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THE AURORED

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 24 No. 48 905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of August 17, 2023

CMCA AUDITED



ON THE "ROAD" – The Barbadian sport of Road Tennis was launched last Wednesday at Aurora Heights Public School, the start of a journey which will see the sport, similar to lawn and table tennis, introduced to schools within the York Region District School Board. (Main) On hand for the launch were Mayor Tom Mrakas, who got a few tips from tennis player Lionel Eli. (INSET) Also supporting the initiative and to try the sport were, (INSET, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy, Newmarket-Aurora MP Tony Van Bynen, Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland, and Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

Road Tennis blazes trail in Aurora as "accessible" sport heads to schools

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

In his native Barbados, playing lawn tennis was seen by many as something aspirational. It was considered expensive, as far as sports go, and one that could only be played if you had just the right equipment.

But road tennis, a variation on the game

played with paddles and a wooden plank serving as a net, made things significantly more accessible for Lionel Eli, and led him to a future representing the country in the Davis Cup.

A Canadian resident for more than 40 years, Eli has joined forces with local sport supporters, the Town of Aurora, and the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) to bring road tennis into local

schools, the wider community, and see it become ubiquitous in this country as road hockey has been for generations.

Community leaders came together at Aurora Heights Public School last Wednesday, August 9, to "launch" the sport in York Region and Canada. The event was also the launch of the sport within the YRDSB as part of its physical education

Continued on page 9

Historic Monk's Walk should be accessible to public, say advocates

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

More than a century ago, the religious brothers who called De La Salle College home sought solace in the woods near Yonge Street and Bloomington Road.

Amid the trees and brush, they carved out a path between their home base (what later became Pine Ridge Institute)

Continued on page 12



Helping maintain historic Monk's Walk are volunteers, and trail enthusiasts, Alan Hamalainen and Helmut Schwarze.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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TOWN OF AURORA

NOTICE BOARD

August 17, 2023



Council & Committee Meetings			
Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Tuesday, August 22	10 a.m.	Video Conference	Mayor's Golf Classic Funds Committee
Week of August 28	No meetings		
Tuesday, September 5	9:30 a.m.	Newmarket CC	Joint Council Committee (CYFS)
Tuesday, September 5	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, September 5	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee
Wednesday, September 6	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Accessibility Advisory Committee (rescheduled from Sept 13)
Thursday, September 7	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Compensation Ad Hoc Committee
Monday, September 11	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 12	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Finance Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 12	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning
Wednesday, September 13	6:30 p.m.	Tannery Room	Aurora Cultural Centre Board (Public Meeting)
Thursday, September 14	7 p.m.	Video Conference	Committee of Adjustment

*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

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TD PRESENTS

AURORA'S 2023

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

AUGUST 23, 30

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Aurora Town Park • 49 Wells Street

AUGUST 23

Jukebox Heroes
- Tribute to Foreigner

AUGUST 30

Cher & Night Fever
- Tribute to The Bee Gees

For complete series line-up, please visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts

Food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry are greatly appreciated.

For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.
905-726-4762 • #AuroraConcerts
We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

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AURORA

Apply now! You have until **September 1** to submit your application to the Community Partnership Grant. Aurora serving individuals or organizations should check out aurora.ca/communitygrants for all the details!

Fall 2023 Program Guide



Registrations are open for Recreation and Aquatic Leadership programs. Registration starts on **August 23** for Aquatic Learn to Swim programs. To register online, go to aurora.ca/programguide and view our online 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. You can also visit the A.F.L.C. or S.A.R.C. to pay in-person.

Notice - S.A.R.C. pool closure

The S.A.R.C. pool will be closed **September 5 to 17** for annual maintenance. During this pool closure, lots of swim times will be available at the A.F.L.C. Pool. View full swim schedule at aurora.ca/aquatics.

Labour Day Weekend Holiday Schedule - Programs & 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.

Town of Aurora Special Events

The Town of Aurora has many fun and exciting special events happening this season. Check out a list of upcoming special events at aurora.ca/specialevents.

Aurora Seniors' Centre - September Events

Join us in September for our upcoming Aurora Seniors Centre events. Including: Open House, Hobby and Volunteer Fair, Seniors Active Living Fair and Try It Week. Please visit us online for full event details at aurora.ca/activeseniors.



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MOVIES IN THE PARK

Aurora Town Park - 49 Wells Street

Thursday, August 17
Thursday, August 24
Thursday, August 31

Enjoy special pre-movie crafts and activities.

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For more details and to see what's playing visit aurora.ca/moviesinthepark



A food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

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SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Yonge Street (between Wellington Street East and Mosley Street)

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AURORA

Men’s Shed aims to foster fellowship among seniors, retirees

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

When Dave LeGallais retired from his veterinary practice about 15 years ago, he looked forward to a life of golf and tennis. Yet, after a few turns around the links and a couple of volleys on the court, he found “that just didn’t do it.”

Once he got involved in the Aurora Seniors’ Centre leadership, however, he entered what he describes as “the best seven years of my retirement.”

What made the difference, he says, was staying active, being involved and making a difference – and the Aurora Seniors’ Association (ASA) hopes to foster more opportunities like this when they introduce the Men’s Shed concept to the Centre this month.

On Wednesday, August 30, from 9.30 – 11.30 a.m., the ASA will host its inaugural Men’s Shed Breakfast, a chance for all ASA members and the community at large – men and women alike – to learn more about the concept.

The Men’s Shed program is one that took root in Australia and has since spread around the world, including several chapters across Ontario.

Its goal is to “enhance and enrich the mental and physical health of retired men,” a sometimes overlooked demographic when it comes to mental health challenges like depression.

At its heart, according to Men’s Shed Ontario, is to provide “somewhere to go, something to do, someone to talk to.”

“It’s a community-based, not-for-profit organization that provides a safe and friendly environment where men can work on meaningful projects, at their own pace, in their own time, in the company of other men. It’s a place where some men learn, some

teach, and some are happy to watch.”

The program came onto the radar of the ASA a few months ago when a Men’s Shed member from Vancouver spoke to LeGallais, along with Karie Papillon and Andrew Bailey of the Town of Aurora, about the possibilities.

“The main concept was the fact that men, once they retire, become lonely and they just kind of shrink into themselves,” says LeGallais. “Men don’t phone up their friends all the time or get involved like women do, so when men retire most of them just think they’ve got a lot of things they’re finally going to do; in the first year, they finish their basement or whatever, but after that they sometimes go into depression, get lonely, and the highest suicide rate for the male population in Australia is men over 65 years-of-age.

“It started up with a couple of guys in their garage and just working on some woodwork and it developed into five or ten guys. Somebody set up another chapter and they started spreading all over Australia. The government supported them and they found that the suicide rate in that group of men decreased.

“Men don’t phone up and talk to each other like women do; they become antisocial and the more antisocial they become the less they want to socialize – it’s a real cycle. I know in my own instance, I retired about 15 years ago and started playing golf and tennis, but that just didn’t do it. It kills a few hours a day, but once I got involved in the Seniors’ Centre and got on the Board, those have been the best seven years of my retirement.”

At the end of the day, this sense of fulfilment is just what the Men’s Shed concept is all about.

While still in its early days, LeGallais would like to see the local chapter dig deep over the next few months dig deep

into what men interested in joining might want to get out of it. On his part, he foresees a model that includes guest speakers, card games, exercise programs, woodshop initiatives, and getting out into the local community.

“What some of these Men’s Sheds do is they get involved in the community so say a lady has a house and a broken door, some of these Men’s Sheds will go to their house and repair either the door or whatever these people want, if it is within their capabilities, and they do work out there in the community, which I think is a great idea.

“We just want people to know the Men’s Shed program is going to help the mental and physical wellbeing of a retired man and let them go from there.

It is going to give them somewhere to go, something to do, and people to talk with and socialize with. That’s what it’s all about. Our main basis will likely be from our own members but I am hoping we get people from Aurora and the surrounding area to come out and see if they like the idea. If they like the idea they can come to some of these programs we’re starting depending on what programs and activities turn them on – and I think a lot of wives will like it because it will get their husbands out of the house!”

If you’re interested in being a part of the Men’s Shed inaugural breakfast, RSVP to auroramensshed@gmail.com by August 21. Men and women are both welcome.

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New Director of Education now on the job at YRDSB

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The York Region District School Board’s new Director of Education is now on the job.

Bill Cober formally took over the position on August 1 following his official appointment by the Board of Trustees on June 6.

Cober brings 30 years of public education experience to the role.

“We look forward to welcoming Bill Cober to the role of Director of the YRDSB,” said Board Chair Ron Lynn. “His background includes rich and diverse educational, instructional, organizational, operational, governance and

relationship leadership skills and experiences.”

The YRDSB’s announcement hailed Cober for his experience in municipal government and drive to building “equitable, inclusive organizations.” As a leader, he has the “passionate belief in the capacity and potential of all students.”

The YRDSB had been led by Interim Director of Education Scott Yake from last November until July 31.

“We are grateful for the dedicated and thoughtful leadership Scott has provided during this interim period,” said Lynn. “We have benefited from his expertise,

Continued on page 6

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On “once-in-a-lifetime” weather events

How many more “once in a lifetime” extreme weather events do I have to live through before our political leaders get serious about the climate emergency?

Canada is only halfway through our worst wildfire season on record, historic flooding has devastated communities in Nova Scotia, and droughts are wrecking crops across the country. Meanwhile, our federal government still won’t stand up to the fossil fuel industry driving the climate crisis.

The climate science is clear, no matter what Big Oil wants you to think. We can only prevent a future of ever-worsening fires, floods and droughts if we rapidly phase out fossil fuels. We have all the technology to start doing that today, but we need politicians to find some courage to make polluters pay. I will ask my MP to put people and the planet first.

Barbara Fogt
Received Online

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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

A SENSE OF PLACE

Finding Edward takes us from Jamaica to Toronto and back in time to Africville and the lumber camps of British Columbia. Inspire us with a sense of place that your photo uncovers – whether from afar or within your own community.

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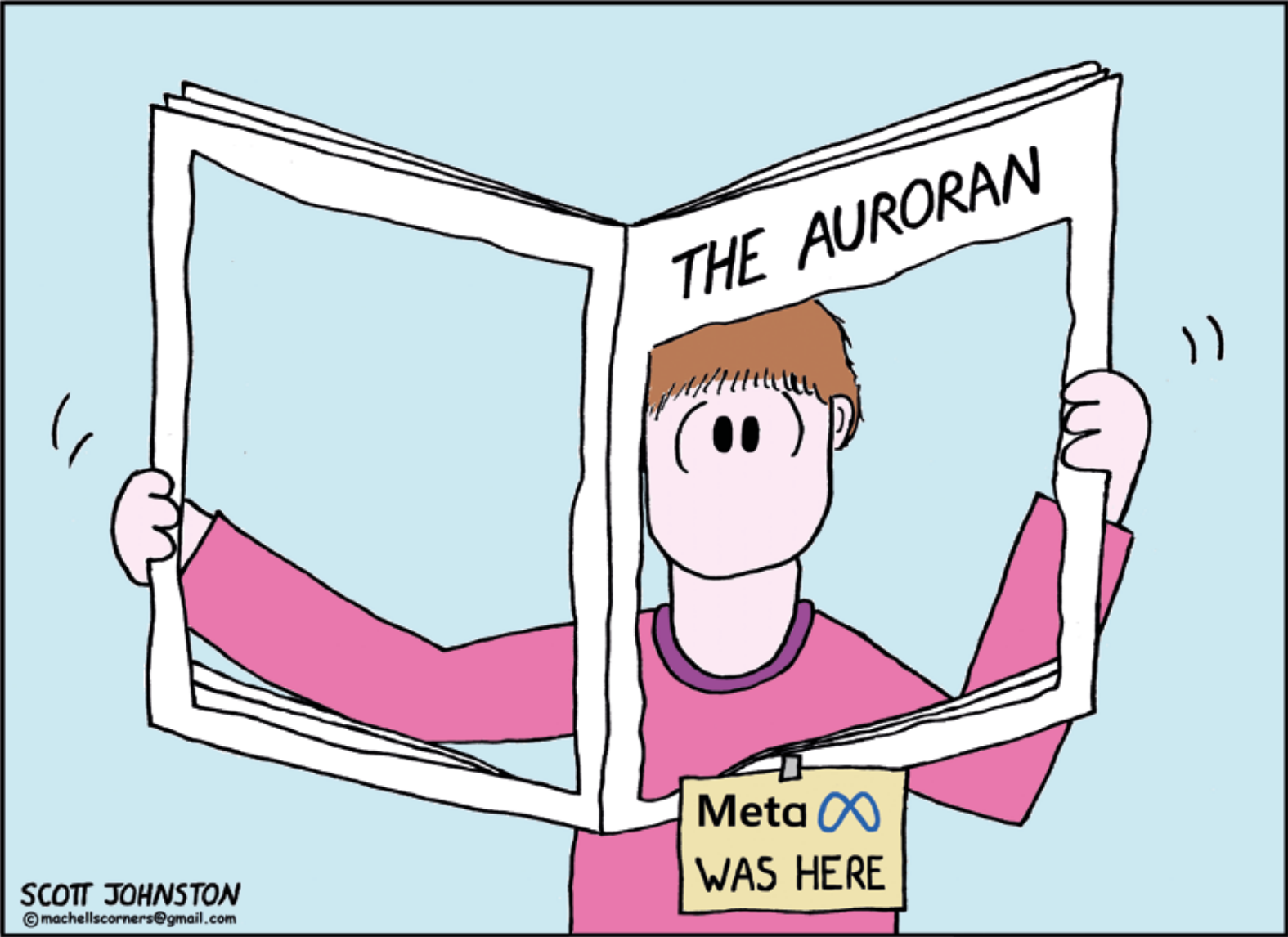


@TheAuroranNews

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

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Macell’s Corners



Best of Canada Showcase

Earlier this month, the Prime Minister made an important announcement that barely caused a ripple in our collective conversation.

The announcement in question was made on Thursday, August 3.

Maybe it didn’t really register because it came on the heels of a personal announcement made jointly by he and his wife the day before, one which seems to have sent politicians across the country disproportionately agog about something that really has nothing to do with the rest of us.

As this transpired, the Prime Minister’s Office announced the appointment of Edith Dumont as the incoming Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, set to succeed long-serving LG Elizabeth Dowdeswell sometime this fall.

“A passionate educator, Ms. Dumont is a special education teacher, a school principal, and an executive,” said the PMO in its announcement. “She was the first woman to lead the Conseil des écoles publiques de l’Est de l’Ontario. Most recently, she served as Vice-President of Partnerships, Communities, and International Relations at the Université de l’Ontario français, in Toronto.

“Ms. Dumont is a proud Franco-Ontarian who has devoted the last three decades of her career to supporting Francophone communities in the province, across Canada and beyond. Her life-long commitment to education, leadership, and community service, along with her dedication to ensuring quality education in French, have had a long-lasting impact on Ontario’s Francophone communities and the vitality of the French language in the Province.

“When she assumes office, Ms. Dumont will be the first Franco-Ontarian Lieutenant Governor in the province’s history. The Prime Minister thanked the outgoing Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, for her dedication and service to the people of Ontario. Her many years of public service and commitment to community engagement have made a lasting impact for Ontarians.”

You might ask, “So what?” The work of Ontario’s Lieutenant-Governors, or any of the other nine Provincial Lieutenant Governors for that matter, is not something that often catches front page headlines, hits the top story



BROCK’S BANTER
Brock Weir

on the evening news, or rises to the top of your newsfeeds on your social media channel of choice – although, it seems, very little Canadian news rises to the top on social media these days, but that’s the subject of another, potentially far lengthier column!

Well, in my view, the, “So what?” is more than evident if we take the time to scratch just beyond the surface.

Lieutenant Governors represent The King at the Provincial level, similar to how the Governor-General of Canada represents the Monarch at the Federal level.

According to the Government of Canada, the duties of the Lieutenant Governor, who are appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, include swearing in the Provincial government’s Executive Council (Premier & Cabinet), opening each session of the Provincial Legislature, and providing Royal Assent to Provincial bills.

Those are the nuts and bolts of the job, but there are other duties that have been added along the way, “soft powers,” as they are called in some quarters as they’re not delineated formally but have become part of the gig.

These include “promoting a sense of identity,” “acting as the Province’s official host, supporting social causes, and recognizing outstanding citizens.”

While these are the “essentials” of the office, it is these soft powers, in my view, that are at the heart of the office.

In promoting a sense of identity, acting as the Province’s official host, supporting social causes and recognizing outstanding citizens, they do so without the political baggage that can often come when these duties are taken on by an elected official, regardless of which political stripe

such an official might represent.

They can promote elements of what might be considered Ontario’s “identity” without getting bogged down in the prevailing political ideology of the day; they can act as the Province’s official host, showcasing the “Best of Ontario” to dignitaries from around the country, around the world, and other bodies, without the political heft that might make things awkward; support social causes in a fulsome way, regardless of how the fortunes of such causes can hinge on the political winds of the day, and recognize outstanding citizens in a way that keeps it removed from any semblance of political patronage.

Stepping back to look at Lieutenant Governors nation-wide, the King really is represented by a bevy of outstanding citizens that truly represent a cross-section of Canadian excellence, as well.

In British Columbia, for instance, Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin came to the position after 15 years as CEO of YWCA Metro Vancouver, a position which allowed her to come into the job with her finger on the pulse of the community, particularly young women and girls.

Moving east, Alberta Lieutenant Governor Salma Lakhani is the first South Asian and Muslim person to hold viceregal office in the country, came into office following a lengthy career with community-building and work with youth. Saskatchewan’s Lieutenant Governor, Russell Mirasty, the Province’s first Indigenous representative, was appointed to the position after a lengthy career with the RCMP.

Anita Neville, who represents the King in Manitoba, came into the position after 10 years representing the Province in the House of Commons, and after stints in business and nearly 15 years as a school trustee.

Here in Ontario, Dowdeswell came into office following a lengthy career in public service, including helping draft the Framework Convention on Climate Change, leading the United Nations Environmental Programme, and serving as an educator. In Quebec, J. Michel Doyon, a lawyer, writer and historian, serves with a background that is perfect for an office with such deep historical roots; while former municipal councillor

Continued on page 17

THE AURORAN

Aurora’s Community Newspaper

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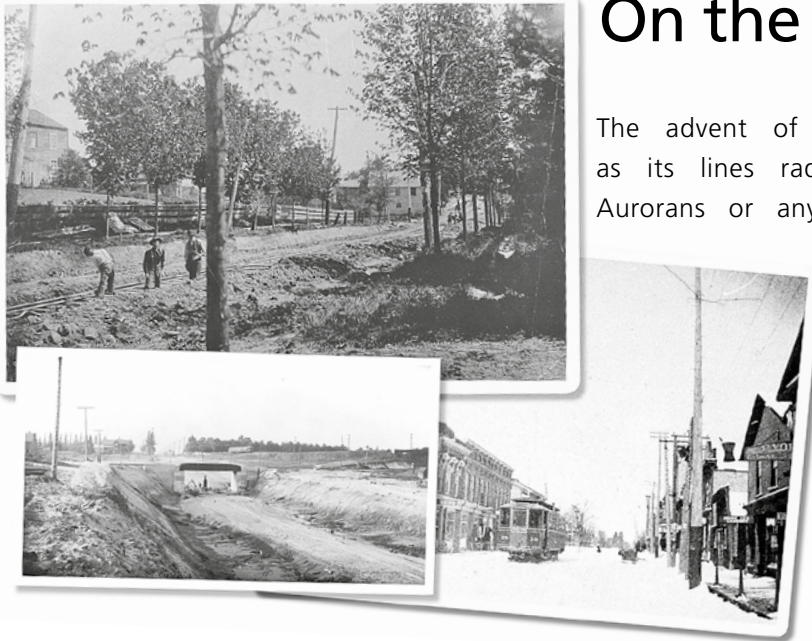
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The Aurora Museum & Archives is... On the Right Track!



The advent of the Toronto Metropolitan Radial Railway (so-named as its lines radiated from its hub) was a great convenience for Aurorans or anyone who wished to travel up and down Southern Ontario’s primary corridor. These three photos from our collection show various stages of the Radial Railway’s existence: top (2002.19.189), tracks being laid on Yonge Street in 1899 – the building on the left is now the site of the Dollarama; bottom left (86.61.2), the trestle under construction at the South end of Town in 1922; and bottom right (2002.19.221), a train in action on a snowy Yonge Street, winter of 1900/01. For more about the Radial Railway, see our Time Traveler’s Diary below!

Rapid Transit Comes to Aurora

Rapid transit in the Greater Toronto Area is undergoing the largest and most ambitious expansion in decades.

New subway and light rail transit lines are under construction. Commuter rail services are being upgraded and eventually electrified.

Planning is even underway to extend the Yonge subway line north to Richmond Hill. This present-day work to meet the needs of a rapidly growing metropolitan area sparks historical comparisons to an earlier era of dramatic change in public transit.

Starting in the 1890s, “radial railways” revolutionized the speed and appeal of public transit and contributed to regional growth. A cross between an urban streetcar and a conventional railway, the radial railways were powered by overhead electrical wires and travelled along routes down the centres or along the sides of roadways “radiating” out from city centres into the adjacent countryside and smaller communities.

The best known of the Toronto area radial railway lines was the Metropolitan Line which extended up Yonge Street to Richmond Hill, Aurora, Newmarket and ultimately to Sutton.

Eager to learn more about this new mode of rapid transit, we hop into the time travellers’ machine, set the time dial to 1897 and accelerate back in time.

When the time machine slows to a stop, we emerge to find ourselves standing next to a group of people outside the Metropolitan Line station at the corner of Yonge Street and Lorne Avenue in Richmond Hill.

They are waiting for the next distinctive green car of the Metropolitan to transport them southward for a day of shopping and visiting in Toronto. The group talks excitedly about the comfort of the well-appointed Pullman Palace coaches and how the service offers four round trips daily to the city. The Metropolitan is able to travel at the unheard-of speed of 32 km/hr, making the trip from Richmond Hill to the Toronto terminus in 45 minutes



Time Travellers Diary

By William Newman
Volunteer, Aurora Museum & Archives

compared to 3 hours by stagecoach. Fares are an affordable 40 cents for a one-way trip and 65 cents for a round trip.

Our curiosity is further aroused when we overhear the waiting passengers say the Metropolitan Line is being extended further north to Aurora by 1899. Not wanting to miss this important moment in Aurora’s development, we jump back into the time travellers’ machine, reset the time dial for 1899 and flip the power switch.

As we whisk through time and space up Yonge Street, we catch glimpses of workers below methodically laying down rail ties along the roadway, placing iron rails on top and erecting utility poles and overhead wires to provide the electricity to propel the coaches.

Passing by Bond Lake in present day Oak Ridges, we see a new steam-powered generating station being constructed to provide electricity to the extended line.

Approaching Aurora, we spot a trestle being built over the Grand Trunk Railway line to carry the Metropolitan into the centre of town.

As the time display signals the spring of 1899, the time travellers’ machine deposits us at the newly opened Metropolitan station on Yonge Street where La Piazza Italian Eatery and Wink Optical are now located.

We exit the machine to see a familiar green Metropolitan coach gliding up the centre of Yonge Street with the occasional spark crackling from its trolley pole connection to the overhead wires and bell ringing to announce its arrival. We wait for the passengers to step onto the station platform and again cavedrop on their conversations.

The passengers talk about how Aurora was actually losing population prior to the radial railway’s arrival but the trend is now reversing to renewed population and economic growth. The Sisman Shoe Company is constructing a new building to increase its manufacturing capacity. Collis Leather recently announced that it is locating a factory in Aurora. We also overhear that they are looking forward to the completion of the line’s extension to Newmarket later in 1899.

We are about to reset the time dial to observe the radial railway’s arrival in Newmarket when a low power signal flashes on the control panel, prompting us to return to the present.

Still curious, we find out through further research that the Metropolitan did indeed reach downtown Newmarket by August 1899 and Sutton by 1909. We also discover that with the arrival of the next revolutionary form of public transportation –the automobile–combined with improved roads, ridership on the Metropolitan gradually began to decline.

By March of 1930, the service to Aurora and points north was no longer viable and was terminated. Today, Aurora’s remaining vestige of the venerable Metropolitan Line is a stone abutment from the trestle over the Grand Trunk Railway line (now the GO train line) located behind the Thompson Funeral Home.

Looking to the future, what might the next revolution in public transit be for Aurora? Is it conceivable that it might be a subway line running beneath Yonge Street with a stop on the same location as the Metropolitan Line station of a bygone era? Only time will tell.

Back in the 1950s the Montreal Canadiens star goaltender, Jacques Plante, after having been hit so many times in the face by pucks, would not return to the net until he was allowed to wear his creation – the first goalie mask. It was not much but at least it afforded him some protection.

He put on one after either the first or second period of a game and wore a mask for the rest of his career.

Some of his goalie competitors still did not wear a mask going on over one decade later.

Today, no goalie would go out and try to stop these 100 mph shots from players without their masks.

I hope that we see soon see a batter wearing the plexi-glass piece before someone gets killed.

An appropriate way to end this rambling soliloquy would be to make some of my patented, dead-on and fearless predictions. Here goes.

First, there will be a federal election sometime early next year and the Newmarket-Aurora seat will be decided by a little less than seven hundred votes between the Liberals and Conservatives.

And the Blue Jays will catch fire and capture one of the American League wild card spots this fall.

Stephen can be contacted at
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Environmental Defence calls for action following Auditor General’s report

The Ontario Auditor General released a report that concludes that the political level of the Ontario government directed its civil service staff to remove land owned by particular developers from the Greenbelt. As a result of those actions, the decision to remove these lands should be revisited.

The Auditor General’s report confirms that lands were removed from the Greenbelt as a favour to particular sprawl developers to enable them to make up to \$8.3 billion in windfall profits by building on land meant to be protected forever. Shockingly, this occurred despite clear and abundant evidence that lands in the Greenbelt are not required to meet Ontario’s housing supply needs.

There are 59,000 hectares of land designated for development in the GTAH alone, without including the 3,000 hectares, removed from the Greenbelt. If some of lands were developed at even the modest densities of Toronto’s Trinity-Bellwoods neighbourhood, only 15,000 hectares would be consumed by the population projected for the region by 2051.

(See more at: environmentaldefence.ca/the-big-sprawl-the-gtha-has-more-than-enough-land-designated-for-development)

There are also fixed supplies of materials and labour available for home building. Focusing them on creating low density sprawl means less can be made available to build the communities we need inside of our towns and cities.

Ontarians know that we can build homes in cities and towns where we already have services and where public transit and walkability lead to lower costs and higher quality of life. In fact a new public opinion poll conducted by Environics for the Alliance for a Livable Ontario shows that 83 per cent of Ontario residents want homes built within cities and towns where services exist – and not on the Greenbelt. They also do not find the Ontario government credible on the issue of land supply and housing.

The Ontario government is on the wrong side of the views of almost all Ontarians except for its developer friends. It needs to stop pushing forward senseless environmental destruction and focus on getting homes built where they are needed, and at prices people can afford.

Now that Ontarians can see the full picture of what has occurred with the Greenbelt, immediate actions are necessary. These include:

- Full investigation of the relationship between the provincial government and development industry by the OPP;
- Lands removed from the Greenbelt must be returned immediately and the Greenbelt boundary legislatively protected;
- The Duffins Rouge Agricultural Reserve Act must be reinstated;
- The Ontario government’s pro-sprawl agenda must be reversed. Homes should be built in existing towns and cities, not on farmland, forests and the Greenbelt;
- The Greenbelt should be expanded to protect much more of southern Ontario’s farmland;
- City and town boundary expansion should only be permitted after it can be proven that there are no more opportunities for building within the existing boundaries;
- The Ontario and the federal governments must get back into the business of directly creating affordable housing

Tim Gray
Executive Director,
Environmental Defence

THIS WEEK’S POLL

Have you or anyone you
know been targeted in
a Grandparent Scam?

Yes No

www.theauroran.com

RESULTS
TO DATE

August 15, 2023

YES
50%

NO
50%

Before this column returns to the local themes of people, politics and public affairs, below are some unconnected, stream-of-conscious and (most likely) incoherent musings and observations regarding the world outside Aurora.

First, I can’t stand to see the same thing happen time after time.

Someone once said that insanity was defined by doing the exact same thing and predicting a different outcome.

I was watching the Toronto Blue Jays vs. Los Angeles Angels game on television last month when Jays pitcher Alex Manoah hit the Angels batter Taylor Ward in the face with a pitch.

Ward went down quickly after being struck with the 92 mph two seem fastball.

A hush fell over the stadium.

On the replays you could see the blood and that his face was starting to puff out.

The player finally got to his knees and then, with help, slowly stood up and was driven out of the field on a cart while the fans gave him a standing ovation.

Ward was out of action.

I am saddened and sickened to see this situation play off countless times per year. I remember the late Tony Fernandez, an outstanding shortstop for the Toronto Blue Jays in the 1980s, taking a fastball to the face and the ugly thud sound when the ball hit him there.



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville


In my opinion there is no need for this to continue happening.

Baseball helmets need to be retrofitted with a clear hard type of plexi-glass visor.


Currently, there is a small plastic “knob” that protects part of the batters’ face but if you turn into the pitch most of your face is exposed.

In recent years, players having taken to wear shin guard protections and arm protections to lessen the hurt of being hit in these areas. Surely, major league baseball or the equipment manufacturers can come up with something that protects the face of a batter.

I hope that this has nothing to do with being too “manly” to wear a face shield.



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KAY – Kay Hack celebrated her 100th birthday last week in prestigious company last week. The long-time Aurora resident was greeted on the occasion by (clockwise from Top) Newmarket-Aurora MP Tony Van Bynen, Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, and Mayor Tom Mrakas.

Auroran photos by Diane Buchanan

Pickering College’s radio station to reach wider audiences

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Pickering College’s CHOP FM will now be able to reach wider audiences with a new radio license from the CRTC.

The new community radio station license will replace its previous campus radio station license, but the station will still be reachable at 102.7 FM.

A process is now underway at the Newmarket-based independent school to make the full conversion from a campus station to radio station, which will ultimately lead to 126 hours of volunteer-hosted programming per week – all devoted to local programming.

The schoolsayslocalprogramming will include music – alternative, rock, pop, jazz and folk – along with airtime devoted to local talent, while volunteer-hosted programs will include social, economic and community-issues programs.

“Realizing this goal would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the members of the entire CHOP FM advisory committee,” says Pickering College’s Head of School Dr. Cinde Lock. “I would like to extend my profound gratitude to Jim Waters,

David ‘Geets’ Haydu, Brian Purdy ’56, Alex Au Yong, Ian Johnston, Rita Cugini, Andrew Forsyth, Peter Sturup and Gareth Sturup, whose visionary leadership and tireless efforts to attain a community license for CHOP FM have finally been realized. Having a radio station so greatly enriches the programming we are able to offer our students. We are so thrilled to be able to grow our program over the next two years to be able to welcome in the entire community.”

Adds Pickering College alumni parent and former CHUM owner Jim Waters: “Attaining a community licence is a transformative step forward for Pickering College and the communities of Newmarket and Aurora. The CRTC is very careful with regard to licence renewals and issuing new licences such as this one. It simply does not happen if the applicant has not done what they promised. Gareth Sturup and Ian Johnston, along with others, have made sure that CHOP FM kept its promises over the years. I feel that was a key to CHOP being awarded a community licence. I know that all of us look forward to the challenges and opportunities this new licence will present to the college and the community!”

New Director of Education now on the job at YRDSB

From page 3

commitment to relationship-building and inclusivity, and his focus on student achievement and well-being.”

Upon his appointment, Cober said the new role was something of a homecoming.

“As a graduate of the York Region District School Board, I am proud to call York Region home,” said Cober.

“I understand the uniqueness and diversity of York Region and that our schools are both a reflection of, and the heartbeat within our communities. The Board has exemplary leadership at all levels of the organization and the opportunity to serve YRDSB students, staff, and families as its next Director of Education is one that I will truly cherish.”



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Aurorapalooza returns this Saturday with renewed commitment to music and mental health

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The annual Aurorapalooza music festival is set to take over Town Park this Saturday, August 19, and organizers are putting the finishing touches on the fourth annual event that comes into 2023 with more music, new partnerships, and a renewed commitment to raising money for mental health.

Aurorapalooza, an initiative of local resident Joel Gouveia, continues to go from strength to strength, and is doing so this year for the first time as an official municipal event – and for the first time with two stages: the Town Park bandshell and a stage inside the historic Aurora Armoury, home to Niagara College’s Canadian Food & Wine Institute (CFWI).

Set to perform are singer-songwriters Dallas, Cam Kahin, Ch  lle, Elles, Frank Mighty, bands Misty Blue, Cigar Club, Yellow Magnolia, The Beresfords, and Lost in Japan.

Proceeds from this year’s event will benefit CAMH: The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

“We’re going into our fourth year and it’s great – we’ve done a lot of things to grow since last year, starting with a partnership with the Farmers’ Market,” says Gouveia. “We’re doing live music programming [at the Market] starting at 10 a.m., with two local musicians playing in the morning and then they’re going to conclude right before the Farmers’ Market ends so we can set up for the actual event. The idea is to make it a real music festival because I’ve always wanted a full day – a multi-day thing, eventually – and this is the next step towards growing it and making it a longer thing.

“To get the community more involved, we’ve partnered with the Armoury. This year, instead of having just the one stage at the Town Park band shell, we’re going to have that as the main stage where it has always been, but at layover times there will be three performances at the Armoury stage, which will be an indoor acoustic stage. There will be music playing at all times so people will just have to shift their attention to the other side of the park, go into the Armoury and enjoy some food, their bar is going to be open, and you can go inside and cool off a little bit.”

The roster of talent is growing as well.

In their first year, Aurorapalooza hosted three bands, and this grew to seven in Year 2. Year 3 brought 10 musicians out to Town Park and this year they stand at 13.

“Locally, we have the Beresfords, who are absolutely amazing. We have Yellow Magnolia who has been at the festival before and they bring out such a great turnout every year. Cam Kahin is making a name for himself in the Toronto and Hamilton scenes and I think he’s going to really blow up in the next couple of years and Dallas is another really big musician. Frank Mighty is another one of my favourite artists as well and Misty Blue is another local band that grew up in Aurora and surrounding areas.

“Luke Jarvis has never performed live before but I have been following his acoustic sets on Instagram and I think he’s really talented and I’m excited to see how that comes and there’s also Billy Stirling, who is another up-and-coming Aurora musician who went to Aurora Heights and is a country-folk-rock kind of guy who sings his heart out to great lyrics. Ch  lle is an amazing performer and an acoustic singer as well. Cigar Club is from Newmarket, a couple of them are from Aurora, just another great local band and honestly there is a lot of talent this year and it’s really exciting. Selfishly, I just want to sit down and watch the festival myself. It’s going to be a really amazing lineup and I am really excited for it.”



Joel Gouveia, pictured at Town Park last year, is ready to welcome music lovers to the popular greenspace this Saturday for the fourth-annual Aurorapalooza music festival. **Auroran file photo by Glenn Rodger**

Benefiting CAMH will be the sale of a specially-mixed non-alcoholic drink called Purple Rain, a combination of grape juice and ginger ale, which will be sold for \$4, with \$2 going to CAMH. A portion of ticket sales will also go to CAMH, and 100 per cent of water bottle sales will go to the cause as well.

“\$4,000 has always been my

number,” says Gouveia of his fundraising goal this year. “We haven’t really come close in the past, but that would be a great number to hit for the community. I think that would be amazing. This is the only kind of place (in Aurora) where you can watch a full day of music. We have a lot of events that music is implemented into but this is the only real music and arts festival

in Aurora.... I think if you just really like great music, it’s a great place to be. We have amazing food, cold drinks, and there’s sunshine and good music. Those are my favourite things, so come on out!”

For more on the fourth annual Aurorapalooza, including how to secure your tickets, visit www.aurorapalooza.com.

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Minds in Motion program gets boost from 100 Women Who Care

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Everyone can benefit from keeping their minds and bodies as active as possible, but for people living with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, and indeed their caregivers, it is absolutely essential.

This is a need the Alzheimer Society of York Region aims to address through their Minds in Motion program, an exercise and psycho-social program for the person living with dementia and the caregiver; and it is a need recognized by 100 Women Who Care York Region.

Last Thursday, representatives from 100 Women Who Care CYR came to the Society’s Aurora headquarters to present a cheque of more than \$12,000, the results from their quarterly fundraising meeting.

Every three months, members of 100 Women Who Care CYR come together, \$100 in hand, and over the course of an hour, more than \$10,000 can be raised to support a community charity or non-profit.

This last quarter, the Society’s Minds in Motion initiative came to the fore.

The program, said 100 Women member Bonnie Munslow, struck a chord with everyone in the group because “we all know somebody who

might be struggling with dementia, and maybe we envision our parents and ourselves going down this road.”

“It was a remarkable presentation for an amazing cause,” said Bonnie of the pitch delivered at their most recent meeting on behalf of Minds in Motion by fellow member Sue.

But the beauty of Minds in Motion is it allows parents and their children, and anyone impacted by dementia, to travel that road together.

Kari Quinn-Humphrey, Executive Director of the Alzheimer Society of York Region, says the Minds in Motion benefits both caregiver and the person living with dementia as it has both an exercise component and a social-supportive environment through a therapeutic lens.

“They have an exercise class and they also have social time – it helps reduce social isolation, it brings some fun, it’s good for their health, and it’s just overall a well-balanced program,” she said. “It allows them both to be social, it allows them to do something that is equal for both of them to participate in. It allowws the caregiver to just be a part of the relationship with the person living with dementia versus being the caregiver...they get to take a step away from being a caregiver and just be in the relationship with the person, whether it



Members of 100 Women Who Care Central York Region presented their cheque of \$12,975 to the Alzheimer Society of York Region. The cheque, offered at their Aurora headquarters, was accepted by Kari Quinn-Humphrey, left, and Yolanda Mol Amelink, right, on behalf of the Society.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

is their parent or their spouse, and it just gives them the chance to be with the individual.”

These benefits have long been evident for the Society and it has been a program that residents have enjoyed for years, prior to the pandemic. When health restrictions temporarily scuttled programs for so many organizations, the Society quickly shifted the program to Zoom where it thrived.

“We received rave reviews, particularly during COVID... and we saw it explode during COVID and had lots of positive reaction,” says Yolanda Mol Amelink. “We had our recreational person do exercises virtually, but it was still an opportunity to set time aside during the day to spend with your partner, your parent, or your child.”

Adds Quinn-Humphrey: “It has been so successful and we see the value of it. It is one of those fun programs as well as preventative programs where you really get to see how exercise is so important, but being social is very, very important to be able to continue, even if you have dementia and it becomes very difficult for someone to be social when they’re a caregiver. The fact that they are able to be social with other people who were going through similar situations was also very valuable.”

MATCHING DONATION CAMPAIGN TO LAUNCH AUGUST 30

Beginning August 30, the community can step up to support Society programs like Minds in Motion. Launching to coincide with World Alzheimer Moth in September, thanks

to the Catherine Booth & Michael Kirk Social Recreation Fund, those wishing to make a financial contribution at bit.ly/GivetoMindsinMotion will see their donations matched.

“Throughout our lives, we become forever changed by the people who matter to us most. For Catherine Booth, they include her dad, Walter. Walter Booth was a gifted engineer, a successful businessman, and a father who had a generous spirit. Catherine admired and loved her dad,” says the Society. “As her mentor, he inspired her to pursue her own career in engineering and on her graduation day, he was the one who placed Catherine’s Iron Ring on her finger—one of the most special memories they shared. Throughout his life, he was always on the go, but life took a turn shortly after Walter retired. The family lost their wonderful mother, Marilyn.

“Then Walter was diagnosed with dementia. Watching how Alzheimer’s disease affected Walter more and more was heartbreaking for Catherine and her family. He became more withdrawn over time, and they didn’t know how to help him. That is why Catherine Booth and Michael Kirk created their Social Recreation Fund and have agreed to double the impact of all monthly donations in honour of World Alzheimer’s Month.”

Adds Catherine: “We wanted to do something meaningful to honour the memory of my dad. He was a great father, mentor, leader and philanthropist who taught us the power of giving. Together, we honour him and carry on his legacy through this matching gift.”

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Road Tennis blazes trail in Aurora as “accessible” sport heads to schools



On hand for the launch were, from left, Dan Giantsopoulos of the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, Mayor Tom Mrakas, YRDSB Chair Ron Lynn, Ron Kellman of Gaultlet Road Tennis, and YRDSB Director of Education Bill Cober.

From page 1

curriculum in the coming school year.

“This is an exciting day,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas. “With the popularity of racquet sports, I think this is an amazing thing to have started not only in York Region, but right here in the Town of Aurora. We’re pretty excited about it.”

The Mayor, who was joined at the launch by local MPs Tony Van Bynen and Leah Taylor Roy, as well as MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, thanked community-builder Ron Kellman, a native of Barbados himself, and Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese, who also serves as President of Sport Aurora, for their work in making the launch a reality.

“We’re looking forward to this going globally and for it starting right here in the Town of Aurora, I can’t think of a better place to begin this journey.”

But the Canadian journey of road tennis technically began last year when it was demonstrated at the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame’s annual gala. Hall of Fame President Mark Gravett, who was present for last week’s launch, said getting 500 formally-dressed attendees to set up a makeshift court and give the sport a try was a “perfect” sight to behold, and even caught the eye of Canadian tennis champ Daniel Nestor.

“It just snowballed,” said Gravett. “We had young people at the gala, older people, everybody was playing and that’s what kicked off the conversation and that’s what led us to York Region. I have to say we’re ecstatic that York is basically the pioneer to roll this out across Ontario.”

The YRDSB hailed the collaboration and the opportunity to introduce the burgeoning sport into local schools, one he described as “very accessible and inclusive” for students.

This was a theme touched upon by MP Taylor Roy as well.

“As communities and towns, we talk a lot about diversity and inclusivity, and this is a great, fun way to promote that,” she said. “This is a sport that is inclusive of all people, of all abilities to a certain extent, and it’s a great way to reach over to Barbados, another country where we have so many diplomatic [connections]. It’s a great way to do it by playing a game, having some fun, and have cultures come together as well. From the perspective of mental health and physical health and getting people out, there’s always something about a new game, something that’s different, something that’s international that people really latch onto.”

Added MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy,

“As the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, I look at this as encouraging and moving people towards the physical and mental wellbeing and that starts with sports and new sports like this so people can get engaged in a very simple but fun way.”

There was no better testament to the impact of road tennis, a game which is played very much like the lawn variety but with a splash of table tennis game play thrown in for good measure, than Eli, who helped demonstrate the athletic endeavour with young players.

“I have lived in Canada for 45 years and I grew up playing road tennis in Barbados because it was a sport you could play,” he said. “Lawn tennis was considered a very expensive sport, so we played road tennis on the street. I transitioned from road tennis and became a professional tennis player; I played at the US Open, I played at the Davis Cup for Barbados, have two tennis academies in Toronto... this is a sport that can take you to any level that you want once you’re involved in racquet sports.”

As the initiative’s Technical Director of Road Tennis overseeing plans to get the sport in schools, he sees myriad possibilities on the horizon, including having York

Region schools compete against each other with the top school “eventually going to Barbados to compete in tennis.”

“We have big plans for tennis and we want your help – and it seems as though your help is there.”

Councillor Weese agreed, adding it is an “important opportunity” for Aurora and York Region to be at the “front end” of introducing a new sport to Canada.

“Nowhere else has this been developed and it certainly hasn’t been included in the schools because we believe that the schools are the best place to start this type of a thing,” he said. “The sport seems to be accepted by [Education], so I think it is a big opportunity to grow a sport quickly and we’re proud Aurora has been selected to do that.”

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Seniors at Sunrise Aurora recently pooled their artistic talents for an outdoor painting event benefiting the Alzheimer Society of York Region. The seniors, and artist instructor Sergey Wain-Fellowes, welcomed Mayor Mrakas to the occasion. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodgers

Sunrise residents pool artistic talents for Alzheimer Society of York Region

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Residents of Aurora’s Sunrise retirement community recently pooled their artistic talents to raise nearly \$1,500 for the Alzheimer Society of York Region.

Last month, residents, under the guidance of artist Sergey Wain-Fellowes, a volunteer art leader within the community, welcomed family members and dignitaries to their Golf Links Drive gardens for the inaugural “Art in the Park.”

The afternoon was a Paint & Sip affair which included an art class, drinks, and, when all was said and done, a charity art sale. There was no particular price for each painting, explains Sunrise Executive Director Sarah Soleymany, but the sales of more than \$1,400 exceeded all expectations.

“As part of the creative activities Sunrise does, our residents have an arts session every Thursday,” she says. “Sergey, our artist, has been

volunteering for the community for many years now and he dedicates his time spending Thursday afternoons doing arts with our residents. It’s amazing how much they have flourished and learned, so the majority of pieces were done by our residents in the last year, some as recently as the week before, and we thought it would be a great idea to partner with the Alzheimer Society, get them involved and get our families more acquainted.

“Prior to COVID, we had a lot more education sessions but COVID derailed everything. This is getting back to the routine of things. We also have a Memory Neighbourhood on our third floor, which is dedicated to Alzheimer’s and dementia, so it is very close to our hearts and we thought it would be a great cause to pay it forward.”

Before residents come to their memory floor, she adds, they have often used the Alzheimer Society’s day programs.

“It’s a great resource that they give to the residents in Aurora and

the community that has the need. Magda, our activities and volunteer coordinator, had this vision and she brought it to life in a great way,” Soleymany continues. “She wanted an ‘Art in the Park’ and she thought what better way to showcase [the grounds] where residents go for walks and fresh air to display their artwork and give a chance for the community to come for a time. They sipped some drinks and painted away the day.”

Sunrise residents, she says, “are up for anything fun” and when staff approached them with the idea they were more than excited about the opportunity to do something they love for a great cause.

“For us, [partnerships] are really huge, not just for us as a business but for residents to involve them more in community life, giving back, and living with generosity – those are all part of Sunrise’s programming standard and we feel it is really important to live with purpose for our residents, another part of Sunrise’s signature. Anything that we can involve our

residents, to give them that sense of purpose, a project, we’re definitely up for that.

“The feedback we got [from the Sip & Paint] was really good from our residents, the families who were involved, and they just said it was a really fun and refreshing day to be able to participate in something like that. COVID, unfortunately, put a damper on a lot of the activities so it is really appreciated by our residents to be involved again in the day-to-day life of their loved ones.

“A huge, huge gratitude for everybody who took the time out of their busy Saturday to join us for this amazing cause. We truly appreciate it, their presence, and also their donations – it’s meant to us more than we can actually put into words, to be honest. It was a proud moment for us to present that to the Alzheimer Society and they were equally grateful for the partnership as well. A sincere thank you to everyone who joined, those who couldn’t join us and still contributed – it is very appreciated.”

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German Junior Hockey Powerhouse Jungadler Mannheim takes over Aurora's ACC on September 1



Contributed photo

By Jim Stewart

The Aurora Tigers announced that the 25th Anniversary edition of the JT Prospects will be facing off against Jungadler Mannheim from Germany as part of the Tigers' 2023-24 OJHL Opening Week festivities.

Jim Thomson, Governor of the Aurora Tigers, made the "Big announcement from the JT Prospects. We are honoured to play Germany's top Junior A team Mannheim Jungadler on September 1 at 1 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre. Tickets are available at the Box Office on the day of the game. Check out the Alumni from this historic team."

Jungadler Mannheim has produced its fair share of NHLers, many of whom were first round draft picks.

The hockey club's most famous graduate is Leon Draisaitl. The high-scoring forward was drafted third overall by the Edmonton Oilers in 2014.

Often paired with Connor McDavid, the generational talent from Newmarket, Draisaitl gives the Oilers a one-two scoring punch.

The native of Cologne, Germany has tallied 306 goals and 438 assists for 744 points over his nine seasons with Edmonton. In 49 playoff games, Draisaitl has 31 goals and 46 assists for 77 points. He was named the NHL's MVP in 2019-20 when he accrued 110 points in 71 games.

Another of the club's most notable graduates is former NHL player Dennis Seidenberg, who played 859 regular season games with Philadelphia, Phoenix, Carolina, Florida, Boston, and the New York Islanders.

The steady defenseman, who scored 44 goals and added 207 assists over parts of eighteen seasons, helped the

Bruins win a Stanley Cup in 2011.

Seidenberg also won a Calder Cup with the Flyers' AHL affiliate in 2005. He represented Germany at the Olympics, World Championships, the World Cup, the World Junior Championships, and the World U18 Championships.

Jochen Hecht scored 186 goals and 277 assists in 833 NHL games with St. Louis, Edmonton, and Buffalo.

The veteran centre played ten seasons for the Sabres and served as their Captain. Hecht has been an assistant coach for the Adler Mannheim professional team since March 2022.

A first-round pick of the San Jose Sharks, Marcel Goc was claimed 20th overall in 2001. Goc, a centre who played for San Jose, Nashville, Florida, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis, tallied 75 goals and 113 assists over his 636-game NHL career that spanned 12 seasons.

Another first-round pick from Jungadler Mannheim is high-scoring defenseman Moritz Seider who was selected sixth overall by the Detroit Red Wings in the 2019 Entry Draft.

Seider tallied fifty points in his first season in the NHL and captured the Calder Trophy as Rookie of the Year in 2022.

He was the first Red Wing to win the Calder since acrobatic goalie Roger Crozier in 1964-65.

Seider also captained Germany in the 2020 IIHF World Junior Championship where he was named a top three player in the tournament. He earned six assists in seven games in the international showcase tournament.

The 6'4" rearguard has scored 12 goals and 80 assists in 164 games over his two seasons so far in the Motor City.

Yet another NHL first rounder who


skated with the top German Junior Club is Tim Stutzle who was drafted third overall by the Ottawa Senators in 2020. In his three-year career, Stutzle has scored 73 goals and 104 assists in 210 games for the Sens.

2022-23 was a break-out season for Stutzle as he fired 39 goals and 51 assists for 90 points to create hope for hockey fans in the nation's capital.

Aurorans are cordially-invited to get a sneak preview of the next generation of burgeoning NHL stars on Germany's most powerful junior franchise when Jungadler Mannheim appears at the ACC on September 1 to take on the JT Prospects.

The Prospects have been playing in tournaments and competing in a league in Newmarket over the course of the summer to prepare for the upcoming hockey season.

The Aurora Tigers open their 56-game OJHL season officially on Friday, September 8 when the Stouffville Spirit roll into the ACC for a 7.30 p.m. puck drop.



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Historic Monk's Walk should be accessible to public, say advocates

From page 1

and Mary Lake in King Township, carving prayers into the smooth trunks of beech trees along their meditation route – finding calm and serenity in their surroundings.

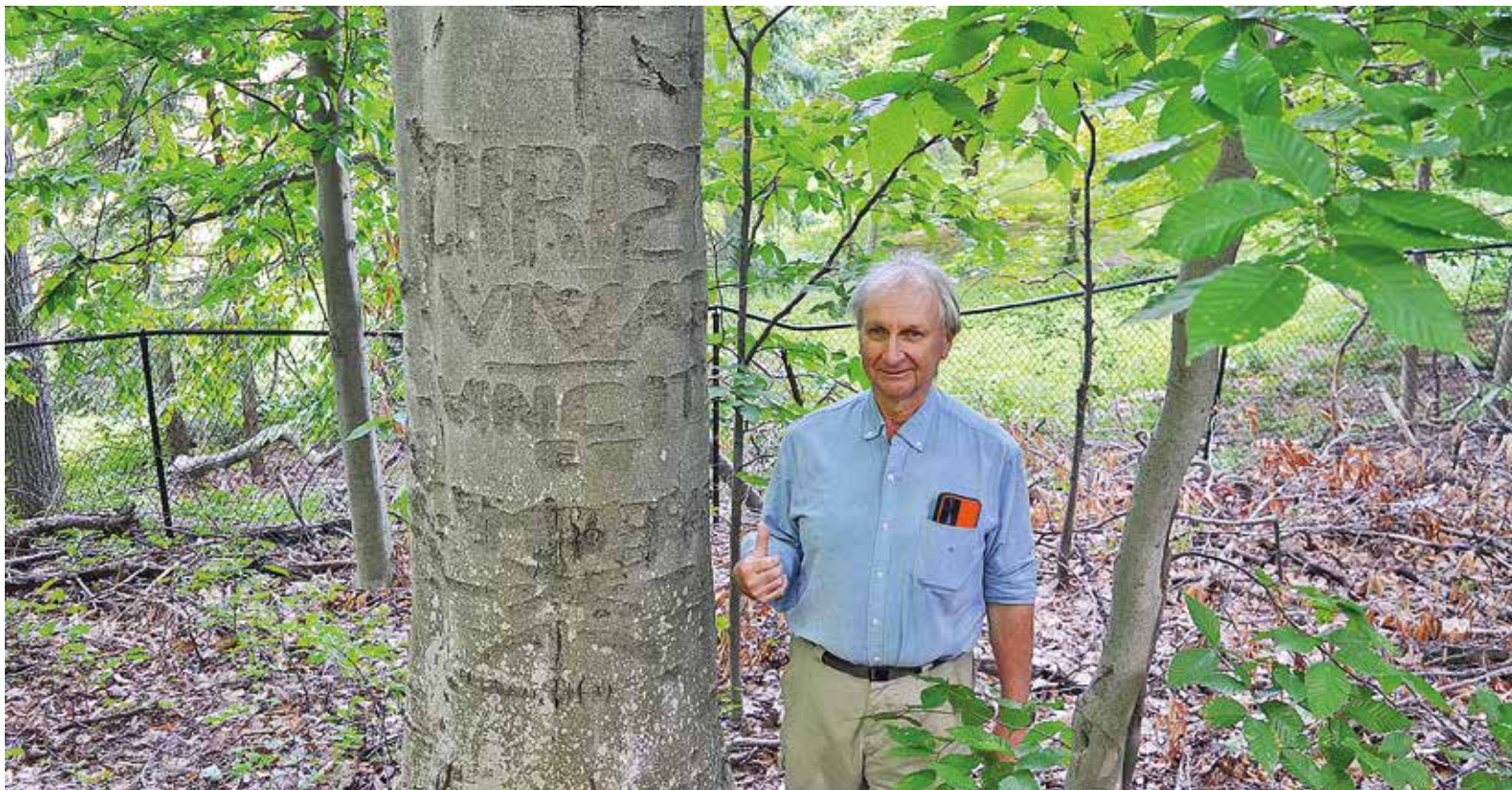
Little of these forests remain due to the march of development, the brothers' eastern-most route of what became known to locals as the "Monk's Walk", including just a few survivors of the carved trees, remain – hidden away behind the local detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police and Cardinal Carter Catholic High School.

Now, a group of trails enthusiasts who have dedicated their retirement to clearing the path so it can be enjoyed once again are calling on the Province and Town to step up and help local residents rediscover a trail that, it is argued, is one of the community's most historic yet most forgotten.

"I have been going in for years trying to improve it," says Helmut Schwarze, 87, who has been joined in this effort by trails advocate Klaus Wehrenberg and Alan Hamalainen. "More than 100 years ago, the building was inhabited by [the Brothers] and they made a trail all the way to Marylake but only the first portion, about 1 km long from the original start, still exists. Local residents have been using it for years, but the exits from Yonge Street are not accessible anymore. You can't even get to where it is."

The makeshift team, however, has taken it upon themselves to establish an equally makeshift entrance. Accessible from the northeast corner of the property, which the OPP shares with offices of the Provincial Government, you'd be forgiven for missing the small plank of wood with "Monk's Walk" etched into it before it was staked into the ground in between sheds and storage containers, but it's the best that can be done – for now, they say.

Schwarze says the Monk's Walk, which is on Provincially-owned land, was



Alan Hamalainen is pictured with one of the few remaining beech trees along Monk's Walk still bearing their religious engravings.

included in Aurora Trails Master Plan in 2011 but very little has been done since.

“We need a trail extension to Yonge Street so everyone can use the trail,” he says.

Schwarze first discovered the trail about 10 years ago when, after he suffered a heart attack and endured a triple-bypass, doctors advised him to get more exercise, particularly walking.

“We walked all the available trails in Aurora and surrounding areas in York Region and somebody told me about this trail and I wanted to get to know it,” he says. “The trail was being used by school children who go to the Catholic school in the area and [their foot traffic] kept it open to a degree, but during the pandemic everything was shut down and, naturally, the thing grew in. I came together with two friends with the equipment to get rid of all the weeds, then I took red tape to mark

the trail. The locals were happy about it because they were walking their dogs but couldn't find the trail anymore. Now they can and it's quite a job to maintain it, and the growth, especially this year, has been tremendous."

But the ownership of the land could be a sticking point.

While the building property at the northwest corner of Yonge and Bloomington has seen many lives over the last century – from its Catholic roots as De La Salle College, to its time as the controversial Pine Ridge Institute for men with developmental disabilities, a terrible chapter now marked following a push from survivors and their families, and its more recent years as home to Provincial departments and the OPP detachment – delineating responsibilities for the Monk's Walk has been a bit murkier.

They hope to gain some traction to

make the area publicly accessible again.

“I’m not religious but it intrigues me how Monk’s Walk was done; the monks only used beech trees, which have a very smooth surface, perfect for etchings in English and Latin,” says Schwarze. “There is a huge area of raspberry bushes and a huge area with edible mushrooms and the whole area is really appealing – I like it and my friends tell me they like it, too. It would be great to have something designated here and marked so people can use it. People don’t mind others using it because it keeps it clean. We have been looking after it for lots of years.”

Adds Hamalainen, “I want to encourage travel into nature for spiritual and physical wellbeing. It’s close to where I live, and it makes an effective and good place to just decompress. It’s also very easy to maintain once the entrance gets built.”



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Monk’s Walk: A quick stroll down memory lane with De La Salle college



The message of “God is Love” was carved into this tree by the brothers of De La Salle College.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Jacqueline Stuart

In May of 1916 De La Salle College opened near the north-west corner of Yonge Street and Bloomington Road. It was operated by the Christian Brothers of De La Salle, an order with a commitment to serving the world through education. At the Aurora college, boys and young men could complete high school and then receive the necessary training to go on to become

provincially qualified teachers, and members of the brotherhood. The main building provided the classrooms and other requirements of a residential educational institution. A separate structure included the manual training room, a laundry, and served as the power house. De La Salle stood on 115 acres (over 46 hectares) of land. Much of the sizeable space not occupied by the main buildings served as farm land; as well as supplying food for the school,

there were often advertisements of livestock for sale in the local papers. Attractive gardens were visible from Yonge Street. There was a small burial ground: the remains of the Brothers buried there were later removed to other cemeteries. And there was space for recreational or meditative walking. Many years later the archivist for the Christian Brothers in Toronto spoke to some older colleagues who had been at De La Salle in Aurora. They told him – and he told the writer of this note – that the path which we now know as the Monks’ Walk was known to them as “the lane.” In 1949, it was announced that the Christian Brothers were going to leave Aurora and move to an estate which had been left to them in Toronto. The Aurora site was purchased by the provincial government for use as an “Ontario hospital” which would care for boys with mental health or developmental issues. In later years only those with developmental issues were served, and in 1974 the name “Pine Ridge” was adopted for the institution. Pine Ridge was closed in 1984 and the main building was adapted for use by several provincial government departments, a purpose which it still serves today.

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Joplin tribute rocks Town Park



Krista Blondin, top and bottom left, rocked Town Park last Wednesday with Piece of My Heart, her tribute to music legend Janis Joplin. Enjoying the August 9 show were, (top right), Nakeeca and Luna, (middle right) Laura Lee, and (bottom right) and Andrew with Annie.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



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Tribute to Foreigner takes Concerts in the Park stage with “Jukebox Heroes”



Jukebox Heroes pays tribute to the music of Foreigner, and will be taking over the Town Park band shell next Wednesday, August 23, as the penultimate offering in the Town’s Concerts in the Park season.

Wednesday’s concert will begin two-week pilot on licensed alcohol sales at event

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The music of Foreigner is set to get people on their feet at Town Park next Wednesday, August 23, as Jukebox Heroes: A Tribute to Foreigner takes the stage as part of Aurora’s popular Concerts in the Park summer series.

Jukebox Heroes, which will share the music of the legendary band that produced 10 multi-platinum albums, is the penultimate concert of the series.

Next week’s concert will also be the first of two dates that the Town will hold a pilot program where licensed beverages will be offered for sale. Should the pilot be successful on August 23, and its second date of Wednesday, August 30, the program could be a hallmark of the 2024 Concerts in the Park program.

Ahead of the concert, Jukebox Heroes’ Steve Major shared his insight on why Foreigner remains popular nearly five decades after its founding.

“If you go down the list of classic rock bands, you don’t hear too many people talking about Foreigner, but it’s a band that most people know the songs but can’t really put a name on it,” he says. “They know, ‘I Want to Know What Love Is,’ a huge international hit, but not everybody could tell you what band it is. ‘Cold As Ice,’ maybe, but for me, and I think it goes for everybody in Jukebox Heroes, is they have the best of the American and the best of the British.

It gives a uniqueness that most classic rock stuff doesn’t have.

“The majority of it leaned on the British, but if you go back to the 60s with the Stones and Led Zeppelin and coming into the 70s, they had quite a flavour that was different and unique.”

Jukebox Heroes has been paying tribute to Foreigner for the last seven years.

When the band got together, they wanted to do something that “nobody else was really doing,” says Major. Enough bands were paying tribute to such classic bands as Abba and the Bee Gees, but they had a different idea for a classic rock band.

“Journey and Styx...rock just enough but I think Foreigner rocks just a little bit more,” he says. “It has a bit more edge than even Styx and Journey did. As an honest to goodness Foreigner fan, it’s the first two albums for Foreigner. That’s the real deal where you have the real mix of the American and British performers together.

“I love the other bands very much but I think for Foreigner to continue on, it’s great entertainment all the way through. I don’t think anybody who loves music is not going to love the ballads – the fantastic songs like Waiting for a Girl Like You – and the very commercialized songs like Hot Blooded. There is something for everybody here. We’ve done close to 100 shows across Canada and the United States and what usually works out for the festivals... the fact that you can bring your wife, your husband, your kids of any age and we strongly believe that you will derive enjoyment out of it – almost any age. You want a little bit of rock, you get a bit of rock; you want some songs to slow dance to? You get that. It’s a show

that is very entertaining and there are always some surprises happening.”

Concerts in the Park continue at Town Park each Wednesday evening from 7 – 9 p.m. through August 30.

Licensed sales at this week’s and next week’s concert will be provided by The Armoury, home to Niagara

College’s Canadian Food and Wine Institute, which will offer an array of beers, ciders, and wines for sale within the park. No outside alcohol may be brought into Town Park or leave the venue.

For more, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Civil rights organization

5. Calendar month (abbr.)

8. Monetary unit of Burma

11. Twyla __, US dancer

13. Everything included

14. “Antman” actor Rudd

15. Italian city

16. Nowhere to be found

17. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls

18. Turkish officer

20. Perform on stage

21. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid

22. Canadian coastal provinces

25. Furnishes anew

30. Edible mollusk

31. No seats available

32. Garden figurine
33. Two-legged support

38. Rest here please (abbr.)

41. In a silly way

43. One from the Golden State

45. Photographers

48. Native religion in parts of China

49. Dickens character

50. Broadway actress Daisy

55. Ancient Greek sophist

56. Undivided

57. Daniel __, French composer

59. Nocturnal S. American rodent

60. Rusty

61. Jewish spiritual leader

62. Patti Hearst’s captors

63. Popular global holiday (abbr.)

64. Tall, slender plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Defunct US energy company

2. Fellow

3. It’s issued from volcanoes

4. Type of acid

5. Winged nut

6. Arouses

7. Things are served on it

8. San Diego ballplayer

9. Currency and a Chinese dynasty

10. __mater, one’s school

12. Exclamation that denotes disgust

14. Hairstyle

19. Supreme ancient Egyptian god

23. They __

24. Connecting line on a map

25. Mock

26. One point north of due east

27. Chinese philosophical principle
28. Type of tree

29. Persuade to do something

34. A place for travelers to rest

35. National Gallery of Art designer

36. Panamanian province

37. Field force unit (abbr.)

39. Whalers’ tool

40. Simply

41. Nigerian City

42. Not one

44. Obstruct

45. Political plot

46. Manila hemp plant

47. Dough made from corn flour

48. Fishes by letting the bob fly

51. Swiss river

52. Plant that makes gum

53. A French abbot

54. One point east of northeast

58. Get free of

SHOPPING LOCAL



Town Park was a hive of activity on Saturday as the Aurora Farmers’ Market continues. The Market, which runs each Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through to the end of October will host their annual Corn Festival this Saturday, August 19, so stop by for a cob! Pictured here are (left) Sarah, Dana, and Liana; and (right) Stella popped up on the band shell to hear musician Glenn Marais.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



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THINGS *you ought to know*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues this week with The Toronto All-Star Big Band. Concerts begin at Town Park each Wednesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but food can be purchased from Farmers' Market vendors and from the Aurora Armoury. Artisan vendors from the Market will also be on hand. Donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. For more information, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

The Aurora Farmers' Market will continue today at Town Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come out, meet your neighbours and shop local! Today, the Market hosts its annual Corn Festival.

THROUGH AUGUST 23

Letters to the Earth: Between Despair and Hope. A conversation about the environmental crisis happening around the world and affecting Canadians directly, this group exhibition features over 40 artists. Prompted by curator Carmel Brennan, artists wrote a "letter to the earth" as part of a global visual arts movement. Several events are planned throughout the summer, including a Closing Discussion with the community (August 23, 7 pm). Presented by the Aurora Cultural Centre, in the temporary gallery location at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way, 2nd Floor: Gallery Hours Monday - Saturday, 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. For information, visit AuroraCulturalCentre.ca.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues this week with Jukebox Heroes: A Tribute to Foreigner. Concerts begin at Town Park each Wednesday evening beginning at 7 p.m. Admission is free, but food can be purchased from Farmers' Market vendors and from the Aurora Armoury. Artisan vendors from the Market will also be on hand. Donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. For more information, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.

AUGUST 25 - 27

Aurora's tastiest event returns as Machell Park plays host to Ribfest. Not only will there be the tastiest ribs but also roasted yams, roasted corn on the cob, beavertails and many other dishes for every appetite. Machell Park will be fenced with additional procedures for the safety of the attendees, performers, food vendors, volunteers and staff. We also will have great live entertainment, an inflatable midway and activities for kids of all ages. Friday 4 - 11 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Headliners April Wine and Dwayne Gretzky. For more, visit aurora.ca/ribfest.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

The Council of Canadians will host a Pharmacare Town Hall tonight from 7 - 9 p.m. in the auditorium of the Aurora Community Centre. Over 3.4 million Canadians can't afford their medications and millions more are struggling. We need to raise the political temperature to make pharmacare happen. For more, visit publicpharmacare.ca.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

The Aurora Historical Society will host a virtual scotch tasting this evening. This virtual fundraising event includes a tasting package of 5 carefully selected, premium whiskies, a guided experience by a Master Taster from the Aurora Whisky Society, a unique tasting glass, and a virtual presentation from Hillary House National Historic Site. For more information, visit aurorahs.com.

CONTINUING

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

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

BROCK'S BANTER

From page 4

and advocate Brenda Murphy, holds the position of Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, and the distinction of being the first openly 2SLGBTQIA+ person to represent the monarch in our country's history.

Continuing our trip, Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor Arthur LeBlanc joined the vice regal team after nearly 20 years of service as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, while Antoinette Perry, a former school teacher of Acadian heritage performs the role in Prince Edward Island. Rounding out the Provincial vice-regals in Newfoundland and Labrador is Lieutenant Governor Judy Foote, previously a member of the Federal Government who served as Minister of Public Services and Procurement and Receiver General of Canada.

Shortly after her appointment

seven years ago, outgoing Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell, in an interview, summed up how she saw her position. She saw it as her duty to "ensure the integrity of the crown in Canada, but a real opportunity to serve Ontarians in a variety of ways."

"I said I wanted to spend a couple of months listening to Ontarians to find out what they were really concerned about and what they wanted me to focus on," she said. "I have talked to literally hundreds of Ontarians over the past few months and I am starting to understand how proud they are of this Province and what they want to do to show this Province to the rest of the world."

In Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Ontario found just the right person to do that, and I'm sure this will continue with Ms. Dumont.

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RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS

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VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8

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ANITA KOTSOVOS

An experienced, knowledgeable and trusted realtor

Buying or Selling your home will likely be the biggest investment you make in your lifetime.

WHEN IT'S TIME TO BUY, you want a real estate agent who has the knowledge, experience, and expertise to help you get through the entire transaction with confidence knowing they are guiding you along the way.

Anita Kotsovos, a trusted realtor with RE/MAX Realtron Realty Inc., in Newmarket, has had a long and successful career in real estate and has the dedication and genuine interest in her clients to help ensure their path to homeownership is as easy and stress-free as possible.

Anita's passion for real estate began at a young age when she was employed at a real estate office when she was just a teenager.

After taking positions in other companies, she knew the real estate industry was her true calling. She obtained her real estate license and began her career as a full-time realtor.

Anita is a visible real estate presence in all of York Region, Simcoe County, as well as Toronto.

Her clients, many of whom have been referred by other clients and family who have had a wonderful experience with Anita, describe her as warm, genuine, professional, reliable, and knowledgeable. They have found that working with her is a pleasant and rewarding experience.

"I love the interaction with people every day," Anita said of why she likes her job. "Every day is different. I'm always in a different area. I do everything from vacant land to high-end luxury homes and properties. I truly enjoy the diversity and every day brings new opportunities to help new and existing Clients."

When buying a home, there are many things to consider when you are searching for the right location where you will be happy and enjoy your new property.

Anita is knowledgeable of the neighbourhoods and nearby amenities that you may want and she can help guide you to a home that will be near those things that are important to you.

She knows the schools, restaurants, and recreation facilities in the area as well as other important services like pharmacies, clubs, and sports groups that may be important to both families as well as individuals.

Anita is a skilled negotiator – an important part of every real estate deal – and she knows how to achieve the best results for her clients.

When you decide to sell your home, there's a lot more involved than putting a 'for sale' sign on the front lawn and hoping people take notice.

Anita will advise you on the current market trends in your town or city and neighbourhood based on many factors and can help establish a fair and reasonable price that will get your home sold. She can offer advice on what you can do to improve the appearance of your home both on the inside and on the exterior that will provide the 'curb appeal' that will impress potential buyers.

Anita incorporates a professional marketing campaign that includes local, national, and worldwide media exposure.

Anita Kotsovos is an award-winning realtor with the experience and knowledge to help guide you through any real estate transaction while providing superior customer service with a genuine interest in achieving the best results.

Anita's office is located at 1140 Stellar Drive in Newmarket.

You can call the office at 905-898-1211 or reach Anita directly at 416-520-3651.

For more information and to see a listing of current properties, visit online at www.anitakotsovos.com.

WRITTEN BY Brian Lockhart



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MARKET UPDATE – JULY 2023

AURORA

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$1,297,127

AVERAGE 14 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

66

130 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

102%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE

6.87%

KING

AVERAGE SALES PRICE

\$1,927,333

AVERAGE 20 DAYS ON MARKET

NUMBER OF SALES

15

77 NEW LISTINGS

SALE TO LIST RATIO

98%

YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE




6.65%

*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch JULY 2023; Summary of Existing Home Transactions for All Home Types JULY 2023 + Focus on the MLS Home Price Index for Composite for York Region's Aurora and King

We continue to have a shortage of inventory however coupled with a slower summer selling time and the interest rate hikes, the higher price point homes are moving slower than expected. In the lower to mid range, many homes have been listed under market value and multiple offers are not uncommon resulting in the list to sale ratio being 102% in Aurora for the month of July. We are anticipating a surge of new listings in the fall which should result in a more balanced market.

.....

– Provided by Key Advantage Team Royal LePage RCR Realty
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**RESALE
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SKY HIGH PRICES & LOW INVENTORY: Inside Ontario’s Housing Crisis

THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO'S population is expected to grow by more than 2 million people over the next 10 years – 70% of which are likely to settle in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region. With housing, and subsequently, housing affordability, already a critical concern for many, this begs the question... where will everyone go?

The projected population growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region presents a significant challenge in terms of both housing availability and affordability. As the population increases, the demand for housing also rises, potentially exacerbating the existing housing issues in Ontario.

The term “Ontario Housing Crisis” is often used to describe this problem. Housing crises often manifest in various ways and frequently involve skyrocketing rents, lack of affordable housing units, homelessness and inadequate living conditions.

AFFORDABILITY

One of the concerns at the forefront for many Ontarians is the lack of affordable housing. Many individuals and families are struggling to find housing options that fit within their budgets, particularly in major urban centres like Toronto and Ottawa. The urbanization of Ontario’s major cities has contributed to unprecedented population growth in recent years. This growth has put pressure on the already strained housing market.

RIISING INTEREST RATES

Interest rates can have a significant impact on the housing market and can influence the dynamics of a

housing crisis. With the rise of interest rates, we often see a subsequent ripple effect on the affordability of mortgages, which then trickles down to renters as investors need to account for the increase in costs.

RIISING RENTS

Rapidly increasing rent prices have made it difficult for tenants to find housing they can afford. Rent control policies have been introduced in order to mitigate rent increases, however, have limitations in addressing the overall problem.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND – THE SUPPLY SHORTAGE

With a shortage of available housing units, especially affordable ones, and a consistent increase in demand intensifies the existing crisis. The demand for housing outpaces the rate at which new homes are built. This supply-demand imbalance contributes to rising prices and limited options for prospective buyers and renters alike.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Some argue that foreign investment in the real estate market, especially in cities like Toronto, has contributed to the rise in housing prices, making it harder for local residents to afford homes. In response to this, the Government introduced the “Foreign Buyer Ban”, formally known as the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property By Non-Canadian Act. This ban came into effect on January 1st, 2023. Simply described, the purpose of this two-year federal ban on foreign homebuyers is to temporarily reduce foreign demand for Canadian real estate in the hopes of improving the housing crisis in Canada and ensuring Canadians have more access to purchasing homes.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

In addition to the Foreign Buyer Ban mentioned above, in 2022, The Government of Ontario, led by the Progressive Conservatives, introduced the “More Homes, Built Faster Act”. This Act is committing to building 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years in an attempt to alleviate the housing crisis. With an estimated 1.25 million new homes already in the development pipeline, this does not mean shovels are in the ground quite yet. This figure represents the number of homes builders have been approved to build, however, there is no set timeline by which a developer must construct these homes. With a substantial amount of red tape surrounding new home construction, from both the municipal and provincial levels, it’s no surprise that we should brace ourselves for a significant delay.

In November 2022, the Ford government announced the controversial Ontario Greenbelt Development plan, whereby it would remove 7,400 acres of land from the Ontario Greenbelt and convert it into housing developments. This sparked concerns from environmental and conservation groups who argued that weakening the Greenbelt could lead to urban sprawl, loss of agricultural land and damage to natural habitats.

There is no one-size fits all approach to solving the Ontario Housing Crisis. It requires a multifaceted approach between all levels of government, along with housing developers and community organizations. Only through a unified approach can lasting improvements be made to housing affordability, availability and quality that is both accessible and sustainable for all residents.

When considering your housing options, choose to work with an experienced real estate team who cares about their clients & their investments. If you have questions, visit us at 50 Doctor Kay Dr. Unit C-22 in Schomberg, or contact Michele directly at (416) 433-8316 or michele@micheledeniston.com! We are committed to providing you with expert, reputable and top-tier real estate service; we look forward to connecting with you soon!



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5 budget-friendly tips to upgrade your home

(NC) Upgrading your home to be energy-efficient and eco-friendly doesn't mean you have to compromise your budget. With a little creativity and a green mindset, you can upgrade your space in ways that are good for both the environment and your wallet.

OPTIMIZE YOUR LIGHTING

Ditch the old incandescent bulbs and try some energy-efficient LED lights. LED lights are not only brighter, but they also last longer, making them a cost-effective lighting solution. Embrace natural light by opening up your curtains or blinds during the day to give your space a sunny and inviting ambiance.

UPCYCLE AND RECYCLE

Instead of buying new furniture or décor, explore the world of upcycling and repurposing. Embrace DIY projects by giving life to old furniture. You can transform

out-dated and worn-out furniture with a refinish or repaint. Get creative and repurpose everyday objects into unique and functional pieces. Look for inspiration online and in second-hand stores for affordable and sustainable ways to refresh your home's style.

DIY COMPOSTING

You can start your own composting system to reduce food waste, and create nutrient-rich soil for your garden. Try setting up a compost bin in your backyard, or use indoor composting methods. By composting, you can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and

produce valuable compost that enriches soil, which is great for your plants or your garden.

USE ECO-FRIENDLY CLEANING PRODUCTS

Make the switch to eco-friendly cleaning products to reduce the use of harmful chemicals in your home, and minimize their impact on the environment. You can look for non-toxic cleaning supplies or biodegradable solutions that don't contain harsh chemicals like chlorine and phosphates. Did you know you can also make your own cleaning solutions? Use ingredients like vinegar and baking soda, or even lemon juice. These options are not only safer for you, but they are safer for the environment.

MAKE USE OF BENEFITS AND CREDITS

Take advantage of government programs like the Climate Action Incentive payment (CAIP).

This program provides families and individuals with quarterly payments to offset the cost of the federal government's pollution pricing. With the extra little cash in your wallet, you can use this to reduce your

carbon footprint and implement more eco-friendly upgrades. You can make progress in upgrading your home on a budget using these government payments, and contribute to a greener future.

You may be eligible for the CAIP if you live in a province with federal pollution pricing: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Those last three provinces are new to the program this summer, so residents there will be getting three payments this year. Residents of New Brunswick will follow suit and receive their first payment in October 2023. The exact amount of the quarterly payments varies by region – you'll get more if you live outside a major urban centre. You don't need to apply; you just need to file your taxes every year.

Find more information about how this benefit works at canada.ca/cai-payment.

www.newscanada.com

3 projects to boost your home's curb appeal

(NC) No matter what your home looks like indoors, the exterior provides an important first impression.

To leave your neighbours green with envy and pique the interest of potential buyers, here are three eye-catching exterior upgrades you can do.

1 Incorporate lighting into your outdoor design. From candles and string lights to a firepit table and solar light pathways, a little illumination can completely change the look and feel of an outdoor space without breaking the bank.

2 Update the railings around your home. They're an important safety feature and a highly visible part of your property. Try mixing materials and choosing natural colours for a fresh modern look or restore their original, historical style to create an instant home facelift.

3 Upgrade your porch or deck to a covetable outdoor room. Consider building with high-performance composite materials. Unlike wood, composite decking such as Trex Transcend Lineage resists fading, staining, scratching and mould, and only needs an occasional soap-and-water cleaning to stay looking like new for decades.

Find more inspiration and ideas at ca.trex.com.

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*Based on sold units & volume in Aurora from Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2022
from IMS incorporated Statistics

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BROKER

**RESALE
HOMES
COLLECTIONS**

**Do you know
what your
mortgage
trigger rate is?**

(NC) Interest rates have risen dramatically in the past year. When your mortgage has a variable interest rate with a fixed payment, you may reach a trigger rate when interest rates rise.

YOUR TRIGGER RATE is the interest rate at which your mortgage payment will no longer cover the principal and interest due for that period.

Once you've reached the trigger rate, your payment will only cover interest payments and no money will go towards paying down your principal amount. That means that you've stopped paying down your loan.

The best way to find out your trigger rate is to review your mortgage or loan agreement. You can also contact your bank. They'll be able to calculate the exact rate for you. They'll also be able to let you know your options if you reach it.

For example, your bank may offer to extend your amortization. This is the time period over which the mortgage loan is reduced and eventually paid off by regular payments. Extending the amortization would avoid having to increase the amount of your recurring payments. However, extending your amortization means paying for a longer period of time and paying more interest in the long run. If you do look into mortgage relief options, it's important to know what the impact will be for your entire mortgage.

If you're worried about your mortgage, contact your bank to discuss your options. You could also seek advice from reliable and trusted sources to explore your financial options. Contact a financial professional, such as a licensed financial advisor or an accredited credit counsellor, to discuss a plan. Do your research to find a trustworthy organization and a qualified professional.

Find more information at canada.ca/money.

www.newscanada.com



— Image by Paul Brennan from Pixabay

Home sales and the average selling price in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in June 2023 remained above last year's levels.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SALES dipped on a month-over-month basis. The seasonally adjusted average selling price and the MLS® Home Price Index (HPI) Composite benchmark were up compared to the previous month.

"The demand for ownership housing is stronger than last year, despite higher borrowing costs. With this said, home sales were hampered last month by uncertainty surrounding the Bank of Canada's outlook on inflation and interest rates. Furthermore, a persistent lack of inventory likely sidelined some willing buyers because they couldn't find a home meeting their needs. Simply put, you can't buy what is not available."

GTA REALTORS® reported 7,481 sales through TRREB's MLS® System in June 2023 – up 16.5 percent compared to June 2022. The number of listings was down by three percent over the same period.

The year-over-year increase in sales coupled with the decrease in new listings means market conditions were tighter this past June relative to the same period last year. The average selling price was up by 3.2 percent to \$1,182,120. The MLS® HPI Composite benchmark was still down by 1.9 percent on a year-over-year basis – the lowest annual rate of decline in 2023. On a month-over-month basis, the seasonally adjusted average price and MLS® HPI Composite benchmark were up.

"A resilient economy, tight labour market and record population growth kept home sales well above last year's lows. Looking forward, the Bank of Canada's interest rate decision this month and its guidance on inflation and borrowing costs for the remainder of 2023 will help us understand how much sales and price will recover beyond current levels," said TRREB Chief Market Analyst Jason Mercer.

"GTA municipalities continue to lag in bringing new housing online at a pace sufficient to make up for the current deficit and keep up with record population growth. Leaders at all levels of government, including the new mayor-elect of Toronto, have committed to rectifying the housing supply crisis. We need to see these commitments coming to fruition immediately, or we will continue to fall further behind each month," stressed TRREB CEO John DiMichele. "In addition to

the impact of the listing shortage, housing affordability is also hampered on an ongoing basis by taxation and fees associated with home sales and construction as well as the general level of taxation impacting households today. Going forward, we need to look at all of the factors influencing the household balance sheet and people's ability to house themselves."



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By Julien Laurion
The Big Tuna of Real Estate

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and ever-changing environmental challenges, the traditional concept of a home has evolved.

As a realtor and contractor, I have witnessed the shifting landscape of residential architecture and construction firsthand. Today, we stand at a pivotal juncture where the imperative to create homes that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also resilient to the uncertainties of the future has become paramount.

In an age of unprecedented climate fluctuations and social dynamics, architects and designers are embracing the concept of adaptive architecture. These homes are not static entities; rather, they possess the ability to change and evolve in response to shifting environmental and societal conditions. This could involve modular designs that allow for easy additions or subtractions to accommodate changing family sizes or needs. Additionally, the integration of smart technologies allows homeowners to customize their living spaces at the touch of a button, ensuring that their homes remain relevant and functional throughout their lives.

With urbanization on the rise, the challenge lies in creating sustainable homes that provide a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life. Innovative architects are turning small urban spaces into serene sanctuaries through vertical gardens, rooftop solar panels, and rainwater harvesting systems. These homes not only contribute to a greener urban environment but also provide their inhabitants with a tranquil oasis amidst the urban chaos.

As a contractor, I have come to appreciate the significance of resilient materials in constructing homes that stand the test of time. Traditional building materials are being reimagined and repurposed to enhance their durability and longevity. For instance, recycled steel

beams are being incorporated into the framework of homes, providing both structural integrity and an eco-friendly touch. Furthermore, advanced polymers are finding their way into construction, offering resistance to extreme weather events while allowing for greater design flexibility.

The concept of net-zero energy homes is gaining momentum as the world grapples with energy scarcity and climate change. These homes are designed to produce as much energy as they consume, resulting in a net-zero energy footprint. Solar panels, energy-efficient appliances, and strategic insulation are just a few components of this revolutionary design. As a realtor, I've witnessed firsthand the growing demand for these homes as environmentally-conscious buyers seek to minimize their carbon footprint while enjoying reduced energy bills.

In the pursuit of sustainable and culturally relevant housing, architects are revisiting vernacular architecture – designs rooted in local traditions and materials. The integration of age-old wisdom with modern construction techniques has resulted in homes that are not only unique but also deeply connected to their surroundings. This trend not only fosters a sense of community identity but also reduces the environmental impact associated with transporting materials over long distances.

The world of residential architecture and construction is undergoing a profound transformation, fueled by the imperative to create homes that are both functional and resilient in the face of an uncertain future. As a realtor and contractor, I have been privileged to witness this evolution firsthand, and it's evident that the synergy between innovative design and forward-thinking construction techniques is shaping a new era of housing. From adaptive architecture to net-zero energy homes and the resurgence of vernacular design, the possibilities are vast and exciting. As we navigate the challenges of a rapidly changing world, the homes we inhabit stand as a testament to human ingenuity and our unwavering commitment to creating a better tomorrow.

Julien Laurion AKA Big Tuna is a local Real Estate Sale Representative with Royal LePage Your Community Realty in Aurora. I am a real estate agent who has expertise in both Real Estate and Renovations and has been involved in this community for over 20 years. If you have a question for my monthly article or if you are considering buying, selling or leasing a home please feel free to call or email me directly at (416) 402-5530 or julien@bigtuna.ca or by alternatively visiting my website www.bigtuna.ca or Facebook page @bigtunarealty

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4 steps to take before starting your renovation

(NC) It's no secret that renovations take a lot of planning. Whether you're updating a deck or gutting the whole home, you need a careful plan. Here are four key steps to take before you get to digging, demolishing or do-it-yourself-ing.

1 MAKE A BUDGET

This tip might be obvious, but it's crucial. Look carefully at your overall budget, how your savings stack up and what the ideal version of your project could cost. Set your expectations and your spending limit, and then plan how you'll stay within them. Remember to include a contingency amount that keeps within the total cost that you can afford, or prefer, to spend. This provides breathing room for the inevitable surprise expenses that can occur with any renovation.

2 APPLY FOR PERMITS

If you are building or redoing a structure on your property, you may need a permit from your municipality, and the process can take a while. Fines for not obtaining one can reach \$50,000 for a first offense, so it's not worth going without. While the municipal-

ity has a set timeframe to review your application, that doesn't include the time you need to prepare it (such as getting technical drawings done) or time to revise or appeal it. It's best to start the process early.

3 FIND THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR

Hiring a contractor is often a smart choice, even for many savvy DIYers. Just be sure to interview a few and call their references to find a good fit for your needs and expectations. Compare quotes to ensure you're getting a reasonable rate. Contractors are in high demand across the country, and they often book up months in advance. Delaying your search could leave you disappointed in your options and stuck with a mediocre project.

4 REQUEST A UTILITY LOCATE

Building a fence or a tree house, garden bed or new foundation? If your renovation involves any digging on your property, you're legally obligated to "request a locate" of where infrastructure is buried on your land. Even minor damage to water, gas, sewer and hydro lines can be costly, disruptive and cause serious safety risks. At least it's a simple process. You contact the organization Ontario One Call at least five business days before you want to dig. They notify the infrastructure companies, who then send representatives to mark the locations on your property or issue a clearance allowing you to dig. It's completely free of cost.

Find more information about getting a locate or request one online at ontarioonecall.ca.

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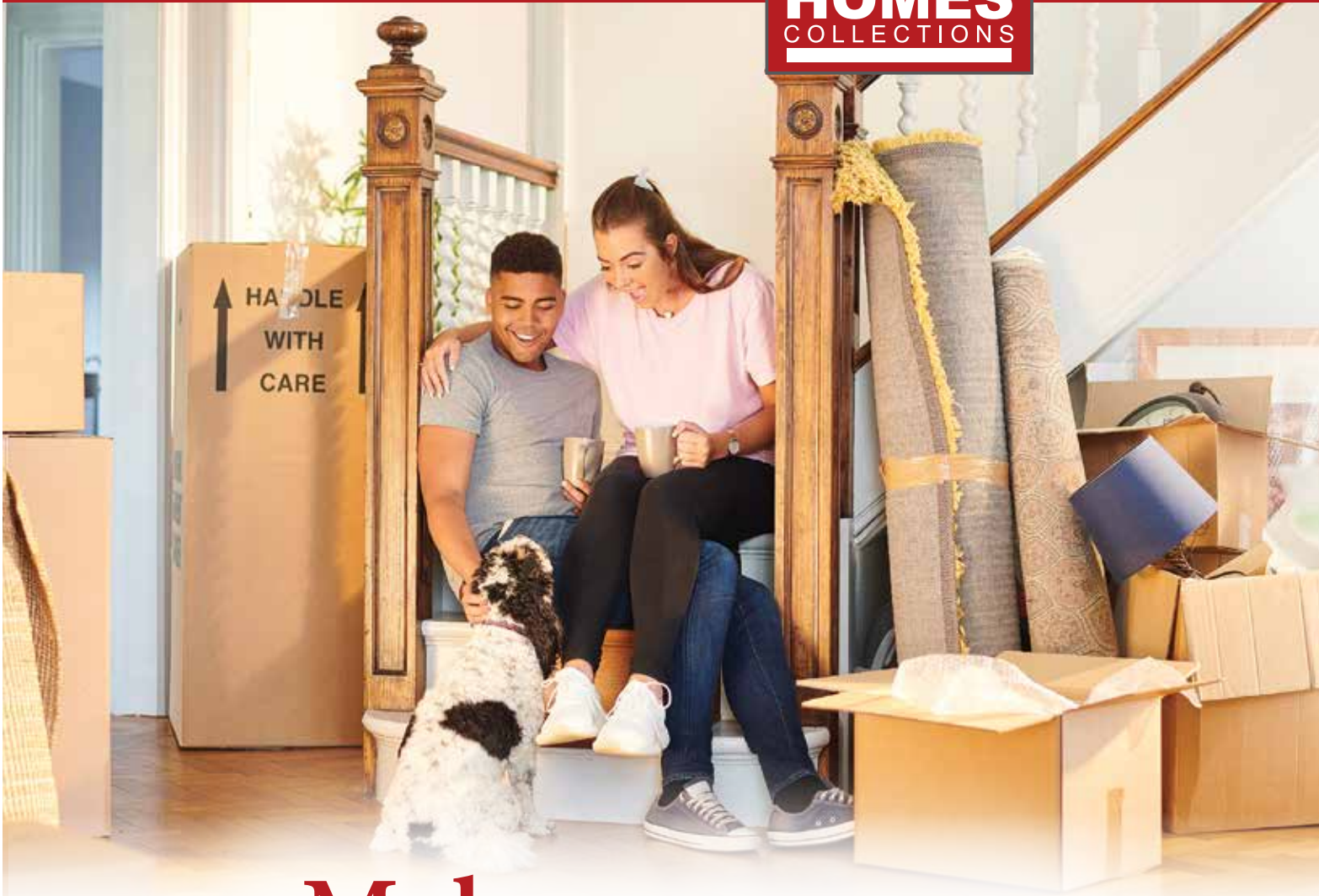
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Make your new
place feel like home

(NC) Transforming your new home into a cozy and welcoming space is one of the joys, and challenges, of moving. Whether you hang your hat in a new apartment or single-family dwelling, there are a lot of steps to make it your own.

But for many people, it's not only the colour of the walls or the cushions on the couch that make a new place feel like home. It's also who's living there, whether it's your children, your partner or your pet.

If you're considering adding a furry friend, such as a dog, to your home and family, be sure to take the time for proper research for a successful and happy process.

Carefully research the individual or organization where you're getting the dog from to ensure you can verify and trust them. Ask questions so you know about the dog's history and health status.

Find a veterinarian in advance so you can have your pet's health checked promptly once you bring them home. This way you ensure they have all necessary and up-to-date vaccinations and preventative medications for things such as fleas and ticks.

It's also important to make your new home feel as familiar as possible. A new environment and unfamiliar sounds and smells can cause anxiety in even the most relaxed pets. Spend time gradually introducing

them into their new space inside the home and also outside in the neighbourhood and nearby parks.

If you'll be adding a furry friend to your home that comes from outside of Canada, or maybe you're moving to Canada, be sure to do your research. There are very strict rules about bringing an animal into Canada. This is especially true for dogs from countries at high-risk for dog rabies, since one rabid dog can pose a great risk to public health and other animals. Rabies is considered fatal once clinical symptoms appear, and these requirements aim to prevent it and other diseases from entering and spreading in Canada.

Find more information about what to consider before buying or adopting a dog at inspection.gc.ca/dog-decision.

www.newscanada.com

Practical steps you can take to control indoor humidity

(NC) A common problem for homeowners during summer months is humidity. High indoor humidity not only makes you feel uncomfortable – it can also have negative effects on your health and your home.

Ideal indoor humidity levels are generally considered to be between 30 and 45 per cent. This can be a challenge to achieve during summer months, as warmer air retains more moisture.

The good news is that you can manage humidity levels effectively in a variety of ways. Homeowner maintenance is the key. There's an extra level of importance if you own a newly built home, as your warranty will not cover moisture-related issues, like damage to hardwood floors or mould, that result from improper maintenance.

Here are some things you can try to tackle excessive humidity in your home:

- Invest in a hygrometer, which will allow you to monitor humidity levels inside your home. Hygrometers are inexpensive and can be found at most hardware stores.
- Be mindful of the number or type of plants in your home as they can mean higher humidity levels inside.
- Use your home's ventilation system. Turn on exhaust fans when cooking, showering or doing laundry. It's also a good idea to leave them running for a short time after you're done to ensure enough moisture is removed from the air.
- Keep areas throughout your home as tidy as possible. Storage spaces and general clutter can interfere with air circulation, trap humidity and lead to mould growth.
- Use a dehumidifier. They are available as stand-alone units or can be integrated into your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system. A dehumidifier will help to remove excess moisture from the air.
- Plan your landscaping in a way that does not alter the grading around your foundation. Flowerbeds close to your foundation can cause rainwater to pool close to the structure instead of being diverted away from it.

Find more helpful home maintenance tips at tarion.com.

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**3 creative nooks
for a cozy home**

(NC) Everyone has their guilty or not-so-guilty pleasures, and it's important to embrace the little moments in life that make us feel at ease.

When designing a living space, leave room for your everyday habits and favourite activities. Read on for inspiration and tips to create cozy corners within the home.

A SPACE FOR READING

Create a cozy reading corner with comfortable seating, the perfect lighting and an accent wall that makes it feel like its own little room within a room. Choose colours like greens, blues or a deep brown that will help you stay immersed in the story you're reading.

A PERSONALIZED COFFEE AREA

Start every day on the right foot with a personalized coffee nook. Choose a corner near windows for maximum sunlight exposure first thing in the morning. Here, you can paint window trim for a unique accent that will make the room pop. When selecting a colour for the trim, keep the wall colours in mind and go for a contrasting look.

A CORNER FOR WELLNESS

In today's fast-paced world, creating a space that promotes your wellbeing is essential. From a skin-care vanity to a dedicated fitness area, make your home your sanctuary and reserve an area for self-care and peace. Choose paint colours that calm the mind – such as Benjamin Moore Palest Pistachio 2122-60, a barely-there hue with crisp notes of blue and grey, or Benjamin Moore Natural Linen CC-90, a sandy neutral with just the right amount of rustic warmth and elegance.

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**How to
coordinate
colours in
your home
decor**

(NC) Choosing colours for your home that look good together can be intimidating, especially when moving into a new space or updating an old one. Before heading into project-mode, consider three tips for mastering colour coordination at home from Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour and design expert.

What's staying and what's going? The simplest place to start is to look at what's already in the room. Pick one item as an opportunity to bring a refreshed, colour-coordinated feel to your whole space. Do your floors need a little love? Is your furniture looking tired? Do your window trims seem faded? Base your design and colour ideas around the main colour in a room and pair colours accordingly.



IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE

The simplest way to create a balanced colour palette is to follow the 60/30/10 rule: 60 per cent of the room should be a dominant colour, 30 per cent should be the secondary colour and the last 10 per cent can be an accent colour. These colours are referred to as the mass colours, and the easiest way to harmonize them is by selecting a consistent undertone; either warm or cool.

Warm undertones are typically orange, yellow or red, while cool undertones have green, blue or purple. Grech says, "It's safer to stay consistent with undertones, but when painting exclusively with a colour like white, mixing and matching warm and cool undertones can add subtle distinction within a space."

WHAT'S OLD CAN BE NEW

Now that you've established what to re-vamp, Grech reminds us that paint is not only for walls.

"Give furniture a second life with a fresh coat of paint and opt for a colour that complements the tones found on your walls and flooring." For this she uses Benjamin Moore Advance paint, an easy-to-apply paint that makes old furniture look new again. "Pair dark walls with furniture in cool tones and lighter hues such as fresh Smoky Green CC-700. Or, if you're using a white wall, mix in a cozy, warm pop of colour, like Stuart Gold HC-10."

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Design hacks for small living spaces

(NC) Bigger isn't always better. Small spaces have proven to be the preferred living option for many of us since they require less maintenance, cleaning and budget for furnishing and renovations.

However, adding personality and making the most of a small living space can be a challenge. Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour and design expert shares her tips on how to make the most of a small space.

INVEST IN MULTI-PURPOSE FURNITURE
Instead of filling the room with separate pieces for different purposes, invest in furniture that serves more than one function. Consider a sofa that can easily transform into a bed, allowing your living room to double as a guest bedroom. Alternatively, opt for a coffee table that you can extend or adjust in height to serve as a dining table or workspace when needed.

CREATE DIVISION WITH PAINT
Colour creates distinction between spaces without the need for a physical room-divider. While it can be tempting to go for one light hue to make a space

feel bigger, using different colours on a wall can create separation and make it multifunctional. A bold colour, for example, can signal to the mind that this area is for work.

Grech explains, "Colour affects humans psychologically. Offices painted in blues or greens tend to be less distracting and even improve concentration, where warm reds, yellows and oranges bring higher energy to the space. It truly depends on what mindset each person is trying to get into when they work."

For calmer spaces like the bedroom or office area she recommends a soothing light purple such as New Age 1444, or a calming, crisp light blue like Polar Sky CC-790.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF HEIGHT
When dealing with a small living space, it's essential to think beyond the floor area and make use of vertical space. Your walls can be used for additional storage or to create the illusion of a larger space. Don't be afraid to use height to your advantage, whether that's through paint or furniture to draw the eye upward.

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3 expert tips to help you downsize

(NC) Downsizing offers a fresh start, a chance to reimagine, declutter and reinvigorate your life. With these three tips from Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour and design expert, you can make the most of your new space to ensure a smooth transition, without compromise.

CREATE MULTI-PURPOSE SPACES WITH PAINT
Downsizing doesn't have to be a synonym for less; harness the power of paint and create as many unique spaces as you desire. Create multi-purpose rooms by using various paint colours to create division. Whether a reading corner within your living room defined by lilac, a sewing space within the office painted blue or an exercise corner within the bedroom painted green – you can have it all in a smaller space.

USE YOUR WALLS TO SHOW PERSONALITY
For harmony and flow within your space, use a consistent, neutral paint colour like white for transition spaces. Grech recommends Benjamin Moore Regal Select Interior paint. "It's a premium-quality, 100 percent acrylic paint and primer that provides scuff and stain-resistance in a durable and washable finish – great for any space."

USE WALL SHELVES TO SAVE SPACE
Wall shelves are a small space's best friend. Declutter surfaces by displaying decorations on mounted shelves or directly on the wall. "Not only can they serve as a meaningful showcase of sentimental items, but wall shelves also add unique depth and create the illusion of a larger space," says Grech. Feeling creative? Add a fresh coat of paint to your shelves for a pop of colour and an attention-grabbing accent.

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Luxury abounds in this Richmond Hill bungalow with a wrap-around porch, 3-car garage, and exquisite landscaping. The main floor dazzles with a chef's kitchen, elegant dining room, and a captivating family room. The primary suite offers a walk-in closet, spa-like bathroom, and a private lounge with skylights and balcony. The lower level features separate entrances, a bathroom, laundry room, and a 1-bedroom apartment. Experience unmatched luxury in this exceptional home. Offered at \$3,988,000.



ZONED FOR 35% HOME BUSINESS – RICHMOND HILL

Stunningly renovated executive home in Richmond Hill with a 4-car garage, finished basement, solariums, and an inground pool with waterfall and spill over spa. Ideal for working from home, it offers a desirable location near schools, parks, and amenities. Zoning allows for 35% of the sqft. to be used for home business! Additional highlights include a sunroom, indoor hot tub, and a fenced backyard oasis. Offered at \$3,299,000.



EXQUISITE LUXURY HOME IN VAUGHAN

Luxurious 4 Bedroom Home in Coveted 'Upper Thornhill Estates' with Upgraded Kitchen. Open Layout, Abundant Light, Main Floor Office, Cozy Fireplace, Stylish Dining, Luxe Primary Bedroom with Modern Ensuite. Spacious Bedrooms, Private Ensuites, Professionally Landscaped, Resort-Style Backyard. Don't Miss This Stunning Residence! Offered at \$2,778,000 .



BRAND NEW – "GREEN & SMART"

Stunning executive home surround by nature and located adjacent to the golf course in prestigious Aurora. 10ft main floor & 9ft upper floor smooth ceilings. Upgraded cabinetry, quartz & granite countertops, high-end appliances, "Green" and "Smart" features & so much more! Close & all amenities, Highway & GO Station. Call now for all the details! Offered at \$3,000,000



LUXURY PRIME RESIDENCE – BRADFORD

Exquisite 4-bed home on prime lot. Bright layout, 9 ft ceilings, 2-storey foyer. Open-concept kitchen, stainless-steel appliances. Cozy family room, hardwood floors, fireplace. Luxurious master suite, 5-piece ensuite. Finished basement with bathroom, ready for kitchen setup. Perfectly located near restaurants, parks, schools. Offered at \$1,278,000.



PRIME SERENITY IN UNIONVILLE

Don't miss this 3-bed, 3-bath Unionville home for first-timers, families, or downsizers. Open-concept living, hardwood, stone fireplace. Serene backyard, interlocking patio. Primary bedroom, ensuite, walk-in closet, tranquil view. Finished basement adds living, storage. Offered at \$799,000



PRIME 2.5 ACRE LOCATION IN AURORA

Attention Developers, Builders and Investors! Future Redevelopment Potential. High Profile Location in The Heart of Prestigious Aurora. 297 Ft Frontage, More Than 2.5 Acres. Private Grounds With Pond & Waterfall. Offered at \$4,500,000.



100 ACRES – HWY 48 & HWY 12

Golden Opportunity for Land Investment! 100 Acres located at Hwy 48 & Hwy 12 with approx. 2000ft frontage! Just mins from amenities and a just a short 1hr drive to the GTA. Call today for more info. Offered at only \$748,000.



TRANQUIL LUXURY IN KING

Distinctive 4 Bed 6 Bath Upgraded Residence In Sought After Carrying Places Estates. Situated On a 1.8+ Acre Pie Shaped Lot With Over 5000 Sq Ft Of Luxury Living Space. Vaulted Ceilings Throughout Main Floor, Upper Level Sunroom, Private Interior Courtyard. Call today for more details.



GOLDEN 93-ACRE SUBDIVISION OPPORTUNITY

Attention Builders and Developers! An exceptional opportunity awaits: 93 pristine acres primed for subdivision in York Region – Whitchurch-Stouffville. With charts, layout, and testing completed, it's ready for subdivision application. Close proximity to Aurora GO Station, surrounded by existing subdivisions. This is your chance for building or a savvy investment. Call today for more details.



50' WATERFRONT – PRIVATE

Breathtaking Sunrises & Sunsets! No Need for a Cottage with this Captivating all-year round entertainer's home with multiple walk-outs & nestled into extra large lot on Musselman's Lake. Deeded waterfront with lakeside cabin & dock. Just 10 Mins to Go Train, 40 Mins to Downtown Toronto. Don't Wait! Lots to Do & Memories to Make! Offered at \$1,400,000.

WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE



For a **FREE** home evaluation or more information on Real Estate, please call or email us.

如需免费房屋评估或更多房地产信息，请致电或发送电子邮件给我们。



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