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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 14 No. 37 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of July 17, 2014

Eujung Nam and Kelly Penner take on the roles of Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers "Romeo & Juliet" at Theatre in the Park on Saturday night. The show was produced by the Humber River Shakespeare Company, which has been touring with the show throughout the GTA. It is just the latest in a long-line of fun family events at Town Park this summer. For more of what's on, please see Page 13.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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"No reasonable grounds" to charge officer involved in Aurora shooting: Special Investigations Unit

By Brock Weir

Ontario's Special Investigations Unit has concluded there are "no reasonable grounds" to charge a York Regional Police officer involved in an Aurora shooting this spring with a criminal offence.

A 21-year-old Aurora man was shot by police on April 12, believing he was brandishing a gun as he approached police in the vicinity of Leslie Street and State Farm Way. The gun, however, turned out to be a pellet gun painted to look like the real thing, according to the Special Investigations Unit (SIU).

The SIU released their findings on Monday.

Police were called to the scene at 8.48 p.m. At the time, York Regional Police said via Twitter they were responding to reports of "people shot" but police said there were no other "injured parties" found.

The SIU's report sheds more light on the incident.

"The YRP received a 911 call from a male reporting he had just observed another man shoot a girl and her mother in the vicinity," said Jasbir Brar of SIU communications. "The reported shooting of the girl and her mother did not occur. At 8.53 p.m., the first

officer arrived on the scene. While proceeding eastbound on State Farm Way, he spotted a man coming from across the street with what appeared to be a gun in his right hand.

"The officer made a U-Turn to confront the man. The man approached the officer as the officer brought his vehicle to a stop facing northwest in the westbound lanes of State Farm Way. The officer radioed that he was on the scene with an armed male. He exited his vehicle, drew his firearm, and repeatedly ordered the man to drop his weapon and get on the ground.

"The man did not stop and began to pursue the officer around the police vehicle, with the gun pointed at the officer. A second officer arrived at the scene and saw the officer being chased around the police vehicle by the armed man. The second officer stopped his vehicle west of the first officer's vehicle, exited and also ordered the man to stop, drop his weapon, and get on the ground. The man turned his attention to this second officer. He pointed the gun at the officer and began to advance in his direction, prompting the officer to re-enter his vehicle and reverse westward into the intersection with Leslie Street."

Continued on page 3

Residents continue to line up to fill Council vacancy on July 29

By Brock Weir

Just over a week since registration was thrown open to fill the Council vacancy left by MPP Chris Ballard, a steady stream of Aurora residents have lined up to keep the seat warm.

Councillors will meet on July 29 to hear three-minute pitches from each registered candidate on why they should be appointed to the Council table to serve at the handful of Council meetings from August through until the newly elected Council is sworn in in December. What they will get, if trends continue, is a healthy mix of familiar faces, people seeking election in October; and those with an interest in civic affairs willing to land a hand, but only for a limited period of time.

At press time, those taking the plunge into the vacancy race included Michele Boyer, Mark Etwell, Marilee Harris, Bob McRoberts, Fred Rankel, Srinvas Rao, Linda Stephens and

Continued on page 6

Budding Aurora actress prepares for Stateside debut on Canadian-American sitcom

By Brock Weir

Having used her skills as a debater to take on the world, Aurora's Natalie Ganzhorn is well-versed in being in front of an audience.

Despite many years of experience, and a few trophies to prove it, however, the Country Day School (CDS) student is not quite sure what to expect when perhaps her highest profile role to date plays before a much wider audience stateside on NBC this summer.

Ganzhorn, who starts Grade 11 at CDS in September; finished a guest shot on the Canadian-American sitcom "Working the Engels", starring actress Andrea Martin earlier this year. The 13-episode first season of the show aired on Global TV this spring and made its American debut on the "Peacock Network" last Thursday.

In her guest-shot, Natalie portrays an aspiring lawyer named Tracy, who has always found an idol in Jenna Engel, played by Kacey Rohl. For the uninitiated, "Working the Engels" follows a

Continued on page 7

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, July 29	TBA*	Special Council
Tuesday, July 29	7 p.m.	Council
Monday, August 11	7 p.m.	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, August 12	6 p.m.	Special General Committee – Audit Committee
Tuesday, August 12	7 p.m.	Council
Thursday, August 14	7 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment

*To be announced

Meetings are open to the public and held at Aurora Town Hall. Council meetings can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca



The next municipal election in The Town of Aurora will be held on **Monday, October 27**. Nominations are now open and forms can be viewed and downloaded online at www.aurora.ca/vote2014

Residents are encouraged to educate themselves on the election process and the candidates running for office. Have your voice heard on election day and vote!

This year, the Town will also ask residents to vote on the following two questions on the ballot:

1. "Are you in favour of electing all Aurora councillors, other than the Mayor, by ward vote instead of general Town-wide vote?"
2. "Are you in favour of reducing the number of Aurora councillors, other than the Mayor, from eight (8) councillors to six (6) councillors?"

Are you registered to vote on October 27? Go to www.voterlookup.ca



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Aurora Public Library

Drop-in Family Storytime

Parents, grandparents and caregivers are invited to visit the APL on **Saturday, July 19** for Family Storytime. Explore the magic of books, songs and rhymes with your children from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Optimist Room.

Drop-in LEGO Day

Children ages five years and older are invited to drop-in and enjoy free creative building fun at the APL on **Wednesday, July 23** from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet new friends and work together to make amazing LEGO creations!

Dogs: Paintings by Kim Steffen

Visit the Colleen Abbott Gallery until **Saturday, August 9** to experience this fun and funky art show in the pop art style. With vibrant colours and adorable dogs, it is sure to be a hit with the entire family!

Summer Youth Drop-In Activities

Tuesday, July 15 to Friday, August 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Youth ages 12 to 16 are invited to Aurora Senior Public School, located at 125 Wellington Street West, for exciting drop-in activities including basketball, badminton, arts and crafts, scrapbooking and movies. Cost is \$3 per activity or purchase a Youth Drop-In Pass. For more information, please call 905-726-4770 ext. 3121.



Flipside Skateboard Park

The Flipside Skateboard Park is a mobile park designed for drop-in use by skateboarders, in-line skaters, BMX bikers and scooters. Drop by to sharpen your skills, learn new tricks and hang out with your friends.

Summer Schedule

June 30 to Thursday, August 7
Monday to Friday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre Ice Pad

Friday, August 8 to Friday, August 29
Monday to Friday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Aurora Community Centre parking lot

Town of Aurora Summer Camps



It's not too late to enrol your child in a Town of Aurora Summer Camp! Our camps are well-planned, creative and an enthusiastic place for your child to spend their summer days. The Town of Aurora's qualified staff are committed to preparing safe and enjoyable programs to ensure all children have a summer filled with friends, fun and laughter!

With more than 30 camps to choose from, your child can spend the summer exploring their interests and developing their talents. There is a camp for every child! Call 905-841-PLAY (7529) or visit www.aurora.ca for more information.

Smoke Alarm Campaign

The campaign is back this summer to serve Newmarket and Aurora residents. Service includes the installation and replacement of smoke alarms, batteries, as well as providing household fire safety knowledge. For more information, or to arrange an appointment, please call 905-895-9222.

REMINDERS

Debris on Roads

Homeowners constructing pools or undertaking other building projects are reminded to keep roads, sidewalks and rights-of-way (the Town-owned section of property bordering the road) free of construction debris. Keeping these areas free from bricks, timber, soil and other materials is essential to pedestrian and traffic safety. Construction permits do not allow storage of these materials anywhere except your property.

Outdoor Water Use Bylaw

The Town of Aurora enforces a municipal bylaw related to outdoor water use. It is important that all residents and businesses observe the regulations, as they have been put into place to ensure a continued abundant water supply. Even/odd watering restrictions are in effect.

Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw

The Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw is in effect. All residents should be cleaning up debris on their property and keeping grass no longer than eight inches. Let's keep Aurora looking beautiful!

For more information on these and other Town bylaws, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4240 or visit www.aurora.ca/bylaws

CONCERTS in the park

7 P.M. TO 9 P.M. | AURORA TOWN PARK (WELLS STREET AND MOSLEY STREET)

CONCERT LINE-UP

ALL CONCERTS ARE FREE!

July 9 SONSHINE & BROCCOLI

This fun-filled action-packed interactive concert gets children (and parents) on their feet and singing along.

July 16 TARTAN TERRORS

Bringing traditional celtic music, mixed with rock 'n roll and blended with their own unique Scottish comedy. A night not to be missed!

July 23 TRIBUTE TO ELTON JOHN BENNY AND THE JETS

Tribute artist Jeff Scott has the voice, the performance & the costumes! Enjoy hits like "Don't Go Breaking My Heart," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," & many more.

July 30 EH440

This a cappella group is unforgettable with their combination of beatboxing, sassy harmonies and fresh R&B.

August 6 THE SATTALITES

This Toronto-based Juno Award-winning reggae group will deliver great music for a hot summer night.

August 13 THE JERSEY BOYS TRIBUTE

Join us for a memorable Jersey Boys tribute performed by Pauly and the Goodfellas.

August 20 LES SMITH - FRESH HORSES

Join us for the ultimate tribute performance to Garth Brooks! Don't miss this evening of high-energy country music.

August 27 GREEN RIVER CCR

The best loved music of Creedence Clearwater Revival – a fun night of country rock and all their greatest hits.

CHARITABLE BBQ BY M&M MEAT SHOPS ON SITE!

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ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORS



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.AURORA.CA/SUMMERCONCERTS OR CALL 905-726-4762

*A nominal fee applies. Concerts are weather-permitting. We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities

MOVIES in the park

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RETRO REPLAY WEEKEND

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Saturday, August 2
RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (PG 13)
Aurora Town Park (Wells Street and Mosley Street)



Sunday, August 3
FOOTLOOSE (PG 13)
Aurora Town Park (Wells Street and Mosley Street)

CHARITABLE BBQ BY M&M MEAT SHOPS & MORE!

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END OF SUMMER SUPERHERO PARTY

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Tuesday, August 26
MAN OF STEEL (PG 13)
Hickson Park (Borealis Avenue and Conover Avenue)

THIS MOVIE IS SPONSORED BY



Thursday, August 28
SPIDER-MAN (PG 13)
Norm Weller Park (McClellan Way)

Enjoy activities including a bouncy castle, craft making and a few surprises! Come dressed as your favourite superhero for the chance to win a prize! 6 P.M. TO 8 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.AURORA.CA/MOVIESINTHEPARK OR CALL 905-726-4762

*A nominal fee applies. Movies are weather-permitting. We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities

PUBLIC NOTICES

Highway 404 Closure Notice

Please be advised that the northbound lanes of Highway 404 from Aurora Road to Green Lane will be closed for construction from **Monday, July 21 to Friday, July 25** during the following times:

- July 21 to July 24 from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- July 25 from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m.

2014 Fall Parks and Recreation Guide

Look for your copy of the 2014 Fall Parks and Recreation Guide being delivered in *The Banner* newspaper on **Sunday, July 20**. Copies will also be available for pick-up at various Town facilities, as well as online at www.aurora.ca as of **Monday, July 21**.

Vacancy on Aurora Council

As a result of the election of Chris Ballard to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario following the June 12, 2014 provincial election, there is a vacancy in the office of Councillor for The Town of Aurora. On **June 24, 2014** Aurora Council officially declared the seat vacant and adopted a procedure to appoint a qualified individual to serve as Councillor until the end of the current term of Council (**November 30, 2014**).

Any eligible elector can submit an application to be appointed Councillor. Applications must be submitted in person between **Monday, July 7, 2014 and Friday, July 18, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.**

To be considered for appointment, a person must be at the time of their application:

- At least 18 years of age; and
- A Canadian citizen; and
- A resident of Aurora, or own or rent property in Aurora; an individual may also be the spouse of an owner or renter of property in Aurora; and
- Not prohibited from running or being appointed to municipal office by law.

More information about the Councillor vacancy, including the required documentation and application forms can be found on the Town's website (www.aurora.ca/councilvacancy) or from:

Stephen M.A. Huycke, Town Clerk
Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1
Email: shuycke@aurora.ca
Phone: 905-726-4771

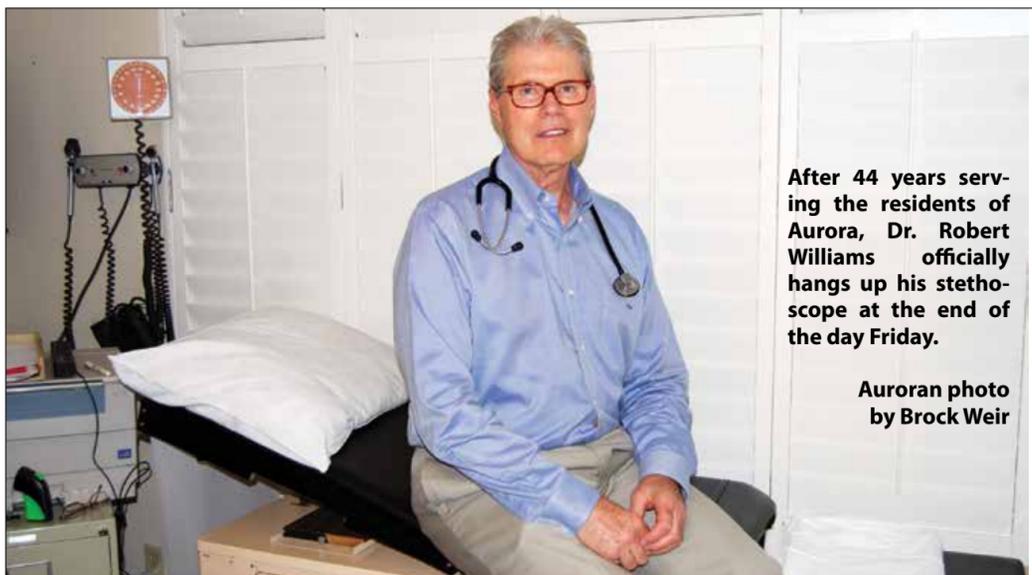
Sidewalk Repairs

Residents are advised that The Town of Aurora is completing sidewalk repairs. Work is ongoing for the next few months during normal working hours. If any residents will be affected, making their driveway inaccessible for more than one night, notice will be provided. For more information, please contact Kevin Vande Beek at kvandebeek@aurora.ca or 905-727-3123 ext. 3459.

Seasonal Weekend GO Train Service

GO Train service along the Barrie GO line will continue until **Monday, September 1**.

The schedule includes four daily round trips on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. For more information, please visit www.gotransit.com/seasonal



After 44 years serving the residents of Aurora, Dr. Robert Williams officially hangs up his stethoscope at the end of the day Friday.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

After coming to practice family medicine for 12 months, Williams wraps up 44 year career

By Brock Weir

Robert Williams arrived in Aurora in 1970 as a young general practitioner intending to stay for a year or so before moving onto the second phase in his career as a plastic surgeon.

44 years later, and after caring for four generations of Aurora residents from his general practice on Yonge Street, Dr. Williams will officially hang up his stethoscope this Friday.

"If someone has been around for 44 years, that means, when I started, a 20-year-old patient is now 64," he says, with a degree of wonder. "That is a whole umbrella of their life. When I started to think about retirement, I realised that for us doctors, it is not just a job. We get into people's lives and that is a privilege and an honour."

Giving up this honour, he says, has not been an easy decision, but a decision he had to make. It is not that he is tired of it, but after five decades of long days and nights, the things he still wants to accomplish are starting to mount up.

When he eventually made the decision, one of his key considerations was making sure his patients could find a new physician. Just over a handful of years ago, it was very difficult to find a doctor, but once he started talking about his impending retirement last summer, other doctors have since come out of the woodwork to take in new patients.

It is a far cry from the community he came to as a doctor in his early 20s, spending what he thought was a one year commitment working at the practice of Dr. Rose in what is now Yellow Brick House. With a goal of becoming a GP, Dr. Williams says he thought the most sensible route was to look outside of Toronto for a practice as there would be a better chance of looking after one's own patients.

After exploring options in Oakville and Burlington, and even as far north as Port Carling, he and his wife decided that Aurora was the place. Back then, GPs were jacks-of-all-trades to their

community as far as healthcare was concerned. Walk-in clinics were still a few years away and community doctors took it in turns to be on call certain nights and when others weren't able to otherwise cover their own patients.

Bayview Avenue was still a dirt road and one could get from Aurora to what is now Southlake in relative lightning speed compared to today's traffic.

"I stayed [with Dr. Rose] for about 11 years and I decided I needed my own place," he says of his present office, which became operational in 1980. "I live above the shop and that has worked out really well. Although I was just going to do it for a year, I thought I was suited to be a general physician and here I am 44 years later."

Since 1978, Dr. Williams has gone beyond the role of a traditional doctor. Although he was one of the rare ones who still made occasional house calls to long-time patients who were unable to come and see him, his repertoire expanded into cognitive behavioural therapy, meditation, hypnotherapy, and, more recently, Botox and fillers.

Regardless of innovation in the medical field, cosmetic or otherwise, however, he maintains the most important thing for a doctor is to actually listen to their patients.

"What I am probably going to miss the most is the interaction with the patients," he says. "That is the fun part of the day. If you talk to my patients, they'll probably say, 'He's always behind' and that has been me all my career. Most of that is because if someone needs the time then, within reason, I want to give them the time. That is why I am here."

"I think the biggest thrill for me is the four generations because that is how it all started. A lady who is having a baby [was here recently and] I said, 'Do you realise I have looked after your grandmother, I looked after your mother, I delivered you, and now I am seeing your kids?' That takes a doctor being here, the patient being here, and I don't think that is going to happen anymore here."

Shooting victim ignored multiple calls to put down weapon: investigation

From page 1

Ms. Brar notes it was unknown to police officers at the time that the male in question was brandishing not a standard firearm, but a pellet gun. As he approached the second officer, two further officers arrived in police SUVs surrounding the area, including the officer in question through this investigation.

"The third officer and the subject officer exited their vehicles, drew their weapons and repeatedly ordered the man to drop his gun," said Ms. Brar. "The third officer was armed with a shotgun and the subject officer was armed with a rifle. The man changed course, turned left and made his way towards the third officer and the subject officer, with the gun raised in his right hand and pointed at the officers. He did not comply with the officers' commands to stop. When he neared to about the car's length of their position, both officers discharged their firearms."

The man was shot around 8:55 p.m., seven minutes after the 911 call received. After being transported to Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital, he was pronounced dead at 2:41 a.m.

Following the incident, the SIU tasked five investigators and three forensic investigators to get to the bottom of the incident. They later questioned 10 civilian witnesses and 12 officers, but the "subject officer" did not do an interview with the SIU or hand

over his notes. This, the SIU notes, is his legal right.

In a statement, Tony Loparco, Director of the SIU, said he was "satisfied" the two officers that opened fire "reasonably believed their lives were in danger and a resort to lethal force was necessary to preserve themselves."

"As it turns out, the man was not wielding a firearm during the incident... however, the officers cannot be faulted for having perceived the object as a legitimate firearm. Its red-tipped barrel and clear side had been painted black and made to look like an authentic gun. They had every reason to believe their lives were in imminent risk. Having ignored multiple calls to stop and drop his weapon, the officers were well within their rights to shoot as the man neared to within a car's length of their location."

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Briefly

HABERER COMES BACK WITH HARDWARE

Aurora athlete Mary Haberer is coming back to Aurora from Vancouver, BC, this week with more medals to add to her impressive resume. The Special Olympian, who was competing this time around as a swimmer, was in Vancouver taking part in Canada's Special Olympics Summer Games. She brings home a Silver medal in 100m Freestyle, a Bronze medal for the 200m Freestyle, and a Bronze in the 25m Butterfly. Ms. Haberer also placed fourth in the 400m Freestyle. In addition to swimming, Mary is also an avid baseball player and golfer. For full results, visit www.vancouver2014.com.

RIBFEST HEADLINER TO BE ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK

There was expected to be an extra splash of excitement at this week's Concert in the Park as Mayor Geoffrey Dawe prepared to announce the acts headlining this September's Ribfest. Slated to be announced during the performance of the Celtic group the Tartan Terrors, the headliners will take the main stage at Machell Park during Ribfest on Friday, September 5 and Saturday, September 6. Ribfest runs from September 5 - September 7, and concerts begin at 9 p.m. Age of majority for Ribfest kicks in at 8 p.m. The headlining bands are made possible through a grant from Central Counties Tourism. For more on the Mayor's announcement, visit www.theauroran.com.

47 CHARGES LAID IN ANTI-STREET RACING PROJECT

York Regional Police laid 47 charges last weekend through Project ERASE - Eliminating Racing Activity on Streets Everywhere. Between Friday and Sunday, officers within the Traffic Enforcement Bureau, the Air Support Unit, and Community Oriented Response Units fanned out to locate, stop, and inspect vehicles observed driving at high rates of speed "or that may be involved in illegal street racing activities." 38 vehicles were stopped throughout York Region through the program, resulting in 47 charges.



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Letters to the editor

Doctor has set the example of what a family doctor should be

It is with both sadness and congratulations I submit this letter – my first to a newspaper.

On July 30, 2014, Dr. Robert Williams will be retiring from his family practice in Aurora.

We moved to Aurora in 1972 and had the good fortune to meet a young physician who has guided our family through the challenges of life. Bob is indeed the guiding example of what a family doctor should be.

From those early years to now, he has never varied. He has always been there. This even includes a home visit to care for one of our children.

Recently, I had to wait for Bob for my appointment as he was visiting one of his senior patients who couldn't come into the office. Waiting to see Bob has become a ritual as his office is always crowded with his life-long patients.

We, his medical family, understand this. That's because he never says "no."

It's because Bob has always cared and took the time with each one of us. He has been so integral to the Aurora community. It is difficult to believe he won't be there anymore.

We will all miss you, Bob. You are the template for our young doctors. You have been both a physician and a friend.

Congratulations to both you and Kathy, Bob's invaluable nurse, for the many years of service to families in Aurora.

Enjoy your retirement, the Blue Jays, and the cottage – you deserve the best!

Best wishes and thank you.

Sandy and Ernie Dubkowski
Aurora

Mayor – and Auroran – are doing what is expected of them: reader

(Re: Election season must be here, says reader. July 10, 2014)

In the July 3 edition of The Auroran, Nathalie Schacher-Deviller implies that The Auroran is somehow "stacking the deck" in favour of the current Mayor.

Presumably, this is at the expense of Councillor Gallo, the only other declared candidate for the office of Mayor.

In fact, The Auroran is simply reporting on what is, and has been happening since Geoff Dawe took office in December of 2010. This includes his attendance at literally hundreds of events - those same events that Ms. Schacher-Deviller points out in her letter. The list should also include the numerous fundraisers as well.

Attending these events is a major part of the function of an elected official - Mayor and Councillors.

The real question here is why are there no – well, hardly any – pictures of Councillor Gallo in The Auroran? Canada Day? No. Santa Under the Stars? Any of the four 150th celebration events? No.

I suggest Ms. Schacher-Deviller go back and review previous copies of The Auroran. She will see that the Mayor is doing what is expected in his role, and that The Auroran is doing what is expected in its role. She will also be able to pick out the Councillors who are and have been actively engaged since the start of this term.

Cheryl Simpkin
Aurora

Art imitates life at "Veggie Stock"

Aurora Town Park hosted a beautiful sunny day of artistic life with fun activities on Saturday, July 5, bringing together local farmers of the Aurora Farmers' Market, artists and musicians for Art In The Park and the Veggie Stock Festival, along with the partnership of Kerry's Place's 40th Anniversary Celebration and Appreciation Day.

Dignitaries MP Lois Brown, Deputy Mayor John Abel, Councillor Sandra Humphreys, Jennifer Rightmyer, fundraising assistant of Kerry's Place Autism Services, Anna Kroepflin, chair of the Aurora Farmers' Market, families, friends, photo press and volunteers all enjoyed Art In The Park - Veggie Stock 2014.

It was indeed a pleasure to once again coordinate Art In The Park, bringing in the visual artists and bands. I enjoyed the many friendships and memories this day brought. Thank you to all the following participants which made Art In The Park - Veggie Stock 2014 a great event:

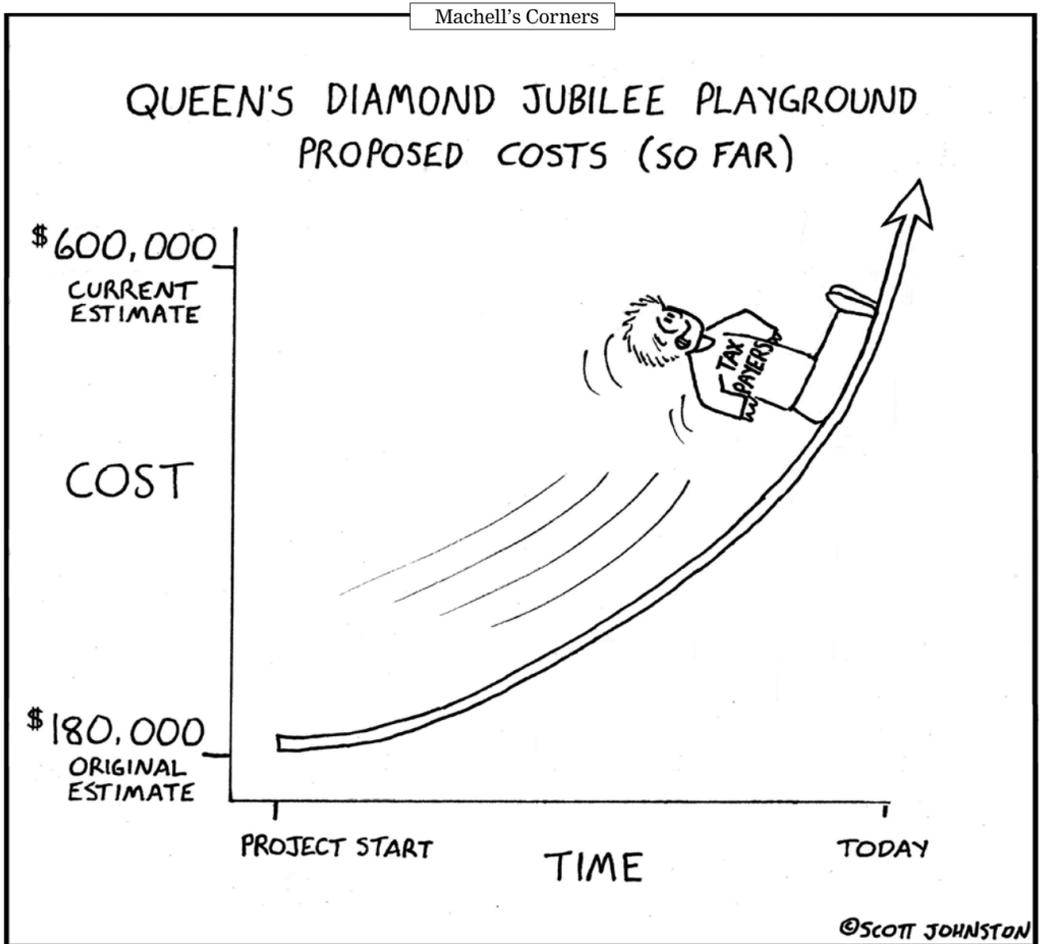
Opening Ceremony Native Drum and Song from First Nations - honouring the water: Vivian Recollet with her granddaughter Faith from Ojibwa tribe along with drummers Pamela McNeill & Sabine Ellen.

Art In The Park Artists: Marianna Badescu, Deborah Campo, Sharon Kolinsky, Najma Kausar, Anna Kroepflin, Laurie Larson, Pamela McNeill, Sabine Ellen Mayer, Amir Masoud Oveissian, Ben Tipton &, Malcolm Watts, Face Painting: Ryta Iannello, Crafters: Linda Lehman, Nancy Wood

Veggie Stock Festival Band Performers: Wandering Town Park Musician Alex Nugent, Patty McLaughlin With The Song Circle Musicians, Magic Duda - Magician Corey Clarke and Katherine Lynn Kirby.

Thank you also to our farmers.

Deborah Campo
Aurora



To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com.
Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Go ahead, make our day!



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

Does your mind ever run wild when you have a bit of found money burning a hole in your pocket?

General wisdom says found money should be spent on something flashy, something one wouldn't ordinarily buy for one's self, and sometimes the temptations can be overwhelming.

When you have a bit of unexpected cash smouldering away on your person, who isn't tempted to spend it on a whim? You might buy something, but, for some, an ingrained sense of prudence kicks in, causing you to grudgingly fold the money back into your wallet, knowing what you eventually do with it should be sensible – fun be damned.

Sometimes the money can cause the imagination go into overdrive with the possibilities. It could inspire otherwise atrophied strategizing muscles to kick in and ponder the best path forward, how you can achieve all you want while, perhaps (and that is a big "perhaps") sticking to the moral fibre you have purported to have all the way along.

I wonder in which camp Prime Minister Stephen Harper sits now that he has nine empty seats to fill in the Canadian Senate, ostensibly our chamber of sober second thought.

Although he has been a vocal advocate for elected Senators, until now he doesn't seem to have had any hesitation in backtracking on that principle to fill vacancies as they became available to suit whatever end he had in mind.

For some reason, however, he appears to have reached a crossroads. With nine seats ripe for the picking – and a tenth not far behind as Senators age out of their roles at 75 – the vacancies no longer seem to be burning a hole in the pocket of his ill-tailored suit. Something else has kicked in, but what that game plan is remains to be seen.

According to the CBC this past weekend, Senators within the Prime Minister's own Conservative caucus are calling for him to get into gear and fill those seats, citing a garden variety of reasons, including the balance of provincial representation in the Red Chamber being thrown out of whack, perceived Conservative vulnerabilities, and a potential "power vacuum" creeping into the picture not far down the road.

On the other hand, at least one politician has weighed in on the possible end game. According to the CBC, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall is not opposed to letting the Senate "wither on the vine."

"Atrophy is not a bad end game as well for the Senate as far as we're concerned," he told the national broadcaster. "We don't think the Prime Minister should be in any particular hurry to appoint any senators. We just think this institution is not relevant [and it's] unelected. It's a long goodbye, but it is a goodbye."

AND, NOW, HERE AT HOME...

The next question is obviously whether the Prime Minister has any obligation – constitutional or otherwise – to fill those vacancies to keep an integral part of the Federal government in check. (Integral as far as the Constitution goes, to any readers vehemently opposed to the Senate itself). The general consensus appears to be no, but that is not a uniform opinion.

The same cannot be said for humble Aurora where people across Town, whether seasoned politicians, aspiring politicians, and even armchair politicians, are weighing their options on whether to put their names forward for the July 29 meeting which will decide just who is going to fill the vacancy left by Newmarket-Aurora's new MPP Chris Ballard.

It has been a steady stream of registrations so far of individuals vying to make their pitch to Mayor Dawe and the remaining seven Councillors, confirming their intentions to sign up, and confirming their intentions to consider signing up.

I'm confident in predicting Council will have a

healthy number of residents to choose from but, unlike the Mike Duffys of this world, just hoping their Senate ship will eventually sail in, our local candidates (potential or otherwise) can rest easy, sure in the knowledge our Council is obligated under the confines of the Municipal Act to fill that vacancy by August.

Some might not like that fact – and many have spoken out about it, not just around the Council table, but also in these pages – but it is a fact nonetheless. The question that has not gone fully answered, however, is although Council is bound to fill the slot under the Municipal Act, just what can the Province do if the Town decided to thumb its collective nose at the rule.

IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?

Councillor Evelyn Buck took one for the team and asked the obvious question about filling the vacancy at the last Council meeting before the summer recess. It was quite simple: "What would be the penalty if we don't?"

The answer from Town Solicitor Warren Mar was equally straightforward, but it provided as much clarity as answers offered in the Federal senate debate.

"If Council didn't fill the vacancy, presumably the Minister of Municipal Affairs could start an action to force Council to fill the vacancy," he said. "Alternatively, a resident may take the Town to court to force the Town to fill a vacancy by virtue of the fact it has violated the Municipal Act."

So, the options – or lack thereof – are pretty straightforward, but let's also be realistic. If the Minister of Municipal Affairs could "start an action to force Council to fill the vacancy", or if a resident can bring forward their own lawsuit to force the Town's hand, what is the likelihood that would all be wrapped up in a neat little package by the time the October 27 municipal election rolls around?

From my vantage point in the Council Chamber Press Box, I can only see the footwear of, from left to right, Councillors Paul Pirri, Wendy Gaertner, Sandra Humphreys, and Michael Thompson and, truth be told, none of the four appeared to be quaking in their boots at the possibilities.

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

By the time Mr. Mar wrapped up his list of consequences Aurora could face if it didn't fulfil its obligation to keep Mr. Ballard's seat warm before October 27, I have to admit to finding the possibilities a little bit anticlimactic. As soon as Councillor Buck asked the question, I had visions along the lines of Premier Wynne being forced to step in and become involved in Aurora's affairs if we violated the Act, as she was considering when Toronto's Ford-mania neared its frenzied climax.

... or a suspension of Aurora's rights as a municipality, making us the wards of a babysitter in the form of the Province of Ontario or the Region of York.

...or handing over Aurora's authority to neighbouring Newmarket, King, Richmond Hill, or Whitchurch-Stouffville as a penance for crossing the Municipal Act.

...or sending out a Provincial bureaucrat to come in and sit in the seat.

...or, horror of horrors, forcing an amalgamation with Newmarket, our seemingly better behaved brother to the north, as far as the province might be concerned.

Unfortunately, those exciting possibilities that would jazz up my life – and yours – don't seem to be on the table. The best we could hope for was yet another lawsuit from two possible sides and, if we want to be honest with ourselves, that has become relatively pedestrian for Aurora.

If that's the biggest threat hanging over our collective heads, it begs the question whether this is all worth the effort.

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NEW AURORAN POLL

Aurora will have a new Councillor on July 29. In their deliberations, what factors would you like to see Councillors take into consideration when making their choice?

- a) Experience b) Fresh blood c) Vision d) Other
(send your suggestions to letters@auroran.com)

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

Now that the new Provincial government is sworn in, how do you feel about the direction Ontario is going? a) Positive b) Negative c) Indifferent

RESULTS JULY 15, 2014	A	B	C
	32%	53%	16%



Before the World Cup Final on Sunday afternoon, Alyssa Mallany, Breanna Badger, and Jocelyn Mallany, served up some popcorn, iced tea, lemonade and Kool-Aid to customers Brennen and Giacomo, at their Baywell Crescent lemonade stand to raise money for the Hospital for Sick Children.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Ottawa Report



LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

Saving lives through Vanessa's Law
The Government of Canada has welcomed amendments to strengthen transparency in the proposed patient safety legislation Vanessa's Law (Bill C-17). The amendments to Bill C-17 would enable Health Canada to continue strengthening its Regulatory Transparency and Openness Framework that was announced in April of this year.

The framework commits Health Canada to a set of concrete initiatives that would make easy to understand regulatory health and safety information more available to Canadians. With this information, Canadians can make well-informed decisions concerning their health and that of their families. Once implemented, Vanessa's Law will save innumerable lives each year in Canada, and prevent tens of thousands of injuries.

Strengthening Canadian Citizenship

The recently passed *Strengthening Canadian Citizenship Act* will help protect the value of Canadian citizenship, while continuing to improve the efficiency of our immigration system.

The Act extends the residency requirements for citizenship applicants to four of the six previous years and requires more applicants to meet specific requirements to help ensure they can fully participate in Canadian society.

The integrity of our system will be strengthened with stronger penalties for citizenship fraud and the power to retract citizenship for dual nationals convicted of terrorism, high treason or spying offences. Applications will be fast tracked for permanent residents who serve in the Canadian Armed Forces and citizenship will be extended to children born to Canadian parents serving abroad as servants of the Crown.

These changes are a reflection of the belief that Canadian citizenship is not just a passport of convenience. Rather, Canadian citizenship comes with rights and responsibilities, and a commitment to Canada and Canadian values. We remain committed to helping to ensure our immigration system serves Canadian interests.

Equalization and Ontario

Federal transfer funding to Ontario has increased to a record \$19.2-billion during this time; up 76%, which is 35%

above the national average increase.

There are three main transfer payments to provincial governments: the Canada Health Transfer, Canada Social Transfer and Equalization. The Equalization program was created to transfer money to "have not" provinces whose economies are performing below the national average. Equalization, which is built into Canada's Constitution, is designed to help less prosperous provinces provide similar levels of public services at comparable levels of taxation to others. It will total \$16.7-billion in 2014-15, up 53% since 2005-06. Since it operates on a mathematical formula, government does not decide how it should be divided up among the provinces. Ontario had never collected Equalization money until 2009. In 2013-14, Ontario received over \$3.1 billion in equalization payments. Federal transfers accounted for about 17 percent of Ontario's revenues in that year.

Commemorating the Centennial of World War I

This year marks the beginning of the centennial of the First World War. Canadians made incredible contributions during this important chapter in world history and the occasion provides a unique opportunity to celebrate Canada's proud military history and to honour all those who served. Through the selfless service and sacrifices of an entire generation, Canada established itself as an independent force on the global stage. In all, more than 650,000 Canadians served overseas, and hundreds of thousands of others worked on the home front to support the war effort.

Canada will participate in commemorative events to mark the centennial of the First World War including the Bastille Day Military Parade in France this July. Our government remains committed to recognizing the tremendous sacrifices and achievements of Canada's Veterans, who fought to protect Canadian values of freedom, democracy and rule of law. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Legions and Veterans Associations in Newmarket-Aurora for their support of our Veterans, and their tireless efforts in organizing several public commemorations each year, so that we may never forget.

If you would like to contact me on any issue, please call 905-953-7515 or visit my website at www.loisbrown.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.

POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Truth...and consequences

Poor Rob Ford has resumed his albeit limited duties as Mayor of Toronto for only a week and things have gone south rather quickly.

From his sobriety coach's alleged swift kick to the rear of a protestor, to Mayor Ford's odd refusal to join a standing ovation in the Council chambers, it's been a bad week by even Ford standards. Story after story of disastrous outings, ill-advised pronouncements and just plain head-scratchingly stupid behaviour. Not sure what he learned in rehab, but it certainly wasn't media relations...

However, before we revel in our collective sense of schadenfraude – yet again – we should remember that he is still the Mayor of Canada's largest city. And the Office of Mayor – if not the person – does at least deserve some respect. Yes, Ford is still Ford and while he does bring the bulk of the problems on himself, some of the press's fixations truly do go beyond the pale.

The press seem hell-bent on going after Ford regardless of the cost. And the cost of breaching the confidentiality of Ford's rehab experience will be significant – for current and future patients of Greenstone, or any treatment facility for that matter, certainly if one is "famous" or infamous as the case may be.

The success of rehab, AA, or psychological support for addictions of any kind is predicated on absolute confidentiality of all involved. All of the aforementioned mental health support systems require the patient to be as vulnerable as possible so as to get to the very root of the issues that are driving their addictions or self-harming behaviours.

Patients reveal their most private thoughts, deepest fears, and painful memories secure in the knowledge that all will be held confidential.

It is thus a shocking betrayal of trust to reveal any of the confidences of the patients. And it can cause real harm as a result.

If you cannot trust that the nursing assistant that hands you your methadone, or the fellow addict who sits across from you in group therapy or the cook who slips you that extra piece of bacon will keep their mouths shut about what transpires within the walls of the facility, then how can you possibly hope to get better?

The folks in rehab are there for a reason. They have hurt a lot of people, themselves included with their addictions. Chances are they have hit rock bottom, or close to it, and desperately need help.

How does it help their recovery to read stories about themselves at their most vulnerable splashed across the front page of national dailies? So what if they are true (and there's no proof that the stories are true). What do they prove? That Ford was difficult in therapy? Of course he was. He's a difficult personality when drunk, can you imagine what he'd be like when drying out? It's not a surprise.

Confronting difficult truths are part of the therapy, part of the process for every addict. That patients can be difficult – violent even – during that process should not be a judgement against them.

But that is what this is all about. Judgment. How fast we hold to a Puritanical past.

Ford was urged to "get help." And so he did. Yes, rather belatedly, but he did go through the process. Whether

Continued on page 18

The Decision



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

"I'm afraid we have a problem with the nominees for Councillor, Mr. Mayor."

With the recent departure of Councillor Ballard, there was a vacancy on Council. With several months until the next election, the Municipal Act dictated that the Town couldn't leave the seat empty that long. It would have to be filled.

After much discussion, it was decided that the position would be open to any Aurora resident over the age of 18, who wished to apply.

Candidates would be given a few minutes to present their arguments for consideration. The evening of July 29 had been set aside to hear them, and for Council to render a decision.

It was a bother to have to go through all this for the sake of an extra attendee at the few remaining Council meetings of the term, but the Mayor was sure that wasn't the issue the staffer was bringing to his attention.

"What sort of problem?" he sighed.

"There are too many nominees."

"Well, that's a good thing. It'll give us a variety of skillsets to consider, and...wait a minute," he paused, looking the staffer in the eye. "Just how many?"

The man shuffled slightly and cleared his throat.

"3,487."

"What! That many?!"

The staffer counted off on his fingers.

"Maybe it's because there were no restricting qualifications, or it's summer when people have time on their hands, or maybe because it would look good on a resume, or a Fall campaign sign...In any case," he concluded, stating the obvious, "a lot of people decided to apply."

"But three thousand plus..."

"I agree there's no way we could hear them all in one night. In fact, my team crunched the numbers, and if Council listened to nominations for four hours a night, five days a week, we should be able to go through them all by..." he consulted his notes, "November 20".

"November 20!?" spluttered the Mayor.

"That's assuming three minutes of speaking time each, plus a minute and a half for questions, and 30 seconds to line up the next person, plus a few nights off for holidays

and regular Council and Committee meetings, and some time for Council to properly deliberate on the nominees before making a decision."

"But late November ... the election is October 27, and the Act says we have to have someone in place by the end of August."

"Well, we could speed up the process by going 5 hours a night, and throwing in a few week-ends. If we really pushed it, maybe we could be done in late October."

"Well, that obviously won't work, either," said the Mayor. "What other options do we have?"

"We could allocate less time per person."

"Would that save us enough time to do them within say, a week?"

"Well, not really."

The Mayor's office was quiet for a minute as the men thought.

"We could go with the original idea of just choosing the 9th place finisher from the last election."

"No," said the Mayor, rubbing his temples. "We've already committed to this process, and all these people have applied. We can't go back."

The staffer snapped his fingers. "Why not just dispense with the meeting and questions entirely, and evaluate them based on what they included in their applications?"

"Perfect," beamed the Mayor. "Your team could prepare a report and recommendations for Council."

"I'm sorry, but that won't work, Mr. Mayor. The Act specifically says that Council has to make a decision based on its own evaluation."

"You mean..."

"Yes, you and the other Council members will have to go through the applications yourselves," he confirmed, dropping a file box on the Mayor's desk.

The Mayor pulled out a random bunch of papers. "Well, I suppose one box isn't so..."

"I'll have the other 63 boxes brought right up," interjected the staffer, stepping out of the room.

The Mayor sighed again. It was going to be a long two weeks.

Feel free to e-mail Scott at: machellscorners@gmail.com

Another heritage home could be demolished to make way for two

By Brock Weir

The future of another piece of Aurora's residential heritage could be in question over the next few months.

Councillors signed off last month on a request from a local couple to remove 83 George Street from the Town's Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. Going into discussions, Council came to the table facing a recommendation from Aurora's Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) to do the opposite.

In June, the homeowners appeared before HAC, asking that their property be delisted in order to allow the demolition of the home and subdivision of their lot into two to maximise the value of the land.

Although they have kept up with regular maintenance, they argued that bringing the property entirely up to snuff, including the removal of radiators and the installation of air conditioning, would not be cost effective in the end. Due to move, they said removing the restrictions on the property would allow them to ensure they could realise as much potential from their investment as possible.

The home in question was owned by one of the early founders of nearby Collis Leather. As such, the Committee agreed that the house was worthy of preservation. They asked that the owner work with Town Staff to look at relocating the building and ensuring that whatever is built on the land be in "harmony" with the neighbourhood.

Homeowner Stephen Meldrum appeared before Councillors last month to once again state his case. He said the 1915 home reached the lower end of the heritage evaluation spectrum and underscored the size of the lot. The home is on the only double lot in the neighbourhood, which could be used more effectively.

"We have owned the lot since 2006 and have strived to significantly upgrade the property, preserve its heritage, and have done so with some significant funds invested," he said, noting he had accepted a new job in Arizona. "Significant funds are required going forward for the house, be it for ourselves or a new owner. We are looking to sell the property and would like to maximize our return on our only tax-free investment. This is definitely an area that is in transition and we would like to have the flexibility to be able to sever our lot at a later date."

Although Councillor Evelyn Buck said requests for severance should ultimately go to the Committee of

Adjustment rather than the Heritage Advisory Committee, she said she was not going to stand in their way, noting she had no problem with homeowners recognizing ways to maximise their potential value.

"I don't see the Town's role as to hinder anyone, and I think this recommendation of the Heritage Advisory Committee does that," she said.

At the last Council meeting of June, Council followed through with their previous decision to de-list the property, but added a proviso to ensure that whether the house is maintained by the new owners, or whether the lot is severed and reconfigured into two new homes, the character of the surrounding George Street community is maintained.

This amendment requiring that the property owners "be encouraged to ensure that any new structure on a newly severed lot should be in harmony with the established context of the neighbourhood in scale, design, rhythm and massing" in their letter of undertaking, was brought back to the table by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, following HAC's original recommendation.

"I have a concern that this property might be severed by the Committee of Adjustment and the property may be torn down," said Councillor Gaertner, noting she believed HAC's original recommendation should be part of the public record. "When staff goes to give their advice to the Committee of Adjustment, it is on record that this Council would like to see heritage neighbourhoods at least be protected in character - not in a heritage district or any specific parameters - but to respect the character of the neighbourhood. I want Council to put on record that this is what we are hoping for when older homes are torn down in established neighbourhoods."

The motion received the support of Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, but Councillor Buck said the opportunity to sound off on any possible restrictions was to come.

"If [the new owners] make an application for a severance, the Committee of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body for that application and

decide whether or not they want to grant it," she said. "Before they do, they will ask all agencies to send in their comments about this application. That is when we would have a legal opportunity to comment on [the potential severance] and as the Committee to impose conditions on the approval."

"Then it is the judgement of the Committee to decide whether or not those conditions will be imposed. You can put anything into the record, but whether or not they have any substance to enforce is another question."

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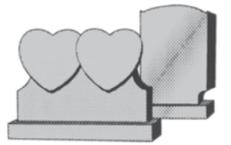
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New faces in vacancy race want to "learn"

From page 1

Svetla Topouzova.

For Ms. Harris, involvement at Town Hall is nothing new. As a retired executive specializing in business development and strategy, who has worked for such organizations as Direct Energy, the CBC, Tommy Hilfiger, she has used her business experience as an active member of Aurora's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC).

While she says she has no aspirations to put her name forward as a candidate for the October election, she sees the appointment as a twofold opportunity - an opportunity to learn and to underscore the importance of Aurora's Strategic Plan, which she helped develop.

"I think it is an interesting situation, somebody has to step up and I would be happy to do it," she says. "I have got the time, it is not a very long commitment, and I am interested."

She attributes her work on EDAC as being partially responsible in sparking her interest. Through the committee, she says she has actively worked with Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and some Councillors, but being a part of the Council table, even briefly, will allow her to meet the rest.

"I am interested in [ensuring] the decisions the Town makes are in line with that plan," she says. "A lot of effort went into it and I believe these plans take you down a path that is appropriate."

"A lot of input and logic was applied and consolidated to give some direction to those decisions. Often organizations and governments don't actually use the background work to make the tough decisions and so I am interested in helping to ensure the Strategic Plan is a guideline for making the best decision for Aurora going forward."

Another Aurora resident sensing an opportunity is truck driver James Hoyes, who signed up earlier this spring as a Council candidate. While he hasn't officially signed up for the appointment, he says this is an opportunity that should not be passed up.

"When opportunity knocks, you open up the door and you take that opportunity," says Mr. Hoyes. "If this is an opportunity to get a job I am desiring to have, why wouldn't I take that opportunity to get it now, and at least get some time under my belt? Opportunity is the biggest thing in any position. If you close the door on an opportunity, you close the door on the

future."

When Council approved the selection process last month, many members sitting around the table spoke of what they perceived to be a potential issue of giving candidates for the October election an unfair advantage in the race if they are appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Hoyes, on the other hand, sees it as a chance to learn.

"What I have to offer is the desire and the willingness to learn," he says. "If I am privileged enough to be elected in October I will be given two months of an opportunity to learn. If you are looking for people who have had [Council] experience before, that is great, but the idea of an election is there for people who want to join for the long-term and I am willing to join for the long-term."

Ms. Boyer, however, says she has yet to decide what the October election holds for her, but she wants to be part of the decision-making process for the next four months. A resident of Aurora since 1994, she works from home on behalf of software company SAP, reporting directly to Germany.

"I want to see more of the workings within Council and how they make decisions, and I want to be part of that decision-making process," she says. "There are decisions being made on parklands, development, and businesses. Aurora is growing and it would be nice to be part of that process into how Aurora grows because I plan on living here a long time."

As a former resident on Willow Farm Lane, she now lives in the Mavrinac Boulevard area which she describes as a much "tighter, more international community" but one also facing challenges from traffic, park space, and no resolution yet on the "Mavrinac Park" dispute.

If she is selected for the vacancy, sitting in on the meetings might help her "evaluate" her strengths "versus the strengths [of Councillors] already there and if I think I can be a better value add for the Town I will run."

"Otherwise, I would like to get involved, sit on committees, get my experience there and then, perhaps, run in the next election. I am just a person who loves and lives in Aurora and I am really excited."

Harold Kim, who has put his name forward as a candidate for the October 27 election has also confirmed his intentions to seek the vacancy.

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Money spent on Aurora 150 may be aired at Council following contentious motion

By Brock Weir

Events surrounding Aurora's 150th anniversary might already be a part of history, but the cost of the Sesquicentennial Celebrations could be in focus this week if Councillor Wendy Gaertner gets her way.

Councillor Gaertner is due to take a second stab in getting her motion calling for a full report on money that was spent for the series of events designed to celebrate Aurora's Past, Present & Future, as well as the Four Seasons of Aurora, this week after it was tabled at the Council table mid-discussion last month due to time constraints.

Councillor Gaertner's motion calls on staff to "prepare a report detailing the use of" the budget approved by Council, in the interests of "financial transparency and accountability" of public money.

"Some of us have a printout of some of the costs and it is hard to make sense of it," said Councillor Gaertner. "This is a lot of money, it belongs to the public, let's have a staff report on how it was spent."

The motion, however, raised the objections of

many Councillors around the table who said not only was \$90,000 spent on the celebrations, less than half of what was budgeted for, members of the Aurora 150 Committee came forward to Council several times with budget updates, and a general ledger of expenses was presented to Council, and the public.

"[With a general ledger] it really requires a report," said Councillor Gaertner. "A report back to Council on how the money was spent is appropriate. Giving us a general ledger sheet that the residents have to go through [is not enough]."

Councillors, however, were unmoved, with Councillor Paul Pirri arguing that there couldn't be a "more clear demonstration" of where the money went than the general ledger.

"If there was some information that wasn't available, I could understand this motion, but at this point in time, all the information is in the public."

A similar view was put forward by Councillor Michael Thompson who said he was unsure of what Councillor Gaertner was looking for as a line by line list of expenses had already been provided.

"We had a budget presented to us early on, Council approved it, we have had Sesquicentennial [Committee] minutes before us and Council has approved them," he said. "We had a wrap-up that said exactly how much had been spent and the fact they were \$100,000 under budget and we approved that. There has been more information provided by this Committee than any other committee I can find when I look back. Show me another committee that actually produced a general ledger of what they spent over the last eight years."

"None of them have done what this committee has done with providing that information to the public. It begs the question: Why is Councillor Gaertner targeting this committee? Why not ask for a report for any and all committees? Let's go back and do any and all committees. It is a bit of a boondoggle, I think."

For other Councillors, seeing the words "accountability" and "transparency" in the motion made them see red because, they said, it might imply that that accountability and transparency wasn't there to begin with. Councillor John Abel, for instance, said that particularly "alarmed" him. Councillor Sandra Humfryes agreed, noting that by singling out a committee that was formed by community volunteers could send the wrong message to other volunteers within the community looking to lend a hand.

"They volunteered to come forward and planned a year of events meeting weekly with documented minutes, leadership from our staff there throughout the whole process, and putting on events that were spectacular," she said. "I don't want volunteers to be hurt by this. I don't want volunteers that come forward and give their time to be afraid later on that Council is going to want a detailed report. It just insinuates something I am not comfortable with right now."

"I won't support this motion because it is focusing on one committee. I may entertain thinking about all committees, but I am just really worried about how this is going to come across. I would like to understand how many hours these volunteers put forward... and calculate that work by an hourly rate and how much we gained as a Town on their hard work. I would like to see that side of the coin, too."

At the end of the day, however, Councillor Gaertner suggested the others were looking far too much into the motion.

"I don't understand why I am getting so much pushback," she said. "I am asking for a formal report from Town Staff about... money that belongs to the public [who] deserve to know how it was spent - and not by having to go through a ledger sheet and not by looking at a committee report. I am not suggesting anything untoward. The committee did a fantastic job. It is the wrap-up report - \$140,000 is a lot of money. Let's just have a staff report on this."

Legal ambitions are now coupled with acting passion for Natalie Ganzhorn

From page 1

down and out family joining forces in unlikely ways to keep their late patriarch's law firm afloat after he left them swimming in debt.

In the pilot episode, Jenna quits her job at a high profile law firm with a flourish, and finds herself back in the family business - much to the chagrin of Tracy, in a later episode.

"Jenna comes to the school to give a presentation and Tracy was just over the moon excited about getting to meet her idol," explains Natalie. "She is very intense and passionate about everything she does, so when she first meets Jenna she kind of explodes at her, so excited to meet her. When she learns Jenna is no longer working for this major law firm, she has a complete meltdown. She is devastated and, because she is so intense and dramatic, she overreacts to everything and it is an emotional rollercoaster."

Without giving too much away for people who might not have seen it on Global the first time around, Tracy later joins the Engels at their firm but...things don't necessarily turn out for the best.

When the episode aired in Canada, Natalie says she had a lot of great feedback from her family and friends, which was especially meaningful as the character was well outside her comfort zone.

"It was so fun to be able to play that and the response from my friends was really fun because I didn't tell them much about my character, so it was really great to hear people's feedback of me playing a character very different from myself," she says. "[This time, on NBC] it will be a bit different because I will be getting reviews and responses from people I don't know. It will be really interesting to hear the responses from a wider audience. It is a little bit intimidating because I don't know what they'll think, but it is really exciting and cool I am going to be on American television and a show I am a part of is going to be airing on such a huge platform."

It is safe to say that Natalie Ganzhorn has been truly bitten by the acting bug. As an award-winning member of Country Day School's debating team, she has always had aspirations of being a lawyer. She still holds that dream, but her game plan has slightly shifted.

She still aims to go to university after high school, and then to law school, but seeking opportunities to follow her passion for acting as well.

She first found herself on the stage, rather than behind the podium, playing the Ghost of Christmas Present in her school's production of A Christmas Carol, auditioning after being encouraged by teacher Scott Garbe, to give acting a try. Additional roles followed in "Godspell" and other CDS productions, but by the time she was in middle school she had secured an agent and manager and a long string of auditions followed.

Following up on "Working the Engels," she is spending her summer vacation working on a Canadian-produced sitcom geared towards kids, and waiting to hear back on whether a feature film she completed last year has been accepted to premiere this September at the Toronto International Film Festival.

It has been a steep learning curve for Natalie, but she says there were lessons aplenty as soon as she stepped onto the Engels set with seasoned veterans like Andrea Martin and Eugene Levy, as well as 90210's Jason Priestly, who was on hand soaking up the atmosphere of the set preparing to direct the following episode.



Aurora student Natalie Ganzhorn, pictured earlier this year with her Award of Excellence in the York Region Secondary School Mock Trial Competition, has put her legal skills to good use as an aspiring lawyer on Working The Engels.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

"They brought so much energy to the set and I really feel like I learned a lot from working with them," she says. "Comedy is a lot about timing and working on how to hit the jokes, and just being on set and observing Andrea's incredible comedic timing, I was able to learn a lot about that. Just talking with them about their experience in the industry and getting words of encouragement from them was such an incredible experience, and it was overwhelming to be on set with people I look up to as an actress."

"I learned to be confident on set and just to feel comfortable bringing your own ideas to the show. Before that, I was kind of reserved when I was on set and one of the main things I learned from Andrea was to be comfortable bringing your own ideas to the set. She would collaborate with the writers and directors when they were on set and it really made such differences in the scene."

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Advertorial

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It can also help increase the amount of motion in almost any joint. Even patients with knee, hip, and foot problems such as plantar fasciitis are being helped. It is also covered by insurance companies since this is a chiropractic treatment and does not cost you anything additional.

Dr. Eastman says that "The secret to the Pro-Adjuster lies in its advanced piezoelectric sensor that is able to detect the slightest amount of restriction in a joint and then deliver an extremely precise adjustment." He says that "Even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to this new technique because of how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially



Dr. Eastman uses the Proadjuster to analyze a patient's spine and pin-point areas of nerve impingement syndrome causing mal-function and pain.

in the neck. Many people love getting adjusted with traditional manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are a large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way," says Dr. Eastman. Now, there is no longer a reason to be leary. The ProAdjuster is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn't yet made that decision. Dr. Eastman wants everyone to be able to experience these same benefits and if you have any of the following conditions, the ProAdjuster may be the answer you've been looking for...

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- Sports Injuries

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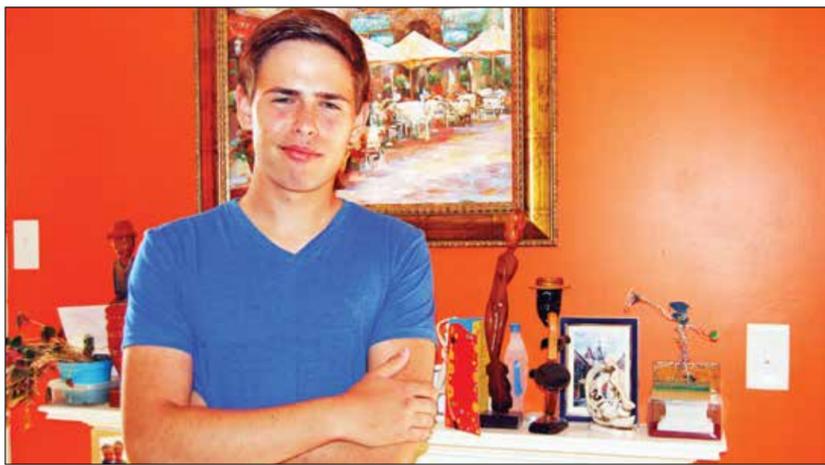
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High marks and a victory for Germany – it has been a good week for Andrei Feldiorean

By Brock Weir

It has been a good week for Andrei Feldiorean.

Last Wednesday, he was officially named Cardinal Carter Catholic High School's top scholar for the 2013 – 2014 school year, and the momentous week was capped on Sunday when his team, Germany, brought home the World Cup after defeating Argentina.

We won't force Andrei to choose which victory was more meaningful for him but, for the sake of argument – and this article – we'll just assume his 96.17 average might have the slight edge.

"I was really happy that happened," says Andrei – of his grade. "I was really hoping it would happen."

Ending his high school career on a particularly high note before heading off later this summer to McGill's live sciences program in Montreal, was a personal goal he set for himself as an elementary school student at St. Jerome.

"In Grade 8, I started working harder and harder, and when I reached high school I decided it would be really important to keep my marks up, especially with how competitive universities are," he says. "I decided I would have to do my best in order to get into the university programs I wanted."

As a student in Cardinal Carter's International Baccalaureate (IB) program, his game plan was relatively simple – plug away by completing all assignments and finishing everything on time or, even better, just ahead of time.

"What they told us in IB is it is just about time management and to give yourself enough time," he says. "You might have to take time away from

other things you like doing but if you put in the time you will be able to do it."

The importance of education was instilled in Andrei by his engineer parents from a very early age. Born in Romania, he settled in Toronto with his family in 2002 "just hoping for better opportunities and a better quality of life." They eventually moved to Aurora in 2006, where Andrei entered Grade 5 at St. Jerome.

"First and second grade here were difficult," Andrei explains. "I had trouble with that but as years went by, I just put in more of an effort, I started to get the hang of things, and my parents really put an emphasis on education. My parents really helped to build the appreciation of what you could do, even learning for the sake of learning. Over time, I just thought I could do better if I could distinguish myself in some way and work as hard as I can."

Part of a way to stand out from the crowd was entering the IB program, the separate stream at Cardinal Carter gives, although it requires extra work, which students a leg up when it comes to extra credits that stand students in good stead when it comes to university applications.

"I always tried to do as well as I could in class, making sure my teachers were noticing I was taking an interest and I was trying my best," he says. "You have got to be persistent and it takes a lot of time to succeed."

As he prepares to head off to university this summer, he is spending time working at Ballantrae Golf and Country Club's tennis and soccer camp, building on his success on Cardinal Carter's tennis team, where he was named MVP for three of his four years.

Mayor and Councillors are underpaid compared to other municipalities: report

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Mayor and Councillors are underpaid compared to their counterparts across York Region, according to a staff report which will be before Council this week.

The report comes over a year after Council approved a \$9,000 pay bump for the Mayor leading the 2014-2018 Council, while rejecting other benefits – such as long-term disability for the mayor – altogether. The recommendations were initially made to Council by the Council Compensation Committee, but this week's report goes a step further in making recommendations to Council.

"In discussions with the Mayor, it was expressed that Council positions would benefit from the view of the essential knowledge, skills and abilities required and expected of a Mayor and Councillor," said Aurora CAO Neil Garbe in his report to Council. "To that end, staff evaluated both positions using the Job Evaluation process developed in 2012 to objectively review positions in the Town. The results were then checked and validated by comparing the results through a market compensation survey and targeting the 50th percentile. This is the same process used for all positions at the Town."

According to the report, the review looked at salaries not just in York Region, but also those in Durham and Peel. It found that the Mayor's position was evaluated at a "Grade Level 9", translating to salary of \$84,801 annually. As for Councillors, those positions clocked in at \$68,328 annually if they were full-time positions, but as Aurora's Councillors are part-time, a Grade 7 calculation comes in at \$34,170 annually.

"In keeping with the Corporate staff compensation policy of paying at the 50th percentile of the marketplace and eliminating the high and low, the mean annual salaries for the survey data set for Mayor and Councillor are \$80,737 and \$33,614 respectively."

Currently, Mayor Dawe earns a salary of \$57,719 annually outside of what he earns as Aurora's representative at Regional Council. Councillors take in \$27,522 annually. Beginning in the next term of Council, the Mayor's salary will increase to \$66,719.

Council will have three options when they consider the matter this week. The first is to approve the increases coming out of this most recent review, go with the 50th percentile, eliminating the high and low for the Council term ahead, or keeping the status quo of what was already approved last year.

In recent months, as time draws closer to the municipal election, salaries of Councillors, and the roles of Councillors themselves have come increasingly into the forefront.

On the election ballot this year, voters will be asked both if they support Aurora moving to a Ward Council system whereby each elected Councillor would be responsible for, and accountable to, a specific section of town, as well as being asked if they support the number of Council members being knocked down to six from the current eight.

While some candidates, such as Anthony Pullano, have advocated for a reduction of Councillors but significantly increasing their salaries and adding a staff complement, others have questioned whether it is time for Aurora to consider full-time Councillors.

At the previous Council meeting, Councillor Wendy Gaertner spoke about attending a workshop during the day about urban tree canopies, which wrapped up at the noon hour.

"One of the limitations of having part-time Councillors is it is hard to do a complete job of gathering information and representing the residents," she said. "I don't know if and when we'll have that discussion, but if we are expected and invited to do things from 8.30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and we are only part-time Councillors, it does make it very difficult for most of us."

Andrei Feldiorean was named Cardinal Carter's top scholar by the York Catholic District School Board last week. Next week, The Auran will feature Felix Kan, the top graduate at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Advertorial

Traditional sweets get a modern twist at Sweets by Zuccaro

By Angela Gismondi

For Teresa Zuccaro, baking is love made visible.

Zuccaro, owner of Sweets by Zuccaro in Woodbridge, has always loved to bake. In the early 90s, her husband was diagnosed with celiac disease. That's when she started experimenting with different ingredients in the kitchen.

"We totally changed our lifestyle to accommodate his needs and his sweet tooth," said Zuccaro.

As gluten allergies became more common place, Zuccaro decided to open a bakery and share her gluten free, vegan and raw paleo baked goods with the public.

"This is unique," Zuccaro noted. "The products are all made and thought up by me. We try to meet the needs of allergy sufferers."

She started off with handcrafted cupcakes but since has expanded to include brownies, bars, traditional Italian cookies and pastries, macaroons, cakes and cheesecakes. In her baking, Zuccaro uses organic cane sugar, a variety of flours including almond and buckwheat, different oils such as grapeseed and coconut and nuts.

"This is a labour of love," explained Zuccaro, adding her husband Agostino and her daughters Natascia and Mara have dedicated their time to working at the eatery. "It's a family-run operation and we pour our heart and soul into this every day. I'm really old-fashioned."

Using recipes that have been passed down through generations, Teresa creates desserts with a distinctly Italian flair. Sweets by Zuccaro recently opened a gluten-free hot table and now offers buckwheat pizza, wraps, pasta, vegetables, veal or sausage on a bun and even rice balls.

"You have to try my products, that's the only way," said Teresa, adding the bakery is not only for people with a gluten allergy. "I try not to compromise taste and make sure that people are eating something healthy. I know I'm putting out a quality product with quality ingredients. We're totally dedicated to being gluten free so there is no cross-contamination here."

Her goal is to start creating more sugar free and dairy free products. She also hopes to incorporate smoothies into the menu in the near future. For now, she will continue to focus on meeting the needs of her customers.

"I have a lot of people that appreciate it and are thankful that I'm here in Woodbridge," said Teresa.

Sweets by Zuccaro is located at 200 Marycroft Ave. Unit 21 in Woodbridge. Zuccaro offers free consultations for special occasions and gluten free catering. Cupcakes, cakes, cookies and gluten free baked goods as well as other desserts, can be customized to suit your individual needs for any milestone including baptisms, birthdays, weddings.

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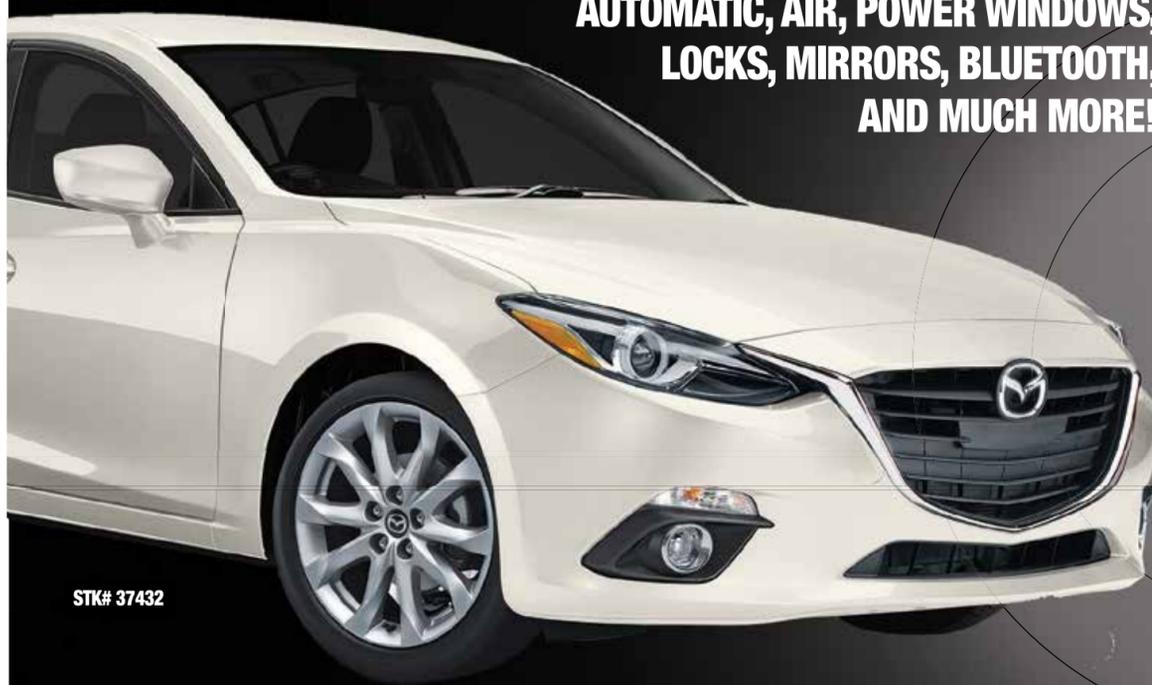
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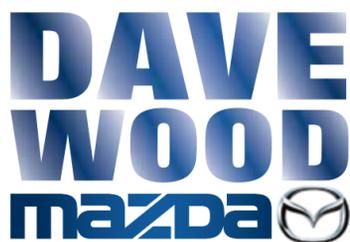
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Aurora United Church fire began journey of re-discovery leading up to new exhibition

By Brock Weir

In the hours after Aurora United Church went up in flames last April, long-time church historian Helen Roberts found it difficult to find the right words to express just how she felt.

In the intervening months, however, she has hardly had time to set her thoughts down as she eagerly took up a journey of re-discovery, poring over what was salvaged from the ashes.

As keeper of the church's history, Ms. Roberts knew where to look when guiding demolition and heritage experts to find hidden caches of the church's history. Walls were felled by shovels, filing cabinets were mangled in the process, but after they were loaded onto trucks and taken to restoration experts in Hamilton, they were able to untangle the treasure inside.

Before the fire, these materials might not have been considered "treasure", but with precious little remaining of the archives, everything has acquired a newfound appreciation.

"To me, the most valuable thing that came out of that was the trustees' account book from 1878 where they tracked costings and payments during that building period," says Ms. Roberts. "It also covers other costs to the church at that time. It is very difficult to understand because basically all it says is who they paid and how much they paid them, but it doesn't really say what it was for, but it has managed to survive this long and managed to survive the fire."

A few months before the fire, books like this were carefully kept in acid-free conservation bags, doubled up with a few trusty Ziplocs to keep out the elements, such as water damage. With the amount of water that was pumped into the church that fateful day, it was a good move.

"It looks as good as it did when I last saw it," says Ms. Roberts.

Some items, however, clearly weren't so fortunate. Minutes taken from meetings during that crucial building period are still unaccounted for in the material they have been going through, but other items, including numerous Sunday School records that had been donated by parishioners, hymn books dating from the late 1800s, newspaper clippings, and a photographic record of each parishioner before they embarked to fight in the Second World War, came out slightly singed but remarkably unscathed.

Just two short months ago, all these papers were handed back to an excited Ms. Roberts by Rev. Andy Comar, along with time capsules salvaged from 1975 and 1986, survivors of what might have been a series of three capsules, with a rumoured first from 1878 being lost to the ages.

"I was pretty excited," says Ms. Roberts of being handed back the material. "By the time I got home [from the church council meeting] it was well after 11 p.m. and I emailed [Revs. Andy and Lorraine Newton Comar] back saying, 'No sleep tonight! I am too busy looking at all this wonderful stuff' in here."

"If I had my choice of what I would really have liked to have seen, this might not have been the prime thing, but knowing where these archives were, and where the fire was, I could just not believe anything would have survived. I was absolutely stunned they could have saved any of that."

A selection of these great survivors will be on hand in a new exhibition "AUC Alive", which opens this week in the Aurora Room at the Aurora Cultural Centre. What has been salvaged will be contrasted with evocative images taken in the aftermath of the fire by Aurora photographer Claire D'Aurore.

Ms. D'Aurore, a native of France, has always been drawn to nature images, but driving down Yonge Street a couple of days after the fire, something caught her eye.

"I saw the sun steaming down the stained glass windows there and I thought it looked amazing and I had to go home and get my camera," she says.

She entered one of these initial images into the annual



Aurora photographer Claire D'Aurore is pictured in the garden at Hillary House, where some of her work is currently on display as part of their Art At The Manor exhibition. Some of her evocative images of the April 11 fire will be showcased in AUC Alive.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



Historian Helen Roberts displays some of the items recovered from the Aurora United Church Fire, including a Bible, ledger book, a time capsule, and an "Honor Roll", a photographic record of all parishioners who served in the Second World War.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Juried Art Show and Sale hosted by the Town of Aurora in the "Preserve Aurora" category and her image of the stained glass was purchased by Councillor John Abel, who has loaned it back for the AUC exhibition.

"Being French and living in Europe, I had the idea in my mind that the façade would be saved, but I didn't realise it is not stone and it reacts differently when you pour cold water on it. Following that first time I took photos, I went back to take more, trying to get different angles and things. As it was being torn down I took more photos."

Helping her break away from her regular leanings towards nature was an admiration of Toronto photographer Edward Burzynsky who, in addition to his photography capturing the industrial world, can also shed light capturing when things go wrong.

"I find there is always beauty if you look for it in almost anything," she says, noting the church was more than just

a spiritual home, but a community hub for non-denominational groups. "I want that to continue in some fashion to get the townspeople together as a community."

As such, proceeds from the sale of prints of Ms. D'Aurore's photos in the exhibition will be donated to the AUC's rebuilding fund.



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FREE Week of July 17, 2014

Aurora Jays eyeing first place heading into final stretch

By Jeff Doner

With just six games left to play in the regular season, the Aurora Jays are still flying high.

The Blue Birds collected convincing wins over Clearview and Mansfield last week to inch their way closer to the top of the standings, currently sitting one point out of first behind Ivy and the Bolton Brewers, with games in hand.

"We're confident that we can beat both of those teams, we've just got to keep things rolling," pitcher Brad Crosby said. "I think we've just got to keep everyone positive and keep the spirits up, battle at the plate and throw strikes consistently because we have a pretty good defence too."

The game against Clearview was a close one, but the Jays were never in any real danger.

Jake Pinnigar got things off to a good start for the Jays, leading off with a single in the top of the first, which was followed up by another single from Ian Rettie.

With Pinnigar now on third and Rettie on second after a successful steal, Chris Fafalios cashed in both runners to give the Jays a 2 - 0 lead.

Clearview's Jerry O'Hara followed that up by cracking a solo home run off Jays' pitcher Brent Owen in the bottom of the first to make it 2 - 1.

Then in the third, Ted Beadle and Ryan Lewis crossed home plate to increase the Jays' lead to 4 - 1. Clearview would add another run in the bottom of the third, but Owen and the defence shut things down for a 4 - 2 final score.

"It was a tight game," manager Rob Wilson said after the game. "Brent Owen had a great start, as he always does, just keeping us in the game and giving us a chance to win. Ian Rettie did some damage at the plate and we got a win, which is what matters."

The Jays then had a couple of days off before returning home to Lambert Willson Park on Sunday afternoon for a matchup against the Mansfield Cubs.

In this one, the Jays went to work early and trounced the Cubs 13 - 0.

The second inning was when the Jays did most of their damage, scoring eight runs to take advantage of the Cubs' pitching and spotty defence.

Leadoff hitter Chris Bloom was his usual self at the plate, coming around to score three times and earning a double and two walks.

Crosby, who has been a welcome addition to the Jays starting rotation this season, pitched a complete game shutout and ended it with two straight strikeouts.



Brad Crosby has been effective as a starter for the Jays this season and didn't miss a beat in a 13 - 0 win over the Mansfield Cubs on Sunday pitching a complete game shutout. The Jays are currently sitting one point out of first place in the NDBL standings and face both teams ahead of them this week. Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

Wilson said it was encouraging to see another full team effort so late in the season.

"It's nice to see the bats staying alive," he said. "We don't want to look past a team like Mansfield, but it was a game that we knew we should have won. They did play us tough last time though, so it was nice to get a solid victory over them. They might be a playoff team and they're battling for a spot."

The Jays have a huge week

coming up as they face off against the two teams ahead of them in the standings.

This week they will host the Ivy Leafs and then head to Bolton to take on the Brewers on Thursday.

"With where our record is, I just want to see more of the same," Wilson said. "If our pitching can keep up where it is combined with some timely hitting and well-rounded defence, we'll be in good shape right through the playoffs."

Barbs face "mounting pressure" after two more losses

By John Reich

The Aurora Barbarians Senior Men's team hosted Toronto Scottish for two games at Fletcher's Fields on Saturday and came away with two losses and mounting pressure to avoid relegation to Tier 2 competition next year.

In the first team game, head coach Ian McLeod had to juggle his final lineup yet again in the face of mounting injuries as promising rookie second row forward Austin St. Amant suffered a serious leg injury at work and will be unavailable to the club for an undetermined amount of time.

Combined with injuries to Captain Eric Selvaggi, back row Steve Seccareccia and centre Jesse Walker as well as the absence of Canada trialist Paul Ciulini, McLeod was forced to draw heavily on the development team

to fill his side against the second place Scots.

The Barbarians were under pressure from the opening kickoff and while not nearly as disorganized as the week previous in Oakville, the young Barbarians struggled to compete against a formidable and well drilled opponent.

Despite an undying effort on defence, the Scots overwhelmed the Aurora side with five trys in the first half to lead 25 - 0 at the break. During the intermission, Coach McLeod reassured his team that they were quite capable of performing at a higher level and admonished them for a lack of focus.

In the second half, the Barbs drew closer with two early trys from Marnus Coetsee and Jon West, both converted by kicker Mark Denton to bring the score to 30 - 14, but the comeback was cut

short with the exhausted York Region side giving up two more trys late in the game to lose 42-14.

The result puts the Barbarians in a tie with Waterloo County for last place in the Ontario Marshall Premiership, County taking two bonus points in its 31-29 loss to Oakville Crusaders on Saturday. The two teams will meet for the first time this year in Waterloo next Saturday to heighten the speculation on which the Marshall Club might be relegated.

In the second team match-up with the Scottish, the Barbarians' development team showed the stress

of the call-ups to the first side falling to the Toronto club 62 to 28 but winning a bonus point for four trys scored.

Touching down for Aurora was scrumhalf James Hulbert twice with singles going to Nick Manoukas and Tyler Neil. Hulbert added four conversions. The development side will be featured in Waterloo next weekend, as well.

Spectrum Baton Club is "golden" at national championships

The competitive athletes and teams of the Spectrum Baton Club travelled to Calgary to compete in the National Championships June 28 - July 2.

The competition was stiff, but the club once again proved up to the challenge, emerging as one of the top baton clubs in Canada.

RESULTS:

Teams:

Wake Me Up: Junior CBTF Team Gold Medallists
Feel Good Time: Senior Dance Twirl Team Gold Medallists

Freestyle:

Natalie Seguin: Canadian Senior B Bronze Medallist

Solo:

Amanda D'Attolico: Canadian Senior- 15 - BN GOLD Medallist
Leyla Ozturk: Canadian Junior - 14- BN Bronze Medallist
Bridget Lynagh: 4th place Canadian Juvenile Bi
Madi Georgopoulos: 5th place, Canadian



Junior - 13 - BN 5th place
2 Baton

Madi Georgopoulos: Canadian Junior - 13 - BN Silver Medallist
Leyla Ozturk: Canadian Junior - 14 - BN Bronze Medallist
Bridget Lynagh: 4th place, Canadian Juvenile Bi
Natalie Seguin: 5th place, Canadian Senior Bi

Solo Dance Twirl

Leyla Ozturk: Canadian Junior - 14- BN GOLD Medallist
Bridget Lynagh: Canadian Juvenile Bi Bronze Medallist

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(From Left) Daniele Neising, Jessica Joerges, Kahlan Crowe, and John Abel take part in the 2014 Hoedown Showdown preliminary round at Theatre Aurora on Thursday. Auroran photos by Brock Weir and Diane Buchanan

It's another trip to the rodeo for Hoedown Showdown contestants

By Brock Weir

Aspiring musicians from across Ontario descended on Theatre Aurora last week to see if they had what it takes to win the 2014 Wild Wild West Hoedown Showdown.

Whether new to the competition, or returning for the second year running, their objective was clear: securing a spot in the Top 20. The Top 20 will perform at Aurora's Ribfest in September, while keeping an eye on the ultimate prize: \$1,000 cash, a \$1,000 Yamaha guitar, a professional studio recording session, and a chance to perform at Hoedown on September 13.

"We're looking for someone who has the ability to go on and take it to the next level of their career by winning this contest," explained country singer Chris Seldon, who judged the contest for the second year running. "That type of singer is someone who is just good, authentic, and someone who can go on with their own career."

Thursday's preliminary round provided a healthy dose of Aurora talent with the likes of John Abel, Shannon Beresford, Kahlan Crowe, Lauren Hoyles, Jessica Joerges, and Daniele Neising, taking over the stage.

"I've loved country music since I was a little girl and I have been singing since I could talk," said Joerges, who billed herself as "17-and-a-quarter...and five days", before she went up to sing "Wide Open Spaces" by the Dixie Chicks.

When she heard about the Showdown last year, it was too late to sign up, but this year Joerges was ready, priming herself through other competitions, making the Top 8 in this year's Aurora Teen Idol competition.

"I hope the judges will see I am a fun

person, and that I hopefully have talent," said Joerges. "I want this really badly."

Joerges was in the first round of performances along with Neising. This was the second Showdown competition for Neising, 21, this time performing "Drunk Last Night" by Eli Young Band.

"Stage performance is one thing I learned from last year," she said. "I have known this song for a long time, so I am comfortable with it as well, and it suits my vocal range. I am in school now, so I don't have a lot of time to show around now [in competitions] but I have always just loved country music. It is fun, sometimes depressing, but it is very emotional and real and you can connect with it very easily."

Another competitor this year fresh out of the Aurora Teen Idol competition was Crowe, 14, who came armed with "Blown Away" by Carrie Underwood. She has been making an effort to get herself out into the music scene.

"Over the last year, I have been doing a lot more things with singing, so I think it would be great to try this as well," she said. "When I was really little, I had this guitar my parents bought and I would just strum around on it. It was the same with piano. I want to show the judges I can do the belty high notes, but I also have a low range. It is a very upbeat song, so I will be dancing around trying to get them involved in the process."

By the time the afternoon rolled around, Councillor Abel was ready for his second time participating in the Hoedown Showdown. Although it probably doesn't need to be said he shied away from the likes of Underwood and Lambert, and took his performance in a different direction with the Carl Smith classic "Let Old Mother Nature Have Her Way" from 1951.

"I am very comfortable with it, it borders between country and a little bit of rock and it suits my style," he explained. "I would like to be able to move to the semifinals to get to Ribfest this year because that was a great experience for me."

For Seldon, the importance of making it to these venues is all too clear for performers beginning their careers. After Ribfest, the Top 10 will then

"Many of these people are true amateurs in the sense that they are singing at home in their bedrooms or at parties and this gives them the opportunity to play in front of some very large crowds," he said. "You're talking about 4,000 - 5,000 people and that will be the largest crowd these people will have ever played for. That is the big opportunity and [the prize] will give someone the chance to spring board from this competition into something more."

Doors Open Aurora at the Aurora Cultural Centre

By Jane Taylor

Program, Event & Communication Manager
Aurora Cultural Centre

Music, heritage, art; on Saturday, August 16 the Aurora Cultural Centre is pleased to offer an exciting Doors Open program for a variety of interests.

Local resident and historian Bob McRoberts will present Postcards of Old Aurora, a fascinating digital photo essay of his extensive heritage collection. McRoberts will be on hand in the Library Room throughout the day; guests are welcome to drop in to enjoy his slide show - questions are encouraged!

Bob will have both his book, and collections of old postcards of the Aurora United Church available for sale.

In the Meridian and Blue Galleries, members of the Pine Tree Potters' Guild present Earth to Fire; an exhibition and sale of fine juried ceramic works. The local guild, renowned for their semi-annual sales, presents a fascinating collection of fine art pieces which were then juried by ceramic specialist Bruce Cochrane.

The show continues throughout the summer. In the Great Hall and Reception Galleries, Aurora artist Krista Arnold presents Shift, a collection of oil paintings. Arnold, who graduated from OCAD in 2013, will be on hand to discuss her show.

Once again, the Centre will harness our guest's creative talents with a collaborative art project by creating a canvas featuring a rendering of the Church Street School. Everyone is invited to participate by leaving their brush strokes on the canvas; volunteers

will be on hand to guide and assist.

The Aurora Room is site of AUC Alive - The Aurora United Church....Continuing the Journey. Part of the Centre's Community as Curator heritage initiative, this exhibition is a partnership between the Centre, local photographer Claire D'Aurore, the Town of Aurora and the Aurora United Church.

Members of AUC together with Cultural Centre staff have put together a small show of artifacts (including a choir gown rescued from the street after the fire) and archival materials, along with a series of descriptive text panels outlining the history of the church, the day of the fire, and the hopeful next steps.

A memory book invites the public to journal their thoughts and remembrances in a contemplative seating area set up in the space. Photographer Claire D'Aurore has created a 15-piece photo essay covering the aftermath of the fire; these beautifully mounted and framed pieces will be available for sale, with proceeds donated by the artist to the

rebuilding fund.

Members of the AUC Alive committee and artist Claire D'Aurore will be on hand to connect with the public.

As guests enjoy the upstairs exhibitions, they are invited to drop in to Brevik Hall, where young musicians will be featured at the piano throughout the afternoon. It will be a comfortable stop to sit, enjoy

a glass of lemonade and enjoy beautiful music. To help plan your Doors Open Aurora route, be sure to check out www.doorsopenontario.on.ca to see a full list of participating sites for the Doors Open Aurora event as well as other Doors Open events across Ontario.



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COMING EVENTS

JULY 5 - SEPTEMBER 6
The Pine Tree Potters Guild hosts "Earth to Fire", a new exhibition of fine art ceramics by members of the guild, to showcase works that move beyond the functional. Featuring 46 pieces selected by ceramics expert Bruce Cochrane, he has gone a step further and singled out seven exceptional pieces as award winners. Guild members were encouraged to stretch their artistic vision and create their own statement pieces, and the results will be spread over

two galleries at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Additional features include a ceramic "patchwork quilt."
THURSDAY, JULY 17
DISCOVERY DAY FOR KIDS: Learn and play at Hillary House. Participate in fun activities that are free with admission to the site (\$3 general and \$2 for seniors and youth) on Thursday and Saturdays through August. A rotating roster of activities include Nature Detectives, a Dig It! archaeology program, a historic Scavenger Hunt, and gardening activities.

For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991.
SATURDAY JULY 19
Help make a difference in the lives of kids at Crown Rust Control's "Wash for a Wish" benefiting the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. \$10 supports a great cause. Aurora's Crown Rust Control can be found at 92 Berczy Street off Wellington Street north of the GO Station.

Drop-in Family Storytime at APL: Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are invited to! Explore the magic of books, songs and rhymes with your child or children. 10 - 10.30 a.m., Aurora Public Library (Optimist Room).

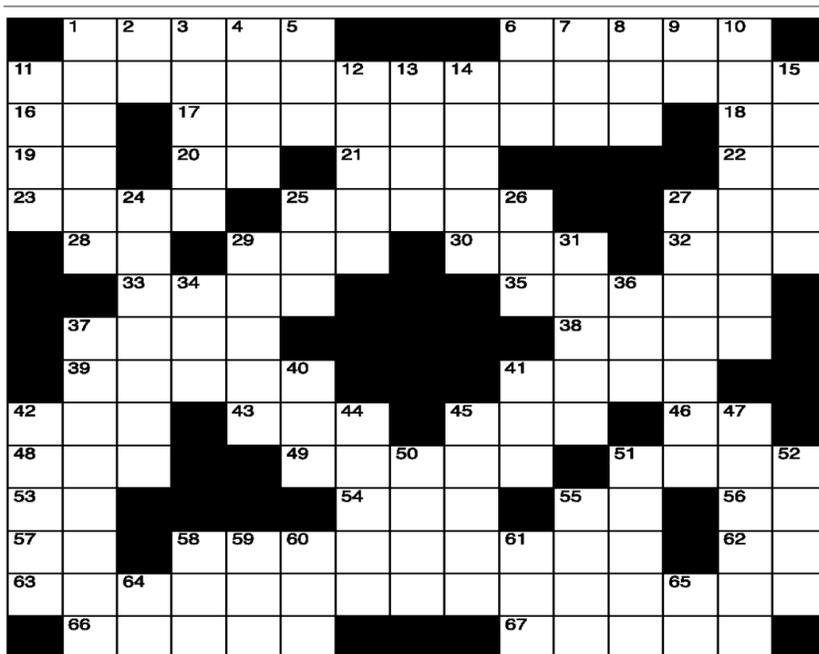
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through August. A rotating roster of activities include Nature Detectives, a Dig It! archaeology program, a historic Scavenger Hunt, and gardening activities. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23
Drop-in Library LEGO Day: Children ages 5+ are invited to drop in and join us for some free creative building fun at Aurora Public Library! Meet new friends and work together to make amazing

LEGO creations! 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with Benny & The Jets: A Tribute to Elton John - Tribute artist Jeff Scott has the voice, the performance, and the costumes. The show is fabulous! You will enjoy songs like Don't Go Breaking My Heart, "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" and many more. Concerts run from 7 - 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.
Continued on page 17

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Outmoded
- 6. Strikes
- 11. All the same
- 16. Blue Hen school
- 17. Peopled
- 18. Initials of NBC weather host
- 19. Atomic #28
- 20. Doctor
- 21. Small time unit (abbr.)
- 22. 4th tone of scale
- 23. Dines
- 25. Rates of movement
- 27. Immature newt
- 28. Of I
- 29. Kick out
- 30. Pouchlike structure
- 32. Brew
- 33. Oh, God!
- 35. Shell lining
- 37. Ladies undergarments
- 38. An open way for travel
- 39. Passenger
- 41. Plate
- 42. Actor Affleck
- 43. 1/100 of a yen
- 45. Scientific workplace
- 46. 60 minutes (abbr.)
- 48. Straggle
- 49. Plate made of silver or gold
- 51. Mains
- 53. Great Britain
- 54. Hermione's boyfriend
- 55. D'Onofrio's Law & Order
- 56. 10th state
- 57. Do again prefix
- 58. Jagged cut
- 62. Air Force
- 63. K. Hepburn's alma mater
- 66. "King Rat" actor George
- 67. Academy first year

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Speaker's platform
- 2. Indicates position
- 3. Moves through water
- 4. Historical region of Pakistan
- 5. Country code for Addis Ababa
- 6. Ball striker
- 7. East northeast
- 8. Form a sum
- 9. 7th musical tone
- 10. Harnessed horse (bit)
- 11. Catholic sisters
- 12. Purim villain
- 13. Invests in little enterprises
- 14. Prongs
- 15. Shred cheese
- 24. Gazing intently
- 25. Paper tablet
- 26. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 27. Otological pain
- 29. Pedestal supports
- 31. Islands are named for them
- 34. Gallivant
- 36. Romaine
- 37. Lux Palm Beach hotel
- 40. Ribbed fabric
- 41. CBS newsmen Rather
- 42. Book jacket review
- 44. Braided river of Poland
- 45. Atom smasher
- 47. Devastate
- 50. Pressure unit (mm Hg)
- 51. Move sideways
- 52. Free from risk
- 55. Small prison room
- 58. Liquefied natural gas
- 59. Doctors' group
- 60. UC Berkeley
- 61. Uppermost part
- 64. Thou
- 65. Stuart Little's author White

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

			M	A	F	A		S	E	U	S	S					
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"Brothers" in arms take on talent in wide-ranging radio competition

By Brock Weir

Brothers of North are no strangers to competition.

The Aurora natives grew up together, went to school together, and shared the highs and lows of everything that entails, but one thing which truly united them was the music.

While most of them studied at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, it was there most of them picked up musical instruments for the first time and started honing their sound.

Dubbing themselves "Brothers of North", many competitions were sent their way, and many competitions were entered, but nothing usually came from them - until now.

The quartet were astounded to find their song, "1990s", made the cut in 102.1 "the edge's" contest "The Next Big Thing", highlighting up-and-coming musicians from the Greater Toronto Area. Out of nearly 630 entries, Brothers of North made the Top 20 and are currently riding high in the Top 10 as listeners waded through the entrants for a band which strikes a chord with them.

"It was a really good feeling [to make the Top 20] because we weren't seeing any progress," says James Connolly, who provides vocals and guitar for the band. "I am almost at a loss at how they could pick us. They said there were 627 bands, and that they picked us, I guess it is just a catchy song."

Connolly and Joe Gallo, who plays lead guitar, have known each other "forever" and meeting up with a pair of brothers, they would just get together for a few jam sessions. They gradually lost touch but after five years, they met up again, found a drummer in Tom Mackay, and Brothers of North were formed.

"Me and Joe have always known each other forever and as soon as we started to learn how to play guitar, we always wanted to be rock stars but we never thought it would be possible," says James. "We didn't know how to book gigs, but we just started playing guitar and got into it. We made these demos and thought they were pretty

good, but we didn't think we could play them live. We got together with these other guys, started to write lyrics and it wasn't half bad. [After our first show] we couldn't give it up. It was just so much fun.

When they cut their first album, their producer said they had to have a single. "1990s", he said, was radio friendly because it had lyrics all the way through and people lapped it up. It was no question for them, he said, what song they should upload for this contest and evidently "the edge" felt the same way.

It has come a long way from a typical jam session which had the group sitting around with guitars, working on chords, until they felt they were on the right direction towards a song. Once they had the structure of the song in place, only then was it time to step up to the microphone to see what came out.

"The first thing that came out of my mouth was that it is that 1990s feel that you know and love," says James. "Whatever comes out of it, if it rhymes, we will go with that. I just thought about

how I could then use that line as the concept of a song. We added a bit of romance in there with a girl and that is how it came to be."

Asked what defines that 1990s "feel that we know and love", it is a quality James says is hard to pick up on but it was definitely felt on the guitar chords heard over the bridge. There is something of an elusive quality in the style of the band itself. While they embrace bands like Led Zeppelin, individually their musical tastes are constantly in flux and he is reluctant to "pigeon-hole" their sound but it is a sound that connects.

"Last night, we played a show for 200 to 300 people and if we could do that every day, just the energy the crowd gives you after you give all your energy to them is something that is just so, so special," says James. "If we could just do that every other day, just watching people dance to your music is all we want to do. That's all it is about and connecting with other people is the best thing in the world."



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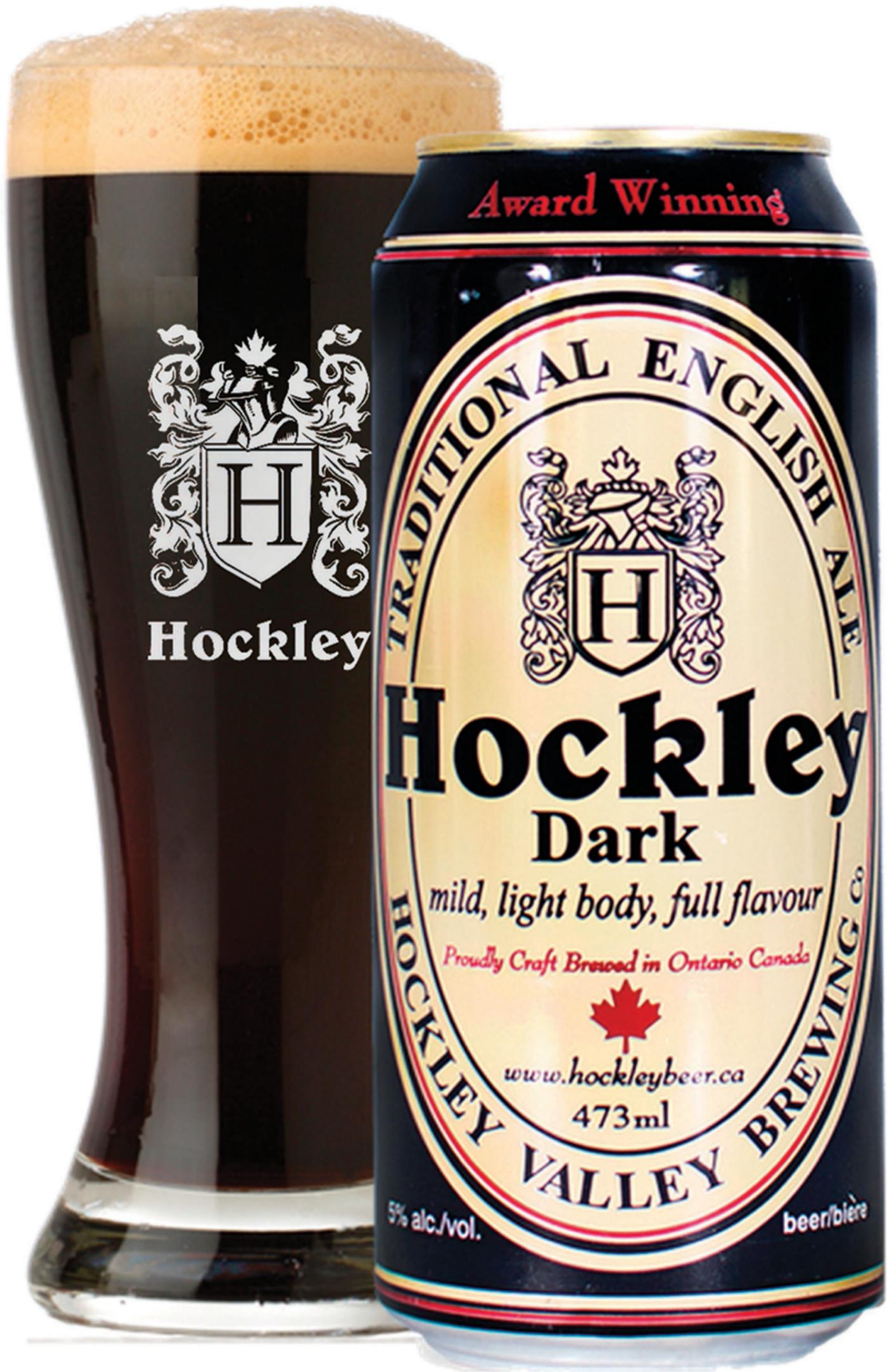
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Annual Cruise for the Cure raises money and awareness for prostate cancer and Alzheimer's

By Mark Pavilons

The area's largest outdoor car show and star-studded event is coming to King Township July 20. The 4th annual Cruise for the Cure car show and family festival raises money and awareness for Prostate Cancer Canada and the Alzheimer Society of Ontario. Organizer Tim Schmidt said he expects upwards of 2,000 vehicles of all shapes and sizes – North American and imports. Some guests come from Quebec and even south of the border.

Tim and Brenda Schmidt, and Tim's mother Helga have hosted Tim and Brenda's Cruise for the Cure for the past three years. At their first event in 2011 they raised \$50,000 for Prostate Cancer Canada; the following year they raised \$70,000 for Prostate Cancer Canada and, in 2013, they added a second charity, Shriner's Hospitals for Children-Canada, raising over \$112,000 in the process.

Schmidt said he chose Alzheimer's this year because many of his "car buddies" are in the affected age group of men. Unfortunately, men can be stubborn when it comes to regular physical checkups. His late father also suffered from Alzheimer's.

"Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia," says Helga, President and CEO of ABC Group of Companies. "One in four people knows someone with Alzheimer's disease or dementia, and will be aware of the devastating impact it has on their lives, as it had on mine when my husband developed the disease. Our sponsorship will help in the research into the causes, cures and care for this condition and hopefully also towards helping the many people who look after these patients."

"It's very important that people with

Alzheimer's are treated with respect and to remember that, despite their illness, a person with dementia is still a unique and valuable human being. When a person finds that their mental abilities are declining, they often feel vulnerable and in need of reassurance and support. The people closest to them – their caregivers, health and social care professionals, friends and family – need to do everything they can to help the person to retain their sense of identity and feelings of self-worth."

More than just your typical car show, Tim & Brenda's Cruise for the Cure is an event featuring live music, a children's carnival, raffles, food vendors, merchandise vendors, door prizes, awards, trophies, a guitar auction, special guests and more!

Nick Sinopoli of the Carpet Frogs and long-time friend of Tim's has collected signatures from legendary rock musicians. Alice Cooper, Steve Cropper, Burton Cummings, Richie Sambora, Danny

"The Count" Koker, Stoney Curtis, John Zito, Paul Disbibio, Barry Barnes, and Neil Chapman are just some of the over 30 names on a rare 1994 Gibson J-55 up for grabs. It is #18 of only 100 made.

This magnificent guitar with the priceless signatures will be auctioned for charity. For more information or to bid on this piece of rock history, go to www.timandbrendasplace.com.

Raising prostate cancer awareness among men was one of the Schmidt family's goals and what better form to do that in but with a car show showcasing southern Ontario's best custom and performance cars and bikes with awards for grand champion, people's choice and 50 runners up?

The all-day event will also have live

entertainment, by Rik Emmett formally of Triumph; The Carpet Frogs and Pop Cherry.

Joining Tim and Brenda will be famed members of the hit television show Counting Cars – Danny Koker and Kevin Mack.

Tim & Brenda's Cruise for the Cure takes place Sunday, July 20 at 13200

Weston Road. Doors open at 9 a.m. for patrons, with a \$20 donation per car load for parking.

For those competing in the car show a registration donation of \$30 is asked and registration is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, www.timandbrendasplace.com.



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BY NICOLA SHAW

P.C. Goes to Ghana to Build a School: My First Thoughts

We had landed in Accra, the capital of Ghana and in doing so we closed the distance between us and a little village called Assemkow. This little village - home to only 1,000 Ghanaians - was a fishing village located next to the beautiful shores of the South Atlantic Ocean. There were many huts clustered together, livestock roaming around and barely clothed children rough-housing with friends. Children were also transporting large basins of water on top of their head, which is uncommon to us and it was shocking. It was Ghana.

When we reached the final hill before we got to the village, it was exhilarating. The red dirt road stretched upwards at a rather steep incline, the thick vegetation that framed the road brushed against the sides of our bus and I perched anxiously on the end of my seat, clinging to the student in front of me like a barnacle. This was the moment I had been waiting for my entire life. It was here. I was here.

We drove over that hill and the first thing I saw were hordes of children jumping up and down with excitement. They waved enthusiastically and we mimicked them. When it was my turn to step off the bus, the heat smacked me and little hands grabbed at mine. I greeted the children happily. One boy took my hand firmly and began to pull me away from the group. I soon found out this young boy's name was Tomas, but I didn't know that he would quickly become one of my closest friends.

He appeared to be very serious, almost grumpy, and so I tried to lighten him up by playing some games. We played High Low Piccolo more times than I could count, and he latched onto me, fighting off any other child who tried to share. It was alarming at first, when children would try to come and talk to me, or hold my hand, or ask to be held and he would be at their throats. I felt helpless trying to separate them. I wanted to spend time with other children, but he made it very difficult. At one point, he was strangling another little boy and I was shouting, "No!" but he didn't listen. I looked up in desperation at the older members of the village that had gathered around us for the community welcome and they were laughing. Nobody seemed to care, so I allowed myself to relax. This was a different culture. They did things their way.

That evening, when I sat down to my evening meal, I wondered what Tomas was eating, or if he had even eaten that day.

That was the moment I knew that I would never be the same.

YOUTH SPEAK

Youth Speak is located in Newmarket and was originated by team coach Una Wright in 2003. They have developed programs and provide facilitation to special events for students in Public and Catholic schools in York Region. Their main focus is to train youth to tell their stories.

At a time when anxiety and depression has caused serious implications with youth today, Youth Speak has helped to contribute to their mental and social well-being.

The program that Wright has designed encourages youth to tell their personal story. "It is very inspiring" said Wright when referring to the experience of students sharing their challenges to an audience. When someone is facing a challenge there are benefits to sharing that load in many ways. Firstly, by communicating their issues, concerns, or fears they are not alone anymore and secondly, with the communication most often comes help from others and help from within due to the confession of the problem which allows the student to build confidence and start to feel better about making changes. "Kids have more empathy for each other after the assembly" said Wright.

She also holds anti-bullying assemblies that focus on the primary grades and mental health along with drug and alcohol awareness.

Wright has been busy this last school year holding 125 assemblies, workshops and parent communications to both high schools and elementary schools. Her main focus is teens; however, she has encountered the need to help children with anxiety in the elementary schools as well. The assembly format that Wright organizes is put on by youth. She helps coach them, trains them and supports them, but the youth do it.

Youth Speak has five additional staff that works



with Wright and yes they are youth representatives that have had experience with assemblies themselves. They have been brought up through the ranks.

Wright holds a degree in social development studies and dealt with Teen Mother's for sixteen years prior to developing her Youth Speak business. Her education combined with her own personal experiences in life has enabled her to develop the programs that are being utilized in Youth Speak. Wright's own son was killed at nineteen

and she is well aware of outside influences that can affect anyone's state of well being.

Youth speak is holding their first annual fundraiser at Col. Mustard's Pub and Grill at 16925 Yonge Street in the Quaker Hill Plaza just north of Mulock in Newmarket on August 9th. It is an open mic evening where they are looking for entertainers, youth and adult. They are also encouraging everyone to come on out and have an evening of fun.

■ WRITTEN BY CHRIS MCGOWAN

Leaving for School

Aurora resident Ann-Bernice Thomas just graduated from Aurora High School and she is extremely happy about moving on to the next phase of her life.

In September she will be heading to University in Victoria B.C. to study theatre production as well as creative writing. "I'm really excited and am ready to leave" said Thomas.

She enjoyed her years in high school, but now she is ready to go. She is the youngest of three, with two older brothers and even though she is the baby of the family, she is used to travelling and leaving home. "I'm used to being away, my Grandmother is in Jamaica, and most of my family is in England" said Thomas. Travelling overseas has been a part of her life so going to Victoria B.C. is not a big deal.

Her family originally came from Jamaica and her parents moved to England where she spent the first seven years of her life, then they packed up and moved to Aurora and they have been there ever since.

Her upbeat attitude and energy is contagious when she described her plans for school and seeing a new place to live for a while. "I want to see it all," she said.

Moving off to University brings freedoms that a great deal of young people have never experienced before. Some are dedicated students, whereas some just tend to want to socialize and forget about their studies. The restrictions and, perhaps, hand holding that is done at the high school level by the teachers is not there in University and, all in all, it is a



huge adjustment for most students let alone ones that are not living at home still.

She will be rooming in the dormitory for her first year then moving out to find a place of her own or with roommates for her second year of University. But Thomas has goals that go beyond her University education. She stated "I want to open up my own Production Company. I was torn between theatre and psychology and theatre won".

She has participated in Aurora High's drama fest and she also wrote a comedy in Grade 12. She has also participated in theatre with Theatre Aurora. On top of all her experience with theatre, Thomas also dances, mostly hip hop and tap. "I really love tap" she said.

Her ambitious goals and clear plans will likely bring her success. If nothing else they will bring her confidence to try. "As long as I love doing what I am doing, I will keep doing it," said Thomas. She is aware that plans can change in life and she may want to shift her focus, but for now it is full steam ahead to Victoria BC. Look out, here she comes!

■ WRITTEN BY CHRIS MCGOWAN

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Girls to get a boost on the field with Central Canada Women's Football League

By Jeff Doner

When Nobleton resident Aaron Ellis' daughter, Tianna, told him she wanted to keep playing football, he knew it would be tough to find playing opportunities.

So, he got to work organizing the Central Canada Women's Football League (CCWFL), which was launched in Vaughan this month with a free skills camp.

"She came home one day and said, 'Dad, I can't play,' and as a girl playing in a male dominated sport, there were a lot of trials and tribulations," he said. "Then she came back to me and said she wanted to compete on the Canadian National team, but she can't do that without having a team in Ontario. I looked into it, there was nothing here for her and so, trying to be a good father, I thought I would try to put this together."

The event was well attended, and included Toronto Argos James Yurichuk, Natey Adjei, John Chiles, Zander Robinson, Tyler Holmes and Shane Horton. They were joined by coaches and trainers from Super Elite Football, who donated their time to run drills and exercises.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne also stopped by and offered words of encouragement to players and the league, which is Ontario's first elite women's tackle league.

"I have a really deep rooted belief that women and girls need to have an opportunity to play the sports that they want to play," she said. "I believe in sport and I think it's character building and community building, and those are so important to our society and so women need to have those opportunities."

Ellis said he first started putting

things together for the league in February and hopes to have the four teams ready for Spring 2015 with registration opening in September.

It isn't set in stone just yet, but Ellis said it's likely the first four teams will be based out of Mississauga, Hamilton, Scarborough, and one in York Region.

Argos linebacker James Yurichuk of Brampton was on hand for the event and said he gives his full support to anything that opens the game to more people.

"One of the things we always say about football is that it's a game for everyone," he said. "Doesn't matter if you're short, tall, big or skinny, we're going to find a position for you on the field. Now it really is a game for everyone in Ontario, because up until now it has only been for boys."

"For me, this is really important to show that football is truly for everyone, both women and men. Getting this league set up is that first step."

The CCWFL is a not-for-profit league that Ellis hopes will mirror other successful leagues that have been established in the Maritime Provinces, Western Canada and in Montreal.

As for Tianna, she's heading into grade 12 and her third year playing with the King City Secondary School football team. She's looking forward to it again, but admitted she can't wait for spring 2015.

"This year I find that I am getting more accepted, because it's my third year playing. This year I think the team is more accepting because they know me," she said. "But today playing with these other girls was great and I'm really excited."

For more information on the CCWFL visit their site at www.ccwfl.ca



Premier Kathleen Wynne meets members of the new football league, before getting into the gear herself. Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

Fast-breaking dinner will spark dialogue at the end of Ramadan

By Brock Weir

If you want to create a dialogue, the simplest way is to bring everyone around the same table – and if there's food involved, so much the better, says Azim Shamshiev of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute.

In a first for Aurora, this year the Toronto-based Intercultural Dialogue Institute is joining forces with York Children's Aid Society, to host an Iftar dinner or fast-breaking dinner, to mark the month of Ramadan.

The purpose of the event, according to Mr. Shamshiev, is to bring together people of various faiths, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, to share a meal and provide a cross-cultural exchange.

"We want to accomplish intercultural learning, interfaith learning, so we learn from each other," he says. "In terms of dialogue, I think the simplest way of dialogue is simply bringing different people around the same table. Food is crucial because when you share food with somebody, it can be your neighbour, colleague, friend, relative, or somebody from different cultural or ethnic groups. Having a meal together provides us a warm atmosphere for building a relationship where we can facilitate dialogue."

This series of dinners across the GTA began over a decade ago as a simple community dinner. The event subsequently grew to incorporate guest speakers and displays of multiple cultures. It was a small-scale beginning, finding its roots in a Meet Your Neighbour program spearheaded by the Institute as a series of private dinners at family houses.

"We tried to match families of different backgrounds so they came together for dinner," he says. "We had our biggest interest in this around Ramadan time. This is one of the occasions when we try to bring people together because we believe the solutions to many of the problems we may have in the future lies in the idea that people should come together, try

to talk to each other, and try to engage in dialogue in a respectful way, while trying to be respectful and accepting of others.

"Ramadan is the holiest month for Muslims around the world. It is a time when you try to abstain from food and drink for a certain amount of hours during the day for 30 days. It is not just about hunger and thirst, but the key idea is about purifying your soul. It is a time of spiritual purification or, if you wish, a chance to reconsider or renew your commitment and values."

While Ramadan provides a very strong spiritual path, at the same time it also has a very strong community aspect, says Mr. Shamshiev. People are hungry and it provides some food for thought towards inner reflections. People often invite each other into their homes for fast-breaking meals such as these, or even "midnight meals" providing a communal eating experience before the day's fast begins.

"There are social bonds within the community and this is one of the aspects we will be hosting in Aurora, to strengthen the bond between people of different faiths and cultures," he says. Working in collaboration with the York Children's Aid Society, Aurora's Iftar dinner will share a theme of "mental health and social inclusion", with guest speakers from the Toronto branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association. Bringing in the cultural element, it will include traditional Turkish food, including renowned Turkish coffee prepared right on the spot, as well a performance of flamenco guitar.

"We try to give some information about Ramadan so people can learn, and then provide a setting for dialogue," he says. "We also pick a topic of common interest to many people, such as mental health issues."

The Aurora Iftar Dinner will take place at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Wednesday, July 23. For more information, visit www.ramadandinners.ca.

COMING EVENTS

From page 13

Garden Aurora! Long before "Green" or "Sustainable" became the powerful buzzwords they are today, Miriam Goldberger began growing wildflowers and fell madly in love with the beauty and practicality of native plants. Join Miriam and the Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society for "Taming Wildflowers." The meeting will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) at 8 p.m. For more information, call 905-713-6660 or visit www.gardenaaurora.com.
THURSDAY, JULY 24
DISCOVERY DAY FOR KIDS: Learn and play at

Hillary House. Participate in fun activities that are free with admission to the site (\$3 general and \$2 for seniors and youth) on Thursday and Saturdays through August. A rotating roster of activities include Nature Detectives, a Dig It! archaeology program, a historic Scavenger Hunt, and gardening activities. For more information, contact the Aurora Historical Society at 905-727-8991.
FRIDAY, JULY 25
It's Christmas in July at the Royal Canadian Legion today as they serve up a traditional Christmas dinner between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. The meal

features a traditional Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, including roasted turkey, savoury sage dressing, creamy rich gravy, whipped potatoes, buttered vegetables, freshly baked rolls, and dessert. \$12/person. Bring the gang from work, your neighbours, family, friends, or even your in-laws. Tickets are available at the Bar (105 Industrial Parkway North) and reservations can be made for tables of six or more. For more information, call 905-727-9932.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town

Park with Eh440. This a cappella group produces an unforgettable combination of crazy beatboxing, sassy killer harmonies and fresh, urban R&B influenced compositions, creating a wonderful night of music! Concerts run from 7-9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6
Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park with The Sattalites. This Toronto-based Juno Award-winning reggae group delivers a great evening of music for a hot summer night. Concerts run from 7-9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

To submit your event for our Coming Event listings, send details in 100 words or less to letters@auroran.com with the subject line "Coming Events".

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Morning Crescent and Simmons Crescent 46 houses

Route D-16
Temperance Street, Reuben Street, Ransom Court 63 houses

Route D-27
Patrick Drive, Webster Drive, Hutchinson Road, Richardson Drive
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Richardson Drive (part of), Lee Gate 69 houses

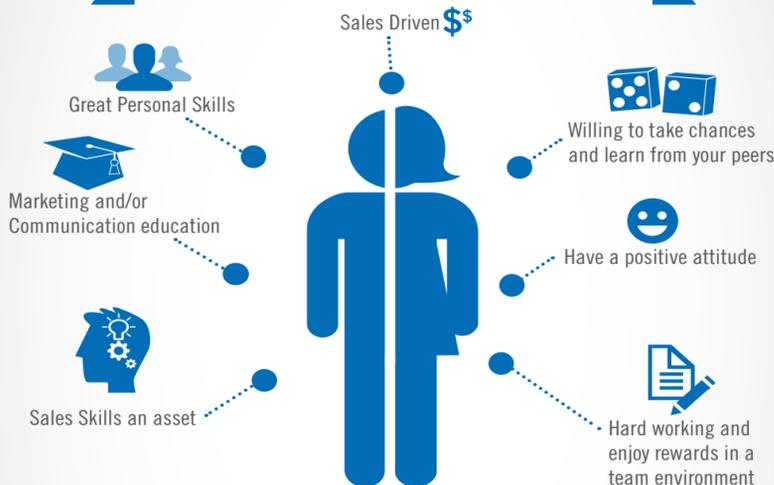
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POLITICS AS USUAL

From page 5

he committed to that process or not, however, is not for us to judge. Only Ford knows. And only Ford will benefit or suffer as the case may be.

If there is a collective interest in Ford getting the help and support he

truly needs – as so many of his council colleagues and fellow candidates so unctuously pronounce – then on this one thing I say, for the love of God, leave the man alone.

Until next week, stay informed, stay involved because this is, after all, Our Town.



SENIOR SCAPE

Charles Sequeira

Our Seniors Centre continues to be busy place and we owe this mainly to our Board of Directors, to all our volunteers working in different capacities within our association, our Town Staff, and to all our members who have supported us all through the year.

Family Picnic at the Seniors' Centre

Judy, our chairperson of special events, takes this opportunity to thank all her volunteers for their help on Sunday, June 22 at our picnic and fun fair: We would not be able to offer these special events to the ASA (Aurora Seniors' Association) members and the public if it were not for our volunteers giving up their time and effort. Again, thanks for all your help and I sincerely hope that we can count on you again in the future.

Evergreen Choir

Following an enjoyable and successful spring concert at the Aurora Seniors' Centre on May 24, the members of the Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Dr. Richard Heinzle, together with their accompanist, Hadara Jacoby, are not yet ready to get out the sunscreen lotion and to head for the cottage or beach.

Since its inception nine years ago, it has been the practice of the choir members to visit seniors' residences and present a repetition of the spring repertoire. The choir was welcomed by residents at Hadley Grange on May 28 and, the following week, at Park Place Manor.

Their last concert for this season was held Wednesday, June 18, at the Kingsway Arms. This was the choir's first visit to the Kingsway Arms, so there was a certain excitement with the idea of meeting new people and singing for them.

The Evergreen Choir resumes its weekly Wednesday practices at the beginning of September, and the members look forward to a busy and exciting 2014-2015 season.

Black Tie Gala

The Seniors' Centre Black Tie Gala chaired by Annette Gagne held on Friday, May 9, was a very successful and elegant event. Attendees had the time of their

lives, they looked like stars. The evening was a blast, the guests danced the night away enjoying good food

and good company. Fun was had by all. Thank you to Richmond Hill Retirement Residence for sponsoring in part this special event and also a thank you to Gerry and Sandra who donated a special gift prize on behalf of RBC Insurance Inc.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to a very special team, Sue and Teri for all their help, Don our photographer for capturing this special event, Bill Moore and his staff for the bar services and also for accommodating all special requests, it was greatly appreciated. Also Charles and Lucille for providing us with the lively entertainment and to Andrew Bailey for all his assistance in preparation for the Gala, what great teams you are, you are the best. Thank you so much in making this special evening a success.

Presentation of our New Board

Louise Miller - Chairperson of our nominating committee presented the ASA Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 Board Term at our Annual General meeting, June 25, 2014, as follows:

Jim Abram, Ruth Church, Ron Coe, Jan Freedman, Carol Hedenberg, Frank Leone, Louise Miller, Charles Sequeira, Don Stevenson.

Executive Officers: The results of the Caucus meeting for the election of the Executive Officers by the Directors from amongst the Directors, as provided in By-Law #1. Resulted in the election of the following officers for the 2014-15 Board Term: President: Charles Sequeira, Vice-President: Carol Hedenberg, Treasurer: Louise Miller, Secretary: Ruth Church.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. If you happen to drop in at our Centre, you can pick up a copy of our monthly newsletter.

Theatre Aurora aims to "revitalize" Town's love for the stage

By Brock Weir

Summer is usually Theatre Aurora's quietest season - at least to outsiders.

The otherwise bustling stage is quiet, the well-worn lights are left to cool down, and actors are off reading their lines and rehearsing for a full slate of fall programs. But this is no ordinary season for the over 55-year-old Aurora institution. In fact, they are in the middle of energetic efforts to re-inspire, re-engage, and revitalize Aurora's love for the theatre.

Volunteers with Theatre Aurora, which is based out of Henderson Drive's Factory Theatre, are in the midst of a significant - and multi-phased - revitalization campaign through September 6, which has identified a new sound system as top priority.

To get this done, not only are they taking online donations but throwing open their doors, and their nearly six decades of costume wardrobes, open to the public.

"This is the first phase of it," explains Theatre Aurora's Jennifer Dewar. "Using the sound equipment, we can continue to produce great musicals for the community. The sound equipment not only helps with musicals, but supports all our plays, and our youth group as well, teaching young people in the community drama skills and technical skills associated within theatre."

Theatre Aurora kicked off their revitalization campaign during their Annual General Meeting last month, beginning their appeal to theatre members and subscribers. Now that summer is in full swing, this is being extended throughout the community.

The campaign culminates on Saturday, September 6 with an open house at the Theatre Aurora. Part of the event will be a garage sale benefiting the fundraiser, selling off costumes, props, furniture pieces out of their archives, and anything else anyone might happen to want to sell. Outside of the garage sale, there will be a fundraising carwash as well as a "fun run", where anyone dressed up as their favourite character from a favourite musical can put their Best Foot Forward for a shared love.

"During our season, it is a very busy time ensuring we are working on the shows and maintaining their quality," says Dewar. "We put on five shows a year from October straight through to May. We had an initial fundraiser at Christmas which went fairly well. It wasn't part of this overall project, but throughout the year it is fairly busy ensuring bums in seats, for lack of a better word, and making sure people are actually coming out to see the wonderful shows."

"It has been a struggle in the past few years to get audiences out. It seems to go through phases where people are really interested in theatre in York Region and so, this year, it has been harder to get people out, not because of the shows we do, but because of the tough winter. With the off-season, we thought this was the best opportunity to leverage the time people have and the extra time to get them to come out and volunteer for September 6."

Once Phase 1 of the fundraiser is complete,

additional phases will roll out over the next two years to keep the stalwart institution fresh. But, at the end of the day, it remains about getting those "bums" in seats. Sometimes it can be tough to make sure the public is as "aware" as they could be of what is on offer at the Factory Theatre.

Dewar says they still get people who walk through their doors who have driven past the building every day for decades before taking the plunge to check the place out and, although she is based in Toronto, she works with people from Aurora who weren't even aware Aurora had a theatre before she came along.

"It is quite disappointing, considering the caliber of the shows we put on," she says. "It is quite good and we strive to bring people out in the community, new people to get involved and educate them on the theatre. It is disappointing sometimes to work really hard on a show and not really have a full house, which did happen a lot this year because of the weather."

"Hopefully by creating a buzz around this project, and the fact we are really working to improve what we've got, hopefully it will increase awareness and that will be part of the idea around September 6. Hopefully we can get people coming in who have never stopped there before, always drive by, or have always wondered, but were afraid to knock on the door."

To donate to the Revitalization Fund, visit arts-people.com/index.php?contribution=thtau.



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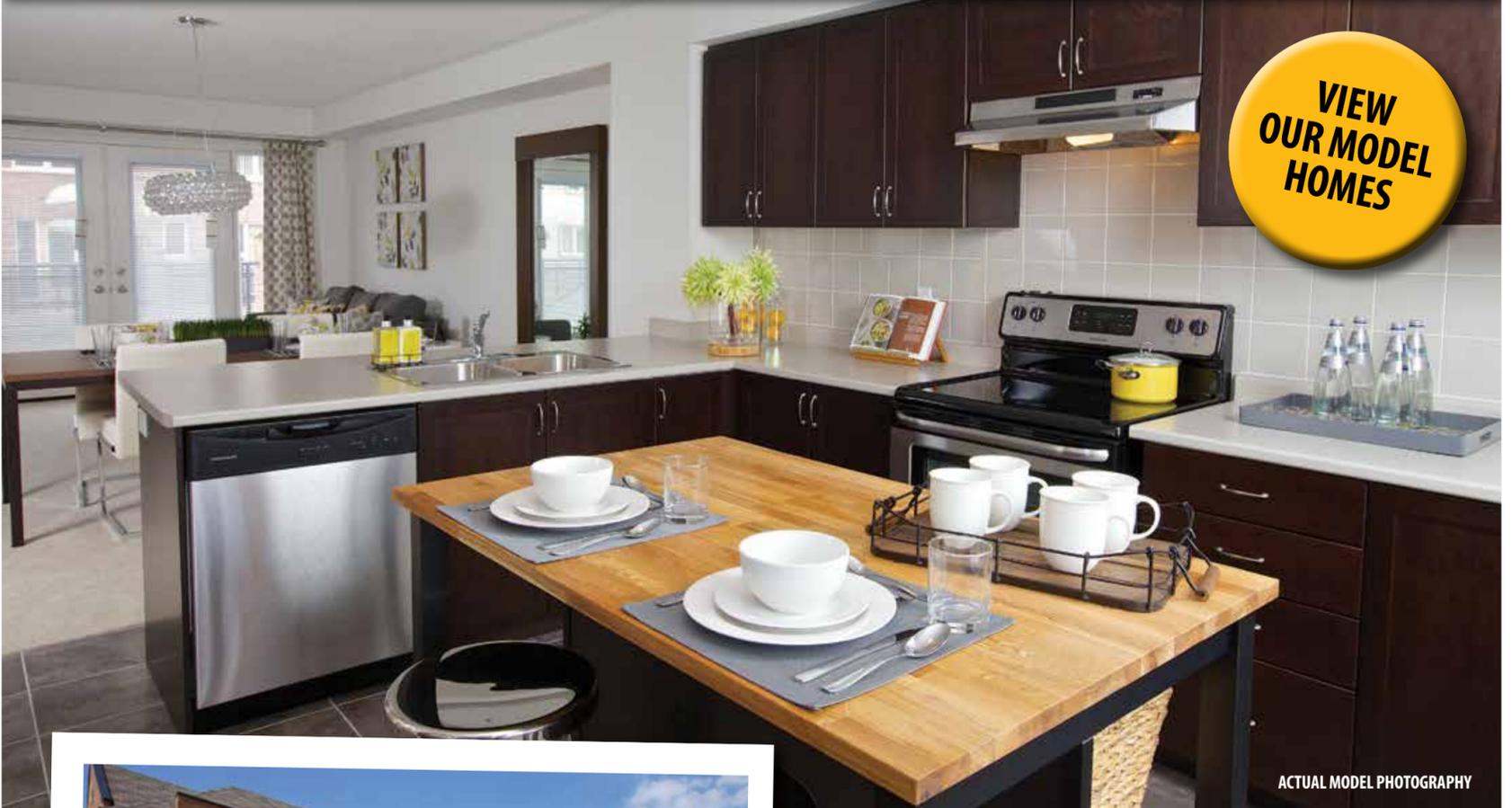
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