contributed photo

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Spring is a time for renewal and if the season that is set to arrive

this week is also a time for renewed creativity for you and your family, the Aurora Cultural Centre has a way to keep those creative juices flowing at home.

Beginning this week, the Aurora

Cultural Centre will launch "Centre-Pieces: Springing into Art", a tote set with four activities "embracing visual art with etching, craft, paper and water colour painting."

Free to registered families thanks

to sponsorship from local Desjardins agent Richard Gong, the totes will be ready for curbside pickup at Town Hall this Thursday and Friday, just in time for Saturday's equinox. The launch of the tote program also coincides with Nowruz, the Persian New Year and, from here, the tote takes root with a specially recorded talk and demonstration for participants on Saturday, March 20.

Hosted by local artist Mahtab Abdollahi and Stephanie Nicolo, Events Coordinator for the Cultural Centre, the session will guide you through the steps of painting your own watercolour of symbols used on this special day.

All this will be done on canvas and paints supplied in the tote.

"We couldn't be coming together for our community-focused events where these types of activities would be happening in person, so we wanted to create an environment to try and recreate those moments, so it is quite a large amount that we're giving out to the community and that is a big thank you to our sponsor, Richard Gong," says Ms. Nicolo. "We want the activities to be child friendly and family-oriented so that parents and older siblings can all come together to help one another create the activities – and activities that are culturally inspired.

"Nowruz happens on the equinox and it is celebrated by a large community, many of which are part of the Aurora community, so that inspired this first tote bag. Other tote bags that are going to be coming out throughout the year will also be based around solstices and equinoxes. There is so much cultural material that happens around those times of the year."

Working from home has allowed Ms. Nicolo to flex some different creative muscles in putting these bags together for registered families. It has been a matter of looking at materials to see what is practical to be packaged – large canvasses were nixed early on in the process! – along with what could be connected to the various cultures and traditions that are now part of this community's tapestry.

"For me, watercolours really connect well with the spring and water itself," she says. "It implies growth and new life, and that's what spring is all about. A lot of the test-driving is definitely needed but we wanted to make sure they are at least wide enough so that anyone who gets one of the tote bags don't feel confined within an activity. Although we have our watercolour activity, for example, there is a demonstration with a local artist so there are some steps that she's laying out in the demonstration. You don't necessarily have to follow her demonstration and you can create your own watercolour painting."

As she looks ahead to launching the totes this week, Ms. Nicolo says she hopes the packages themselves not only become tradition for local families, but working together creatively as well.

"I do hope families will continue to come back to them and have them well-used and well-loved, she says.

For more on the Centre-Pieces program, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca/event/springing-to-art-equinox-edition.



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Week of March 18, 2021



Gonzaga Bulldogs looking for history this March Madness



Contributed photo

Andrew Nembhard

By Robert Belardi

This could be one of the greatest NCAA teams ever assembled.

The Gonzaga Bulldogs went 26-0 this year and will look to be the first undefeated team to win the national

title since the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers.

Since the Hoosiers, only four teams walked into college basketball's most prestigious competition and failed to deliver: Larry Bird's 1978-1979 Indiana State Sycamores, 1990-1991 UNLV Runnin' Rebels, Toronto

Raptors guard Fred Van Vleet's 2013-2014 Wichita State Shockers and the 2014-2015 Kentucky Wildcats.

The Zags surely wouldn't want to be the fifth name on this list. Their last 22 games would likely cement another argument that is indicative of what kind of powerhouse of a team this is.

According to ESPN Stats and Info, the Zags won 22 games in a row by 10 or more points. They became the only Div. 1 team over the past 60 seasons to accomplish this. No wonder they're currently set at +200 odds to win the title. With Duke and Kentucky both out of the tournament for the first time since 1976, there the Bulldogs have an even better chance.

Their domination is the overall picture and it doesn't even account for the small anecdote within. The best part of this all is a Canadian is on the roster.

Aurora native Andrew Nembhard transferred to the Bulldogs from the Florida Gators last season.

Initially it was expected that Nembhard would miss his first year with the team due to NCAA rules. However, just last January the former SEC All-Freshman in 2018/2019

sent in a waiver and it was approved by the NCAA before the start of the season.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect.

The 6-foot-5-point guard has had another exceptional season in one of the best backcourts in the NCAA. Nembhard has averaged 9.2 points, 4.2 assists and 2.4 rebounds a game. He is currently shooting 80.5 per cent from the line and is 34.2 per cent from beyond the arc.

Along with Jalen Suggs and Joel Ayayi, the Zags will have a triple-threat at the guard position that will be quite difficult to counter-punch.

In everyone's NCAA brackets this year, it's truly difficult not to go with the Bulldogs as the eventual winner. Behind the Zags in the betting odds are Baylor (+600), Michigan (+600), Illinois (+700) and Iowa (+1600), as per Sporting News.

The First Four is set to take place March 18 as the first game features Texas Southern against Mount St. Mary's at 5:10 p.m. EST.

The Bulldogs will take on the winner of Norfolk State and Appalachian State on March 20 to kick off their tournament.

CYGHA Launches "She Shoots She Saves" Campaign

By Robert Belardi

The Central York Girls Hockey Association launched "She Shoots She Saves" on March 13 in an effort to raise money to install SaveStations and bring inclusivity in the community.

Last season, the Orange Crush Pee wee CYGHA Panthers team installed two SaveStations in Aurora and Newmarket respectively. It was in honour of CYGHA alumnus Raychel Gillis, who saved a man's life at her father's weekly hockey game using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

To continue their donation campaigns, former Orange Crush team manager and now a member of the sponsorship committee and a trainer for the U-13 BB club, Patricia Murphy, says there are professional female athletes supporting this campaign.

"We've had amazing athletes like Laura Stacey, she is an Olympic medallist. She is supporting our efforts here. She has sent video messages to the girls which is on our social media and Instagram pages," Murphy said.

"Angela James has gotten behind us to support us in this. The Mayor of Aurora, Newmarket and Bradford are all behind us in sending us video messages."

Girls who wished to participate in this initiative signed up on an app called Hockey Share. Originally began by Power Skating and Skill Development

coach for the Pittsburgh Penguins Kevin Muller, Hockey Share is used to create drills, practices and share content with other players and coaches.

"He has gotten behind us and supported us and put us on his page. The idea is the girls set a goal for themselves. For example, I'm going to shoot 200 pucks from the week of the 13 to the 27," Murphy said.

"They would go to their family and friends and say hey, would you pledge me for my goal of shooting 200 pucks?"

Each participant can complete this goal in any which way they choose to do it.

Over the past year, it has been a tough time for all citizens in Ontario. Murphy says she hopes this event can show how important sport is in the community and that this will bring positivity for the next week.

The goal is to reach \$20,000 in donations. The team that raises the most amount of money will have their picture placed on the next SaveStation installed. Participants will also have a chance to win two \$500 prizes that will pay for next year's registration.

There is a crowd funding platform online in order to make donations. For more, visit: crowdfunding.savestation.ca/fundraisers/trishmurphy/she-shoots-she-saves-cygha.

For more information on the event itself, contact Murphy at trishymurphy@gmail.com.

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Give Back Awards recognize students for community contributions

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The global pandemic has changed our thinking on so many things, but one thing as strong as ever is the commitment by community members

young and old to give back where they can.

It's just that in many cases these methods of giving back have made significant shifts.

If you're a Grade 12 student attending school in Aurora, King, Newmarket and Georgina, applications

are now being accepted for the 2021 Give Back Awards.

Spearheaded by Aurora's Neighbourhood Network, the Give Back Awards are annual cash prizes of \$1,000, donated by Magna International, for up to 20 students attending school in these four communities. Recipients of the Give Back Awards are selected based on "the exceptional contributions they have made to fellow students and citizens, and their ongoing dedication to community involvement."

"It has been a year of living with COVID and it is truly, truly important for us to celebrate these students," says Tanya Dennis of Neighbourhood Network. "There are still such great things happening in our communities and people who are still trying to make time to volunteer and give back."

Over the course of the last year, students have been giving back in creative ways since normal opportunities within the school environment have been limited due to public health restrictions.

Neighbourhood Network was worked to underscore opportunities for safe and effective volunteerism within the community. Through their "Spread Joy Not Germs" campaign launched at the start of the pandemic, Ms. Dennis says people were "constantly reaching out" for ways to give back and, more often than not, this outreach resulted in forging connections between students and seniors who were at risk of feeling isolated.

"The connection between students and seniors was a big one," she says. "We had a ton of artwork and letters that were given to us to share with seniors in our community, which was fantastic to see. We have seen the need and the want for people to give and support others so much more. These awards are not about the amount of community involvement hours students

have accumulated, but it is really the story they have to tell about how volunteering has had a positive impact on themselves, but also the positive impact on a person or an organization. They are such great students. They continue on and they do these things that people would assume nobody has time for.

"Despite all the struggles and challenges we have been faced with this year, there is still so much goodness happening within our communities. Students have been creative in finding ways to collect volunteer hours and they are still determined to contribute to their communities by giving back and helping others despite this pandemic."

In previous years, Give Back Award recipients have continued their tradition of giving. One of the first recipients, Lauren Ott, has built on the legacy she left her high school and is now Chief Kits Officer of the newly-launched Kits for A Cause. Other students have turned volunteer opportunities into jobs and careers and Ms. Dennis says they have seen students who didn't feel comfortable in social settings, "but through the act of volunteering they found something they loved to do that ultimately helped them get out of their shell and gain confidence."

Applications for the 2021 Give Back Awards are now being accepted and can be found at neighbourhoodnetwork.org/program/give-back-awards. The website outlines eligibility requirements and provides a form for applicants to collect a sponsor endorsement who can speak to their volunteer work.

For those who are eligible, Ms. Dennis encourages applicants to be detailed in their applications and tell their stories.

The deadline to apply is March 26 at 4 p.m.

St. Andrew's College officially introduces Prep Hockey Conference

By Robert Belardi

When the NHL introduced six original teams to their professional hockey league, we fans still laud this initiative today.

There are international leagues around the world because of it. There are plenty of youth leagues and affiliate clubs to NHL teams that provide an essential gateway into the pros.

This past week, St. Andrew's College (SAC) can say they too have introduced an original six, so to speak. SAC formally announced it has joined forces with five other private high schools in the United States to create the Prep Hockey Conference.

St. Andrew's College, Culver Academies (Culver, Indiana), South Kent School (Kent, Connecticut), Rhode Island Shattuck-St. Mary's School (Faribault, Minnesota), Northwood School (Lake Placid, New York) and Shattuck-St. Mary's School (Faribault, Minnesota) will make up the league.

"Four of us have been getting together to host some shared events for the last five or six years. It really grew out of that. We love those weekends and we love the competitions. We're all like-minded in what we want to offer our students and our athletes," said David Manning, Head Coach of the St. Andrew's College Saints first hockey team.

Each school carries an ambition to

offer an excellent academic program while ensuring they are in a competitive hockey environment in order to be successful. The goal was to keep as many options open for players and this route is the best fit.

"I'd say that our players are definitely interested in seeing that the NCAA can be a potential option for them. I think being in U.S. places in you know two or three of these weekends is important for our players to showcase themselves," Manning said.

"When you get the six best teams around together it's going to put people in the building to watch those teams play."

Manning confirmed NHL, NCAA and many other scouts will be attending these games. He said season preparations will begin at the end of August and the season will begin shortly after. As of now, they are doing what they can with all restrictions in place.

The way the schedule is designed, it will provide plenty of flexibility for the Saints to host their annual MacPherson Tournament and the Gary West tournament.

Manning says everything and anything will be done to ensure travelling is made easy for the team. They will do everything necessary.

The Saints are very excited to be a part of the PHC. Manning hopes this conference continues to grow years down the road.



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Dismantling anti-Black racism strategy based on feedback from students, parents, teachers

BY BROCK WEIR
 EDITOR
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

Black students may have been encouraged away from academic programs due to teacher bias, according to a study carried out by the York Region District School Board.

These are among the findings in a comprehensive study released last week by the Board (YRDSB) as they launched their Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy.

Presented last Monday in an online presentation featuring YRDSB officials, trustees, community leaders, and consultants who led the study, the background report outlines a number of troubling barriers that have been faced every day by students and parents in getting ahead.

“While anti-Black racism in education has been well-documented, a steering committee felt it was important to ensure we heard from those in the YRDSB school community in order to understand how it manifests, specifically in this Board, so we can create a strategy that reflects the reality of the YRDSB,” said Tana Turner of Turner Consulting, who was among the leads on the report and strategy.

“In total, almost 800 individuals participated in the conversations and provided input on the development of the strategy through online surveys, small group discussions and one-on-one telephone interviews. The themes [are] reflected in the background report and mirror what we heard over and over through our consultations, and certainly what we hear in other school boards. It reflects what research shows of the issues affecting Black students and staff throughout the education system.”

As reported in The Auroran last week, the resulting report offers six key strategies in “dismantling” anti-Black racism including normalizing conversations around anti-Black racism, “operationalizing” anti-racism, measuring inequities and progress, building organizational capacity, building capacity and commitment within York Region, and using an evidence-based approach to tackle the issue head-on.

But the background study reveals some stark realities, including the roots of anti-Black racism in Ontario’s education system, racist learning environments, and previously mentioned teacher biases.

“Certainly, we heard that teachers, school administration, and other staff have biases on Black children and act on these biases to stream Black students into applied programs of study and away from academic, gifted, French immersion and other specialized programs,” said Ms. Turner. “We heard how these biases impact the discipline that Black students experience when issues occur and that Black students are more likely to be suspended and given harsher suspensions than their White and other racialized counterparts.

“We also heard that Black students often experience a racist learning environment, either because of what

is or isn’t included in the curriculum or the behaviours of other students, which sometimes are left unaddressed by the adults in the building. We heard about how Black History Month or school spirit days, rather than being used to celebrate the achievement of Black people and inspire Black students, instead have the impact of isolating and marginalizing them.

“Parents and community organizations also shared their experience of being dismissed, ignored or criminalized when they try to advocate for their children and the fear of how their advocacy may in fact impact their children because of the reprisal that educators and school administrators may take out on the children. We also heard from Black teachers and school administrators about how they are treated by their colleagues and the reprisal that they sometimes face when they advocate for Black students or engage in anti-racism work.”

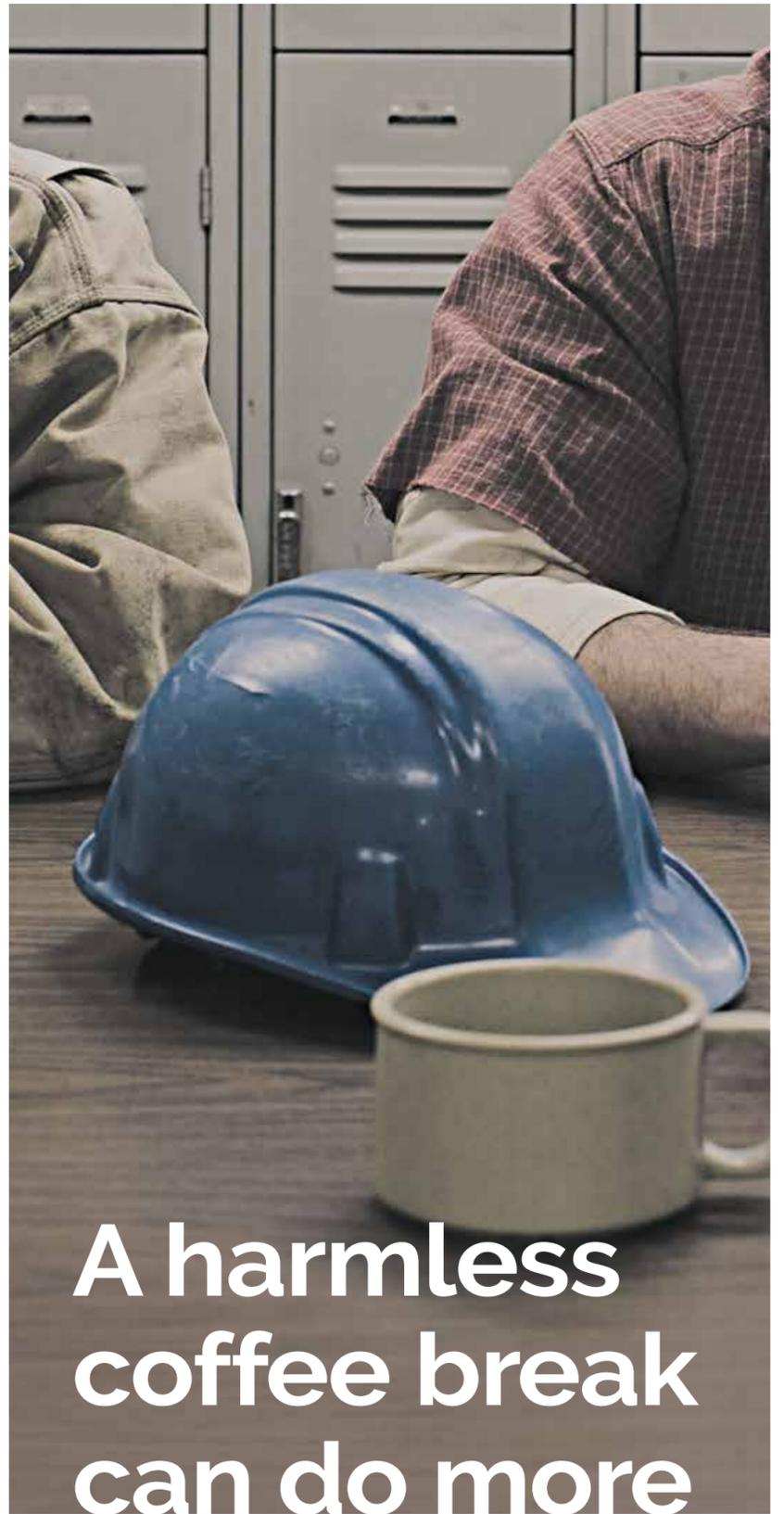
As the YRDSB continues its work rolling out their Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy, next steps include the development of the implementation plan. This work is already underway, according to Louise Sirisko, Director of Education for the YRDSB.

“Through these conversations, we continue to learn about the hurt and the harm of systemic anti-Black racism and how we, as a School Board, must do better by our students and staff. As a Board, we must focus our goal of addressing unfair outcomes and strengthening inclusive and affirming learning and working environments for Black students and staff.

“I sincerely apologise for the instances where anti-Black racism has occurred and I stand committed to leading this important work of dismantling anti-Black racism in our schools and workplaces that have been clearly structured and extensively outlined in the strategy. It represents our unwavering commitment to our steering committee, to Black students, to Black families and to Black staff.”

Added Cynthia Cordova, Chair of the YRDSB: “Black students and staff do not feel their learning and working environments are as equitable and inclusive as they should be. For a Board that works to provide safe learning and working environments, this is simply not acceptable. At the trustee level, our Board has embedded the principle of equity and inclusivity in the trustees’ multi year plan. The priorities outlined in the plan guide our organization’s work and represent the trustee’s commitment... and reflects the input received through many community consultations.

“Our Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy is a living document. This means that we will review, update and adjust as needed to respond to the latest data and feedback and serve our staff, students and communities. Achieving our goal will take time. The full implementation of our strategy is anticipated to take place over a five-year timeframe. We hope our students, staff, families and community members will continue to support us on our journey.”



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Getting Things Done

Mayor Tom Mrakas

The Small Urban GTHA Mayors met this past Friday to discuss how vaccine rollouts are occurring in each of the communities we represent.

We encourage each person to receive a vaccination to protect themselves from COVID-19 and we are grateful that the Federal Government is expecting over 2 million doses of vaccines by the end of March.

Distribution details will be forthcoming, but rest assured that vaccines are on the way and that all municipalities, including our Town, are ready to administer them.

The Province also announced that, to date, over 1,000,000 vaccines have been administered and between April 2021 and July 2021, it is estimated that nine million more Ontarians will be vaccinated. Further details can be found at: news.ontario.ca/en/backgrounder/60570/

populations-eligible-for-phase-two-covid-19-vaccination.

Be assured that I will not rest until all of our residents that want the vaccine are vaccinated.

In the interim, residents are reminded to follow public health guidelines and take the vaccine that is recommended by their public health units based on eligibility.

Please be patient and remember to stay safe at all times.

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.



Pink Cars help seniors get their COVID-19 vaccinations

By Kinjal Dagli Shah

Small ripples can make big waves, as Shanta Sundarason and her team of volunteers know all too well. From sewing personal protective equipment (PPE) to driving seniors to vaccine appointments, the group has been busy since the spread of the

COVID-19 pandemic last March. "When COVID-19 hit, there was a huge shortage of PPE. I started a group called We Care - York Region. I used my community connections to mobilize volunteers to sew PPE items to donate to those that were in need, to find donors of fabric as well as delivery and collection drivers. We have sewn and donated over 50,000 PPE items in York Region and beyond since March last year," said Sundarason.

As the need for PPEs eased up, and vaccines were rolled out, Sundarason and her team came up with a new mission.

"When it was announced that bookings for the vaccine was going to be done online only, I had several seniors reach out to me the weekend before to ask if someone could help them as they were not tech savvy or did not have a computer," said Sundarason. "They were also concerned about getting to the site for the vaccine. I knew then that there was going to be a huge need and I jumped into action."

Sundarason had to act fast. She called a family meeting, decided on a name, bought a domain and found a friend to build the website for her. Pinkcars.ca came into fruition over a weekend, and Sundarason had already found her first four volunteers.

"With the help of volunteers, we are up and running and ready to continue our give-back mission. Our core team includes Neha Banerjee, Marketing and Communications advisor and a final-year business student at Western University, long term volunteers Enid Reyes-Martin and Chean Chen and our 'everything else' advisor Andrew Keyes (Ward 5 Councillor, City of Markham). We have about 30 volunteers and have driven about 40 seniors and booked over 300 appointments so far," said Sundarason.

The team at Pink Cars hopes to keep going until the vaccine rollout reaches the 65-plus age range. "I am sure it will calm down once we have helped seniors who are 70 and over. The others are still young pups and capable of booking themselves, but we will help anyone in need," said Sundarason.

Pink Cars is always looking for additional volunteer drivers to help ferry seniors in need, to and from their appointment. For more information, contact Shanta Sundarason at 647-389-8828 or visit pinkcars.ca.




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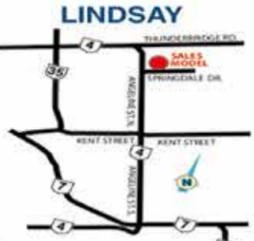
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Student gives peers a platform to speak out at TEDx event

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Youth want to speak out on the issues that matter to them, but all too often they don't have the platform to do so. It's a gap that was identified by Grade 12 student Sarah Asgari and it is a gap she has stepped up to bridge in her final year in secondary school.

Sarah, a student at Newmarket's Pickering College, was recently granted a license to run a TEDx Youth event as part of her graduating Capstone Project, the culmination of the school's Global Leadership Program, where youth are tasked with identifying challenges and coming up with innovative solutions.

Securing a TEDx license was no easy feat, but Sarah was willing to go the distance, fuelled by her passion to amplify not only her voice, but those of her peers.

"My Capstone Project is about youth having their voices heard and I found that the more research I did, I discovered people want to talk about issues but they just don't have the platform to do so," she says.

Once she secured the license, the next step was outreach. She didn't want just Pickering College students to step up and speak on the issues that mattered to them. She wanted broad outreach to schools across Ontario, and ended up curating an impressive group of students who wanted to bring a diverse range of topics to the platform.

"I wanted a wider platform," she says, noting that extending the invitation to students at other schools entailed a series of questions on the messages they wanted to get out as well as a video submission to gauge each potential participant's comfort level speaking in the virtual realm. "I met with the applicants once a week from

January onward to make sure they were in the right part of their speech process and following the guidelines."

Among the guidelines was selecting an issue that was not too contentious, and one which could be shared succinctly and allowed speakers to take a clear stand.

"It was really interesting to get to know people and it was awesome seeing how passionate they were on what they were talking about," says Sarah. "It is exactly the message I wanted to impart with the audiences that people our age have things we want to talk about but just don't have the platform to do so. A lot of the topics we chose were very personal to the individual talking, about things they had a personal experience with, even volunteering. One participant spoke about her struggle with an eating disorder. One talked about journalism, which was very personal for them. It wasn't something they just glanced over and decided to do; they were topics where they had struggled. People having the courage to talk about their struggles was very inspiring and unexpected."

For Julia Hunt, Senior Director of Strategic Innovation at Pickering College, Sarah's securing the TEDx license was a testament to her "perseverance" in providing her fellow students with a forum.

"There's a lot of value in young people learning how to work with external organizations and how to provide the type of information that is necessary to execute this type of event," says Ms. Hunt. "Sarah had to follow quite a complex process, both within gaining approval from Pickering College to host such an event and, of course, being granted the license with the TEDx organization. For a young person to advocate for this type of event to go to schools, policies, meeting with the Assistant Head...it takes quite a lot of coordination.

"As the theme was to amplify youth voices, it was hoped [each speaker]



Sarah Asgari

Contributed photo

would come with a story to share and something that would resonate with other young people. For students to practice the skills that universities and employers are consistently saying they want, this provided a great opportunity to develop these communication skills in a way that is not explicitly referenced in, perhaps, a curriculum document or a course. We often hear people in universities and employers say they want people who can collaborate well. This is an example of a group of young people who coordinated incredibly well to pull this together with very little adult support. The real benefit is having an opportunity to practice these skills that are so critical to their future success and being able to do so in safe and supported environment."

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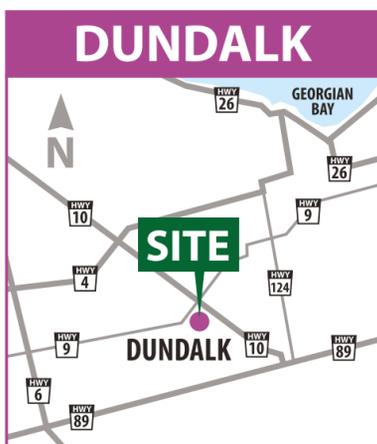
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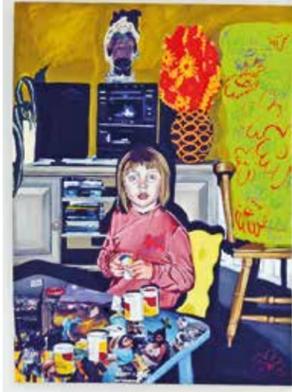
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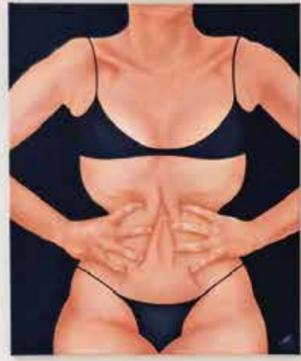
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Celebration of Youth Arts shines light on student creativity



Among the pieces filling the second floor of Town Hall – and screens anywhere there is internet access – include (clockwise from top left) sculptures “Reclaimed Boot” by Miles Gilije (foreground) and “My Eternal Feminine” by Julia Mobbs. Mobbs’s mixed media collage “I Am Still A Child” hangs alongside Kaida Cheah’s “Class in Session,” depicting the realities of parents and children learning and working remotely from home. “Don’t Forget Her” by Madison Sirola, “Target” by Camille Filippetto, and “Serenity” by Alyssa Mallany. “Madness” and “Body Dysmorphia” by Hannah Clark Gomez, and “Inescapable Expressions,” a set of three by Maya Cos.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



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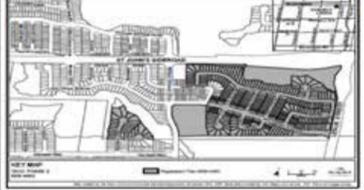
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NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC WORKS

Subdivision Owner: TACC Developments (Aurora) Inc. Registered Plan 65M-4462
Date of Acceptance: February 23, 2021
Applicable By-law Number: 6315-21
Description of Public Works Accepted: All services referred to in Section 3.01 of the Subdivision Agreement between TACC Ph.2 Developments (Aurora) Inc. and The Corporation of The Town of Aurora for Registered Plan 65M-4462.



Description of Streets in which Public Works accepted are located as per registered plan 65M-4462:

a) Roy Harper Avenue	f) McKee Court
b) Chouinard Way	g) Homer Crescent
c) Folliot Street	h) Bolsby Court
d) Constable Street	i) Kashani Court
e) Hancock Street	

The public works as described above are herewith accepted by the Town of Aurora.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
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AURORA TOWN OF AURORA PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC WORKS

Subdivision Owner: Mattamy (Aurora) Limited. Registered Plan 65M-4407
Date of Acceptance: January 26, 2021
Applicable By-law Number: 6306-21
Description of Public Works Accepted: All services referred to in Section 3.01 of the Subdivision Agreement between Mattamy Ph.1 Developments (Aurora) Limited and The Corporation of The Town of Aurora for Registered Plan 65M-4407.



Description of streets in which Public Works accepted are located as per registered plan 65M-4407:

- Clifford Dalton Drive
- Buckle Crescent
- Thomas Phillips Drive
- Hutt Crescent

The public works as described above are herewith accepted by the Town of Aurora.

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Mayor's celebration at Youth Arts goes online

From page 1

But, once your eyes train on it, the contours suggesting what the abstract sculpture represents, it stands out in its own unique way.

"My Eternal Feminine" is a mixed media sculpture by Julia Mobbs, a Grade 12 student at Aurora High School, is one of the dozens of original pieces now on display at Town Hall and online as part of the Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts, showcasing the work of art grads hailing from both Aurora High School and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School.

From Julia's sculpture representing her view on how women are portrayed by the media, to paintings evoking the experience of Indigenous Canadians, to large canvasses depicting our new normal learning online at one end of the kitchen table as mom and dad hold Zoom meetings on the other side, each piece is highly personal for each artist and, quite often, a reflection of the year that was.

Last year's Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts was, as fate had it, the final large-scale in-person exhibition hosted by the Aurora Cultural Centre before COVID-19 forced the closure of municipal spaces. But the Cultural Centre this year was more determined than ever to ensure the show does go on and these budding artists have a forum to share their creativity and ideas – if limited to a virtual gallery show.

"We had to create a Plan A and a Plan B," explains Christina Di Paola of the Aurora Cultural Centre, noting the first option was for an in-person show and the second for something entirely virtual. "Fortunately, we were able to do a hybrid of both where we were able to install in-person and the staff [at Town Hall] can see it and we can show it formally like we wanted to. But we also have the virtual exhibition and the only way that this was even possible is we have the established relationships

with the art teachers in the schools."

Normally, the Cultural Centre team goes out to the schools to chat to students and teachers in person. With that option out the window, this creative collaboration had to take place mostly over emails and over the phone.

"We were amazed to get the amount of art that we got," says Ms. DiPaola. "The kids were working partly from home and partly from school and they were able to create some really cool artwork. We're excited about that because we really didn't know what to expect this year and I am really happy with it all."

Sharing this happiness is Julia who says the platform provided by this curated show allowed creativity to flow.

"With most adjudicated art shows, there is a limitation on maybe more realistic or abstract work and they will pick and choose, rather than here where you can mix anything and it allows for artistic freedom," she says. "I talk about concerns with feminist theory and femininity. When people look at my work, I want them to feel, first of all, attracted to my work, but in terms of the message, [challenge] our immediate assumptions of what categorizes the idea of woman. It is a woman's bodice but there is no head and it is quite exaggerated. I just want people to look at it and think. To me, it is kind of the version of a woman that is represented in the media and I just want people to look at it and think, why is that?"

The work of Stephanie Reilly is no less evocative, particularly her graphite on paper drawing "Broken Boy" featuring a crying child bound in shackles.

"We could choose anything for our final art piece but we were told to create something that has an important meaning and something we wanted to say to the world," she says. "I chose child trafficking because I feel it isn't talked about enough."

Stephanie was inspired to go down this road after her sister drew her attention to an article on Jeffrey Epstein.

"I wanted to keep it somewhat simple with a young boy handcuffed – his face is half covered to say it could be any child, really. Something simple but so powerful. When you're in Grade 9, you can't wait to be a part of this art show. You can see everyone's art, even

from people you don't even know, and there are no limitations."

The Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts is on now through May 1 online at auroraculturalcentre.ca. In addition to the virtual show itself, online components of the exhibition will be a number of "Art Bytes" interviews with participating artists, behind-the-scenes videos, a limited run art performance video, and stories behind the works.

Magna Hoedown cancelled

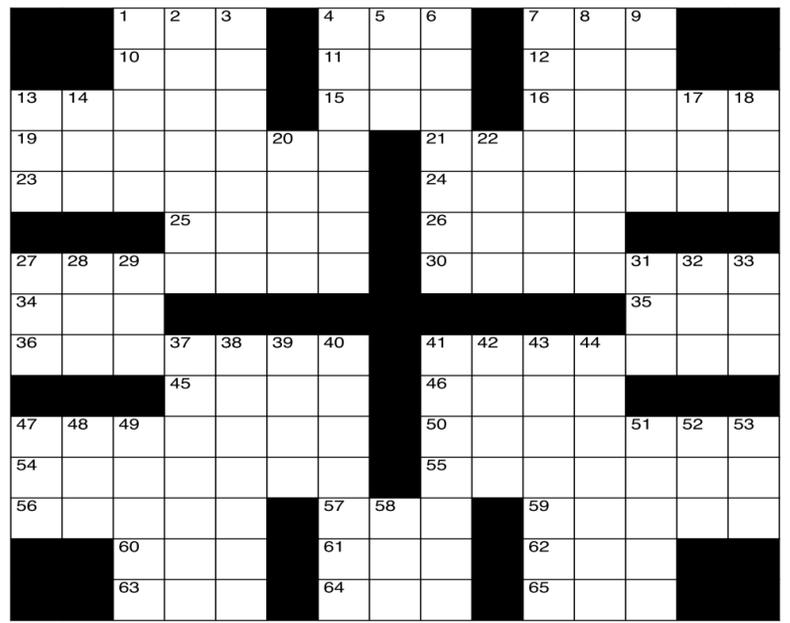
From page 3

Tom Mrakas. "I want to thank and commend Magna for finding a way to continue their legacy of giving back to the community. As Magna said, the Hoedown event is ultimately about neighbours coming together

to support our most vulnerable. I am proud Magna continues to step up as a great corporate citizen and will be supporting 30 of our local charities.

"I am looking forward to our strong partnership and the possible return of the Magna Hoedown in 2022."

CROSSWORD

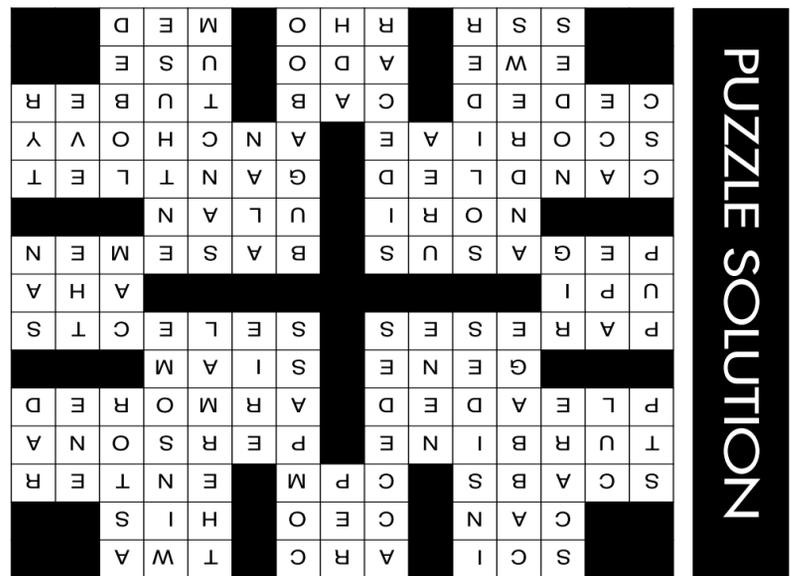


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. __ fi: popular genre
- 4. Curved shape
- 7. Defunct airline
- 10. Beverage receptacle
- 11. Corporate bigwig
- 12. Belong to he
- 13. They cover cuts
- 15. Cost per mille
- 16. Walk into
- 19. Power-producing machine
- 21. Part of one's character perceived by others
- 23. Emotionally appealed to
- 24. Protected
- 25. Wrestling icon Okerlund
- 26. Thailand's former name
- 27. Muscle weaknesses
- 30. Chooses
- 34. American film studio.
- 35. Expression of satisfaction
- 36. Mythical winged horse
- 41. Ballplayers
- 45. Edible seaweed
- 46. Chinese politician
- 47. Tested for fertility
- 50. Glove worn with medieval armor
- 54. Basaltic lavas
- 55. Small shoaling fish
- 56. Surrendered
- 57. Taxi
- 59. Potato part
- 60. Female sheep
- 61. Trouble or difficulty
- 62. Put into service
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- 65. Type of student

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Frighten
- 2. Partner to corned beef
- 3. Parts
- 4. Agrees to a demand
- 5. Elected official
- 6. Navigator's tool
- 7. Relating to heat
- 8. Attractive
- 9. Wealthy US merchant
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. A passage with access only at one end
- 17. Midway between northeast and east
- 18. Cool!
- 20. Brazilian NBAer
- 22. NW Pennsylvania city
- 27. Young dog
- 28. Mimic
- 29. Large truck
- 31. The NFL's Newton
- 32. One and only
- 33. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 37. Julie __, actress
- 38. More nourishing
- 39. Compound
- 40. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
- 41. Object of fear or alarm
- 42. __ Ladd, actor
- 43. Sacred place
- 44. A way to express enjoyment
- 47. Trigonometric function
- 48. A team's best pitcher
- 49. Intersecting points
- 51. Roundishly shaped
- 52. Adam's partner
- 53. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 58. Human hormone



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New traffic calming measures in works for Centre Street

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

One-way traffic on segments of Centre Street may have brought some calm to the surrounding community, but they have been baffling drivers for years.

Some clarity – and additional safety – will be coming to the street at the heart of Aurora’s Heritage Conservation District as early as this month following a motion from Councillor Sandra Humfryes.

Recently, Councillor Humfryes put forward a motion calling on municipal staff to review the issue of one-way traffic on Centre Street with a focus of coming up with the “best traffic calming measures and traffic deterrent to prevent vehicles driving the wrong way on a one-way street” before the end of March.

“There is a little stretch on Centre

between Spruce going to the north section of Wells Street that was part of the one-way infrastructure we created for traffic flow,” she said. “What’s happening in this area, because it is such a short little stretch, many vehicles decide to go right through really quickly, get away with it, having to avoid doing any of the things we wanted the residents to do with traffic flow. Residents tried doing a few things [but] it is tough to understand what the best plan of action would be to address this concern.”

Work to find solutions, she said, have been taking place behind the scenes not only between herself and residents, but also with Michael Bat, the Town’s Traffic Analyst.

Accompanied by a concerned resident, Councillor Humfryes said she was recently on the scene, standing near the problem area to see the issue first hand. It didn’t take long, she said, to see a driver do exactly what they weren’t supposed to do.

“They don’t even care that people are watching,” said Councillor Humfryes on drivers. “While we were standing there, several cars did the same thing: they look around and they speed. As long as police aren’t there, they’re going to take a chance to avoid.”

This is not a new issue.

Council addressed a similar problem last year, resulting in a new sign where Centre meets Yonge advising drivers that it is not a thru-street. But the Councillor contends that more needs to be done to slow drivers down.

“I am hoping my peers would be supportive for staff to look at this again and come back with a recommendation as to what we can do to provide this little stretch some safety. It certainly does not pass any warrants in terms of traffic... but this is just a very small stretch that we did to try and effectively have traffic flow the way we wanted it to move forward...and causing this little bit of a dangerous stretch. We don’t want

anything tragic to happen.”

First to support the motion was Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who was a champion of the last round of measures for Centre Street.

“The only thing that really would help is police presence and I don’t think we can ask police to use their manpower for this,” she said. “I hope we can come up with something because it is very unpleasant for residents and it is really just one block, but there are residents who are experiencing trouble and I hope we can come up with a better solution.”

Council passed the motion with the end of March as the timeline for possible solutions.

With this in mind, Councillor Humfryes said that whatever concrete actions ultimately shake down from the report coming forward, she would like the resulting recommended traffic calming measures to be installed by this summer.



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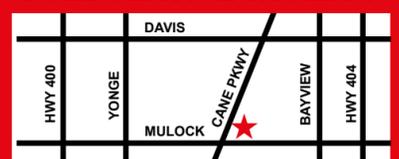


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