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# THE AURORAN

REGISTRATION GUIDE for Kids! Pages 20 & 21

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FREE Week of September 8, 2022



**THAT'S A WRAP** – Divan tries his hand at a larger-than-life game of Connect Four at Town Park on Thursday evening, as Hina looks on, ahead of a screening of Sonic the Hedgehog 2, the final offering in the Town's popular Movies in the Park summer series. For more on the grand finale, see Page 18.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## Blue Door Shelter aims to end York Region homelessness in 10 years

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

In celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Blue Door Shelters has set an ambitious goal for their half-century: ending homelessness across York Region.

This was the benchmark the organization recently shared with the

community as they celebrated their milestone with a special gathering at Aurora Town Park.

For Blue Door Shelters CEO Michael Braithwaite, the work they do is about “much more than buildings” in the housing crisis, it’s about lending a hand to and improving the lives of everyone in transition.

“Thousands and thousands of lives

changed, lives saved by our team,” said Braithwaite at the celebration. “People housed, people healthier, people happier, people given hope as we push forward. We’re seeing new programs pop up like INNclusion, our 2SLGBTQ+ program, the first of its kind north of Steeles. We’ve seen our program [develop] Construct, which really came from a place of failure.

Continued on page 8



**FAMILY AFFAIR** – Blue Door Shelters celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Town Park, with a look back on where the organization has been and where it’s going over the next 10 years. Participating in the anniversary were, from left, former Newmarket mayor Tom Taylor, daughter and Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy, Blue Door’s Michael Braithwaite, and incumbent Newmarket Mayor John Taylor.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Contributed photos

# Seniors' Active Living Fair returns to in-person this Saturday

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Seniors' Information and Active Living Fair, a staple of Aurora Seniors' Centre programming, will return to an in-person format this Saturday for the first time since the start of the global pandemic.

Last held virtually in 2021, this year's event will take place at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, located at 90 John West Way, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on September 10, covering myriad ways for seniors to stay active in their communities, in the homes and beyond – and for regaining some of the momentum that may have been lost due to the pandemic itself.

More than 40 exhibitors are set to take part in the Fair including representatives from CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors), the Alzheimer Society of York Region and York Region Paramedic Services, and there is a full slate of seminars and demonstrations as well.

Presentations will begin at 9.20 a.m. with Downsizing Tips and Tricks by Arlene Stephenson of The Downsizing Diva. Blue Suede Shoes Science will take the stage at 10.30 a.m. with Dr. Dean McClelland in a presentation, "What Secret Did Elvis Know about Body Movement and How Can That Help You?"

The live seminars close with a final presentation, Reading Food Labels Made Easy with Shawn Nisbet.

"It's going to be a full, fun day of activities," says Andrew Bailey of the Aurora Seniors' Centre. "The presentations and vendors really span across the full spectrum. We'll have the Alzheimer Society of York Region and the Aurora Community Arboretum with a table, and there will be some retirement communities as well joining us – a lot of different things for everyone attending."

Part of going into the planning of this year's Fair was addressing some of the challenges the pandemic brought to our

seniors, particularly isolation. To this end, there will be a virtual component as well for people who aren't yet comfortable getting out and coming to the Centre.

"We want to make sure we have a wide variety," says Bailey. "We know nutrition is a big thing, so it is important to get that information, and there's the fitness component, too, to get the attendees and participants moving throughout the day. In recent years we have had between 300 and 400 people, so we will be tracking the numbers of attendees, but really it's just about getting everyone out and about, getting them some information from several partners in the community, and just to get some exposure for the Seniors' Centre as well."

September is the start of a busy autumn for the Seniors' Centre and the Fair will also be an opportunity for the Centre to showcase some of their activities that will be on tap this fall and into the winter.

"One of the exciting things they're reintroducing is our Budget Bistro lunch program, a couple of Wednesdays a month – September 14 and September 28. That is something a lot of people are really looking forward to," says Bailey. "In general, the Centre was a different animal when we were doing a lot of virtual stuff, but come the fall it is going to be a very busy, active Centre and people are really enjoying being back in person for pickleball and the various card games. There's a snooker league starting back up as well and it's just good to get people back in person at the Centre people who want to do the virtual component and have that in place."

"Social dances are going to be back on September 30 as well and there's so much going on it's hard to pinpoint just one thing!"

For more information about the Seniors' Active Living Fair, visit [www.aurora.ca/en/news/learn-more-about-healthy-living-at-the-seniors-information-and-active-living-fair.aspx](http://www.aurora.ca/en/news/learn-more-about-healthy-living-at-the-seniors-information-and-active-living-fair.aspx)

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# Saturday Night Fever gets Memphis makeover this weekend for Elvis tribute



The music of Elvis Presley will take over Yonge Street this Saturday from Wellington to Mosley Streets as part of the 2022 Saturday Night Fever street party.

Contributed photo

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

John Travolta might not be strutting down Yonge Street ahead of this weekend's Saturday Night Fever street party, but there might be more than a few people pounding the pavement in blue suede shoes.

The music and legacy of the King of Rock and Roll will be celebrated on Yonge Street between Mosley and Wellington Streets this Saturday, September 10 from 4 – 11 p.m.

A Town-run event, Saturday Night Fever is presented in partnership with the Downtown Aurora Business Improvement Association and will feature hours of live music, food vendors, and a chance to browse many of Aurora's downtown businesses.

"The Town of Aurora is proud to present the return of Saturday Night Fever on Yonge Street with a celebration of Elvis's music over the decades," said the Town in a statement. "Join us as we take over Yonge Street in downtown Aurora for a night of dancing and great live music – all while enjoying the shops. Patios will be set up to enjoy the food from the fantastic restaurants on-site. A nominal fee applies for food."

Performances are set to include sets by the Wreckroom band, Connor Russo, former Junior Champion at the Collingwood Elvis Festival, as well as Collingwood Grand Champion Bruno Nesci and the Casino Brothers Band.

"The thing about Elvis is he was so

advanced for his time," Nesci tells The Auroran. "It's the way he created music, the way he was able to put certain sounds together, the way he was as a person – it all showed up on stage. He made everything in life – the hurt, the good, the bad, the incredible, the big energy – he put it all into his music. Everything he did was big. Today's music is just starting, almost – it's almost in the beginning stages of tiptoeing over what Elvis' music did. That's why I think Elvis' music is still going as strong as it did back then."

Nesci was first bitten by the Elvis bug 23 years ago when a tribute artist performed at his family's restaurant. It all came down to the reaction he saw on the faces of patrons as the Elvis song book came to life right before his eyes.

He might have only been seven-years-old at the time and didn't really have a full grasp of who Elvis was, but then it was all about the music.

"I was attracted to the performing aspect of it, but when I actually did research and started listening to the songs that I realized I knew them," he says, mentioning songs he picked up along the way from film and TV but hadn't really noticed at the time. "It started clicking: I knew this guy. The more research I did the more I fell in love with Elvis and now here I am 23 years later still paying tribute to Elvis."

"The thing that keeps me going is the Elvis fans. Paying tribute to Elvis is a love for me – a passion, a hobby, a full-time job. I get to make music with my band and we're always learning new things.

The fans are constantly teaching me as a tribute artist their love for Elvis. Every time I walk on stage there's someone who wasn't a fan or a die-hard ends up leaving a fan. That's what I get out of it: I continue the legacy of Elvis' music."

And the legions of fans are only growing.

While Elvis' popularity has always been perennial, the recent biopic of his life starring Austin Butler and Tom Hanks has only served to bolster the fanbase, one that is increasingly younger.

"Since the Elvis movie came out, the younger generation, closet fans if we want to call them that, they were quiet and private people. I remember being made fun of [in school] for being a huge Elvis fan and very quiet about it. Now

that the movie came out I guess they're more vocal about showing they're Elvis fans.

"Now there are people doing Elvis reaction videos on YouTube, there are people bringing up music with rappers remixing Elvis songs, now it is very public and out there. I just got back from Elvis Week in Memphis, placing fifth in the ultimate contest, and at the candlelight vigil the thousands and thousands of Elvis fans – where it used to be 25 per cent under 20, this time it was about 50 per cent. It's just exploding."

For more information about this weekend's Saturday Night Fever, visit [www.aurora.ca/en/recreation-arts-and-culture/saturday-night-fever-on-yonge-st.aspx](http://www.aurora.ca/en/recreation-arts-and-culture/saturday-night-fever-on-yonge-st.aspx).

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## Briefly

### AURORA RANKS 24<sup>th</sup> ON PLACES TO LIVE

The Town of Aurora has been named the 24<sup>th</sup> best place to live in Canada in a new ranking by bestcities.org. Billed as "small-town livability and big-time ambition just north of Toronto," the ranking praises the Town's safety, family-friendly atmosphere and economy. "Established in the 1880s as a sawmill and manufacturing centre and later finding its place as an agricultural town, Aurora has always been an understated contributor of materials, food and talent to Toronto," they said. "The 170-year-old rail connection to the heart of the big smoke, means Aurora residents are never more than an hour from big-city action (it's also just an hour by car). But that's not to say that Aurora (named for the Roman goddess of the dawn), is a staid bedroom community. Sure, it's safe (ranked #13 nationally) and family-friendly (ranked #4 for residents aged 15 to 29), but the economic aspirations of the city's founders are stronger than ever. There are more than 2,200 businesses here and Aurora continues to attract major companies, including Magna International, Desjardins and Bulk Barn. The city ranks #12 nationally in our Self-employment subcategory, with 84 per cent of local small businesses employing less than 20 people, according to local economic development numbers."

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Balancing growth and preservation of the natural environment**

“I’m not against development but ...” is a phrase often echoed by residents who turn up at Town Hall with a long list of reasons as to why, in their opinion, a particular development should be given the “thumbs down.” But before we jump to the conclusion that every “complainant” is a NIMBY or an overly-emotional tree-hugger, let’s recognize some important facts.

“NIMBYism” has been twisted, likely strategically, into a term often depicting those who seek to protect, apparently to the detriment of others and the “greater good,” the privilege of having, say, a woodland close to their home. But, before the stones are hurled at these so-called selfish complainers, you have to look closely at what’s being lost by the community as a whole and what’s really (i.e., not what you’re told is) being gained.

Basically, it’s about balance and making sure developers don’t take too much and leave too little.

Those living right next door to these development proposals usually have the strongest sense of what’s about to be lost. They’re our communal “eyes and ears”, sounding an early alarm to which we should all pay attention.

Residents living near the Shining Hill Phase 2 development on St. John’s Sideroad (between Yonge and Bathurst) turned out in force in 2019 to voice their concerns about the density of this proposal.

They weren’t saying “don’t build” but just “don’t build too much” on these environmentally sensitive lands.

Council told Shining Hill to come back to the table with something more reasonable. After all, the Official Plan (OPA 37) actually demanded “primarily low intensity, environmentally sensitive development” of these lands.

Despite this, the developer duly came back with a reduction in lots from 92 to 90. Council approved this in 2020, and we can now see what we’ve all lost, the evidence becoming clearer by the day; hundreds of mature trees torn down, wildlife habitat and two ponds removed. Those mature trees were helping to mitigate the increasing, adverse effects of a changing climate. They were part of our green infrastructure and there’s nothing “emotional” about that, nor the fact they had a monetary value, like any other municipal asset.

Who wins? Since this is being marketed as a luxury, gated community, the “winners” won’t be the average home-owner, let alone first-time buyers. Suffice to say, it’s likely not going to solve a housing crisis any time soon.

While Shining Hill is a sound example of a balance tipping too far in favour of development, there are also other examples of recent proposals such as Wellington/John West Way; Vandorf Sideroad/Bayview; and Wellington/Leslie. In each case, residents said the same thing: “we’re not against development, just not this big and not at the expense of the natural environment.”

The next four years will see our remaining natural areas, both large and small, increasingly threatened, under the premise that we need more housing. While, yes, we do need more housing, we also need a Council that recognizes the fact that you can’t keep endlessly chipping away at natural features and expect this not to have a cumulative negative impact. Encroachment into environmentally sensitive lands now seems to be the norm, as are reduced protective buffers, with houses pushed right next to and sometimes into sensitive features. That’s not OK.

In short, the critical balance between development and preserving the natural environment has somehow been lost and this urgently needs to be corrected.

George Skoulikas and Wendy Kenyon  
Aurora

**Machell’s Corners**



**Reclaiming dignity in life**

As a life-long news junkie, I don’t remember precisely the first major news story that captured my attention, but a few contenders come to mind.

One of the first might be the fall of the Berlin Wall and the evocative images of men and women with hammers, screwdrivers and other tools laying waste to slabs of concrete that became synonymous with oppression and hardship.

Another might have been the series of murders that were ultimately attributed to Paul Bernardo, the wave of fear felt by so many, particularly young women and girls, leaving an impression on me that remains as strong now as ever before.

On the lighter side of news stories, I vividly recall being allowed to stay up far past my normal bedtime to watch Johnny Carson sign off on The Tonight Show for the very last time, a cultural touchstone I wasn’t quite old enough to fully appreciate at the time, but now cherish as a self-professed scholar of television history.

All of these instances, for better or worse, are seared into my brain – but one news story in particular stands out as one that, in my view, helped make me a critical thinker: the story of Robert Latimer, the Saskatchewan farmer convicted of second-degree murder in the death of his daughter, Tracy, who was born with severe physical and intellectual disabilities.

At the age of eight, I was initially horrified by the case, that a parent could have the capacity to end the life of their child, but that all changed when the verdict came in.

Sitting with my paternal grandmother in her Agincourt kitchen, helping myself to a generous plate of crustless, quartered tuna and salmon sandwiches, the news trickled in over their white kitchen radio.

The deep sigh from my grandmother was a none-too-subtle sign she disagreed with the courts – and, curious, I essentially asked her more.

“It was a mercy killing,” she said with a secondary sigh.

“Mercy killing,” was a term I had never heard before and she generously unpacked what it meant and the conversation, in turn, naturally evolved to the adjacent philosophy surrounding death with dignity.

It was clear she was a supporter of death with dignity in principle and, even at that young age, it was clear that



**BROCK’S BANTER**

Brock Weir

these views were firm and unwavering and something she supported in her own life as well.

It wasn’t too much later, however, when the views she held dear began to waver with the onset of her long battle against dementia.

As she lost the ability to do just about everything in the balance of her life, I often thought about that day in her kitchen. Watching her become ever more trapped in her own body, I delved deeper into the issue of death with dignity and what we now term “medically assisted dying,” and the decision she might have made for herself if given the opportunity to do so.

Sadly, in my view, the legislation which has provided dignity to so many living with terminal illness came too late for my grandmother but, by the time everything was in place, I was heartened beyond belief that individuals who were tragically forced to follow a path similar to hers would have the option to live life – or not – on their own terms.

My grandmother was released from her mental prison just three days into 2009. It would be another seven years before medical assistance in dying (MAID) and assisted suicide became the law of this land. It would be further six years before our family was once again asked to travel down this road.

An aunt on the maternal side of my family had been in declining health for some time following a physical trauma about a decade ago. Her quality of life had ebbed and flowed for many years, but 2022 brought unimaginable difficulties.

A series of aneurisms earlier this year began a seemingly endless cycle of hospital visits, homecomings, further aneurisms and seizures, and readmissions, with each go-round bringing a diminished quality of life.

Left unable to physically care for herself, it was left to her husband, her son and her mother to take on the

herculean tasks that are so familiar to caregivers the world-over. It was, in turn, agonizing and, truth be told, humiliating, for a once-vital woman who had, just a few weeks after beginning her 58<sup>th</sup> trip around the sun, entered her final month of life.

As hard as it was for her, it was just as hard for different reasons for her close family. They too were struggling under the weight of what life threw at them, no matter how well they were rising to the challenge.

It was heartening, however, that she was still left with the presence of mind and will to be very clear that these were not the circumstances in which she wanted to fade out. She knew what she wanted, she took control of her own life, and, with some calls to the medical community, decided that she wanted to go out on her own terms.

And that’s just what she did at the end of August, quietly, surrounded by her immediate family, after one last trip to the beach to release a butterfly balloon, a symbol she had always loved, but one which took on extra resonance as she planned ahead for her final exit. Perhaps another metamorphosis.

Having received the medical go-ahead for assisted dying on Wednesday afternoon, she was given a departure date for that Friday at 4 p.m.

While I personally am not sure how I would feel if given such a firm deadline, not to mention how those closest to her would feel under the circumstances, it gave her a sense of what she wanted to accomplish with the time she had left – and, by all accounts, made the most of it, including that one final outing the morning of the doctor’s last visit to create lasting happy memories for those she was set to leave behind.

I don’t envy her, my uncle, my cousin, or her mother for all they had to go through that very, very emotional week, but I am glad the powers-that-be sat up in 2016 and did the right thing by making this path open to so many Canadians who want to die with dignity.

It may not have been a path open to my grandmother, no matter how much she may have wanted it, but I am grateful it was an option available to my aunt – and I am grateful she had the strength and ability to make this decision and plan her exit on her own terms in the same dignity in which she led her life.

And I’m grateful that all Canadians have the ability to do so.

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## Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

Fall is my favourite season in Library Land because it heralds the culmination of One Book One Aurora. Built upon the One Book, One City campaign that was initiated in 1998 by the Washington Center for the Book, OBOA extends beyond the promotion of literacy to become a multi-faceted collaboration led by the Library, but owned by the community.

This year's OBOA selection is *Swimming Back to Trout River* by Linda Rui Feng. As a writer and scholar, and a practitioner and researcher of imaginative storytelling, Linda is drawn to thinking about forms of writing with a strong sense of place. In *Swimming Back to Trout River*, she traces a family across two continents in the aftermath of China's Cultural Revolution. The novel has themes of family, art, culture, music and immigration - and I loved that it afforded a perspective on one of China's most tumultuous times through a literary lens.

OBOA looks to community partners to extend the reading experience through conversation, art, music, dance and contests. Here are just some of the events that I am personally looking forward to attending:

Jan Wong is a third-generation Canadian who grew up in Montreal speaking English, some French and zero Chinese. In the summer of 1972, she traveled alone to the People's Republic of China. At 19, she talked her way into a spot at Peking University, becoming the first of two Westerners to study in China during the Cultural Revolution, a tale she recounts in her memoir, *Red China Blues*, a book that remains banned in China.

Jan was the first news assistant for The New York Times bureau in Beijing, reporting on Democracy Wall and the beginnings of dissent in China.

An evening with Jan Wong happens Thursday, September 29, 7:00pm. Tickets available at [bit.ly/3rFdZHL](https://bit.ly/3rFdZHL).

Live cultural experiences include the *Butterfly Lovers Concerto*, performed by the York Chamber Ensemble, featuring solo violinist, Joyce Lai (Saturday, October 1, 2:30pm) and the *Art of Chinese Dance* performed by the Mellow Sisters & Tian Shu Art Group (Saturday, October 15, 2:00pm). Both take place in APL's living room, no ticket required.

One of the greatest strengths of *Swimming Back to Trout River* is how the author combines the prowess of an academic with the beautifully penned narrative of a literary novelist. The grand finale to the year-long project is an opportunity to chat with Linda Rui Feng and enjoy a glimpse into the experiences that shaped this powerful book. Meet Linda Rui Feng on Saturday, October 22, 2:00pm. Conversation followed by an audience Q&A. Tickets available at [bit.ly/34tU5hP](https://bit.ly/34tU5hP).

OBOA encourages you to read, discuss, participate and connect. For the full slate of events, contests and workshops, visit [www.onebookoneaurora.com](http://www.onebookoneaurora.com).

What I've been reading:

*Di-bayn-di-zi-win (To Own Ourselves)* by Jerry Fontaine and Don McCaskill  
*A Pale View of Hills* by Kazuo Ishiguro  
*Wisdom in Nonsense: Invaluable Lessons from My Father* by Heather O'Neill  
*Just Like Mother* by Anne Heltzel

*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 POLL

Are you engaged in this fall's Municipal Election?

Yes No

[www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com)

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
September 6, 2022	80%	20%	0%

## The Aurora Museum & Archives is...

### *Weighing Our Options*

Weights and measures factor into our lives every day, and have for centuries. The earliest Salter branded scales appears in the late 1760s, when springmaker Richard Salter began making his own design of a spring-based scale he called a "Pocket Steelyard" - although true "Steelyard Scales" operate on a balance and counterweight principle. Smaller scales such as this Salter Improved Spring Balance (80.14.26) were manufactured continuously through the first half of the 20th century, and provided a quick, if slightly inaccurate, weight for items up to 25lbs. A perfect solution for those who couldn't wait for the weight!



## September update

"When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love have always won."

That's what Mahatma Gandhi once wrote.

"There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall."

Since my last publication, I have had the honour of taking part in two commemorative ceremonies that marked history-defining moments.

On the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence, I joined Raj Sethi and the York Region Indian Seniors Club to mark the meaningful occasion. The ceremony included many cultural performances which not only showcased India's vibrant tradition and customs, but also a sense of pride and connection. We took a moment to reflect on the important contributions Indo-Canadians have made to make our community stronger and more diverse.

This year also marked the 80th Anniversary of the Raid on Dieppe. On August 19, 1942, of the 4,963 Canadians who fought during the invasion, 916 lost their lives in the effort to bring peace and liberation to the people of Europe. While the invasion remains one of the most challenging and tragic days for our country, their efforts were not in vain. The Dieppe Raid was a pivotal chapter in our nation's role in the war and was instrumental in saving



## Parsa's Perspective

Michael Parsa, MPP  
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

countless lives two years later on D-Day.

Along with Branch 375 Royal Canadian Legion and community members, I had the honour of presenting the biography of a local hero who fought to restore peace and democracy for the world.

Every year we commemorate the legacy of these defining moments and look back with pride on the rejection of tyranny and fight for democracy. We not only celebrate freedom, but we also pay tribute to the brave and courageous individuals who fought to serve and protect.

Most of all, we learn from the lessons of our past. Every generation faces an unprecedented challenge that calls for action. And in those moments, we make the choice to protect our community and our loved ones.

The freedom fighters and heroes were humble, ordinary people armed

with little but hope. Hope in the future of peace and hope for a better tomorrow. And while the challenge may seem impossible, all it requires is that our generation be willing to do what those who came before us have done: to hold fast to our values and to be willing to sacrifice for the betterment of our community.

With the coming of Autumn, I know students and families are looking forward to and preparing for the start of a new school year. We know how important it is for children to have the chance to learn in normal classrooms with the full school experience.

Our government is affirming the commitment to ensure stability for students with an investment of more than \$26.6 billion in funding for the 2022-23 school year. This will ensure that students have a stable and safe return to classrooms without disruptions from September to June. And with that said, I would like to wish all students the very best as they embark on a new academic year. I hope it is an enjoyable and successful year ahead for all.

As always, my office and I are here to serve the constituents of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill. We will be ready and at your service if you require assistance with any provincial matters. The best way to reach us is through contacting my office at 905-773-6250 or emailing us through [Michael.parsa@pc.ola.org](mailto:Michael.parsa@pc.ola.org).

## Being the best that we can be

I was at a church service a couple of weeks back when the homilist included some thoughts about stewardship.

Stewardship is really about three things: time, talent, and treasure.

I imagine that the concept of "stewardship" and what it means have been around for quite some time; it's just that it was the first time that it was put to me in such a direct, digestible and meaningful way.

And it made me think about Aurora and how fortunate we are with all those folks who stand tall here due to their selflessness.

I have mentioned this before, but it bears repeating that I was struck by, after having watched the civic awards ceremony in the past, the impressive nature of volunteerism that goes on around us here in Aurora.

Many local groups support events such as the World's Longest Street Sale, the Aurora Home Show and Ribfest. It is also great to see the number of children playing organized soccer, baseball and hockey in Aurora and they would not be doing so if not for the volunteer coaches and administrators.

These selfless people are, to borrow an expression from Richard Nixon, one of the "silent majority." Those people who quietly meet the challenges and commitments of everyday life and also find time to volunteer their time to others. They usually don't garner



## FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

headlines, trophies or accolades, but their individual contributions are what make our community worth living in.

But there is still much to do to make our community the best that it can be.

And that is where this concept of stewardship, and the three attributes of stewardship, Time, Talent and Treasure, comes in.

The most important thing is that each of us has something to contribute.

### Time:

We only have so much time on this good earth, so we need to use it wisely, not merely to exist.

A question that you may want to ask yourself, "How do you use your gift of time?"

I admit that I don't always make the best use of it, getting caught up in things that, in the grand scheme, are not really

that important.

### Talent:

We all face different everyday challenges in our life. And for many, the state of our economy has not been easy.

But all of us have a unique gift to share with our community - as a teacher, a referee, coach or just as a friend to someone who needs one.

There are lots of organizations in Aurora that could use your assistance in their endeavors, and as my dad likes to say, "many hands make light work".

### Treasure:

A person simply contributes what they can afford to some cause or charity.

For some, this may require quiet reflection of current priorities. Take a look at your credit card bills. What do you spend your money on? That may provide you a clue as to your priorities.

In 1852 the U.S. government produced the famous Uncle Sam poster with the following words to recruit people to the U.S. Army - "I Want You".

For our community, maybe our equivalent could be "Aurora needs your Time, Talent and Treasure - Be a Volunteer."

Stephen can be contacted at [stephengsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:stephengsomerville@yahoo.com)

# Official Plan draft looks at providing “meaningful” community services

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurorans enjoy many services provided by the Town, but Aurora’s new draft Official Plan, one which will serve as a community blueprint for through 2051, will look at making sure the services provided to residents are “meaningful.”

As the community grows, this includes ensuring that community services and facilities are “well located” in relation

to transit and active transportation opportunities.

“Community services and facilities serve as a community’s foundation, providing essential support to its successful operation, ongoing development and vibrancy,” reads the draft plan. “Community facilities are an essential component to the achievement of a complete community. The policies of this plan seek to ensure Aurora’s community services and facilities are developed to meet the needs of all residents and are consistent with the

Town’s objectives for becoming a healthy, accessible and complete community.”

On the road to ensuring these goals are met is a statement supporting the Town’s position that ideally community facilities will be co-located within community hubs, incorporating “multiple community service uses together in one place” with “a mix of uses and activities for a range of different people and purposes” and designing community facilities as “focal points” through architectural design and connections to parks and active transportation channels such as trails and cycle paths.

“Neighbourhood-based community services, including but not limited to elementary schools, libraries and child care centres, community centres, places of worship and supportive housing or adult care facilities shall be permitted in all residential designations without requiring the need for an amendment to this plan,” reads the draft OP. “Retail and commercial uses that are accessory to, and specifically serve, the primary institutional use may also be permitted,

subject to a review of their suitability by Council.

“Neighbourhood-based community services and facilities shall generally locate on collector roads in proximity to intersections with other collector roads and/or regional roads. They are also encouraged to locate near public parks and/or adjacent to convenience commercial centres where these exist.”

Should the plan pass, Council will encourage community facilities and hub locations to “incorporate interactive and/or temporary placemaking elements that enhance the public realm experience such as public art, lighting, seating, special landscape treatments, district banners and signage, food vendors, and market spaces, performance and event spaces and seasonal tourism activities. The co-location of community services in community hubs shall be prioritized in order to facilitate multiple community uses within one building or site, with the intent to provide improved access to a range of services, integrate services and promote cost effectiveness.”

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## Police raise awareness of “Grandparent Scam” after Newmarket senior falls victim

York Regional Police is releasing a video interview of an elderly victim who fell prey to the “grandparent” or “emergency” scam to help raise awareness of these types of frauds in the community and prevent others from becoming targets.

Using the pseudonym “Nicky”, the 81-year-old Newmarket resident shares how he and his wife lost close to \$100,000 in a scheme that took place between March and May 2022.

In March 2022, Nicky’s wife received a phone call from a person she believed to be her grandson. He claimed that he had been arrested while he was a passenger in his friend’s car, which unbeknownst to him, contained illegal drugs and a gun.

A second person, claiming to be an RCMP officer, soon gained the trust of the couple and over the course of two months, persuaded them to make four separate payments to assist their grandson.

Nicky is one of many York Region residents who have been the target of fraudsters in 2022. More than 50 reports of grandparent scams have been received by York Regional Police in 2022 alone, a 100 per cent increase so far from 2021. Since 2019, victims

have suffered collective losses nearing \$1 million and this worsening trend is of great concern to the police and the community.

In the video, Nicky is interviewed by Detective Sergeant Glenn Wright, the officer-in-charge of the York Regional Police Financial Crimes Unit, as well as Detective Constable Leanne Guthrie, an investigator assigned to the case who has helped to support the victims and their family while the investigation is ongoing.

Despite the fact recovering funds lost through fraud is extremely rare, through this investigation and with co-operation from financial institutions, police have helped recover \$16,000 to date.

Investigators believe there may be more victims in our region that have not yet reported to police.

Nicky shares his story to raise awareness. The video can be found here: [youtu.be/jK5ztevETPA](https://youtu.be/jK5ztevETPA).

If you have been a victim of a fraud, and have lost money, report the incident promptly to the Financial Crimes Unit either online at [www.yrp.ca/ReportIt](http://www.yrp.ca/ReportIt) or by calling 1-866-876-5423. To report frauds where no money has been lost, contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre online or by calling 1-888-495-8501.



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# “GOODBYE, YELLOW BRICK ROAD...”



...and fairwell to summer concerts. The Town's popular Concerts in the Park series ended last Saturday with Epic Elton: A Tribute to Elton John, pictured top right. The crowd, according to Town of Aurora Special Events Coordinator Shelley Ware, was the biggest they saw the entire series.

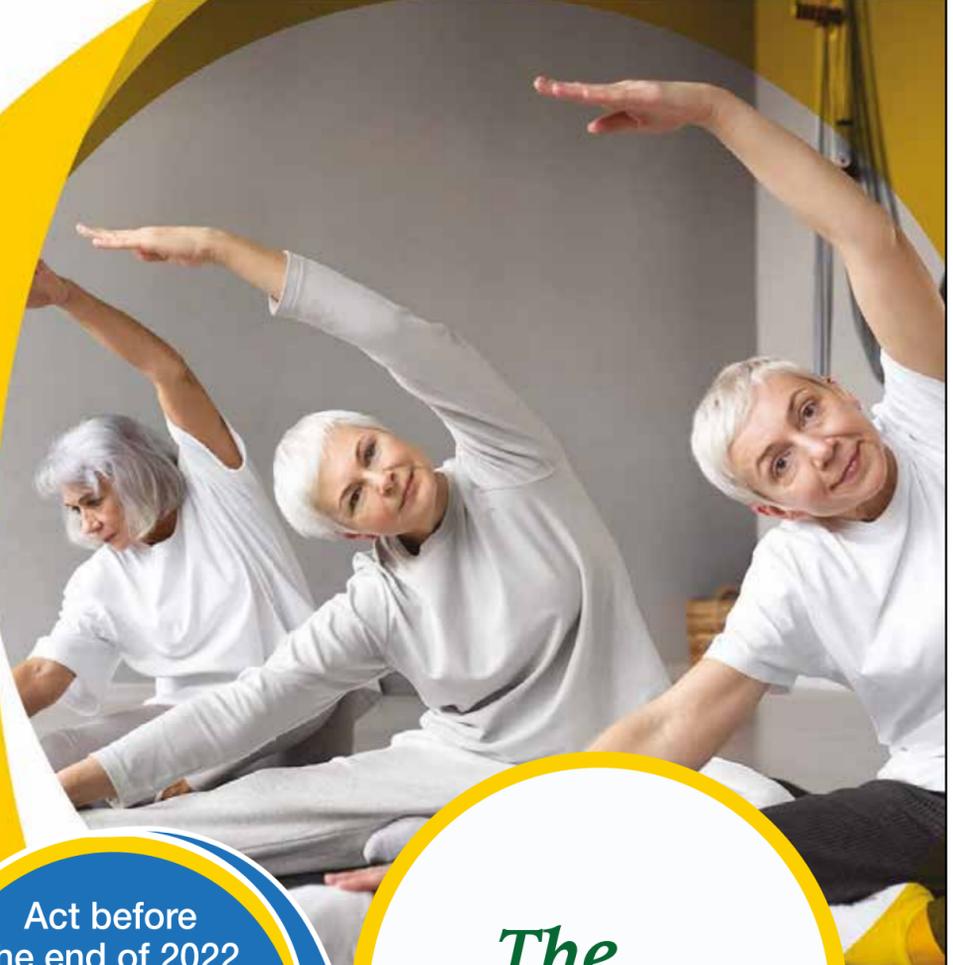
Photos by Lynette Lanning

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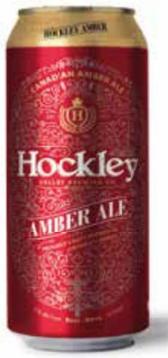


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Blue Door Shelters celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Town Park last month, receiving a boost from Bell Canada in the process.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

## Blue Door Shelter aims to end York Region homelessness in 10 years

From page 1

We worked so hard before to say we need to find people jobs, but they were jobs that may not have had a lot of meaning, that didn't pay a living wage, and didn't work to pull people out of poverty.

"The work of Construct, where people desperately needed to be in the trades, [and] we're putting young people, new Canadians, and others into meaningful work with a living wage right away

preventing homelessness and bringing in revenue to Blue Door so we can build housing and create programs not on the backs of government [support] only – very, very cool."

While Blue Door's August anniversary was a time to reflect on where they've been, it was also a chance to look at their direction forward, and it was here that Braithwaite threw down the gauntlet to his team, the community, and leaders

who were in attendance. These included Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy, MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Michael Parsa, whose Provincial portfolio now includes the Housing file, and Mayor Tom Mrakas.

"We [joke] we work so hard to put ourselves out of work and that is exactly what we're going to do," Braithwaite continued. "At our 50<sup>th</sup>, it will be a much different celebration; what we'll be celebrating is the end of homelessness in York Region.

"You might say that I'm a bit of a dreamer, but it can be done. You look at little towns like Medicine Hat that have ended homelessness. You look at countries like Finland that have ended homelessness. You can do this. We saw this during the pandemic: there was political will and with dollars put towards it, we can move mountains.... It takes all levels of government and it also takes community to do this. We have the support of the community or we wouldn't have been here over 40 years. It can and will be done. It will be a different celebration in the next 10 years. That's what we're working towards and we won't be happy with anything less."

These sentiments were very much shared by the dignitaries in attendance, including Mayor Mrakas who said that homelessness is a "silent crisis" in York Region.

"Blue Door has helped countless community members find shelter, homes and manage other challenges that come with changing life circumstances," he said. "Over the past few years, Blue Door has started to focus on the root

causes of homelessness and offer solutions on how we can ensure there's equal access to social, economic and medical programs.... I hope that one day, with the help of organizations like Blue Door, to ensure everyone has a safe place to call home."

MP Taylor Roy noted that this is an "amazing" community and she's excited to see Blue Door's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary mission become a reality.

"You have done such creative, innovative things to address not only those who are experiencing homelessness and provide shelter, but to go beyond that," she said, touting the Federal Government's recent investments towards homelessness. "I think I may have been one of the first customers for Construct and it is an amazing idea. I was so excited when I spoke to Michael afterwards and found that one of the young men painting my house had gotten a full-time job with a construction company. That is really making a difference in helping to end homelessness."

"Although I don't want to see you out of work, I am hoping that within 10 years we will see the end of homelessness in York Region and, I hope, all of Canada."

Blue Doors currently operates three shelters in York Region: Leeder Place, which provides space for 15 families each night, Porter Place, which has 30 spaces for men each night, and Kevin's Place, a 12-bed shelter for male youth.

For more information about the organization, its various programs and how to get involved, visit [bluedoor.ca](http://bluedoor.ca).




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# Aurora Connects seeks feedback on Town's Active Transportation Master Plan

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you run, walk, jog or cycle, the Town of Aurora is looking for your feedback as it develops its new Active Transportation Master Plan.

The Town is seeking input from the public to “create a more connected community where active forms of mobility are convenient, accessible and enjoyable,” said the municipality in a statement.

“Aurora Connects will lay out a vision for an expanded network of trails, cycling facilities and other types of physical infrastructure to support walking, cycling and wheeling. It will also identify how the Town can support new programs to get more people moving actively as they make their way across Aurora, creating a healthier, more sustainable community.

“As the project gets underway, the project team wants to hear from you.”

Feedback is being sought through survey and mapping tools available online at [engageaurora.ca/atmp](https://engageaurora.ca/atmp).

“The plan will be developed as a series of discussion papers which, when finalized, will be included as a chapter in the final Aurora Connects document,” the Town notes, adding the first of those papers are now available for public feedback at the same website.

This focus on active transportation is also a component in the redevelopment of the Town's Official Plan. (OP)

The draft OP, which is also now available for public comment, covers the principle of a “connected transportation network” which includes both active transportation and transit.

“The Town's transportation system, including its transportation, transit, and active transportation networks have an essential role in supporting the growth of a complete community,” reads the draft. “The policies of this plan seek to ensure the growth of a robust, multi-modal transportation system that meets the needs of all residents and is consistent with the Town's objectives for managed growth and sustainable development.”

These objectives include the promotion of active transportation and the use of “alternate transportation modes such as transit, walking and bicycling to reduce the dependence on...private motor vehicles;” the promotion of York Region Transit as an “essential, environmentally significant public service through appropriate land use and urban design policies” and ensuring the “development and maintenance of a safe, comfortable and enjoyable environment for

pedestrians and cyclists, along roads and trails.”

Sustainable modes of travel like active transportation and transit “have a vital role in supporting the creation of a healthy, safe, complete community,” the draft continues. The reduction in dependence on cars and the promotion of physical activity, it claims, would result in lower emissions and a reduction in motor vehicle injuries.”

“In recognition of the health and environmental benefits associated with active transportation, it is a priority of this plan to facilitate an active and integrated multi-modal transportation system that is safe, efficient, economical, convenient and comfortable while respecting the

heritage features and character of the community,” reads the draft OP.

“The Aurora Trail Network shall serve non-motorized movement such as walking, jogging, cycling, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing as outlined in the Aurora Trails Master Plan. It will link the Greenland system, including existing and proposed off-road trails, with destinations such as schools, recreation centres, service commercial facilities, employment areas, shopping areas and the Aurora Promenade.

“Council will strive to take advantage of the Oak Ridges Moraine, creek valleys and flood prone areas, especially along the Holland River, the Tannery Creek and their tributaries to complete the

Open Space System. The location and creation of trails shall not interfere with the primary ecological function of Environmental Protection Areas. Where possible, trails shall be placed on level shoulders of the valley, in buffers to natural features, and/or in already disturbed areas to avoid destruction of vegetation, erosion of valley slopes, and other ecological damage.”

Potential acquisition of lands to further the trail system, the draft notes, includes establishing right of ways with the Ontario Power Commission “where this coincides with the proposed linear open space system” and areas to link the trail system to “plateaus which allow exceptional vistas.”

## Hello September!

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# Man cave open to the public, raises money for ADHS

By Mark Pavilons

Tim Schmidt is living life to the fullest. Known far and wide by his Instagram handle @hapyhipy, Schmidt's passion is his car collection, which seems to just

keep growing and growing. His tastes and interests know no bounds, as you can tell from his varied collection. He has everything from vintage and modern vehicles – McLarens, Porsches, Bentleys, Lamborghinis, and muscle cars

like Corvettes and Camaros. He also has dozens of Harley motorcycles. His pride and joy has to be his Bugatti Chiron, one of the most impressive automobiles on the planet. When Schmidt purchased the Chiron,

he was the first in Canada to get one. They are still quite rare, with only half a dozen in the country. The Chiron boasts a 16-cylinder, 8-litre engine with 1,500 horsepower, making it one of the fastest, most powerful, and exclusive production super sports cars in the world.

Both Tim and his wife Christine (@misshipi\_66) are deemed the fastest couple in the world.

They broke all records on a test track in the U.S. with the Chiron. Tim hit 261 mph, while Christine got it up to 257 mph (411 km/h).

Tim says he loves everything about the Chiron and it definitely fulfills his "need for speed."

The couple were invited to Mosport for an event and to display the Chiron and one of their McLarens (also among the top high-end sports cars on the planet).

Tim's persona permeates every car he owns, and every aspect of his collection.

His 200-acre King property is home to five buildings that house his cars, accessories, automotive collectibles and petroliana. There's no end to his passion and amassing something truly unique.

From antique globe-top gas pumps and huge porcelain product signs, to models and decor items, the eye candy is mind-boggling.

And it's an ongoing process. Schmidt is currently altering one of his buildings and moving his vehicles around so they come together in genres and themes.

He admits that it's getting close to his ultimate vision.

He still visits car shows and auctions, always finding that diamond in the rough, or newest supercar on the market. Collectors will contact him when they downsize their collections.

There's always room for a few more!

His wife Christine shares every bit of his passion and the two take out most of the cars for a spin on a regular basis. Of course, stopping at the convenience store in a McLaren does get some looks.

Schmidt has become a sought-after celebrity of sorts and has made TV appearances and been the subject of many interviews. You can't miss his signature look, one that oozes peace and love.

Check out his VW Beetle and dune buggy, appropriately covered in colourful graphics.

The public will get a chance to see the collection at an upcoming open house, raising money for the Alliston & District Humane Society.

The event runs September 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It's not a car show or social gathering, but Schmidt is opening his collection to the public for a quick visit, basically a stroll through and leave, almost like a ride at an amusement park. In this case you will be sad that it's over so soon!

Admission is \$25 for adults and a donation for children.

Proceeds go to the Humane Society and Schmidt hopes to raise upwards of \$50,000 this year.

He said he chose the society because it's volunteer-run and has a no-kill policy. He likes to see his money working in the community.

The Alliston & District Humane Society has been in operation since 1988 and is a volunteer organization with paid medical support.

They opened their first permanent shelter and adoption centre in December 2010. ADHS serves the townships of New Tecumseth, Mulmur, Adjala-Tosorontio and the villages of Cookstown, Rosemont, Hockley and the Town of Schomberg.

The Humane Society (ADHS) attempts to provide shelter for stray and unwanted animals with priority given to abused and neglected animals. ADHS strives for a 100% adoption rate, with a no-kill policy for all animals deemed adoptable.



**PLATINUM JUBILEE SPOTLIGHT** – Newmarket-Aurora MP Tony Van Bynen recently celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with the presentation of commemorative Platinum Jubilee pins to community leaders in both communities. Here, Van Bynen presents the pin to Barb Barker. Barker was recognized for her 22 years as an adult (leader) Scouter in Scouts Canada, four years as a Guider in the Girl Guides of Canada, and much more.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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Aurora Votes 2022

# Access, downtown revitalization, and residential development are issues driving Ward 2 candidate Lajeunesse



Daniel Lajeunesse is in the race to represent Ward 2 in this fall's Municipal Election.

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

A fully accessible community that goes beyond the east-west divide is a vision Daniel Lajeunesse has for Aurora, and it is a dream he hopes to bring to life as Councillor for Ward 2.

Lajeunesse, currently a member of the Town's Committee of Adjustment and previously a Council candidate in the 2018 Municipal Election, is looking to run a very different election campaign this fall.

In the last go-round, he had one sign which he took with him to various events and locations around Town to spread the word.

This time, however, he's assembled a team, a strategy and, yes, more signs, to help win a place to represent his neighbours at the table.

"If you asked me a year ago, I probably would have said no," says Lajeunesse on what prompted him to toss his hat into the ring for a second time. "But, on the Committee of Adjustment (which looks at planning applications and minor variances), Ward 2 has seen a lot of cases come to it, a lot of wheeling and dealing with developers but...the last thing we [want to be] is a rubber stamp agency anymore."

Developers, he says, "frequently" come to the Committee and say that even though members have done their due diligence, if they vote against whatever proposal is before them, they will appeal to Ontario's Local Planning Appeals Tribunal.

Lajeunesse wants to see more support from Council towards the Committee of Adjustment so the development community takes local planning more seriously.

"There are some good bylaws at least in

terms of intent but what is driving me... is the intent isn't necessarily followed by developers," he says, placing residential development at the top of his top three priorities. "It is simply an understanding of the bylaw and the execution of it are a little different. I want to tighten and make sure the intent of the bylaw is what is executed."

"There has to be some intelligence in how we develop and where we develop. We don't want condos to start appearing within our residential neighbourhoods and it has to have a logical flow in terms of that development. As much as we would love to maintain the population as it is, I know there are some provincial mandates that force us to expand and, since we don't have that control, we can at least control how that development is done, where it's done, what it looks like, and we control those options on what we build and where we build it."

Aurora's historic downtown core is a "vital part of the community," he says, and making sure it reaches its full potential is his second priority. It needs to be remembered that the section of Yonge Street that goes through the core is a municipal rather than regional road and the Town can "control what we see here and try to get people here" – including promoting what he describes as "daytime businesses."

"It is making it more of a destination location," he says, noting there are few opportunities within Aurora to just grab an ice cream and go for a walk in the community. "You usually just drive to that location, have an ice cream and leave. We should have something more vibrant. Worse than spending money is not using what you've spent that money on, so let's leverage those (downtown) investments and make sure you're not just having locals come to Aurora Town Square, Yonge

Street, etc., but try to get some visitors here as well to enjoy its beauty, put a little more money in our coffers and, as a result, keep our taxes down.

"Town Square is an interesting piece of real estate we now have. Whether you like it or not, we do have it and if you use it properly and have a proper plan on how to use it, we can leverage it in order to bring people to the downtown core."

And this goes for residents on either side

of the railway corridor.

As the Province continues to move towards all-day two-way GO Train service, it is important – and his third priority – to ensure that the Town isn't further divided by construction, or divided even after the project is completed.

"If we don't plan this properly and negotiate with the Province and the Region, we could end up with two towns for a small amount of time and it would be horrible if Ward 2 wouldn't be able to go to the new Farm Boy, Longo's, Sobey's or Walmart because they're afraid to be stuck in traffic every 15 minutes," he says.

Connectivity is a driving force for Lajeunesse.

Recently tapped by Magna founder Frank Stronach to be part of his team behind the Sarit, Stronach's new battery-powered small vehicle, he says he has a deep appreciation for many forms of active transit, trails, cycling infrastructure and more, all of which he hopes to advocate for if he's successful in his Council bid.

"There are major issues and also some small issues and I will deal with it in the same way I deal with my professional life where you have multiple projects going; some are more important than others but it doesn't mean that you can't address multiple things at the same time."

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Aurora Votes 2022

# Ward 3 candidate Alexandra Bonham vows to be leader who works with facts

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a world of misinformation, Alexandra Bonham deals strictly in facts.

It's sometimes hard to "sift through" the sheer amount of information at our disposal, but if she's elected this fall to be the first Councillor to serve Ward 3, she says she will be a representative that will be able to get to the heart – the facts – of the matter.

A life-long resident of Aurora, Bonham says she has a varied resume and while currently a server at a restaurant within the ward, politics has always been at the core of who she is.

"One thing that has remained stable throughout all of those changes is my interest in politics at all levels," says Bonham, 33. "In my spare time, I spend countless hours trying to stay informed and up-to-date on what is happening, whether it is in Aurora, Ontario, Canada or the world. I love Aurora, so what better way to start in [getting more involved] than right here?"

A resident of Ward 3, picking her home ward in which to run is something she says was an easy choice.

It is important, she says, for a Ward Councillor to be "accessible" to their constituents and, as a resident, that is something she will be able to provide.

"The things that matter to me [foremost] matter to the residents who are in this part of Aurora," she explains. "Someone at St. John's and Leslie Street wouldn't necessarily be worried about something happening at Henderson and Yonge, for example. It's more personal and it matters to me. A lot of what the Town is already doing is on the right path. Aurora is really lucky to have a lot of green spaces and a lot

of history, and it is important that we maintain that, but growth and change is inevitable."

As much as Aurora has changed over the more-than-three decades she's lived here, it's still a community she recognizes and it's one she hopes to work to ensure future residents recognize as well.

Rules regarding Aurora's so-called Stable Neighbourhoods, for instance, is something she holds in high regard, as she does the preservation of green space to "keep us from overgrowth." Signs of Aurora's heritage are all around us and it is important that that be maintained as well, she says.

"What I want to see down the road is although change and growth is inevitable, I still want Aurora 20 and 30 years from now to be the same Town I came home from school and that same Town I grew up in be a Town that if my husband and I are lucky enough to have kids of our own, that they love the Town like I do. Given the chance, I can look at decisions, policies and ideas that are being made going forward to ensure that happens.

"I want to be a part of everything that is going on in Aurora. I don't have all these policies where the minute I get elected I'm going to jump and say, 'We need to do this, we need to do that,' I just want to be at the forefront and be a part of the decisions that are being made in terms of Town Square, for example, which I think is very important.

"For a couple of years, we lived in Newmarket just due to life and one of the things we loved about Newmarket was Main Street, the connections and it being the place people had to go to where you could meet people you knew, enjoy restaurants and small businesses. I think we need something like Town



Alexandra Bonham is in the race to represent Ward 3 in this fall's Municipal Election.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Square to bring that business back to the core. Aurora has got so many incredible events and people are concerned about how much is growing, but I find when I still go to the Street Festival or Ribfest, I still run into people I went to school with or worked with."

If she's successful in her bid for Ward 3, Bonham says she also hopes to offer a younger perspective at the table, one that represents the many young families who are planting roots in the community. This is not a comment on the outgoing Council, she hastens to add, but there "isn't that voice for the young people and young families that want to stay in Aurora and be a part of the Town as it grows and changes."

"I like connecting with people – I do

get nervous, don't we all? – but I am ready for this and usually when I jump into anything I jump in with both feet, hands, head, you name it, and I'm excited to meet more people. I love facts and there's so much information out there. It's hard to sift through it, it's time consuming and we all know that, but I like doing it and I want people to know they can come to talk to me, ask me questions, and if they don't have time to find the answers, I will find them for them and I will be as transparent, open and honest as possible. It is really easy to throw out numbers and fluff pieces and play to initial emotions and reactions and things like that, but it is not necessarily the right reaction: factual. That is somewhat missing in a lot of politics, unfortunately."

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## Aurora Votes 2022

# Ward 1 candidate Biase focuses on P.E.A.S.E.: People, Environment, Accessibility, Safety and Economy



Nick Biase is in the race to represent Ward 1 in this fall's Municipal Election.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

An Aurora resident of nearly 30 years, Nick Biase has seen a lot of change – and now, as a candidate for Ward 1 in this fall's municipal election, he wants to be part of shaping Aurora's future.

He's long wanted to become more involved in the community and now, with the time and ability to do so, he's seeking a place at the Council table to advocate on behalf of his neighbours.

"I was only going to run in the ward I am living in," he says of his decision to throw his hat into the ring. "I know there are policies in place where you can run in another ward, but, to me, we're not really serving the people in the community [that way]. I'm in with both feet and I think it's important that if you say you're going to represent

[your neighbours] you need to be with them. It's kind of like being the captain of a ship."

In his home ward, Biase is offering a simple platform that he's boiled down to an acronym: P.E.A.S.E. This stands for people, environment, accessibility, safety, and economic growth.

"I am trying to approach this in a holistic way," he says of his campaign platform. "Although you're running for the ward, you're hoping what you do for the ward resonates across the rest of the Town. The environmental piece of this is preserving what we have today right now. There are lots of buildings and lots of things going on and irrespective of whether we have space or room in our ward where people want to do more stuff, we want to make sure we don't let it get out of hand – and that's not just in our ward, but right across the board.

"The other thing is safety in the

community [and] that too is across the board. There are a lot of thefts these days, vandalism and so forth. How do we address some of this stuff? That's something I really want to tackle and take a look at. One of the things that is underlying for everybody is accountability we all have from a financial perspective. Everyone who lives in Ward 1 wants to make sure their dollar is spent wisely. It's about making sure we're getting our fair share as well for some of the activities the Town is doing for us."

On the People front, Biase is running on a platform that "embraces cultures" and looks at "expanding services to assist our aging population. The Environmental plank of his platform includes preserving and protecting greenspaces in the community, the improvement of park management and "Town cleanliness" while also promoting a walkable community.

Accessibility, to his mind, includes "honest, straight talk communication, financial responsibility, transparency, and timeliness, accountability and action-driven" work.

Safety platform planks include neighbourhood watch programs, speed reduction solutions, traffic calming measures, and "bylaw enforcement to keep pace with the growth of the Town."

Economic growth proposals include supporting local businesses and fostering opportunities for job creation.

"The whole concept of going to a Ward System is the smartest thing Aurora could have done," he says. "You're calling the person who is representing you within your ward. I spent most of my career in the corporate world in a very complex environment, different lines of business, a different hierarchy...

although I have spent it more within a technology environment, there's the same kind of foundation, the same view, if not more complex, that would be even within...the Council or the Town with politics or the public sector we have today.

"My ability right now to have worked in that environment and to have held many senior positions and really understand how to get things done and how to lobby for things that need to get done and how we move things quickly through the system, being able to have some very good straight talk on a lot of items will help me tremendously. I am not tied to the public sector so...although I may have worked in an environment that had a very similar structure, I was also in a world where, at the end of the day, if things didn't get done you didn't have a job. At the end of the day you've got to get results."

As he heads into the election campaign, Biase says he's very much looking forward to meeting more of the people within Ward 1, hear their views, and share his own.

"The ability to interact with these folks a little closer, more one-on-one, and get their true views and perspective on things and reassure what I'm wanting to do is the right thing and whether I need to shift gears, that's important to me – to get a good sense and a good handle on exactly what the folks are thinking.

"We need to focus on things that are present, things that we can address, and that we can action relatively quickly. That's not to say we shouldn't have some short-term and long-term [goals] but, in my opinion, we need to move on the things I think we can make some quick hits and really address right away."

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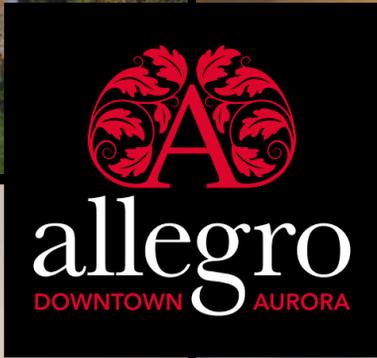
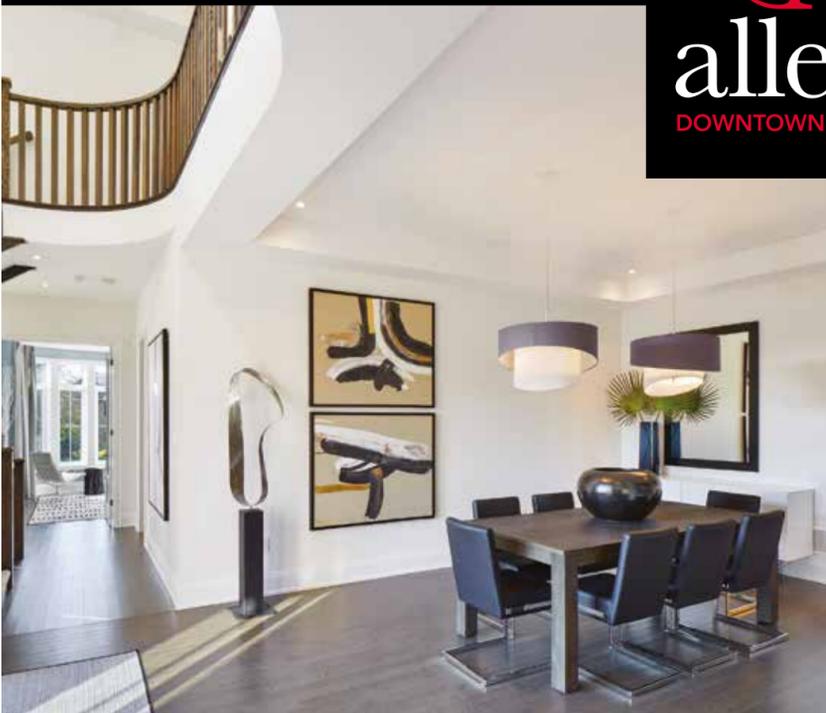
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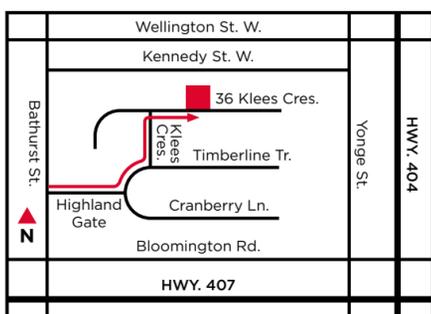


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## All Kids Can Play receiving more requests for funding

By Robert Belardi

Parents in the community who are eligible to receive funding are encouraged to apply to enroll their children in sport this upcoming fall, says Ron Weese, Chair of the All Kids Can Play program.

Due to the enormous mental strain these past two years, All Kids Can Play (AKCP) has seen an incredible number of parents send in their applications in order to ensure their children are involved in sport.

"All of the reasons to involve your kid in sport has been exacerbated as of now," Weese told The Auroran.

"It's now more important than ever. Now we're finding, thankfully, that more families with financial hardship, are getting back into sport. They're asking their kids if they want to play. The All Kids Can Play program, thankfully, is now getting more and more applications. We're funding more children simply because we haven't been doing it for a while. I want to encourage parents who are eligible to apply for funding, because it's important to get our kids back to healthy physical activity and all of the advantages sport provides them."

Throughout the height of COVID-19, the All Kids Can Play

program received many generous donations, knowing the demand would be high for when the pandemic restrictions would be lifted.

Now, when parents understand which sport in particular their child wants to play, they simply head to the registration site in the sport they're interested in. Once costs are determined, a parent contacts AKCP directly and they determine the eligibility information, which is private and secure.

Money will be sent over directly to the sport organization on the family's behalf.

"I will also say there are sport

organizations that are on top of this and agree with this. They're offering discounts along with this. We put up three-quarters of the money and we ask the sport organization to discount their registration," Weese said.

"We have intake sessions. You can ask for a fall intake or a spring intake. As long as people are taking registrations, we're open."

For those who are interested, you may contact the executive director of Sport Aurora Laurie Mueller at executive.director@sportaurora.ca for more information.

To register, you may head to sportaurora.ca.



### SPORT AURORA Breakfast of Champions 2022 Redbirds Lacrosse Club U17 Boys Minor Field Team

The Newmarket Redbirds U17 minor field team was led by head coach Ken Hamilton to a provincials gold. Ken has led the team since they were U9s and after a challenging season where the team went 4-6, they were undefeated in the round robin and secured provincials with a closely fought 10-8 victory over Oshawa 2.



Contributed photo

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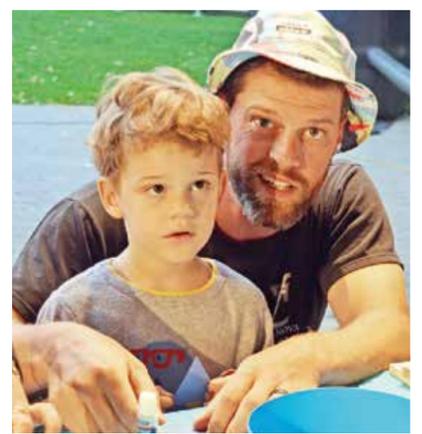
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## "Sonic" boom helps bring down curtain on Movies in the Park



Sonic the Hedgehog 2 helped bring down the curtain on the Town's Movies in the Park summer series on Thursday night at Town Park. Ahead of the movie itself, a number of speed-related activities, including obstacle courses, kept families busy. (Clockwise from Top Left) Nahal and Negin try their hands at some hoops. Urijah conquers the obstacle course. Robbie and Stuart visit the craft table. Zoe and dad Erick compare hula hooping skills.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir



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# Are you ready for the Tigers Aurora? Season opens this weekend

By Robert Belardi

It might be hard to believe, but junior hockey is back in town.

The Ontario Junior Hockey League, kicks off the 2022/2023 season this week with the first game of the year seeing the Milton Menace visit the Caledon Admirals on Thursday night at Mayfield Arena.

The hometown Aurora Tigers open their campaign on the road in Markham against the Royals Friday night, before coming home for their first game of the year at the Aurora Community Centre, in a back-to-back against Markham.

Last season, it was exciting to be a Tigers fan. The boys made the playoffs despite being swept by the Collingwood Blues in a best-of-three series.

When Greg Johnston came in behind the bench, everything had changed. Practices were different. The mentality of all the players seemed to have shifted seismically. There was a unique energy in the room, and one that was part of last year's success.

And now, there is a different energy even heading into this season. For the first time in Canadian Junior Hockey League history, the Tigers hired Sierra Costa to be the league's first female general manager. And she's been quite busy, in fact.

"I think the biggest thing is our leadership group. It's a different culture. I believe that culture will resonate better in a playoff run. Connor Van Weelie takes over as captain. He's a terrific hockey player and a terrific leader. Puts the team before himself and cares more about wins than he does points," said Team Governor, Jim Thomson.

Lee Chiang, who finished second in team scoring joined the Markham Royals this offseason and will face his former club right away. He joins defenceman Logan Boutros, who also made the move to join the Royals.

Former captain Luc Reeve, Hollander Thompson and Tommy Kloepfer all joined Ohio University's hockey program to continue their young careers.

Other notable mentions that are inactive on the team's roster sheet is last year's leading scorer Justin Biraben, Wolfgang Govederis, Jett McCullum, Anthony Drekopoulos, William Moore, Ty Roberts and Nick Lamont.

A few new names have come in, including goaltender Mason Meyer, who replaces Nolan Boyd on the back end, from the Fort Frances Lakers of the Superior International Junior Hockey League.

The Lakeville, Minn., native posted just shy over a .900 save percentage in the league last season.

Some other notable names that are currently new to the roster are 6-foot-7 defenceman Christian Holden, Ryan Evanhuys from the Kirkland Lake Gold Miners, Khaden Henry from the Markham Royals and Bolton native and #185 pick in the 2021 OHL draft Adamo Zingaro.

Other names to mention, in part from last season are Aurora native Lucas Vacca, Connor Russo, Deandres de Jesus, former Toronto Patriots forward Joseph Martino, Jonah Ziskinder, Jack Seney, Ethan Nobes, Jace Lavallee, Tyson Doucette, Zander Hutchinson, Noah Desantis and Zennon Edwards.

"We're really happy with our group. We have a talented team that we think will be one or two in our division. We're excited with the talent pool," Thomson said.

Player turnover in the OJHL is most certainly not uncommon. As a matter of fact, it is the very vessel that carries this league. New opportunities come in for players, following the ones who have already shined in the past.

Without it, there would not be many chances for young players seeking to make names for themselves. And also, not very many opportunities to grow as a player and commit to schools or to other leagues to advance their careers.

Behind the bench, the Tigers said goodbye to former assistant coach Robert Powers and Joseph Piccone. Former Los Angeles Kings netminder David Goverde takes over as assistant coach along with assistant coach/strength and conditioning coach Andrew Shipley.

Elvis Stojko is the skating coach, Jenn Vaicunas is the lead therapist, Clayton McConnell is the equipment manager with Stephan Perron as the assistant equipment manager.

Vivienne Bridgeford is in the box

office, Linda Terry is in the front office, Alex Di Sera is scoreboard and sound, Stu Parker is the team assistant and Steve Mitchell is the videographer.

In the physio and mental side, this year's mental health coach is Clarissa Smith, physiotherapist Brenda Lantz, university/educational advisor is Jennifer Blake, team doctor is Dr. Patrick Gamble, player assistant advisor is Donny Lantz and the social media manager is Rayne Elson.

Along with returning Tigers Van Weelie, Peter Lopes, Lucas Stanojevic, Ethan McFarland, Sett Ursomarzo, Tomasz Szczerba, Matthew Godwin, Matteo Iacovelli and goaltender Glen Crandall, this is your 2022/2023 Aurora Tigers.



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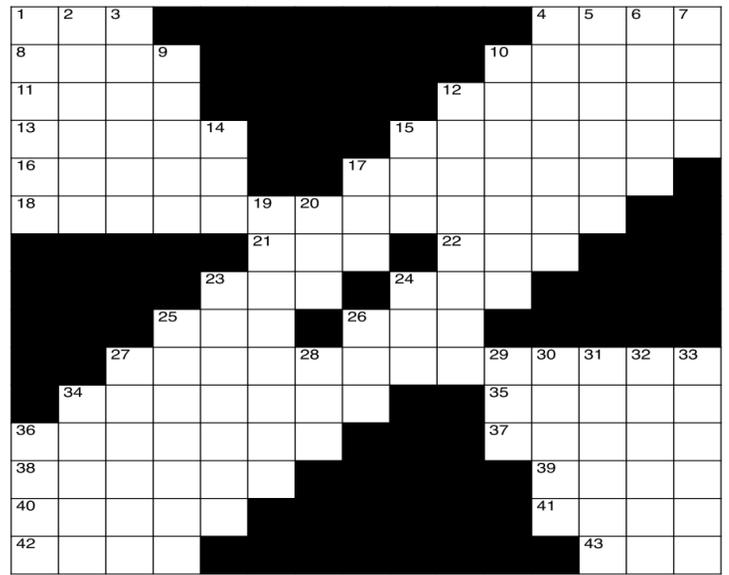
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## CROSSWORD

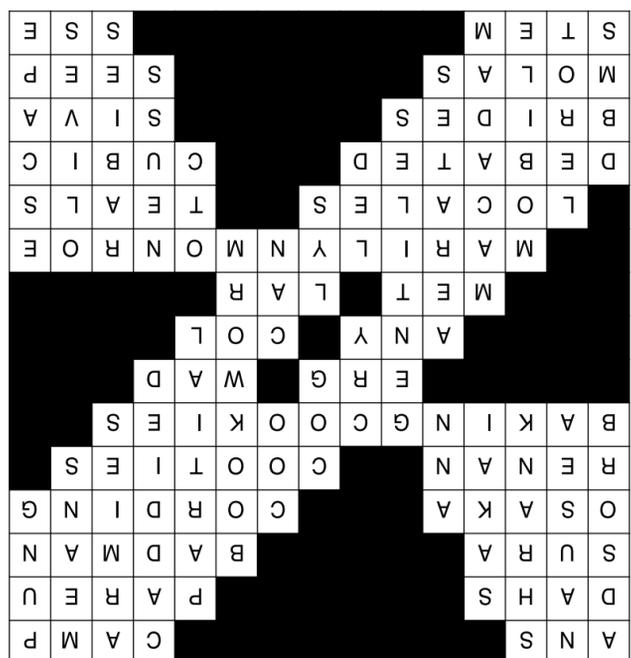


### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Autonomic nervous system
- 4. Kids love it in summer
- 8. Dashes
- 10. Polynesian sarong
- 11. Chapter of the Koran
- 12. Evildoer
- 13. Japanese commercial city
- 15. A way of binding
- 16. Early Christianity French historian
- 17. Kids' term for bugs
- 18. Beloved family holiday activity
- 21. Work unit
- 22. Bundle
- 23. A number or amount not specified
- 24. Military official (abbr.)
- 25. Queens ballplayer
- 26. Type of gibbon
- 27. Norma Jean's stage name
- 34. Places
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Argued publicly
- 37. Having the shape of a cube
- 38. They star at weddings
- 39. Indian god associated with reproduction
- 40. Ocean sunfishes
- 41. Slowly leak through
- 42. Plant part
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Accumulate on the surface of
- 2. Not a good feeling
- 3. Got smaller
- 4. Helped a golfer get around
- 5. Military forces
- 6. Partner to ways
- 7. Low, one-horse sleigh
- 9. Japanese seaport
- 10. Inclined to favor
- 12. Avid reader
- 14. Lead singer of Heart
- 15. Pigeon sound
- 17. Vital part
- 19. People who are not Jewish
- 20. Shed tears
- 23. Pokes holes in the ground
- 24. Beverage receptacle
- 25. Stone used to surface roads
- 26. French-Belgian river
- 27. Type of phone
- 28. Long-lasting light bulb
- 29. Type of medication (abbr.)
- 30. German city
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. They're in martinis
- 33. Get away from
- 34. Dormouse
- 36. Database management system



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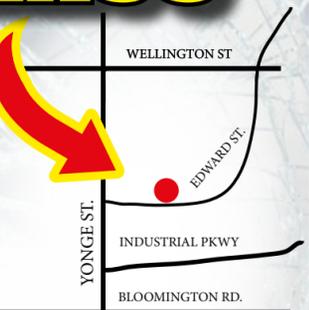
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<b>U11:</b> 9-11 years old		
<b>U13:</b> 11-12 years old		
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# THINGS You Ought To Know

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

The Aurora Farmers' Market continues its 20<sup>th</sup> season at Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out to Town Park today for an array of farm producers, artisans and food vendors.

\*\*\*

Join the Aurora Historical Society for an intriguing historic walking tour of the Downtown area. On August 27, learn all about the history of Yonge Street – its beginnings in the 18th century as a military road and how it has evolved over time to meet the needs of the community. Then on September 10th, continue the fun and discover the history of Wellington Street – a road with over 150 years of industry, business, and homes. Free. 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Register at [www.eventbrite.ca/e/aurora-walking-tours-tickets-329941362497](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/aurora-walking-tours-tickets-329941362497). In partnership with the Aurora Public Library.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Aurora Farmers' Market continues its 20th season at Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out to Town Park today for an array of farm producers, artisans and food vendors.

\*\*\*

The Aurora Historical Society hosts its third annual Victorian Harvest Tea today – two seatings: 12 noon and 2.30 p.m. Tickets are \$31.50 per person and can be purchased at [aurorahs.com/victorian-harvest-tea-2022](http://aurorahs.com/victorian-harvest-tea-2022). Break out your fascinators, it's Tea Time! Treat yourself to a delicious autumn-themed afternoon tea at the 3rd Annual Victorian Harvest Tea on the beautiful tree-lined grounds at Hillary House National Historic Site. In addition to your pot of tea, sandwiches, scones, and desserts, enjoy a free tour of Hillary House to learn about the

unique history of this beautiful National Historic Site in Aurora. Please note, this event will take place outside (weather permitting) on uneven ground. If you have accessibility requirements, please call to inquire.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

The Aurora Farmers' Market continues its 20th season at Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out to Town Park today for an array of farm producers, artisans and food vendors.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

The Aurora Historical Society's Speaker Series continues tonight from 7 – 9 p.m. with a virtual and in-person talk by Antony Anderson on the subject of "Lester Pearson and the Suez Crisis." Tickets are \$8.50 for AHS members and \$10.50 general admission. Lester Pearson, Canada's foreign minister (and future prime minister) stands before the United Nations General Assembly. His speech, shaped by caution and hope, is a last-ditch attempt to prevent a conflict in Egypt from igniting a conflagration throughout the Middle East. He is about to carve out a razor's edge of common ground to bring together angry allies and bitter enemies by suggesting the creation of the first UN peacekeeping force. Pearson's diplomacy throughout the Suez Crisis launched a bold experiment in international security and cemented Canada's reputation as "a moderate, mediatory, middle power." In this presentation, Antony Anderson will paint a compelling portrait of a future prime minister, but also present a nuanced analysis of the political maze navigated by Pearson to avert a bloody war. To register and for more information, visit [aurorahs.com/antony-anderson-lester-pearson-and-suez-crisis](http://aurorahs.com/antony-anderson-lester-pearson-and-suez-crisis).

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The Aurora Public Library, as part of the One Book One Aurora Program, presents An Evening with Jan Wong at 7 p.m. Jan Wong went to China as a starry-eyed Maoist in 1972 at the height of the Cultural Revolution. Learn about her experiences and how her love affair began to sour as she became aware of the harsh realities of Chinese communism. A talk followed by a Q&A period. Tickets are available beginning August 1. To register, visit [bit.ly/3rFdZHL](http://bit.ly/3rFdZHL).

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

The Aurora Historical Society (AHS) presents The 2022 Hillary House Black & White Ball tonight at the Royal Venetian Mansion. Tickets are \$150 for AHS members and \$168 general admission. For more, visit [aurorahs.com/hillary-house-ball-2022-black-white-0](http://aurorahs.com/hillary-house-ball-2022-black-white-0). The Aurora Historical Society's signature gala fundraising event returns! The Hillary House Black & White Ball 2022 supports one of Aurora's most significant historic landmarks. This exciting gala event will feature an elegant evening of fine dining, live music with the After Hours Big Band, dancing, a stunning silent auction, and some fun twists, too. Be part of what is sure to be the most-talked about event of the year, while contributing to the preservation and restoration of Hillary House National Historic Site.

## CONTINUING

### JULY 25 – SEPTEMBER 17

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Backwards and Forwards: Reflections in Porcupine Quills, a solo exhibition by Vanessa Dion Fletcher. Recent quillworks (2020-present), ranging from intimate pieces on paper to large mural installations, at the core is a negotiation between the artist's hands and porcupine quills. Vanessa Dion Fletcher is a Lenape and Potawatomi neurodiverse Artist. Her family

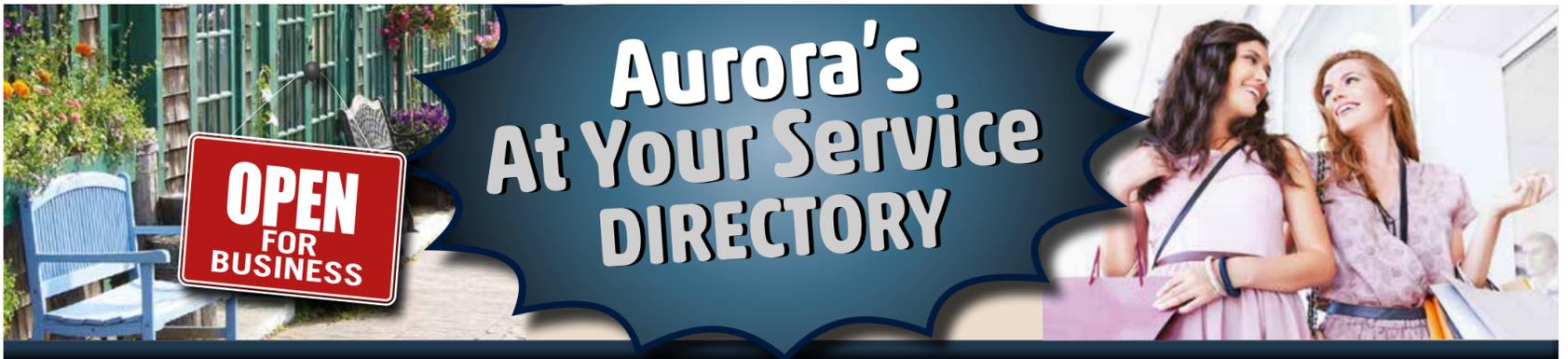
is from Eelūnaapëcwii Lakhëcwiiit (displaced from Lenapehoking) and European settlers.

\*\*\*

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](http://meetup.com/Partagez-le-francais). For more information, email [partagez.york@outlook.com](mailto: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](http://AbuseHurts.ca) to select your drop off time slot.



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PRIZES: **Winner: \$100 gift card**  
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There are two categories: youth (ages 14 - 17), and adult (ages 18+)

Images may be digitally altered. Photographs must be high resolution for print.

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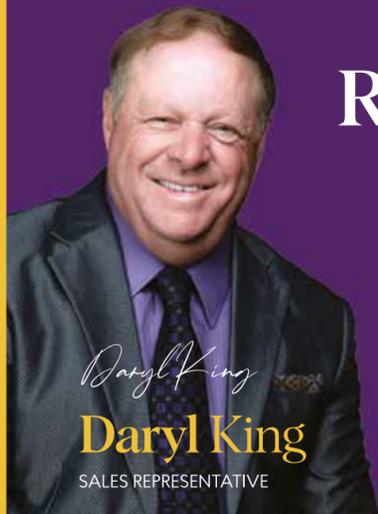


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#1 TEAM IN YORK REGION | TOP 10 TEAM IN CANADA | #14 TEAM WORLDWIDE FOR REMAX\*



*Daryl King*  
**Daryl King**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

# Real Estate Market Has Shifted

## How Does That Affect YOU?



CALL OR EMAIL US TODAY WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

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### BRAND NEW CUSTOM MANSIONS

Only 2 Available. Spectacular Designs. Large Lots. Choose Your Finishes. Private Cul-De-Sac Location in Prestigious Aurora. Asking \$4.888M & \$4.988M.



### DESIRABLE SOUTH RICHVALE

85' Frontage. Gorgeous Executive Home with Finished Lower Level. Professionally Landscaped Lot. Close to Yonge St., Hwy 7 & 404. Offered at \$3.998M.



### 25+ ACRE ESTATE IN KING

Custom Built & Renovated Home with 3 Car Garage, Scenic Land with Barn. Backing onto Centennial Park & Trails. Presented at \$4.898M.



### COUNTRY ESTATE IN TOWN

Build Your Private Dream Home Hidden Among the Treed Vistas on 3.2 Secluded Acres of Picturesque Parkland Overlooking Mackenzie Pond in Aurora. Offered at \$2.198M.



### PRIME COMMERCIAL LOCATION

Excellent Exposure Close to Hwy's 404 & 7. MC-1 Zoning Allows for Several Permitted Uses. Renovated End Unit. Generous Parking Facility. Presented at \$1.1M.



### PRIVATE 15 ACRES

Surrounded by Mature Trees. 3 Bedroom Bungalow with Basement. Ready for Renovations or to Build Your Dream Home. Detached 120x50ft Storage Barn with Hydro. Rural East Gwillimbury Living. Presented at \$1.5M.



### NEW CUSTOM BUILD - LAKE WILCOX

Stunning "Never Lived In" Dream Home Backing onto Ravine in High Demand Lake Wilcox Community of Richmond Hill. Asking \$3.088M.



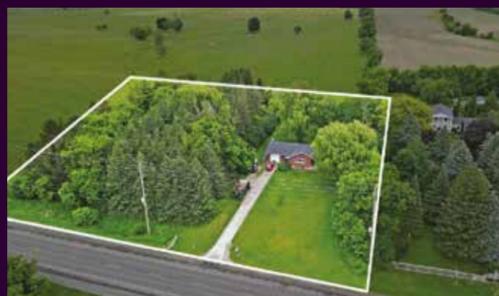
### CONTEMPORARY MASTERPIECE

Luxury Thornhill Residence. More Than 8,500sf of Living Space. 100ft Lot. Movie Theatre, Gym, Wet Bar, Nanny Quarters, Elevator. Great Finished Basement - Entertainer's Dream. Walk to Bayview Glen Public School. \$6.95M.



### EXCEPTIONAL & RARE OPPORTUNITY

Attention Developers, Builders and Investors! Future Redevelopment Potential. High-Profile Location in the Heart of Prestigious Aurora. 297ft Frontage, More Than 2.5 Acres. Private Grounds With Pond & Water. Offered at \$5M.



### BUNGALOW - 2 ACRES

Fantastic Country Living in a Fast Growing Community of East Gwillimbury. Just Minutes to Hwy 404, Proposed Hwy 400 Bypass & All Amenities. Presented at \$1.348M.



### 10 ACRES - SEPARATE SHOP

Attention to Detail. Recently Renovated Estate Home with Attached 2.5 Car Garage (9ft Ceiling) & Separate Shop With Loft. Quiet & Private Road in King. Offered at \$3.999M.



### INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Approximately 10 Acres with 650ft Frontage in Rapid Growing Community. Excellent Income Property. Zoning Permits Many Uses. Close to Hwy 404, Proposed Hwy 400 Bypass & Amenities. Asking \$2.3M.



### PICTURESQUE 26+ ACRE FARM

Tastefully Renovated Bungalow. Finished Lower Level In-Law Suite. Separate Garage/Shop With Upper Loft Living Quarters. 2 Stocked Ponds. Desirable Uxbridge Location. Asking \$2.538M.



### 50' WATERFRONT - PRIVATE LAKE

Breathtaking Views! Just 10 Mins to Go Train, 40 Mins to Downtown Toronto. No Need for Cottage. Updated Home on Musselman's Lake. Large Private Lot. Dock Your Toys at Home. Offered at \$1.888M.



### CONDO WITH STUNNING VIEWS

Almost 1,900sf. 2 Bedroom + Solarium/Den & Open Balcony. Layout Ideal For Entertaining Family & Friends. Prime Yonge & Clark Location in Vaughan. Presented at \$1.2M.

免费精准估算房产市场价值, 请联系我们, Daryl King 团队, 竭诚为您服务  
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\*As per REMAX stats for Large Residential Teams, March 2022. Not intended to solicit clients currently under contract with another Brokerage.



Luxury & Location  
In Perfect Harmony



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RESIDENCES

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