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THE AURORED

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 24 No. 6 905-727-3300 **TheAuroran.com** **FREE** Week of November 17, 2022 **CMCA AUDITED**



THEY REMEMBER, AS SHOULD YOU – D-Day veteran Joe Durkin, 98, and former Land Girl Alma Durkin, 95, both residents of Aurora and married for 73 years, say Remembrance is more important now than ever. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

"All those boys who never came back. I wonder if it was worth it."

Joe Durkin's family have no doubt his service mattered

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Few people today have living memory of what went through the minds of soldiers as they prepared to storm the beaches of Normandy.

Were they pumped to set foot on the shore and take on the enemy,

or were their minds elsewhere – perhaps thinking of their sweetheart, a parent, or brothers and sisters back home, wondering whether they would ever see them again? Maybe a little bit of both?

Even fewer survivors, thanks to the sands of time, can give us insight on the silent individual battles that were felt as the ships gave way to water – but Joe Durkin is one of the few.

Now 98 and living in The Meadows of Aurora with his wife of

73 years, former "Land Girl" Alma Durkin, "95-and-a-half", Durkin smooths his snow-white hair proudly make way for his beret as daughter Jennifer pins on his medals with equal pride.

"Earlier he said, 'All those boys who never came back. I wonder if it was worth it,'" Jennifer said of chatting with her parents before sitting down with The Auroran last week. "I said, 'Yes, Dad, it was worth it because you and all the

Continued on page 12

Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2022: A trip from Winnipeg, a baseball enthusiast

By Robert Belardi

It's a natural human element to make comparisons. We often relate an experience to another of its kind, as if to reveal to our minds things we had not seen prior; to form either a robust conversation or a daunting one.

In this case, it was the tale of all tales as it normally is with the Aurora Sports Hall of

Continued on page 7



CLASS OF 2022 – The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame formally inducted its Class of 2022 last Thursday night. Honourees included Colin "Pop" Nisbet (posthumous – represented by grandson Mike), Dave Giroux, Janice Jones, and Marco Di Girolamo. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

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Humfryes thanks residents, colleagues as term comes to a close

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Four-term councillor Sandra Humfryes might be “cheering on from the sidelines” as the 2022-2026 Council gets underway, but her commitment to the community will remain as strong as ever.

That was the message she delivered last Tuesday as her time at the Council table came to a close.

Humfryes, who was first elected to Aurora Council in 2010, was unsuccessful in her bid to represent Ward 1 in last month’s municipal election, but regardless of the outcome on election night, she says it will be a “great four years” for Aurora.

“It has been an incredible 12 years; it has been so amazing and I am so privileged to be able to serve the Town for 12 years and get so much out of it,” she told her colleagues. “To give back is one thing, but [it’s] the opportunity and honour that we get sitting here to help our residents [and] help the Town move forward.”

Humfryes first became involved in her community when she joined the Town’s Special Events Committee

shortly after moving to Aurora in 1999. She was looking for an opportunity to make a difference and the more she became involved deeper she fell in love with the Town.

“The Town is its people,” she said, singling out one individual in particular who first spurred her to enter the political arena: the late Councillor and founder of The Auroran Newspaper, Ron Wallace.

“The summer of 2010 was a tough one,” Humfryes recalled. “I had just lost my mom who was a true volunteer, and she had said, ‘Since you moved to Aurora you love that Town, why don’t you run for Council?’ I said I wasn’t a politician but a volunteer... I went to Ron and said, ‘What do you think?’ He said, ‘Kid, just put your hat in the ring. Do it.’ I didn’t expect to hear that. I thank Ron for doing that because he helped me see a part of the world I never would have known existed.

“When you can help residents there’s nothing better than that.”

There have been many accomplishments over the last 12 years, and among those underscored by Humfryes were the work thus far on the Town Square redevelopment project and rising to the challenges of



Former Aurora councillor Sandra Humfryes was celebrated by colleagues at the final meeting of the 2018-2022 Council term last Tuesday. Pictured here in Council chambers are, from left, Councillors Harold Kim and Michael Thompson, Humfryes, Mayor Tom Mrakas, and Councillors Rachel Gilliland, John Gallo, and Wendy Gaertner.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

COVID-19.

“What’s really exciting for me is being a part of Town Square; It’s an old idea from 25 years ago...and that little piazza was a little idea that we all started chatting about and then, the next thing you know, you have this beautiful Town Square, which is a destination. I can’t be prouder.”

“All the great work done during the pandemic this last term was so significant and somehow this Council was able to plow through with incredible staff and the leadership here that helps us look really good,” she added with a chuckle.

Closing out her final speech after twelve years at the microphone, Humfryes paid tribute to the Councillors past and president with whom she served, and shone a special light on late mayor Evelyn Buck, the late deputy mayor John Abel, and incumbent Mayor Tom Mrakas, who begins his second term this week.

“When I had a tough night, some pretty passionate issues at the beginning of the (2010) term, I wasn’t used to having [a full crowd] in the chamber all not happy. I remember Evelyn said, ‘Get over here. Sandra, please remember what happens at the Council table sometimes is a stage. The words

are honest, but it’s a stage – stop taking it to heart and move on’. Gosh, she was so right. I should have used that these eleven-and-a-half-years: don’t take it to heart, continue and just move on. We’re all doing this for the right reasons.

“We miss (John Abel) at the Council table. We had some heated discussions and, again, we didn’t all agree at the time, but in a previous campaign he would call me and leave messages like, ‘How can I go by that sign that fell over with a heart on it? I had to go and put it in its place. Hope you’re doing well.’ It just goes to show that it doesn’t matter where we think we are in our perspectives, we all have a camaraderie with each other and I know that we’re there for each other no matter what.

“Mayor (Mrakas), you arrived in 2014 [and], getting things done, proved how much you love this Town. You move mountains with your tireless efforts to stop the OMB (Ontario Municipal Board) from what they were doing. Maybe it will come back in a different format, but you’re not going to quit. There are lots of challenges ahead and I know this beautiful Town needs to be protected. And with you and the leadership around this table, we have nothing to worry about.”

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Council of 2018-2022 signs off with farewell to colleague and look to the future

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It doesn't have the pomp and circumstance of an inauguration, but in closing out the final Council meeting of the 2018-2022 term, words shared by lawmakers with their colleagues, and with the community, were no less heartfelt.

The outgoing Council met in Council Chambers for the last time on November 8.

It has been an eventful four years, one marked by the unforeseen challenges that came with COVID-19, along with big decisions made along the way like the multi-million-dollar redevelopment on Town Square.

But as much as those items were in their minds, so too was the departure of Sandra Humfries, who had served on Council since 2010 and was the only incumbent not returned to the table by voters when she sought re-election in the newly created Ward 1.

The final meeting of the term was led by Mayor Tom Mrakas with remarks were kicked off by Councillor John Gallo, who will be sworn in as Councillor for Ward 5 this week.

"I would like to congratulate all of you for being re-elected, to thank all of the candidates that ran in the last election, particularly in the well-contested Ward 5. It was a great group of individuals and, like I said many times during my campaign, any one of us would have done a fantastic job representing Ward 5," he said. "A special thank you to Councillor Humfries. 12 years ago was the first time we were on Council together. We have been on Council for eight years; notwithstanding we didn't always see eye-to-eye, I always had an immense amount of respect for you and your contribution to the Town. Your passion and your love for it, I never, ever questioned that. You will definitely be missed in my eyes at this table."

Councillor Rachel Gilliland, who will take on the role of Ward 2 Councillor this week, was next, leading with a personal tribute to Humfries.

"You have been a shining star, especially to me as a Councillor," she said. "You took me under your wing and had given me advice, let me know if I didn't get my point across in the item I could do it in new business. I think you even gave me a Roberts Rules (of Order) at the very beginning. You're definitely very special to me and I have high regard to you and a lot of respect for you. You have done a lot for this Town and we hope to see your smiling face around Town and continue on with that."

This tone, reflecting on the achievements of the term and of Humfries, continued with Councillor Wendy Gaertner, the Town's longest-

serving incumbent lawmaker, who will resume her place at the table as the representative for Ward 3.

"To me, the one thing that sets you apart is the caring and compassion that you have for the residents and their issues and their needs. It is very, very special," said Gaertner of Humfries. "And, just to top it all off, you managed to do something that I thought was impossible: you got a traffic light at Butternut Ridge Trail and Gilbert and Yonge. Thank you. You made that happen. It was a great parting gift for the Town."

Councillor Harold Kim, who was re-elected to serve Ward 6, said it had been an honour to serve the last four years and was looking forward to the next four.

"When one is going through things, one doesn't fully appreciate all the things that were accomplished. When I look back, we accomplished much. We moved ahead with the Administrative Monetary Penalties system, opening up the Armoury, of course Town Square, Hallmark lands and the baseball diamond, retail sales of cannabis, right turn lane at Yonge and Wellington, various mural discussions, heritage designations, sport plan, comprehensive development charge review, commencement of the asset management plan – we couldn't exercise the tree bylaw, however. It came back again and again and again," he said with a smile. "Who could forget the award of tender for supply and delivery of one combination dump, sander and plow truck? That was a fierce discussion."

"This evening I would like to honour our colleague, Councillor Sandra Humfries. You were and are all heart through and through. If I received a dollar for each time you cried or teary-eyed in Council chamber... I would be able to go on an all-inclusive Caribbean cruise. Those tears (that Humfries battled through during the meeting) are not just for show, it's an outpouring of your heart. Even in the most human discussions, you had a passion and the human component. Even when you swore, you did it with a smile!

"Some of us rationalize items with a calculator, economic theory, public policy, public planning and knowledge, but you are unique. You rationalize with your heart and, in the end, as human beings, is that not what distinguishes us from all other life forms on this earth? I will miss you. We will always be friends and we will continue to meet regularly."

Last to speak before Humfries formally ended the meeting with a motion to adjourn was Mayor Tom Mrakas.

"This is the last Council meeting of the 2018 to 2022 term and what a term it was," he said. "From taking bold steps forward towards the revitalization of our downtown with the development

of Town Square, to navigating a once in a lifetime pandemic. We have much to be proud of in terms of what we accomplished together over the past four years. I think the most important accomplishment was our ability to work together towards the common goal of getting things done for our community. Over the course [of the term] Council voted 890 times on a broad range of issues and of those 890 votes, Council was able to come to a unanimous decision 82 per cent of the time. A clear indication that this Council, a group of seven individuals with differing opinions, different perspectives, was able to work effectively for the best interests of Aurora. While this term might be over, I anticipate the same focus on collaboration at the Council table over the next four years

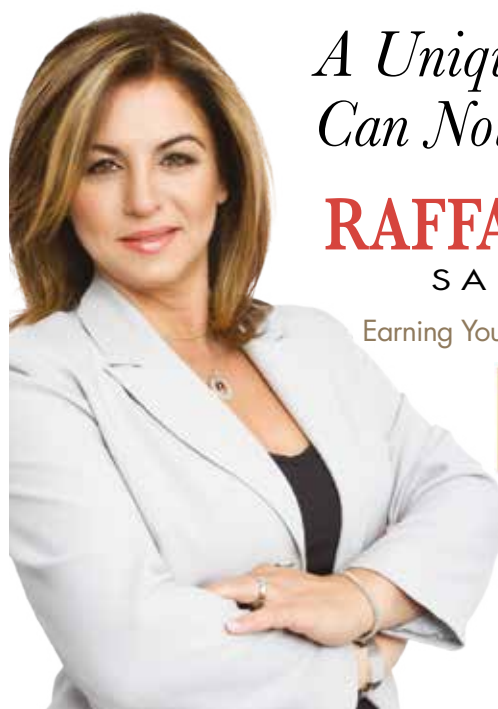
because that is how you get things done.

"Sandra, you are one of the most passionate, caring individuals I have ever met. Your love for our Town is unmatched and the 12 years you have spent on Council has been 12 years of building our community and always looking for ways to help those in need. You never hesitate when anyone asks for help. I have worked with you on Council for eight years and our time together is one that I will always remember. I knew you before joining you on Council and I know that our relationship will continue long after both of our terms on Council are over. You will be missed at the Council table for your dedication to our community and for your friendship. You're not only a colleague, you are a friend, family, and everyone is a better person for knowing you."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bill 23 is a disaster waiting to happen: Open letter to Premier Ford

Contrary to what you seem to believe, Ontario does not belong to you and this Conservative party. Ontario belongs to us, the People of Ontario.

The taxes we must pay through our hard-earned money is not yours to use as you wish.

Don't get me wrong, I believe in taxes - we need them for the life of our province. But you and this Ontario government are using our money to destroy Ontario's environment and raise greenhouse carbon dioxide to unacceptable levels. Just as you attempted to take CUPE's right to a fair wage, the right to strike, now you are taking away the People of Ontario's right to a safe and healthy environment.

- In this proposed bill, you are:
1. Removing our right to appeal on planning matters that affect our community;
 2. Limiting the power of conservation authorities (CAs) to regulate or prohibit development;
 3. Removing the role of seven regional municipalities (Simcoe, Durham, Halton, Peel, Niagara, Waterloo and York) in planning matters, thereby eliminating coordinated efforts to protect farmland and natural areas, determine optimal locations for development and infrastructure, and efficiently deliver municipal services;
 4. Proposing drastic amendments to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System;
 5. Replacing the Provincial Policy Statement with a new policy instrument geared to facilitating unchecked development.

Herman Daly, renowned former World Bank economist and visionary thinker said, "There is something fundamentally wrong with treating the Earth as if it were a business in liquidation."

He added, "The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment, not the reverse." We're part of nature, and everything in nature, including us, is interconnected. What we do to it, we do to ourselves. Accelerating fossil fuel exploitation, deforestation, mining, wetland destruction and consumerism has far-reaching, interrelated consequences, from climate chaos to biodiversity decline to water shortages."

Climate Change is here. We have seen the effects in heat domes, forest fires, unseasonable weather patterns, and drought.

Ontario is not immune to these changes.

We desperately need our wetlands to prevent flooding, our agricultural lands for food. Right now, in Africa millions of Kenyans' lives have been devastated by a relentless and punishing drought that has triggered food insecurity, livestock deaths and conflicts among communities.

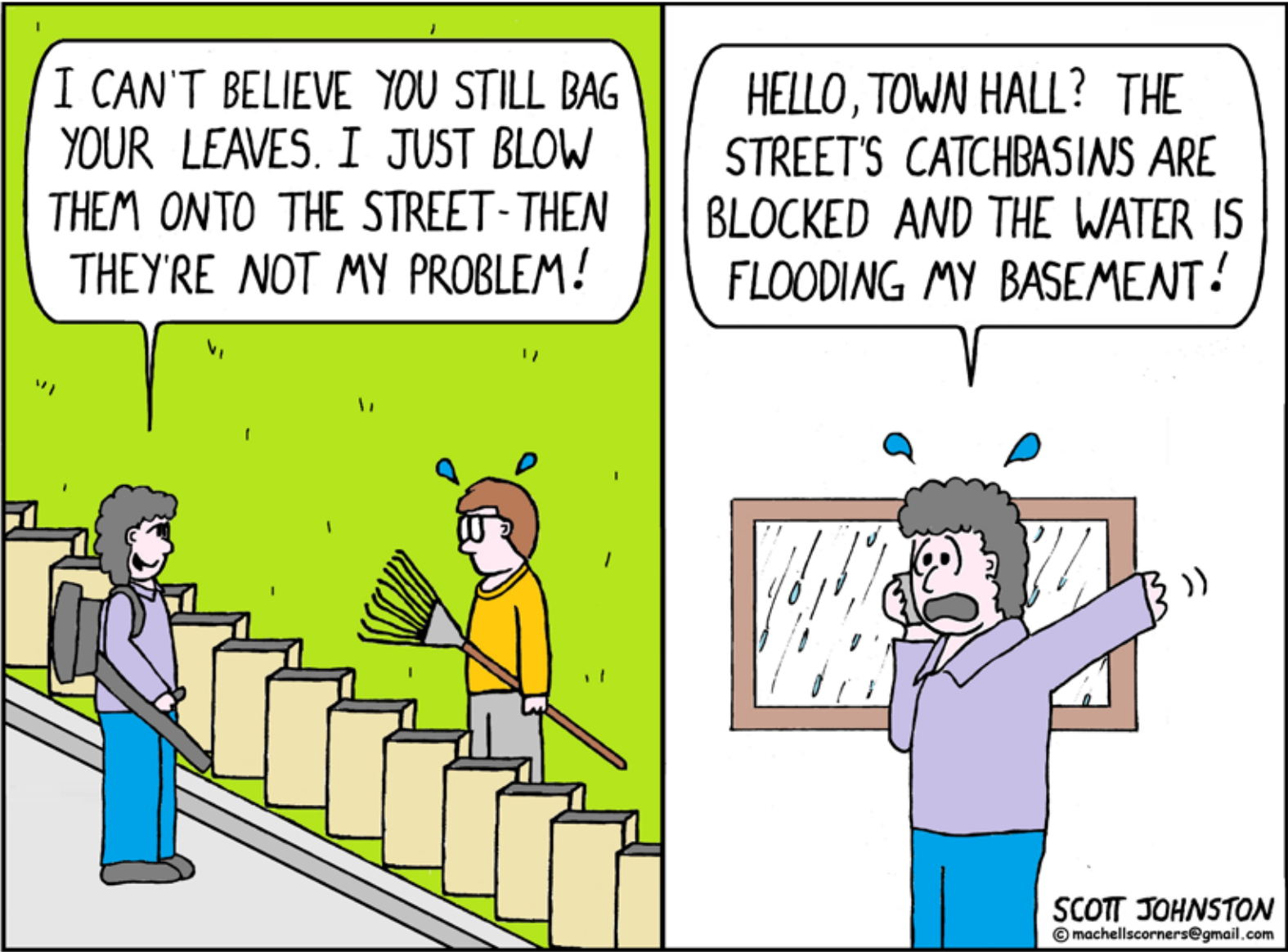
"We will all die if it continues like this," (Earthbeat) Kenya is not the only place with drought. Places in the United States are having to buy water because the rivers have dried up. You, Premier Ford, cannot allow developers to destroy Ontario!

Continued on page 14

To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to brock@lpcmedia.ca

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Machell's Corners



The merits of leaving a paper trail



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

of the places I visited above and beyond just what I felt and places of joy and, in some instances, places of unspeakable tragedy.

15 years on, I was left with more questions than answers.

Memories are funny things. Some might be accurate in your mind's eye, others might have been clouded by other experiences, or sometimes even conflated with different events. These memories might be more reflective of what you would have preferred happen rather than what actually did, or maybe recorded with personal biases you may have had at the time (such as perspectives on one or two people on the trip that, given the benefit of time, no longer hold true).

But, once these memories are gone, they're gone.

The rediscovery of the diary is not the only factor that prompted these thoughts; it was never far from my mind this year as we marked Remembrance Day in many ways in the lead-up to November 11.

On the Saturday before the eleventh day of the eleventh month, I was honoured to attend the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion's first Remembrance Dinner since the start of the global pandemic. Always a poignant evening in which bread is broken with friend and neighbour for a common cause with a guest speaker to share their own personal stories of service, there was a marked shift in the crowd this year.

While we sadly lose veterans, particularly those who served in the Second World War and the Korean War, all too often due to the ravages of time that none of us are immune to, the intervening weeks, months and years of COVID-19 made the loss all the more felt this first time we had been able to gather since.

The ones who departed since the last dinner in 2019 are in their well-

earned rest, but, although they often say you can't take it with you, they took with them their memories of conflict, the all-too-real and indelible emotions that came as a result, and the wisdom that comes with hindsight on the true cost of war and what we must do to never allow it to happen again.

With so few veterans of long-ago conflicts now either gone or unable to share their insights on such pivotal efforts in human history, the very real costs of war might feel that much further removed from our contemporary lives – but, as we see today in Europe and other parts of the world, this is far from the case.

We can all be grateful that many historical societies and heritage-minded bodies took on the task of spearheading oral history projects with these singular individuals before it was too late; recording their insights, some still raw despite the passage of time, for generations today and for generations to come.

We often hear that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it, but thanks to these efforts, the everyday, the seemingly mundane, and thoughts bottled up for generations just waiting for someone to ask have been kept for posterity and we're all richer for it.

But, for the rest of us, what are the lived experiences, singular to each and every one of us, that we should set down on paper? Big, flashy current events like how we saw each other cope during the height of the pandemic might be felt as something worth preserving, but I'd hazard a guess that generations will be more interested in the everyday, the things not necessarily committed to history through the pages of a newspaper or magazine, online archives where old websites go to die, or committed to a limited number of characters on a social media platform that will undoubtedly be seen as a relic by the time future generations are prepared to care.

What's important to you now?

What do you want your children, grandchildren, friends and other loved ones to know about you when they're unable to ask?

What are the experiences that helped shape you for better or worse? What's worth leaving a paper trail?

If you stop to think, the answers might surprise you.

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The Aurora Museum & Archives is... *Guiding the Way!*

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Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

As a parent, I never censored what my daughter was reading or watching. I assumed she would grasp what she was ready to understand and hoped that she would ask questions if she needed background or explanations. I also made sure I was up-to-date with what she was reading or viewing, as these became the best conversation-starters around challenging topics.

The spark for conversation can come through books, but also through music, film, and art. Opening the door to critical thinking through the arts and media literacy provides children with the tools that will help them navigate the world and grow a sense of empowerment so that they can be part of a movement for societal change.

Currently on exhibit at Aurora Public Library (first floor, display cabinet) are three paneled canvases representing one joint image painted by children at the StArt Academy (Newmarket). The idea came about when two local Ukrainian refugees created a collaborative artwork and wanted to share it with others. This initiative gave birth to the opportunity to engage other children in painting these pieces together and create an even richer meaning.

Alexandra Reznik (artist/educator at StArt Academy) explained "When you immerse yourself in such a collaborative artwork you feel enriched and as if you are making a difference in a situation as difficult and heartbreaking as of the people of Ukraine right now. Even if that indifference is just living inside of you or you were able to touch another being with your own indifference. This event was not only fun but also educational for all of us. There is something extremely powerful in the energy of people of all backgrounds uniting as one to collaborate on something together."

I invite library visitors to view this exhibit with their children, to enjoy the beautiful artifacts generously provided by members of our Ukrainian community, and to read the background text about the cultural symbols depicted in the artwork.

While many of us would like to protect children from the harsh realities of the real world, there is an increasing awareness of the importance of teaching and supporting critical thinking about social, economic, environmental, and political issues. Children have more access than ever to the stories that fuel social media. Safe spaces, like schools and libraries, can give them the tools to question and become informed and active citizens.

What I've been reading:

The Case of the Murderous
Dr. Cream by *Dean Jobb*
Animal Person:
Stories by Alexander MacLeod
Her First Palestinian
by *Saeed Teebi*
Finding Edward
by *Sheila Murray*

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

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Should indoor mask mandates be reinstated this fall and winter?

Yes No

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Previous Poll Results

Should combatting speeding be a top priority for the incoming Council?

RESULTS TO DATE	November 15, 2022	YES	NO
		55%	45%

Continued on page 14



LEAH'S LETTER

Leah Taylor Roy, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

In addition, we are already putting more money back in the pockets of Canadians by: Enhancing the Canada Workers Benefit to support workers this year, with a couple receiving up to \$2,400 more this year, and single workers receiving up to \$1,200 more; Cutting regulated childcare fees in half on average for families in Canada by the end of this year; Increasing by 10% the Old Age Security (OAS) pension for seniors 75 years and older, starting in July 2022, providing more than \$800 in new support; Providing more support for students by doubling the Canada Student Grant amount until July 2023 and by waiving interest on Canada Student Loans permanently. An average student loan borrower will save \$410 yearly due to their loan being interest-free.

We will be there to help Canadians through the slowdown to come, we can do that because while we are compassionate, we are also responsible. I am proud that Canada has the lowest debt and the lowest deficit-to GDP ratio in the G7. Moody's reaffirmed our AAA rating with a stable outlook – we are one of only three countries with a Triple A rating.

In October, Canada gained another 119,000 full-time jobs

Stories from the municipal campaign trail

There is nothing in a campaign that beats door-to-door canvassing. It is where the action is. It is that time when the candidates and their emissaries get to meet the jury, one door at a time. Canvassing provides feedback, information on issues, moods and voter priorities.

One can also gain a better understanding of the candidate by watching them deal with rejection, tough questions, voter anger or the occasional embarrassing situation.

One personal canvas story comes to mind.

A long number of years ago, I was alone on a nice Saturday morning canvassing on behalf of a candidate in Mississauga. I had just left one house and came out between two cars onto the next property when I saw it, or should I say, we saw each other. The German Sheppard was not very big – about six feet tall and seven hundred pounds!

The problem was that I was scared and the dog knew it. I turned away and ran down the driveway. Neither Ben Johnson nor Donovan Bailey would have caught me. Amazingly, the dog was well trained and he stopped at the end of his master's property.

The homeowner was in his white housecoat looking at me from his front window having a great laugh. He



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

then gave me a special hand gesture signifying, I guess, good will to all.

I, being the good canvasser that I was, placed a notation on the canvass form: "person at household really interested in policy, please send the candidate to discuss!"

Some anecdotes from the recent municipal campaign trail.

From a canvasser on behalf of one of the mayoralty candidates:

"I found myself to be in quite a good rhythm while going down the street, however when I knocked on one door, expecting to wait, the door swung wide open immediately, the resident blurted out "I love candidate "X"", he grabbed a flyer from my hands, bowed and said thank you. I was standing at the next doorstep in less than 10 seconds, with a smile on my face. "

From a first-time counsel candidate: "Everything is pretty much the same on the campaign trail, except of course, for

'Sign, Sign, everywhere a Sign', to quote the song. Between wind, vandalism and by-laws it's nearly a fulltime job to keep up with them."

One candidate has a novel approach to increasing voter turnout:

"I have been doing a silent survey on the number of pet owners, especially dog owners, and I feel that the dog population is well over 32% and quite vocal! This is equal to and if not over the last elections actual voter population turnout. So, my theory is that if we offered a real special dog owner treat incentive on election night, so as to try get them out, we'd probably top all expectations as to voter turnout overall in this election."

Obviously from one non-incumbent Council candidate:

"One guy said, 'All politicians are gangsters.' My wife said that her husband (me) wasn't a gangster because he wasn't a politician, yet."

From the same candidate:

"To the question, why should I vote for him, my wife once said, 'If I can give him 30 years of marriage, you should be able to give him 4 years.'"

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Honoured Members



The Aurora Sport Hall of Fame's Class of 2022 was celebrated at the Royal Venetian Mansion on Thursday night at the Hall's annual Induction Dinner. Honoured on stage by sponsors and upcoming athletes, were (clockwise from top left) Rugby star Marco Di Girolamo, golf pioneer Colin 'Pop' Nisbet, represented by grandson Mike, swimmer Janice Jones, and baseball advocate Dave Giroux.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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Aurora Sports Hall of Fame welcomes Class of 2022



Dave Giroux and Janice Jones address attendees at the 2022 Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Induction Dinner.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

From page 1
Fame, Induction Celebration Dinner last Thursday at Royal Venetian Mansion.

As you sat eating in the room while listening to David Pilkey play the piano for everyone in attendance, unlike last year, the left half of the hall filled up with people rather quickly: a great thing for a wonderful night of simply celebrating individuals that gave everything they had to the betterment of their sports and to this Town they have flawlessly represented.

Following an hour and a half of mingling, it was time to turn attentions over to the other side of the Venetian to honour this year's inductees.

The latest inductees entering the Hall this year were introduced by Hall of Fame president Javed Khan, who also introduced the future Hall of Famers whose names will, one day, be well known in the future.

First to be honoured, following words from MPPs Michael Parsa and Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Mayor Tom Marakas and sponsors, and emcee Rod Black, was the sportscaster's fellow-Winnipegger Janice Jones.

Jones, who initially joined swimming more for safety than the love of the game, most notably broke the Canadian Masters record for 100-metre breaststroke at the Pan American Trials in Brantford, Ont.

The Hall of Fame narrated and showcased a video for each inductee. In Jones' video, viewers were able to see Jones in her youth and were able to learn about her journey through interviews from former coaches.

"I want to thank, first of all, the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and all of the wonderful volunteers that I met who made this possible. Just a wonderful group of people and I thank you very much. And I also would like to thank those of you who are sitting in the room tonight, who volunteered in Aurora who made this a wonderful sporting community," Jones began.

"Ironically, I'm here tonight partly because I was trying to volunteer. When the Town identified the need for another swimming pool, they asked for a consultant to do a feasibility study and this consultant asked for input from residents. I thought this was something I could do. Yes, I had been a competitive swimmer; yes, I've been a coach, but I also taught every level of swimming. I have also taught aquatic programs and did a few years of those called synchronized swimming – it's now called 'artistic swimming' I had an understanding of a whole broad spectrum of aquatic users and I absolutely knew we needed a 50-metre pool for everyone in Town."

This was throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and Jones said she had never met people part of her Committee up until that evening. Part of the team was Kelly Hughes, who ultimately nominated Jones.

Reflecting on her career, Jones said had a friend who flew out from Vancouver, B.C., to witness her induction. Surrounded by love, Jones was extremely grateful to be nominated.

Next to be honoured was dedicated volunteer in Dave Giroux.

Giroux has been a long-time leader in the baseball community for decades. Giroux, who came over from Dalhousie, N.B., originally got into baseball in Newmarket and grew the program from there.

He began the Junior Rookie Division and, alongside others, he founded the York-Simcoe Interlock Baseball Association. In August of 2010 he spearheaded the development of Stewart Burnett Park and was a catalyst in the merger between two

organizations in 2014 now known as the Aurora-King Baseball Association.

For 30 years, Giroux had spent countless hours maintaining baseball diamonds and developing young minds.

Emotional in his speech, Giroux said he loved every minute of it.

"The building of Stewart Burnett and the process of going through that, the staff had my back. The process of going through that, for Council and the Mayor to move forward. But it wasn't something that was an easy process, I can guarantee you that... I look forward to the new Council and their commitments to sports groups. Because that's what truly makes Aurora the best home to be," Giroux said.

"There were many nights I wasn't around. I'm sure that's why we're still married 27 years later," he said, thanking his wife. "She got her own programs while I was out having fun on my three-wheeler. But, there were a lot of late-night phone calls. She'd be in bed for hours. We'd have executive meetings that would have second executive meetings in the parking lot for hours [all] to try and make the sport better for the kids. And all those hours that were put in, I don't have any second thoughts. To be standing here tonight to be recognized by your Town, as a builder of your community, is an honour. I can't say

how important it is to be a part of this all."

Coverage of induction of the Aurora

Sport Hall of Fame's Class of 2022 will continue next week with Colin S. "Pop" Nisbet and Marco Di Girolamo.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE



Boutique launches holiday giving for Food Pantry, Belinda’s Place, Marquee

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Oakridge’s Fashions has always made gift-giving easy, and now it’s making sure your gifts have

the maximum impact on the local community.

On Monday, the boutique, located in the heart of Aurora’s Historic Downtown Core on Yonge Street, just south of Wellington, welcomed the public in for the lighting of its



Business owner Deb Clark of Oakridge’s Fashions was assisted in the lighting of the store’s Christmas tree on Monday night by young members of Marquee Theatrical Productions: Charlotte Branidis, Mia Nguyen, Joe Gao, Madelyn Sandler, and Ina Liu.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Christmas Tree. But this was more than just a traditional tree lighting ceremony; it was the launch of their Holiday Giving Program, which will see a portion of proceeds from a number of gift items for men and women alike benefit the Aurora Food Pantry, Belinda’s Place women’s shelter, and the non-profit Marquee Theatrical Productions.

Oakridge’s Fashions has been a long-time supporter of the Aurora Food Pantry, particularly during the holiday season when the proceeds from felted mouse Christmas tree ornaments go directly back to the local food bank.

The mice are back this year, as is a new children’s book inspired by the mice’s journey by Ms. Clark herself – and the sales of both will go to the food pantry – but they’re casting a much wider net this holiday season.

“The story centres around seven of these little ornaments that were left behind in the factory because they weren’t quite perfect,” Deb Clark shares. “They were sad they were left behind in the factory but they have this lovely friendship amongst them and really want to find a home for the holidays to be loved and cherished. They hatch up plans to make a getaway to Oakridge’s and reunite with all the ornaments.

“The Food Pantry was such an easy decision a few years ago as a recipient for funds being raised because during the holidays it can be a particularly difficult time financially for families that are already very, very close to the mark with their finances. Things can occur that can upset that delicate economic family balance and we always felt that that source of food is so important, especially at this time of year. That relationship is still ongoing [but] it was time to take this concept of giving back into the community and cast the net a little further. That began not only the return of the holiday mice

and the children’s book to go with it, but we decided that we would do a very specific and deliberate buy for giftables that are now already in store at Oakridge’s: things for men, for families, for neighbours, a gift for your book club, for the office exchange – items that are as low as under \$10.”

Gifts include international items, farmers’ market bags, pyjamas, Frasier fir candles, jams and spreads, and much more.

The items are now under the banner of the “Oakridge’s Giving Shop” with a portion of the proceeds going to the new charitable partners.

“We felt that if we wanted to encourage – and we do, of course – the community to consider Oakridge’s as it fulfils its gift list, the best way we can do that is to assure them that as they do that they will also be giving back into the community,” says Clark. “As we consider recipient organizations, we don’t make too huge of a list because want each one to receive a sizable donations, we will continue on with the Pantry being the recipient from the mouse program but we wanted to support Belinda’s Place this season and we also chose Marquee Theatrical Productions. It not only gives children a wonderful outlet through the learning of theatre, song, arts and culture, but it does so for adults in the community, as well. We felt that was a pretty big gift they’re giving.

“It becomes a partnership of Oakridge’s along with customers in the community all coming together through gift buying to support the community. The more days and weeks we have to accomplish that, the better. We, as a retailer, can offer a really genuine opportunity for everyone to do their Christmas giving and, at the same time, support the community we all live and work in.”

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Province’s housing measures continue to raise municipal concerns

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Ontario Government’s plan to create more housing across the Province continues to draw concerns from municipal leaders at both the Town and Regional level.

Following the inauguration of Aurora’s 2022-2026 Council on Tuesday evening, one of the first orders of business will be to formally oppose Bill 23.

In a motion that will come before Council in the coming weeks from Mayor Tom Mrakas, Council will be asked vote for calling upon

the Province to “halt” the Bill’s advancement through the Legislature to allow for further consultation with municipalities.

The goal, says Mrakas in his motion, is to “ensure that its objectives for sound decision-making for housing growth that meets local needs will be reasonably achieved.”

“Many of the proposed changes (within the Bill) are significant and will restrict how municipalities manage growth through implementation of the Official Plan and the ability to provide essential infrastructure and community services,” reads the motion. “The effect of Bill 23 is that the Conservation Authority will no

longer be able to review and comment on development applications and supporting environmental studies on behalf of a municipality.”

The Bill, he adds, proposes to freeze, reduce and remove development charges – money paid to communities by developers for infrastructure improvements to account for growth – and parkland dedication requirements.

“Bill 23 will remove all aspects of Site Plan Control of some residential development proposals up to 10 units,” the Mayor continues “Changes would also remove the ability to regulate architectural details and aspects of landscape designs.”

Backlash against Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, continued at the Regional table last week with Regional Council passing a motion from Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti requesting that Queen’s Park “halt” the Bill and consult the Housing Supply Action Plan Implementation Team to “ensure municipalities can work in partnership with the Province to address the housing affordability crisis in our communities.”

“Regional Council and The Regional Municipality of York remain aligned with the provincial goal of building more homes and increasing the speed

of approvals, but we do have concerns with the proposed legislation,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson. “As proposed, Bill 23 will have considerable and complex economic, social and environmental impacts and will significantly impact how municipal governments recover the costs associated with growth.”

The Bill puts forward many changes, including modifications to the Development Charges Act and Planning Act which would put limits on how municipalities can finance infrastructure needed due to growth from new developments.

That, says the Region, contradicts “the goal of building more affordable housing.”

“The concept that growth should pay for growth is a long-held practice of governments around the world,” said Mayor Scarpitti in a statement. “In bringing forward this motion and asking the province to take a pause on Bill 23, Regional Council is asking the province to collaborate and work with its municipal partners to address the affordable housing crisis while ensuring the financial burden of growth-related infrastructure does not sit with our existing property taxpayers.”

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes raises over \$75,000 for local shelter



BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

You can’t truly understand what someone is going through until you walk a mile in her shoes – but that’s just what this community tried to do once again as Yellow Brick House this month hosted its first in-person Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event since the start of the pandemic.

Once again hosted in partnership with St. Andrew’s College, the event, which also included a virtual component for those unable to be at the school’s Aurora campus for whatever reason, sees participants of all genders don a pair of high heels for a mile-long walk.

The event is now in its sixth year and attracted nearly 200 in person participants who collectively raised just over \$76,000 for Yellow Brick House. Dollars raised will go directly towards essential services like funding a shelter bed.

“It costs us \$150 per shelter bed per night, supporting the shelter beds that women and children desperately need to flee a violent situation,” says Yellow Brick House CEO Lorris Herenda. “We had St. Andrew’s College students

help us organize the event, and also with the support of female students from St. Anne’s. We’re very excited about the growth of this partnership.”

Students, she said, were “absolutely astounded” by the statistics related to domestic violence shared by Yellow Brick House, including that one in three women and their children have been or will be impacted by violence, and how these issues were made worse due to isolation that came with the global pandemic.

“The younger people who were there for the first time approached me after the event to say, ‘I didn’t know how prevalent this is,’” said Herenda. “There was a young man who attended with his girlfriend and he said to me, ‘I want to bring my son and daughter,’ and he doesn’t even have children yet. ‘I want them to be a part of this movement because we need to stop violence against women and children.’ That’s very powerful for me because that’s one person and we could have thousands of people like that who would be taking that step to raise awareness and break the silence around domestic violence. It is such a hidden issue, it has been such a private issue, yet it impacts one in three women and children.”

Continued on page 15

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Elvin the Elf getting ready for Santa's big night in Aurora

Santa Under the Stars parade returns November 26

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Santa's making his list, checking it twice, but getting him Aurora-ready are tasks that have been assigned to Mrs. Claus and head elf Elvin.

There's just over a week to go before Santa takes his sleigh down

Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard in the north to Murray Drive.

The nighttime parade is a family-favourite and will get underway from 6 – 8 p.m. with floats, marching bands, and much more.

Ahead of the big night, The Auroran connected with Elvin over Zoom in the North Pole to discuss all that's in store for Santa Under the Stars 2022.

The Aurooran: This is the second year the parade has been back since COVID arrived. What plans are you hearing for the big Aurora parade up in the North Pole?

Elvin: I know in our overarching calendar here at the North Pole, that's a date to look forward to. We know getting him ready this year seems really normal for us, and it is also a delight because we aim to please Santa. If we have him ready for Aurora, we know he will be pleased with us. We have to make sure Santa's got confidence when he leaves the North Pole that we're on our targets, on our preparation for toys, building, as Santa goes through the list of naughty and nice that we're going to be able to hit the projections for this year while ensuring he has all the necessities and comforts he requires for his travels. A sleigh can be quite bumpy and not the most comfortable drive!

TA: What makes Aurora so special for Santa?

E: It is always a wonderful scene because the participants don't realize that Santa sees them when they're warming up in the staging area. Santa is really looking forward to more of those groups, more of the

dance groups, more of the sports organizations coming out. We understand that we're up in the North Pole and it is quite cold here with our strong snow base, but from what we recall in Aurora it is still a little bit green. Hopefully the weather will be on our side, which will enable more groups to be able to participate in that capacity. Santa always looks forward to see the Optimist Club of Aurora's float as well as Marquee and Dynamic Dance studio, just to name a few, but it is also nice to see the active dance groups that don't have floats, such as Spectrum North Baton and, of course, the New Roots Garden Centre always makes a splash with what they're able to pull together.

TA: What makes Aurora so special for you?

E: Well, I hear the restaurants and eateries will be all decorated and ready to go to welcome everyone in the downtown and we strongly do, based on what Santa tells us, it is quite a beautiful downtown in Aurora. While you wait for the Jolly Man in Red himself to travel by, you should really take advantage of the shops being open late as well as the warm and cozy eateries along the route. The parade is more than just the magic you see within the roadway. There is so much magic between the curb and the storefronts. Hillary House always serves hot chocolate and what is better than a Hallmark moment of having hot chocolate at that National Historic Site? There will also be other locations such as Machell's Alley in that core of Yonge Street also providing hot chocolate. In addition to that, the shops also do their own unique welcome niceties to make the experience being out that evening all that more special.

TA: Maybe you might like to spend some extra time in Town! As far as the parade is concerned, are there any health, safety, or accessibility issues we should know about?

E: This year we will be able to focus on seeing even more children because although thousands arrived last year at the parade, we know with no restrictions it will only be bigger and busier this year! We have to make sure Santa's travels are as comfortable as possible. With the list that Santa

has already checked, we need to make sure they're updated. In Aurora, Santa really takes note and looks for the children that really abide by the road closure rules and not sitting on the road because the road has to be cleared between the curb eight feet out into the roadway for safety for emergency vehicles who have to access those routes. Santa really takes note of the children and families that stay curbside and don't set up camp on the road. Aurora will have an accessible viewing location on the east side of Yonge Street as well as on the west side of Yonge Street. Those will be on a first come first served basis. People can always reach out to the Town to request it and find out more details about it earlier because it is still limited space.

TA: Sounds like there's something for everyone! What's left on your to do list?

E: There is so much to do and even though the elves predominantly make our own toys, we're experiencing the COVID production shortages too because some toys do require manufactured pieces and some manufacturing has shortages, too. We're just the same as south of us, but overall it is really inventory management, production schedules, all while singing carols, eating our candy canes, and having a lot of cheer while doing our tasks.

TA: Thank you for your time, Elvin. We'll see you next Saturday. Do you have any parting words for our readers?

E: Yes! If you're not familiar with Aurora's parade, it's really one to come out for. If it is not your annual tradition already, consider making it. In order to make a tradition you first have to experience it. Come out. You will likely meet a new friend on the right side of you and on the left side of you as you hunker down for the receiving line when Santa rolls through. We hope that new residents will come and check it out, even those that maybe have done parades all their life and now they may not make it the top of their priority list, this is the perfect free outing. Come out, get some cheer, fill your heart with joy, and really start your holiday season.

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Please send a brief outline of your interest with a resume or CV by email to: info@AuroraCulturalCentre.ca by December 2, 2022 with the subject line **Board of Directors**.

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FREE Week of November 17, 2022

St. Andrew's College Saints capture CISAA title with a convincing 37-8 victory



Aurora photo by Robert Belardi

By Robert Belardi

The St. Andrew's College Saints first football team made it look easy in the CISAA finals last Wednesday.

The boys cruised to a 37-8 victory over the visiting Upper Canada College Blues to capture the championship.

In a cool, windy, but luckily sunny afternoon, the Saints had come into this match without conceding a point in CISAA play all season. They posted 149 points forward and none against.

The Blues had won the coin toss and elected to defer the ball, giving the Saints the first shot at the end zone.

Beginning on the two-yard line, led by quarterback Anthony Lio, the Saints moved the ball exceptionally well. Markus Millar had some nice rushes, Lio some rushes of his own, Ashton Watson came in with a few end arounds and Roan Binnendyk made some great catches. As they entered the red zone, Lio found Teagh Tremain in the end zone to cap-off the 108-yard drive to begin the game and with the extra point good from Spencer Haslett, the Saints were already up 7-0.

Defensively, as always, the Saints were sound and left no opportunity for the Blues to get going.

Nathan Pahanich broke his way through the Blues' offensive line and brought down their quarterback for a huge loss that immediately shifted momentum.

Towards the end of the first quarter with the Saints knocking on the door again, Lio uncharacteristically threw an interception, heading into the second quarter only up 7-0.

That wasn't a deterrent to the Saints' level of play, however, as the defence came out swinging. The boys forced the Blues to take a safety, adding two points to the scoreboard.

On the ensuing drive, Binnendyk was all over this one making a few exceptional catches and broke some tackles to gain extra yards. Close to the goal line, running back Nicholas Belmonte punched it in making

it 16-0.

The Saints would continue to go on and pound the Blues for the rest of the quarter. Lio earned himself a rushing touchdown and then, on another drive, Lio scrambled out to the right and completed a sensational throw off-balance to Jack Hudson who broke free in behind a few corner backs to make it 30-0.

On the next possession, Pahanich forced a fumble just inside the 10-yard line setting up a rushing touchdown by James Gillingham.

With a 37-0 lead, the Saints opted to replace Lio with Ronan Nordick and ran the clock the rest of the way.

However, to the Saints' dismay, with 2:59 left to go in the game, the boys coughed up their first touchdown of the season and two-point conversion. Blues quarterback Charles Price lofted the ball to Justin Chin who ran a vertical route into the back of the end zone.

When the clock ran out, the men in red, white and silver were filled with unbridled joy and fans, students and staff in attendance were thrilled with the victory.

"We had a game plan. We knew no matter where we were going to start we knew what we had on our script was going to move the chains. We sure as heck did it. I'm so proud of our kids that opening drive really set the tone," said head coach Marcello Lio after the win.

"The biggest thing was just to make sure we don't get complacent. When you're up big on an opponent in a previous game, a lot of the times you drop your level of play because you expect the game to go a certain way. Coming into the game, we needed to make sure we kept our mindset right. We did a lot of mental work throughout the week focusing on not getting too high, not getting too low, staying even-keel throughout the game and I think that really paid off for us in today's win," said linebacker and senior co-captain Tinaye Ngorima.

Ngorima, along with his other captains Lio, Watson, Pahanich and

Gillingham, have all played their final game with St. Andrew's College.

Other players on the roster also played their final game of football at the school.

They are Charlie Guy, Riley Sullivan, Joseph Aitoro, Jack Hudson, Binnendyk, Nordick, Lucas Morrison, Wyatt Biggar, Jack Hargrave, Millar, Gabriel Ste. Marie, Declan Ste. Marie, Sam Power, Jack Bulmer, Seyi Akinbola,

Kian Pouragha, Hudson Shea, Konstantine Sauer, Kai Kang, Tremain, Luke Brandon and Cody Kumm.

Head coach Marcello Lio said next year will be a big transition losing all of these talented seniors, but invites the challenge of bringing in new players to the squad next year.

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Tigers tie Panthers, fall 8-6 in thriller against Rangers

By Robert Belardi

The Aurora Tigers earned themselves a draw and a loss this week. It's never so simple to take on the defending Buckland Cup champions but the Tigers stood their ground in a 1-1 tie against the Pickering Panthers on the road. The boys went 1-5 on the power play with Matteo Iacovelli capitalizing in the third period that tied the game and through overtimes it remained that way. But, in this bout, it wasn't so much about the players on the ice but rather

who stood between the pipes. Both goaltenders stood on their heads as Tigers netminder Glen Crandall stopped 36 of 37 shots and Reece Proulx stopped 35 of 36 shots. This tight, scrappy affair was the less emphatic matchup of the two throughout the week as the Tigers returned home Saturday night to host the North York Rangers in what would be a thriller in front of the crowd at the Aurora Community Centre. This game would open up with a five-goal first period that saw the Rangers earn the 3-2 lead.


Ryan Evanhuis and Matthew Godwin opened the scoring to give the Tigers a 2-0 lead, but the resilient Rangers found a way to take advantage of the mishaps. The Rangers scored two consecutive power play goals thanks to Aydin Parekh and John Mitchell. Owen Ibbotson scored the final goal of the period. In the second period, the Rangers came at the Tigers again. Jack Rimmer and Riley Patterson scored two goals in less than two minutes to go into the third period with a 5-2 advantage. Despite Sett Ursomarzo and Lucas Stanojevic bringing the game within a goal, the Rangers found a way to add three more to their score sheet. Iacovelli and MacKenize Fullerton added two goals towards the end of the period, but ultimately it wasn't enough. Coming up this week the Tigers travel out to Oakville to take on the Blades on the road tomorrow night, at the Sixteen Mile Sports Complex. The boys will then return home to host the 99ers Saturday night. Puck drop is at 7.30 p.m.

"All those boys who never came back. I wonder if it was worth it."

From page 1

other people basically saved Europe and the rest of the globe from Hitler running the world. Don't doubt that the sacrifice was worth it – and luckily you made it through, but those who didn't, their sacrifice was worth it because we reap the benefits every day." It's a conversation that would have been unfathomable to the men like Joe who were just waiting to land on Gold Beach on June 6, 1944. They were simply doing their duty – yet another mission, with no possible inkling of how pivotal and historic the next minutes, hours, and days would be for themselves and the rest of humanity. "It wasn't a matter of 'wanting' to be," says Joe of becoming involved in the war effort. "I was in the Welsh Guards and once you became 18 they got you and that's where I came in. I asked to get into the Navy – I just fancied the sea, really, and I went to a naval training camp and then onto the ships." Alma adds his father thought he was "daft" to join the Navy "because there's no back door on a ship" but Joe persisted. "First it was training in Britain and then I was shipped to many different places, including the Far East," says Joe. "I was scared to death. You're always meeting the enemy somewhere."

Part of his duties in his role as Stoker was to keep the ships firing as he and his crew sailed minesweepers into different European ports in the dark of night. By the time of what became known as D-Day, he was in a landing craft. He and his fellow servicemen were not privy to what was planned until the morning of, he recalls, and as the hours ticked down, so too did the anticipation of learning what would be required of them – and Joe's tasks included operating an anti-aircraft gun to protect the landing troops. As such, he wasn't among the first to make the landing, but he kept those who came before him as safe as possible until his turn came – and, just days after landing, he found himself next to Winston Churchill who made the journey across the Channel himself to see the success of the mission. "I have been grateful since I was a little tiny girl in my Brownie uniform, attending the Remembrance Day services, just thinking about what the effort that all the allies made from all different countries to basically give us the opportunity to be free from Nazi tyranny," says Jennifer with pride. Adds a beaming Alma, "Without all these guys we wouldn't have beaten them – without being there and fighting on those beaches." Alma has shared this pride for nearly three-quarters of a century. While Joe was serving in the Royal Navy, Alma was an active member of the Women's Land Army, which kept farms and food supplies rolling throughout the war. It was there she met a girl about her age and they became fast friends. When the Women's Land Army disbanded after the war, they stayed in touch and Alma's friend asked her to serve as her bridesmaid. "At the reception I was alone because I didn't know anybody, I was just sitting there like a dummy all evening and my friend came and asked if I was all right. I said, 'No, I'm not – where are all the nice guys?' She said, 'Hold on a minute. I'm going to get my Uncle Joe.' I thought, don't bother bringing over your old uncle, but she came back hauling him and I thought, 'This looks better.' "He was very nice and I thought we were getting along wonderfully, we were having a great time, and suddenly he looks at his watch and says, 'Sorry, I've got to go,' and he left. I was dumbstruck. I was really fed up. Then, in the next hour he came back and that was it. I was highly insulted. 'Where do you think you were?' He said, 'I'm sorry, I needed to take my mother home.' As soon as he said that, everything fell into place and I could see he was a really nice guy. I was right – he's perfect!" As Remembrance Day 2022 becomes part of history for another year, the Durkins say it is important for people to Remember not just on November 11 but all the time. "They are in danger themselves," says Alma. "They might be oblivious to it because they are in danger as we never know the second some man like Hitler, a man like that with crazy ideas waiting to come and ruin everything for everybody. You don't notice it until maybe it's too late. You've got to be more aware from the beginning and not let it happen because you think it can't happen; everybody's so sane and we know better today. No, nobody knows better. The people have forgotten what it's like. They have forgotten what war is like. It's terrible."



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Aurora pauses at eleventh hour to Remember



Six days of Remembrance Day activities came to a close at the eleventh hour of the eleventh month as the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion marked the poignant occasion at the Aurora Cenotaph. Slightly less formal than the ceremony held November 6, the Remembrance Day service was no less meaningful for those in attendance, from veterans to elementary school students, from local MPPs to Mayor Tom Mrakas and members of Council to parade leaders, and members of the public alike. Following the singing of God Save The King, members of the public were invited to place their poppies at the Cenotaph and the Altar of Sacrifice.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger




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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

You cannot take away our right to a safe and healthy environment for our children and grandchildren.

That is NOT the role of government!

You could be a leader that changes life for the better. The housing act you propose does not do that. By taking away environmental protections for building, you are creating a safety and health disaster.

Franklin D. Roosevelt’s 1941 speech focused on humanity’s “four essential human freedoms” — freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. How are you, Premier Ford embracing this?

We need a visionary leader, not one who caves to developers and ruins our future. Yes, we need housing, but we need safe and healthy housing with green spaces for walking, community spaces for development of healthy relationships, not 80 story buildings with congested populations and no place for children to live safely. STOP this Bill.

Sharon Willan
Aurora

FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

From page 5

law-and-order voters:

“The most unusual occurred last week when a woman stopped me and asked what I was going to do about “...those darn teenagers...” Her suggestions ran the gamut from curfews to (and I’m not kidding) electronic bracelets. I respectfully suggested that electronic tracking bracelets would be perhaps a bit extreme, and she was non-plussed with my answer, saying, “Well, if you’re not going to do something about it...” and then walked off. Well, you can’t please everyone...”

And my personal favorite anecdote: “... (a voter) asked a new Council candidate what party the candidate was running for and before the canvasser in question could muster up an answer the person in question stated adamantly that under no circumstances would they vote for the Republicans.”

The Mayor and new Council will be sworn in to office this week.

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

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Getting Things Done

Mayor
Tom Mrakas

We're entering one of my favourite times of the year. And here in Aurora, we have a number of exciting events in store for the Christmas season.

First, on Saturday, November 26, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. we will be having our Santa Under the Stars Parade, which will travel southbound along Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive.

This night-time parade is full of magic, with beautifully decorated floats, incredible marching bands and a few special guests, including the jolly man in red himself.

The Salvation Army will be picking up food donations and letters for Santa along the route before the parade begins. This event is perfect for all ages

and is sure to get you into the Christmas spirit.

Then, from December 2 to 4, as well as December 9 to 11, I invite you to visit our incredible Christmas Market,

featuring dozens of vendors selling crafts and seasonal goodies.

There will be hands-on workshops, activities, entertainment and of course another appearance from Santa himself. The market runs each day from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

I hope to see you around Town at some these family-friendly, festive Christmas events.

And as always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime at 905-726-4746 or by email at tmrakas@aurora.ca.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes raises over \$75,000 for local shelter

From page 9

With Walk a Mile in Her Shoes now in the books for another year, Yellow Brick House is now turning its attention towards its holiday giving campaign, which will seek financial services again for funding shelter beds in addition to expanding counselling programs.

"We currently have a four-month wait list for our counselling programs for families who are not necessarily residing in our shelter but need the support in the community," Herenda shared. "We want to really focus on increasing funds for increasing our scope of services and, of course, our shelter beds. In addition to that, the families who are staying with us over the holidays do require some support for the holiday celebration. If

people are inclined, people can donate gift cards to families that have to deal with food security or getting essential clothing like winter coats, boots and hats for the kids. That's always a high priority item. People can definitely visit our website at yellowbrickhouse.org.

"If people are making a donation for our transitional package for a woman who is leaving the shelter and coming into her own apartment in the community, the transitional package will provide her with the basic necessities such as cutlery and plates, mugs and a kettle, and some towels because these families are starting from nothing. I would highly recommend people check out our website for detailed information and to see how they can support us best."

THINGS You Ought To Know

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

The Aurora Historical Society's Speaker Series continues this evening with Ted Barris: Battle of the Atlantic, in-person or over Zoom. In the 20th century's greatest war, one battlefield held the key to victory – the North Atlantic. Author Ted Barris navigates through the Battle of the Atlantic, a turning point of WWII. 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.50 members/\$10.50 general. Tickets on the AHS website www.aurorahs.com.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The Town of Aurora will host the annual Santa Under the Stars Parade on Yonge Street. From 6 – 8 p.m., colourful floats, marching bands, and the jolly man in red himself will make their way down Yonge Street from Orchard Heights to Murray Drive. For more information, visit aurora.ca.

The Aurora Historical Society will serve hot chocolate on the Hillary House verandah from 5.30 – 7 p.m. in conjunction with the Santa Under the Stars parade on Yonge Street. Free. Get cozy at Hillary House during the Santa Claus Under the Stars Parade! Stop by our beautifully decorated verandah for some free hot chocolate, while supplies last.

York Symphony Orchestra presents Romantic Masters tonight at Trinity Anglican Church (79 Victoria Street, Aurora) at 8 p.m. Join the York Symphony as we perform the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto, one of the most beloved concertos in the violin repertoire. Also on the program is Brahms' 2nd Symphony. The YSO welcomes talented young violinist Nicholas Alexander Vasilakopoulos - Kostopoulos to perform the monumental Tchaikovsky violin concerto. The Brahms second symphony is sometimes referred to as the composer's "Pastoral" symphony - a reference to the music's genial, lyrical character. This is Brahms at his happiest and sunniest..."It is all rippling streams, blue sky, sunshine and cool green shadows!"

Tickets at Eventbrite.ca or at the door.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

The Aurora Historical Society will host two Holiday Wreath Workshops today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and again from 2 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$42 and supplies are included. Grab a hoop and get decorating! Guided by

our friends Garden Aurora, enjoy participating in this seasonal craft, in addition to a short tour of Hillary House. Tickets on the AHS website www.aurorahs.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

The Aurora Historical Society will host A Family Christmas at Hillary House National Historic Site today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In-person. \$3 per child and \$5 per adult. Tickets on the AHS website www.aurorahs.com.

CONTINUING

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

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

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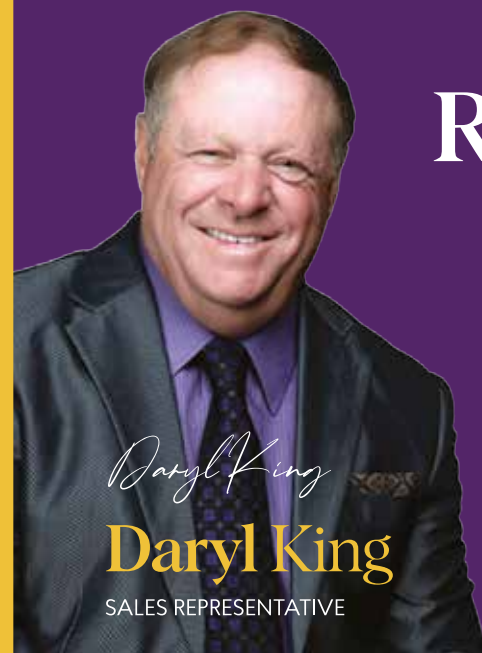
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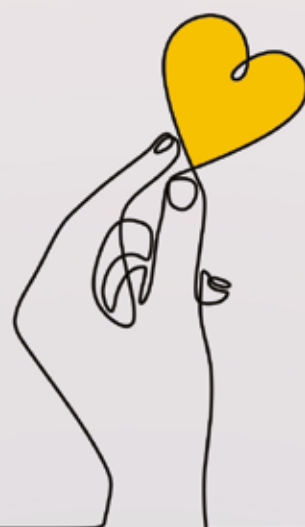
*As per REMAX stats for Large Residential Teams, March 2022. Not intended to solicit clients currently under contract with another Brokerage.

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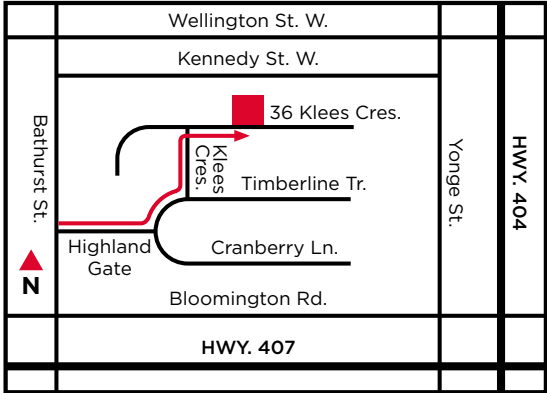


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Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. Brokers protected. E.&O.E. November 2022.