







Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Week of April 7, 2022







First Nations children deserve more than words, says Indigenous storyteller

BY BROCK WEIR **EDITOR** LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Families impacted by Canada's residential school victims need more than just words from the Catholic Church, says Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley.

an apology for abuses by Catholic Church members in the facilities and said he hoped the journey of

Reconciliation would continue when he visits Canada this summer.

"That chain [of traditional practices] that passed on knowledge and ways of life and union with the land was broken by a colonization that lacked respect for you, tore many of you from your vital milieu and tried to conform you to another Last week, Pope Francis issued mentality," said the Pope. "In this way, great harm was done to your identity and your culture. Many families were separated and great numbers of

children fell victim to these attempts to impose a uniformity based on the notion that progress occurs through ideological colonization, following programs devised in offices rather than the desire to respect the life of peoples.

"Listening to your voices I was able to enter into, and be deeply grieved, by the stories of the suffering, hardship, discrimination and various forms of abuse that some of you

Continued on page 15

ART FORUM – Nico Taylor and Queen Kikoyi of the Black Speculative Arts Movement (BSAM) speak to residents at a Public Art Forum hosted by the Town ahead of its first-ever Public Art Master Plan. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Public art should reflect diverse voices: forum

BY BROCK WEIR

EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Ensuring diverse voices represented will be key in developing Aurora's Public Art policy.

Last week, the Town held a public forum at the Aurora Armoury for community members, particularly members of the local arts community, to not only share their views on what public art means in Aurora but to hear Continued on page 21



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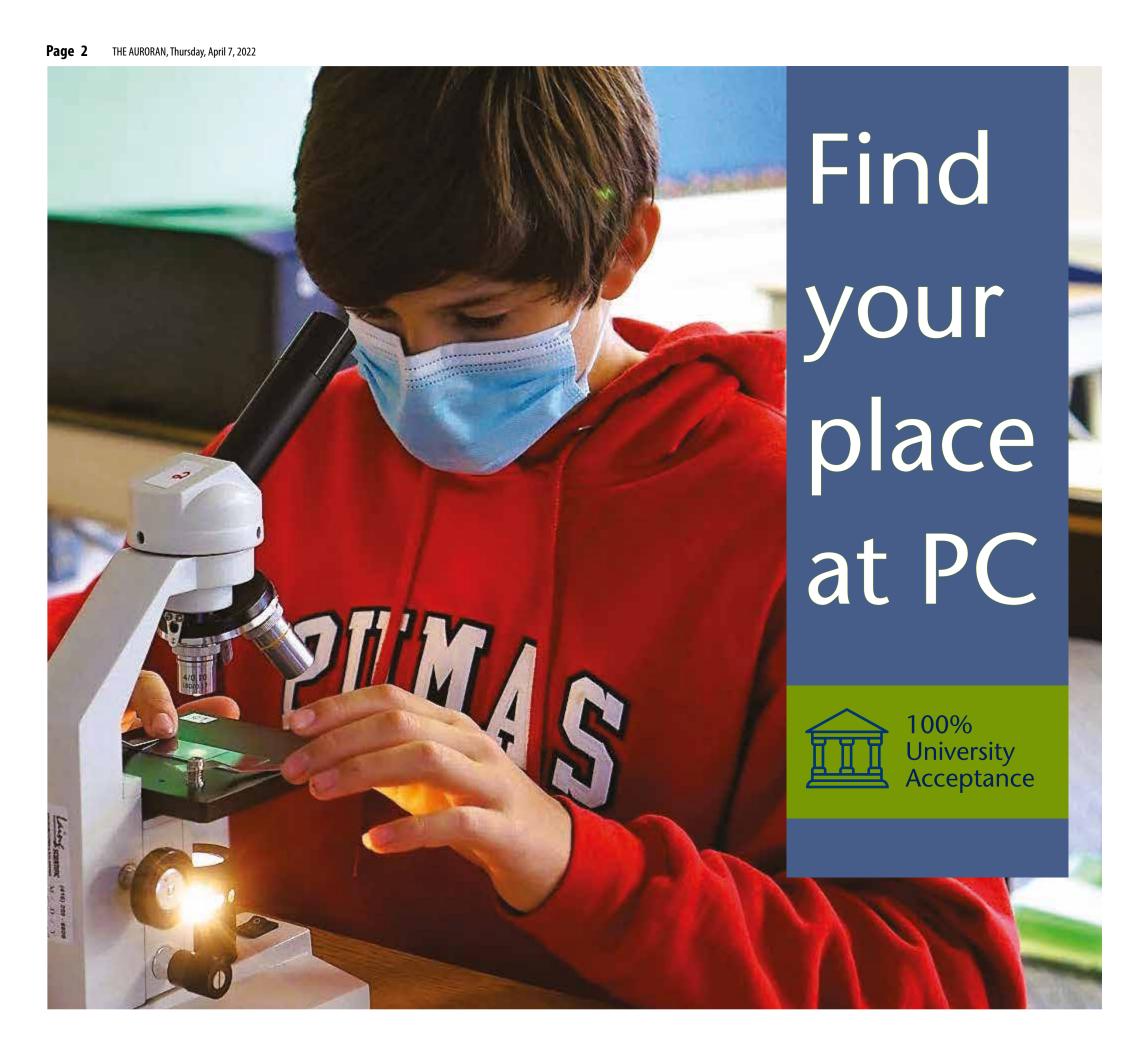
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MAKE WAY FOR ART – The annual Aurora Art Show & Sale will return to an in-person affair this year on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1. On hand to take in the Skylight Gallery at Town Hall for the first time since the start of the global pandemic were Linda Welch, President of SOYRA (the Society of York Region Artists) and Andrea Araujo, Special Events Program Assistant for the Town of Aurora. The show is a partnership between the Town and SOYRA

York Region monitoring wastewater signals as Ottawa sees spike

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM

York Region Public Health is continuing to monitor COVID-19 indicators in wastewater after the Ottawa region reported a spike.

As Ontario nears the first month of lifted restrictions, Dr. Barry Pakes, York Region's Medical Officer of Health, says that Ottawa's trends are hinting at a "sixth wave."

"We're more than one month since restrictions on gatherings were removed and two weeks since indoor mask mandates were lifted," he said. "As expected, we're seeing increased transmission of COVID-19 in York Region and across the Province in what some are calling a 'sixth wave.' Some areas of the Province, like Ottawa, for example, are seeing wastewater signals that surpassed their Omicron surge earlier this year.

"In York Region, we're seeing an is an under-estimate of the real number. increase but somewhat less dramatic, but we're still watching it carefully. Most importantly, we're watching to see if hospitalizations, which have been stable for the last several weeks, start increasing. Fortunately, our high booster vaccination rate in York Region is preventing many from ending up in hospital. We have also received several questions about a fourth dose and this is likely on its way shortly. For now, it is critically important that those who have not yet had their third dose or their booster dose receive it as soon as possible."

Walk-in clinics across York Region are open for first, second or third doses depending on eligibility, including children between the ages of 5 and 11.

As the Province adjusts to a lifting of public health restrictions, Dr. Pakes once again urged kindness towards people making their own decisions on whether or not to mask up.

"I am very happy with what we're seeing in the community with people showing kindness and respect for others by wearing their masks when indoors," he said. "Though it is now a personal choice, most York Region residents are

continuing to wear masks to protect themselves and others. This is one way we've been slowing transmission and preventing a dramatic increase in cases in the weeks to come.

"Please continue to carry a mask with you and be sure to wear it if you're in a crowded area, a confined space with poor ventilation, or you're in close contact with others from outside your household

 or if you'll be around someone immunocompromised or older. Spring is in the air and it is a great time to get outdoors where COVID transmission is less likely. Stay safe, have your mask on or at the ready, and get vaccinated."

LOCAL STATS

As of Tuesday, April 5, Aurora was experiencing 50 confirmed active cases of COVID-19, according to York Region Public Health.

But, as the Region notes, this number

"With rapid transmission of Omicron and recent provincial changes in testing eligibility and case management, case counts and outbreaks reported through the COVID-19 in York Region interactive dashboard are an under-estimate of the true number of individuals with COVID-19 and outbreaks in York Region," the Region stated at the start of January, adding case counts should be treated with caution. "Public Health units across Ontario are prioritizing case management of highrisk individuals and settings. Workplace outbreaks are no longer reported."

The Region is no longer reporting source of exposure for active cases.

Since the start of the global pandemic, York Region Public Health had been able to confirm 4,499 PCR-confirmed cumulative cases of COVID-19 in Aurora as of April 5. 4,388 cases are now marked as resolved. There have been 61 fatalities attributed to the virus.

90.2 per cent of Aurora residents aged 5 and up have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, while 87.9 per cent had received two doses by Tuesday.



SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022

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Spring family fun with outdoor activities Flower planting · Hopstacle course & more Activity bags (for those 12 years of age & under)

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COVID-19 safety protocols



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Political system has been "hijacked," says reader

(Re: Liberal-NDP deal will allow government to "get things done," say MPs, March 31)

You asked for feedback. Here are my thoughts:

The deal is an affront to our socalled democratic system.

In the last election, the NDP got approximately 16 per cent of the popular vote, the Liberals got second place behind the Conservatives.

Our system does not reward popular vote, so the Liberals got more seats and got first crack to form the government.

Now I can live with this, however I cannot accept that with this deal the NDP a small minority gets to push through their agenda.

This represents a high-jacking of the political system.

I dislike the party system anyhow as it again undermines our system. It does so as you basically now only have three opinions, while 338 MPs in free votes would be truly better.

So as far as the deal goes: The tail is wagging the dog.

Horst Wizemann

Open letter on Ukrainian Flight PS752

(To US President Joe Biden, Interim Conservative Leader Candice Bergen)

We, Shahin Moghaddam and Mehrzad Zarei, (represent) families of the victims of Ukrainian flight PS752 which was shot down by airstrikes of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ("IRGC") on January 8, 2020.

The IRGC has been the source of terror inside of Iran for decades, being the main, root organization with the mission to intimidate, kill and torture its citizens into compliance for its ultra-right wing religious and political goals.

On May 20, 2021, We; Mehrzad Zarei, Shahin Moghaddam and Ali Garji took the IRGC to the court and have acquired numerous expert reports to assess the motivation behind the shooting of flight PS752.

The experts and the judge of the Superior Court of Ontario all have found that the attack was intentional and therefore, a terrorist act. There are at least 16 pieces of evidence indicating that the IRGC intentionally shot down PS752, using it as a human shield in order to intimidate domestic and international community into compliance for its ideological goals.

In addition to experts and judges, the Ukrainian prosecutor's investigation also concluded that the act was an intentional act of terrorism.

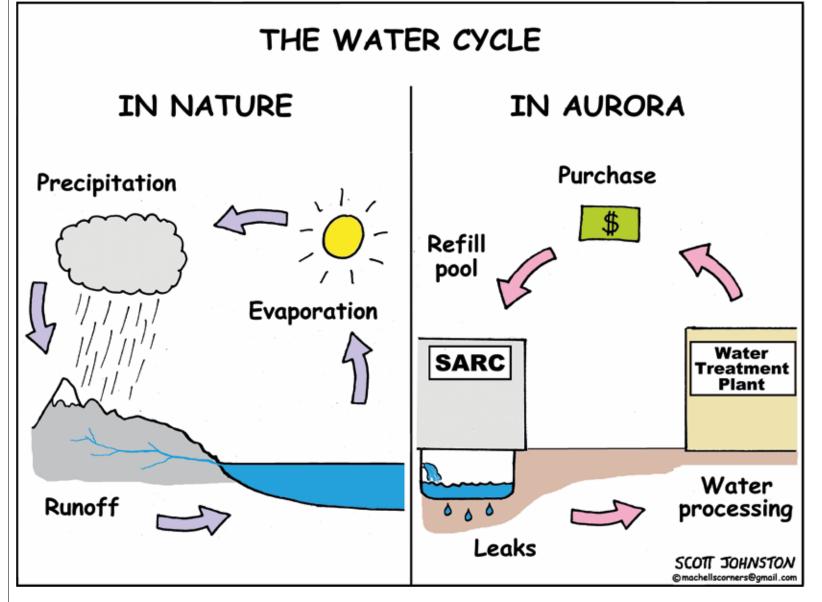
Understandably, therefore, we were highly surprised and dismayed to learn that you may be also falling prey to the IRGC's terror campaign, considering taking the IRGC off of the United States' terrorist list.

We too are strong adherents of nonviolence and world peace. It is clear that the IRGC is the main source for war, instability and terror throughout Iran, the Middle East, and beyond, with its terror campaigns reaching as far as Canada.

By continuing to isolate the IRGC as a terrorist entity, the international community would be taking a serious step towards world peace, harmony,

Continued on page 9

Machell's Corners



Waiting for the next volley

In many ways, the proverbial ball is back in our collective court.

Last week, following moving delegations at the Vatican from representatives from many of our First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities, one of the more elusive of the 94 Calls to Action resulting from the final report of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada finally, "kinda, sorta" came to pass.

First published in 2015, the 58th Call to Action was very clear in its goal:

"We call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors (of Residential families, Schools), their and communities for the Roman Catholic Church's role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis children in Catholic-run residential schools. We call for that apology to be similar to the 2010 apology issued to Irish victims of abuse and to occur within one year of the issuing of this Report and to be delivered by the Pope in Canada."

In the 2010 apology to Irish victims of sexual abuse within the church, Pope Benedict XVI – now Pope Emeritus - said he could "only share in the dismay and the sense of betrayal that so many of you have experienced on learning of these sinful and criminal acts and the way Church authorities in Ireland dealt with them."

"You have suffered grievously and I am truly sorry," he said in a letter. "I know that nothing can undo the wrong you have endured. Your trust has been betrayed and your dignity has been violated. Many of you found that, when you were courageous enough to speak of what happened to you, no one would listen. Those of you who were abused in residential institutions must have felt that there was no escape from your sufferings. It is understandable that you find it hard to forgive or be reconciled with the Church. In her name, I openly express the shame and remorse that we all feel."

Speaking directly "to priests and religious who have abused children," he added: "You betrayed the trust that was placed in you by innocent young people and their parents, and you must answer for it before Almighty God and before properly constituted tribunals. You have forfeited the esteem of the people of Ireland and



Brock Weir

brought shame and dishonour upon your confreres. Those of you who are priests violated the sanctity of the sacrament and the Holy Orders in which Christ makes himself present in us and in our actions. Together with the immense harm done to victims, great damage has been done to the church and to the public perception of the priesthood and religious life."

The apology issued by Benedict XVI's successor, Pope Francis, was slightly different in tone.

They are very different men with very different approaches to the office, to be sure, but while Pope Francis had many kind and thoughtful words on the First Nations' traditions as stewards of the land, with great languages and cultures all their own, the apology in my view stopped short of getting to one of the main roots of the issue.

"Listening to your voices I was able to enter into, and be deeply grieved, by the stories of the suffering, hardship, discrimination and various forms of abuse that that some of you have experienced, particularly in residential schools. It's chilling to think of determined efforts to instil a sense of inferiority, to rob people of their cultural identity, to sever their roots and to consider all the pertinent personal and social efforts that this continues to entail unresolved traumas that have become intergenerational traumas.

"All this has made me feel two things very strongly: indignation and shame. Indignation because it is not right to accept evil and without commitment to learning from past mistakes, problems can remain unresolved and keep coming back. We can see this these days in the case of war. The memory of the past must never be sacrificed at the altar of alleged progress. I also feel shame. I have said this to you and now I'm repeating it, sorrow and shame, for the role that a number of Catholics, particularly those with educational responsibilities, have had in all these things that wounded you, in the abuses you suffered and in the lack of respect shown for your identity, your culture and even your spiritual values. All these things are contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the deplorable conduct of these members of the Catholic Church, I ask for God's forgiveness and I want to say with all my heart: I am very sorry."

It's a good start, but, in my view, it doesn't quite meet the intent of the Call to Action. It was not a message delivered in Canada as originally called for - although the Pontiff did leave the door open to continuing the "journey" in Canada soon, potentially as early as this summer - nor does it specifically speak to the role of the Roman Catholic Church.

Instead, in my view, it's an apology for the actions of certain individuals within the Church rather than its institutional role in the system.

Perhaps some further introspection will be in the offering before these sentiments can be delivered personally on our soils, but, until then, the ball is once again in our court to continue focusing on tackling the other Calls to Action that have been sadly mouldering away in so many quarters.

Now that the door is open for the Church taking their share of responsibility for what transpired, this is an opportunity to once again review the 94 Calls to Action see what we can accomplish as individuals and as part of a greater whole.

It's also an opportunity for some of us to get over any kind of "news fatigue" over the continuing harrowing legacy of the residential school system in this country.

Our collective, to borrow a phrase from the Pope, indignation over the discovery of the graves of 215 children in the grounds of a residential school in Kamloops, has inexplicably dissipated in many quarters almost in alignment with the number of graves which continue to be discovered, a number which is now in the thousands. We need to re-harness this feeling of horror and dismay in order to do our part on this "journey" towards a better, more equitable future.

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Zach Shoub

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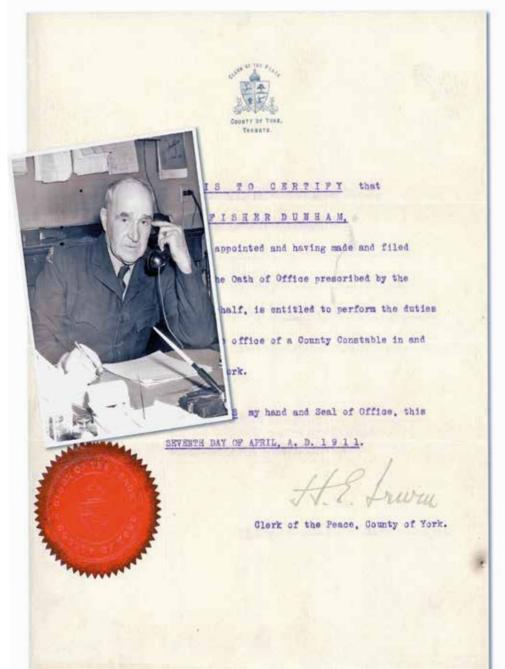
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The **Aurora** Museum **Archives** Remembering

Chief Constable Dunham!

Aurora remained a small town through the middle of the 20th century and had a correspondingly small police force. Fisher Dunham was the bold and beloved face of policing in Aurora from 1911 until his death in 1957. He is pictured here near the end of his career, alongside his original April 7, 1911 police certification for York Region. (2005.14.4,5) One tale from his incredible career: In 1938, he stopped a group of fleeing thieves by jumping onto the stolen car's running board and shooting out one of its tires! Bold!

Too bad Council proceedings not on channel ten



Our newspaper landscape has changed remarkably over the last decade.

The national newspapers used to have immense readership and had loads of advertising money from their hardcopy to fund special international events fully.

But that is not the case today.

Readership of the newsprint variety has fallen off dramatically digital while readership increased, but without a shifting increase in revenues.

about the amount of revenue support that should be given to Canadian media companies as the giants like Google and Yahoo take news feed info and put it on their website without paying for it.

Local television news has also changed. In the past, there used to be a number of local news stations around the country but these too festivities. have decreased.

We now do not even have the local Channel 10 on Rogers Television, which is a pity as I liked watching the various local programs put on by our fellow community members.

Today, I share a story that I wrote in 2008, about going to an Aurora Town Council Meeting for the first time.

Believe it or don't but I do miss not having this on Channel 10 on Tuesday nights. I wouldn't watch the whole meeting, but I would catch enough of it to see what the big issues in town were.

This past week something special occurred.

It was my first time.

No, not that first time.

It was my first time attending an Aurora Town Council Meeting in person.

I have been in the building many times was clear we have some very special residents

FRONT PORCH **PERSPECTIVE**

Stephen Somerville

investigative reports and to cover for various meetings and I have attended a couple of provincial and federal election all-candidates campaign events in the Town Council Chambers.

I have also watched parts of the televised has version of the Council sessions, but this writer had never attended one in person.

I wanted to show up this particular night There has been a recent debate for two reasons; to get an idea of what an actual Council meeting is like, and a specific item of interest to me was up for discussion.

I arrived at 6.40 p.m. for the 7.00 p.m. start time and I joked to one of the Councillors present that, as this was my first time in attendance, I was a Council "virgin".

I then picked up a copy of agenda and settled into my seat to watch the night's

It was nice seeing nearly a full house when Her Worship, Mayor Phyllis Morris, called the meeting to order at about 7.05

The first order of business was the declarations of pecuniary interest by any of the Councillors, followed by the approval of the Agenda.

Then there were a couple of presentations done by the Mayor, which took about an

The first involved the members of the Aurora Tigers Peewee "A" Division Winners of the 2008 Silver Stick Hockey tournament in Michigan. It was the first such title for an Aurora based team in, if memory serves, over twenty years. Each of the players was given a certificate by the Mayor and some had their photo taken with her.

Then presentations were made to the nine Ontario Heritage Trust Community Recognition Program Award winners for 2008. Listening to the various citations, it

in our community who really do care about preserving our community's past.

We were also shown but tremendously done video, aboutDavid Tomlinson and the work of the environmentalists in our community. This should be a must see for every high school student in Town.

There were also some public service announcements and then a deputation was made regarding energy related matters that took up, including the question and answer session that followed, most of the rest of the evening.

The public portion of the meeting ended at 10.52 p.m. with the Councillors going into a closed session to discuss some issues.

A long night for all, to be sure.

My earlier happiness at seeing a nearly full Chamber had long ago disappeared as soon as the various awards were bestowed. By the time the video was shown there were only eight of us, and by the end of the evening there were three of us remaining in the visitors' gallery, not counting my columnist colleague Dick Illingworth.

I asked Dick what's the usual average attendance for a council meeting and he said eight to ten people. I was astonished.

While the House of Commons gets all the air time in the large media outlets, the things that get decided within the halls of the Council Chamber have an immediate, and probably bigger impact, on our everyday life and do more to shape or change our community, than what is done in Ottawa.

I can't really sit here at my computer and write that more people should be attending the Town Council Meetings when your humble scribe doesn't attend. But I do hope that once in a while you are watching the proceedings on television. You can get the agenda off the Town website the Friday afternoon before to follow along.

Just remember, your community is what you make of it.

> Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



Welcome to **Library Land**

By Reccia Mandelcorn

Spring is in the air bringing with it the upcoming provincial election to be held June 2. As a self-confessed political junkie, I look forward to any election as a time not only to vote, but to engage in important conversations about the issues that affect

Libraries have an important role as discussion starters by bringing ideas forward in a safe, unbiased environment. Aurora Public Library enjoys a longstanding tradition of holding "Meet the Candidates" events as information sessions in accordance with the Library's role in civic engagement. Whether at a municipal, provincial or federal level, our approach is always non-partisan and information-focussed.

My favourite of such meetings happened back in 1985 when we occupied the riding known as York North. Vying for votes were William Hodgson (PC), Greg Sorbara (L) and Keith Munro (NDP). Education was a major topic that election, and as APL's young adult programmer, I ran an All-Candidates meeting for students on this one important issue. The Marjorie Andrews Hall (lower level of the old library) was packed with overflow into the parking lot. Teachers brought their full classes that evening and the level of the questions rivalled any I've heard since.

On Thursday, May 12, we will be hosting a virtual "Meet the Candidates" event over Zoom. This is an opportunity to meet the candidates looking to be your next MPP for the ridings of Newmarket-Aurora and Aurora-Oak-Ridges-Richmond Hill. Letters of invitation have been sent to all currently registered candidates with a request of reply to participate no later than April 28. After that date, we will finalize the list of participants on our website and on social media.

Candidates will each open with a short introduction. A selection of questions submitted in advance by community members will then be posed to all candidates. Each candidate will have an opportunity to present closing remarks. Speaking order will be determined by a random draw, and then will be in rotation.

There will be no debate. If you have a question for the candidates, please email it to rmandelcorn@aurorapl. ca. Candidates not yet registered are asked to contact me at that email address so that I may issue an invitation to participate. Registration for "Meet the Candidates" is at bit.ly/3]Huu4v.

Engagement in the political process has never been more important than now, when social media and misinformation occupy so much air space. We look forward to your participation at this important community event. And if you are a teacher or have a young person in your life, we hope you'll encourage their involvement as well.

> What I've been reading: The Madness of Crowds by Louise Penny Apron Strings by Jan Wong Velvet was the Night by Silvia Moreno-Garcia To Paradise by Hanya Yanagihara

Reccia Mandelcorn is the Manager, Community Collaboration at Aurora Public Library. The opinions expressed in this column reflect her personal thoughts about the engagement of community with their public library.

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Should Aurora have stronger rules around short-term rentals like Airbnb?

Yes No Unsure

www.theauroran.com PREVIOUS POLL Do you support the Federal Liberals' deal with the NDP to stay in government until 2025?

UNSURE

1%



Join the Easter Bunny next weekend in saying "Hello!" to Spring

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Spring is in the air and so is a return to some degree of normalcy just in time for Easter.

With many public health restrictions now lifted, the Easter Bunny is excited to return to Aurora for the Town's first egg hunt since 2019.

Aurora's traditional Easter Egg Hunt, now known as "Hello Spring!" returns to the Aurora Seniors' Centre on Saturday, April 16 from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Featuring indoor and outdoor activities, including an interactive walking trail, kids this year can "fish" for eggs along the trail before ending their fun with a visit with the Easter Bunny themself!

Ahead of the big day, the Easter Bunny sat down with The Auroran to share their excitement of being able to interact once again with local kids.

The Auroran: It will be great to see you in Aurora with kids again this year after the last-minute change of plan in 2020!

Easter Bunny: Last year, everyone was pivoting. I was able to see some of the children at the Seniors' Centre because, although I couldn't interact with them, I was able to hand out their activity bags from a distance through their car window. This year, I am looking forward to seeing them in-person and not in-car where we can wave to each other and actually pose for photos.

TA: What does it mean to you to be able to meet kids face-to-face again?



Mayor Mrakas joined the Easter Bunny in handing out goodie bags last year at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, but this month the Centre is set to be a hive of activity once again as the Town hosts its Hello Spring! event.

EB: I am eggcited to be able to hop back to Aurora. Every time I have visited Aurora, the children have just been amazing and they certainly make me feel as special as I feel they are. When I go from house to house on Easter, I have to work quietly and only get to see kids nestled in their beds sleeping, so when I get to see them awake, they're bouncing with joy which is so rewarding! It's also fun to see them get all excited about how much effort they put into their baskets

at the Seniors' Centre. It's nice to have all the social aspects of it. When I visit them at night, I am doing my job, but this is an extra bit of fun I think we'll have.

TA: This is a new spin on an Aurora tradition. What have organizers planned for the big day?

EB: They have assured me that a lot of activities will be spaced out because they want to make sure everyone who attends is attending in confidence and excitement. They're going with a completely different format than the one they had before. It's going to be one entrance and one exit and this time they'll be starting with outdoor activities and ending with indoor activities, which is completely different to when I visited Aurora in the past. So, I'm just going to hop along with this and see how it goes! People will be spending the event outside and I hear I'm going to be one of the last stops as they leave.

make sure they can enjoy the day in safety and still have fun?

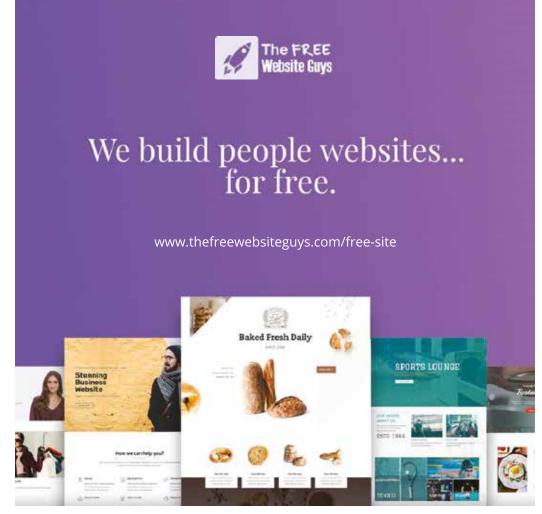
EB: As I tour all across the world, health measures really, really vary but I hope the Aurora families, the community that comes to visit me, remember it is always a good idea to wear a mask and just take that extra bit of precaution, especially since the event is only an hour-long experience. You can even make some fun out of this by decorating the outside of your mask – that would be fun to see! Although the masks are not mandatory, it would just be an Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

additional measure that families could take. Otherwise, the activities are really spread out, so the kids are really going to get their steps in as they go to each station. There will also be hand sanitizer stands at many of the locations but I hope that along with their baskets and their joy, people will bring their own individual hand sanitizers. All of those efforts help to keep us extra safe!

TA: For many kids who were unable to get out there in 2020 and 2021, this will be their first experience at an egg hunt like this.

EB: These could be their first Easter memories! I understand at the very beginning of this event there will be a story walk and children will actually learn stories because it is the night before Easter. They will be reliving what actually happens that night. As they bounce along the trail leading to some activities, the first experience will be a story walk and I hope that helps to fill in the blanks as to what is to come and what the Easter Bunny is all about. The activities TA: The last couple of years have been with spring being here we not only want tricky for kids. What tips do you have to to celebrate me, although I feel I am fully worthy of the full celebration, we also want to celebrate spring and all that spring has to offer. There will be flower planting activities mixed in with the 'hopstacle' courses, fishing for eggs – it is a nice mixture between the celebration of spring and the eggcitement

> To register for your Hello Spring! time slot, visit aurora.ca/hellospring or visit the information desk at either the Aurora Family Leisure Complex or the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. Registration is \$5 per child and parents and/or guardians are





Easter Egg decorating heralds the start of busy spring for AHS

BY BROCK WEIR **EDITOR**

INITIATIVE REPORTER

Eggs – chocolate or otherwise Easter. Whether you eat them or display them, they can sometimes weekend you will have a chance to learn some traditional eggdecorating techniques at Hillary House National Historic Site.

On Saturday, April 9, the Aurora Historical Society (AHS) will host an Easter Egg Decorating Workshop at the Yonge Street landmark from 1

3 p.m. Fun for the whole family, it's an opportunity to try out a variety of decorating techniques to create six of your own blown Easter Eggs.

Twenty-dollars per person or \$10 - have become synonymous with for children, tickets purchased in advance include all materials.

"We're really excited to have be miniature works of art and this events back at Hillary House," says AHS curator Kathleen Vahev. "It's been two long years of COVID and we have been able to do some inperson events, but it's just nice to be picking that back up as restrictions ease a little bit and especially events that target families and kids.

"Each participant will have a half-

dozen eggs to decorate and we have David Galbraith on A Place to multiple ways they can do that. The creativity is up to each participant, so we will have everything they need to dye eggs, as well as paints and markers."

create different textures and designs as well," says Museum Intern Grace Armstrong. "It's a combination of a bunch of different things to let Freedom Trail, a testament to the people be creative and it is very hands-on-oriented as well, which I am sure people will like. Having done things virtually for so long, having a really interactive in-person event is something we're really excited about!"

Vahey says she wants "people to go wild with their creativity" and the last thing the AHS wants to do is "stifle" anyone.

run wild," she says, adding that Hillary House still has a mask policy in place, so if you get up and walk around, that will be time to mask up.

If your paint and dyeing techniques are as wild as your creativity, both Vahey and Armstrong participants to dress accordingly.

"Since we will be using dye and paint, make sure you're not dressed in any well-loved clothing that you would be upset if something splashed on it, or bring a big t-shirt to put on over your clothes – especially little kids that might want to get their hands dirty so that way people is our fundraiser golf tournament can decorate their eggs free of any anxiety over making a mess."

The Easter Egg Decorating Workshop is the start of a busy spring season for the Aurora Historical Society.

On April 27, the AHS' speaker will continue with Dr. other initiatives, visit aurorahs.com. series

Grow: A History of Gardening in Ontario, a virtual presentation that will complement the ongoing exhibition of the same name that is currently installed in the Hillary "Sponges and some bubble wrap House Ballroom. The series will continue on May 25, again over Zoom, with Rochelle Bush who will speak on Discovering Niagara's Underground Railroad.

> In-person activities will resume on Sunday, May 8 with A Mother's Day Afternoon Tea at Hillary House, in partnership with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

> Priced at \$31.50 per person, two seatings of this full high tea will be offered.

"The tea will be held inside "You can let your imagination Hillary House - unless the weather is spectacular come the beginning of May," says Vahey, "but we intend to have it inside with the ambiance of the historic house. It's a full high tea of desserts, scones, sandwiches, and a little for moms."

> But that's not all. As spring gives way to summer, the AHS will be relaunch a fundraiser for the first time since 2007, one they hope will bring in thousands which will be met through a matching donation program approved last year by Aurora Council.

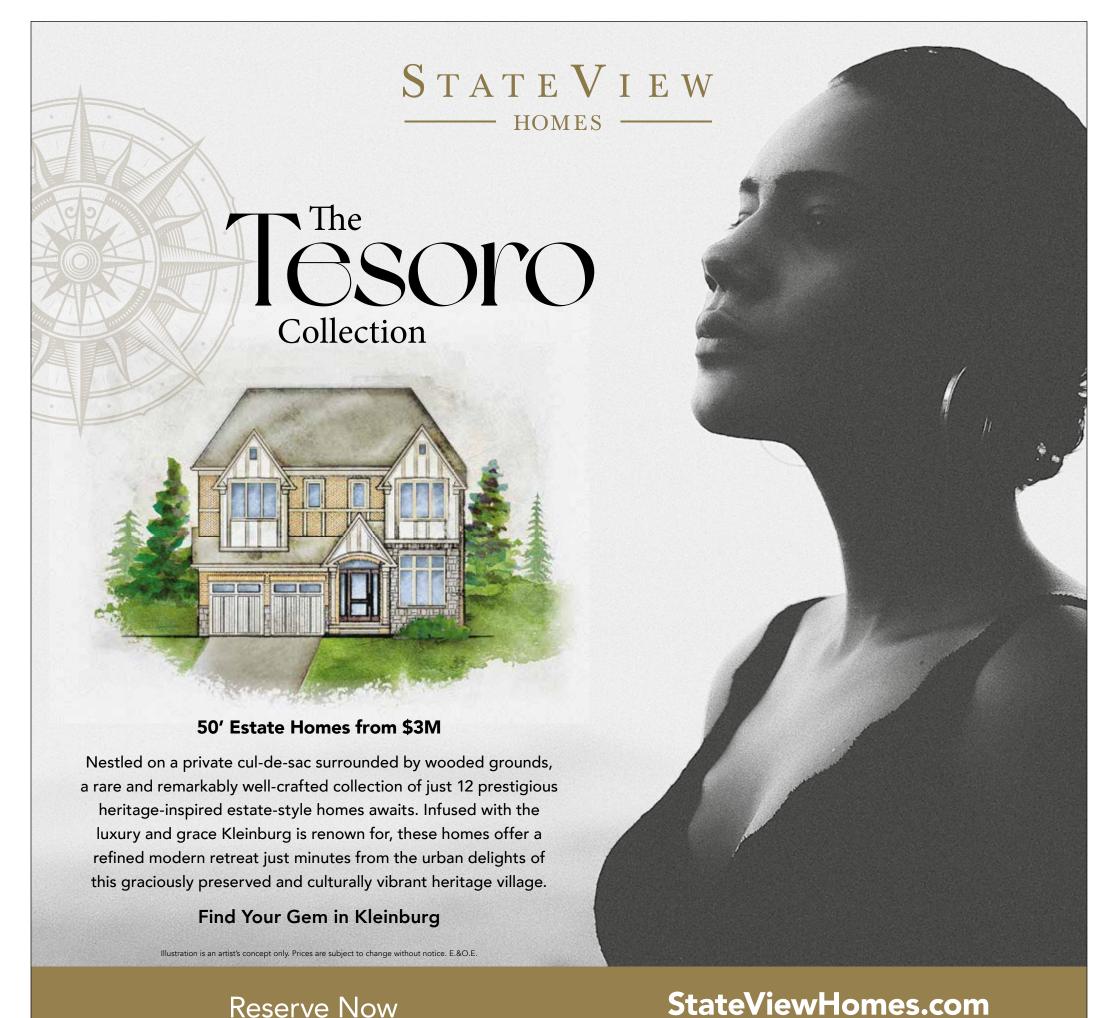
> "Our next big event after the tea at Westview Golf Club on June 24. If you're interested in golf and would like to support our restoration efforts at Hillary House, this is a big fundraiser for us this year."

For more information on these and many



LIVE FROM AURORA – Sarah Hagen's "Perk up, pianist!" show was the first live performing arts show to be hosted this season by the Aurora Cultural Centre. Hagen's concert took place at the Aurora Armoury, which will be taken over by the Centre this Thursday, April 7, for a concert with Leela Gilday, part of the Centre's Signature Series. For more, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.

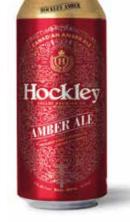
Photo courtesy of the Aurora Cultural Centre





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More stringent rules coming for short-term rentals in Aurora

BY BROCK WEIR **EDITOR** LOCAL JOURNALISM

More stringent rules will soon be on the books for owners and operators of short-term rental units in Aurora.

Last week, Council voted to proceed with the formal drafting of a new Short-Term Rental Bylaw.

Targeted at units being rented out individually or through third-party sites like Airbnb and Expedia, the

bylaw, according to the Town, will "implement various requirements on short-term rental property owners and operators, such as obtaining a license with the Town to ensure safety, maintenance and upkeep of licensed properties."

The new bylaw, once formally enacted, will also bring into place a "rental compliance monitoring system" that will be used by municipal staff in the Bylaw department to allow residents to file complaints associated with short-term rentals.

Moving forward with drafting the bylaw was approved unanimously by Council, but after a healthy debate, local lawmakers said the bylaw can only be enacted once it comes back at Council for one further review.

Councillor Michael Thompson, for instance, questioned staff's recommendations on putting in a demerit system that would penalize owners of short-term rentals for a variety of infractions. If a noise complaint, for instance, was received at the Town, and the complaint was found to be valid, the property owner will receive demerit points on its license.

"This process is intended to hold operators accountable and ensure continued compliance with bylaws and Provincial acts while also mitigating impacts to the general community," said Bylaw Manager Alexander Wray in a report to Council.

But Councillor Thompson Gaertner: reiterated his concerns that demerit points might not have lasting consequences.

"At General Committee, I spoke about the demerit system and how I felt about the seven points being associated with it when the business license has been revoked," said. "[The report] talks about the accumulated demerit points being reset annually. I think there are some that should not be reset annually. If they have an infraction against the fire code, if they are operating with a suspended or revoked license, I don't see [that] getting reset annually."

Stiffer fines should be considered and is something he said he wanted to see when a formal bylaw comes forward.

Councillors nevertheless agreed that moving forward with a bylaw was in the best interests of "protecting residents."

thing," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes, noting similar bylaws have been passed in nearby communities like Newmarket, Georgina and Vaughan. "We need to protect ourselves. At the end of the day, that is what this is all about, and protecting the owners. I hope it becomes a very positive implementation. There's a lot of work and engagement with

This is protecting residents against any unwanted issues that could be associated with this. [Bed and Breakfasts] are terrific and it would help generate some tourism, but it is very important that the residents and their quality of life is not affected

this. I am sure there will be others moving forward but, until then, I am supportive of the motion."

Added Councillor Wendy "This is protecting residents against any unwanted issues that could be associated with this. [Bed and Breakfasts] are terrific and it would help generate some tourism, but it is very important that the residents and their quality of life is not affected. I would like to see more points with respect to posting the business license and also with respect to also a contravention of the Building Code Act [because] that speaks to safety."

Also supporting the drafting of the Bylaw was Mayor Tom Mrakas.

"I don't think any of us disagree with the fact that allowing residents to rent a room, make some extra income, help pay for their property, possibly, that those are all good things," he said. "At the same time, we have an obligation to minimize any risk or negative impacts to our community, to our established neighbourhoods, to the residents "I think we're doing the right who live there. That's our obligation. I think by creating a bylaw that does that, that is fair, I think that is something we need to put forward and...those are details that are going to be fleshed out.

> "When [the draft bylaw comes back, we can look] at moving forward with a proper bylaw that minimizes those negative impacts to our community."

Should the draft bylaw be approved by Council when it is brought forward, it would require all shortterm rentals (STR) and bed and breakfasts to obtain a business license and post a sign on their property identifying it as a business. Only one STR or B&B will be permitted on a lot and within one dwelling unit. One off-street parking space will be required for each bedroom rented out. A maximum limit of six guests will also be put in place.

"Recent data suggests that there is approximately 56 – 115 unique STR properties in Aurora," said Wray. "This number fluctuates seasonally and can be impacted by community events, seasonal travel trends, sports tournaments, etc.

"On average, Aurora's STRs charge an average of \$113 CDN per night. 68 per cent of Aurora listings are classified as Single-Family Homes with 64 per cent of listings advertising the entire home for rent. This translates to, on average, between 36-74 entire home listings at any given time."





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Garages, pool houses could help families care for seniors, provide for youth amid housing crunch

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM

The process is now underway to determine whether families in Aurora will be allowed to turn buildings on their properties, like garages and pool cabanas, into standalone dwellings to help not only with the housing crunch but also in allowing seniors to age in place.

Council last week unanimously approved a motion from Councillor Rachel Gilliland calling on staff to review "appropriate locations" in the community that would allow for these "accessory dwellings" to take root on residential properties.

In her motion, Councillor Gilliland said permitting these accessory dwellings might go a long way in giving families options in caring for their seniors and providing a place to live for younger members of the family who are unable to break into the housing market.

"Our OP (Official Plan) doesn't have any enabling policies to allow for accessory dwellings," said Councillor Gilliland last week. "Since last summer, I was knocking on some doors and received some emails and calls specifically about this need and it's evident that we need more options like that for the community, today more than ever. It's no secret the cost of living has skyrocketed, such as gas, food and energy, we're seeing a 30-year high of 5.7 per cent inflation rates and possibly even climbing even higher. Most importantly, housing prices [have] ballooned to almost a national average of \$900,000 and this is reflecting about a 30 per cent jump in just one year alone. I really don't know how this next generation of kids are really going to manage.

"There are two glaring scenarios that I have heard from residents where families need support now more than ever and options to help fill these housing [gaps] and care for loved ones. I am most certain if this room was filled with young adults over 30 that most would agree they are finding themselves in their parents' basements. Why? Rent is simply too high. The cost of a home is completely unreachable and student debt combined with the

cost of living has become completely unmanageable.

"The second scenario, which I am sure each family can relate to is [care for elderly parents]. Why are these things happening? They can't afford a for-profit retirement home, there is no room for subsidized long-term care or they simply don't qualify."

Options for these accessory units could be found in cabanas, pool houses and garden, carriage, or coach houses, she said.

Now, she added, is an ideal time for Aurora to consider putting these exemptions in place as the Town continues to update and re-draft the OP

"Families need options to care for their loved ones and enacting enabling policies for accessory dwellings can offset this demand where deemed appropriate," she continued, noting that "appropriate" means locations that would offer off-street parking and lot coverage. "This is not intended to be a blanket policy, rather to identify areas where it would be a good, safe fit. This could identify maybe only three or five per cent of properties, but by eliminating this red tape to allow people to have these immediate options to care and support loved ones is something we can help right now."

This was a view shared by Council, including Councillor Sandra Humfryes who said going down this road would suit many families.

"I just want to make sure it is done properly," she said.

From the perspective of Councillor Harold Kim, there is little debate that "creativity" is needed to add "much needed livable space in any municipality – but proceeding should be done with caution.

"Varying municipalities have initiated this initiative with varying degrees of success and acceptance by local residents," he said. "We always like the idea of having a park and more intensification in theory, but in reality, some people may not go for it when it is happening in their back yard."

Councillor Kim sought assurances that full public consultation would take place, assurances that were given by Director of Planning Marco Ramunno.

For Mayor Tom Mrakas and

Councillor Michael Thompson, however, it was all about location.

"One of the key components [here] is being able to identify where it is deemed appropriate," said Councillor Thompson. "I don't think it is suitable for all areas of Aurora, but the criteria we establish...will be an important facet of this policy; to be able to provide that kind of direction and be able to see how staff are able to navigate these waters and identify a criteria that makes sense."

Added Mayor Mrakas: "I think it is beneficial that we ensure we find out what are the locations within our municipality that we would allow for these accessory dwellings to be permitted." It's no secret the cost of living has skyrocketed, such as gas, food and energy, we're seeing a 30-year high of 5.7 per cent inflation rates and possibly even climbing even higher. Most importantly, housing prices [have] ballooned to almost a national average of \$900,000 and this is reflecting about a 30 per cent jump in just one year alone. I really don't

know how this next generation of

kids are really going to manage



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

and freedom.

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of the IRGC. Think about the future generations that have to live in fear from the IRGC by such proposed action

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AURORA MUSIC ACADEMY has helped students of all ages begin and continue their musical journey. They offer private lessons on all popular instruments, including voice. They know you are busy and it can be very hard to find a reliable music teacher. That's why they go above and beyond to find the best music teachers in the Aurora area—so you don't have to! Their staff consists of experienced music teachers, capable of teaching all ages and levels. They constantly renovate and improve their facilities as well as provide on-going support to their instructors to ensure they are always providing their students and parents with the best possible musical experience.



Marquee Theatrical Productions was founded in 2003 by its current Executive Director, Sheryl Thomas. They are an award-winning, registered charitable, community theatre group and performing arts school, located in Aurora. Their goal is to inspire excellence, motivate learning, uplift the human spirit, build confidence and spark a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

By helping children develop their artistic talents and coaching them to strive for excellence, they teach them how to achieve – in the performing arts, in school, and ultimately in life. They strive to provide an environment that meets the needs of all children. They believe in the interconnection of physical, mental, social and emotional health and work hard to provide an environment that promotes holistic health and wellness.



THE AURORA SOCCER CLUB is back in full force for the 2022 House
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Have you registered yet to play House League soccer this Summer?

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Register early to take advantage of the lower prices.









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SPRING GUIDE 2022



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Aurora Minor Hockey Association

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2022/2023 REGISTRATION

On-Line Registration begins: April 15, 2022

Please refer to our website at www.auroraminorhockey.com for Rep tryout policies and schedules. REGISTRATION fees for the 2022/2023 season are:

Early Bird Registration Fee

\$650.00 Players born 2002 through 2016*

\$325.00 Players born 2017* and 2018*

Registration fees increase \$100 on August 1, 2022 for returning players only.

\$60.00 Non-Resident Fee (for players born 2016-2002 only) **\$30.00** Non-Resident Fee (for players born 2017-2018 only)

* New players with Aurora Minor Hockey must submit a copy of a birth certificate or passport and proof of residency by email to amhaoperations@on.aibn.com. The Respect in Sport Parent program must also be completed for ALL new players to the AMHA before registering. Details are on our website.

A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.

Refunds will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2022 (less a \$25 admin fee).

Players MUST be registered PRIOR to any tryouts for AAA or any AMHA rep team. Tryout passport information will be available online in April 2022.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

Guaranteed spots are available ONLY to players registered on or before June 30, 2022.

We will not add teams in September to accommodate late registrants.

Exploring "Green Development" standards greenlit at Council table

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR

INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora could soon place more emphasis on green building standards and protecting the tree canopy when it comes to future development and building.

Council last week tasked staff with reviewing the Official Plan and other municipal policies already in place with an eye of "strengthening protective language around green development standards and tree canopy protection."

The decision came through a motion put forward by Councillor Wendy Gaertner who said it was a particularly important direction to take in light of climate change.

"Recent events worldwide and in Canada clearly show that climate change is causing disastrous consequences for communities," said Councillor Gaertner in her motion. "Adaptation and mitigation are crucial for residents' safety and quality of life. Trees and green infrastructure are critical to mitigate climate change impacts like storms that could cause flooding and tree canopies are important to mitigate the urban heat island effect and to decrease atmospheric carbon through sequestration."

At the Council table last week, she added, "I think we take our trees for granted and I think we have to stop doing that because they are so valuable in many aspects of climate change."

"We just have to look at everything we have in place and make sure it is as good as it can be to protect the trees."

The Councillor's motion reflected discussions that took place in February at a meeting of Aurora's Environmental Advisory Committee.

There, members reviewed previously-commissioned study Aurora's natural assets – trees, wetlands, green spaces – which found these spaces contributed a value of \$7.4 million in services to the community each year.

"Without the values of Aurora's natural capital assets, it is possible that the overall budget of the Town could potentially be increased by \$7.4 million, which is a 12.4 per cent increase per year, to replicate or replace the ecosystem services and other benefits that Aurora's Natural Capital Assets

provide," reads the report.

"Protection in investing Natural Capital Assets, along with the implementation of Low **Impact** Development (LID) standards can yield significant overall economic benefits to the Town of Aurora. These include environmental benefits...as well as the significant physical and mental health benefits associated with reduction of greenhouse gases, promotion of active transportation/recreational pursuits, and appreciation of nature."

The Committee, however, said it was time to take a second look at the report.

"I saw the numbers and I think they are vastly understated if anyone was to look at it now," said Committee member Colin Brown. "They are learning more and more about how valuable it is and how irreplaceable it is. I am not quite sure how the dollar value was considered or how it is applied, but it certainly should be updated because the numbers, even with just a cursory look, [is] vastly understated."

This was a view shared by fellow Committee member Sam Cunningham who said the numbers were not only outdated but did not reflect valuable pieces missing from the overall puzzle.

"It is so outdated," she said. "[The original report] was so buzzword heavy in terms of 'carbon sequestration, 'it mitigates pollution', but I would love to see actual details because they do so much more than that. Golf courses weren't considered under the broader umbrella [as a natural asset] but the fact they are being presented as contributing to ecosystem services is just off-the-charts crazy to me because, yes, agriculture does have some carbon but it is not talking about the broader impacts. It mentions that golf courses have negative impacts, but oftentimes

the benefits are outweighed by the pollution [like] fertilizer and that is something I would like to see if this paper was updated...

"We get trapped a lot in the world of thinking the natural area preserves itself in its own area and that it is immune to the development around it. That is crazy untrue. If you develop around a wetland, the wetland decreases exponentially in terms of its ecosystem services. I love that we're talking about this, but there are a couple of key details in the [report] that are huge red flags to me."

Cunningham said any revised plan should provide a "baseline" on the ecological health of the natural resources in question while also highlighting the value of these natural assets "as they stand."

Back at the Council table last week, Councillor Michael Thompson questioned whether reviewing green policies has been part of the Town's ongoing review of its new Official

"We certainly have been looking at various green policies and our standards in Town," he said, directing his statement to Director of Building Marco Ramunno. "Can I make the assumption that we're already considering providing some strengthening, considering Council took the position of declaring a Climate Emergency and so forth?

"I think it is great that we're highlighting that in this motion [but] I would expect that staff were already doing this to some degree."

Mr. Ramunno said that was a "fair statement."

The motion carried unanimously.





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No Frills, Optimists fill Food Pantry's freezer, addressing food trends and needs

BY BROCK WEIR **EDITOR** LOCAL JOURNALISM

Clients of the Aurora Food Pantry will have some further fresh options thanks to the Joe and Val's No Frills and the Optimist Club of Aurora.

This past winter, the local grocery store on Yonge Street at Murray Drive teamed up with the Optimists for Fill the Freezer, an effort to collect hundreds of pounds of food to fill the Pantry's new walk-in freezer, all the while collecting donations from customers at the cash registers that would only further their efforts to provide for families in need.

The results of the campaign – hundreds of pounds of freshly-frozen vegetables, fish, meat and more, not to mention a healthy infusion of cash – were delivered to the Aurora Food Pantry on Friday afternoon by grocers Joe Cappiello and Valerie Lemoustre and a host of local Optimists.

"It's awesome to be able to give back to the people who need it and they do great work," said Cappiello of the Food Pantry. "There is obviously a great need for the people in the community and there's so much food that goes to waste which shouldn't go to waste."

Aurora Food Pantry Board Chair Allison



On hand for the Fill the Freezer donation were, from left, Optimists Sandra Watson, Diane Buchanan and Sandy Bundy, Allison Stuart and Sandra Seepaul of the Aurora Food Pantry, Optimist Stu Bundy, and Joe Cappiello and Valerie Lemoustre of No Frills. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Stuart said the donation helped the food bank meet today's needs, but these needs are always fluctuating and needs might be very different tomorrow.

"By having a walk-in freezer, which is just amazing, we're able to respond to some of those fluid needs in a greater way than we were before," she said. "People are getting the message that we've been told many times that fresh food is good for you and it is easy to use. Clients are feeling more comfortable asking for that, and also asking for what they're used to. What did you grow up with? If you grew up and canned goods just weren't part of your diet, they're

unlikely to be very attractive to you now.

"It's the look on the clients' face when we have [what they're familiar with]. Before the pandemic started, there was a new couple coming in who hadn't been here before. They were international and taking them around I saw something I couldn't read and said, 'Would this be of any interest?' The woman started to cry. I thought, 'What have I done now?' Her husband explained to me that in fact this was a really popular snack where she came from and to see it and to have it available when she was coming into the food bank for the very first time was a really important moment for her.

"We want to make more people cry in a good way!"

"Happy tears," said Lemoustre.

Board member Maureen Casey said everyone "deserves to have healthy food" and for the Food Pantry to be able to offer that is something simple that will go a long

"Everyone deserves healthy food, not just whatever is available, regardless of where you are in life right now," she said. "That's something we're trying to do: we want to ensure that all products are provided, but if we can offer some

additional healthy, nutritious alternatives, why shouldn't we? Health goes a long way and the pride of being able to provide quality, healthy food is just as important to us as it is for them."

In recognition of the partnership and the donation, following the delivery the Aurora Food Pantry presented No Frills and the Optimists with a special plaque that will be given pride of place inside their place of operations on Industrial Parkway South, right next to the walk-in freezer.

"This is our way of saying thank you to No Frills and, of course, the Optimist Club, in terms of all the work that you do," said Stuart in her presentation. "Even when I phone you on a Friday and say, 'I need 120-dozen eggs!'

"We really feel it is important that the people in Aurora know when they donate to the Aurora Food Pantry the food is coming here and it is going out to people who are living in Aurora and north Oak Ridges who are in need. It's a matter of give where you live and supporting your neighbours."

For more on how to support or access the Aurora Food Pantry, along with an updated list of current needs, visit aurorafoodpantry.ca.



The plaque will hang near the door to the Food Pantry's walk-in freezer. Auroran photo by Brock Weir







An artists' rendering of the extension to the Church Street School building, now under construction on Victoria Street.

Image courtesy of the Town of Aurora

Town Square, Sports Dome naming rights to be sold amid Council concerns

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Selling the naming rights to any facility can bring in significant

revenue, and components of Aurora Town Square and the Aurora Sports Dome are no exception – but setting the rules of the game was a challenge faced by Council last week.

Last Tuesday, Council voted in

favour of moving forward with for the Aurora Sports Dome," said negotiating the sale of naming rights to several components of the Development for the Town of Aurora, Aurora Town Square redevelopment including the outdoor gathering space, the Church Street Schoolhouse, and the bridge connecting the expansion to the historic Church Street Building to the nearby Aurora Public Library.

Also up for grabs following Council's approval is a name sale opportunity for the Aurora Sports Dome, the sports facility on Industrial Parkway North which the Town purchased last

While Council members agreed that the sale of naming rights would bring funds into Town coffers, the road to get there was far from unanimous.

Councillor Although Wendy Gaertner objected specifically to selling off the naming rights to some components of the Town Square development, Councillors Rachel Gilliland and John Gallo said their decision should be reserved until to "keep the lines of communication municipal staff finish drafting a new open" when it came to negotiations. Town-wide policy on naming rights large and small – including benches in the Aurora Arboretum.

"I am fine with the Town Square Bridge renaming and I am fine with the naming of the theatre, which I don't see on this list, but with respect to the Church Street School House, to me that has to just remain and I am not in favour of naming the outdoor square," said Councillor Gaertner. "It is the Aurora Town Square and I believe that is the name it should

Councillor Gaertner voted against staff recommendations on the whole, but the three Councillors specifically voted against a clause which would task staff with "initiating negotiations with potential partners for the purpose of naming the Aurora Town Square Bridge Outdoor Square, and Church Street School House."

Waiting for a Naming Rights policy to come back was also cited as a reason to vote against similar recommendations on the Aurora Sports Dome.

"An existing recreation facility advertising and sponsorship client has expressed interest in entering into a naming rights sponsorship agreement this time.

John Firman, Manager of Business in a report to Council. "Initial discussions confirmed that this client is very serious about pursuing this and finalizing an agreement as soon as possible.

"Negotiations would include details related to the naming of the facility, financial commitment from the prospective sponsor, terms of sponsorship, sponsorship recognition, and designation of the sponsorship funds."

"This is a very awkward time because we're still in the middle of developing a naming rights policy and ironing out our sponsorship opportunities," said Councillor Gilliland. "While I am in full support of that, at the same time, I think we really need to ensure our policy is in place so we...know those rules of engagement."

Councillor Gilliland said she wanted but Councillor Michael Thompson questioned what was meant by that.

"We have expressed ourselves in closed session with regards to what we're looking for," he said. "We have tasked staff in trying to achieve that and coming back with something along those lines, if possible. Then Council would make a decision."

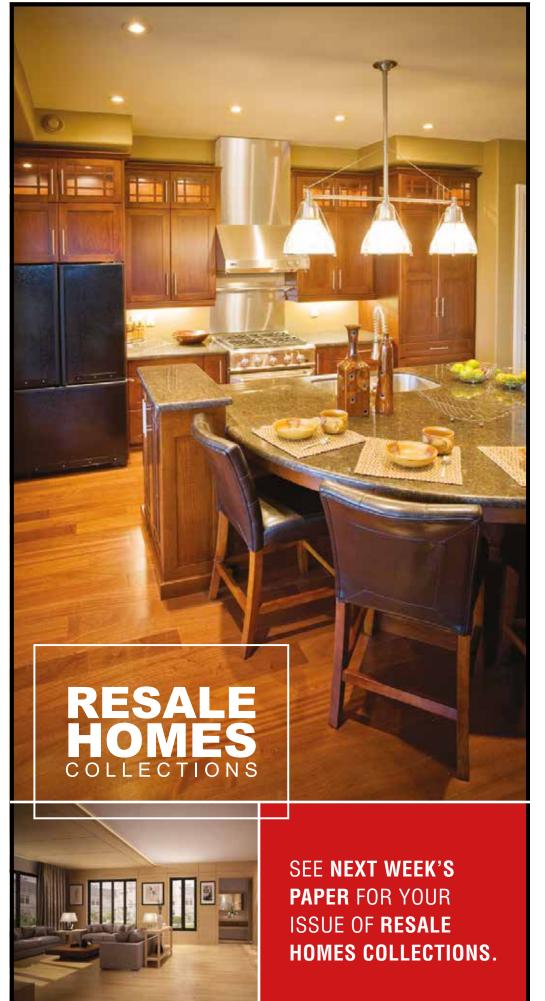
Councillor Gallo, meanwhile, said that while he was "leaning towards completing a policy before we move forward with any particular entity" he successfully requested the word "sponsor" be changed to "sponsors" so as to "leave the door open" for options at Council.

"I think, from my perspective, at least it is a direct communication to staff that this is the direction I would like to see it go in," he said. "If that takes a little more time, I think it is worth spending that time."

Added Mayor Tom Mrakas: "We want to make sure we get the best possible deal for our community and the Town and I think that is what Council is striving for here."

Ultimately, Councillor Gilliland was the lone vote against moving forward with the Sports Dome opportunity at







First Nations children deserve more than words, says Indigenous storyteller

From page 1

have experienced, particularly in the residential schools. It's chilling to think of determined efforts to instill a sense of inferiority, to rob people of their cultural identity, to sever their roots and to consider all the pertinent personal and social efforts that this continues to entail unresolved traumas that have become intergenerational traumas.

"All this has made me feel two things very strongly — indignation and shame; indignation because it is not right to accept evil and, even worse, to grow accustomed to evil, as if it were an inevitable part of the historical process. No! Without real indignation, without historical memory and without a commitment to learning from past mistakes, problems remain unresolved and keep coming back. We can see this these days in the case of war. The memory of the past must never be sacrificed at the altar of alleged progress.

"I also feel shame. I have said this to you and now I'm repeating it, sorrow and shame, for the role that a number of Catholics, particularly those with educational responsibilities, have had in all these things that wounded you, in the abuses you suffered and in the lack of respect shown for your identify, your culture and even your spiritual values. All these things are contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the deplorable conduct of these members of the Catholic Church, I ask for God's forgiveness and I want to say to you with all my heart: I am very sorry. And I join my brothers, the Canadian bishops, in asking your pardon."

Pontiff's apology recognized by leaders across the country, including Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario Elizabeth Dowdeswell who said she followed the delegations of First Nations, Inuit and Metis and was "moved by the delegation's courage and perseverance.

"The Pope's apology, 'I ask for God's forgiveness, and I want to say to you with all my heart, I am very sorry,' is an important and powerful step on the path to reconciliation we must all walk," she said.

Responding to the statement, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the day it was made was "about the survivors, their families, and those who never came home."

"This week, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis leaders, Survivors, and youth travelled to the Vatican to continue urging the Catholic Church for an apology, which was an immense display of bravery and determination," said Trudeau in a statement. "This apology would not have happened without the Survivors who told their truths directly to one of the institutions responsible, and recounted and relived their painful memories. For decades, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis have been calling on the Pope to recognize the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse their children endured while attending these residential schools. For decades, they have been waiting for an apology.

"Today's apology is a step forward in acknowledging the truth of our past. We cannot separate the legacy of the residential school system from the institutions that created, maintained, and operated it, including the Government of Canada and the Catholic Church. Today's apology will resurface strong emotions of hurt and trauma for many. The government will continue to support Indigenous communities across the country with the funding and resources they need to continue to search for unmarked burial sites, uncover the truth of what happened at residential schools, and continue

on their healing journey."

But for Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley, the words are just the tip of the iceberg on what is needed going forward on this journey.

not alleviated with an apology," she said. "Our people deserve far more, like the names of the children buried, the release of all records pertaining to and walk their talk with more of an hours a day at 1-866-925-4419.

them, the complex support needed to support healing in our communities both on and off reserve, and the list

"It's outrageous that only now is an apology being issued but no "Legalized criminal behaviour is meat and potatoes to go with it, and we all know the Catholic Church is the richest organization in the world. They need to do much better

apology."

HAVE YOUR SAY - Did the Pope's apology go far enough? What more should be done on the path of Truth & Reconciliation? Share your thoughts at brock@lpcmedia.ca.

If you need someone to talk to, please reach out to the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line, which is available 24



FLYING THE FLAG – On Friday, members and staff of the York Region District School Board and Autism Ontario hosted a special ceremony outside its Wellington Street West headquarters to raise the Autism Ontario flag. World Autism Day was held on April 2 and the theme of this year's commemoration was "celebrate the spectrum.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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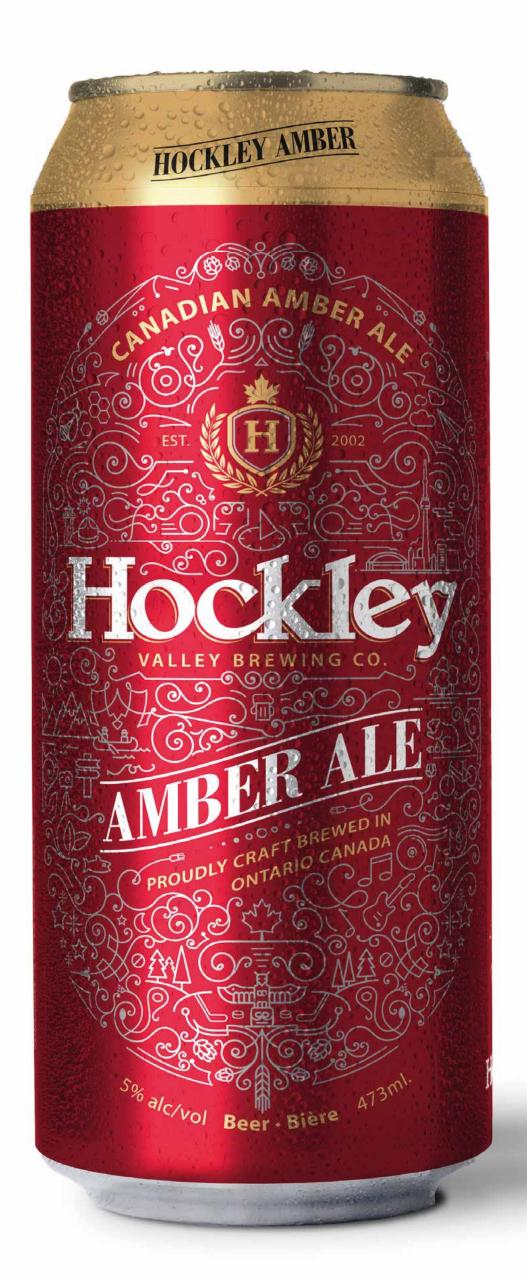












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To that end, we are able to tap into a rich, longstanding culture in which boys are able to explore, in safety, the breadth of the human condition, and their unique place within it. In this school culture, artistry and creativity are not labelled as 'feminine;' but rather as human.

Eloquence, both written and spoken, is expected. Self-reflection and the quest for meaning is built into the fabric of the daily routine, whether through Chapel or our Advisory program.

But there is more to it than that. Boys carry a natural wariness for things that are not genuine, and become bored easily when the activity at hand does little to forward their own sense of meaning. To that end, our teachers create an authentic curriculum; help boys find purpose in life; train them to care for themselves and others; and endow them with a sense of personal commitment and integrity. These goals become more realizable in a culture that presupposes one can be much more than what can be offered by the limiting stereotypes of masculinity. «





THE AURORAN

SECTION B

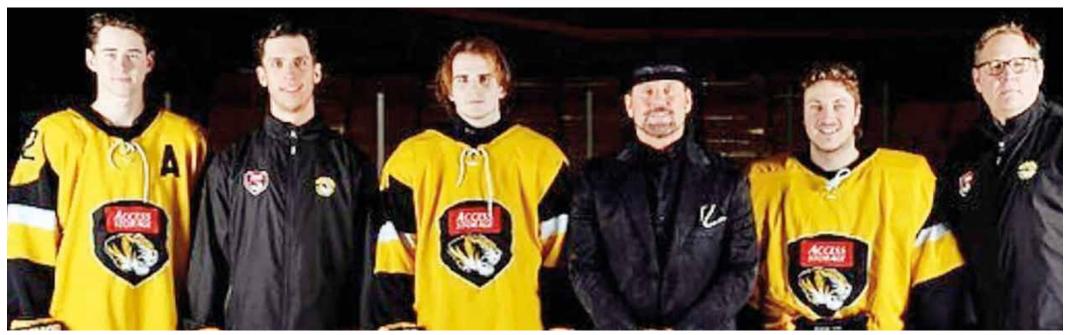
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The Auroran.com FREE Week of April 7, 2022





Aurora Tigers gearing up for postseason, honour their graduate players

Pictured here are Hollander Thompson, assistant coach Robert Powers, Blake Frost, Team Governor Jim Thomson, goaltender Nolan Boyd and head coach Greg Johnston. The group photo was taken to celebrate the three players who are graduating from the OJHL.

Photo courtesy of the Tigers

By Robert Belardi

The Aurora Tigers finished off the Ontario Junior Hockey League regular season with a 10-0 annihilation of the Oakville Blades and a nail-biting 5-4 loss to the Pickering Panthers.

The Tigers, ended off the year with a 25-23-2-4 record.

In quite the eventful week, the team saw Blake Frost, Hollander Thompson and Nolan Boyd play their final regular season matches in the OJHL.

Frost has committed to the Nazareth Golden Flyers in Div. III NCAA hockey and Boyd has committed to York University. Thompson has yet to make his decision.

It couldn't have been more of storybook ending for these players. Both Thompson and Frost secured hattricks, and Boyd earned his third shutout of the season against the Blades.

"Obviously 10-nothing, the guys feel really good about that. Oakville had some APs dressed and some players out of their lineup. They've been battling hard to get a playoff spot secured so they rested a few players and our guys took advantage of that," said head coach Greg Johnston.

"The loss against Pickering, I thought, was a really good game. Pickering played well, we played well. Yes, we did lose, they won, but it was a good hockey game [with the] ebb and flow I wish every good hockey game has. They had some push, we had some push. We just came up on the short side on the scoreboard. A couple of things we need to tidy up, but I'm really happy with the guys. Overall, it was a good hockey game. Good one to go into the playoffs with."

Heading into the playoffs, it has been a guarantee for some time the Tigers were going to play the Collingwood Colts. The last time the Tigers played the Colts, the game ended in a 1-1 draw.

Coming into this one, there will be little margin for error.

It will be a three-game series against the Colts, beginning on Sunday in Collingwood at 1.30 p.m. and Game Two in Aurora next Wednesday.

Should the series need three games, Game Three will take place next Friday in Collingwood.

"You can't afford a slow start or a bad period. It's quick. These last couple of weeks have been really good for the guys to kind of, get focused on their details and attention to what our goals are. We're playing a tough team in Collingwood who are looking to do the same thing. In my opinion, it should be a very good series."

Prior to being the head coach of the Tigers, Johnston was the head coach of the Collingwood Colts. However, the majority of the Colts' current roster is vastly different than his time with the club.

Colts goaltender Noah Pak is one of the best in the OJHL. His 22-16-1 record is ranked fourth in the league, accompanied by four shutouts and a 2.28 GAA.

The Tigers will have to get as much traffic as they can in front of him and of course, that won't be particularly easy.

The Colts' top defenseman, Ricards Landmanis, will be quite a handful. The 6-foot-6, Ventspils, Latvia native leads all defenseman on the team with nine goals and 18 assists on the year.

"He's the key on their back end no question. He plays a lot of minutes, a lot of key minutes, and a lot of key roles. Let's face it, you have a player of that stature, you won't get them off their game. You'll have to make it hard on him and tough on him to play. But we hope to do that with everybody," Johnston said.

It's an exciting time for the Tigers and fans in the community. The majority of the club's players, will be taking part in the OJHL playoffs for the first time in their careers.

The last time the Tigers made the playoffs was in the 2018/2019 campaign, when the club took on the old rival Newmarket Hurricanes in the first round.

The last time the organization won the Buckland Cup was back in 2007.

























Caring For Our Community **newroads.ca**

Former local coach wants everyone to be confident in themselves

By Robert Belardi

When you listen to Dr. Ivan Joseph speak in his TEDx Talk with RyersonU, The Skill of Self-Confidence, you are reminded why there is no place for negativity.

That little voice in your mind or the little guy on your shoulder is to be ousted from your life immediately. They are both a hinderance to your true capability.

Dr. Joseph realized the true power of self-confidence when he was playing soccer at Grayson University.

Benched by his coach following a red-card in one of his matches, Dr. Joseph had been hit in the head by a

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believe I was any good. I started acting as if what happened was I gave my power away. I let somebody else believe I wasn't any good. That's the first time I realized the power of selfconfidence," Dr. Joseph said.

"When we stop believing in ourselves we act differently. I said, 'Whoa, I need to study this.' All of a sudden, I became a starter, the captain, all-conference, all because of the way I changed how I thought about myself. That fueled me to think about how I approach everything in life."

It is the reason why Dr. Joseph was able to earn a BA in Physical Education and Health, a Masters in Higher Education Administration and a Ph. D., in Sports Psychology. It is the reason that he became a national champion as the Director of Athletics at Ryerson University and credited for the \$100-million renovation of Maple Leaf Gardens.

Now, as the Vice President of student affairs at Wilfrid Laurier University, he is also the head coach of the Guvanese senior women's national team. With an all-important match against Nicaragua on April 8, in the 2022 CONCACAF World Cup qualifiers, a victory, would see the Lady Jags advance to take on Trinidad and Tobago, who they have never defeated before. If they defeat Trinidad, the lady Jags win Group F and move on the final eight teams.

For the Joseph family, things never began easily. Ivan and his sister waited for his parents to make enough money to bring them to Canada, and when they arrived at Jane and Finch in the 1970s, his father struggled to find a

"My dad was a McGill graduate, "Because I wasn't playing, I didn't but back in the 70s there was a lot of racial discrimination," Joseph said.

> "My dad, although he was 27-yearsold, had lots of experience as a sole scientist, had an Ivy league number one prestigious university degree, and couldn't get a job. He didn't have any Canadian experience. So, he had to hitch-hike from Jane and Finch, all the way to a farm in Maple, ON. He worked as a hired hand and sold encyclopedias on the side."

> Joseph joked that his father never left Jane Street. He moved from Jane and Finch, to Jane and Kirby, before eventually residing in King City at Jane and 17th Sideroad.

> Going to King City High School, Joseph said he grew up as a jock. He played all the sports and coming out of high school, he was offered a soccer and track and field scholarship at Grayson University.

> Forced to remain in Canada by his parents, Joseph flunked out of university in his first year.

> He eventually convinced his father a move to Grayson would work for him. So, he attended Grayson University, and from that point onward, he turned his life around.

> As a coach and as a mentor, Joseph has inspired NBA players, university athletes, university coaches, Olympic athletes and regular, every-day people. His TEDxTalk at RyersonU, garnered the attention of agents. He was even offered north of \$10,000 for an hour of speaking.

> Knowing he continues to make a difference in someone's life is the kind of happiness that he enjoys. He loves the messages that he sees in his emails. He's helped people overcome their own difficulties and inspired them

All of a sudden, I became a starter, the captain, all-conference, all because of the way I changed how I thought about myself. That fueled me to think about how I approach everything in life

to make the change within themselves. "I'm not some guru, I'm not Anthony Robbins, I'm not Oprah. What I am is a guy that really wanted people to believe in themselves," Joseph said.

"At the end of the day, our job is to leave this world better than we found it. I hope that my message helps believe in that."

So, to anyone, who doubts themselves because of someone else or debunks their own confidence simply because they might not believe they are capable, Joseph's words and his story are simply a reminder that you can accomplish anything as long as you believe in you. Whoever you are.

Following that step, everything will fall into place.

Joseph has over 24 million views on his TEDx Talk on YouTube. His speech earned a top-ten ranking by Forbes. He has also been an NAIA coach of the year.

His book, You Got This: Mastering the Skill of Self-Confidence, is available

Joseph owes it all to his family for all of their sacrifices. It is the reason he is where he is today.

For more information on Dr. Joseph, you can read all about him at www. drivanjoseph.com/



Public art should reflect diverse voices: forum

the views of industry leaders.

A panel discussion opened the communication lines with guest speakers Queen Kokoyi and Nico Taylor sharing their experiences in person, while Catherine Dean, Public Art Officer for the City of Toronto and Collin Zipp, Public Art Manager for STEPS Public Art joined remotely.

"Often when we're using buzzwords like 'inclusive' and 'equity,' we're not actually putting it into play," said Kokoyi. "Whatever you [the Town] do, get BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) to be a part of the decisionmaking process, even if they're not necessarily experts in public art."

This, cautioned Taylor, "might take some work."

"It is going to take effort because these are spaces they might not normally attend. You're going to have to knock on doors, you're going to have to entice them and continually reach out to say we want you here and to be able to get you there."

Ensuring communities like Aurora have an environment that fosters artists was a message delivered uniformly by panel members, including cutting red tape and providing spaces for artists to work.

While there is still much work to be done in drafting Aurora's Public Art Master Plan, last Thursday's forum provided Phil Rose, Manager for the Aurora Town Square Project, with plenty of food for thought.

Also tasked with steering the development of the plan, Mr. Rose says one of his takeaways is Aurora is interested in a variety of forms of public art, from murals, to permanent and temporary installations, and even sculpture. Participants also drove home the idea that public art can foster community dialogue.

"We expressed themes we might want to address through public art, everything from just celebrating the community and having something joyful to celebrate the form of a "little free art gallery" to more substantial issues like racial justice [and] Truth & Reconciliation," said Rose. "There were some folks who raised the need to address climate change and the environment through public art. What we were left with in that regard was a number of different perspectives on what people would like

"The other questions we asked is where people would like public art to go. There was actually a lot of diversity in the responses but... a lot of people thought they should go on major transit corridors and hubs like Yonge Street, the GO Station, the bus stop out at the 404 and Wellington, and the other one that people thought would be of interest was gateways into the community; having something that welcomes people as they come into the community that is

We expressed themes we might want to address through public art, everything from just celebrating the community and having something joyful to celebrate to more substantial issues like racial justice [and] T ruth & Reconciliation

artistic."

In this context, gateways include "highly visible intersections" like Yonge Street and St. John's Sideroad, Yonge and Bloomington Road, and near the 404 interchange.

"In a way, I thought that was kind of surprising – I thought there would be more interest in having them at key civic sites like Town Square, Town Hall and the Library," said Mr. Rose. "One thing that came up [which was also surprising] was the idea for smaller-to-mid-size communities [having] temporary public art and mentoring emerging artists. Temporary public art is oftentimes easier to create. It's less expensive than, say, a sculpture by a world-renowned artist that the City of Toronto might be able to afford. Temporary public art can be anywhere from a year up to 15 years, but it allows us to give the public something that changes and they can expect to change. It's not just a frozen moment in time that lives in the community forever like monuments; I think temporary public art is a way to address contemporary issues.

"There is [also] the need for emerging artists to have some kind of mentorship through the process. That can be a disincentive or a barrier for participation for a lot of artists. We want to be able to mentor artists through their process but give them art that changes and could be in different locations in the municipality."

One tangible piece of public art to come out of last week's session will take concept, similar to "little free lending libraries" that can be found on the lawns of homeowners and other locations. Last week's session included a chance for participants to get their hands dirty on various small pieces of art, the results of which will be found next month in a tiny gallery set to find its place at Town Park.

"We had artists and sculptors in the room and they were able to create some unique pieces of miniature art," said Rose. "Our plan is probably in the middle of May when I think the ground should be thawed enough that we can install the first art gallery at Town Park and there will be more information coming out about that. It's a cool way of introducing some public art that is participatory, interactive and really easy to get involved in."





Tom Mrakas

Well, Aurora, spring is here and it couldn't feel better!

As we welcome the sunshine and the warmer temperatures, we have a number of events planned for you to

First up is our annual Hello Spring event, which takes place over the Easter long weekend.

This is a family favourite for Aurorans with young kids and a great way to welcome spring - and the Easter Bunny. This event takes place at the Aurora Seniors' Centre on Saturday, April 16 and will feature themed outdoor and interactive activities such as planting your own spring flower to take home, fishing for eggs, a hopstacle course, nature toss game and more. You can even have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny!

Preregistration is required for this popular event. More details are available at: aurora.ca/hellospring.

Later in the month we also have our annual Community Clean Up.

As the snow melts, it is once again time to get our Town cleaned up and we need your help. Join us on Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sign up individually or as a cleanup@aurora.ca. at Participants will receive a cleanup kit (while supplies last) that includes two garbage bags, a recycling bag, one pair gloves and safety tips. I hope to see you out at one or both

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







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First savings on new Child Care deal will be retroactive to this month: Province

BY BROCK WEIR **EDITOR** LOCAL JOURNALISM

Local families could see an immediate savings of 25 per cent on child care, according to the Province, following a deal struck between the Province and the Federal Government on providing \$10 a day child care.

Ontario was the last province in Canada to sign onto the deal, one which was formally announced last week in Brampton.

The \$13.2 billion agreement will lower fees and "deliver an average of \$10 per day child care by September 2025.

The deal includes a reduction of child care fees through four phases of reduction to meet the target for kids five years and older. Parent rebates, retroactive to this month, will begin in May. It also includes, according to the Province, "protection of all for-profit child care spaces, helping support predominantly entrepreneurs across the Province who provide high-quality child care services, and the creation of 86,000 new spaces for children five and under.

"With the signing of today's agreement, we're making \$10aday child care a reality for families across country," said Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "Today's announcement will save Ontario families thousands of dollars each year - with fee reductions starting as of Friday this week - while creating jobs, growing the middle class, and giving our kids the best start in

Added Premier Doug Ford: "From day

one, I said our government wouldn't sign a deal that didn't work for Ontario parents and I'm so proud of the work we've done with our federal partners to land an agreement that will lower costs for families across the province. Given how complex Ontario's child care system is, we wanted to get this right. Today, we're delivering a deal that will keep money in the pockets of hard-working parents."

The first step will see families with kids five and under at licensed child care centres with fees reduced up to 25 per cent, to a minimum of \$12 per day, retroactive to April 1. The next step will be reached in December 2022 with another fee reduction.

"In total, fees for families will be reduced in 2022, on average, by 50 per cent, relieving parents of \$1.1 billion in child care costs," said the Province. "Families will see further fee reductions in September 2024, culminating in a final reduction to an average of \$10 a day child care by September 2025. To maintain the province's high quality of child care, the agreement also supports the recruitment of new early childhood educators, stable compensation for all Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) working in licensed child care, including RECEs providing child care for children six- to 12-years-old.

"Ontario will work with municipalities to enroll over 5,000 licensed child care centres and home child care agencies in the new program between now and September 1. Rebates to parents, retroactive to April 1, will begin in May, and will follow the enrolment of licensed centres and agencies into the new system. Ontario families will continue to benefit from the province's child care tax credit program, which remains in effect. This program provides an estimated 300,000 families with up to 75 per cent of their eligible expenses for licensed and unlicensed child care in centres, home-based care, camps and other settings."

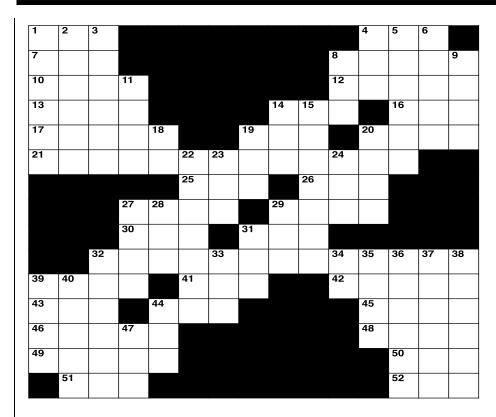
Locally, the deal was hailed by Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy and Newmarket-Aurora MPP and Deputy Premier and Minister of Health – Christine Elliott.

"This is a great day," said Taylor Roy shortly after the announcement. "The deal with Ontario got signed on child care and that was one of our major campaign promises. Now it is done across the country."

Added Ms. Elliott in a statement, "The government fought to deliver the best deal possible for Ontarians. And, as a result, has secured \$3 billion more over the course of this agreement, an additional year of funding, and flexibility to support all

"Together, through the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit (CARE), affordable child care options, and continued investment in all-day Kindergarten, Ontario parents are now provided with the largest array of options, benefits, and supports for early years and child care in the country."

CROSSWORD



For the sense of smell, almost more than any other, has the power to recall memories and it's a pity that we use it so little". – Rachel Carson



Senior Scape Christina Doyle

and even depression. It is not hocus-pocus but it has been a part of the medical practices of the world's greatest civilizations, including

those of ancient Egypt and Rome, for

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the mall, however, it may prove to be

a little too strong and can give you a

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have lessened a headache, brought a

calmness before bedtime instead of

Helen Keller tells us that "smell is a potent wizard that transports us across

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explore

days will feel complete.

thousands of miles and all the years we

watching a long, drawn-out movie.

Instead of a cup of coffee, I have

thousands of years.

headache.

have lived.'

your heart rate, lessen an

anxiety attack, headaches

This month marks the 23rd anniversary of my father's passing and I can still distinctly remember the lovely aftershave he would wear when I would give him a

in the oven all stir in us memories. Our emotions are heightened, our mood long associated with promoting well-

The next time you are out on a stroll, especially after a rain, you can smell the earth in the garden, freshly cut grass and even bury your nose into bouquet of lily of the valley which should be blooming right about now. Grocery stores usually have an abundance of fresh herbs that you can bring home and fill your senses such as mint, basil, sage, and even fresh lavender. The world around us possesses an array of smells that can wake up your senses.

This is the season of renewal and replenishment.

Dear readers, take comfort and joy in the simplest of spring things.

Aromatherapy is a healing and

calming venture that can slow down

hug.

I thought it would get easier with each passing year, but it doesn't, at least not for me. To this day, my 89-yearold mother still bakes her own bread, and I can recall the fresh bread baking in the oven when I had just got home from school. Smells spur memories and if we lost our sense of smell, we would feel a deep sense of loss. As a young girl we lived near a bakery and the aroma that would infuse my lungs would lull me into a beautiful dream. I always hoped my mom would take just a little longer to decide what to buy so

that I could stay there and take it all in. Think back; what smells do you recall that bring you back in time and place where it seems it was only yesterday? The fresh smell of bed sheets that had been hung outside on a spring day, your mother's cologne, an infant's delightful smell, cookies baking changes and sometimes it comes with tears. The power of scent has been

now been reopened for six weeks and is being and calmness in us. about 70 per cent back to normal. We have 22 activities back and running. It is great to see our members back, socializing and enjoying the activities. For the schedule of our activities, please go to the Aurora Seniors' Centre website and go into the Newsletter for the information, or drop by the Centre and pick up a

> For information on the Centre, please phone reception at 905-726-4767.

copy of the newsletter

You could also arrange a tour of our facility. We are always looking for new

members with new ideas! Hope to see you there.

CLUES ACROSS

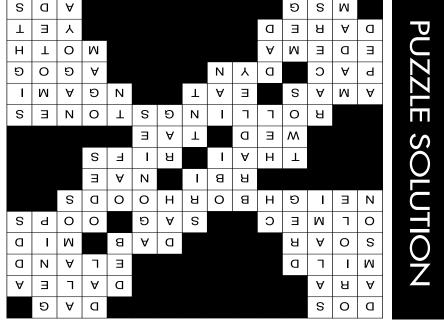
- 1. Runs PCs
- 4. An entertaining, eccentric
- 7. Small, faint constellation
- 8. Indigo bush
- 10. Not excessive
- 12. African antelope
- 13. A way to fly a glider
- 14. Tough softly 16. In the course of
- 17. Early Mesoamerican people
- 19. A way to drop down
- 20. Mistake!
- 21. Housing developments
- 25. Baseball stat
- 26. No (Scottish)
- 27. Type of cuisine

- 29. British Army infantrymen (abbr.) 30. Marry
- 31. Buffer solution
- 32. Legendary rock band 39. Recording industry show
- 41. A way to consume 42. Lake in Botswana
- 43. Political action committee
- 44. Field force unit (abbr.)
- 45. Very eager 46. Excessive fluid accumulation
- in tissues
- 48. Nocturnal insect
- 49. Challenged to perform 50. Thus far
- 51. Famed NYC arena
- 52. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Small, purple-black fruit
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage 4. Split pulses
- 5. Northwestern Mexico town
- 6. Edible fruit 8. Upper-class southern young
- woman
- 9. Sums up 11. The most worthless part
- 14. Dash 15. Sufferings
- 18. Clearinghouse (abbr.)
- 19. Indian title of respect
- 20. Poems meant to be sung 22. Actor Cooper
- 23. Luke's mentor ___-Wan

- 24. Clumsy person
- 27. Figures
- 28. Polish Baltic coast peninsula 29. Old cloth
- 31. Explosive
- 32. Automobiles
- 33. 007's creator
- 34. The Volunteer State 35. Old Irish alphabet
- 36. Japanese city
- 37. Portrayed emotion
- 38. Observers
- 39. Mimicked
- 40. Polite reference to a woman 44. Male parent
- 47. Peter Griffin's daughter



THINGS You Dught To Know

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Leela Gilday in concert this evening at 7.30 p.m. A proud Northerner and member of the Dene Nation, Leela's Juno Awardwinning voice will transport you to the rugged landscapes and vibrant culture that shaped her. Tickets are \$39 and available through the Centre at auroraculturalcentre. ca. The concert will take place at the historic Aurora Armoury (89 Mosley Street).

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

The Aurora Historical Society will host an Easter Egg Decorating Workshop today at Hillary House National Historic Site from 1-3 p.m. Fun for the whole family! Come out and try multiple techniques to create a halfdozen of your own blown Easter eggs. Workshop includes all materials. Ages 6+. For more information, including tickets, visit aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Say Hello, Spring!, the Town's signature Easter Event, at the Aurora Seniors' Centre today from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Explore various spring themed outdoor and interactive activities. Some of the outdoor activities include: planting your own spring flower to take home, an interactive walking trail. Some of the interactive activities along the trail include: fishing for eggs, a hopstacle course, nature toss game and more. You can even have your photo taken with the Easter Bunny! Pre-registration is required to attend this special event. Register online via the Town's E-Play platform or pay in-person at the Aurora Family Recreation Complex or Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. The registration fee is \$5 per child, parents and guardians are free. Note that the registration fee is non-refundable. For more information, including how to pick a time slot, visit aurora.ca/hellospring. **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27**

100 Women Who Care - Central York Region will host

its next virtual meeting this evening from 7 - 8 p.m. Join us in supporting local charities to make a difference in our community. For more information, visit www.100womencyr. ca or email 100womenwhocarecentralyorkregion@gmail.

CONTINUING

Partagez le Français: Ce groupe accueille les ADULTES / 18+ (des francophones aux débutants capables de converser) - qui cherchent à mettre en pratique leurs compétences Conversationnelle en français. Over Zoom with a nominal fee of \$2.50. RSVP by visiting meetup.com/Partagez-le-francais. For more information, email partagez.york@outlook.com.

Support AbuseHurts' Delivering Hope Full Circle Program textile recycling and donation program. In the current COVID climate, a greater number of people are wanting to donate or get rid of unwanted items, increasing the

need for more outlets being available to receive the items. This

program will provide a convenient way for people to donate or get rid of used/unwanted clothing, blankets, linens and furniture and will help lessen the amount of items ending up in landfills. Materials that were previously perceived as waste will now be seen as a valuable resource further encouraging redistribution. The items will be recycled in the following ways: To be given to individuals who are survivors of violence and are transitioning from shelters into new homes; To be sold in our store; To be sold to a textile recycler, which makes for an ongoing source of funding for Abuse Hurts enabling them to provide their services to the thousands of people that require them each year. When and Where: Monday and Wednesday, every week, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with 30-minute time slots - only 1 drop off per time slot. If you do not have an appointment, we cannot accept your donation. The Abuse Hurts Warehouse is located at 1208 Gorham St, Unit 4, Newmarket - rear unloading dock. Visit AbuseHurts.ca to select your drop



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Aurora Barbarians running at full capacity and can't be more excited

BY BROCK WEIR FDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM

All systems are a go as the Aurora Barbarians are excited to be back to running full competitions and leagues this year.

"We are already at 175 registered members, which is ahead of normal years around this time," said co-president/treasurer of the Barbarians Khalil Ajram.

"That's without high school rugby really starting back. A lot of our registrations are under the age of 14. We have lots of new coaches coming in. We have over 30 coaches again this year. Overall we can't wait to get back on the field April 12."

Registrations are currently open until positions are filled. Ajram said

U14, U12, and U10 teams have almost reached capacity.

This past year, Ajram indicated the pathway to rugby has changed. Previously, players would register for the sport beginning at the age of 16.

Now, players are registering for rugby under the age of 10. Last year, the Barbarians saw 30 U10 players in the system, the highest the club has ever seen.

Since the loss of the sport over the course of the pandemic, the Barbarians have seen the increase in demand. Last year, 80 players participated in the Aurora Sports Dome, running drills and buying into the club's latest strategies.

return of high school rugby, more players will register into club level

In club-level rugby, there are, of Ajram said. course, unique incentives.

The Barbarians are preparing to teams entered." send players to Tampa Bay, Fla., for the Tropical 7s this year.

The Barbarians, who are in partnership with other local clubs, are sending six teams under the name "Canadian Misfits." Across all four U18 girls' teams, one boys' team and one senior men's team attending, over 30 players locally from Aurora will be travelling; the most the club has ever sent abroad.

Locally, Ajram said the club is also gearing up to host a major Ajram hopes to have 50 registrants tournament in Markham, July 2.

"We're hosting The Great North Hopefully, with the help of the 7's, on July 2 at Fletchers Field in Markham. That tournament there is a one-day tournament and will have over 70 teams from across Ontario,"

"We are already have four Barbs

As rugby continues to pick back up where it left off and more, Ajram said the club is also going to introduce another program for players 18 and

Working in collaboration with the Town of Aurora, the Barbs are offering the Mixed Ability program.

Inspired by other pilot clubs, the program is a non-contact league, available to anyone of all abilities to promote inclusion in the game. for the program.

The message of this program is clear: rugby is for everyone.

Interested in registering or to contact the Barbarians? Please head to abrfc.ca/.

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EXPECTATIONS:

- Have a positive attitude
- Willing to work hard and enjoy rewards in a team environment
- Willing to take chances and learn from your peers

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- Sales Driven
- Work well in results based environment
- Goal Oriented
- Great Personal Skills
- · Some Sales Skills Preferred but would be willing to train the right candidate
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