

IN GOOD COMPANY: An exciting Spring!

By Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

Spring brings a whirlwind of activity to communities, and Aurora is no exception. After a protracted winter, it's nice to get out and participate in the many events taking place around Town.

I had the privilege of acting as Master of Ceremonies at our annual Community Recognition and Citizen of the Year Awards event, which took place at the Aurora Seniors' Centre on Monday, May 26. This ceremony, which combined the previously separate events, acknowledged and celebrated outstanding contributions by volunteers and civic-minded residents.

We had a full-house for this year's event, and I would like to thank all our Community Recognition Award recipients and 2014 Citizen of the Year, Beverley Wood for their selfless service to our community. Your efforts make Aurora an even better place to live, work and play.

I hope you have the opportunity to participate in the exciting activities in June. The annual Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Festival takes place on Sunday, June 1, which showcases the many goods and services offered by our merchants. Please feel free to stop by the Town's booth for information on municipal programs and services.

I am very excited about the arrival of Prince Andrew, Duke of York, on Thursday, June 5. The Colonel in Chief of Aurora's Queens York Rangers will be commemorating new battle honours received by the regiment and unveil a new plaque for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park.

On June 6 and 7, I will be participating again in the Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life, just off Wellington Street East on Magna Drive. This is a great event in support of a very worthy cause. If you can't participate, please consider a donation.

On a sad note, it was with disgust I learned that people are fraudulently going door-to-door asking for donations in support of Aurora United Church. Please be aware that the church is NOT soliciting funds by going door-to-door. Those interested in assisting the rebuilding efforts can make a donation at the BMO Bank branch located at 15252 Yonge Street. The account is ?Aurora United Church Rebuilding Fund,? number 0303-8976-766.

On a positive note, in the wake of the Aurora United Church fire, the congregation has forged new ties with Trinity Anglican Church, which has provided space for a Sunday church service at 11 a.m. As a special thanks, both congregations will be hosting a combined service in Town Park on Sunday, June 15. All are welcome.

With a provincial election only two weeks away, I encourage all eligible voters to exercise their democratic rights, have their voices heard and vote on Thursday, June 12. This election will determine a new representative for the riding of Newmarket-Aurora, with veteran MPP Frank Klees retiring at the end of this term.

I would like to wish all the candidates good luck on election night, and send thanks once more to Frank Klees for his service. For twenty years, Frank has been a strong voice at Queen's Park, staunchly advocating for the interests of his constituents and adding thoughtful insight and commentary to public policy matters. All the best for a well-deserved break, Frank!

As a final note, I would like to invite everyone to participate in our upcoming Canada Day celebrations. Festivities kick-off on Monday, June 30 with Celebrate Aurora ? Dance in the Park at Town Park, followed by our Canada Day parade and celebrations at Lambert Willson Park on Tuesday, July 1. Be sure to check out the live entertainment, fireworks and finals of Aurora Teen Idol. See you there!