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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 14 No. 42 905-727-3300

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FREE Week of August 21, 2014

Roxana Farrell welcomes guests to her home, the Blueprint House on Larmont Street, on Saturday morning as part of Doors Open Aurora. Also opening up their home were Alex and Christian, owners of the Brome House on Centre Street. For more on Doors Open Aurora 2014, please see Page 12.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir and David Falconer

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New Joint Operations Centre gets Council green light

By Brock Weir

After countless hours of debate, Aurora Council formally gave the green light for the Town's new Joint Operations Centre last week.

The project, which will combine the Department of Public Works, currently on Scanlon Court, with the operations of Aurora's Parks Department on a new site at the top of Industrial Parkway North, was approved 5 - 3 with Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, along with Councillors John Abel, Don Constable, Paul Pirri and Michael Thompson giving the thumbs up.

Voting against the project were Councillors Evelyn Buck, John Gallo, and Wendy Gaertner.

Although members of Council seemed to unanimously agree it was time for a new building, particularly to replace the increasingly dilapidated Scanlon Court yard, those ultimately voting against the project objected to what they saw as "ballooning costs", now standing at approximately \$26 million from the previously forecast \$14 million.

For Council members voting in favour of it, it was time to move forward, provide adequate work facilities for municipal employees, with a project funded from the sales of land and Development Charges slated to roll in from the development of 2C.

When complete, the Joint Operations Centre will be a three-storey complex, with the third floor reserved for future office use, that will also include a salt storage building, greenhouses, all meeting LEED Gold Certification, which hits targets for energy efficiency and sustainability.

"The Town of Aurora's Public Works and Operation Services have been operating out of 9 Scanlon Court and several scattered satellite properties," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure, in his report to Council outlining the project's benefits to the community. "The Scanlon Court facility was constructed more than 40 years ago, servicing a community of 15,000 residents. It was designed to accommodate an increase in population to 30,000 residents.

"With an aging facility, growing population and even greater service requirements, the need for a modern, centralized facility has never been greater. Merging multiple locations will create a number of efficiencies, including eliminating duplication, improving emergency readiness [and adding] additional capacities. The new Joint Operations Centre will serve the needs of our community to estimated build-out in 2031."

For more, please see Page 6.

Aurora student lands \$60,000 scholarship for young leaders

By Brock Weir

Lukas Weese is a realist at heart.

As he prepared to take his final exams this spring at Country Day School, the Aurora student knew his name had been put forward by the school for a pretty significant scholarship for when he heads to the University of Toronto this fall to study math and science. But, if you think the question of "What if?" might have nagged at the back of Mr. Weese's mind as he studied, you don't know Lukas Weese.

"I knew going in I was just one student out of many applicants for the University of Toronto, so to get it was just so surprising," he says. "The chances of getting this were very low, it doesn't come to people every day, so it was truly remarkable to say the least."

Weese and his family found the fateful letter in the mail just before he began sitting the first of his final exams. He had talked to his parents about the potential scholarship

Continued on page 13

Timberlane set to close next August as tennis hits "all-time high"

By Brock Weir

As Timberlane Athletic Club gets set to make way for housing next year, it will be like losing a home away from home for members who have been there since day one, according to Timberlane's John Ramsbottom.

Although the exact timing of when the popular athletic club will be closed for good has yet to be confirmed, members have at least one more year before they have to start worrying.

Brookfield Homes, the new owners of the site, are currently leasing the Vandorf Road facilities back to current operators of the club, but this lease lasts through to the end of August 2015, says Mr. Ramsbottom.

"What they have agreed to is give us six months' notice as to whether we will be continuing on the lease after that," Mr. Ramsbottom explains. "For us, as a business, the best times for us to finish off something will be at the end of April because we get in a full indoor tennis season, or at the end of August

Continued on page 23

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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 2	9:30 a.m.	Joint Council Committee (Newmarket)
Tuesday, September 2	7 p.m.	General Committee*
Monday, September 8	7 p.m.	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, September 9	7 p.m.	Council
Thursday, September 11	7 p.m.	Committee of Adjustment

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

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- Part-Time Group Fitness and Aqua Fitness Instructors
- Part-Time Fitness Centre Attendant and Assistant
- Part-Time Lifeguard and Aquatics Instructors

Application deadline for all above-listed positions is **Tuesday, September 2**. For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/employment

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



The next municipal election in The Town of Aurora will be held on **Monday, October 27**. Nominations are open until **Friday, September 12** at 2 p.m. 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?"



Aurora Public Library

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 **Monday, August 25** from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Meet new friends and work together to make amazing LEGO creations.

Portraits of Giving Exhibit

Visit the Colleen Abbott Gallery at the APL until **Friday, September 19** to view the Portraits of Giving Exhibit. This photographic presentation celebrates people in our community who reach beyond their busy lives and give to others.

Fall Program Registration

Registration for fall programs will start on **Saturday, September 6**. Please visit www.library.aurora.on.ca for more information.

2014 Skylight Gallery Draw

Located on the third floor of Aurora's Town Hall, the Skylight Gallery is an open space dedicated to featuring exhibitions by local artists. The gallery features a dramatic skylight, backboards and track lighting to display artwork in a striking setting. Access to this ever-changing art gallery is free to the public.



Each month, the work of a different artist is featured. The draw to determine who will exhibit in 2015 will be held this year on **Wednesday, September 3**. Application forms are available at www.aurora.ca

The 12 artists chosen will represent one month during the year. Artists within York Region and beyond are invited to enter the draw. The featured artist also has the opportunity to host a reception in the Skylight Gallery during his/her chosen month.

For more information, please contact Laura Malone, Special Events Co-ordinator, Town of Aurora, at 905-727-3123 ext. 3132 or lmalone@aurora.ca



Evening Hours by Appointment Program

Are you a homeowner or contractor in need of a permit for a home renovation project? Can't make it during regular business hours? The Town of Aurora is offering extended hours by appointment on **Thursday, September 18** and **Thursday, October 16**.

Book your appointment today for a quick, "one-stop-shop" permit process. Call 905-727-3123 ext. 4390, 4394 or 4388 or email building@aurora.ca

The Evening Hours by Appointment Program allows for review of projects that qualify under the Town's Residential Express Permit Program. For information on projects that qualify, please visit www.aurora.ca/REPP



Join us on **Wednesday, August 27** for a tribute performance to Creedence Clearwater Revival at the final 2014 Concerts in the Park event. Don't miss this fun night of country rock at Aurora Town Park, beginning at 7 p.m. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets. All concerts are free but food donations for the local food pantry are greatly appreciated. For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/summerconcerts or call 905-726-4762.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Election Day Employment

The Town of Aurora is recruiting for a variety of customer service-focused, temporary election workers to assist with the **October 27** municipal election.



Applicant requirements include:

- 18 years of age or older;
- Legally entitled to work in Canada;
- Applicants cannot be a candidate or the spouse, sibling, parent or child, or grandparent or grandchild of a candidate running in the **October 27** election;
- Customer service and/or election official experience preferred;
- Fluent in English (knowledge of other languages an asset);
- Access to reliable transportation;
- Ability to work well both independently and as a team; and
- Available to attend a two-hour mandatory training session, up to two weeks prior to the election.

To apply, please complete the online application form available at www.aurora.ca/electionemployment or at Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way. The application deadline is **Monday, September 15** at 9 a.m.

Notice of Subdivision Assumption

On **July 29**, The Town of Aurora assumed the Preserve Subdivision, Phases 1 and 2, from Preserve Homes Corporation as per registration plans 65M-3852, 65M-3945 and 65M-3946.

The following streets have been accepted by Public Works: Ames Crescent, Nicklaus Drive, Kane Crescent, Steel Drive, Pattemore Gate, Halldorson Avenue and Mavrincac Boulevard. Please refer to the map below.



For more information, please contact Erwin Molnar, Administrator of Construction Projects, Town of Aurora, at 905-727-3123 ext. 3441.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Street Trees Block Pruning

Please be advised that municipal street tree block pruning will occur on the following streets starting in early September. The program will run until early November 2014.

Kirkvalley Crescent	Chippingwood Manor
Valemount Way	Pederson Drive
Limeridge Street	Blaydon Lane
Calmar Crescent	Skipton Trail
Billingham Heights	Perivale Gardens
Birkshire Drive	Earl Stewart Drive
Turnbridge Road	Sommerton Court

If you have any questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3233.

MOVIES in the park

ALL MOVIES BEGIN AT DUSK

FOUR GREAT NIGHTS!

RETRO REPLAY WEEKEND

THIS WEEKEND IS SPONSORED BY State Farm



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 MAMA MEAT SHOPS & MORE!

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS AND BLANKETS!

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END OF SUMMER SUPERHERO PARTY



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



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



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FUN FOR ALL AGES

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Friday from 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M.
Saturday from 2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

GLENN MARAIS BAND
Sunday at 3 P.M.

HOEDOWN SHOWDOWN
Saturday from 11 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

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We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities



Restaurateur Mary Georgopoulos, second right, was joined by her children George Jonathan, Sophia, and James, at Jonathan's Restaurant as they bade farewell to the family-founded dining establishment Mary and her father George opened 25 years ago this year. As of last week, the restaurant is now under new ownership.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

Broken plates and a few tears signals end of an era at Jonathan's Restaurant

By Brock Weir

Shards of broken ceramics, moistened by a few tears, were the order of the day at Jonathan's Restaurant last week as friends and loyal patrons filled the Yonge Street eatery to bid adieu to long-time owner Mary Georgopoulos and her family.

The co-founder and long-time owner of Jonathan's called it a day last week after selling the business to new owners after 25 years in business. The restaurant was almost overflowing with long-time customers, dignitaries, as well as artists, business owners and community groups that have benefited from the restaurant's generosity over the past quarter century.

For those in attendance, Jonathan's – and Mary – provided not just a good meal, but a vital hub where the community was able to come together to support one another.

This was a message brought to the fore at Wednesday's gathering by former Newmarket-Aurora MPP Frank Klees.

"I am honoured to extend our gratitude and appreciation for your exemplary leadership as a business owner in the Town of Aurora, York Region and the Province of Ontario," said Mr. Klees. "In the tradition of your parents, who I had the pleasure of knowing, dear people, salt of the earth, our Province is better because of the immigration of people from across the globe to this great province of ours. None were better than Mary's parents.

"In the tradition of your parents, you not only personified 'warm, Greek hospitality' but in your footsteps you demonstrated generosity of spirit that has enriched many lives that you have touched. I am personally indebted to you and your family for your steadfast support and, above all, your friendship through my years of public service."

Additional tributes rolled in from Councillor John Abel who, on behalf of Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and the rest of Council, spoke of the many people in the community who had been "touched" by the restaurant and the family, particularly efforts around the Christmas and Holiday season to help families in need. A special tribute was also given to Mary by musician Patty McLaughlin who has been a lynchpin of the Jonathan's Song Circle, which has provided music to patrons most Tuesday nights for nine years running.

Following these remarks, however, it was time for the woman of the hour to have her say, and she underscored the flipside to most of these

tributes, beginning with that given by Mr. Klees.

"On behalf of myself and my children, at a time when it was probably one of the darkest moments in our lives when my dad was very ill and he was stuck in a facility he didn't belong in, we tried every avenue, we pursued every government agency, and we were at our wit's end. We called Frank...and within 30 minutes we got a call back and Frank brought a light to the end of the tunnel. You made something very wrong right and we will always be grateful for that."

To long-time staff, many of whom have been at Jonathan's for well over a decade, she spoke of their own loyalty when things got rough.

"The first time we had a death in the family, we were broken up and didn't know left from right," Mary explained. "We decided to have a wake here in the restaurant and the staff came together, prepared the food, the Greek traditions, decorate

the room, make sure the brandy was at the front, and they made sure every detail was taken care of. They held us with kid gloves when we really needed it and that is just one of the many, many times.

"At the end of the day, after so many hours that they toiled over, they refused to put in their hours and they worked that day for free. When we first came to Aurora, we didn't want to be a restaurant that was just about having a meal. We wanted to create memories, we wanted people to drive by and say, 'we had some great laughs here, we smashed a few plates there,' and maybe danced on a few tables and chairs. It happened because of the people in this room. We hope we have made a difference. We know we have enjoyed our time here and you have left us with so many memories we will always cherish."

Briefly

PORTRAITS OF GIVING ARRIVE IN AURORA

Portraits of Giving, the annual photographic celebration by Merk Photography of those who have given back to their communities across York Region, arrives in Aurora this week. Centred on the theme of "A Lifestyle of Giving Back", the portraits are now on display at the Aurora Public Library through September 19. Among those honoured this year are former Aurora mayor Tim Jones, and Magna's Marc Neeb. "My reward is seeing the benefits of what you do when you volunteer," said Mr. Jones in a statement. Added Mr. Neeb: "My goal at the end of the day is to make sure that whatever I do has relevance." For more on the Portraits of Giving show, visit www.merkphotography.com.

MOMS TAKE OVER TOWN PARK FOR FOOD BANK

It will be a mother of an event at Town Park this Friday afternoon as momtown, a national grassroots organization connecting mothers, and their kids, across the country, join forces to tackle hunger in support of Food Banks Canada. Held in conjunction with Quaker Oats and their Quaker Chewy Brand, it will be the local launch of "Chewy for Charity" that is designed to address the nearly 2 million Canadian youth and children that rely on food banks each year. Mothers and children will be on hand August 22 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to create Canadian-themed artwork to benefit the cause.



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A6398	2014 [EX-RENTAL]	A4	Tiptronic	Brilliant Black	25,537	\$37,999
51446	2012	A6	Tiptronic	Brilliant Black	64,092	\$50,995
51436	2011	Q7	Tiptronic	Lava Grey	52,535	\$46,999
51455	2014	RS5	S-Tronic	Panther Black	7,402	\$85,957

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Letters to the editor

Mayor takes exception to Kean's letter, issues challenge

(Re: Coronation is complete, says Kean. August 7, 2014)

As readers of the Auroran will know, I rarely respond to items published unless they are so far over the top that they need to be addressed. Such is the case with Mr. Kean's letter of August 7.

I am not sure of the source of his animus towards me – it certainly wasn't there when he sought and received my support for his run for Council in 2001 and again in 2004 (including a sign on my lawn) - but it certainly seems to have clouded his judgement.

Mr. Kean's main point seems to be this Council has "wasted taxpayer's money", and goes on to list a variety of sins committed – real or perceived – most of which are attributed to me, including that my "regime" will have the largest deficit in the history of Aurora.

Deficit – Aurora does not have one.

A look at our independently audited statements posted on the Town's website will show that we actually have a small surplus. The Ontario & Federal Governments both have deficits - large deficits. The Town does not.

The Town does have capital debt (as do all levels of government). That is really the only way we can finance facilities for our residents. The same financing scheme most of us use to buy a house. I did, and I suspect so did Mr. Kean. It is interesting that Mr. Kean did not have a problem with debt in either of his Council terms when the [Stronach] Aurora Recreation Complex project was conceived, approved and built.

The largest component of that debt will be the new Joint Operations Centre – which is being funded from development charges, not taxes.

And speaking of taxes – Mr. Kean contends we are wasting taxpayer's money. Compared to whom? Or what? Or when?

If you review the tax increases for the last 20+ years, you will see that the years he was a Councillor were the years of Aurora's highest tax increases. And by a wide margin!

I could go on, but I believe I have made my point.

However, I am pleased that Mr. Kean made some money by betting on the outcome. My suggestion is to take that money, register as a candidate for Mayor in the upcoming elections, dust off your old election signs and start pounding the pavement. I would look forward to the public debates.

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe
Aurora

Magna expands

Hoedown to two nights

The 26th Magna Hoedown is coming up soon.

To date this event has raised over \$8 million for countless charities, non-profits and community groups. Magna International considers it important to contribute to communities in which our employees live to make those communities stronger.

Strengthening community is exactly what Hoedown has been able to accomplish to date. It continues to be our goal as we present Hoedown 2014.

At the wrap-up review of last year's Hoedown, our CEO, Don Walker, asked if we could create a second night under the Hoedown tent to benefit the community. I'm pleased to announce we have done just that.

The Magna Hoedown will feature two nights. Our regular Saturday night Hoedown will continue on September 13 as York Region's largest fundraising event.

You will experience the same amazing entertainment, great food and community party it has been known for; all in support of our charities. Hoedown has become that one event each year that folks look forward to seeing the same familiar faces and attend with their groups of friends.

This year, we've also added a Friday night that you won't want to miss. We are featuring Tim Hicks as our headliner.

Just prior to Tim's performance at our Friday, September 12 event, he will be performing during this year's Canadian Country Music Awards show on September 7, 2014. He has been nominated for four 2014 CCMA Awards, including Rising Star, Album of the Year (for his debut album Throwdown), Songwriter of the Year for "Hell Raisin' Good Time" and CMT Video of the Year for "Got A Feeling" featuring Blackjack Billy.

In addition to Tim Hicks, and all the way from Las Vegas, we will feature the Wolf Creek Band, playing all your country favourites. And there's more. The finals of our Hoedown Showdown talent contest featuring our final 10 contestants will also take place.

Those in attendance will have an opportunity to text your vote for your favourite. Of course, there will be a silent auction and folks will be able to purchase food and beverages. Tickets will go fast for both nights, so I encourage you to get yours today. Visit www.hoedown.ca for ticket information.

Remember, you will be contributing to 15 organizations whose work on our behalf make this community a better place by supporting those around us.

Steve Hinder, Hoedown Chair
Magna for Community

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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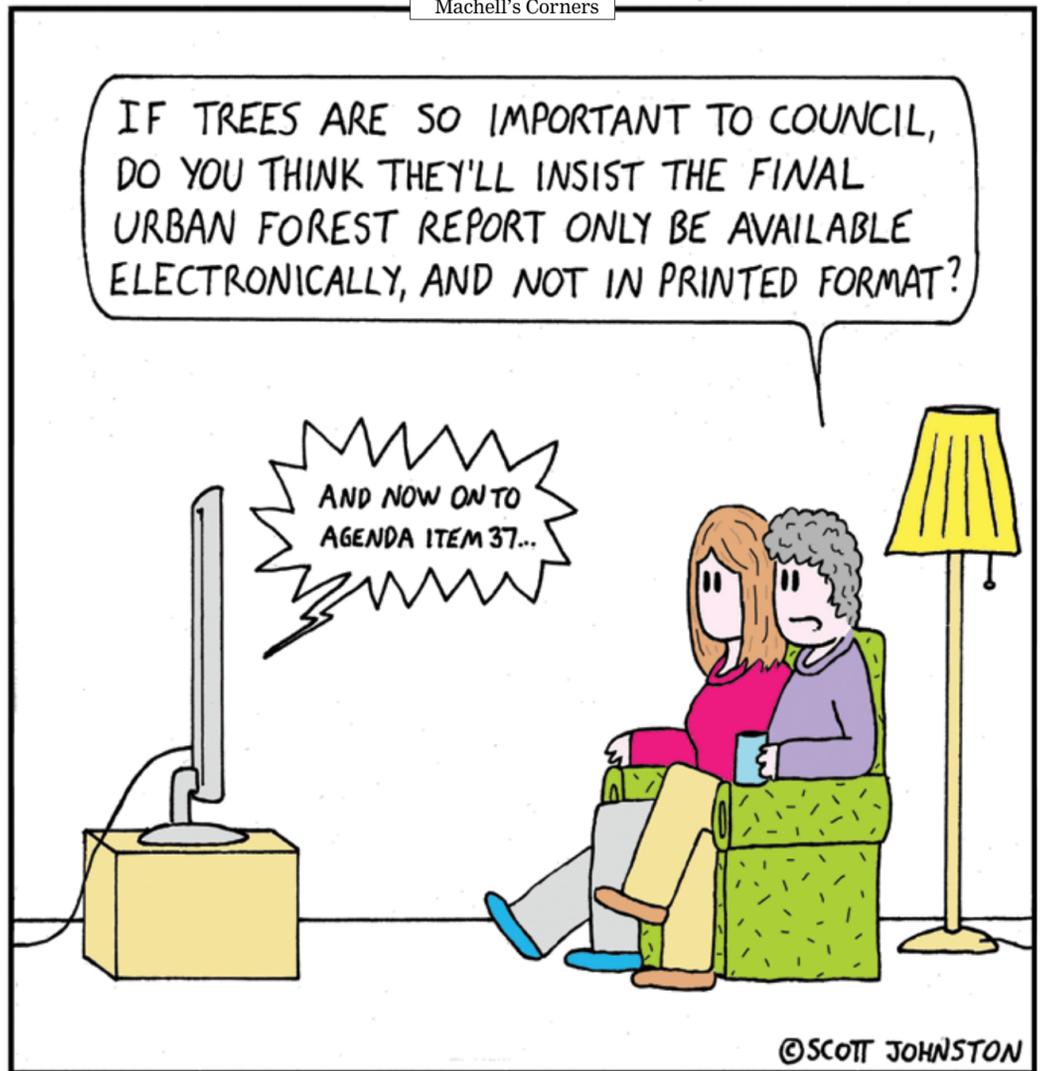
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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Comedy & Tragedy

Right at the outset of this week's column I would like to thank Angela Gismondi for putting last week's edition of The Auroran together in my absence. It was nice to have a week off to re-charge before the busy election season ahead!

Although it started a week later than it has in years past, I was off once again to Jamestown, New York, a smaller-scale city in upstate New York, near the Pennsylvania border, for the Lucille Ball Comedy Festival. The annual trek to Jamestown, the birthplace of Ball herself, has become something of an annual family tradition for these local Lucy fans and it is fascinating to see how the festival has evolved over the years.

What started out as a festival for "new comedy", eventually morphed into a series of festivals honouring Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz, their co-stars, co-workers, and their respective television series.

It was a Lucy fan's dream to have the chance to meet and learn from some of the people who made their own indelible marks on this particular niche of the entertainment industry, but the years have necessitated a shift back to its original focus.

Those who had been involved with I Love Lucy from the start, and even those with even the most tangential relationship with Ball and/or Arnaz, have become endangered species with the passage of time, so organizers of the Festival have gone back to their roots with a returned focus to comedy, with a few dashes of "Lucy" thrown in for good measure.

Although it started on Wednesday, August 6, this year's festival went into full swing the following day with a Stand-Up Comedy Showcase hosted by Canada's own Caroline Rhea. As someone unfamiliar with her comedy work outside of "Hollywood Squares" and Saturday morning reruns of "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" growing up, I was pleasantly surprised how hilarious this woman is as she hosted up-and-coming comedians Carmen Lynch, Moody McCarthy, and Andrew Norelli who each brought their unique perspectives of the world to the stage.

Comedy continued the following evening with stand-up performances from Tom Cotter, who almost took the crown on America's Got Talent, with his wife, comedienne Kerri Louise as his equally funny warm-up act.

Comedy continued throughout the weekend in various locations and it culminated with a headliner appearance from Jay Leno on the Saturday evening, which was opened by a wonderful – but all too brief – concert from Lucie Arnaz.

Jay Leno was... well, he was Jay Leno. Okay, in the interests of full disclosure, I am dyed-in-the-wool Team Coco, but I did go into the evening with an open mind. After all, if you expect the worst you're always bound to be pleasantly surprised, right? Well, I'm here to report that old adages are not necessarily true.

Many people love Jay Leno and I can see why. Comedy – and what people find funny – is a very broad spectrum. Some like their comedy pre-digested, some like their comedians to lend a voice to what they're thinking, or wish they thought of themselves. That's Jay Leno to me.

Many friends who were also in attendance over the weekend, however, want their comedy to be fresh and topical. (Yes, before I go on, I am fully aware of the irony in looking for fresh and topical comedy at a festival founded to honour a woman who would have been 103 this month and a show which made its TV debut 63 years ago this fall.) So, with that in mind, we took bets as to how many fresh and topical Monica Lewinsky jokes would be part of his act.

After putting my money on three, I am also here to report my wallet is lighter. There was not a Monica Lewinsky joke to be found in the hour-and-



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

a-half he was on stage, but there were jokes aplenty about the wonderful world of transfats ("That's fat that's liposuctioned from..." well, in the best interests of this newspaper, I won't finish the punchline), Lynndie England and Abu Ghraib prison and, my personal favourite, "Remember when Bjork wore that swan dress to the Oscars a couple of years ago?" (For those keeping score, "a couple of years ago" was 2001.)

The important thing is many people were thoroughly enjoying themselves, it was a sold-out crowd, and a sure indication the Lucille Ball Comedy Festival will carry on the comedic legacies of the First Lady of Comedy and everyone in her orbit for years to come.

Another indication of the interesting things to come? The creation of a National Comedy Hall of Fame in Jamestown, NY, similar to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, founded in honour of Ball and Arnaz, with their daughter presiding over the soil turning ceremony of Phase 1 a few hours before the show.

MEANWHILE, OVER IN CALIFORNIA...

Hindsight is a very interesting thing. After the festival wrapped and the thousands of people from 38 U.S. states, Canada and Australia began their journeys home or settled back into their "real lives" once again for the workweek ahead, news broke on the tragic and untimely suicide of Robin Williams.

It is difficult to consider that as so many of us spent that particular weekend in a comedic paradise, burning more than a few calories with more belly laughs than is practical to count and, for some of us, walking away with a few well-earned laugh lines, that one of the world's brightest comedy lights was considering and preparing to, to borrow a phrase from I Love Lucy, "dim his bulb."

In almost every avenue over the past week, pundits have reiterated the principle that comics are often tortured souls who find a particular outlet in making people laugh. I suppose it is true, as Lucille Ball herself came from a background of tragedy and struggle, but Williams' death has underscored the point.

Whether you thrived off the manic energy Robin Williams brought to stage, screen or television in Mork & Mindy or Good Morning Vietnam, preferred some of his more dramatic, lower-key work like in Good Will Hunting or The Face of Love, which unspooled at the Toronto International Film Festival nearly a year ago, he offered something for everyone.

For those of my generation, he was an indelible part of our lives, whether we came to know him from his brilliant voice work in Aladdin, from his fresh interpretation on a classic story in Hook (I still have *all* the Hook trading cards collected religiously when I was six), through being thoroughly disturbed watching One Hour Photo expecting a comedy, or by driving everyone within a certain radius crazy quoting from Mrs. Doubtfire.

His was a light that will certainly be missed, but as I look back over the last weekend, I wonder what drove everyone taking the stage over the Festival into the warm embrace of comedy and its audience. Do they just want to make people laugh, or are they looking for a comfortable outlet for what is bothering them? Do they have so many keen observations bubbling over that they need to express them to a collective, or are they looking for an escape?

Whatever the reason, they make a lot of people happy, and if anything good can come from this tragedy it is that everyone takes a good look inside themselves and, if needed, seeks help for whatever might be weighing them down. As strong, solid, and permanent his legacy to comedy might be, this might, at the end of the day, be his greater contribution to the world.

NEW AURORAN POLL

Do you support Aurora's newly approved Joint Operations Centre?

- A) Yes
B) No
C) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

Do you think Aurora needs to work more with the Region in providing affordable housing in Town?
A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

RESULTS AUGUST 19, 2014	YES	NO	UNSURE
	73%	24%	3%



This genteel image of "old Aurora" belies the fact the First World War was raging overseas. Taken in September, 1915, on the grounds of Inglehurst, the Fleury family home which one stood on Yonge Street, these women were hosting a tea to raise money for the Aurora branch of the Red Cross.

Photo courtesy of John McIntyre

Everyone pays when bullying isn't addressed



VIEW FROM QUEEN'S PARK

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

I'd forgotten about him until a visit this week from Bessie Vlasis and Gwyneth Anderson, co-founders of Bully Free Community Alliance of York Region.

Robert (not his real name) was my first significant experience with a bully. I was in Grade 6 and he was a terror - fighting anyone who didn't bend to his will.

Fortunately, I was a big kid and when it was my turn for a thrashing, Robert misjudged, I tripped and we both went down, with me on top knocking the wind from him. Thankfully our teacher was nearby and we were both pulled to our feet, Robert gasping for air and me acting braver than I was.

From that point on, Robert decided we were best of friends and left me and my real friends alone.

I got thinking about Robert.

He would often come to school with black eyes and bruises on his body. It was common knowledge among us kids that he got beaten at home. Perhaps that's why we tolerated his outrageous behaviour.

We know bullying is bad. But, it's more than unfair. Research has shown kids who are bullied experience real negative physical, school and mental health issues. In fact, kids who are bullied are more likely to experience depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy.

They can develop lasting health issues. Kids who are bullied often begin to do worse at school. Experts tell us they are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school.

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, "a very small number of bullied children might retaliate through extremely violent measures. In 12 of 15 school shooting cases in the 1990s, the shooters had a history of being bullied."

Research has also shown kids who bully are more likely to engage in violent and other risky behaviour into adulthood. They are more likely to abuse alcohol and other drugs in adolescence and as adults, get into fights, drop out of school, engage in early sexual activity, have criminal convictions and traffic citations as adults, and, as adults, be abusive toward their romantic partners, spouses or children.

And it's not just the bullied children who suffer. Researchers have also discovered that children who witness bullying are more likely to have increased use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs, have increased mental health problems and miss or skip school.

Clearly, even if our children are not being bullied they can still be affected by virtue of being a witness.

The Ontario Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution to recognize Bully Awareness and Prevention Week. The first event was in 2010. This year,

it's November 16 to 22.

With the knowledge that students who feel their schools are safe and accepting generally do better academically, Ontario's Ministry of Education is leading the way to create this environment in all Ontario schools.

The Ministry writes: "Building a positive and inclusive school climate requires a focused effort on developing healthy and respectful relationships throughout the whole school and surrounding community, among and between students and adults. This involves a sustained long-term commitment to put this into practice and change school culture."

In 2012, the province passed the Accepting Schools Act, that requires all school boards take preventative measures against bullying, issue tough consequences for bullying, and support students who want to promote understanding and respect for all.

The legislation builds on the work the province is doing to help make Ontario schools safe, inclusive and accepting places to learn. It's part of a broader, comprehensive action plan that includes new mental health workers in schools, strengthening bully prevention strategies across the education curriculum, and a public awareness campaign that stresses all Ontarians have a role in preventing and ending bullying.

But back to the visit by Bessie and Gwyneth of the Bully Free Community Alliance of York Region.

These volunteers are residents of our riding. Both are parents with children in the school system, and are very involved in promoting a bully-free York Region. In June, they were invited to testify before the federal government's Committee of Justice and Human Rights.

After working with police, educators and youth workers, to name a few, the group has had time to look for gaps in addressing bullying.

They think they've found the largest gap - youth mental health. It's where they're focused now.

At our meeting, the two talked about the need to address the mental health needs of children who bully, but also the needs of those who are bullied or witness bullying.

We have committed to meeting further with the organization to see what role we can play in reducing the level of bullying in our community. I'll keep you updated.

And Robert, wherever you are, I hope your life is happier than when we last knew each other in Grade 6.

Contact Chris at his Community Office: 905-750-0019, or by email: cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. His office is located in Suite 201, 14845 Yonge St., Aurora LAG 6H8. Office hours are 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

The Ol' Boys Club

I am in the midst of a search for a rather mythic beast.

No, not the yeti, Bigfoot or the Abominable Snowman. Not even our dear Nessie. I am on the hunt for much bigger game. I am in search of this nebulous, but oft mentioned group of persons known collectively as, "the old boys club".

Given the prominence of this supposed group of power-brokers I would assume that they would be readily recognizable by us common folk. Some of our local political commentators sure seem to be able to identify them - as a group, mind you, not individually.

I have seen the "old boys club" referred to in multiple media sources and in reference to multiple municipal (and other) governments and the decisions made by their leaders. Aurora, Newmarket, Brampton, Mississauga, Oshawa, Ottawa - virtually all of Quebec's local governments - multitudes of disparate municipalities seem to be run by this never seen but omnipresent - omniscient even - group of men. And yet...

No one ever specifies who is a member of this "club". No one even states what the heck the criteria is to be a member. Do they have to pay dues? Is there a secret handshake? Do they all wear special decoder rings so that they can spot another member from the teeming masses over which they supposedly exert such control?

Though I have never seen these mythic men myself, I envision a group of white-haired, cigar-chomping, bourbon-swilling old men, sitting in leather wing-backed chairs, around a large round oak table, guffawing loudly as they divvy up the vast sums of public money that they control.

I looked up the definition of "Old Boys Club." According to the Urban Dictionary (OED, surprisingly, did not have a definition of "Old Boys Club"), the Old Boys Club is, "...an informal system by which money and power are retained by wealthy white men through incestuous business relationships."

It seems a few folks may be using this term a wee bit out of context. Or perhaps, just incorrectly. Or perhaps they just don't know what the heck it means, but they know it resonates with people so they will just use it whenever they want to insinuate something untoward is afoot.

Indeed, it seems that politicians of every stripe, seeking every office, trot out the old canard of "Old Boys Club" or "the elite" whenever they are trying to get traction on their message(s) and need an easy - but anonymous - scapegoat for why things are as they are and how much better things would be if we all just elected them.

It's lazy politicking, in my opinion. It's a method of appealing to "otherness" that has - unfortunately - been quite effective for some. By saying that there's some kind of party going on somewhere, and you're not invited, they are playing to the sense of injustice that pervades the political discourse for the financially constrained voting public.

Without ever giving a face to these "old boys club members", they nonetheless give credence to the idea that they exist in the first place.

I am not so naïve as to think that powerbrokers do not exist, or have influence on, the machinery of governance. I have no doubt that there are leaders that can be - and have been - bought and sold by the wealthy and powerful. But at the municipal level, one has to ask the question: where's the end game here? There are no Super-Pac funds at the municipal level. No vast pots of money made available to the candidate(s) of choice.

The maximum allowed for a campaign in a lower tier municipality is barely more than \$30,000, with a maximum single donation allowed set at \$750. Not sure who can be bought for \$750, but I hope we can all spot him a mile away.

If the Old Boys Club runs the show, and our elected leaders are mere puppets in the play, then show me the strings. Otherwise, let's focus on the issues of importance and leave the red herrings to the Swedes.

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

Customer Service in Aurora - Round VIII : Mastermind



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

A couple of weeks back, I wrote about the fact that corporate loyalty programs have been proudly trumpeted by organizations as a great way to recognize and financially reward long-term customers.

In that column, I presented two local companies - one with a façade of a loyalty program and the other one with a real and straightforward program.

Omars Shoes in the south part of Aurora are the latter.

Their loyalty program is a simple one. You have a card and every time you buy something they sign it. On your tenth purchase you receive a "free" pair of shoes. (They take the average price of your previous nine purchases, so you will most likely not get the shoes for free, but the cost will be, in most cases, very minimal.)

Today, I want to simply describe a local, positive buying experience that made me happy and exceeded my expectations.

I have a good friend who now lives in Plano, Texas. I am the godfather to his son.

I always send his now thirteen-year-old son a present at Christmas and for his birthday in early August.

I invariably go to the local Mastermind store because I like their selection, the service is great, the pricing seems reasonable and they do free wrapping.

A couple of Friday nights ago I went looking for something to send Spenser. I noticed right away that the setup of the store had been changed since I was last at the store.

A young lady promptly greeted me as I came in and asked if I needed any help. I said, "Thanks, but I am fine right now."

In addition to searching for a present, I am always intrigued by what new Lego or scientific toys that they

have. I have purchased both a model wind turbine and a solar array model as gifts as well as buying a plastic car engine model for myself (that took forever to build and ruined part of our dining room table due to "glue" issues, but that is a story for another day).

After searching around for potential toys for me, I found a couple of items for

Spenser:

The lady behind the cash then asked if these gifts were for a couple of children and I said "No, just one."

The staff then began to wrap the gifts for me. I then took a chance and asked if they had a box to put the presents in. Most times when I ask this question - without them even looking - I am politely told that they do not.

In this case, the lady said that she was not certain if they had one, but she would go out back and look.

A minute later she came back with an appropriately sized box.

She then put the wrapped presented into the box, put some wrapping paper (that she had turned inside out) around the box to make it look better and then proceeded to encase the box in lots of transparent tape so all that I needed to do now was put an address on the package and pay for postage.

This lady's effort saved me a bunch of time, effort and maybe a couple of dollars.

I thanked the team who helped me and left the store with the box that was now ready for shipping.

All I can say is that a happy customer means a customer that will be coming back. And I am a (very) happy customer.

Stephen can be contacted at stephensomerville@yahoo.com

Safety, equality driving forces behind “overdue” Joint Ops Centre: proponents

By Brock Weir

After nearly three years of debates, numerous reports, and a “demonstrated need” for a new Joint Operations Centre, it was high time to give the green light to the project last week, according to proponents of the plan.

For the five members of Council who voted in favour of the new JOC, it was a matter of moving forward not only to benefit those currently working in “dilapidated” conditions in the current Scanlon Court facility, but also to build a facility that would bring added benefits to the community as a whole.

“We have had multiple reports, we have been debating this issue for two-and-a-half years, and there is no rush to judgement,” said Councillor Michael Thompson. “The fact of the matter remains that no significant change has been made to this building since 1988. It is almost 30 years. Staff have continued to identify the deficiencies and the concerns with the building, the impact on service levels, the space limitations, the concerns for people who worked there, the fact that there is no female washroom.

“Over the next few years, when 2C comes online, it is roughly 3,000 homes and 8,000 people and plenty of land that we need to service. We need to look forward. We need to make sure we are taking care of those parks, those trails, those roads, and this is part of doing our job.”

While previous reports indicated at least \$3 million would be needed to maintain the Scanlon Court facility, the biggest mistake in this whole process, he said, was a too-low estimate on how much the site would be from the outset. Rejecting claims of “ballooning costs”, he said previous estimates were influenced on the idea of renovating the old Aurora Hydro Building rather than purchasing a new site.

“Since we have moved from that issue, staff have done a good job of making sure the costs associated with this facility were scrutinized, were carefully viewed, adjudicated, and brought to us so we could determine what the needs were and what the wants were for the facility and how to move forward. There are questions about how some people don’t like how the reports were written, some of the information

being put forward, but the fact remains the need has been shown over and over. If we’re going to make sure we maintain service levels going forward as this community continues to grow, we need to act today. We don’t need to wait another two years or four years or 10 years like previous Councils have done. There is a need and this is us responding to it.”

For Councillor John Abel, one of the most important functions of a Council is to preserve infrastructure and Operations and Parks are an integral part of that. Combining the two departments into one facility is a mark of efficiency, he argued. Original underestimated costs, he said, could be attributed to building on a flat piece of land. When the plan changed to find a bigger plot of land, albeit one which had significant topographical challenges, the costs went up.

“It is a well-suited, centralized location in our industrial area and it is actually a perfect location,” he said. “The cost of construction over the last decade has gone up 56 per cent so if you are going to defer to the next term of Council you are just going to add to the cost. This is a green, efficient, gold standard facility. It is going to be a more effective operation and will be one that can sustain our growth for at least 30 years as we grow out. You can be skeptical that perhaps we won’t realise those [Development Charges to pay for it but] businesses are attracted to infrastructure as well as workforce and transportation. This is another way to attract business, which I am confident if it doesn’t happen in five years, it can certainly happen within 10.”

As lands in 2C – particularly in the residential area west of Leslie Street – continue to be sold at a rapid clip to new homeowners, Councillor Paul Pirri said projections for Development Charges are on track. Projected population growth is also on track, underscoring the need for a new facility, he added.

“If we still had a population of 30,000, which is what this building was meant to handle, there would be no need to levy development charges for this program, but people are moving to Aurora, people like coming to Aurora, and we need bigger facilities to manage that population increase. It makes sense to me that a large portion of those funds come from individuals moving into the community.”

Joint Ops Centre is “wrong direction” for Aurora: opposition

By Brock Weir

Aurora needs new facilities for public works staff, but the recently approved Joint Operations Centre on Industrial Parkway North is not the way to do it, argued Councillors opposed to the project last week.

While they agreed on the need, for Councillors Evelyn Buck, John Gallo, and Wendy Gaertner, their main opposition stemmed from cost, location, and all the “bells and whistles” slated to become a part of the new facility.

“The building is decked out like a Christmas tree,” said Councillor Buck of the building, which is expected to include numerous items to ensure it meets the environmental LEED Gold certification. “Every falderal Council could think of, every little luxury was brought out. [The current facilities on Scanlon Court] was a prefab metal building, it certainly owes us nothing and it certainly needs to be replaced. Yes, we have more staff, yes, we are taking care of our own fleet [but] the fact is the majority of the responsibilities of the Public Works and Parks departments are not done in the building. It is done out there in the community.

“I don’t discount the need for a new facility, but I don’t agree it has been managed well.”

To illustrate this point, Councillor Buck said she still objected to the Parks Department being “turfered” out of the former home of Aurora Hydro, which now serves as Aurora’s new armoury. That was a move which failed to “serve the community well”, she said. The land sale of the current yard on Scanlon Court was also not handled well in her view, she added, noting the sale should have been up to competitive bid.

“I don’t agree that we bought a good site [for the new facility] and had to spend millions remediating it to make it a site that was usable,” she continued. “I don’t agree that is a good location. There are a number of things that do not allow me to have confidence that this building was well-planned. I don’t argue that it is needed, I don’t argue that our employees are entitled to adequate facilities in order to carry out their responsibilities. I don’t argue that it isn’t a good investment in the future. It is an

essential investment in the future.”

Similar views were put forward by Councillor John Gallo who, rather than arguing against the need for the facility, argued against the “form” of the planned JOC. This objection to form was not only physical, but also fiscal towards the model put forward to pay the building’s hefty price tag.

With the majority of the \$26 million price tag coming from future development charges coming out of the thousands of homes slated for development on Aurora’s 2C lands, he said earmarking this money now could create a “vacuum” for the future.

“It creates a void in terms of future projects that we could be spending money on,” he said. “In terms of the balance of the funding for this project, other than Scanlon Court I haven’t seen anything in terms of selling our Leslie Street lands other than Bulk Barn. We felt very confident we were going to sell the lands. I don’t believe we feel confident anymore because I haven’t seen any movement and I would have liked to have seen better explanation of the status of our Leslie Street Lands.

“My math tells me with all the bells and whistles, this project is roughly \$10 million over budget from when we first started and I clearly have a huge concern with that. It is the largest capital project this municipality has ever spent and the final tendering is weeks before an election and I have a big issue with that.”

Councillor Gallo then

Continued on page 7

This view towards Development Charges (DCs) was shared by Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, who highlighted a number of developers going into the area that have sold out of their first phases. Aurora, he said, is an “incredibly attractive” destination for people to move to and he was optimistic everything else would follow suit.

“Can we guarantee [the land sales] will continue?” he asked. “Of course not, but indicators are that it will. As we keep getting immigration to this country we will keep having sales of houses. Those sales of houses will attract businesses that will come in and buy the Leslie Street and 404 lands that we have. As we get more residents, the possibility of more employees will be far more attractive for companies to move into those lands.”

He also rejected arguments made by Councillor John Gallo that this was the “largest” and most expensive project undertaken by the municipality, arguing that while it might be true on paper, it is a sign of inflation and prices going up when one compares other big builds like the Aurora Public Library and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

The project was also supported by Councillor Don Constable, who called the existing facilities an “eyesore”, something that was also clear when he first sat on Council over 20 years ago.

“I was shocked to see nothing has changed,” he said. “I understand it is a lot of money to spend, but we have to look at doing something.”



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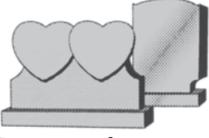
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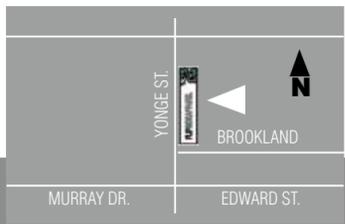









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Annual AYSC Stinger Cup kicks off Friday for a weekend of fun

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club will be holding their end-of-season tournament from August 22 - 24, as athletes compete for the Stinger Cup.

The Cup is competed for annually by all of Aurora's house league divisions, from Under-5 to Under-19.

The U13 and older leagues will participate in a round-robin competition, while younger competitors play a "festival" style, a move made by the Ontario Soccer

Association that AYSC Manager Bill Kizovski says "promotes long-term player development".

The three-day tournament will be held at Sheppard's Bush Soccer Fields in Aurora. Full schedules are available now at www.aysc.ca.

The season will culminate with the John Traganitis Tournament in September, where All-Star teams from around Ontario are invited to Aurora to compete against the best that house league has to offer.



Members of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) duke it out at last year's AYSC Stingers Cup. Members will look once again for ultimate tourney glory this weekend.

Auroran photo by Jeff Doner

"My son is headed off to university next week and I'd love to redo his room while he's away. How can I make some changes without it feeling like it's not his room anymore?"



ASK THE DESIGNER

JEAN BISNAIRE

Updating Your College Kid's Bedroom

Moving away for school is a big change and can be very exciting!

It can also be a little bit overwhelming for your son, so before starting to redo his bedroom I would recommend telling him about it. This is a time when the kids are becoming independent of their parents and it's important that we treat them as grown-ups.

Our kids rooms' are FULL of stuff that we may think is junk, but to them it's treasure. Long forgotten t-shirts hanging out of drawers, concert tickets and crumpled history essays lie atop dressers, and who knows what horrifying items lurk beneath the surface? There are some things you may be happier not knowing about. It's best to give your college-goer ample warning before clearing out his stuff.

You'll want to give him an opportunity to dispose of any contraband or embarrassing items and to set aside anything sentimental that you may be unsure of.

Once your son has had a chance to go through his own stuff it's your turn!

Sort through belongings and store the things you don't have room for in labelled bins somewhere. God forbid you throw out that special something. I myself have made that trip down to Goodwill to retrieve something of my daughter's because I didn't realize its importance!

Reserve 10 per cent of the room for items from the past, and the rest of the space should reflect the present and future accomplishments. Organize loose photos of their friends on a corkboard- to avoid having them scattered everywhere. Get rid of some old ones to make room for the new ones (there WILL be new ones). Get rid of any participation trophies and only keep the ones that he's actually earned on display. This is a time in your kid's life where the focus should be on their achievements.

Now for the décor: I'm always reminding my clients to think about how they will live in the space. Your son will come home for visits during the holidays or weekends, he may need a place to study, or just a quiet place to

get away from the craziness that living in residence sometimes is. You want your kid's room to feel like a guestroom, but *their own* guestroom; a more mature version of their old room with a relaxed vibe.

Remove any old wall paper, curtain panels or bedding with themes on them. This means no more Super Mario pillowcases or soccer ball drapes. Freshen up the space with a new wall colour. Farrow & Ball has a ton of beautiful colours that are a little bit more muted and understated.

Bring in your kids' favourite colours via occasional furniture. A funky colour desk chair or end table, or a bold geometric print for a window covering is a fun way to bring personality into the space without looking childish. If you think your kids may not be ready to let go of some of their favourite childhood memorabilia, you can include them in the accessories.

If your son has a hobby, or really loves his sports make space for a bobble head on the shelf, or frame a signed record and hang it on the wall. Your son's personality will still shine through in his room without looking childish. You can easily change a poster on the wall and swap out the accessories on the counter if and when your kids outgrow them.

Remember that there are a lot of new things happening for your son right now so leave space for new hobbies and interests. Make sure he knows that his old room is still his and that the makeover is all about getting him ready for the next exciting stage of his life!

I'm sure he will love the space you create for him.

Feel free to send me your comments or questions to askjean@nichedecor.ca

Connect with Us!



Get to know Chris Ballard, MPP Newmarket-Aurora

Please join Chris Ballard, MPP Newmarket-Aurora as he discusses the budget that was recently passed in the legislature. He will also speak and respond to questions on future government initiatives.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014

Luncheon with Special Guest Speaker Chris Ballard, MPP Newmarket-Aurora
St. Andrew's Valley Golf Club
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Cost: \$20 Members, \$30 Guests +HST

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New JOC will include space for future growth

From page 6

made a motion to defer a decision on the JOC to the next term of Council, but this was ultimately rejected.

Also objecting to the "ballooning costs" was Councillor Gaertner, who underscored what she felt was the "need" for a new facility.

"We needed to have it a while ago, and I was in favour of the original price tag," she explained. "I can't support the ballooning costs for this. I would like to build a new JOC for Aurora. I would like our staff to have a new JOC, but I do not believe we can afford it as planned. It will be the first time in 10 years that we have used debt financing and the plans to use the proceeds from the Leslie Street lands obviously is something we shouldn't be counting on. We have a policy that governs how our land should be sold. This should have been a competitive bid for our Scanlon land and I also agree that we bought the wrong land for the wrong price."

Additional objections brought forward included the concept of whether using Development Charges, fees ultimately paid by developers to the municipality - as well as the Region - were ultimately coming out taxpayers' pockets

as developers have to recoup those fees from somewhere, as well as the need for a third floor of "shell space" for future office use.



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Breakthrough Treatment Now Available in Richmond Hill

Imagine thirty to forty years ago if you were told that lasers would replace scalpels in surgery or that robotic instruments would build cars; you may not have believed it. By the same token, would you believe that chiropractic treatments could be performed using a special hand-held instrument developed by NASA scientists, all while you were sitting in an upright position without any turning or twisting movements?

Advances in computers and engineering technologies have been able to uniquely blend with chiropractic in order to both analyze and treat the human body in such a way that was never before realized.

According to Dr. Sean Eastman, "This new form of computerized treatment is so gentle and effective, that it amazes even the most skeptical patients. It's called the ProAdjuster and is the latest, state-of-the-art technology in existence today, and the only one in the north Richmond Hill area.

The ProAdjuster can safely and gently analyze and treat the spine and other joints to remove the nerve impingement that is often the cause of pains in the lower back, neck, shoulder, and elsewhere in the body. It also works on a variety of muscular conditions to loosen tight muscles with ease and comfort. Many patients say that it's like getting a mini-massage.

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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This technological marvel can help you return to a healthier lifestyle. You may no longer have to live with a persistent, painful condition. Call us today at 905-773-2225.

Unsung police officers saluted by Minister ahead of Quanto's Law

By Brock Weir

In tense situations, York Regional Police Constable Todd Woods always has his partner's back.

They trained together, anticipate each other's moves and, until they pinpoint the perfect time, they move as one. But, unlike his partner, Constable Woods has a voice of his own.

As a member of the YRP's Canine Unit, Constable Woods knows all too well the dangers police officers of the four-legged variety are put in every day and welcomes the introduction of new Federal legislation creating new offences prohibiting the injuring or killing of service animals trained for law enforcement, the Canadian Armed Forces, and persons with disabilities.

Dubbed "Quanto's Law", honouring a police dog killed in the line of duty in Edmonton last fall, it is legislation that has been a long time coming as far as Constable Woods is concerned.

"I think it is a great thing that it is finally here," he said. "I have been in situations where, unfortunately, someone has hurt my dog and nothing was done about that. This is great because [the dog] is a police officer too and works very hard for us and we expect a lot from the dog."

Constable Woods' dog was struck by the hands of a suspect during a theft case. While he says officers always worry about their partners, it is clear from demonstrations held at

York Regional Police Headquarters in Aurora on Friday morning that officers with the Canine Unit have special bonds with their partners.

"We will usually get a dog that is around 12 or 13 months old and the person selected will bond with a dog for anywhere from a week or a month prior to starting the course," he explains. "Once they start the course, they learn together. The dog has no prior training and we teach both the handler and the dog the basic course and the bond builds through that, as well as the trust in each other."

"We look for somebody who likes to work hard because it is very physical. There are long nights and sometimes it is a dirty job going through the bushes [with your partner] searching for missing persons."

Constable Woods was one of several officers on hand last week, along with dogs Cirk and Kye, as Federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay visited the unit to mark Quanto's Law, accompanied by Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis.

Here, Mr. MacKay was able to see first-hand the bond between partners as the dogs took on agility courses and demonstrated how officer and dog can work in tandem to nab a suspect.

"I am delighted to be here with [Mr. Menegakis] as he is the individual who is, perhaps, most responsible for having brought forward Quanto's Law," said Mr. MacKay as he left the



Justice Minister Peter MacKay, centre, was joined by York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe, second left, and Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis, second right, and members of the canine police unit (including Constable Todd Woods, first right) at the YRP's headquarters in Aurora on Friday. During the visit, MacKay watched as members of the canine unit (right) showed off their skills on the agility course. Auroran photos by Brock Weir

YRP headquarters. "Speaking to these officers and having worked previously with Canadian Forces members who also use service animals, it is important that we protect them and that is exactly what is at the root of this law. It is about special recognition within the law that these animals put themselves at greater risk by virtue of the work they do and the work is extremely valuable."

"At the same time, they are also targeted. We have in place already in the Criminal Code laws that specifically protect police and First Responders. We believe animals are very much a part of that special protection that is needed, so this is the reason behind the legislation. I really see no legitimate resistance to passing this law and we are hopeful to be able to move it through Parliament."

Hollandview Trail residents can weigh in on café proposal next month

By Brock Weir

Residents in Aurora's Hollandview Trail neighbourhood will have a chance to sound off on a proposal to turn the long-vacant Blockbuster Video outlet near Bayview Avenue into a new restaurant with outdoor patio.

The concept to turn the former Blockbuster into a new Symposium Café was held off at last week's Council meeting until a General Committee meeting set for September 7 to give residents an opportunity to consider and digest the restaurant proposal which puts particular emphasis on its outdoor patio.

Symposium Cafés, an offshoot of Sun Life Assurance Company, plans to turn the vacant outlet into its latest café, which focuses on the outdoor-indoor dining concept with a European flavour. To make the concept a reality, however, they need to take up eight existing parking spaces to create their expansive patio, along with landscape work and the installation of outdoor speakers.

Last week, however, Councillors John Gallo, Paul Pirri, and Michael Thompson said they had concerns neighbours had not had enough time to speak out either for or against this proposal.

"Part of the rationale of having a site plan amendment approval by Council is, in my view, one to allow staff to review it and make sure they are all okay with it," said Councillor Gallo. "The second is to make sure the community is okay with it and that is why we bring it to a public Council meeting. There are many homes abutting [the site plan] and I know for a fact there are residents in that area that are concerned about this. How can I be assured that those residents knew this was going to be before us and had the ability to voice their opinions?"

In response, Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, said residents were involved in the proposal when it was heard at the Committee of Adjustment and further public notice is not required for site plan approval. Councillor Paul Pirri said he was at the Committee meeting in question and was

not satisfied that the surrounding community would be on board with the proposal.

"I have attended these cafes in the past, they are phenomenal facilities and I have absolutely no qualms with the organization behind them but my problem is, as it is now, with the proximity of this patio to these units," said Councillor Pirri. "I can't vote in favour of this because I do have concerns with how this would impact the quality of life of those residents at that location."

Sharing these concerns was Councillor Thompson, who said neighbours in this area had contacted him with their concerns about noise levels and the size of the patio, which can accommodate up to 80 patrons.

"I want to make sure they have the opportunity to speak," he said. "There was a concern with how it will impact the surrounding neighbourhood. The noise aspect is a concern. Granted, they have to comply with bylaws, but I share some of the concerns with regards to members of the community not having the opportunity to step forward and at least voice their opinions or concerns."

Although Councillor Evelyn Buck said she was concerned that neighbours had expressed some reservations about the proposal, she questioned whether Council was the proper place to air them in this case. In this instance, Council's job is to vote on the recommendations made to it by the Committee of Adjustment as residents had their chance to speak at that point, she said. A further option before them would be to take their concerns to the Ontario Municipal Board, which would achieve the objective of delaying things.

"It is time, but it would delay the construction of the patio," she said. "They would accomplish their objective in going before another impartial body [and] I don't think it is our place to get in the middle of that process. We should fulfil the condition from the Committee of Adjustment. I don't see any other options before us."

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MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

Despite the cool, overcast and breezy weather we had on Saturday, our first Family Day was a great success.

The Farmers' Market was full of families eager to take advantage of the many mom-to-mom sales and enjoy the face painting, balloon animals and the great children's entertainer. We had a wonderful raffle which, among the items available, included two bikes and a flat screen T.V. I don't know yet how much money we raised, but it is all going to the Aurora Food Pantry.

We also have some exciting news: Peter of Oakridge's Finest will be bringing cheese from the fabulous Montforte Dairy in Stratford to our Market within the next two weeks. The dairy is owned by Ruth Klaasen and specialises in goat and sheep's milk cheeses, although I believe that they have a few made from cow's milk. So, finally we will have some soft brie-type cheeses to augment the hard cheeses that are already represented at the Market.

You may have noticed that the Market now partners with several community groups on some occasions. You will have seen Beverley Wood, Aurora's Citizen of the Year, among those selling raffle tickets for Magna's Wild Wild West Hoedown on behalf of Welcoming Arms.

Welcoming Arms is a registered charity and is an ecumenical partnership of six churches: Aurora Cornerstone, Aurora United, Campus Bible, Our Lady of Grace, St. Andrew's and Trinity and is housed in Trinity's former rectory. Their purpose is to assist Aurora residents who are in need.

Each church provides financial and volunteer support. Additional funding and donations have been gratefully received from: Empty Bowls, the Christmas Dream Dinner; individuals, businesses, community organizations, the Regional Municipality of York through the Christmas Hamper Programme and the Wild Wild West Hoedown.

The vision statement says: "a Christ-centered partnership, relieving the burden of poverty in our community". Their Mission Statement is "In loving partnership, we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ by promoting human, physical and spiritual well-being within our community."

Their focus strategies are fundraising, marketing, communications, growth, sustainability and volunteer programmes. These all reflect the love, joy, compassion and commitment of Welcoming Arms clergy and volunteers.

From July 2013-2014, Welcoming Arms distributed \$67,460 in monthly food vouchers, 3,190 York Region Transit tickets, and toiletries, kitchen and cleaning items from donations received from individuals and community groups.

They also provided assistance with medical, dental, housing, utility, tutorial and children's programme needs. They also gave vouchers from Tim Horton's and the Clothes Closet to homeless persons.

Some of the comments received from those who have been helped include: "Christmas really happened at our house this year; thanks to the support of Welcoming Arms" and, "to everyone involved in the Christmas programme, thank you for listening, caring and sharing."

While their main focus is on helping those in need in our community, they participate in many other activities such as: attendance at seminars, ongoing meetings and forums with York Region agencies, involvement in community activities including the Pine Tree Potters Guild, the Aurora Christmas Dream Dinner, and Hoedown. This year, Welcoming Arms was selected as one of fifteen participating charities for the 2014 Hoedown.

With the invitation of the Optimist Club of Aurora to join them at the Farmers' Market on summer Saturdays, Welcoming Arms volunteers have enjoyed meeting shoppers, selling Hoedown tickets (3 for \$20) and sharing the Welcoming Arms story, a programme that began in 2006 at Our Lady of Grace Church.

To the Optimist Club of Aurora and the Farmers' Market, Welcoming Arms volunteers and visitors extend a special thank you for the kindness, goodwill and generosity they have been shown.

Welcoming Arms is located at 44 Metcalfe Street and is staffed by trained volunteers from participating churches. They are open Mondays and Thursdays from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 6.30 - 8.30 p.m.

The next Special Event at the Farmers' Market is our annual Community Corn Roast on Saturday, August 23. This year we have invited guests from three of our community partners to barbecue and hand out the corn.

We will have two people each from the Aurora Cultural Centre, the Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Seniors' Association helping with the barbecue and the public will have the opportunity to ask questions about these groups and their programmes.

There will be great music from the band shell featuring the After Hours Big Band from 10 - 11.30 a.m. There will also be a kids' crafts, a scavenger hunt and a draw for a Market bag at 12 Noon. The cost of the corn is by donation and all money raised will go to the Food Pantry. It will be an exciting day at the Market.

See you at the Market!

Status of part-time Councillors continues to be political football

By Brock Weir

The issue of whether or not Aurora's Councillors should be considered part-time or full-time positions continues to be a topic of debate around the Council table.

The latest move to get this topic out in the open for a full discussion occurred last week through a Notice of Motion presented to Council by Councillor Evelyn Buck.

In her motion, Councillor Buck called for a Special Council Meeting to be added to the Municipal Calendar before September 12, which happens to be the cut-off date for nominations for the October 27 Municipal Election, to address the issue of Council compensation.

In her motion, she cites a report before Council last month which called on members to decide whether or not compensation for Mayor and Council should be a graded salary kept in line with how salaries for municipal

employees are pegged. After a healthy debate, however, Council opted to keep the status quo for the time being and leave it for the 2014 - 2018 term to decide.

This, however, did not sit well with Councillor Buck.

"Members of Council salaries have not been revisited since the 2003 to 2006 term of Council," she said in her motion, calling for a meeting before September 12 to review the report. "[The meeting will review] the staff report and any other questions pertaining to Members of Council salaries, benefits, and status as part-time Councillors for the 2014 to 2018 Term of Council."

This meeting, however, is unlikely to happen before September 12 as Councillors rejected a bid to waive procedural bylaw and discuss the meeting request at last Tuesday's Council meeting.

"The reason I am asking for the procedure to be waived - and I am not in the habit of doing that - is to allow

this motion to be dealt with tonight in order for the matter to be considered at a separate meeting," said Councillor Buck. "I am not asking for discussion to take place tonight, I am asking for staff to schedule a [Special Council Meeting] so that Council can consider the matter before then. If we don't consider the matter before then, we are going into an election without any candidates knowing what is involved [in salaries] and I believe there are a number of changes that need to be made, not just with the Council compensation."

For those voting against the motion, timing was everything - whether it was timing for public participation or getting to more pressing matters at hand.

"I think there are too many people away from the Town of Aurora in the month of August and I think it should come to a GC (General Committee Meeting) to be fully discussed with the public and, if the public want to come to us, for them to be able to [at] a GC."

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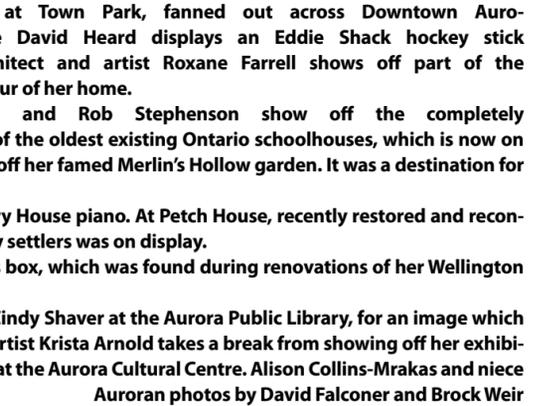
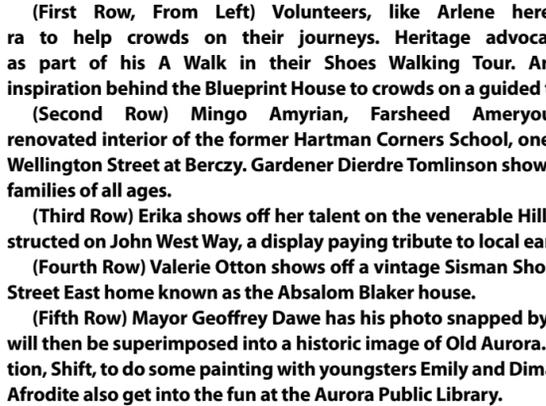
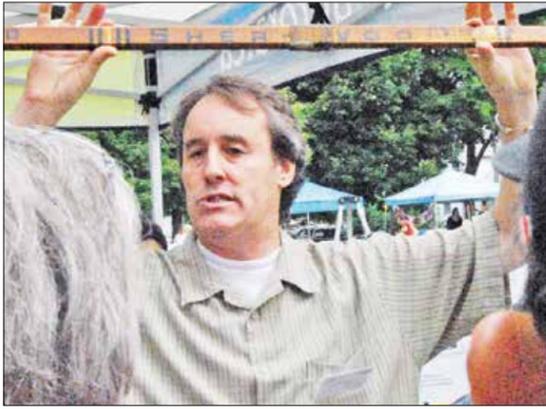
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Arts, heritage and nature showcased in annual show



(First Row, From Left) Volunteers, like Arlene here at Town Park, fanned out across Downtown Aurora to help crowds on their journeys. Heritage advocate David Heard displays an Eddie Shack hockey stick as part of his A Walk in their Shoes Walking Tour. Architect and artist Roxane Farrell shows off the inspiration behind the Blueprint House to crowds on a guided tour of her home.
 (Second Row) Mingo Amyrian, Farsheed Ameryoun and Rob Stephenson show off the completely renovated interior of the former Hartman Corners School, one of the oldest existing Ontario schoolhouses, which is now on Wellington Street at Berczy. Gardener Dierdre Tomlinson shows off her famed Merlin's Hollow garden. It was a destination for families of all ages.
 (Third Row) Erika shows off her talent on the venerable Hillary House piano. At Petch House, recently restored and reconstructed on John West Way, a display paying tribute to local early settlers was on display.
 (Fourth Row) Valerie Otton shows off a vintage Sisman Shoes box, which was found during renovations of her Wellington Street East home known as the Absalom Blaker house.
 (Fifth Row) Mayor Geoffrey Dawe has his photo snapped by Cindy Shaver at the Aurora Public Library, for an image which will then be superimposed into a historic image of Old Aurora. Artist Krista Arnold takes a break from showing off her exhibition, Shift, to do some painting with youngsters Emily and Dima at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Alison Collins-Mrakas and niece Afrodite also get into the fun at the Aurora Public Library.
 Auroran photos by David Falconer and Brock Weir

Homeowners, businesses, and cultural groups put best feet forward for Doors Open

By Brock Weir

Whether they were showing off their personal showplaces or watching a year's worth of ideas come into fruition, Aurora's creativity came into full bloom on Saturday with the annual Doors Open Aurora event.

Comprised of walking tours around town, rare glimpses into private homes, and new and creative things to do at some of Aurora's more venerable institutions, people from across Southern Ontario descended on Town to see just what we have to offer historically, architecturally and artistically.

On Saturday morning before the skies opened up to an afternoon of rain, among the busiest locations was the colourful home of Roxana Farrell on Larmont Street.

Painted a vivid blue, the aptly named "Blueprint House" is the culmination of a long-standing vision of Ms. Farrell, who is an artist and architect by trade. The distinctive house stands out from the rest not only in colour, but with the white text that wraps around the building, mimicking an architectural blueprint that has come to life.

"I had this idea five years ago when

I moved here from New York and I just saw this house," she said. "Somehow it gave me the inspiration that even though it was in rough condition, to take my profession and showcase it in an artistic way."

Outside, white text outlines the dimensions of the building, the elevations, and even the mailbox, along with a garden that makes practical use out of old packing crates left over from the defunct Thompson's Furniture Store, which coupled with discarded hockey masks, combine to create a very unique kind of fencing. Inside, the creativity continued with layers of time peeled back, and salvaged material finding a new lease on life - including a chandelier made out of light bulbs.

"I like finding things," said Roxana. "I have more or less tried to strip off all of the old paint that was on the doors and doorframes. What I am trying to experiment with is what is it to have something old against something crisp and new and just keep that collision happening? I love what happens and I like to have things

and objects give me direction and tell me what they want to be and where they fit into the space."

Valerie Otton subscribes to a similar philosophy at the Absalom Blaker House on Wellington Street, just west of Larmont. This was the second year running in which she and her husband welcomed guests as part of the Doors Open tour, but she bristled at the idea that she was welcoming guests into a "showplace."

"This is not a showplace, we live here," she said. "Last year it looked like a museum, but this year it looks like a home. We just want to show the heritage and history of a home. These homes are just as beautiful as modern homes. This is quality and we love doing what we do."

This beauty, however, was not always apparent, she said. When they bought the house it was subdivided into apartments. They quickly set about to rectify that, restoring it to its former glory, peeling back the paint, restoring the wood, and even finding mementos of old Aurora - ranging from old newspapers to a Sisman's

shoe box, all proudly displayed on the dining room table - in the process.

"We love showing off our house and we are really proud with what we have accomplished in trying to get it back to what it used to be, and we love it," she said. "It was a disaster before... but it is a solid house."

One of the people coming through the doors to see just what the Ottons have accomplished was MJ from Newmarket, who is drawn to Doors Open each year for the architecture. For her, there is so much people can learn from their own local history.

She started the day with a walking tour around Aurora lead by local historian David Heard who, when leading his packed group through the Aurora Farmers' Market, emphasised the importance of historical salvage.

"My favourite tidbit [I learned from the tour] is there were horse-drawn train cars that brought product from the factories over the train line and, from the train, the product got shipped all over," she said. "It made me really appreciate our local history and the impact Aurora had on the rest of Canada, and even the world, with the Fleury ploughs and the shoes that were supplied to the military in the First World War."



Weese feels responsibility to live up to spirit of scholarship

From page 1

before the application, but there seemed to be a sense of disbelief after the letter actually arrived, informing them that he had indeed secured the scholarship for a whopping \$60,000.

"It was very moving and surprising for sure," he tells The Auroran. "I am so honoured and happy to be representing a great group of Schulich leaders. I think it is great for first year students coming into university."

The Schulich Leadership Scholarships were established in 2001 by philanthropist Seymour Schulich. 75 students receive the award each year to put towards their undergraduate degrees in science, technology, engineering and math. According to the Leaders program, a \$100 million endowment fund has been established to "create the next generation of technology innovators" in both Canada and Israel.

But a potential student has to display more than academic prowess in those very specific fields; nominees – and there were 1,147 this year – also have to demonstrate at least one other attribute, whether it is outstanding community, business, or entrepreneurial leadership, or financial need.

Weese's outstanding contributions not only to the Country Day School community, but also to Aurora, helped seal the deal.

"Mr. Weese's philanthropic leadership and pursuit of excellence stood out to the selection committee, said Seymour Schulich in a statement. "We congratulate Mr. Weese for being among the recipients and look forward to his future achievements."

Having taken home many awards for his debating skills over the years, away from the podium Weese has been very active in raising both money and awareness for the Aurora-based Safehaven, which provides and assists in care for severely disabled children. First introduced to Safehaven through a school program, he

and fellow students secured the organization a \$5,000 grant, but they continued their work with Safehaven, with Weese eventually becoming their ambassador within the community.

"Giving back clicked for me when I was in Grade 5," Weese explains. "I was very sick in hospital for three weeks and missed a large portion of my Grade 5 year. When I was in the hospital, I realised that there were kids around me who were a lot sicker than I was and I realised we need to help those people who are in need."

His efforts started "small," he said, with hospital fundraisers and participating in Me to We through Free the Children, but things really came to a head with Safehaven. He was instrumental in the charity's fundraising efforts through Magna's Wild Wild West Hoedown and, after meeting with Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, secured them a place as a benefiting organization in the annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament.

"It is just helping those people in need because the more you give back, the more you are going to get back with larger returns," says Weese. "I have always believed that and I believe that helping others is important, and we have to do our role in the community to achieve that."

With a \$60,000 Leader Scholarship under his belt when he goes off to U of T this fall, Weese says he feels a certain extra kind of responsibility when he walks through

those doors. He says he wants to live up to the criteria which secured him the scholarship and get involved outside the classroom in a number of different areas.

"I think there is a responsibility, but I am happy to pursue that," he says. "I am honoured because not a lot of people have this opportunity and I am very fortunate to be in a position going forward to pursue what I love and have this always with me and connect with current and former Schulich leaders who have a lot to bring to the table. It's a great responsibility, but I am privileged for sure."



Lukas Weese

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The many Enchanted Evenings of Bud and Stella Switzer

By Brock Weir

“If music be the food of love, play on,” are words Orsino lived by in Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night; but while it might be a philosophy shared by Aurora’s Bud and Stella Switzer, the music of Rogers and Hammerstein have presented them with a veritable smorgasbord.

For decades, the long-time sweethearts have been united by a love of dance and music, and it is this love that they have been working diligently to share with Aurorans through their work with the Aurora Seniors’ Centre.

Bud and Stella are active members of Aurora Seniors’ Centre’s “Evergreen Choir”, which is gearing up for another season next month on Wednesday, September 10. Led by Dr. Richard Heinzle, the choir is active in the community well beyond the confines of the Seniors’ Centre itself, boasting over 40 members.

“Bud used to say that we should join a choir but we were always busy,” explains Stella. “When we came up to Aurora and he wasn’t working anymore, by accident we ran into a member of the Seniors’ Centre and he mentioned the choir.”

After that, there was no turning back.

“I used to sing around the house – no words, just humming,” says Bud.

Adds Stella: “He would sing for sound and I always sang for words.”

So, there you have it – a dynamic, complementary combination!

Bud got his first taste of singing as a child growing up in Hamilton, primarily through choirs at school and church. At that point he was a boy soprano. After moving to Toronto, he continued singing at church but, in his words, “never anything special.”

“I always liked to sing,” he says. “When I was a kid, I would sit on the verandah and I found I could imitate a fellow called Bobby Breen. When Hallowe’en came along, in order to get candy, I had to sing for the neighbours!”

Singing, however, ultimately had to take a back seat. After graduating high school, his parents split, and he had to start making money to support his mother and two brothers. After finding a job working in shipping and receiving in warehousing, he was looking for a way to blow off some steam, when he eventually spotted his cousins dancing a jitterbug at a party.

“I thought I would love to do that,” says Bud. “I went to a dance school and enrolled as a student. At one point, they had dance competitions and I figured I would pick the best dancer in the school and I latched onto Stella!”

“Bud went to Arthur Murray’s in Hamilton and then he came to Toronto and joined Arthur Murray there,” continues Stella. “I was working for the CNR in Toronto and used to pass Arthur Murray’s every day. I had a girlfriend who used to take me out dancing, which I hated, so I eventually went into Arthur Murray’s and that’s where we met.”

In the intervening decades, Stella and Bud

have become a solid unit, encouraging each other along their respective creative paths, whether it has been dancing, singing, or painting. Together, they became medal dancing students, dancing teachers, and eventually North American champions throughout the Arthur Murray network. He also takes particular pride in the fact Stella was able to go back to school in her 60s, earning her Masters Degree in French.

While Stella continues to dance, a spine injury has led to Bud largely hanging up his dancing shoes. From there, he has zeroed back in on his love of singing, taking part in Chartwell’s Senior Stars competition on a whim, eventually placing third from across Canada in a performance of what has become his signature song “Some Enchanted Evening” from South Pacific.

“With singing, I get satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment,” says Bud. “When someone comes over and says you did well, or a song gets a standing ovation, that is a real thrill and that can sort of turn you on!”

And this feeling has spilled over into the Evergreen Choir.

“The Seniors’ Centre has been a real blessing to us,” he says. “We moved here from Scarborough and we weren’t too happy with our situation there. When we moved up here, we didn’t know anyone. My daughter eventually moved up here about five minutes away, had two children, so now we babysit the two grandchildren, the two dogs, and we feel a part of the whole community. The choir is fun, but many of the songs are songs we have never heard before and are a real challenge to us.”

If you would like to take up the challenge, the Evergreen Choir meets Wednesday, September 10 beginning at 1.45 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors’ Centre. Membership is \$20 for Aurora residents and \$25 for non-residents. For more information, call 905-726-4767. Bud Switzer’s artwork is currently on display in the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall through August 29, alongside fellow Seniors’ Centre members Marlene Ash and Ron Lorenz.



Originally united by dance, Bud and Stella Switzer keep the magic alive, sharing their love of song and dance to fellow seniors, and others, throughout Aurora and beyond. Aurora photo by Brock Weir

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End your summer with “Superhero” movie parties next week

By Brock Weir

If you’re looking for a special way to wrap up your summer vacation, dust off your cape and head over for back-to-back Superhero parties as the grand finale of the Movies in the Park season.

The first of two End of Summer Superhero Parties gets underway next Tuesday, August 26 at Hickson Park on Borealis Avenue at Conover starting at 6 p.m. This screening will feature a screening of “Superman: Man of Steel.”

The fun continues with the second installment on Thursday, August 28 at 6 p.m. with a screening of “The Amazing Spiderman” at Norm Weller Park. (McClellan Way, just east of Bathurst Street).

Each evening will offer something for everyone – and new activities to keep kids and families wanting more, according to Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora.

According to Ms. Ware, her department got the idea for back-to-back Superhero parties through feedback from those who attended last year’s screenings.

“We had one Superhero movie last year and there was a huge demand to have a second one,” she says. “We went with back-to-back screenings this year and chose to enhance it with some Superhero activities to

make the entire movie experience unique, but also fun for all members of the family.

“There is going to be a bouncy castle, face painting, superhero crafts and some superhero games.”

Events like these forge and enhance community connections, Ms. Ware continues, noting that this might be the last chance for kids in the neighbourhood to get together before the school bell rings again in September.

“This is a chance for kids to reunite with others they haven’t had a chance to see throughout the summer,” she says. “It was very evident last year hearing from the parents that this is something they really look forward to – seeing faces they don’t normally see gearing up for the big long weekend and the start of the school year.”

Based on feedback from the screenings that have already taken place so far this year, Ms. Ware says she is eyeing the possibility of having six separate screenings staggered throughout July and August and into early September in 2015.

Admission is free.



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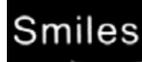
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Sport Aurora Breakfast of Champions Spotlight: *Storm Vortex*

15U girls capped a fantastic year winning both Provincial and National titles in 2014

By Bruce Stafford

Practicing twice a week, as well as playing up in the older division, these young ladies progressed throughout the year.

There were many ups and downs, but in the end the team put it all together to play their best volleyball of the year when it mattered the most.

They were able to adapt to learning from three different coaches, all with unique styles. They had terrific parental support from the sidelines. Most of all they had "heart" and "desire"!

These were the key ingredients that lead to the girls winning both the Provincial and National Championships. At both championship tournaments they were very resilient and resourceful in each game and match.

At the provincial tournament they

faced a rival team from Durham on the first day of competition and lost the match finishing second in their pool. The next day they went undefeated to set up a semifinal match against that same Durham team. This time they prevailed, drawing upon their defeat in their previous meeting. They then carried that momentum right into the final and won it two sets to one against a strong team from Halton.

At the National Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec the girls put together a string of fantastic matches going undefeated throughout the tournament. They faced a rival team from Mississauga in the semifinal match that they lost to in their previous three meetings. They won a close match in three sets and then beat a Toronto team in the final to capture the Eastern National Championships.

A perfect ending to a perfect year!



Aurora Rugby to Inaugurate Hall of Fame

By John Reich

The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club will inaugurate its Hall of Fame this Saturday with the induction of eight individuals from its 64 year history.

The induction ceremony will include a gala dinner and tributes to the inductees for their achievements on behalf of the club.

The eight comprise a combination of playing greats, coaches, administrators and organizers, all of whom served lengthy tenures with the club and most have crossed all of the considered categories.

The first class of nominees is highlighted by John Brown, a former teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, who introduced rugby not only to the school in 1962 but also to the Aurora Community when he helped to organize the Aurora Yorks Rugby Club, a predecessor to the current Barbarians organization. The Club describes Mr. Brown as "the father of rugby in York Region."

The other inductees include former National Team captain Ian MacMillan; former National 7s captain Marco Di Girolamo; Toronto Barbarians'

founding member and Ontario cap Tony Earl; High school coach and representative player Nigel Toy; Player and administrative standout with predecessor club York County RFC, Stephen Marsland; Accomplished Junior coach and club promoter Nicholas Mitchell; and, former club president John Reich. Brown, Earl and Reich are also members of the Ontario Rugby Hall of Fame.

Steve Hall, club vice-president and architect of the Hall of Fame initiative remarked, "It is a great pleasure to announce the Inaugural Inductees into the Aurora Barbarians RFC Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame committee was made up of high profile Barbarians from all areas and generations of the Club. The committee received many worthy nominations and hundreds of votes in support of nominees. The Inductees are outstanding examples of the Baa Baa spirit and heritage.

"Their support of rugby and their teammates over six decades is what makes our game so special."

The induction ceremony will take place at the LeParc Banquet facility in Richmond Hill. Tickets are available through the club's website: aurorabarbarians.com.

Ed McNally goes full circle to land in Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

By Jake Courtepatte

For his skills and achievements on the soccer pitch, Ed McNally has been chosen as one of two inductees for the "athlete" category in the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's class of 2014.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, McNally's family came to Canada when he was just eleven. Originally settling in Richmond Hill, McNally's move to Aurora in high school coincided with when he began to be recognized as the top of his field.

At the age of 16 he joined the Aurora Hearts, the local men's league team. It was with the Hearts that he was first scouted and recognized. The Hearts hosted an All-Star game against the Toronto Blizzard reserve squad of the National Soccer League in 1988. The following year, McNally was drafted by the Blizzard.

McNally's professional club career was a whirlwind experience.

"Back then there wasn't much security in a lot of the leagues, so leagues were constantly popping up and disappearing," said McNally. "I think I played in every professional league there was back then. But most of it is a great experience, to play the sport you love for a living. And getting the chance to represent your country obviously is, too."

He got the opportunity a number of times after getting on the Canadian youth program, starting with Olympic Qualifiers at the age of 20.

"It was incredible. There's nothing better than wearing a Canada shirt and listening to your national anthem, no matter what sport it is. Any athlete can relate to that."

McNally was fortunate enough to travel the world playing international soccer. Four years after turning pro, McNally saw Bermuda and Jamaica during Olympic Qualifiers. That same year, he received "quite the thrill" when he was called to the 'A' squad to face his home country of Scotland. A year later, he spent two weeks with the Canadian 'B' squad in China in 1984, playing in what was called the Great Wall Championship. He then toured Central America with the World Cup squad in 1987.

Despite the distance, McNally felt it was important to hold on to hometown connections.

"They're your buddies, they played on the same team as you," said McNally. "It was a long and fun route, but I always kept in contact with what was going on here."

Professional and international accolades didn't keep McNally from being humbled by the Hall of Fame induction. He said he was "pretty shocked" to receive the phone call.

"I was very honoured," said McNally. "It's a great privilege, having grown up in the area. It was so many years ago, so you kind of forget what you did, so I started going back in my scrapbooks. Just to look back on all the people you've met throughout the years brings back a lot of memories."

After his professional career, McNally's passion for soccer came what he called "full circle". He returned to the Aurora Soccer Club, taking on a player/coach role. Later he would play in the over-35's Newmarket District Soccer League, where it all began.

After a number of years with the Seniors Soccer Club, McNally's focus is now on his daughter's soccer career. After starting in Aurora, she has since been playing in Vaughan.

"When you've got kids, holy moley, it's like five days a week. And nowadays they travel a lot further than we did when I was in the minor system."

As for the local minor soccer program, McNally says he believes there is a lot of talent left out there to be recognized.

"It's jumped leaps and bounds from when we used to play. There are so many more kids in it now. It's great to see, it gets the kids out, keeps them fit, and teaches them to be a team. Life lessons get learned from that."

The induction ceremony will take place November 5 at The Mansion Events Centre in Aurora. More information can be found at www.aurorashof.ca.

There's nothing better than wearing a Canada shirt and listening to your national anthem, no matter what sport it is. Any athlete can relate to that.

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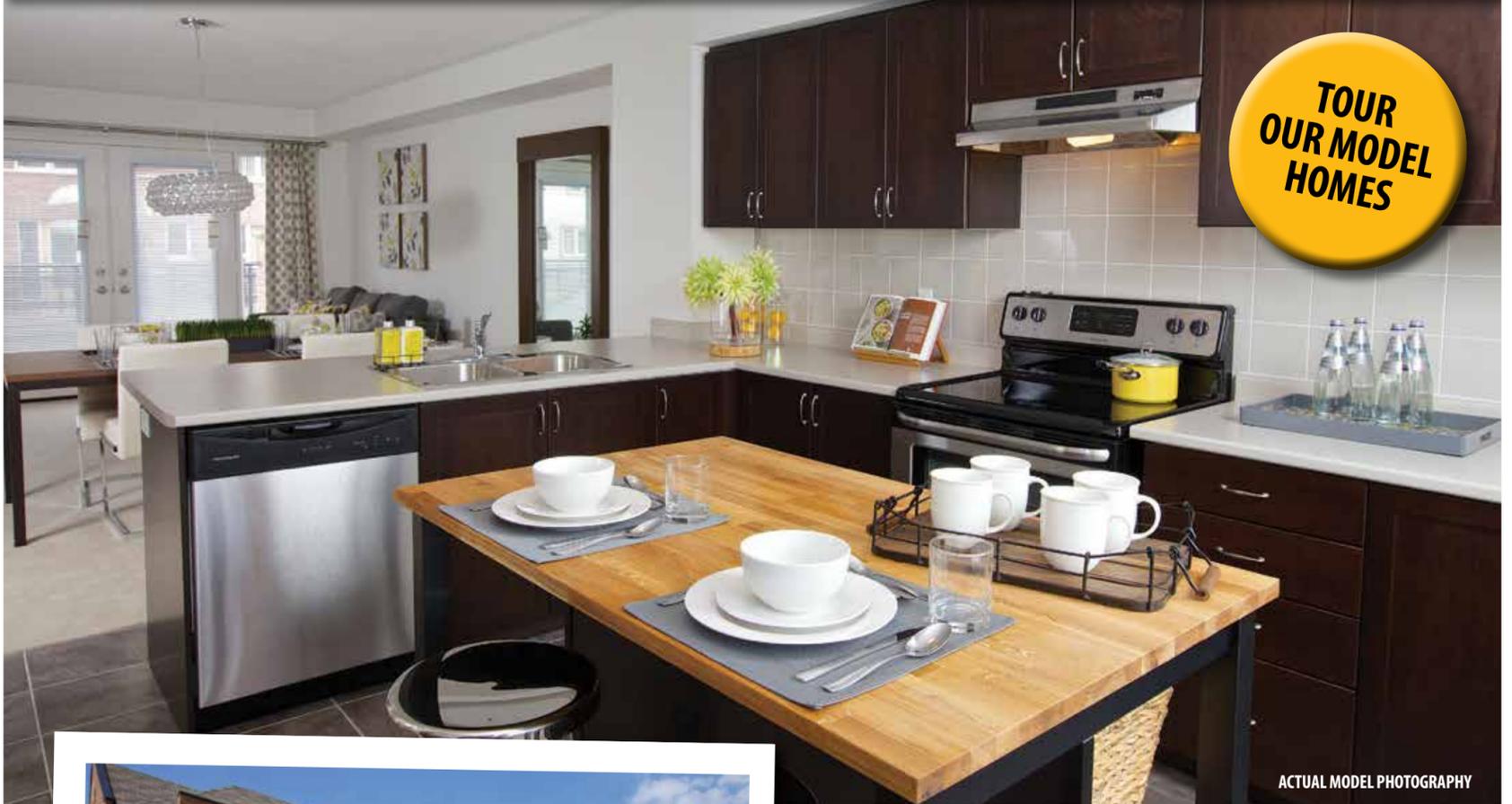
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FREE Week of August 21, 2014

U18 Barbarians move to TRU Plate Championship semifinals

By Jake Courtepatte

Both the Under-18 "A" and "B" Aurora Barbarians rugby squads are heading to the semifinals of the Toronto Rugby Union Plate Championship.

The quarterfinals kicked off last Thursday with the "B" squad set to open against the Vaughan Yeomen in the early game. However, a lack of available players forced Vaughan to forfeit the match, automatically sending the Barbs to the next round.

The only match of the night would be the Barbarians A squad facing off against the Toronto Saracens, a team they had yet to see all year. With few injuries, the Barbs came into the game perhaps as strong as they were all season, along with the addition of Team Ontario players like Keaton Porter.

The Barbs came out strong on the cold and rainy August night, scoring four tries in the first half while maintaining a shutout in their own

end. After another outpouring of offense in the second, the Barbs would take the game by a final score of 57-0.

After starting the season 0-3, the Barbs rallied late to finish in third place in the division with a respectable 3-3 record, missing the provincial playoffs by two points.

Barbarian Luke Travell credits plain old practice for the team's success at the midpoint of the season.

"We started off the season with some new players, and were getting low attendance at practice," said Travell. "But we had a really good practice last week and really came together."

Travell scored two tries in the high-scoring win over Toronto.

"We cleaned it up. The referee even commented on how our game was a lot tighter than we've played earlier in the season."

The Barbs' hard work has not gone unnoticed by coaching staff, as head coach Sandy Townsend said it's good to see his team "finally gelling".



The U18 Aurora Barbarians squads have moved on to the TRU Plate semifinals after wins last Thursday. **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

"Over time, some guys have really grown into the positions we put them in, and that's with the support of their teammates. Are we at our best? I don't know, this was the first that we haven't had somebody new come to practice. So, we're still coming together, but it's a perfect time, and we've certainly got lots of momentum."

The Barbarians now face two semi-final matches this week, with the "A"

squad hosting the Markham Irish and the 'B' squad hosting the Ajax Wanderers. Both games will be held at Fletcher's Field in Markham.

"We're looking for the win," said Travell. "We won the tournament last year, so we're definitely looking for a repeat."

For more information, visit www.aurorabarbarians.com.

Mosquito Jays are York Simcoe Regional champs, moving to Provincials

The York Simcoe Regional Championships for Minor Mosquito Baseball were held this weekend with the Aurora Jays facing off against the Bolton Braves in a 2 out of 3 series to see who earned the right to represent York/Simcoe in the Ontario Baseball Association Provincial Championships (OBAs), Labour Day weekend in Woodstock, Ontario.

In their first game on Saturday morning, after a slow start and initially trailing 6-3, the Jays defence and offence kicked in and they rallied and won the game 16-6.

Game 2 was not played until Sunday morning due to rain and Aurora came

out strong, staking an early lead. Although trailing early on, a very tough Bolton squad never gave up; however Aurora prevailed, ultimately winning the game 11-8 and taking the series 2 games to nil to be declared the York Simcoe champions and earning the right to represent York/Simcoe in the OBAs.

Congratulations and good luck in the Provincial Championships to team members Spencer Thomson, Matt Gianforcaro, Dylan Vasilevski, Jakob Israel, Griffin Kinahan, Sam White, Aidan Edmunds, Claire Johnson, Matt Keiser, Josh McLeod, Brayden Baird and Ethan Sanchez.

Advertorial

This Week's Golf Tip

Who do I support?

Chris McNair, PGA of Canada

Head Professional Meadowbrook G&CC

Golf is a wonderful game that can be played from an early age and well into your senior years. Truly a lifelong passion for many. This comes with a price tag of course, and players have to make choices on what equipment they need and where to get it.



So much selection with some great pricing on dated products. They have done a very nice job of promoting the game and making it easy to get started. Yes, they gave hurt the green grass shops, however, it is a reality that hits many retail sectors.

Now the Green Grass shops. Yes, I own my own golf

shop, so I'll try to remain neutral. Why choose these shops for your equipment? In general, these shops should provide great personal touches and will ensure you are purchasing the right product. Often, the overall success of the club relies on support from the golfers that play there on a regular basis. Although the selection may be as diverse, they will stand behind their product and keep your overall club experience at the forefront each and every day.

All three options have their merit. Ultimately we want people to continue playing the game and having as much fun as possible.

The first consideration is buying from online used goods sites. The deals can be unbelievable, but there is a risk as the authenticity of the products is becoming a growing concern, as recently documented on the Golf Channel.

The big box stores are impressive.



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It is recommended that 2008 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey.

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Coaching applications for our Select program (Tyke – Midget) are now available on our website.

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<https://omhahockeyparent.respectgroupinc.com/secure/>
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By AURORA RESIDENT ANN-BERNICE THOMAS

RECENT GRADUATE OF AURORA HIGH

To live will be an Awfully Big adventure

It's that time of year again. Another generation is off for their first year of university. High school has been graduated, diplomas kissed and caps thrown with joy, cheer, and just a hint of sadness. Now is the time for eighteenth birthdays, growing up, moving out, and saying goodbye to one's old way of life. But is saying goodbye really that easy?

High school, as crazy as it was, was full of faces that we have known since kindergarten. We have learned, grown, and matured with the same people for twelve years. From grade school to now, every new experience, every bump in the road, every change of friends, every tear, and every good time, was shared with the same few people

And alas, now, as it is time to say goodbye, I wonder if letting go really is as easy as it seems. I moved from England to Canada when I was seven, and at the time, communicative technology was only up and coming. However, since the move, I have managed to stay in touch with my best childhood friend, and still talk to her, and visit her to this day. We wrote each other letters, which eventually evolved into phone calls, msn, facebook, and now skype. I constantly wonder if we would have stayed as close as we are, if it weren't for these leaps in technology.

Moving on to university, I face the same challenge as I did ten years ago. Can I stay in contact with my friends, and if so, can we keep the bond that only high school can forge? When asked, most graduated teenagers shared the same thoughts when it came to keeping friends, and the impact of technology in their relationships.

"I plan to keep a few of my friends," says Miranda Szuberwood. "A specific few because I feel it would be difficult to go through a new experience without them. They're comfortable. I don't want to forget about my high school friends because they've been a big part of my life," says Bailey Hooper. "But I feel like it's going to be hard because we'll all be living different lives." When asked if she thought technology increased the ability to stay in contact, Sam Cunningham said, "Yes, but it also harms it, because sometimes it makes things too easy, like forgetting to reply. It's too easy to forget to reply."

It was also general consensus that letter writing is too old fashioned, for it takes too much energy, effort and "you have to pay," said Miranda Szuberwood.

So will we stay in touch? It seems that it can't be decided for certain who will stay, regardless of technology. For, as Charlie Weaver wisely stated, "I want to stay in touch, but I also know that some relationships only last for seasons, and now, some may be over."

KEEPING BUSY ...this summer



Aurora High School Student Alexandra Sweny is having a busy summer, but she is not complaining as she is enjoying every minute of it.

She turned seventeen in June and works 7 - 14 hours every week at the Aurora Library where she sorts through books and puts books back on the shelves.

In addition to the library, she is also employed at Promotive Communications, this summer, which is a publishing company that is located in Aurora. She works at this location on average 20 hours a week and is happy to learn the business. She is looking forward to writing transcripts during her employment there.

She is busy this summer, but she is not complaining and she is learning and growing and enjoying herself.

Studies have shown that teens that work evenings, weekends and throughout summer holidays have greater success while they are doing their part-time employment as well as later on in life. This is because exposure to work helps teens understand and appreciate the responsibility of earning their own money which can be used towards post secondary expenses, or their own extra-curricular activities. As well, it helps teens to learn to take instruction in a work place and be given tips of how to improve through exposure with their job.

Teens earning money by working develop a responsible financial attitude and appreciation for their efforts and an understanding of what their parents have done for years. Going to work



every day throughout the summer and coming home tired at the end of the day prepares them for full time work later in life.

As well, part-time and summer employment looks very good on a resume because it shows initiative on behalf of the teen. This type of employment can be used as a reference later in life when they are seeking full time employment. It has been proven that teens that have worked part-time throughout their high school years are likely to be hired more quickly for a full time job than those that did not.

Sweny is taking a week off this summer to spend some time with her family when they

will be taking a driving trip to the east coast. Included in the family trip will be a visit to the University of Kings College located in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Sweny will be going back to Aurora High this coming fall, but is planning for her University education where she is thinking of taking Journalism. She has not planned out her full time career at this point. "I'm not completely sure what I want to do yet, but I love reading and writing" said Sweny.

■ WRITTEN BY CHRIS MCGOWAN

Youth engagement committee

The Town of Aurora has implemented a new Youth Engagement Committee where youth from the ages of 12 and 17 can volunteer their services. They are specifically looking for volunteers, boys or girls to fill nine spots. Six spots have already been filled and three volunteer spots are still open.

These volunteer positions will help make a difference in the community of Aurora and the objective of these positions is as follows;

To provide assistance in developing new programs that would involve youth.

To liaise between the community itself and youth to communicate ongoing needs.

To encourage youth involvement with programs that is run by the Town of Aurora.

Involvement and encouragement of participation at the Youth Centre.

To look out for local sponsorship

The youth engagement committee is expected to meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month starting in September and will be meeting through till the end of the school year.

Volunteer work is a fulfilling way to give your personal time to your community. It can help you develop your own personal skills as a Youth Engagement Committee member and will allow you to have experience that can be added to your resume. There is always something that you can learn from the experience as well as something that you can give.

Volunteering is highly regarded and could earn you an opportunity for employment further along your career path. Simply put, it looks good and shows initiative and involvement and allows you as a teen or youth to have future doors opened with either part-time work as you continue on your educational path of completing high school and moving on to the post secondary education or even your full time work experience.

Volunteer work can also lead to paid positions, possibly within the Town of Aurora,

or affiliated groups. Often employment is obtained by networking or being exposed to new environments, there is so much to learn out there and volunteering can only broaden your horizons.

This role is new to the Town of Aurora and youth that are interested will be interviewed for the position and must submit a vulnerable sector screening test.

Other towns in York Region have implemented a similar program and have had great success with it. The Town of Aurora is hopeful that this will hold true for them as well. What a great way to become involved with the community by giving some time and having a say as well.

If you are interested in volunteering and being a member of the Youth Engagement Committee - go to <http://www.aurora.ca/Thingstodo/Pages/Youth-Engagement-Committee.aspx> and fill out the application form or contact the appropriate numbers to inquire about these opportunities.

■ WRITTEN BY CHRIS MCGOWAN



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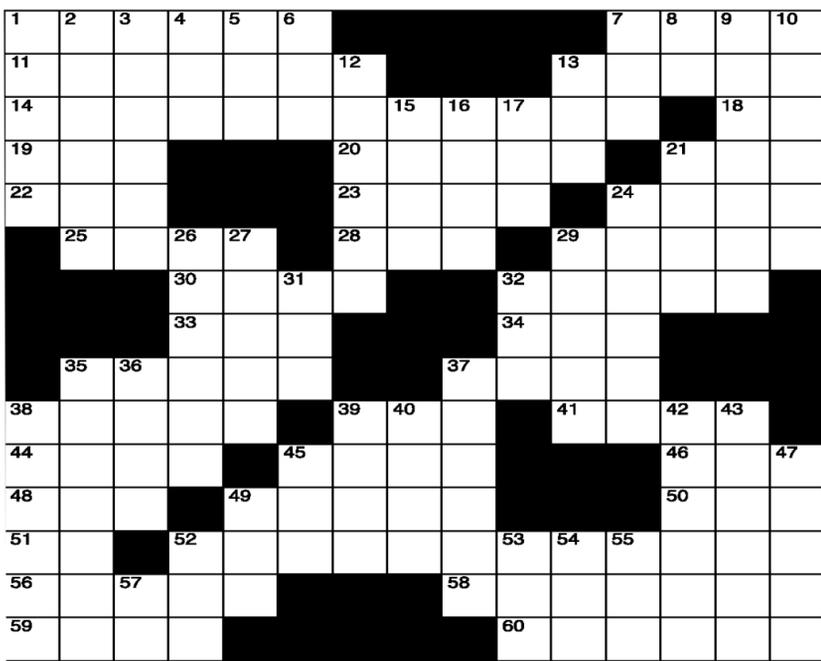
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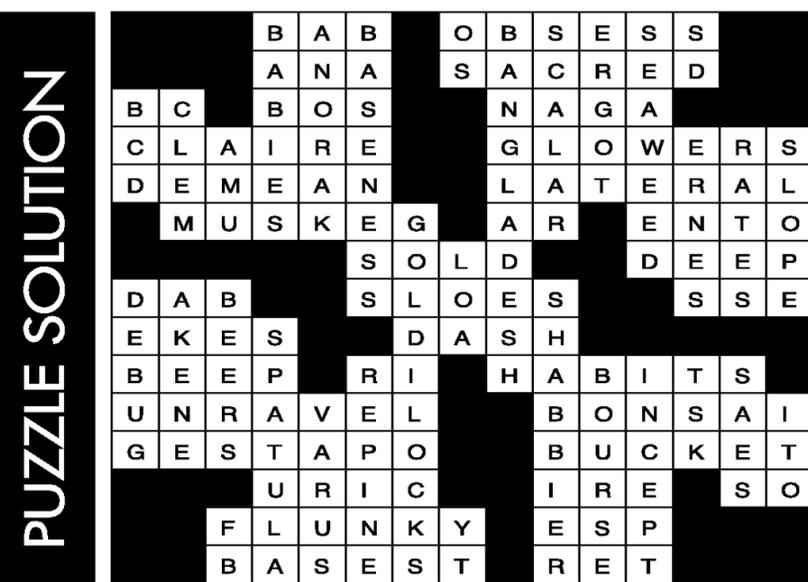
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chafe
- 7. Taps
- 11. Wild llama
- 13. "Taming of the Shrew" city
- 14. Israel Isidore Beilin
- 18. 12th Greek letter
- 19. ___ Lanka
- 20. Obsequious use of title
- 21. Failed in function
- 22. 1st workday (abbr.)
- 23. Sea eagle
- 24. Bamako is the capital
- 25. Mains
- 28. Body of water
- 29. Fern frond sporangia
- 30. Baseball implements
- 32. Peels an apple
- 33. Ingested
- 34. Coverage to cure & prevent
- 35. Satisfied
- 37. Having a slanted direction
- 38. Acts of selling
- 39. Pod vegetable
- 41. To lay a tax upon
- 44. Ancient Olympic Site
- 45. Gram molecule
- 46. Internet addiction disorder
- 48. Feline
- 49. 19301 PA
- 50. East northeast
- 51. AKA consumption
- 52. U.S. capital
- 56. 1st Mexican civilization
- 58. Police radio monitors
- 59. Give advice, explain
- 60. Drab

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Age discrimination
- 2. Donkeys
- 3. Deep narrow valley
- 4. Cuckoo
- 5. Newsmen Rather
- 6. Heartbeat test
- 7. Cooking pot
- 8. Promotion
- 9. Ancient barrow
- 10. Citizens of Riyadh
- 12. Preoccupy excessively
- 13. Crusted dessert
- 15. Ireland
- 16. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 17. Downwind
- 21. Issue a challenge
- 24. Brooding ill humor
- 26. Makes less intense
- 27. Repletes
- 29. Languages of the Sulu islands
- 31. CNN's Turner
- 32. 21st Greek letter
- 35. Merchantable
- 36. Dismounted a horse
- 37. Catchment areas
- 38. Private subdivision of society
- 39. Piglet's best friend
- 40. Norse goddess of old age
- 42. Yellow-brown pigment
- 43. TV journalist Vanocur
- 45. More (Spanish)
- 47. Openly disparage
- 49. Political funding group
- 52. Tiny
- 53. Greatest common divisor
- 54. Tobacco smoking residue
- 55. United
- 57. 7th state

Last Week's Puzzle Solution



Aurora archer Hayden Edwards, centre, celebrates his gold medal win at the Ontario Summer Games last week. Submitted photo

Local archer strikes provincial gold at Ontario Summer Games

By Jake Courtepatte

15-year old archer Hayden Edwards made the trek to Windsor last weekend to compete in the Ontario Summer Games, Ontario's largest multi-sport event now in its 44th year.

Amidst some strong competition, Edwards was able to take home provincial gold in only his first year of competing outdoors.

Held in Windsor from August 7 to 10, the Ontario Summer Games (OSG) was described by team manager Lynn Aciri as "a stepping stone for young athletes."

While Edwards had recently competed in the US Nationals for archery in Ohio, he said he found the OSG to be more of a "taste of the Olympics".

"It was a better feel for a wide-range event," said Edwards. "With all the different sports there, and seeing different athletes from different sports, it had that vibe."

Growing up in Aurora, Edwards focused his athletics on minor hockey. When his uncle bought him his first bow three years ago, rep hockey stood in the way.

"I never really got a chance to use it," said Edwards. "Then one day we got a hold of my uncle's coach, and I guess she just paid a lot of attention to me. I picked it up well."

Edwards now plays house league hockey on weekends, choosing to put his focus on his archery.

Edwards' uncle is Rob Rusnov, former Olympic archer and two-time Pan-Am Games gold medalist. Under the wing of Rusnov and Canadian Olympic Archery coach Joan McDonald, Edwards shot strong in the Cadet division of 17 and under. He finished with a final score of 1,578, almost 100 points ahead of second place.

According to Edwards, the gold medal was the culmination of hard work and support from those close to him.

"I think it was everything. My coach was supportive, my uncle was supportive, and my whole family was very supportive. They encourage me to keep doing it."

When asked about his future in archery, Edwards admits that the Olympics are already on his mind.

"I've been thinking about it, and I think it would be a really cool thing. It's something that's always there."

As for now, Edwards is looking to shoot in as many tournaments as he can to keep excelling.

The Central Zone Team, comprised of archers from Simcoe, Dufferin, Peel, Toronto, and Waterloo, combined for four gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the Games.

PeeWee Jays fall early in annual CNE baseball tournament

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Jays PeeWee baseball team traveled to Toronto Monday morning to kick off their first ever entry in the annual Lions CNE PeeWee Baseball Tournament.

With the Canadian National Exhibition already underway, this marks the 58th year of what is the oldest and most prestigious event of its kind in Ontario for 12-13 year olds.

Having made the finals of their home tournament in May of this year and finishing third in the Bolton minor baseball tournament at the end of June, both the coaches and athletes made the trip to Toronto with high hopes.

The Jays met the Oshawa

Legionnaires in the first game of the single-elimination tournament, a team that finished 13 - 6 in the Eastern Ontario Baseball Association.

The Jays pitchers were exhausted having played multiple games over the weekend, making it difficult for the team to do what coach Mark Elbaum calls "burn an arm" - have one pitcher throw 75-80 pitches before resting up for later in the tournament.

Despite a strong showing, their tournament run was over after one game as they fell to Oshawa 8 - 4.

The PeeWee Jays now head to Burlington for the Ontario Baseball Association Championships on Labour Day Weekend, to represent the York-Simcoe Baseball Association.

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17206A	2012	VW	CC	6sp DSG Auto	Deep Black	60,103	\$24,954	\$24,900
17483	2011	VW	Tiguan	6sp Auto	Apline Grey	34,453	\$23,718	\$22,718
X17293	2011	Audi	S4	S-Tronic Auto	Ibis White	77,593	\$39,049	\$36,995
X17336 (US car)	2011	Audi	A4	6sp Auto	Ice Silver	86,690	\$24,995	\$23,900
17326	2011	Toyota	Rav 4WD	Automatic	Alpine White	79,980	\$19,895	\$18,895
17352	2011	Lincoln	MKS AWD	Automatic	Pearl White	113,812	\$24,574	\$23,995
X17343	2012	Audi	A4	6sp Manual	Brilliant Black	68,828	\$26,754	\$24,995
X17324	2013	BMW	328i	Automatic	Imperial Blue	39,768	\$37,719	\$36,595
V8613A	2011	Hyundai	Sonata GL	6sp Manual	Harbour Grey	66,568	\$12,054	\$11,595

*All prices are subject to HST and Licensing.



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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."

AUGUST 19 - 22

Do you speak math? The transition to high school math can be challenging! Get a head start with teacher and mathematician Danielle Rasu-Park at the Aurora Public Library for four sessions. Topics include operations with integers, fractions, solving equations and more. For students entering Grade 9 Academic math classes. Tuesday to Friday from 2 – 3.15 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will host a British Pub Night this evening

beginning at 6 p.m. Experience the fun of an evening at a typical British pub. Music, games, lots of prizes, food, and camaraderie galore! Fish & Chips wrapped the old English way – in newspaper! \$8 pp. For more information, call 905-727-9932.

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

LEGO at the Library: Today is Drop-in Library LEGO Day at the Aurora Public Library. Join us for some free creative building fun at the Library from 2.30 – 4 p.m. Meet new friends and work together to make amazing LEGO creations!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series concludes tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park for Green River CCR – the best loved music of Credence Clearwater Revival! This fun night of country rock includes "Proud Mary", "Suzie Q", "Who'll Stop the Rain" and all their great hits. Concert runs from 7 – 9 p.m. Bring your own lawn chairs.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

The Business Women's Network of York Region will host "Project Yourself" at the Gem Theatre in Georgina. (\$15 for members and \$25 for non-members).

This month, the Network will give members the opportunity to screen 30-second "infomercials" on who you are and what you do. For more information, contact Network president Elizabeth Johnston at 416-910-1058.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

End of Summer ART BLAST – Take a break from technology. Join artists from Sherman J. Studio and Local Colour Aurora as they show off their latest paintings. Styles range from traditional to quirky and everything in between. Come and meet the artists and explore their visual language of shape and colour. This Fine Art Show and Sale takes place at 89 Temperance Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. All ages are welcome and admission is free.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

The Aurora Community Band will host its first rehearsal of the season this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Rehearsals are held each Sunday at the same time. If you are a brass, woodwind or percussion player with some concert band experience, you can attend two complimentary rehearsals before the membership fee applies. For further information, contact

auroracommunityband@gmail.com

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

CHATS – Community & Home Assistance to Seniors – will host its annual Charity Golf Tournament today at Silver Lakes Golf & Conference Centre in East Gwillimbury. Registration begins at 7 a.m., with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Lunch to follow. Magna is the presenting sponsor. For more information, contact Tim Jones at 905-713-3373 x6063 or email tjones@chats.on.ca.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Aurora Seniors Association welcomes you to the annual Country & Western Dance from 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. at the Aurora Seniors' Centre (90 John West Way). Come and dance to the sounds of the Dustaleros Big Band for only \$10 a ticket. All ages welcome. Refreshments will be available and there will be a cash bar. Tickets will be sold at the Seniors' Centre starting August 4. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

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

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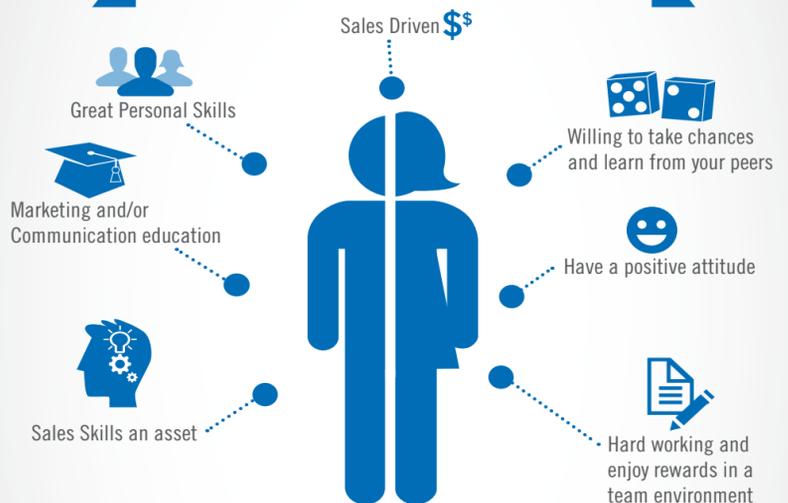
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Students Welcome



Club has become “second home” to members

From page 1

because we get a full summer of summer camps. They have agreed in principle to that.

“In the meantime, and throughout, it is business as usual.” When news of the sale of Timberlane began to circulate last year, so too did rumours about what was going to happen to the club and reasons for the sale, he says. These rumours, he added, hit fever pitch this summer.

“There were rumours we were going to be closed this September, even though we announced to our members we were going to be in business until the end of January 2015 because that is when the final sale is going through,” he says. “There was another rumour that the club was going bankrupt and it is going to close because of that, but it was mostly about when the closing date was going to be.”

Despite their fears, however, the rumours did not hurt summer business. For a club that opens up its doors to the kids for a series of camps throughout the summer months, these camps are flourishing more this year than in any other, he says.

Over the years they have broadened the scope of their clubs from simply tennis and swimming, to a variety of other programs including a “glee” camp.

Part of the upswing can be attributed to the closure and demolition of Newmarket’s Glenway Golf and Country Club two years ago and the fact that Timberlane is, to be blunt, quite simply the only game in Town at the moment as far as indoor tennis is concerned.

Although this has caused a bit of a surge in terms of numbers, it has also created its own problems now that timeframes become clearer as to when the club will be consigned to the history books.

“For a lot of members of Timberlane, it is their second home,” says Mr. Ramsbottom. “There were a lot of people who were freaking out, especially the tennis players because without Glenway there really is no other place to play indoor tennis right now. For a lot of our tennis members, they have been here almost since Day 1.

“One of the things I love about the club business is Timberlane becomes a community unto itself. It is a place where people meet their life partners, it is a place where people bring their kids, their kids grow up, and we see the kids go from young kids, to teens, to adult members. There has been that continuation. For many staff who have been here almost since the opening, this has been their life as well and they have had their kids grow up and move on. When I say it is a second home, it really is.”

But, for the time being, Timberlane remains open to people who want to join them in their humble abode. Membership rules for however long is left on their clock have been relaxed, as have fees.

Year-long commitments are gone in favour of month to month memberships, a significant reduction in monthly tennis memberships, plus the addition of court fees, and fitness memberships remain open.

As Timberlane prepares for what appears to be its final year in operations, Mr. Ramsbottom is reflective about the future of indoor tennis in Aurora. No firm decision has been made yet as far as an indoor tennis facility at Stewart Burnett Park and with remaining land at a premium in Town, he says he sees few options going forward.

“There is going to be a void when it comes to tennis and it is a real shame,” he says. “Tennis is so huge in Canada right now with Milos Raonic and Genie Bouchard and it is at an all-time high. They set records in both Montreal and Toronto with attendance and our junior tennis programs are busting at the seams, partly as a result of that and I think that is another thing that is going to be very much effected by Timberlane.

“I have a phenomenal staff and it will be very difficult when that finally ends because we’re a pretty tight group. It is going to be sad and frustrating.”

ELECTION 2014

Aurora needs to keep pace with other municipalities, says candidate Bob Chapman

By Brock Weir

After more than three decades working in municipal finance, Bob Chapman just can’t stay away in his retirement.

The 55-year-old Aurora resident has thrown his hat in the ring as a Council candidate in the October 27 municipal election.

With an eye on maintaining and improving Aurora’s recreational spaces – both indoor and outdoor – and making things easier for the average commuter, Mr. Chapman says he was inspired to get involved in the community he has called home for 24 years through a letter he found written by his grandfather.

“He was a history teacher and he said that being a good citizen is important,” says Mr. Chapman. “You might never invent something great, you might never become a billionaire or Prime Minister, but being a good citizen is something to strive for.

“I have always encouraged my kids to vote and get involved. This is something I see myself doing in contributing to the Town. I realise the value of these positions. Decision making is important, the Town is very well-run, but there are always things you can contribute as a politician.”

As a long-time commuter during the nearly quarter-century he has called Aurora home, Mr. Chapman says ensuring growth is “handled nicely” is one of the biggest challenges Aurora is going to have to face over the next few years.

“The 404 and the GO Train are just really holding back Aurora,” he says. “You can’t get downtown to work on the 404. With the GO, I was glad to hear they are putting more trains on each way, and that will really help people stay downtown. I remember running to the GO Trains at 6.10 and not being able to stay [in Toronto] for things and hopefully GO Train service will improve for Aurora.”

But, as Go Transit, Metrolinx, and the 400-series highways are Provincial matters, some might question how this relates to municipal government. The answer, he says, is there will be increasing pressures – both positive and negative – for municipalities and all levels of government to work together over the coming decades, and much of this can be attributed to those growth challenges.

“There is the potential of amalgamation with Newmarket and York Region, so I think Aurora should continue to work on an integrated system with other municipalities,” says Mr. Chapman, noting he sees amalgamation as both a positive and an inevitability.

“It saves money and it ensures uniform services. That is why a municipality has to be in sync with the other municipalities because, as we saw with the amalgamation of the City of Toronto, it is important for municipalities to be in sync with their debts, with their reserves, and the service levels they are providing.”

Service levels are not just limited to roads and sewers but, in Mr. Chapman’s view, primarily to soccer fields and ice rinks, which people interact with every day. They are one of the key things that “makes the Town nice”, but there are areas around Aurora that are lacking in this regard.

“We could have more resources devoted to recreation facilities and things in a manner that people use,” he says. “Not everybody is going to use the soccer field, not everybody is going to use the swimming pool, so you do have to be practical about allocating resources and that is one of the major decisions that Councillors make.”

“I think the budget needs to be kept tight for the sake of taxpayers and when you get a slightly tighter budget then the priorities become a bit more clear. When money is tight, people put money where it is a priority.”

Through his municipal finance background, Mr. Chapman says it is important to perform a “fair bit of due diligence” when it comes to big ticket items like the recently approved Joint Operations Centre, as well as everything that might be incorporated into Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Park in the future.

Although he says this Council has been pretty well run compared to the “dysfunctional Council a few years ago”, one thing he says this Council has lacked is a solid vision.

“I don’t think they had any major decisions to make and they didn’t go crazy,” he said. “From a management standpoint, did they do a great job in managing? I think they could do a little bit better in terms of giant vision projects. I don’t think they are taking on too many.”



Council candidate Bob Chapman brings over 30 years of experience in municipal finance to the October 27 race.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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