

## Mayor thanks Aurora for support following fire

By now, you have probably seen, heard or read about the devastating fire at Aurora United Church, which occurred on Friday, April 11. This is a tragic loss for our community, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the congregation.

Aurora is a close-knit community that looks out for its neighbours. I was quickly reminded of this when calls and emails simply asking 'how can I help?' came within hours of this fire. Tragedy began to turn to hope in the form of an incredible community response with many generous offers of assistance.

There is no doubt that the United Church congregation faces a long road. But the outpouring of sympathy and offers of help from our entire community says they will not have to take that journey alone.

I would like to thank York Regional Police, who evacuated nearby buildings and secured the area; York Region EMS who treated one resident and four firefighters who were exposed to smoke; and Central York Fire Services, who, along with fire services of East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King, Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, and Whitchurch-Stouffville, did their utmost to save the building.

The swift and professional response from all three services contained the fire and prevented any loss of life or serious injuries.

The actions of Aurorans have shown that we truly are a Community of Faith! With ongoing support and co-operation, we will move past this tragedy together.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe  
Aurora