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**THE AURORAN**

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*



Vol. 24 No. 24 905-727-3300

*TheAuroran.com*

**FREE**

Week of March 2, 2023 



Mayor Tom Mrakas made his annual “State of the Town” address at The Royal Venetian Mansion on Wednesday, February 22, during a luncheon hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

# Mayor touts Aurora as hub of innovation while taking aim at Province

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

People are starting to see Aurora as “a serious player in the innovation ecosystem,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas at his annual “State of the Town” lunch, hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce last week.

Speaking before a packed house at the Royal Venetian Mansion on February

22, Mayor Mrakas said the state of the Town was “strong” and “getting back to thriving after a challenging three years.” But as much as there has been a bounce-back after the height of the global pandemic, communities like Aurora are facing challenges from Queen’s Park, he cautioned.

Speaking before a crowd of local business leaders, as well as MPs Tony Van Bynen and Leah Taylor Roy, members of Council, the Mayors

of Newmarket and Richmond Hill, and York Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson, Mrakas said Aurora is home to more than 2,000 businesses, “the vast majority small business owners and grassroots entrepreneurs.”

“The diversity of our business community is something that has always made us great,” he said, noting a variety of new businesses that have opened in Aurora over the last 12 months. “I’ve

Continued on page 9

**Summer Day Camps at PC**

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**PAINTING WITH PURPOSE**

The Aurora Black Community Association's (ABC) Black History Month program recently came to the historic downtown core as the ABC hosted their second annual Paint & Poetry night at the Royal Rose Gallery. Here, Craig and Debra put down some brushstrokes. For more, see Page 18.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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TOWN OF AURORA

NOTICE BOARD

March 2, 2023



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, March 2	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library	Aurora Public Library Board
Tuesday, March 7	9:30 a.m.	Newmarket Council Chambers	Joint Council Committee (Central York Fire Services)
Tuesday, March 7	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session
Tuesday, March 7	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee
Thursday, March 9	7 p.m.	Video Conference	Committee of Adjustment
Week of March 13	No meetings		
Monday, March 20	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee (tentative)
Tuesday, March 21	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning
Thursday, March 23	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Environmental Advisory Committee (tentative)

\*General Committee, Public Planning and Council meetings are available to the public in-person and via live stream on the Town's YouTube channel.

What's Happening



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

- Do you know an individual, corporation or business who has...
- volunteered their own time for the benefit of others?
  - gone the extra mile in supporting our community?
  - made Aurora a better place to live?

For nomination details, visit [aurora.ca/cra](https://aurora.ca/cra)

★ NOMINATION DEADLINE ★  
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023

905-726-4762 • [aurora.ca/cra](https://aurora.ca/cra) • #AuroraCRA

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



Online Skylight Gallery Exhibition

Featured Artist: Nenad Miric - Simple Things that Bring Nice Memories

For the month of March, you are invited to visit the artwork of artist Nenad Miric entitled Simple Things that Bring Nice Memories. Miric's paintings focus on realistic concepts with a nostalgic sense of fading memories. His artwork has preserved the best moments, places, and people he has experienced throughout his life. He continuously tries to sustain the past and present and cherish life's enchanting beauty.

Enjoy touring this month's Aurora's Skylight Gallery exhibit located in Aurora Town Hall, available for in-person or online viewing opportunities. All work is for sale, please contact Catarina Petta at [cpetta@aurora.ca](mailto:cpetta@aurora.ca) if you are interested in purchasing a piece. For full details, visit [aurora.ca/skylightgallery](https://aurora.ca/skylightgallery).

**NEW**

## CityView Online Portal

Apply for building permits, submit applications, pay fees and more!

For more information visit:  
[aurora.ca/cityviewportal](https://aurora.ca/cityviewportal)

The Town of Aurora has launched the CityView Portal that provides an easy and convenient way for contractors, residents, and businesses to apply for building permits or planning applications, check the status of applications and inspections, submit building complaints, and pay building permit fees online through our website.

The online portal will speed up applications, reduce wait times and streamline our services. The portal can be accessed 24/7, using a web browser.

To access the CityView Portal, you must first register as a user and create an account. The online portal will provide step-by-step instructions on how to create an account, submit an application, or make a payment.

To access the online application portal, register or to learn more, please visit [aurora.ca/cityviewportal](https://aurora.ca/cityviewportal).

### Spring/Summer 2023 Program Guide

The Spring & Summer 2023 Program Guide will be available for online viewing no later than **March 7**. Registration dates are posted online. To register, go to [aurora.ca/programguide](https://aurora.ca/programguide) and view the guide. Once you have selected the program you wish to register for, simply click on the code # and you will automatically be directed to our e-PLAY online registration system.

### Summer Camps 2023 Program Guide

The Summer Camps 2023 Program Guide will be available for online viewing no later than **March 7**. Registration dates are posted online. To register, go to [aurora.ca/summercamps](https://aurora.ca/summercamps) and view the guide. Once you have selected the program you wish to register for, simply click on the code # and you will automatically be directed to our e-PLAY online registration system.

### Notice - A.F.L.C. pool closure

The AFLC Pool will be closed **March 13 to 26** for annual maintenance. During this pool closure, lots of swim times will be available at the S.A.R.C. Pool. View full swim schedule at [aurora.ca/aquatics](https://aurora.ca/aquatics).

### March Break Week Holiday Schedule programs and activities

Have fun over the holidays! We have programs and activities for everyone to enjoy. Visit our Holiday Schedules webpage for full details at [aurora.ca/holidayschedules](https://aurora.ca/holidayschedules).

### Preschool Drop-In

Having fun with your preschooler just became a little bit easier! Come play with your child (newborn to 5 years) on a variety of gross motor equipment, learning stations and more. Our Preschool Drop-In takes place on Saturday at the S.A.R.C. Check out our Preschool webpage for full details at [aurora.ca/preschool](https://aurora.ca/preschool).

### Aurora Family Leisure Centre Gymnasium Drop-In

We have plenty of family-friendly gymnasium activities for everyone to enjoy. Our A.F.L.C. Drop-In schedule includes parent and child open gym, youth and adult basketball, and so much more. For full details, visit [aurora.ca/aflcdropin](https://aurora.ca/aflcdropin).

### NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED SECURITY DEPOSITS

This notice is to advise about unclaimed security deposits paid to the Town of Aurora prior to **January 1st, 2016**.

Any person/business entity having a claim to such deposits are required to contact the Town of Aurora to prove their claims within 90 (ninety) days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Any claims must be submitted by email to [Payables@aurora.ca](mailto:Payables@aurora.ca) by **June 1st, 2023**. All claims must include the payee's current address, phone number, proof of payment and amount of claim. All claims must be submitted by the person/business entity named as a payee on the receipt at the time when deposit was paid to the Town of Aurora.

For any questions, please contact the Finance department at the Town of Aurora at [Payables@aurora.ca](mailto:Payables@aurora.ca).

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## HELLO SPRING!

**Saturday, April 8, 2023**  
**9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

AURORA SENIORS' CENTRE • 90 JOHN WEST WAY

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[aurora.ca/hellospring](https://aurora.ca/hellospring)

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

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## AURORA ART SHOW & SALE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

For more information, visit [aurora.ca/artshow](https://aurora.ca/artshow)

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# Food, music and a few splashes of colour set for Holi celebration

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

When Jahnavi Ray came to Aurora in 2017, she often found herself looking for ways to celebrate festivals she'd been raised with closer to home.

On Diwali, for instance, Ray was used to homes being decorated in bright lights in a way she likens to Christmas, but was always "sad" when she drove around and couldn't find a single house glowing in the night sky.

Now, just ahead of Holi, one of the most popular celebrations in Hinduism celebrating the triumph of good over evil, perhaps most typified by its use of colourful powders to decorate the face and body, Ray has teamed up with fellow residents of Aurora and Newmarket who share her roots for a community celebration on March 4.



Holi is a festival of colour – as demonstrated by event organizer Jahnavi Ray in this family photo.

Contributed photo

This first local observance of Holi will take place at the Newmarket Community Centre on Saturday from 4–8 p.m., and will feature authentic Indian snacks, Bollywood

music, dance, and, to make sure there's not too much to clean up afterwards, a bit of the colourful powders that are synonymous with the festival.

"It's so exciting to know the community is growing and we can connect with each other now and celebrate our culture – especially since our culture is so vibrant and full of fun," says Ray. "We live so far away from places like Mississauga and Brampton where you always have temples around and these communities where you can celebrate these festivals. I missed that sentiment a lot up north, but that's when we realized this would be an amazing opportunity to connect with each other and find an opportunity to actually continue celebrating all of our festivals together. Holi is our first one and I hope we can continue for every festival."

"I think every Indian who was born in India will relate to this sentiment: Holi means lots of food and lots of fun. When I

was growing up, we lived in a big campus in India and on Holi, at 6 or 7 a.m., we would gather [with my four uncles] and we would play with the colours all the way to 1 p.m. playing non-stop, eating scrumptious food cooked by my mum, grandmother and my aunties, and it was a celebration to the extent I don't think anyone can imagine for the level of excitement and the level of fun that's experienced. It's a very warm feeling because you're connecting not just with your family but also your friends. We would go meet our neighbours, our community-members who play with colours, exchange sweets, and eat all kinds of Holi delicacies.

"Also, the biggest part signifies unity. The festival signifies boundless love. You forget any malice, any bad intent, and just hug the person and feel forgiveness towards that person. It has significance in our culture from that perspective. It has a little bit of religious connotation as well. Holi starts

Continued on page 20



## LIVE WELL EXERCISE CLINIC

is thrilled to open in Aurora!!

There couldn't be a more important time for a medical fitness centre to open than now, and LIVE WELL Exercise Clinic, Canada's Ultra-Private Gym for People with a Health Focus, is thrilled to be open to serve the people of Aurora and surrounding areas.

"We are so excited to announce that the most recent LIVE WELL Exercise Clinic is open to serve Aurora and the surrounding area," said LIVE WELL CEO Sara Hodson, President of Fitness Industry Council of Canada. "LIVE WELL works to improve the physical and mental health of its members, many who have a health concern or 'wake-up call' that leads them to choosing to begin an exercise program. LIVE WELL welcomes members who want the support and accountability to be successful, so they can change their lives and live life to the fullest - and have fun doing it!"

LIVE WELL was founded in White Rock, BC in 2011, expanding the concept of cardiac rehabilitation to include all health concerns and community wellness. It now has 16 locations across Canada. Its founders have created a fun, engaging and personal approach that will equip members to take control of their health and make lasting changes. The Aurora location joins Oakville, Mississauga and Bowmanville in Ontario.

Our members work with trained and regulated Registered Kinesiologists, who create a safe and effective customized program for each member, based on their health history, medications, injuries and any other individual needs and / or concerns.

One of the most common reasons for coming to the clinic is the desire for accountability, support and a non-intimidating environment. Saying that, most of our members have conditions such as high blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes, heart issues and mobility concerns. Members are supervised in a supportive group setting,

It has been proven that 150 minutes of exercise helps reduce chronic health conditions, improves longevity and can significantly improve mental health. Exercise has been tied to reduce rates of anxiety and depression. People who exercise have a more positive

life outlook.

In addition to exercise sessions, LIVE WELL offers members a wealth of online modules available to cover a host of health topics such as nutrition, blood pressure management, healthy habit changes and evidence-based information on a variety of health topics.

*Our members are not only inspired but are provided with education, resources and continuous support to achieve their goals, in their time.*

We find that many members are women who are approaching retirement or have retired and they are finally taking time to prioritize their own health. LIVE WELL is often their first experience with an exercise program. Our members sign up for two sessions per week, one hour per session. This goes a long way towards the recommended 150 minutes of exercise outlined by Health Canada.

Throughout the challenges of the last few years, Canadians have become more sedentary – with one-third reporting weight gain and moving less than they have previously. There are many health complications that come with a sedentary lifestyle, including Type 2 diabetes, depression, loss of mobility and joint pain. Physical inactivity has also been tied with more severe COVID outcomes.

The New Year is one of the best times to make a change. Let LIVE WELL help with your journey back to health! If you are looking for the support of health care professionals and an inspiring community of members so that you can be more active and improve your overall health, then we invite you to BE OUR GUEST – LIVE WELL Clinic  
LiveWellClinic.ca  
or phone us at 289 984 4354  
we are located at 302 Wellington St E, beside the Street directly East of St. Maximilian Kolbe High School.

## SEEKING ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS FOR: THE AURORA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Attention business leaders. The Aurora Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), on behalf of Council provides strategic leadership and coordination of community economic development to strengthen and diversify existing business, attract new business investment, while leading other strategic initiatives for the Town.

## INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED?

Application deadline is  
Friday, March 10 at 4:30 p.m.

You are encouraged to read the Terms of Reference and AEDC Skills Matrix before applying to serve on the AEDC Board.

For more details visit:  
**AURORA.CA/COMMITTEES**



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More legal apartments needed in Aurora

On January 17, 2023 the Manager of the Building Division made a presentation to Aurora Council about secondary suites, otherwise known as basement apartments.

Within this report, there were many concerning items including: the large number of complaints that are dismissed (48%); and the number of open permits (45) with four permits that have been open since 2014 and one from 2013.

These units are the ones that have open permits and do not include the many that have not even been reported/inspected by the Town.

Illegal basement apartments have sprung up all over Aurora in the past few years as house prices have risen. We will need legal apartments to accommodate people moving into Aurora, as well as new construction. What we want are safe units that adhere to the legal requirements for fire and electrical codes. Things like hardwired connected smoke alarms and two points of egress. We also need landlords to maintain the rental properties according to the Property Standards Act - I for one am tired of lawns that go uncut for the entire summer, and the mice that resulted.

Safety is paramount, as well as preserving the value of the existing neighbourhood. If you are concerned about this issue, and the issues that surround rental properties, I encourage you to write to me (badbsmrentals@gmail.com). Perhaps we can work together to have some of these issues addressed by the Town.

E. Evans  
Aurora

Take a stand for health care, says reader

We already know the folly of privatization of our Health Care System.

Mike Harris opened our Long-Term Care system to privatization with the promise that privatization would do a better job. We saw the stark results with much higher death rates and the military uncovered for profit homes with abominable conditions.

Other countries have made this mistake, but the results have been nothing but spiraling health costs and the stripping public health care of essential staff.

Duplicating under-used hospital surgical capacity with private clinics will be expensive and is not needed. We all know it is us taxpayers who will inevitably pay the bill.

Now is the time for all Ontarians to take a stand and tell Doug Ford and team to stop further privatizations.

William Chadwick  
Newmarket

THE AURORAN

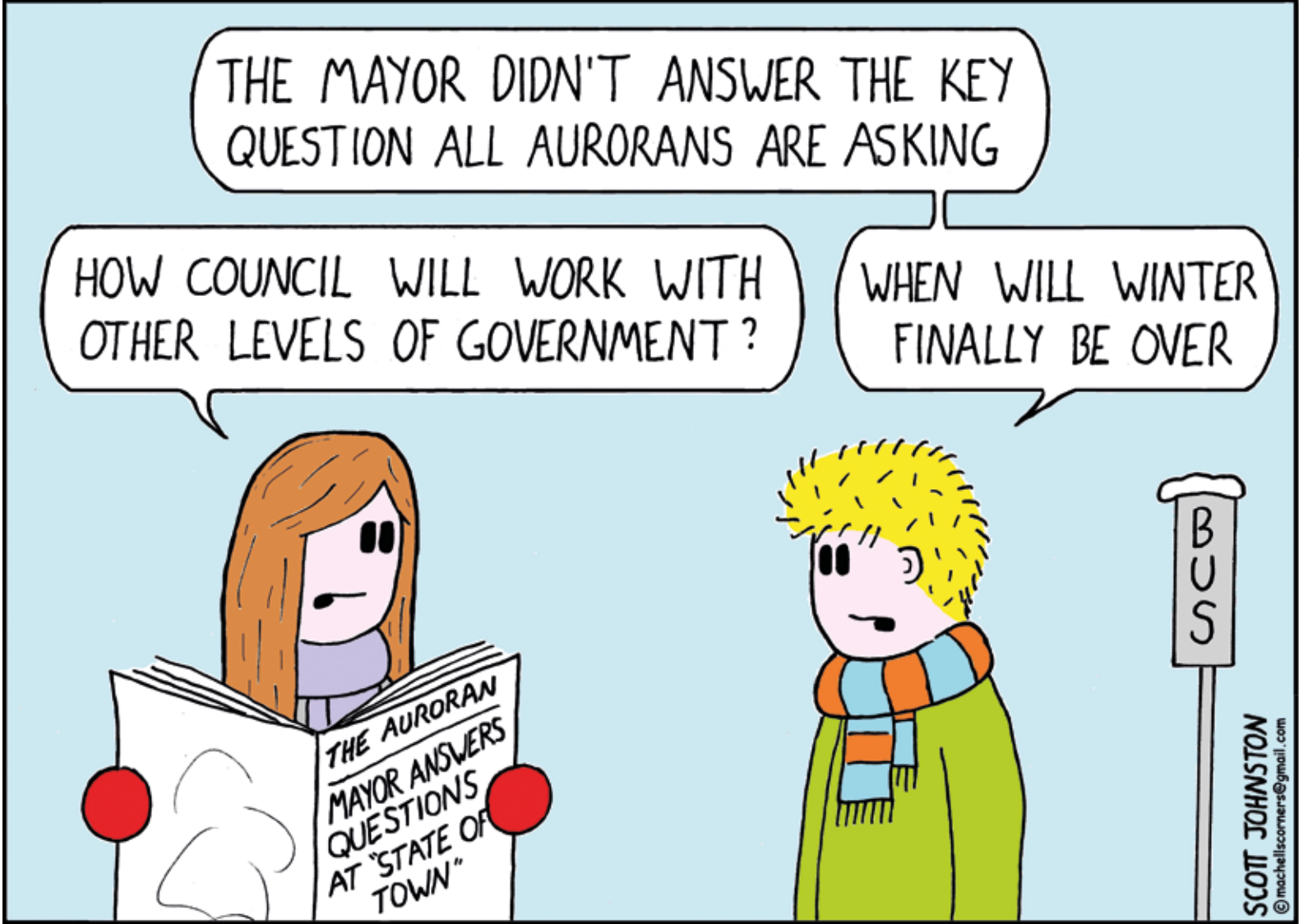
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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to brock@lpcmedia.ca

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Machell's Corners



Continuing to stand together



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

they can on their own time to make a difference, whether it be a lemonade stand on the corner, bracelet-making fundraisers, and even bottle drives.

We've seen seniors residences come together to make a difference and seniors' centres engage not just in fundraising efforts but in spurring dialogue

We've even had cases of business owners who have taken time off to, quite literally, be an extra pair of hands on the ground in the theatre of war, and others have developed helpful apps and opened up their homes to foster four-leggers who may have been caught in the crossfire.

Newcomers to the community hailing from Kyiv and other parts of the nation have also done their part when absolutely nothing was being asked of them in this time of trauma. They've expressed themselves through art, taken on the task of educating us on some of the nuances of Ukrainian culture and the traditions that keep them vibrant, and have found the time to volunteer for organizations that are helping back home.

It's a remarkable testament to the human spirit, and hopefully a sign that, come what may, we'll continue to be poised to do our parts to foster a better future.

"A year ago, Russia began the unconscionable, full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Since that time, too many have suffered and are suffering still. Yet, we have also seen the strength of humanity," said Governor General Mary Simon in a speech last week. "Brave and resilient Ukrainians willing to fight for their freedom and the freedom of the world. Citizens standing firm and pushing back against their aggressors. People from many nations offering help in defence of democracy and the rule of law. And the Ukrainian community in Canada – one of the largest Ukrainian

diaspora populations in the world – has been steadfast in raising support for their families and friends in the heart of great danger.

"As the attacks continue, the humanitarian crisis deepens. We need to take every opportunity to support Ukraine. We need to help people find safety and moments of normalcy amidst the chaos. We need to support Ukrainians as they rebuild their country, even as they fight for their country's future. We must face this crisis together, across borders.

"My thoughts go out to the Ukrainian people: to the child whose only wish is to go to school; to the soldiers who only want to be reunited with their families; to the teachers, nurses and community leaders who are trying to maintain a sense of normalcy, when everything is all but normal. From the first day, and through all of the devastating days since, Canada has stood firmly alongside the Ukrainian people. And we will continue to do so."

And we will continue to do so even when sometimes it might feel that the little we can do as individuals won't make a great difference; but together, they and we can bring about a great deal of good. Even when it might feel disheartening.

Unlike earlier conflicts when in order to get a real account of what's going on we had to ask people to share difficult, even traumatic memories well after the fact, this is a war that is, for better or worse, right at our fingertips.

We not only see videos direct from the conflict on the news each night, but first-hand accounts and journalism are available to us all the time, and, as difficult as it is, sometimes in real time via social media – reality unvarnished, unfiltered, and there for all to see.

And, as much as the reality is there unvarnished and unfiltered, so too is misinformation and downright lies ready to potentially spread like wildfire, making education and vigilance essential as always.

While we have seen many worst-case-scenarios presented in recent weeks as the first anniversary approached, we don't truly know what the next twelve months will entail. But, until then, it's incumbent on all of us to stay informed, engaged, continue to keep our arms open to the displaced and contribute where we can.

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to brock@lpcmedia.ca  
Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.





Being recognized is always a good thing - birthdays, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day. But the one day that is of real significance for me is International Women's Day (March 8).

IWD is not just for women. All are welcome, all are needed. IWD is a collective day of global celebration that has been recognized every year since 1911. For over 100 years, its twofold message remains the same - a call to action for accelerating gender parity and a celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

Gloria Steinem, pioneering feminist, journalist, and activist, explained "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist, nor to any one organization, but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

The IWD 2023 campaign theme is #EmbraceEquity. The theme draws attention to the challenge of gender stereotypes and bias, whether overt or unconscious. As someone who has always self-identified as a feminist, this theme continues to resonate. But when I consider my place in the world, in my community, the theme becomes even more far reaching.

While equity and equality sound similar, they can lead to dramatically different outcomes, especially for marginalized people. Where equality means that each individual or group is given the same opportunities, equity recognizes that each

Last week, I had the honour to rise in the Chamber as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health to speak to legislation that will improve the quality of care for patients across this province. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my constituents, the people of Newmarket-Aurora for this incredible opportunity. Your Health Act, 2023 is an important piece of legislation to support better patient care.

There are four key areas of this legislation that will ensure we have a health care system that is easier to navigate, where people have more timely access to all forms of care, home, or community; primary care; virtual or hospital care.

Modernizing the community surgical system

The government is leveraging community surgical and diagnostic centres to reduce wait times while ensuring that patients can use their OHIP card to access insured services. The newly proposed Integrated Community Health Services Centres Act, if passed, will protect patient safety through strengthened quality assurance and oversight of community surgical and diagnostic centres. It will ensure that no centre can refuse an insured service to a patient who chooses not to purchase uninsured upgrades and no patient can pay to receive insured services faster than anyone else. It will ensure that patients who are not able to have their complaints addressed at a centre can seek help from the Ontario patient ombudsman, and it will protect the stability of health human resources in public hospitals as centres will work with health system partners to promote optimal patient care pathways.

Interjurisdictional registration of health professionals

The changes would enable the "As of Right" rules allowing physicians, nurses, medical laboratory technologists, and respiratory therapists registered in other Canadian jurisdictions to begin practising in Ontario hospitals, long-term care homes, and potentially other settings, without delay. Through amendments to several acts, the government is making it easier for health care professionals with the necessary knowledge, skills, and judgment to start working in Ontario as soon as possible.

# The Aurora Museum & Archives is...

## Banking on it!

The J. & E. Stevens Co. of Cromwell, Connecticut made a variety of cap guns and novelty coin banks that would flip or drop a coin into a slot, as well as simpler "safes" of which this is model #47. The firm began producing banks in 1869 and continued selling many of the same models through the 1930s. In 1923, when a newborn baby girl received this little cast iron coin bank (2004.10.1), a penny had over 16 times the purchasing power it has today – so every nickel and dime counted – and no teller required!



## Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

person starts out from a different place, and allocation of additional resources is needed to arrive at a fair playing field.

In recent years, the debate concerning the difference between equity and equality has grown considerably, particularly in light of nationwide protests for social justice. As a community, we can all engage in collective activism that drives change, embracing equity for all as part of our work to achieve women's equality.

In celebration of International Women's Day, APL invites you to a conversation with street nurse, educator, filmmaker, author, and social justice activist, Cathy Crowe. Cathy's lifelong work has been advocating for the homeless. She is a frequent commentator on issues related to health, homelessness, and affordable housing.

In A Knapsack Full of Dreams, Cathy details her commitment as a street nurse and social justice activist with passion, grace, and fortitude. Her recent book, Displacement City, written with outreach worker, Greg Cook, explores how COVID

exacerbated urban homelessness, bringing in the voices of frontline workers and those with lived experience.

Cathy is a co-founder of numerous advocacy groups, including the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee. Her many awards include the Economic Justice Award Fellowship, the International Human Rights Award in Nursing, and the Order of Canada.

Honouring the important contributions of women to build a more equitable and thereby equal society is how I will choose to celebrate International Women's Day. I hope you will join me at A Conversation with Cathy Crowe. This virtual presentation followed by an audience Q&A is generously funded by The Writers Union of Canada. Registration is at [bit.ly/3ECq9iE](https://bit.ly/3ECq9iE).

### What I've Been Reading:

#### Chop Suey Nation

by Ann Hui

#### Neglected No More

by Andre Picard

#### Revenge of the Librarians

by Tom Gauld

#### The Children's Home

by Charles Lambert

*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.*



## DIALOGUE WITH DAWN

By Dawn Gallagher Murphy  
MPP, Newmarket-Aurora

### Patient assessments by Pharmacists

To support pharmacists' expanded roles in the health system, the government is proposing to allow pharmacists the ability to independently initiate prescriptions based on their own assessment of a patient's health when providing medication therapies.

### Data Integration

The amendment creates an exciting opportunity to strengthen protections for personal health information and link data for research purposes, to help make better programs and services for Ontarians. Importantly, the data that will be linked is aggregate and de-identified – meaning it is not personal information. Moreover, the Information and Privacy Commissioner oversees the whole process to ensure that personal information is protected.

The status quo is not working when it comes to our health care system. We need to be bold, innovative, and creative. We need to build on the spirit of collaboration on display across the health care sector. With our growing and aging population, we will increase access to services in health care settings near you, like in pharmacies, like expanding the number of community surgical and diagnostic centres, like cutting wait times for services like MRI and CT scans and cataract surgeries, like expanding access to home and community care services so you can stay safely at home.

As we continue to roll out the Your Health Plan, which is supported by the proposed legislation introduced last week, our government remains focused on one fundamental goal – provide Ontarians with more connected and convenient access to

health care, when they need it.

### Black History Month in Newmarket – Aurora

Building our community together is my top priority. During the month of February, I had the privilege of attending numerous community events and festivities in honour of Black History Month. On February 3, Aurora Black Community hosted their Black History Month Gala – where I had the honour of presenting the ABC Music Award to George St. Kitts. On February 4, I attended a reception held by Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association; this event featured keynote speakers, a steel band performance, singers, and an art exhibition featuring local amateur artists.

It was great to see so many members from the community in attendance at the Black History Month events in Newmarket – Aurora, to support on another to lift one another up and to celebrate one another – this is what I mean when I say, "building our community together."

### Health Care Tour

What an honour it was to host the Minister of Health, Silvia Jones in Newmarket for a Health Care Tour on February 13. It was great to get out in the community and show Minister Jones some of the wonderful organizations and workplaces that we have right here in Newmarket. We visited the York Region Paramedic headquarters, the Canadian Mental Health Association York and South Simcoe, Southlake Regional Health Centre, and Margaret Bahen Hospice. My colleagues Minister Jones, Minister Lecce, and Minister Parsa joined the team at Southlake Regional Health Centre for the grand opening of the new 12 bed, Adult Inpatient Mental Health Unit – one of the many healthcare investments that our government is making in our community.

*Non-Profit Sector Appreciation Week was February 13 – 19, a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of our provinces' non-profit organizations. Here in Newmarket-Aurora, I recognized twenty-two of our local champions who work tirelessly for the betterment of our community members. March 8th marks International Women's Day. Diversity, inclusivity, and equity are amongst my top community priorities.*



## Time Travellers Diary

By Jeremy Hood  
Museum Assistant  
Aurora Museum & Archives

### Puck Drops and Celery Stalks

Aurora is a parade town. Knowing this, I carefully planned my visit to 1923 Aurora to avoid the bed-races, reenactments, and marching bands so that I could observe the Town and its folk going about their *quiet* everyday lives.

I was sitting at Scanlon's having a nice cup of tea and a scone when my silence was rent by a string of notes played on a bugle.

"What unscheduled cacophony is this?" I thought to myself as I drained my cup.

Stepping outside, I saw precisely what I had hoped to avoid – a parade of sorts was wending its way down Yonge Street! It was led by a well-dressed figure holding aloft... a bunch of celery?

"What a buffoon," I thought, remarking his crisp top-hat and oversized, ornamental necklace, neatly trimmed beard, and trademark steely gaze... it was Mayor Walton! I internally retracted my rude comment and looked on in amazement. The bugle honked.

Behind the Mayor was a queue of comically-dressed young men clearly divided by their costumes into two groups.

Alongside them marched others bearing flags and holding trophy cups. As the group approached, I saw that the costumed men had skates slung over their shoulders. The bugle honked. This was all leading up to an epic hockey match! I asked the nearest Auroran what teams were playing, and I was informed it was the local "Never Sweats" led by Charles Bond, versus the Oak Ridges "Wild Cats."

The crowd was growing, the pied bugler was mysteriously finding success drawing in people from all over Town, myself among them. Honk!

The procession did not have far to go, marching past Church St. and down to the huge semi-cylindrical arena. On the ice, the Aurora boys were somewhat camouflaged in their white mandarin collars, and I thought they might have an advantage. Mayor Walton faced off the game, the now-wilting celery still curiously in his hand, and hurried to the boards to avoid being knocked onto the ice. The game was a whirlwind of frills and wigs and falls that was over before I knew it – but it was a 7-7 tie!

A groan erupted from the crowd, as a flustered official gingerly slid onto the ice. "We'll have a rematch, next week – just as grand! There'll be prizes!" The last statement seemed to mollify the horde, who began to disperse back to their regular lives, the costumed game just a fever-dream interruption of a typical March day in Aurora.

I slipped off to my hidden time machine to research celery traditions and to jump ahead to the next week – what a luxury! It was another fun game of costumed hockey, but the crowd, hungry for a victory, were denied by *another* tie game. I escaped before things got ugly.

Determined to see this to the end, I learned that the organizers were thinking of continuing the series but changing sports altogether. Rather than hockey, they planned a baseball game for summer of '23. I dusted off my ball cap and stepped back into the machine – I'll let you know how it goes for Aurora!

## THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you support multi-level housing for the southeast corner of Yonge and Murray?

Yes No Unsure  
[www.theauroran.com](https://www.theauroran.com)

RESULTS TO DATE	February 28, 2023	YES	NO	UNSURE
		50%	50%	0%



# Renovations to historic Church Street School approved ahead of Town Square opening

By Elisa Nguyen

Located at the northwest corner of Church and Victoria Streets, and once used as a schoolhouse from 1886 to 1951, the historic Church Street School, a landmark known as Aurora’s “jewel” and the home of the Aurora Cultural Center, will soon begin minor renovations intended to help preserve its longevity and charm.

An estimated cost of \$173,000 was presented to Council for the refinishing and repainting of Brevik Hall, the Aurora

Room, boardroom, gallery, and ancillary spaces in Church Street School – all part of the Town Square redevelopment plan. Furthermore, a total budget of \$187,000 is set for approval for the refinishing and repainting of Aurora Museum and Archives (AMA) and the Aurora Cultural Center (ACC) administrative spaces. Staff recommended completing the project before the opening of Aurora Town Square to mitigate the disruptions in service. “As things progress with the capital

project, there is an opportunity potentially where the contractor will be out, they’ll finish their components of work in the 22 Church Street proper, which would relinquish that space potentially for the Town to do this work. So, there may be that gap,” said Robin McDougall, Director of Community Services, explaining when exactly the project may occur. She said that if that timing doesn’t work out, the goal is to complete the project prior to when the Cultural Center and Museum move back into the building.

The school has undergone a variety of repairs over the years, including many exterior brickwork and window repairs, most of which were completed starting in 2008. Further projects were approved, such as door repairs, exterior signage, and minor wood floor repairs, but then deferred since the start of the Aurora Town Square project. The extent of the repair needed was only realized after the school spaces were emptied. Repainting and wood floor repairs were identified as a priority back in 2020 in high traffic areas of the building. When the AMA and ACC vacated their administrative areas during construction, it became clear that the floor tiles and carpeting needed to be replaced in both

areas soon. Other revisions were also proposed to make the spaces more functional, such as the removal of the glass partition within the Museum office area and the addition of drywall and cable drops to prepare an office space for the manager while keeping the rest of the space as open concept. As for the ACC area, staff recommended adding a wall to separate the boardroom from the existing administrative space and removing some of the old millwork. Once the Town Square project is complete, the plan is to conduct a Building Condition Assessment (BCA) on both existing and new construction to develop a 10-year plan for the school. McDougall said that the BCA will later highlight the specific timing of the project. “We anticipate them in the next few years. But I don’t have a specific date,” she said. The total recommended asset management capital for Church Street School is \$365,000. The report received by Council stated that neither of these projects were specifically included in the Town’s recently approved 2023 ten-year capital plan, but that sufficient funding availability is anticipated through included building condition assessment requirement placeholders within the plan.

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## New subdivision could be coming to Archerhill Court

By Elisa Nguyen

The land known as Archerhill Court, located on the corner of Bayview Avenue and Vandorf Sideroad, is in the process of being reassigned to a subdivision lot. The new subdivision will include 138 single detached lots, a new road network, and dedicated blocks for environmental protection and a community park, according to the Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-Law report received by Council on February 21. About 6.3 hectares of area is intended for residential development, 0.5 hectares for community park space, 3.2 hectares for open space environmental protection blocks. The total amount of proposed land use is 12.3 hectares in addition to the internal road network and other land uses. The report highlighted that trail access and pedestrian mobility is also being improved through the development of local connections, including to the Holland River Valley Trail to the west of the subject area, a revision made after receiving public feedback. When asked at the Public Planning

Meeting on January 30, 2023 about the height of the homes, the applicant expressed their intent to remain within nine metres; however, lot grading and sitting will impact the determination of exact heights. Several revisions were made after receiving feedback in various public planning meetings on June 14, 2022 and January 30, 2023, some of which mentioned concerns for vehicular access, a desire for trail connections, and fencing around the park for risk management. Revisions were made to include additional access along Bayview Avenue plus a dedicated left turn from Vandorf Sideroad, fencing and access to trails and pedestrian connections will be provided, and tree removal will be limited to only what is needed and is occurring in accordance with tree removal compensation policies. The subject lands are currently used and designated for residential purposes only, said the report, minimizing the opportunity for commercial use. So far, all agencies including the development engineering, park operations, traffic analyst, Central York Fire Services, and others are satisfied with the draft plan.

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# Southlake welcomes first patients to new mental health unit



MPPs and dignitaries accompanied Health Minister Sylvia Jones on a visit to Southlake’s new mental health unit. Photo courtesy of Southlake Regional Health Centre

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Southlake Regional Health Centre on Tuesday welcomed the first patients to its new mental health unit.

Years in the works and made possible through \$7.5 million raised by the community during its Better Begins Today mental health capital campaign, the new space is expected to significantly increase capacity at the local hospital and see more than 400 more patients this year.

With its completion, Southlake’s total inpatient mental health capacity will increase from 24 to 37 beds and the new spaces are designed to be a brighter, warmer, and more welcoming.

“The brightness, the light coming in has a huge, huge impact on patients struggling with their recovery and being on that journey to wellness, says Aga Dojczewska, Manager, Adult Outpatient Mental Health and Emergent Mental Health Assessment Unit. “The colours here are very encouraging and bright and everybody is noticing this is a good environment, that this is providing that lift and oomph that we need to start the journey to recovery.”

Among the features of the new unit highlighted by Dojczewska and Nathan Robinson, Southlake’s Director of Capital Development, on a Monday tour were single-bed rooms that allow patients to have much-needed privacy, cameras in rooms so medical teams can make sure patients are safe, welcoming consultation areas, activity rooms, and areas where patients can meet with their families.

“We have an average of 17 patients coming into our emergency room and we don’t have that capacity in our [previous] mental health unit to make sure that they are admitted,” says Dojczewska, noting that sometimes patients were transferred to different hospitals. “A lot of times we’re able to provide supports in our community, but for patients who are in crisis we can’t say, ‘This is your support in the community and go,’ we really have to take care of them. We do have the emergent mental health assessment unit and the premise of that unit is to have a patient assessed and move to a unit within 24 hours. We’re not able to do that the past several years because we did not have that capacity. Just having the rooms, the beds, the appropriate space, will be very helpful for us to help patients move from the emergency room to the unit right here.”

Provincial Health Minister Sylvia Jones, accompanied by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MPP Michael Parsa, King-Vaughan MPP Stephen Lecce, and Southlake leadership had a private tour of the new space last week and hailed the advances in its walls.

““The new Adult Inpatient Mental Health Unit at Southlake is another example of how our government is expanding health care services closer to home,” said MPP Gallagher Murphy in a statement. “This newly renovated space will ensure that individuals who need emergency mental health support receive the care they need, in a safe, modern, comfortable environment. Thank you to Southlake for everything you do to support our community and for helping residents on their journey to wellness.”

Added MPP Parsa: “I am proud to celebrate the opening of Southlake Regional Health Centre’s new adult mental health unit, and the role it will play in breaking down barriers for mental health care. This expansion will allow individuals in our community to get the

treatment they need, when they need it – empowering them to live healthy, productive lives.”

Southlake Regional Health Centre President & CEO Arden Krystal said she was “thrilled” to see the unit open to increase access to mental health care in the hospital’s catchment area.

“Thanks to the investment from the Ontario government and the generosity of our donors, we are able to care for more patients in a space that is suited specifically for their needs,” she said.



Rooms are designed to be warm, welcoming and private.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Thanks were also given to everyone in the community who contributed to the capital campaign.

“There’s always a general excitement when you open a space, but what I’ve observed is it is heightened with this space,” said Robinson. “It is something that has been on the radar obviously for years and once people have had the opportunity.... It brings that level of excitement, so the staff are very much looking forward to the space.”

Added Dojczewska: “The majority of

our mental health staff have come through the space and they just want to work here. They are saying they want to come and be here every day, which is helping create a different energy, which is helping us build therapeutic relationships with our patients because if you’re positive, that energy is just contagious and it is very helpful for anybody that is coming here. They are impressed with the size of the space, they’re impressed with the technologies, and they are seeing that we do care about staff safety and patient safety.”

## Town Hall lifts vaccination policies for employees, volunteers

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Town Hall has lifted its COVID-19 mandatory vaccination policy impacting employees, volunteers and contractors.

Effective Wednesday, March 1, the decision to lift the policy, which has been in place since March of 2021, “was informed by scientific evidence and public health guidance to help protect staff from severe illness and death,” said the Town in a statement Tuesday morning.

“It also served to protect the public and to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus,” the Town continued. “When the policy was first introduced, the Town committed to continuously review the policy. Taking into consideration current scientific and public health guidance, as well as the high rates of vaccination to date, the Town has decided that the risks associated with lifting the policy are manageable.”

The Town will continue to “encourage” staff to take health and safety precautions to protect themselves and residents, and this includes masking. Reinstatement of the

policy could happen in the future “if it is determined that additional precautions are necessary.”

“I am incredibly proud of how all employees at the Town stepped up to protect themselves, their families, coworkers and the entire community by getting vaccinated,” said Town CAO Doug Nadorozny in a statement. “While we are lifting the policy, our commitment to the health and safety of staff and residents is stronger than ever. We will continue to monitor the trends and we won’t hesitate to employ any tools at our disposal to keep all of Aurora safe.”

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## Taxes, Town Square in focus during Chamber Q&A

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Future tax rates and future benefits of Town Square were top of mind for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce last week when they hosted Mayor Tom Mrakas for his annual speech and luncheon with business leaders.

Held at the Royal Venetian Mansion on February 22, the Mayor sat down with Sandra Ferri, President & CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce to answer just three pre-selected questions from Chamber members.

“Town Square completion has now been delayed until Spring of 2024,” said Ferri in her opening question. “Can you provide an update on the cost, sponsorship, and when businesses can expect to see the benefits of the



Sandra Ferri, President & CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, led a question and answer session with Mayor Mrakas following his annual speech to the business community. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**



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project?”

Mayor Mrakas said completion of the project had indeed been delayed due to “a lot of labour shortages” and the rising cost of materials.

“We’re about a year off from what we originally intended on the Square being up, so we’re looking at late fall this year to the New Year,” he said, adding that Council the previous evening approved a \$1.2 million increase to the Town Square budget.

But Mayor Mrakas said the previous Council made the right decision to move forward with the project, then dubbed “Library Square,” with the momentum being maintained by lawmakers today.

“I will always say we made the right decision at the right time because we’re locking the pricing and we’re able to make a major investment into our community, that our community needed. I think that anyone who has been in Aurora long enough knows that that is a decision that has been talked about for over 30 to 40 years and it is something the past Council made the decision to move forward and we’re looking forward to great times ahead, especially in our Downtown Core and how the rate of return for all our businesses in the downtown. It’s going to be incredible, exciting... and I will make sure we’re all there in January with the grand opening.”

On the subject of rates, the next topic brought up by Ferri was Council’s approval in early February of the 2023 Budget, one which resulted in a 3.5 per cent increase to the municipal portion of the residential tax bill.

“While taxes increased 3.5 per cent in these difficult times for business, we know that some municipalities are also looking at reviewing their revenue streams, including Development Charges [and] absent owners’ levies,” she said, before asking whether the Mayor foresaw Council “increasing or adding fees in the future.”

Replied Mayor Mrakas: “I think we’re always evaluating what we can do to, as I have always said, provide the best possible service at the best possible price, and what we’re always looking at [is] can we do better? Can we find efficiencies in our budgets and within the corporation? The reality is that we’re not the same as Toronto. Toronto has some other abilities for revenue creation through the City of Toronto. Other municipalities aren’t as fortunate. I think we need to continue to work with the Province as well as with our federal partners to find new revenue streams for small and urban municipalities so we can actually keep our heads above water.

“We collect nine to 11 cents of every tax dollar, yet we’re responsible

for over 60 per cent of infrastructure. It’s an unsustainable model, so we need new revenue tools, we need new funding, we need help from the Province and the Federal government. I know municipalities in the past have advocated for one per cent of the sales tax to help municipalities... move forward, but if we’re not going to work together to find a solution to this, we have an unsustainable model currently and eventually we will get to a point where municipalities won’t be able to continue to provide the services as we continue to grow and as our infrastructures start to crumble. That is the problem...and that is also part of what we see through Bill 23 from the Province, eliminating or reducing development charges in certain aspects. I have always maintained that that legislation is not going to create affordability or attainable housing. All it is going to do is shift that burden on to our residents and businesses. That’s going to create problems as we grow, continuing to build those services that our residents and businesses need.”

The final question looked at development from a different standpoint: economic development.

“Economic development is key to the Town of Aurora,” said Ferri, asking for more on the types of businesses the Town’s Economic Development Board is focused on bringing into Aurora.

Mayor Mrakas said a Strategic Action Plan on economic development is in the works.

While he said people are starting to “notice the benefits” of moving their businesses to Aurora, help needs to also be in place for existing businesses.

“Our existing businesses shouldn’t be struggling,” he said. “We’re trying to put in place many things that will help our existing businesses grow and that is also part of some of the investments that we’re making as a Town, whether it is our rec facilities, whether it is the Town Square, you need to invest in the community if you want your community to grow and be successful – and we’re doing that.

“We’re taking those steps, we’ve taken that first step last term, and we’re going to continue building upon that momentum and create an environment where our existing businesses will thrive and new businesses are going to be looking and actually pushing through each other to get here to open up their business here because they know the great talent and great community we are. I honestly wish everyone in this country could experience what it is like to live in the Town of Aurora because we are an incredible community and everyone deserves to be in an incredible community such as Aurora.”



# Mayor touts Aurora as hub of innovation while taking aim at Province

From page 1

had the pleasure to meet all these business owners and so many more, and I'm inspired by their courage to follow their dreams of owning and operating a business, and I'm so thankful they've chosen Aurora and are creating good jobs in our community."

Businesses, he added, are also choosing Aurora because of "the incredible talent we have...[with] more than 75 per cent of residents having a post-secondary degree – far higher than the provincial average."

Megalab Group, for instance, cited as an "innovative company that provides cutting-edge product testing, opened its doors in Aurora last year, while Piramal Pharma Solutions expanded its Aurora footprint. Mining vehicle manufacturer Kovatera opened a research and development facility in the community "to focus on the development of electric vehicle powertrain and autonomous vehicle systems, while others have planted roots in Aurora to expand manufacturing.

Another development in 2022 was the signing of a new memorandum of understanding between the Town of Aurora and York University to "partner on key sustainability initiatives and the development of leading-edge technologies, including smart-community technologies."

"Partnerships like these send a strong signal that as a municipality we are committed to fostering an innovation ecosystem; that innovators can come to Aurora to pilot new technologies, scale-up and compete on the global market," said Mrakas. "A huge priority for myself and Council is working hard to ensure there's ample industrial and office space in Town to accommodate new businesses. One of the projects I'm so proud we strongly endorsed is the Wellington East Business Centre. The planned 80,000 square-foot office condo by developers Howland Green

will use advanced building techniques and technologies to actually conserve resources and preserve more energy than it consumes. It's truly amazing. These are the types of innovative spaces that innovative people and companies want to work from. We're also seeing huge progress at the 32-acre SmartCentres South development which is now home to HomeSense, Winners and the much-anticipated Farm Boy, with its own family-farm connection to Aurora.

"But what's critical now is that we build on this momentum. So, to bolster our Economic Development Strategic Plan that runs its course at the end of this year, we are now working on an Aurora 2030 Action Plan, that will include even more targeted efforts to help businesses grow and expand, and bring new investment to Town.... But just as fast as we're building new businesses and supports, we're also putting measures in place to protect and strengthen the character of our Town, especially in our downtown core. Policies such as our updated Official Plan, with an updated Promenade Plan, aims to ensure new builds and renovations adhere to the consistent look that respects and complements our architectural heritage. Now, we know that this is important to both residents and businesses, and is part of our larger economic strategy. Distinct and beautiful downtowns are an incredible source of pride and also attract more residents, small business owners and investment."

Yet, it's integral to plan for future growth and Mrakas said the revised OP will "provide the road map to ensure our downtown is ready to embrace new technologies like autonomous vehicles, while also planning for more residential housing."

And here's where Mayor Mrakas said recent Provincial legislation might prove a roadblock on the previously mentioned roadmap. While he said

that he and some in attendance might have had a different perspective on housing, he said "if we want to continue attracting new residents and businesses, we need to prioritize building more housing through strategic growth."

"We're committed to leveraging the tools available to us to create a variety of more affordable housing options, including town houses, stacked duplexes and more. And just yesterday (February 21), I put forward a motion at General Committee to ensure our Official Plan includes an Affordable Housing Action Plan that has modernized housing policies that clearly defines strategies and actions to create more affordable and attainable housing to 2051 and beyond.

"We are fully committed to playing our part to address the housing and affordability crisis that has swept the country. But I want to be very clear on something today: Aurora has enough space to meet the accelerated provincial growth targets without encroaching on environmentally protected land. The Greenbelt is vital to the ecological health of the Region and Aurorans care about the environment. As a Council and a community, we are committed to ensuring responsible housing growth. In support of that commitment, Town Council unanimously passed a motion that opposes the province's plan to redesignate or remove 330 hectares of protected Greenbelt land in York Region for urban development. This is in line with many of our other climate initiatives such as our Corporate Environmental Action Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan, Community Energy Plan and Green Development Standards – all aimed at protecting our environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent from 2018 levels by the year 2050. So, I do not support any policy initiative – provincial or federal – that threatens environmentally sensitive lands.

"We also won't stay silent as the province severely limits our ability to plan our own communities. I support the province's goal of creating 1.5 million new homes over the next decade, but they have continually put forward a false narrative that municipalities are the main culprits of the housing crisis, a narrative they've used to impose a one-size-fits-all approach to local land-use planning across Ontario."

The Province's legislation, he continued, limits or eliminates a municipality's ability to control certain aspects of development, such as architectural design, limits the ability of Conservation Authorities to weigh in on the environmental impacts of a proposal, and reduces or eliminates the ability of towns and cities to levy development charges to builders to account for infrastructure and programs that will be stressed by incoming growth.

This, said Mayor Mrakas, could result in "millions of dollars of lost revenue" necessary to maintain current service levels.

"The burden...will shift to our residents and our businesses through higher, massive [property] taxes," he warned. "Taken as whole, all of this increasingly means that the Town's Official Plan is becoming not even worth the paper that it's written on . . . Official Plans that we have spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars developing, and importantly, reflects the vision of our residents and our businesses. As I have said before, municipalities are at the forefront of planning – we are the ones on the ground and we see the direct impact land use planning decisions have on our community. That's why we need to have a say in how, where or even if we grow.

"As your Mayor, I have always been and will continue to be a fierce advocate for greater municipal autonomy in land use planning decisions."

## MARCH EVENTS

# RENDEZVOUS

AT RICHMOND HILL RETIREMENT RESIDENCE  
COMPLIMENTARY IN-PERSON EVENTS FOR ACTIVE SENIORS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

March 17



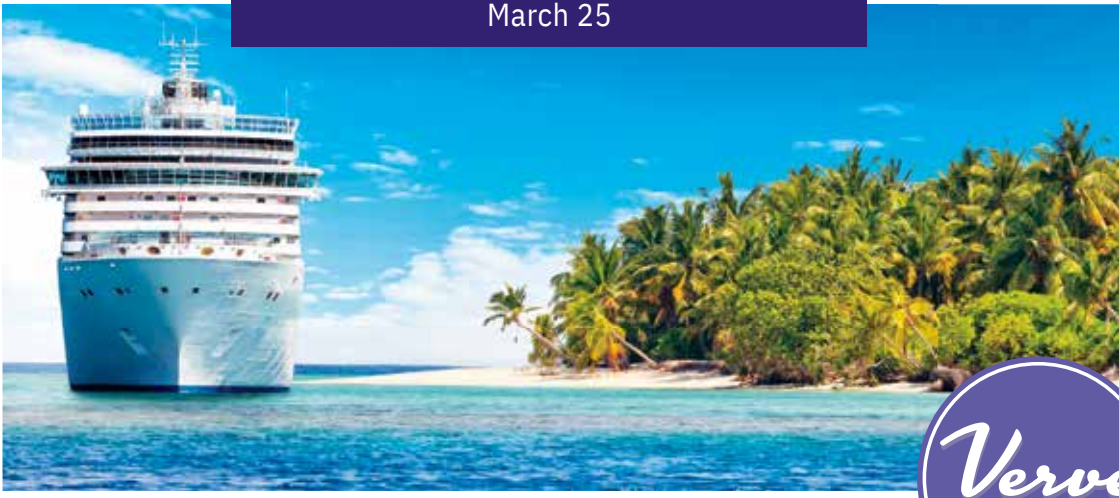
### Irish Dancers Performance

Friday, March 17th at 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!** Enjoy an afternoon of Irish dancing with the students of Aroon Academy of Irish Dance. Irish dancing has been around for centuries and is a great way to celebrate the day. **Wear your shamrocks to try your "luck" at winning a prize!**



March 25



### Cruise Week OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 25th 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**Explore our residence!** Experience *inspired* senior living with Verve. Grab your visitors passport and visit the designated destinations throughout our residence to collect stamps to be entered into a draw for our **Grand Prize!** Enjoy refreshments, games, activities, entertainment, and tours!

**Please Pre-Register For Classes. Space is limited!**

### FEATURING

Cayman Island theme

Tours every 30 mins  
**1:30pm** Caribbean Chair Salsa\*  
**2:00pm** Paint & Sip with Kelly\*  
**3:00pm** Tiki Bar Happy hour  
**3:30pm** Caribbean trivia

\*Please pre-register

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Holocaust survivor Elly Gotz is pictured with the cast and crew of Theatre Aurora's production of The Diary of Anne Frank.

Photo by Neill Kernohan

# Theatre Aurora Hosts Elly Gotz, a Holocaust Survivor, for a Night of Education and Reflection


By Neill Kernohan

On a recent February evening, Theatre Aurora played host to a special event featuring Elly Gotz, a Holocaust survivor who shared his story of survival and hope with a captivated audience. The event was organized by the theatre to help further educate its cast of the upcoming production, “The Diary of Anne Frank,” and brought together members of the theatre community for a night of education and reflection. Elly Gotz, now 94-years-old, was just a young boy when he and his family were rounded up in Lithuania and sent to a concentration camp during the Holocaust. Despite enduring unspeakable atrocities, Gotz survived and went on to immigrate to Canada in 1964 after living in South Africa, becoming an engineer and raising a family. In Toronto, Elly established several different businesses and achieved his

lifelong dream of becoming a pilot, later moving on to glider flying. During the event, Gotz shared his story with the audience, describing the horrors he witnessed and the unimaginable conditions he was forced to endure. Despite the darkness of his experiences, Gotz’s message was one of hope and perseverance. The event also featured a question-and-answer session with Gotz, providing audience members with the opportunity to engage directly with the survivor and learn more about his experiences. The audience was visibly moved by Gotz’s story, with many expressing gratitude for the opportunity to hear from a survivor and learn more about the Holocaust. “Elly is a most remarkable man whose life journey has taken him from extent terror, with plans to suicide, to unfathomable freedom,” said Jamie Sherman, who plays Otto Frank. “He

is one of the richest spirits I have ever met.” Lia Baird, who plays Miep Gies, one of the Dutch citizens who hid Anne Frank, reflected, “Mr. Gotz reminds us of the power that discrimination, injustice, and antisemitism can have when fueled with such hate; but also how to embrace life to its fullest without filling your heart with hate.” Sean Dwyer, who plays Dussel in the play, summed it up: “The Elders in our society are always important sources of knowledge and wisdom, but Elly Gotz is certainly a particularly vibrant, valuable source! I will certainly seek to apply what I learned from Mr. Gotz in terms of attitude, perseverance and passion as I go forward both in my own life and in our upcoming production of The Diary of Anne Frank.” Theatre Aurora is proud to hold events that promote education and awareness around important issues, and

this event was no exception. By inviting Elly Gotz to speak, Theatre Aurora hopes to provide the community with a powerful and meaningful opportunity to learn more about the Holocaust and its lasting impact. “We are incredibly grateful to Elly Gotz for sharing his story with us,” said Theatre Aurora VP of Productions, Judi Cragg. “It is so important that we continue to educate ourselves about the past in order to build a better future, and we are proud to be able to provide a platform for this important conversation.” The event was a reminder that even in the darkest moments of history, there are stories of survival and hope that can inspire us all to strive for a better future. Through the power of storytelling and community engagement, Theatre Aurora continues to work to ensure that the lessons of the past are never forgotten.



TOWN OF AURORA  
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

AURORA TOWN COUNCIL will hold a Public Meeting to receive input on a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) Application  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7pm  
at Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, 100 John West Way, Aurora Ontario

Application:

The subject ZBA is to permit the following:  
1. To allow warehousing as a permitted use  
2. To allow accessory Uses be permitted, provided that the floor area devoted to the principle employment use does not exceed 30% of the Gross Floor Area or 900 square metres, whichever is the lesser.

Property:

20-85 Monarch Park Gate, 25-455 Addison Hall Circle (w/o 355 Addison Hall Circle)

Legal description:

Blocks 1-32, Registered Plan of Subdivision 65M-465

Applicants:

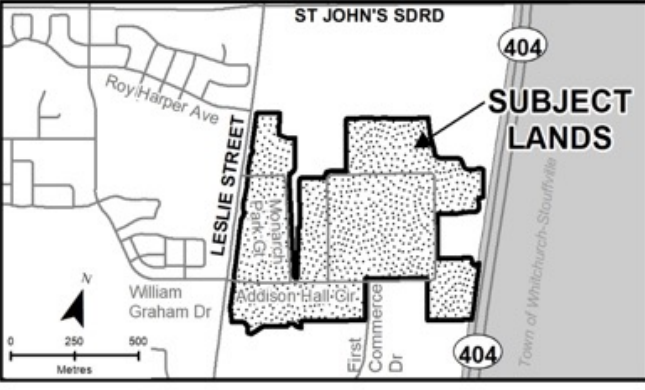
2351528 Ontario Limited and Aurora Leslie Developments Limited

File number:

ZBA-2022-03

Ward location:

Ward 6



Procedural Information:

Parties interested in speaking during the public portion of the meeting may attend in person or electronically. To participate electronically, pre-registration is required. For more information, visit: [aurora.ca/participation](https://www.aurora.ca/participation).  
The meeting will be live streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/TownofAurora>  
The Planning Report will be made available the Tuesday before the Public Planning Meeting date on the Town's website, by visiting the Agendas and Minutes section, located at: [aurora.ca/agendas](https://www.aurora.ca/agendas).

Additional Information:

Any questions regarding the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment can be directed to **Kenny Ng** of the Planning and Development Services Department at **1 (365) 500-3102**, or by email at [kng@aurora.ca](mailto:kng@aurora.ca).  
Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services Department at 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON. L4G 6J1, faxed to **905-726-4736** or emailed to [planning@aurora.ca](mailto:planning@aurora.ca) prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and Numbers.

Information About Preserving Your Appeal Rights:

If a person or a public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Aurora to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions the Town of Aurora before the approval authority gives or refuses approval of the Zoning By-law Amendment, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.  
If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Town of Aurora before the approval authority gives or refuses approval of the Zoning By-law Amendment, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.  
If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Town of Aurora on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning and Development Services.  
If you have received this notice as an owner of a property and the property contains seven (7) or more residential units, the Town requires that you post this notice in a location that is visible to all the residents.

Personal Information Collection Notice

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

Audio and Video Recording of Council and Committee Meetings

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Dated at the town of Aurora, this 2nd day of March 2023.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 • [aurora.ca/publicnotices](https://www.aurora.ca/publicnotices) • 905-727-1375



# Anne Frank’s diary is as powerful as ever for director O’Connell



Theatre Aurora’s production of The Diary of Anne Frank opens this Thursday, March 2.  
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For more than 70 years, the very private thoughts of Anne Frank, as she recorded them in hiding during the Second World War, have been arguably the most powerful accounts of the realities of the Holocaust.

Generations have been moved by her words, sparking numerous adaptations, including the award-winning play, The Diary of Anne Frank.

Now, as Theatre Aurora prepares to open the play this week, director Keith O’Connell says her words are as important now as ever before.

“Any time this story can be presented, it needs to be told,” says O’Connell. “History is beginning to repeat itself, sadly, in many aspects around the world. We’re living in a time of war right now. Even though it’s not touching us here in Canada, we still see horrific events happening – vandalism and all those sorts of things that are happening at religious venues... history is starting to repeat itself and this story needs to be told as many times as humanly possible so people don’t forget. If we either don’t continue to tell this story or pretend that it doesn’t exist, it

could get worse.

“I think it is very timely to present it again and remind people of the struggles of the past and how we can draw parallel lines to what we’re seeing today,”

Since it was first published in English from its native Dutch in 1952, Anne Frank’s diary has sparked countless adaptations and interpretations, including the 1955 Tony Award-winning play by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, and the 1959 Oscar-winning film, based on the play, starring Millie Perkins and Shelley Winters.

O’Connell says he’s a big fan of the film, particularly Shelley Winters’ performance, and was struck how as much as there are moments of tension in the play, they are met with “a sense of family.”

“I think that’s what drew me to this,” he says. “Given everything they have been going through, everything that has been taken away from them, they are still in some aspects able to thrive in a small confined space. It’s impossible to recreate the exact space that Anne Frank and the families were forced to live in for those 761 days; what we were able to recreate is the feeling of having a confined space and to be able to see these individuals, how they adapted, how they were able to strengthen their bond as families within the confines

of that space. They had a rhythm of life that was evident from the first day they were brought into until hiding until the very last day... that that is what we’re really focusing on: this rhythm of life and what they had to endure for those 761 days.”

Part of his approach in casting the play and having his actors build their characters is the simple reminder that these were real people and not just characters of the writers’ imaginations.

“Each one has their own journey they have taken for their roles,” O’Connell explains. “Everyone is concerned with representing these people truthfully and right down to how they use a prop, how they walk, how they talk. We’re not speaking German or Hebrew throughout the play, but each one of these individuals has committed themselves in ways I have never seen other shows I have done. We want to make sure that we are bringing truth to the story, that we are true to these individuals and we’re presenting them with respect. That’s the number one word I can probably say – we’re trying to ensure the audience walks away with respect for these people and the journey they went through.”

Theatre Aurora’s production of The Diary of Anne Frank opens this Thursday, March 2, and runs on select dates and times through March 11. For more information, visit [theatreaurora.com](http://theatreaurora.com).

## Healthcare professionals meet to discuss French language health services



Left to right : Yves Lévesque, Narjiss Lazrak, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Mireille Huneault, Oureye Seck and Indrāja Gugle.  
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Entité 4 hosted the Francophone Health Networking Event on Friday, February 24 at Aurora Community Centre where a panel of healthcare professionals discussed the issues, challenges and possible solutions to the provision of French language health services in Ontario. “It is absolutely vital that we find new ways to provide residents with health services that they need in their mother tongue,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas at the opening ceremony. Entité 4 facilitates community engagement and makes recommendations to Ontario Health on planning healthcare services in French.

The event welcomed approximately 75 participants from across Ontario as well as guests online, including MPP Natalia Kusendova and President of the Assemblée de la francophonie de l’Ontario, Fabien Hébert. The evening also included a musical performance by Abel Maxwell, a renowned Francophone artist, and guests enjoyed an authentic African meal.



TOWN OF AURORA  
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

AURORA TOWN COUNCIL will hold a Public Meeting to receive input on a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Official Plan Amendment application:  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 7pm  
at Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, 100 John West Way, Aurora Ontario

Application:

The purpose of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment and Official Plan Amendment applications are to permit the development of thirty (30) 3-storey townhouse units accessed from the north side of Wellington Street East.

Property:

1452 Wellington Street East

Legal description:

Lots 1,2,3 and 4, Registered Plan 525

Applicant:

Land Services Group (Livewell on Wellington General Partners Ltd.)

File numbers:

ZBA-2022-06; OPA-2022-04

Related Applications:

SUB-2022-01; SP-2022-10

Procedural Information:

Parties interested in speaking during the public portion of the meeting may attend in person or electronically. To participate electronically, pre-registration is required. For more information, visit: [aurora.ca/participation](http://aurora.ca/participation).

Physical distancing is encouraged when attending Town Hall. The meeting will be live streamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/TownofAurora>

The Planning Report will be made available the Tuesday before the Public Planning Meeting date on the Town’s website, by visiting the Agendas and Minutes section, located at: [aurora.ca/agendas](http://aurora.ca/agendas).

Additional Information:

Additional information and material regarding the proposed applications is available by contacting **Adam Robb** of the Planning and Development Services Department at **365-500-3104**, or by email at [arobb@aurora.ca](mailto:arobb@aurora.ca).  
Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services Department at 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON. L4G 6J1, faxed to **905-726-4736** or emailed to [planning@aurora.ca](mailto:planning@aurora.ca) prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and Number.

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Dated at the town of Aurora, this 2nd day of March 2023.

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selected varieties  
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over limit pay 8.49 ea



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selected varieties, 4 L  
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ea  
over limit pay 5.69 ea



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21100091\_EA/21100092\_EA

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750 g/1 kg or  
Hazelnut spread 725 g  
selected varieties  
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PC Optimum<sup>™</sup>  
MEMBER PRICE  
5<sup>79</sup>  
ea  
NON-MEMBER PRICE  
6<sup>49</sup>  
ea



Cashmere  
bathroom tissue  
12/24=48 rolls  
selected varieties  
21186207\_EA

LIMIT 4  
11<sup>99</sup>  
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over limit pay 19.99 ea

Prices and offers effective from Thursday, March 2nd to Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 unless otherwise stated.  
Please see in-store or online at [superstore.ca](https://superstore.ca) for your particular store's hours. Customer Relations: 1-866-596-RCSS (7277)



15900 Bayview Avenue Aurora, Ontario, L4G 7Y3 905-726-9532



# The Art of Storytelling celebrates Indigenous art, culture in downtown Aurora



Royal Rose Gallery owner Rose Calabrese-Teal is pictured with some of the Indigenous art that forms The Art of Storytelling.

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

Telling stories through art is at the heart of a new art exhibition on now in downtown Aurora, one which will have a lasting impact on the community.

The Art of Storytelling, celebrating Indigenous art, is on now at the Royal Rose Gallery, on the west side of Yonge Street just south of Wellington.

The brainchild of curator Rosa Calabrese-Teal, the exhibition features the work of nearly a dozen Indigenous artists, some of which have been added to the Royal Rose Gallery’s permanent collection.

Running until April 15, the exhibit will be held in conjunction with artist talks, activities, demonstrations, and a special opening reception this Saturday, March 4, with some of the participating artists on hand to talk about their work.

Pieces that have been secured permanently by the gallery are hoped to be part of a collection that can be enjoyed by local schools to foster students’ interest in Indigenous art.

“The response has been great,” says Calabrese-Teal of the early feedback she’s received since the work went up on the walls of her space, which was occupied for more than a century by Caruso’s. “People are absolutely open to learning and engaging with the art, and I am also finding educators want to bring their classes here and we can do outreach programs. With the permanent collection we’ve acquired as well, we can go into the schools, do programming, and teach them about Indigenous art, letting them see original pieces – and it’s always different than seeing something in a book.

“My goal would be to loan out the collection for a certain amount of time to the school so that the kids can actually have time to look at it, process it, and then go into the school and do artwork with them. Sometimes an hour-and-a-half workshop is just not enough time to soak it all in. Ideally, it would be very nice to put it on loan in various locations, whether it’s schools, Town Hall, somewhere at the Library where people can not only see it but sit with it for a little bit.”

Calabrese-Teal has always had a love for Indigenous art.

As she’s helped bring this exhibition together, she says she has learned so much about the narrative nature of the art.

Norval Morrisseau, a founder of the Woodlands School of Art, has always been a favourite and the works that have been brought together reflect this influence.

“I’m hoping to have some artists come in and be present so the community can come in and engage with the artists themselves,” says Calabrese-Teal. “Ellen Cowie is one of our feature artists and she has done a painting of Emmerson Benson in

his dancing regalia, so we’re hoping to have Ellen and Emmerson just to talk about their experiences and why she created it and, again, it is nice to talk to the artists. I want people to come in and know there is so much more to learn and even though the exhibit itself will only be open through April 15, we will have ongoing programs of Indigenous art.”

The Royal Rose Gallery is located at 15210 Yonge Street. Artists represented include Stephan Snake, Carl Beam, John Laford, Ellen Cowie, Leland Bell, Norval Morrisseau, Derek Harper and Jasyn Lucas. For more information, visit [royalroseart.ca](http://royalroseart.ca).

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## TA’s The Diary of Anne Frank: A Review

By Scott Johnston

Continuing this season’s theme of The Mighty Heroine, Theatre Aurora’s latest play is “The Diary of Anne Frank”.

As this true story begins, Otto Frank is the lone survivor from three Jewish families who hid together from the Nazis during the Second World War. Following the war, he returns to the building in Amsterdam where the families were sheltered, and is stunned to be given a diary written by his then-teenage daughter during their time in hiding.

The play tells the story of the eight people during their almost two years spent in their confined attic space as seen and through the eyes of Anne.

Anne was a very intelligent and observant young lady and the series of vignettes based on her diary entries give a fascinating view of the various relationships and emotions as the time confined in their relatively small hiding place progresses.

In the large cast, Riley Therese is a standout as Anne, giving her an optimistic and inquisitive outlook as her character matures during a challenging and stressful time.

Jamie Sherman also excels as Anne’s father Otto, showing raw emotion when realizing he’s the only survivor of his family, and strength and compassion as the patriarch somehow manages to keep all of the differing personalities from getting

on each other’s nerves during their confinement.

The other members of the families are played by Bailey Ward (Margot Frank), Finnie Jesson (Edith Frank), Jaime Oren (Mrs. Van Daan), Aaron Sidenberg (Mr. Van Daan), Brady Trussler (Peter Van Daan), and Sean C. Dwyer (Mr. Dussel). All do an excellent job of portraying their characters’ differing personalities, hopes and fears as they all become increasingly on edge in such close quarters as potential discovery by the Nazis increases over the many months in hiding.

David Haddad and Lia Baird are strong performers as the brave and sympathetic friends Mr. Kraler and Miep Gies, who keep the families’ hideout a secret, and provide them with food, other essentials, and news.

The set provides a good feel for the claustrophobia of the space, which is further strengthened by most cast members being visible on stage, even when they are not an active part of the scene.

With this production, Theatre Aurora has somehow once again excelled itself with a strong story, terrific cast, and powerful performances. It is well worth seeing.

Evening performances of “The Diary of Anne Frank” continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, March 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11, with a matinee on March 5. Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.



“Beer, it’s the best damn drink in the world.”

*Cheers to Jack Nicholson*



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# THE AURORAN

## SECTION B

**Sports • News • Coming Events**  
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Vol 24 No. 24 905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of March 2, 2023

## Russo rescues Tigers with big breakaway goal to sink the Caledon Admirals



Aurora Tiger Connor Russo is mobbed by teammates after his third period breakaway goal versus Caledon.

Auroran photo by  
Jim Stewart

By Jim Stewart

The Aurora Tigers closed their regular season on a winning note with a 4-2 home victory over the Caledon Admirals in OJHL play on Monday night.

Tigers forward Connor Russo scored the game-winning goal on an electrifying breakaway. Russo rifled a snapshot between the pads of Admirals' netminder Nicholas Van Kaufmann with 3:21 left in the third period and created a wave of relief through the ACC.

The swift-skating Tiger credited his GWG to a "great tape-to-tape pass from [Joseph] Martino and finally getting a lucky bounce. I saw the five-hole open up and fired it through."

The hard-working and antagonistic Aurora forward expressed a sense of accomplishment with the home ice victory.

"It was nice to be rewarded with a win. Locking up seventh for the playoffs was important for seeding."

Tigers' Captain Lucas Stanojevic, who scored his 33rd goal of the season into an empty net with 42 seconds left to provide the margin of victory, spoke about the key to beating Caledon.

"We controlled the pace and stuck to doing the little things. It was a big game coming in tonight and it was great to get the seventh spot for the playoffs."

In addition to his impressive 60-point season, Stanojevic reflected on playing in his 100th OJHL game.

"It's pretty cool and exciting to reach these milestones. I've had great line-mates all season. I've tried to take care of myself and I've set high expectations for myself to be a better offensive producer. Transitioning last year from AA and playing against bigger players was challenging, but I was able to stick with it and had a good second year in the league."

The Tigers' leader on and off the ice said he was pleased with his team taking three of the four points in Aurora's final two games of the regular season.

"These last few games – a win tonight against Caledon and taking a point against Milton on Saturday – are giving the team confidence. Going into a big playoff series against either Georgetown or Burlington, we can't be scared. We have to set the tone

and play physically. We'll need to step up our physicality."

Stanojevic's Tigers set the tone and played physically against Caledon in the first period of play. They shot early and often on Admirals' goaltender Van Kaufmann. The home team's diligent forechecking was rewarded at 7:44 when Matteo Iacovelli tipped in Alex Case's wrist shot from the point to put the Tigers ahead 1-0. Another Case blast from the blue line was tipped into the back of the Admirals' cage with less than two minutes remaining in the period, but the goal was nullified due to a high stick.

The Tigers came out hitting to start the second period with all lines sustaining pressure and generating numerous icings by Caledon. Any lapses in pressure were salvaged by the steady goaltending of Aurora's Glen Crandall who made a series of big saves with his team clinging to a 1-0 lead. Crandall finished the game with .900 save percentage, turning back 18 of the 20 Admiral shots.

The Tigers took a 2-0 lead in the middle frame when Noah DeSantis made a nice move at the right point to elude an Admiral and fired a puck from the top of the circle. DeSantis's shot generated a juicy rebound for Jace Lavallee to bang past Van Kaufmann. Assists went to Russo and Stefan Forgione on Lavallee's 10th of the season.

The game turned, however, due to an untimely roughing penalty by Iacovelli with 1:59 left in the period. Iacovelli's scuffle after the whistle provided the Admirals with a power play which they converted when Dawson Hettiarachchi tipped in a deflection between Crandall's pads. Admirals' top scorer Daniil Kononov drew his 41st assist of the season on the power play goal with the other assist going to Dawson Doner with forty seconds remaining in the middle frame.

Midway through the third period and with the momentum shifting to the visitors, the Admirals tied the game 2-2 when Caledon callup Nathan Catalano snapped a shot past Crandall on assists from Hettiarachchi and Tanner Greenwood. But it was Russo's electrifying breakaway goal at 3:21 on Noah DeSantis's second assist of the game and Martino's finesse

feed that put Aurora on top to stay. With 1:44 to play and the Tigers clinging to their one-goal lead, Caledon Head Coach Chris Taylor called a timeout with a faceoff in the Aurora zone. He pulled Van Kaufmann for the extra attacker and the Admirals pressed to tie the game. However, Carter Real and Ryan Evenhuis gained the neutral zone with the Admirals' net empty and Stanojevic iced the game with 41.6 seconds left.

Tigers' Head Coach Greg Johnston was satisfied with his team's "three consecutive solid games [versus Burlington, Milton, and Caledon] but he was "very happy with their effort against Milton."

The Tigers dug down versus the Milton Menace on Saturday night and earned a point in a 2-2 double-overtime tie. Coach Johnston felt that "it's always nice to get a win heading into the playoffs and Russo scored a big goal tonight and picked a spot," but the Tigers' bench boss liked best his team's effort on Saturday night versus the Menace.

Johnston's Tigers established a 1-0 lead on Stanojevic's 32nd goal of the season on assists from Carter Real and Ryan Evenhuis at 16:37 of the first period. The home team fell behind 2-1 in the middle frame on Menace goals by Conor Driscoll at 2:51 and Jared Coccimiglio at 5:19 on a Milton power play.

The Menace took their one-goal advantage into the third period, but Zennon Edwards tied the game for the Tigers on Evenhuis's second assist of the game to force overtime. Two periods of overtime did not create a winner so both teams skated away with a crucial pre-playoff point for their concerted efforts on Saturday night at the ACC. Tigers' Goaltender Glen Crandall stopped 24 of 26 "menacing" shots he faced to earn the tie for his team.

Aurora will face either Georgetown or

Burlington in the first round of the OJHL playoffs. Playoff dates will be announced formally, but the Tigers' first home playoff game will be Sunday, March 12.

Captain Lucas Stanojevic finished the season with 33 goals and 27 assists for 60 points in 54 games.

Noah's DeSantis's two assists versus Caledon bumped his assist total to 22 for the season.

The Tigers (18-27-3-5) finished their regular season with 46 points and sewed up seventh place in the Northwest Conference with the win over Caledon.

The Admirals dropped to 8-38-1-4 with the loss to the Tigers and will miss the OJHL playoffs.



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# POLAR PLUNGE for SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Themed teams from across York Region and beyond got chilly and wet for a good cause on Thursday as the York Regional Police Association hosted the annual Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Ontario. The plunge took place at the Association's new base on Eric T. Smith Way.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

## Canadian Federation of University Women to mark International Women’s Day

Umut Duyga Uzunel, Teenaz Javat, and Verushka Samarkina will share their stories about immigration and resilience for CFUW A/N’s International Women’s Day Virtual presentation.

You can’t understand someone until you’ve walked a mile in their shoes.

This is the message that The Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket (CFUW A/N) wants to share with the community as they partner with The Shoe Project to celebrate International Women’s Day with virtual presentation.

Founded in 2011 by Toronto-based novelist, Katherine Govier, The Shoe Project creates writing and public speaking workshops in which immigrant and refugee women write stories of their journeys and adaptation to Canada through the metaphor of a pair of shoes. Workshop participants are mentored by senior writers and theatre professionals and present their stories on stage at the culminating performance.

Over 300 women from over sixty countries have shared their immigration stories and performed in theatres across Canada -- Halifax, Antigonish, Charlottetown, Fredericton, Toronto, Calgary, Canmore, Vancouver, and Edmonton.

On March 8, three alumni of the project will tell their brave and moving stories utilizing shoes as a metaphor in describing their journeys to new lives in Canada.

The speakers for this IWD event include the following women:

Umut Duyga Uzunel came to Canada in 2017 to escape political unrest in Turkey. Umut reunited with her children 18 months later. She is now studying naturopathic medicine as an additional way to help people in need.

Teenaz Javat came to Canada in 1997. She is a journalist, by blood Indian, by bond Pakistani and by choice Canadian. Among many of her duties, Teenaz writes headlines for a living at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Verushka Samarkina, now an ESL instructor moved from Russia to Canada in 2009. She has

a PhD in Literature and more than 20 years of teaching experience.

“The women’s stories are inspiring and powerful,” says Cordelia Tang, Executive Director, and an alumna of The Shoe Project. “The courage they demonstrate in overcoming obstacles to create new lives often brings our audiences to tears.”

She will introduce the speakers and provide background on the mission of the organization.

Tang joined The Shoe Project workshop in 2013, two years after she arrived in Canada as a landed immigrant. In China, she had been working as an editor for over nine years. After graduating from the Master of Information program, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, she started working for The Shoe Project as director and Toronto local coordinator.

Members of the community are welcome to attend this free virtual presentation on March 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. To register, contact CFUW at cfuw.info@gmail.com.

“We will continue our celebration at 1 p.m. with our traditional meeting at the Water Street Bridge in Newmarket for a short walk in solidarity with our sisters around the world and the singing of ‘O, Canada,’” says Shiela Ingle, Chair of Community Outreach for CFUW A/N. “The walk has been a tradition for the club for many years.”

The week of IWD finishes with LUNAFEST, a virtual film festival of seven films made by women about women. CFUW A/N is partnering with the Soroptimists of York Region to host this event. Proceeds will help support each club’s programs and outreach projects. The event is March 10-12 and tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at lunafest.org.

This year’s IWD celebration continues to reinforce the mission of CFUW and the power of women working together for change.

To learn more about CFUW Aurora/Newmarket and the work their work in the community, visit their website at cfuwaurora.newmarket.com.

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# Fundraising underway for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel York Move for Kids’ Sake

By Zachary Roman

A major fundraiser has begun for the local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Peel York (BBBSPY) has announced the dates of its 2023 Move For Kids’ Sake fundraiser, alongside its title sponsor, Tim Hortons.

For those unfamiliar with BBBSPY, it’s a non-profit organization dedicated to championing the health and wellbeing of youth. It’s well-known for its mentoring programs where caring adult volunteers help youth overcome adversity.

Move For Kids’ Sake is an annual team fundraising event where participants first must choose an activity they’d like to participate in.

This year, there’s bowling and rock climbing events being held in Brampton, Mississauga and Newmarket. For those who can’t make it to one of the events, there’s the option to choose your own event and participate virtually.

Locally, bowling takes place at Stellar Lanes Newmarket from 2 to 4 p.m. on March 4. The final event is rock climbing at Toprock Climbing from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on March 5.

Once an event is chosen, participants can register as an individual or team online at [peel.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/move-for-kids-sake](https://peel.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/move-for-kids-sake). All participants in the event must raise a minimum of \$100, and BBBSPY’s goal is to raise \$50,000 through the entire fundraiser.

Lori Plati, BBBSPY Public Relations Manager, explained Move For Kids’ Sake used to be called Bowl For Kids’ Sake before the pandemic hit, forcing bowling alleys to close down temporarily. BBBSPY changed the name in order to facilitate virtual

events where people could move safely and do an activity of their choice.

Now that bowling alleys are back open, Plati said everyone’s excited for in-person fun, and there’s new excitement for the first-ever rock climbing event.

“We’re still going back to bowling events, but we wanted to offer something else for people who may have different interests,” said Plati. “We have a great relationship with Toprock Climbing, they’ve been very supportive allowing our big and little brothers and sisters to climb there for free this past year.”

There’s another great relationship at play for this year’s event too.

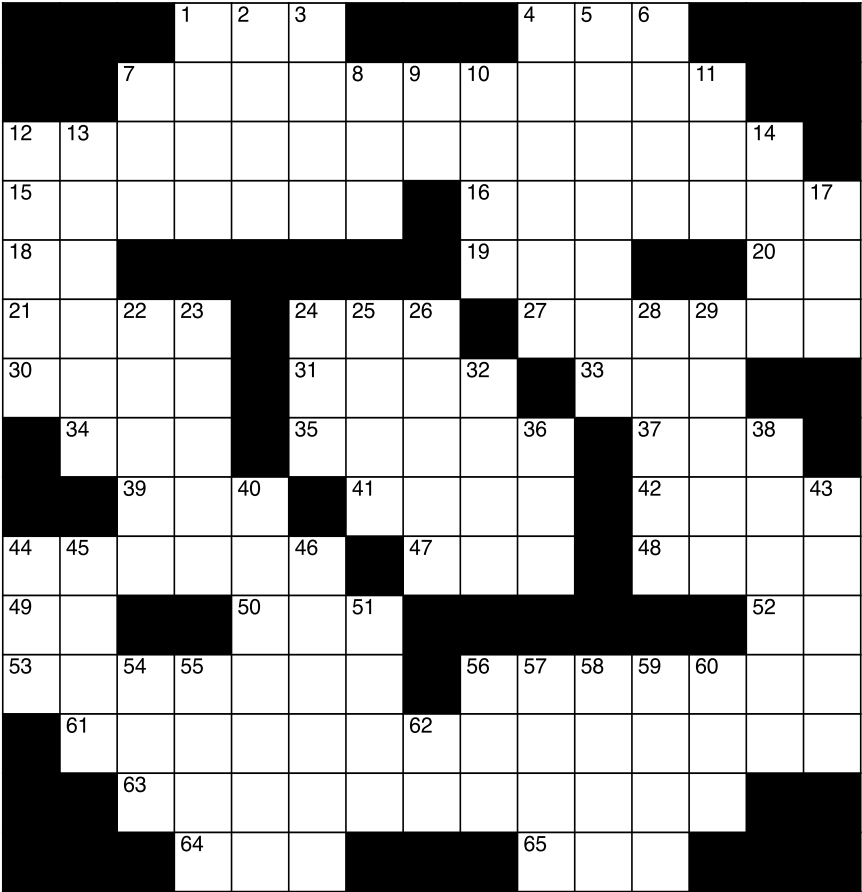
Peel’s Police Chief, Nishan Duraipappah, is the honorary chairperson of Move For Kids’ Sake 2023. Plati explained the Peel Regional Police are an amazing supporter of the event every year, and have already booked every bowling lane for the February 26 event with 48 fundraising teams from their organization. There’s now a waiting list for that event, so interested parties may want to attend one of the other two official events.

“They are an extremely strong supporter of ours and we are thrilled to have Nishan as honorary chairperson once again,” said Plati. “It’s really nice for him to lend his support... and he’s so good with the kids too.”

Plati said at first, BBBSPY didn’t know how the return to in-person events would go, but that so far she’s been overwhelmed with the support.

“It’s been really nice to see how the community has responded,” said Plati. “Really helping us to raise money we need to make (mentor) matches with all the kids on our waiting list.”

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Relaxing place

4. Plant by scattering

7. A type of explorer

12. Unique traits

15. Lady

16. Dismayed

18. Railway

19. Type of whale

20. Sodium

21. Manning and Lilly are two

24. Where golfers begin

27. Entrapped

30. Influential punk artist

31. Hebrew calendar month

33. Car mechanics group

34. Undesirable rodent

35. Minneapolis suburb
37. Witch

39. Get free of

41. A written proposal or reminder

42. British School

44. Country on west coast of Africa

47. Cool!

48. Information

49. \_\_\_ route

50. Jim Nantz’s network

52. Something to register (abbr.)

53. Give cards incorrectly

56. One who's learning on the job

61. Stevenson adventure novel

63. Taking careful notice

64. CNN’s founder

65. Speak badly of

### CLUES DOWN

1. A person with unusual powers of foresight

2. Single sheet of glass

3. Portrays a character

4. Expresses happiness

5. Acquires

6. “The Martian” author

7. Degree

8. 60-minute intervals

9. A detective’s pal

10. Group of nations (abbr.)

11. Popular Georgia rockers

12. Fencing swords

13. Basement

14. Samoan monetary unit

17. Male parent

22. Finnish lake

23. A smooth fabric

24. Arctic explorers (abbr.)

25. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
26. Very willing

28. Expressed pleasure

29. Lasso

32. Hindu model of ideal man

36. Move your head in approval

38. Ill-\_\_\_; gained illegally

40. Die

43. Accused publicly

44. Precious stone

45. Individual thing or person

46. Behaved in a way that degraded

51. Derogatory term

54. No seats available

55. Liability

56. Popular beverage

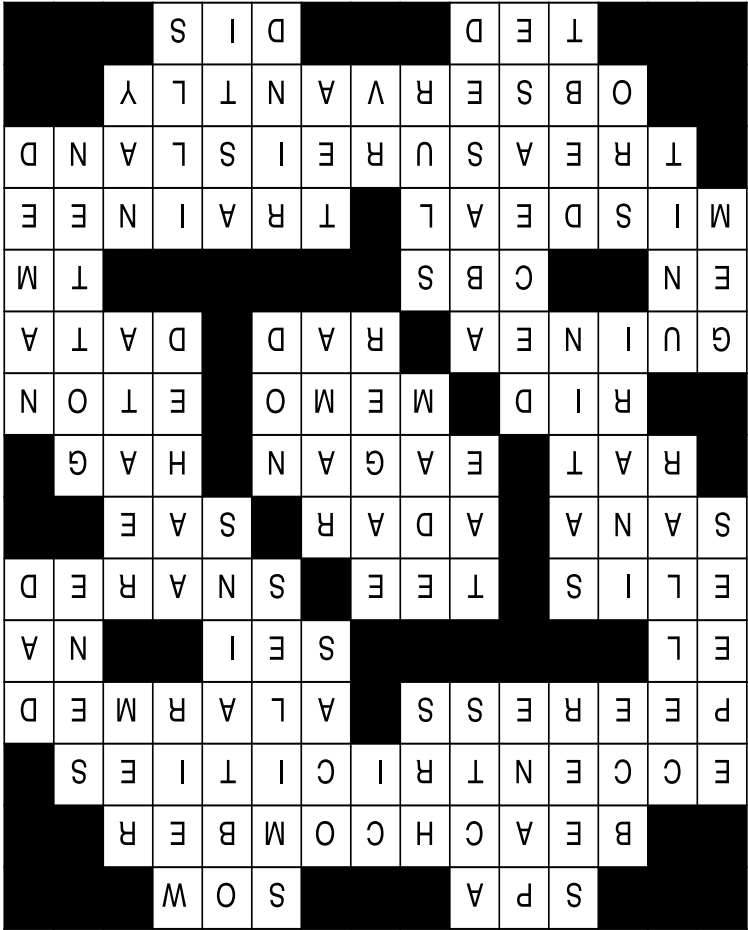
57. Tough outer skin of fruit

58. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)

59. Troubles

60. Negative

62. Camper



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# Food, music and a few splashes of colour set for Holi celebration

From page 3

before the actual Holi festival. Like any other Indian festival, it's a series of activities that make this festival a wholesome experience. Here, it is a new community, we're still building that bond, and just for this time we're celebrating it for one evening where we will be coming together. We can't play with colours like we would in India... we're using organic colour powder and dabbing each other lightly with that powder on our forehead, cheeks, however people feel comfortable without making a mess in the halls!"

This Saturday's event is billed as an informal, kid-friendly mix and mingle – “you arrive and become part of our culture immediately” – and there's no “set expectations from anyone, as long as they're on their best behaviour; all we want is for everyone to enjoy and dance to the Bollywood music, the music from the dhol (drum) masters who will be playing traditional Punjabi music, and we will be dancing.”

If you're new to Holi and the use of colour, Ray recommends wearing white if you're going to partake and potentially garments you won't want to reuse.

The celebration will take place at the Newmarket Community Centre (200 Doug Duncan Drive) on March 4 from 4 – 8 p.m. and is sponsored by Aurora's Aroma Indian Grocers, realtor Vadi Subramani, and Nk Gifts & Décor – and further sponsorship opportunities are available. Tickets are \$25.

For more on the event, call 416-450-7980 or 647-649-4458.

## MARCH 2 – 4

The Country Day School is bringing Matilda the Musical to its stage March 2-4! Based on the Roald Dahl childrens book, this is the story of an extraordinary girl who, who armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. This is a joint Middle and Senior School production and open to the local community. Show times are March 2 and 3 at 7:00pm and March 4 at 1:30pm. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased in advance at [www.cds.on.ca/tickets](http://www.cds.on.ca/tickets).

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

The Aurora Historical Society's (AHS) Speaker Series continues this evening at 7 p.m. with an in-person and virtual presentation: Intro to Local Historic Sites panel. Get to know the local historic sites all around you! Join us for Intro to Local Historic Sites, a panel discussion where we are hosting professionals from Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre, Sharon Temple National Historic Site, and Georgina Pioneer Village & Archives. Learn about their behind-the-scenes work, and the daily challenges of running these unique landmarks that are so close to home. Tickets are \$10.50 for AHS members and \$12.50 for non-members.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 25

The Aurora Historical Society (AHS) will host a Heritage Craft Workshop: Introduction to Quilting today from 1 – 3 p.m. at Hillary House National Historic Site. Learn the basics of quilting or join other quilters and work on personal projects at our upcoming Introduction to Quilting Workshop! Our instructor will teach you the basics of quilting using hand

# THINGS You Ought To Know

sewing, and help grow your skill in this popular heritage craft. Materials will be provided, and we encourage you to bring your own too! Advance ticket purchase required. Please visit our website or call us to book.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1

The Aurora Historical Society will host an Easter Egg Decorating Workshop at Hillary House from 1 – 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per adult, or \$10 per child with materials included. Gather the family and decorate some Easter eggs! Be creative with your design and get a sneak peek of our historic property while you are visiting us. Workshop includes all materials. Pre-registration required. All children require adult accompaniment. Our Gift Shop will also be open for your last-minute gift needs! Tickets can be purchased on the AHS website here <https://aurorahs.com/easter-egg-decorating-workshop-2>.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 8

HELLO SPRING – The Town of Aurora will host its Easter-themed Hello Spring! event today at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Celebrate spring with fun activities and a chance to see the Easter Bunny! Hop into spring celebrations with your family and friends at Aurora's Hello Spring event. Welcome the warmer weather; budding flowers and connecting with nature by participating in our fun indoor and outdoor activities for everyone to enjoy! \$5 per person and wristbands must be purchased in advance from

the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Town Hall, or the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. Various outdoor activities include story walks, egg fishing, flower planting, a hopstake course, an animal education display by LaSalle Farm and more. Don't forget to check out activities located inside the Aurora Seniors' Centre such as meeting the Easter Bunny, enjoying a Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Optimist Club (nominal fees apply), and more! Children will receive an activity bag to continue the fun at home.

## CONTINUING

The Aurora Historical Society offers a Youth Mentorship Program biweekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3.30 – 5.30 p.m. A new program offered exclusively for youth in Grades 9 to 12! Earn volunteer hours while learning about working in the arts and culture field, guided by our knowledgeable AHS Staff. Explore community hotspots together, and work on a collaborative peer exhibition that will open in Summer 2023. Get passionate about your interests, showcase your talents, and develop your skills. The AHS is dedicated to providing safe, accessible, engaging and innovative programming. Sign up today to claim your spot. Email Selin at [programming@aurorahs.com](mailto:programming@aurorahs.com). Free. In person.

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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).

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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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## GETTING THINGS DONE

Mayor  
Tom Mrakas

Last month was our annual Arctic Adventure at Town Park and although we didn't see Arctic temperatures (rubber boots were definitely in order), everyone had an amazing time!

And speaking of special events, while it is only March, Easter is right around the corner and you'll want to plan ahead and get your tickets for our upcoming Hello Spring event on Saturday, April 8 at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. If you've never attended with your kids, suffice to say you are in for a 'hopping' good time! For more details, visit [aurora.ca/HelloSpring](http://aurora.ca/HelloSpring).

Nominations are also open for our annual Community Recognition Awards, one of my favourite events that celebrates the incredible contributions people make to our

community. So, if you know an individual, group or business in Town who is going above and beyond to help strengthen Aurora, please nominate them today at [aurora.ca/cra](http://aurora.ca/cra).

Lastly, March Break is almost here and I want to wish students – and many parents – an awesome week off! If you are planning a staycation, you'll want to check out our great day camps, drop-in programs and other activities the Town has going on. For more info, check out our 2023 Winter Program guide on the Town's website.

As always, I encourage residents and businesses to reach out to me at any time either by phone, through social media or in-person. I look forward to keeping everyone informed and engaged.

## Briefly

### ARSON SUSPECTED IN LESLIE & WELLINGTON FIRE

On Saturday, February 15, at approximately 8.20 p.m., York Regional Police were called to a residence in the area of Leslie Street, north of Wellington, for a report of a fire. "Investigators believe the fire was intentionally set," said Constable Maniva Armstrong. "Investigators are appealing to anyone with information or who witnessed any suspicious activity in the area to come forward. Investigators would also like to speak with anyone with video surveillance or dashcam footage in the area of Conklin Crescent, Starkweather Drive and Holladay Drive around the time of the incident." The investigation continues and anyone with information is asked to contact York Regional Police #1 Criminal Investigations Bureau – Property Crime Unit at 1-866-876-5423 x7142, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS/www.1800222tips.com.

### DAWLISH FIRE DEEMED ACCIDENTAL

Central York Fire Services (CYFS) have deemed a February 13 fire on Dawlish Avenue as accidental. CYFS responded to reports of a garage fire. "The first unit on scene reported a fully involved garage fire with heavy smoke and flames. The volume of the fire was a threat to the adjacent house and one disabled resident was unable to exit his house. The crews were able to contain the fire to the garage while evacuating the disabled man. There was minimal damage to the adjacent house and vehicle."

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Good job!





**Daryl King**  
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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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.





### SPORTS PROGRAMS:

Multi-Sport (completed SK-Gr. 8)  
Basketball, Tennis (completed Gr. 3-8)  
**\*NEW\*** Baseball, **\*NEW\*** Soccer (completed Gr. 3-8)  
Volleyball (completed Gr. 6-9)

### SPECIALTY PROGRAMS:

Art, Drama, Robotics,  
Mindbusters (completed Gr. 3-8)  
**\*NEW\*** Music Camp (completed Gr. 6-7)  
Day Trippers (completed Gr. 6-9)  
Leader in Training (LIT) (completed Gr. 9)

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\*(HST IS APPLICABLE ON LIT FEES)



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## MEET OUR SUMMER CAMP DIRECTORS



**Maddie Sutcliffe,  
Summer Camp Director**



**Mandy Cronin,  
Assistant Camp Director**

**We are celebrating our eighth year of summer camp and invite your child(ren) to be part of it! Kids have a blast while receiving instruction from our coaches and enthusiastic counselors, all of whom have prior experience in their respective programs.**



### Sample Day (Basketball Skills Camp)

7:30-9:00 am	Extended Care Available
9:00 am	Drop-Off
9:10-9:30 am	Icebreakers/Camp Games
9:30-10:30 am	Basketball Skills & Training
10:30-10:45 am	Break/Snack
10:45-11:30 am	Basketball Skills & Training
11:30-12:00 pm	Lunch (provided)
12:00-12:30 pm	Camp Songs/Camp Games
12:30-1:30 pm	Full Camp Game
1:30-2:30 pm	Basketball Skills & Training
2:30-2:45 pm	Break/Snack
2:45-4:00 pm	Basketball Game
4:00 pm	Pick-Up
4:00-5:30 pm	Extended Care Available

### Here's what past campers have to say about our program:

***"I like playing fireball. The food is really good and the counselors are awesome!"***  
***Ava, 11 years old***

***"Can I come for three weeks next year?"***  
***Jack, 10 years old***

***"I liked working with the kids and spending time outside. I also liked learning all sorts of new activities from the older coaches."***  
***Will, 14 years old, LIT Program***

**We look forward to seeing you this summer at CDS Summer Camp!**

### For more information, visit us at

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