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# THE AUROROAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 15 No. 32 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE

Week of June 4, 2015




**CLOSING IN ON \$40,000** – Aurora High School students cheer on those from the community leading the Survivors' Lap at the school's Relay for Life commemoration last week. Students joined forces to host the annual fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society with a day of activities, beginning at 12 noon with Mayor Dawe helping to open the festivities, and ran through midnight. At press time, donations collected through the fundraiser were closing in at \$40,000 with pledge forms due at the end of the week. (INSET) Moments after the main photo was taken, a sudden storm wreaked havoc with the teens' preparations on the field, but once their tents were secured once again, they quickly returned to cheering on the survivors.

**Auroran photos by Brock Weir**



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(DINE IN ONLY) FRIDAY • \$4 CORONAS

15380 Bayview Avenue,  
Aurora, ON L4G 0K7

## Average residential taxes to increase by \$130 after budget approval

By Brock Weir

Aurora homeowners with a property assessed at \$500,000 can expect a \$129.95 increase to their annual tax bill following Council's approval of the 2015 Municipal Budget last week.

After a lengthy and extended series of deliberations, Council approved a 3.91 per cent increase on the municipal portion of your tax bill in an 8-1 vote. Mixed and weighted with a 2.97 per cent increase from the Region of York – and unchanged education taxes –

this increase will result in an overall combined tax increase of 2.69 per cent.

A \$500,000 property was used as the benchmark in this year's budget deliberations but owners of residential properties assessed at \$300,000 can expect to see a combined increase of \$77.97, while those assessed at \$400,000 and \$600,000 can expect \$103.96 and \$155.94 respectively.

Aurora's 2015 Budget accounts for \$56 million to operate Aurora's programs and services. \$37 million of this will come from property taxes, with the

remainder stemming from user fees, fines, and charges, according to the Town. A further \$18 million Capital Budget was approved in March to cover infrastructure.

The 3.91 per cent increase can be broken down as follows: 1.82 per cent to run Aurora as it operates today – as well as covering costs to improving services, and rising insurance and benefit rates – along with 1.3 per cent pressure for the six year phase-in of a new fire crew to serve Aurora and

Continued on page 6

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## Trampoline team gets ready for Pan-Am Games

By Jake Courtepatte

As thousands of athletes prepare to tackle just under fifty different disciplines at the Pan Am Games in Toronto this summer, the Canadian trampoline team is thriving with local talent.

King City's Rosie MacLennan, a gold medalist in both Pan Am and Olympic competition, will lead three other athletes and two alternates in their quest for the podium, in which Canada swept gold four years ago in Guadalajara.

Continued on page 11

## Aurora approves bylaw for Canada Post authority

By Brock Weir

Aurora has followed in the footsteps of the City of Hamilton to try and regulate where Canada Post places new community mailboxes as they phase out door-to-door mail delivery service – and now it is time to play the waiting game to see if the move lands Aurora in court as it did Hamilton.

The new bylaw, which was approved in a 7-2 vote with Mayor Geoff Dawe and Councillor Paul Pirri voting against, proposes a number of requirements in an overhaul of the Town's existing excavation bylaw that Canada Post will have to meet in order to obtain a permit to dig, explained Town Solicitor Warren Mar. Canada Post will now, in theory,

have to provide "written evidence" to Town Hall to prove they have adequately consulted with the neighbourhood in which they plan to erect a box, a particular sticking point for residents in both Aurora and Hamilton who have said they have very much been left out of the conversation.

This move "puts the onus on Canada Post to show they have done their diligence and they have also done their due diligence with regards to municipal services and other items we may have either above and below ground that would affect the placement of the mailbox," said Mr. Mar.

Councillor Tom Mrakas, a driving force around the Council table for

Continued on page 8

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# Weekly Notice Board

Aurora Town Hall  
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Phone 905-727-1375 • Fax 905-726-4732  
Email [info@aurora.ca](mailto:info@aurora.ca) • Website [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

Accessible formats  
905-727-3123 ext. 4212  
[accessibility@aurora.ca](mailto:accessibility@aurora.ca)

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Thursday, June 4	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Environmental Advisory Committee (Rescheduled)
Monday, June 8	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, June 9	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, June 10	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Environmental Advisory Committee (rescheduled from June 4)
Thursday, June 11	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Thursday, June 11	7 p.m.	Leksand Room	Economic Development Advisory Committee
Tuesday, June 16	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee*
Wednesday, June 17	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library	Aurora Public Library Board
Thursday, June 18	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Friday, June 19	10 a.m.	Council Chambers	Trails and Active Transportation Committee
Tuesday, June 23	6 p.m.	Council Chambers	Audit Committee
Tuesday, June 23	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, June 24	6:30 p.m.	St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS	Public Planning

Council meetings are open to the public and can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

\*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting [www.aurora.ca/gcstream](http://www.aurora.ca/gcstream)



The Town of Aurora proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Sport in Aurora. Stay tuned for a number of upcoming sporting events from various sports organizations in Aurora to celebrate the importance of healthy sport and activities in our community.

For more information, please visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for the following position: Program Manager, Records Management (16-month contract). Application deadline is **Friday, June 5**. For more information, please visit [www.aurora.ca/employment](http://www.aurora.ca/employment)

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the Aurora residents who participated in the Town's E-Waste collection event on **Saturday, May 23**. The total tonnage collected was **15,981 pounds**. This program would not be successful without your participation!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Skylight Gallery Artist for the month of June

Mariana Badescu  
Artists' Reception on **Friday, June 5** from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

View Mariana's explosion of colours, styles, shapes and textures in vibrant bold blasts translated through acrylics on canvas and unique sculptures. Mariana shares her passion to preserve nature in pieces. Her journey of expression is also influenced by her native Romanian culture and traditions and use of geometric patterns such as Cucuteni series.

### Dinner and a Movie

*Vampire Academy* (Rated PG)

Where: Aurora Family Leisure Complex  
The Loft  
When: **Saturday, June 6**  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Ages: 11 to 14 year-olds  
Price: Entry is \$3 per person and pizza will be served.



For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 3121.



Congratulations to local artist Yvette McHugh, whose painting "Evermore" has joined a select number of paintings in the Preserve Aurora Collection on display at Aurora Town Hall. The piece was purchased at the 2015 Aurora Seniors Art Show.

The Preserve Aurora Collection can be viewed from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the second floor of Aurora Town Hall.

### Compost Giveaway Day!

Calling all Aurora residents! Don't miss the free Compost Giveaway Day on **Saturday, June 6** at the Operations Works Yard located at 9 Scanlon Court.

There is a three-container limit per vehicle. The compost will be available from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. or while supplies last.

### Town of Aurora Splash Pads are open!

Please be advised that the children's water play splash pads located at Ada Johnson Park and Town Park will be open for the season. The splash pads are open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and are not supervised by the Town of Aurora.

### Town of Aurora approves \$74 million 2015 Budget

Combined tax levy impact to homeowners is 2.69%

Aurora Town Council has approved a 2015 Budget that includes \$56 million to operate Town of Aurora programs and services. These expenses are funded with \$37 million of property taxes, with the balance from user fees, fines and charges. Council previously approved a further \$18 million Capital Budget in March, to build and maintain roads, water lines and other infrastructure.

The 2015 Town of Aurora Budget includes a 3.91 per cent increase to the local municipal tax levy. This amounts to an additional \$68.07 on a home with an assessed value of \$500,000. Combined with the York Region Business Plan and Budget approved in February, Aurora homeowners will see an overall increase on their property tax bill of 2.69 per cent or \$129.95 on a \$500,000 home.

#### The 2015 Budget involves three primary tax levy pressures:

Cost to run Aurora today  
**1.82 per cent**

Expanding Fire Services  
**1.3 per cent**

Fiscal Strategy  
**0.79 per cent**

- Improving services and meeting growth
- Increased insurance, employee benefits and software maintenance
- Increased facility, snow removal and library services costs
- Efficient and accountable government
- Closely aligned with inflation

- First of six years of phase-in plan (Operational costs only)
- Capital expansion funded by development charges
- Infrastructure sustainability funding, closing historical underfunding gap
- Long-term plan to keep our Town in good condition and working well
- Reducing our reliance on interest earned from Hydro Sale proceeds, while protecting the purchasing power of those proceeds

The 2015 Budget will support the following key initiatives:

- Pursuing Excellence Canada's Silver Certification, after receiving Bronze Certification in 2014
- Developing a Sports Plan and an update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Developing a Public Arts Policy
- Enhancing recreational services for youth
- Implementation of paperless billings (e-billings) for taxes and water
- Exploring IT efficiencies with Town of Newmarket
- Preparation of a new, comprehensive Zoning By-law

All documents relating to the 2015 Budget, including a complete list of approved capital projects, are available at [www.aurora.ca/budget](http://www.aurora.ca/budget)

### 20th annual Aurora Chamber Street Festival on Sunday, June 7

The 20th annual Aurora Chamber Street Festival is on **Sunday, June 7** from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival is on Yonge Street in Aurora.

The Town of Aurora's Booth is located at Block #15 Booth Number 419 & 421. The booths are located on the East side of Yonge Street and the access point is Kennedy Street.

**New this year!** The Town of Aurora will be conducting a brief Quick Tap survey to better determine how residents in Aurora would like to receive communication from the Town.

Stop by and pick up the latest copy of our Residence Guide, Waste Calendar and much more! We hope to see you there. For more information on the Aurora Chamber Street Festival, please visit [www.aurorachamber.on.ca](http://www.aurorachamber.on.ca)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Notice of Public Planning Meeting

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following planning application on **Wednesday, June 24** at 6:30 p.m. at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, Cafeteria, 278 Wellington Street East.

PROPERTY: 21 Golf Links Drive, Aurora, ON

APPLICANT: Highland Gate Developments Inc.

FILE NUMBER: SUB-2015-01, OPA-2015-01 and ZBA-2015-02

For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 4343

### Notice of Temporary Road Closure – Annual Yonge Street Festival

Please be advised that vehicular traffic on the following portion of Yonge Street will be temporarily prohibited on **Sunday, June 7** from approximately 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the annual Yonge Street Festival.

Yonge Street between Wellington Street and Murray Drive and all side roads between Wellington Street and Murray Drive/Edward Street will be affected.



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS BY-LAW NUMBER 5734-15 TO ACQUIRE LANDS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES

100 Vandorf Sideroad, Aurora

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora (the "Town") is providing notice of its intention to pass By-law Number 5734-15 on June 23, 2015, pursuant to Report No. PR15-007, for the purpose of acquiring lands for municipal purposes, municipally known as 100 Vandorf Sideroad, in the Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York and legally described as: (a) the North Part of the lands legally described as Parcel 1-1, Section M2012; Lot 1, Plan M2012, except Parts 5, 8, & 34, Plan 65R-6284, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York (part of PIN 03644-0030 (LT)); and (b) Parcel 2-3, Section M2012; Part Lots 2 & 20, Plan M2012, designated as Parts 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31, Plan 65R-6284; S/T LT212382E (all of PIN 03644-0034 (LT)), as illustrated for location purposes only on Figure 1 (below).

Figure 1



The final version of By-law Number 5734-15 will be available on the Town's website, located at [www.aurora.ca/agendasminutes](http://www.aurora.ca/agendasminutes), on Friday, June 19 before the Council meeting on Tuesday, June 23 at 7 p.m. at Aurora Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

For more information, please contact Allan Downey, Director of Parks & Recreation Services, at 905-727-3123 ext. 4752 or by email at [adowney@aurora.ca](mailto:adowney@aurora.ca)

### Pan Am Aurora Torch Relay

Thursday, June 25, 2015

Relais de la flamme des Jeux Panaméricains à Aurora  
jeudi le 25 juin, 2015



Celebrate the Games and Cheer on the Torch as it travels through Aurora!

#### Opening Ceremony and Torch Launch

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Lambert Willson Park  
135 Industrial Parkway North  
• Official greetings • Meet former Pan Am athletes • Live entertainment featuring White Pine Dancing and Blue Cloud Drum • Experience the lighting of the Torch • Free community barbecue • Food vendors • \*While quantities last

#### Get Active at the AFLC

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Aurora Family Leisure Complex  
135 Industrial Parkway North  
• Gym activities • Face painting • Crafts • Free public swimming

#### A Legacy of Sport

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Aurora Cultural Centre  
22 Church Street  
• Witness the grand opening of A Legacy of Sport, Aurora's new sports exhibit • Meet Aurora Hall of Fame inductees and former Pan Am athletes • Refreshments

#### Win a Pan Am Prize Pack

Why does PACHI the porcupine have exactly 41 quills?  
Email the correct answer to [sware@aurora.ca](mailto:sware@aurora.ca) and be entered into a draw to win a Pan Am Prize Pack!



#### Weather Inquiries

For event-related inquiries on Thursday, June 25, please call the 24-hour special events hotline at 905-726-4762.

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For more information, please contact The Town of Aurora at 905-726-4762 or visit [www.aurora.ca/panam](http://www.aurora.ca/panam)

Please note, we reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

Another exciting event brought to you by

## Are you the next Aurora Teen Idol?

If you are a resident of Aurora and between the ages of 12 and 17, you are eligible to enter the competition! Open to individual vocalists only. Applications are available at Aurora Town Hall, the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex or online at [www.aurora.ca/teenidol](http://www.aurora.ca/teenidol)

**Auditions take place on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre**

**Final competition takes place during the Canada Day festivities on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Lambert Willson Park**

Register by Friday, June 12!

PLEASE NOTE, WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL, AMEND OR CHANGE ACTIVITIES.

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Call 905-726-4762 or visit [www.aurora.ca/teenidol](http://www.aurora.ca/teenidol) for more information

Aurora Town Hall  
100 John West Way

Aurora Community Centre  
1 Community Centre Lane

Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex  
1400 Wellington Street East

Aurora Family Leisure Complex  
135 Industrial Parkway North

#aurorateenidol



Aurora filmmakers Alex Broughton (L) and Chris Hau were among the winners recognized at the PlaYR Video Awards on Thursday night.

Aurora photos by Brock Weir

## Local filmmakers take home prizes at PlaYR

By Brock Weir

Anyone who has ever wielded a camera knows all too well the feeling that comes when you just have to take a photo. Filmmakers, however, might know the feeling experienced one night by Chris Hau.

The Aurora filmmaker was sitting around one night with friends and the feeling struck: they just wanted to make a music video. So, with whim in mind they set out to make it a reality.

"It just so happened someone was available with some really great equipment, so we went down to the Distillery District, met with another friend who is a professional actor and said, 'Are you around tonight? We'll give you a Starbucks Gift Card!'"

That did the trick, and the quickly assembled crew spent the next two hours shooting in the Victorian industrial splendour of the Toronto landmark.

"It was good it was rush hour, so we had some time to think about it," laughs Mr. Hau when asked what their overall vision was for the video, noting they hadn't the slightest idea when they left Aurora. "We really wanted to get into the idea that with relationships not all of them end in a bad way. Sometimes it is good that you have these relationships in your life [and at the end], it is kind of the end of the battle – fresh and raw. It is this feeling of reflecting on these relationships. It is hard, but it is about thinking about it and getting to know yourself."

The resulting music video for "Can We Talk?" took home honours at the PlaYR Film Festival – formerly the York Region Multimedia Film Festival

– which culminated in an awards ceremony on Thursday night after making its way around the Region.

Rebranded for the 2015 festival, this year attracted a record number of video submissions, according to John Watson, Executive Director of the Festival.

"The material we have received has been a whole new level and the quality is really fantastic," said Mr. Watson.

Along with the number of submissions, the diversity of the films and videos submitted has grown as well. From "Communist Mummies from Mars" to a creative – and all too helpful – tutorial of the various kinds and various methods of using chopsticks, there was a video for everyone.

"Globally right now it is an amazing time with digital media and what is happening out there [and] the things you can capture on your camera, the way we view images, and the way we shape things that are happening in our world right now," said actress Joanne Vannicola, who hosted the event. "I feel this is a time of what feels like difficult times and yet, on the flipside it is also really hopeful because it allows us the opportunity to kind of document and watch human behaviour and change it."

"I am all about change and I am really grateful to live in a time where we can see culturally diverse images, we can talk about LGBT, we can make movies about people from all over the world of all races, cultures, genders, sexualities and I am really excited to be part of this new wave of imaging and digital imagery."

Aurora filmmaker Alex Broughton is very much a part of this new wave, particularly with his project

"Platform 21", which won Best Film in the Experimental Category for professionals. Like Mr. Hau, Mr. Broughton's film explores the challenges of navigating those personal relationships, with a mix of traditional filmmaking combined with still photography over voice.

"As an artist, I think it is part of our duty to constantly push whatever it is we're doing, whether it is the medium we're expressing ourselves in, or the content we're addressing," he said. "What inspired this story was a bad breakup and being obsessed with current affairs and a lot of projects. Sometimes that takes priority and it did in a relationship and it cost me in the end. It became a learning experience and that is how I wanted to address this project – something completely different and another learning experience; an experiment."

The mix of moving and still image, he added, was meant to convey a disconnect – not only a disconnect between the subject of the film and himself, but also between the audience and what they are seeing. "The universal message that love is the most important thing to fight for, whether it is love for each other, love for another person, love for a family, or love for life itself," he said. "A lot of us get obsessed with ideals and we fight for them, which is good, but you have to be constantly diligent in what you're fighting and doing."

### Briefly

#### HORTON PLACE TO BE PRESERVED

A sold sign has finally been put out in front of the historic Horton Place on Yonge Street at Irwin Avenue. The yellow-brick home, which was one of the three properties at the centre of an aborted plan to create a multi-million dollar heritage park with the two properties to its immediate north, including the Hillary House National Historic Site, has a closing date at the end of July. Although homeowner John McIntyre did not disclose the buyers of the property, he did confirm they are business owners who intend to preserve the heritage structure while converting it "for limited office use and potentially residential as well." "They have already asked me if I would consider selling certain pieces of furniture and providing them with historic photographs of the building so that they can retain some of that atmosphere of the building," says Mr. McIntyre. "That, to me, is a sign they are owners who are not just interested in buying the land for development and I am glad that is the case." Many interested parties simply looked at the property as a chunk of land to be redeveloped, he adds, and finding a buyer with a mind to its history was important to him.

#### AURORA RANKED 30<sup>TH</sup> BEST PLACE TO LIVE IN CANADA

Aurora has been named the 30<sup>th</sup> best place to live in Canada in Moneysense Magazine's annual ranking, down from its 24<sup>th</sup> place finish last year. Aurora is the second highest-ranking York Region town to make the list, following Newmarket which placed 23<sup>rd</sup>, up from its 2014 ranking of 31<sup>st</sup>. Boucherville, Quebec placed first nation-wide. Aurora ranked 8<sup>th</sup> on the list of Canada's Richest Places, an evaluation based on "income, home values, luxury cars owned and more" and an average household net worth of \$935,067, in a York Region-heavy Top 10 list that also included Whitchurch-Stouffville, Vaughan and Richmond Hill.

#### TEA PARTY FOR AFRICAN GRANDMOTHERS

GranAurora will host its annual "Tea & More" this Saturday, June 6, from 2 – 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. The tea supports the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign founded by the Stephen Lewis Foundation to provide a helping hand to African grandmothers who are left to be the sole caregivers for their grandchildren. Tickets are \$25.



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They might not have a church to call their own right now, but Aurora United Church's Seekers Club is keeping the tradition of their church bazaar alive next Saturday, June 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a charity yard sale at 10 Dodie Street (George Street and Kennedy Street West) to benefit the Aurora United Church Future Fund and other favourite charities. Members of the Seekers are pictured earlier this week at an organizing meeting held at Trinity Anglican Church.

Aurora photo by Brock Weir

## LEARNING FOR LIFE. CREATING THE FUTURE.



### Meet Pickering College at the Aurora Chamber Street Festival!

Come and see us at our booth, on the east side of Yonge, south of Wellington.

Learn more about Pickering College's specialized programming for boys and girls in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 and our trailblazing Global Leadership Program.

LIMITED SPACE STILL AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER

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www.pickeringcollege.on.ca



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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**“Where to start?” asks former councillor**

With great pomp and hope from those who voted for him, Mr. Dawe swept into power as mayor of Aurora and even got re-elected.

When he first ran, he promised to get Council’s hands out of the Aurora residents’ pockets. Five years later, and five tax increases later, each increase of approximately 4%, our taxes are higher than ever.

In my opinion, Dawe has done nothing to try and reduce our tax burden. He has not looked at where he could cut taxes, such as staff reduction, expense reduction or even common sense reductions.

Again, in my opinion, the Aurora department managers give their wish list to Council, with every possible addition, knowing that there will be cut backs.

Council then eliminates certain items to get the increase in taxes down from 6% or so to 4%. Every year, tax increases are done the same way. It would be great for departments to look at themselves and look to eliminate rather than add.

In private business there are cut backs so that the businesses can survive. Not so in government, as it is not their money that they are spending.

Then, there is the over spending of a couple of major projects that were approved. A new public works facility, which to me was not required, is underway. It was bad enough the original cost but each year the costs go up and up and this project is now millions of dollars over budget.

To top of the wasted spending is the renovations of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway. This facility was also over-budget and did not meet the needs of the community.

Again, in my opinion, a total waste of taxpayers’ dollars from a mayor that promised not to put Council’s hands further into your pockets.

Dawe also promised to help increase business opportunities in Aurora and to work to get more companies to move to Aurora. Too bad that this did not translate into keeping businesses in Aurora that are currently here.

Wow, Magna is pulling out the amazing headquarters on Wellington to go to King City, the headquarters mayors of the past bragged about. West, Jones and Phyllis Morris all praised the Magna headquarters. What did Dawe do to keep this company in Aurora? I guess not enough? Up to 400 jobs lost. Hallmark is also gone, 215,000 square feet of space.

What a legacy Mr Dawe will be leaving? I never thought that I would say this but we truly needed Evelyn Buck on this council to object to the waste of money. Instead we have a Council, that in my opinion seem to want to keep Dawe happy by voting yes rather than working for you, the residents of Aurora.

**Nigel Kean  
Aurora**

*(Editor’s Note: Mr. Kean faced off against Mr. Dawe in Aurora’s 2010 five-person Mayoral race)*

**Greenbelt review can impact our wallets: reader**

For most of us, discussions concerning the Greenbelt that encompasses much of York Region can seem remote to our own immediate situations.

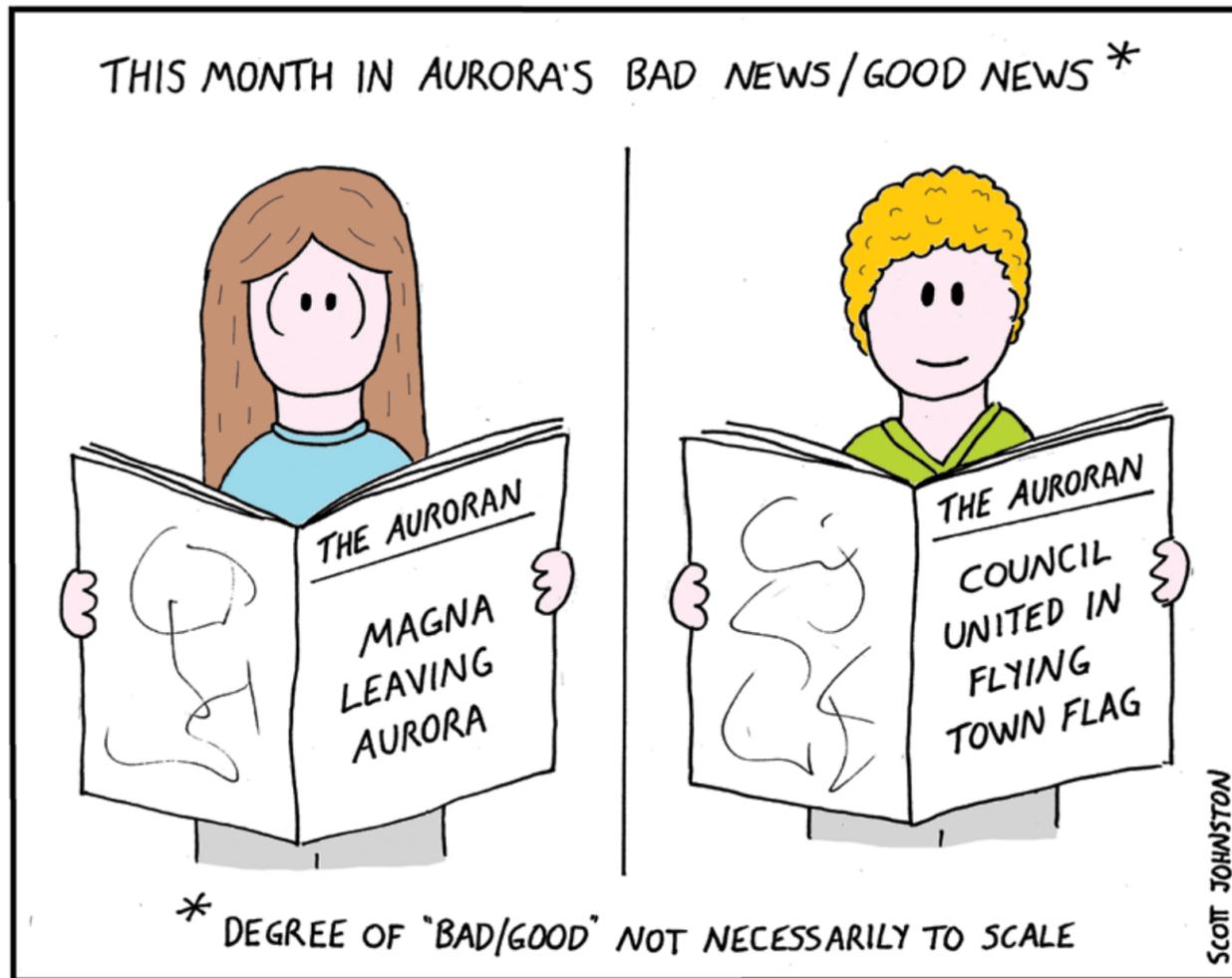
Probably, we realize that there is a general review of Greenbelt taking place and many of us also understand that developers are interested in expanding areas in which they are allowed to develop.

A few organizations predictably state alarm at a potential loss of environmental sustainability and the threat of urban sprawl. The rest of us glance at the pronouncements of these organizations in the local media, shrug, and go about the business of living.

Yet, what happens to the Greenbelt, whether in a general sense or by

**Continued on page 6**

**Machell’s Corners**



**Beating the Bushes for Bears**



**BROCK’S BANTER**  
Brock Weir

We’re still a few weeks away from what many refer to as the “silly season” when news stories, in some outlets, become quirkier with each passing day – a combination of summer heat and a general lack of anything noteworthy to report. Mother Nature, however, seems determined to get a head start on things.

Take, for instance, the ongoing manhunt, so to speak, in Toronto for a rogue peacock on the lam from High Park. While this peacock has, one would assume, been enjoying its freedom, others have been tracking its every move, garnering breathless coverage on local stations.

They were hot on his trail in the west end until a black bear ambled into East Gwillimbury on Saturday before slowly – and evasively – strolling to Newmarket, effectively stealing the peacock’s thunder.

As we all know by now, this black bear ultimately met a grizzly end (sorry) on Monday morning at the hands of York Regional Police while waiting for staff from the Ministry of Natural Resources to come in with their trained response. Meanwhile, police tried to keep the bear safely contained up a tree by banging on any number of objects, but the bear nevertheless made its decent, with police taking it down with several shots.

Once the anger over the situation subsides, only time will tell on whether the Toronto peacock can swoop back into the limelight or whether there is some young, more exotic buck waiting in the wings to steal its thunder.

Here in Aurora, however, our issues at the hands of Mother Nature, and a few green thumbs, are decidedly more pedestrian.

I present you with two scenarios.

- Scenario A: A topic which dominated over 48 minutes of discussion at Council last week.

- Scenario B: Another topic, one which clocked in at just about 19 minutes.

One was a very important subject relevant to every single household and business within the Town of Aurora. The other matter concerned two properties, two households, and two property owners. One of these areas concerned tens of millions of dollars of public money. The other? A few bushes and shrubs on a couple of residential streets.

Scenario A is two separate encroachments from property owners onto municipal properties at the hands of trees and shrubs which have, according to municipal staff, grown so as to cause sightline restrictions to drivers on the relevant streets and any number of challenges to municipal workers tasked with maintaining the thoroughfares.

Scenario B, of course, was the approval of Aurora’s \$74 million budget for 2015, a budget that will see homeowners facing a 3.91 per cent increase on the municipal portion of their tax bill, or 2.69 per cent when this rate is combined and weighted with Regional and Education taxes.

After 48 minutes of debate around the Council table, a runtime which also takes into account two impassioned delegations from the homeowners in question, not to mention considerable airtime the issue took up at the previous week’s General Committee, the matter of the encroachments was ultimately deferred to a later meeting by which time municipal staff will have a report and policy ready to go on how to handle a variety of encroachments Aurora-wide, and not on an individual basis.

A wise move, in my opinion, to avoid any grey areas in the future.

It might be a bit unfair to raise an eyebrow at the comparative lack of time spent discussing the budget, keeping in mind the traditionally excruciatingly long sessions – some lasting up to eight hours at a time with a break here and there – which peppered the months leading to last Tuesday, but everything is relative.

A significant portion of those 19 minutes centred on the best way to communicate to Aurora residents how they are getting value for their dollar, providing a breakdown of how the money will be spent, as well as a laundry list of reports, studies and initiatives that will now have the good grace to move forward now that they have public money behind them.

Communication is, of course, vitally important to any issue, whether they be hedges or public money, but the real question Council should be asking themselves is whether or not the public cares.

There is no doubt they do indeed care. We only have to look at one letter submitted this week touching partially on this very subject, not to mention the flurry of complaints that come when any tax hike is anything other than zero.

There is a passion within residents very much concerned with how their money is spent by all levels of government, particularly so at the municipal level as it is closest to home. And yet, having become an old hand at covering the Aurora budget over three Councils, I can count on one hand the number of people who came out to sound off on the subject who would not be considered budget stalwarts and veteran players in the process.

Now that the budget has received the green light, work can continue on a Sports Plan, an update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, a Public Arts Policy, and, outside the budget, a review of Aurora’s communications strategies.

With all these studies and plans in the works, I hope one of them will touch upon the issue of engagement: How do Aurora residents want to be engaged on the ways in which their money is spent by those they elect to represent their interests? Is it truly a lack of engagement? Are there components of the budget process they find frustrating or, perhaps, lead them to believe that their input would, in the end, be futile? Are there avenues for engagement just waiting to be tapped into, if someone just asked?

In an ideal world, such efforts would reach audiences above and beyond those clamoring for a new iPad. In addition to the job they have tasked themselves with streamlining the process down the road, perhaps this is an ideal area for the Town’s newly minted Finance Advisory Committee to tackle. It might be outside their strict mandate, but a little out-of-the-box thinking never hurts.

Unless you are a bear wandering into Newmarket.

If people can be enraptured by the plight of a bear, or a peacock looking for a good time, chances are, if done right, they can be as enthralled about the future of their respective wallets.

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email: [administration@auroran.com](mailto:administration@auroran.com)

**EDITOR**  
Brock Weir  
[brock@auroran.com](mailto:brock@auroran.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Diane Buchanan  
[diane@auroran.com](mailto:diane@auroran.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Zach Shoub  
[zach@auroran.com](mailto:zach@auroran.com)

**TODAYS NEW HOMES**  
Zach Shoub  
[zach@lpcmedia.ca](mailto:zach@lpcmedia.ca)

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Bob Ince  
[bob@auroran.com](mailto:bob@auroran.com)

**CLASSIFIEDS**  
905-727-3300 ex.102  
[cynthia@auroran.com](mailto:cynthia@auroran.com)

**MOTING**  
Heather Erwin  
[heather@caledoncitizen.com](mailto:heather@caledoncitizen.com)

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Cynthia Proctor  
[cynthia@auroran.com](mailto:cynthia@auroran.com)

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
David Falconer  
[davidphoto10@gmail.com](mailto:davidphoto10@gmail.com)

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It was standing room only as local veterans Stan Bray and John Wilkes were formally inducted into the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion last week. Legion President Dave Franklin led the ceremony, which was held at the Hollandview Trail Retirement Residence where the two gentlemen reside.

Auroran photo by David Falconer



## POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

### Bike Bylaws

At the risk of by-law discussion overload, I must add one more to the mix.

After what I witnessed on Saturday afternoon, I have to say that there is the urgent need to regulate the vehicular chaos we currently have on our municipal roadways and sidewalks.

I am, of course, speaking about bicycles and, in particular, their motorized cousins – e-bikes, scooters (Vespa, not mobility devices), mopeds, etc – that “share” our sidewalks. We need clear, succinct and enforceable regulations as it speaks to who – and what – can use the sidewalks because, quite frankly, the current situation is terrifying to the folks who use the sidewalks for walking!

Case in point, on Saturday I was on the bus home from shopping and while stopped at a traffic light I witnessed this fellow drive his Vespa through the pedestrian part of the intersection crossing and then proceed to drive it onto, and along, the sidewalk – zipping along at at least 20 or 30 clicks – completely oblivious to the terrified senior who had to jump off the sidewalk onto the grass to get out of his way.

It’s bad enough that we have folks riding ordinary bikes on the sidewalks (and more on that in a minute), but come on, motorized vehicles on the sidewalk? I can’t see how anyone would think that’s okay. It’s unbelievably inconsiderate – and dangerous.

By-laws concerning bikes on sidewalks usually speak to wheel size. For example, the City of Toronto sets the wheel size as 60 cm. Anything bigger than that cannot be on the sidewalk. The purpose was, of course, to limit bike use on sidewalks to children, to get them used to riding their bikes safely before venturing out onto the road where bikes belong. Some municipalities such as Calgary and Peterborough set an age limit instead. Those under the age of 14 can ride their bikes on the sidewalk regardless of the size of the wheels.

Bottom line, most municipalities have something on the books that says unless you are a child, then you shouldn’t be on the sidewalk with your bike.

Ah, but what is a bike? Many municipalities are wrestling with this issue right now. Is an electric bike (e-bike) a bike? Or is it a motorized vehicle? Before 2009, e-bikes weren’t allowed on the road. But, as of 2009, as per the newly amended *Ontario Highway Traffic Act* e-bikes may “... travel on public roads to expand mobility options for Ontarians and provide an environmentally friendly way to travel.”

Thus, according to the Province, municipalities, “...may pass by-laws specific to e-bikes that prohibit them from municipal roads, sidewalks, bike paths, bike trails, and bike lanes under their jurisdiction.”

So, there you have it. E-bikes and Vespa scooters and their other motorized cousins are vehicles that belong on the road. Period. I would like to see that enforced. Pronto!

And in the meantime, to all the inconsiderate yahoos whipping down the sidewalk on your mountain bike: you’re not a child, get off the damn sidewalk before you hurt somebody!

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

## Climate Change and the Carbon Market

One-hundred year storms that seem to be hitting every year; more than 25 people drown in recent violent Texas storms; melting polar ice; and recent summers touted as the hottest on record. All signs of climate change.

For many years I worked in Canada’s far north and witnessed the signs of climate change: from melting pingos, to bird and insect species appearing where they had never been recorded, to thunderstorms in areas where there was no local knowledge or words to describe thunder.

In its November 2014 report, the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which reviews the work of thousands of scientists and analysts, concluded there is overwhelming scientific consensus that the earth’s climate system is warming. It added the unprecedented increase in human-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since the pre-industrial era – driven largely by population growth, economic activity, energy use, land use changes, technology and climate policy – is primarily responsible for this change.

The science support behind this conclusion is overwhelming and, to most people, irrefutable.

Ontario’s response to climate change continues to evolve, incorporating initiatives intended to create an economy and communities that are low-carbon and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

In 2007, the government released *Go Green: Ontario’s Action Plan on Climate Change*, which promised to cut GHG emissions to six per cent below 1990 levels by 2014; 15 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.

According to Environment Canada, Ontario’s GHG emissions in 2012 were 167 megatonnes (Mt), the lowest annual level of emissions since the baseline year of 1990, when emissions were 177Mt.

Gord Miller, Environment Commissioner of Ontario, noted in his 2014 annual GHG progress report, “the last several years have witnessed a significant decline from the peaks experienced between 2000 and 2005, when



## View From Queen’s Park

Chris Ballard, MPP  
Newmarket-Aurora

emissions from coal-fired electricity were at their highest.”

But the commissioner cautioned that while Ontario met its 2014 target, future projections show the province will miss the 2020 target by 28 Mt.

In response, government has identified a number of “climate-critical” policy areas to help it achieve its GHG emission targets and transition Ontario to a low carbon society.

Critical to meeting our targets is the implementation of a cap-and-trade program. For several years, Ontario has indicated its intention to introduce a carbon pricing system as a means to reduce its GHG emissions. After a series of public consultations this winter, including Aurora, Ontario announced it will limit the main sources of GHG emissions through a cap-and-trade system.

A cap-and-trade system has been contemplated since at least 2008, when Ontario joined the Western Climate Initiative, a voluntary coalition of US states and Canadian provinces that have developed a common set of guidelines in order to reduce their collective GHG emissions to 15 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020.

Each member is to adopt its own GHG cap-and-trade regulation and to create its own local cap-and-trade system. These individual systems are intended to be harmonized at a later date as part of a wider market. Thus far, only California and Quebec have initiated their programs.

Ontario laid the foundation for a cap-and-trade system through Bill 185, the

Environmental Protection Amendment Act (Greenhouse Emissions Trading).

Premier Kathleen Wynne announced this past April that Ontario’s cap-and-trade system will link with that of Quebec and California, creating a carbon market of 61 million people and covering more than half of Canada’s economy.

The basics of the program will include: a ceiling on the pollution allowed in each sector of the economy; a transparent process to reinvest the money raised through cap-and-trade back into projects that will reduce GHG emissions; a process to reward companies that work to reduce GHG emissions; and a long-term plan to join the Western Climate Initiative.

In a cap-and-trade system, the government limits how much carbon a company can emit. If the company needs to emit more carbon than permitted it buys carbon “credits” from a company that has used less than its share permitted by the regulations. The law of supply and demand govern the price of a carbon permit. Some companies will make money by selling their extra permits while others will cut emissions to avoid having to buy permits.

When Ontario announced its cap-and-trade legislation, Premier Wynne said “Climate change is a problem that is both critically important and urgent. It is causing extreme weather events, which can increase insurance costs, hurt wildlife, damage our environment and affect farming. Climate change needs to be fought around the globe, and it needs to be fought here in Canada and Ontario. The action we are taking today will help secure a healthier environment, a more competitive economy and a better future for our children and grandchildren.”

*See you at the Aurora Chamber Street Festival, Sunday, June 7, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. We’re giving away milkweed seeds to help the monarch butterfly. If you would like to contact me on any issue, please call my community office at 905-750-0019, or visit my website at www.chrisballard.ca. I look forward to hearing from you.*

## Spring Musings



## FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Development, which needs city approval for rezoning to proceed, told the Star it is committed to having a dialogue with the community, but that its proposal “provides much needed housing options in Sherwood Park that would otherwise be unattainable for today’s home buyer.”

“The simple fact of the matter is that the creation of a more sustainable, equitable, and affordable city requires the development of midrise and other more dense housing options along major roads, subways, and streetcar lines in already built up areas,” says Christopher De Sousa, director of the School of Urban Planning and Regional Planning at Ryerson University.

This is an interesting story in itself and also how it compares to what has happened at Glenway in Newmarket and Highland Gate in Aurora. In both cases, a land Developer/Builder has purchased a golf course and wants to erect a large number of homes.

Homeowners in the two communities are not happy.

Municipal politicians have had their

collective hands tied because of the Provinces Places to Grow Legislation which sets intensification targets for communities.

The Developers know that they can appeal any roadblocks set by local municipalities by going to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). They also know that they will win because the OMB must follow the Places to Grow Legislation in rendering a decision.

I understand that there is a private members bill at Queen’s Park that might bring relief to affected communities in the future, but even if it is passed, it is very doubtful that it could be applied retroactively.

For me the issue is a simple one.

Ontario is going to face an influx of newcomers into the GTA over the next twenty years and we need to ensure that they have a place to live and adequate transportation.

The province has responsibility for this.

They can set intensification targets, but it should be left up to the individual municipalities how they want to deal with this. This is especially the case if a local municipality is successfully working towards meetings its intensification targets.

Aurora Town Council should have the power here to make the decision.

Topic two is about the appropriateness of dress of our children at school.

It seems that every year, as soon as the weather gets warmer, we see these

Continued on page 7

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

I was reading one of the national daily newspapers last week when I came upon a new term: Density Creep.

While I had heard of NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) and BANANA (Build Absolutely Nothing Anywhere Near Anything or Anyone) before, I have never heard of Density Creep.

This term was utilized in regards to a disputed housing development in Toronto.

According to the Toronto Star news story, “The Density Creep Neighborhood Alliance was formed in response to a proposed townhouse development on Keewatin Ave. near Mt. Pleasant Rd., north of Eglinton Ave. E.

“The group of about 50 neighbors claims the project — a four-storey, 80-unit building that will replace eight properties from 200-214 Keewatin Ave. — will ruin their stretch of million-dollar homes set on deep, private lots.

“I’m really concerned about my property value going down,” says Lisa Goodwin, 49, a stay-at-home mother of two who has lived in a four-bedroom dwelling on Keewatin Ave. for 19 years. “Right now all the houses are \$1.1 to, say, \$2.2 (million) but they’re looking at putting in places that are only \$500,000.”

Developer Trolleybus Urban

### NEW AURORAN POLL

Are you looking forward to this Sunday’s annual Aurora Street Festival?

A) Yes B) No

Go to [www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com) to vote!

#### Previous Poll Results

Is the Province right to introduce back to work legislation for teachers in Durham, Peel, and Sudbury?

a) Yes b) No c) Unsure

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
June 2, 2015	70%	30%	0%

# More efficient budget process targeted for 2016: Council

From page 1

Newmarket, and the remaining .79 per cent to Aurora's "fiscal strategy", which includes weaning the Town off the interest accrued from reserves set aside from the sale of Aurora Hydro.

Voting against the budget was Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who said 3.91 per cent was simply too much.

"I know everyone has worked hard, but I can't approve a 3.91 per cent tax increase," she said.

Others, however, were keen to stress how this 3.91 per cent breaks down.

"We could have easily gone to the reserves and taken from it to offset the tax increase, which has been done, but we're going in the opposite direction," said Councillor John Abel. "1.3 per cent is being put forward for the crew our Master Fire Plan has said there is going

to be a need for, and I think I am pleased with the 1.82 per cent to [operate Aurora]. I know Councillor Gaertner can't see 3.91, but I think it is prudent to say where that came from.

For Councillor Michael Thompson, the 2015 budget process was particularly "challenging" over previous years, but there is a silver lining, he said, citing the groundwork that has been laid by Council in establishing a Finance Advisory Committee with the intent of making the budget process more efficient.

"We arrived at a consensus that is better off for the residents but, more importantly, we all came to the realisation we need to improve upon the current process moving forward so it is more efficient," he said. "I agree that throughout it all we tried

to take a balanced approach. We tried to look at the affordability of the taxpayers to be able to pay and, at the same time, maintaining the quality of public service that we provide and the residents expect. I think this is a reasonable budget. It does touch upon all of those things with regards to how to maintain affordability and the maintaining of service.

"When we started this budget process I remarked the fact the average wage increase was only about two to 2.5 per cent, and that was part of my role in terms of the base budget of running Aurora. We're trying to keep it in line with some of the metrics out there. We're not there yet, but through our process we will get there."

Providing a breakdown of the tax bill was important not just on how the municipal portion is divided up, but also how it is compared and weighted with increases coming from the Regional level, said Mayor Geoff Dawe. Aurora is part of a two-tier system, he said, with Aurora having the smaller piece of the tax pie.

"I think we need to look at this holistically," said Mayor Dawe. "We need to look at everything we put

together. Yes, our individual rate is 3.91. A lot of people would be upset with that because it is way over the price of inflation, but when we roll in everything that the upper level government provides, which is policing, which is social services, which is hospital funding, transit, and everything else we use, we have to look at the blended rate in order to fairly compare what our cost of operation is to other places."

He also recognized those same challenges with bringing this year's budget in for a landing.

"We worked very hard [on the Budget] and some of us were more frustrated than others with the budget process. I have some lessons learned in terms of how I could have helped our new members be more comfortable with the budget process – and I can certainly appreciate that because I was in your position four years ago, and I guess I forgot where I was four years ago, and I apologise for that, but I think going forward with our Finance Advisory Committee, we are developing some good processes to put in place to have a system that is going to be much more manageable and much easier to understand."

## What will your \$130 buy you?

By Brock Weir

In approving the 2015 Municipal Budget last week, Council underscored how this money would be used within Town Hall over the next year.

According to the Town, the 2015 Budget will fund a number of new initiatives moving forward, including building on Aurora's Bronze Certification with Excellence Canada with a goal towards silver with the non-profit organization that promotes "organizational excellence" across the country.

Funding will also support the continued development of Aurora's new Sports Plan alongside, and in conjunction with, the Town's revamped and updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Also in the development stage is a "new, comprehensive zoning bylaw" and possible IT collaborations with Newmarket.

A long-proposed Public Arts Policy is also expected to take a step forward towards development, according to the Town, as are "enhanced recreational services for youth."

Residents can also expect to see changes in how they are see their property tax and water bills with the implantation of a new paperless billing system.

Additional highlights include:

- \$2 million to reconstruct Industrial Parkway South from Wellington Street to Industry Street
- \$2 million for roofing at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex
- \$1.8 million for the reconstruction of Bluegrass Drive and Steeplechase Avenue
- \$1.2 million for the reconstruction of Vandorf Sideroad
- \$1.4 million for the repaving of the parking lot at the Aurora Community Centre
- \$720,000 for improvements on Child Drive
- \$400,000 for water meter replacements
- \$387,000 for a new accessible playground at Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park
- \$385,000 for new fleet vehicles
- \$300,000 for an overpass on Hartwell Way
- \$200,000 for a new Community Improvement Plan

"I am pleased to see our new Council has kept Aurora on the prudent financial path established last term by investing in critical areas and constraining spending where needs were less pressing," said Mayor Geoff Dawe in a statement. "As

our focus shifts to multi-year planning, we will have an increasing ability to strategically manage our budgets annually and over the long-term.

"Multi-year budgeting will be a crucial tool as we, like many communities across Ontario, grapple with increased costs associated with emergency services. While I am committed to continuing to provide quality fire protection to our residents through an enhanced Fire Master Plan, I fully intend to work with our Council and Newmarket Council to manage these significant costs in a sustainable and strategic fashion that does not adversely affect other programs and services."

Aurora and Newmarket are served by the Central York Fire Services which is, in turn, governed by the Joint Council Committee, comprised of elected officials and municipal employees from both Towns. While Aurora is a funding partner in the arrangement, Newmarket is the fire department's ultimate approval authority.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

an accumulation of dozens of local municipal decisions over time may be of more immediate economic impact to a lot of us than we realize.

The real estate market in Toronto and area is a complex system. A major supply-side factor has been land constraint arising from provincial government policy and that includes the Greenbelt.

A decade ago, the development community warned that restrictions being placed on land supply through such mechanisms as the Greenbelt were going to result in higher-priced housing.

The tens of thousands of residents of York Region that entered the market during this period of land constraint with resulting high price and debt levels would seem to have more than a passing interest in how this market constraint is going to be managed going forward.

I for one would not relish the thought of downward pressure on my home value that might occur because governments now do not have the political will to continue along a path that they put in place. It's not just about a few farmers' fields or wetlands disappearing. It's also about our wallets.

Len Bulmer  
Aurora

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# Equity students band together to make “merry” for disabled campers

By Mike Rodrigues

Over the past month, G. W. Williams student Ben Williamson has coordinated and run a fundraiser in order to help the camp that touched him personally.

Camp Merrywood is an experience for children with disabilities. While attending, campers can experience outdoor activities such as archery, kayaking, sailing and fishing.

For Ben, who lives with MS, it was all about giving back to the camp and helping give other children the same experience he had there.

“For people like me every day activities are a challenge,” says Ben. “When you go to the camp for the ten days everything that you normally have to face is stripped away. You get to make friends that are like you and have the same challenges you have.”

While attending the camp, Ben realized that he could help them give back to their campers.

“I noticed walking around the camp last summer that there were areas that could be improved upon, but the difficulty was finances,” he says. “I said I was going to do something about this.”

In order to raise as much as he could for Camp Merrywood, Ben reached out and formed a partnership with Boston Pizza. On the evening of May 13, members of the high school’s Equity Council volunteered their time to work as servers. With 10% of every receipt going towards their cause, they raised just over \$500 on that night alone.

“It was a really fun night,” said Les Kerr, a guidance counselor and advisor for the Equity Council. “The servers were very helpful and patient with the



(From Left) Johnny Lau, Meagan Schneider, General Manager of Boston Pizza, Nicole Basso, Ben Williamson, Catherine Gifford, teacher Les Kerr, advisor of Equity Council, and Charlene Myke, representing Easter Seals.

students.”

The Equity Council is run by students and looks at issues such as awareness of LGBTQ, mental health issues, bullying and physical disabilities. The council has run awareness weeks on all issues to help promote a better environment in the school.

Overall, with the help of Boston Pizza and Friends of We Care, the fundraiser raised just over \$1,000 for the camp.

“It is only a start, but it is a great start,” said Kerr.

For Ben, his eyes are set on raising more money for the camp that has given back to him.

“I have plans to continue this fundraiser,” said Ben. “Boston pizza has approached me to do another one. The MPP has approached my sister and I and offered their support so the next time we

Auroran photo by Mike Rodrigues run a fundraiser it will be bigger,” Ben added.

For more information on Camp Merrywood visit <http://www.eastersealscamps.org/about/merrywood-camp>

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## Garbe “excited” by Richmond Hill challenge

By Brock Weir

Outgoing Aurora CAO Neil Garbe will take over his new position as Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Richmond Hill effective July 6.

As The Auroran reported last week, Mr. Garbe, who was appointed to his Aurora office in 2008 before taking the helm at Town Hall the following January, resigned his position for Richmond Hill last month and is expected to leave to prepare for his new job by the middle of June.

In a statement released by the Town of Richmond Hill, Mr. Garbe said he was looking forward to the new “challenge.”

“I’m excited by the challenge of leading Richmond Hill,” he said. “York

Region as a whole is a fantastic place and Richmond Hill is clearly one of its gems,”

This enthusiasm was shared by Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow.

“Neil Garbe brings 20 years of experience in municipal leadership to the Town,” he said. “After a thorough recruitment process, we determined that he has the right qualities to lead us into the future and we’re happy to welcome him to Richmond Hill.”

Mr. Garbe was appointed Aurora’s CAO following the departure of John Rogers. Mr. Garbe’s move south, of course, means there will be a vacancy to fill at Town Hall, the recruitment process for which will be made clear in due course.

## FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

From page 5

stories pop up. The latest involves some ladies in high school getting into trouble for wearing clothes that the principals have deemed “inappropriate” and don’t meet the standards set by the respective school board.

The young ladies and their many supporters say that this policy is sexist and women should have control over their bodies.

No arguments that women should have control over their bodies, but I think that is beside the point.

From some of the pictures that have been published in the media, the clothes worn by the ladies seem more appropriate

for the beach; not in a classroom.

As school is supposed to prepare young women and men to join the work force at some point in the future, I would apply a simple litmus test: Would you be able to wear those clothes into an office work environment? If the answer is no, then you should not be wearing them at school.

This litmus test also applies equally to the males. Those young men who wear their pants so low that you can see their underwear should be made to change their clothes or told to hike up their pants.

Stephen can be contacted at [stephengsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:stephengsomerville@yahoo.com)

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# Public could have one more chance to weigh in on Oak Ridges Moraine review

By Brock Weir

Members of the public could have one more chance to sound off on potential changes to the Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Plan later this month.

A further meeting will be considered by Council at the Committee level this week following discussions at the previous Council session outlining concerns neither Council nor the public had enough time to seriously consider potential changes not only to the Oak Ridges Moraine plan, but also plans related to the Greenbelt and the Niagara Escarpment, before the Province's set due date for comments at the end of May.

If a further meeting is called, it will be the second public session devoted to the plans. The initial meeting attracted 40 residents and although not a Council meeting, it was held the same night as budget deliberations keeping members of Council otherwise occupied from

hearing firsthand what the public had to say on the subject.

"My concern is Council doesn't have enough information and evidence to be sure exactly what we are going to be endorsing with these comments," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner, citing a number of recommendations placed by Council before staff as they relate to the legislation.

These include greater flexibility on land severance on Moraine lands and lands falling within the countryside designation within the Legislation, and changes with the minor variance process.

Councillor Gaertner said she had a number of questions on the recommendations, including their respective impacts on water quality, ongoing developments, and potential loopholes which might arise from tinkering with the plan as it stands now. "My feeling was we didn't fully

understand the lasting effect that sending these comments forward to the Province will have," she said, calling for Council to hold back on submitting its recommendations before further consultation could take place. "I don't believe this Council has enough information. I don't believe we understand the implications, and I don't believe we have examples of how these comments are going to affect the Moraine. Something as important as the protection of the moraine deserves our Council is fully informed and we have a fully consultative process with the public before we send in our comments to the Province."

This viewpoint was supported by Councillor Paul Pirri, who suggested a meeting be held "mid-June."

"I would rather take a little bit more time to digest that information and bring in the comments from the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and give ourselves the appropriate time to go over the documentation. I would have liked a little bit more time to ask some extra questions."

Councillor Jeff Thom said he shared a number of the concerns outlined by Councillor Gaertner, but said it was

important to look at the legislation in question from a wide perspective and not "siloed into a box in Aurora" because these are ties that bind the community and the Province.

"Often I think the sense some people get when you start talking about the moraine and development is, 'the hippies are back again and it is just people who care about the environment and that's it,' but from a fiscally conservative point of view, the greenbelt, which includes the Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment provides the Province with 9.1 billion in economic benefits with around 161,000 full-time equivalent jobs," he said. "I do think it matters what municipalities say, both from public and from Council."

The question remains, however, whether there will still be enough time to make submissions to the Province on the plans past the previously established deadline. Although Council decided to forge ahead with a Special Council meeting based on the view there was flexibility on the due date, further discussions following the meeting cast doubt on that. If a meeting is indeed called, Mayor Dawe told The Auroran June 22 or June 29 are two possibilities being eyed.

## "No idea" how Canada Post will respond to new bylaw: staff

From page 1

action to get Canada Post to the table for consultation, said the recommendations approved by Council ticked all the right boxes, a sentiment shared by most of the other elected members. For Councillor John Abel, it was important to send a "message" to Canada Post that each neighbourhood must be engaged to determine the best locations for the new mailboxes.

"I think we should serve notice to Canada Post that we have got plenty of time [to consult] in each neighbourhood and there is no rush," he said. "[We should] let them know that, then we will issue the permit, and not until then."

For Councillor Michael Thompson, the changes in the bylaw simply put the requirements of Canada Post on par with other groups – such as telecommunications companies – who need to clear certain municipal hurdles before installing their equipment.

"It simply requires Canada Post meet reasonable requirements and that they apply for a permit, no different than what some other utilities do, and part of that reasonable requirement is meaningful dialogue," he said. "We have heard over and over again that that has been missing, that we haven't been communicated or contacted with regards to some of these sites, and that is not appropriate. It should be a collaborative process. We have had to go to this length to be able to ensure that we, as stewards of the community, are actively involved in this process and there will be some consultation."

It remains to be seen, however, to what length Canada Post will go in order to proceed as planned. Canada Post and the City of Hamilton are expected to continue their fight in Federal court this week after the Crown Corporation launched a case against the municipality to quash

their similar bylaw, arguing such a move was beyond Hamilton's jurisdiction.

As such, Aurora's new bylaw might have to wait if it is ever to have its adult teeth grow in.

"We have been informed by the Regional Prosecutor's office they don't intend to prosecute any charges under this particular bylaw against Canada Post given the fact there is ongoing litigation and I wouldn't expect any court to actually deal with any prosecutions until the outcome of the case is heard," said Mr. Mar.

Although the new legislation will allow Aurora's bylaw department to issue notices of violation to Canada Post, the position of the Regional Prosecutor would likely get in the way of enforcing it, a "completely understandable" situation, said Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Bylaw Services.

"If Council does pass a bylaw, I have no idea how Canada Post will respond to that, whether they will seek to join us in a particular action or whether they will start a separate action against us to quash it," she said.

While Councillor Jeff Thom indicated he was concerned with the financial implications should the new bylaw lead to a date in court – the financial implications would be brought back to Council in closed session, if the situation arose, noted Mr. Mar – it was important to take a stand for the consultation process.

"This is probably the only way we can move forward with anything meaningful," he concluded, "but we'll have to see what the court says as well."

This uncertainty, however, made Councillor Pirri have a dim view of the outcome.

"I won't be in favour of the bylaw because I don't think it will get us anywhere or do anything of meaning," he said. "If I'm wrong, I'm wrong."



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# Tree protection to get a second look at Council

By Brock Weir

Homeowners in Aurora have restrictions on how many trees they can remove from their respective properties, but golf courses do not have to operate under any such constraints – this, however, could change in the future as Aurora takes another look at its tree protection bylaw.

Council voted to take another stab at coming up with new legislation last week after the previous Council reached a deadlock on just what should and should not be contained in any new bylaws. The decision to take a second look at what's before them came from Councillor Wendy Gaertner who said "confusion" was the order of the day when Council last tackled potential changes in 2013.

"It has come to Council many times, it has gone to a public planning meeting, and the last time it was at Council it was quite a confusing report," she said. "It presented Council with some options...and everyone was clear in what they felt about that, but when it came to voting there was a lot of confusion and, I think, a lot of frustration on Council's part. Council referred it back to staff, but Council did not give staff any direction."

The motion to renew the discussions was approved unanimously, but while such a review would look into tree removal in a variety of scenarios across Aurora – whether on residential or business properties – restrictions on golf courses dominated talks. This was, in part, spurred by a delegation to Council by David LeClaire of the Highland Gate Ratepayers' Association, who spoke out in favour of a review.

His group, he said, was particularly concerned about the golf course exemption as Highland Gate harbours "hundreds of mature trees" which could be felled when the Highland property is converted into a residential development and planning applications indicate 80 per cent of them could be on the chopping block.

"A tree bylaw that requires all its citizens, individual and corporate, without exception, to be subject to the permit process to ensure proper oversight and protection of our forests and trees will help strike that balance," said Mr. LeClaire of weighing the protection of woodlots with "commercial pressures."

Over the next few months, little can be done on the Highland property when it comes to trees as it is currently subject to a site plan review, but Councillors agreed it was time to take a look at the policies.

"I am comfortable bringing back the tree bylaw even if it is just to have Council vote on whether the existing one is sufficient or not," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "I think through the public planning process there are plenty of opportunities to look at the development and work with residents to develop, make recommendations, or ask for changes with respect to landscape, environment, and so forth, and that is the appropriate place to do it. To look at this as a way to stem that development is just not possible."

Although Councillor Paul Pirri said he didn't find the initial debates over the tree protection bylaw "overly complicated" the first time around, he said there was no compromise around the table at the time between those who wanted they bylaw "less severe... and some people wanted it [as] severe as possible."

"I hope if we do come forward with another tree bylaw that we're open to compromise and coming forward with a solution that works for everyone because, as we saw the last time, when we weren't willing to compromise on the tree bylaw, we didn't get anywhere," Councillor Pirri added.

With some new faces around the Council table, however, the balance in the debate might tip in one way or another.

"I am looking forward to taking a stab at this as a new Council," said Councillor Tom Mrakas. "I don't believe any existing golf courses should be exempt from a tree protection bylaw. Personally, I think they should be held to the same standards [as any resident] in Town or any other business, so I am in full support of this motion."

If Highland Gate was still operational as a golf course, it would still be subject to the exemption restricting tree removal, noted Town Solicitor Warren Mar. Since they closed up shop in anticipation of their redevelopment last November, this exemption no longer applies to them and, in Mr. Mar's opinion, they would be limited to the standard rule of cutting down no more than four trees without a permit.

# Calls for greater municipal planning powers renewed but bill won't impact Highland Gate

By Brock Weir

Aurora renewed calls last week for greater influence on local planning matters from the Province of Ontario, but if a bill making its way through the Legislature ultimately passes, it will have little impact on development plans already in the works – including the redevelopment of Highland Gate Golf Course.

This was the advice offered to Council by Town Solicitor Warren Mar when members deliberated recommendations to send a clear message to the Province's Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing "endorsing restoring more decision-making authority for municipalities on local planning matters, and limiting the influence of the Ontario Municipal Board, essentially granting municipalities more powers to manage the demands caused by growth and intensification."

This recommendation was coupled with an amendment from Councillor John Abel drafting a letter from all Council members asking MPP Chris Ballard and his colleagues in the Legislature to support Bill 73, which would do just that.

"Residents are counting on their elected officials to make decisions in the best interests of their local community," said Councillor Abel. "We have a Council that can make decisions which can then be appealed to the OMB."

This is particularly important, he said, when looking at intensification within existing communities such as Highland Gate, but Mr. Mar said he didn't expect the passage of the bill to have any impact "at all" on current development applications like these, and there would likely be grandfathering provisions in whatever ultimately comes forward.

That being said, however, Councillors agreed many communities are dealing with situations like the Highland Gate redevelopment and submitting comments to the Province shows that municipalities like Aurora are not content with the status quo and the belief there is ample room for improvement.

"Things like Bill 73, while they are good for us and they are a good step forward in trying to restore some of the ability of Council and the Municipality to have some say, its impact on the

Continued on page 15

TOWN OF AURORA  
PUBLIC NOTICE



## OPEN HOUSE #3

### Town of Aurora Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review

The Town of Aurora is conducting a Comprehensive Zoning By-law Review.

The review applies to all lands within The Town of Aurora. This third Open House will outline the Zoning By-law Review process. Staff will be available to discuss the steps in the process, provide an update from Open Houses 1 and 2, review the latest edition of the draft by-law and receive preliminary comments and input.

Landowners, business owners, property developers and members of the public are invited to provide input into the review.

A statutory Public Meeting will be held in fall 2015 and advertised at a later date.

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, June 15
<b>Time:</b>	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
<b>Location:</b>	Aurora Town Hall, Holland Room, 100 John West Way
<b>Contact:</b>	Town of Aurora Planning & Development Services Glen Letman at 905-727-3123, ext. 4346 Jeff Healey at 905-727-3123, ext. 4349

Background information is available on the Town's web site at [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

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# —THE AURORAN— Arts & Culture

## Hoedown Showdown aims to “jumpstart” aspiring singers’ careers

By Brock Weir

Aspiring country artists brought down the house last year getting Aurora warmed up for the annual Wild, Wild West Hoedown the following night – and this year, the Hoedown Showdown is returning bigger and better than ever.

“We have really upped the game this year,” says Erin Cerenzia of Neighbourhood Network, of the prize pack and incentives to get budding country singers and country music enthusiasts to get their voices in shape to try out for this year’s competition. “Our grand prize is actually valued at over \$15,000!”

As in previous years, there is a cash prize of \$1,000 for the ultimate winner, who will also receive a guitar and case valued at over \$1,200, but this year’s winner will also receive what organizers dub “The Ultimate Artist Package.”

“It provides the opportunity for these country music contestants and artists to really develop themselves as artists to create and produce a song and taken them to the next level – not just record a song, but really jumpstart them into the industry.”

Coming together to give these artists a boost is an industry management and business mentorship program, facilitated by the management of

singer Beverley Mahood, a mainstay of Hoedown, to provide them with industry contacts and the building blocks to establish a career as a country artist. As part of the package, Ms. Mahood will lend her expertise, along with Lee Daniels and Spin Music, for coaching on styling, song choice, song-writing, and performing live. As in years past, the package also includes recording time at Metalworks Recording Studios, this time, however, with recording sessions produced by Ms. Mahood and Sam Ellis.

Applications for this year’s Hoedown Showdown can be found online at [www.hoedown.ca/showdown](http://www.hoedown.ca/showdown), and entries from contestants 13 years of age or older must be received by July 15.

From there, applicants will be whittled down to a Top 40 who will take the stage at Theatre Aurora on August 11 for the preliminary rounds before the Top 20 are selected by August 20 ahead of the traditional next round that features in September’s Ribfest.

“A modification new this year is we have actually added mentorship week for our finalists,” says Ms. Cerenzia. “Following Ribfest on September 14 to 17, which is the week leading up to Hoedown, that will be our mentorship week where all the finalists will have the opportunity to come into Theatre Aurora and they will work with our Hoedown House Band to practice their songs to get them ready for Friday night.”

“I think over the past few years we have really seen such a high, high caliber of performers from such wide demographics and whether you’re a country fan or not, just seeing that quality of performance from these individuals, who are really homegrown community folk coming out to participate, is really extraordinary. So, it is a privilege for me to be part of the process and really see all these contestants perform – and hopefully we will put on a great show for those who are coming out on the Friday night.”



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Members of the Aurora Silver Star Singers rehearse their wartime numbers ahead of next Tuesday’s free concert.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

## We’ll Meet Again showcases wartime songs and renews old memories

By Brock Weir

When Jo-ann Spitzer was just three years old, a “stranger” walked into her life.

She didn’t know her father until she was a toddler because he embarked to serve King and Country during the Second World War in 1940.

“He used to send home cards, heart-shaped pieces of paper he actually cut out and sent to ‘his special baby’ and my mother,” she says.

These very personal mementos are still treasured by her to this day and help keep those memories alive. So too does the music of the era, which Ms. Spitzer is set to help bring to life again this Tuesday, June 9, in “We’ll Meet Again”, a choral celebration of wartime music hosted by members of Aurora Seniors’ Centre’s “Silver Star Singers” at Aurora Cultural Centre.

“That’s my bag,” says Ms. Spitzer with a laugh, giving a particular shout-out to the Forces Sweetheart, Dame Vera Lynn, now 98. “When I was young I listened to what used to be the Old English Music Hall on the radio every Saturday night and I knew a lot of the songs by heart.”

These tunes, often upbeat to keep up spirits at a difficult time, are also very familiar to Bud Spitzer and his wife, Stella, who regularly lend their vocal talents to celebrations at the Seniors’ Centre. Although the Second World War brings up difficult memories, they are memories that are important to keep in mind, they say.

several toes when his regiment was shelled, she recalls. When war broke out again in 1939, her brothers enlisted, as did her sister, who served as a WAC.

“When war broke out, I was living in Scotland and I remember being fitted for a gasmask and carrying it to school every day,” she says. “I also remember walking through the streets of Ayr during the blackout, carrying a small torch with my fingers covering the light a little so as not to attract aircraft. Sometimes the air warden would come to our door to let us know we were showing some light from a window.”

“Our family left Ayr in the fall of 1940 and we travelled to Newfoundland by convoy. The ship was sunk on the return voyage to England.”

“It is something we were brought up with,” adds Bud, of the musical experience. “As a kid during the Second World War I used to keep track of all the different announcements, raids by airplanes, looking at Spitfires, Hurricanes and Lancasters and I was quite enthralled. My dad operated a movie theatre and I would see all the different newsreels of what was happening during the war before the main feature, and I was also a member of the war cadets, marching and firing rifles even though I was only 12 or 13.”

*The We’ll Meet Again Community Singalong gets underway June 9 at 2 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Admission is free, and includes the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard and, afterwards, a reception with cake from Hurst Bakery.*

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# THE AURORAN SPORTS

Vol. 15 No. 32 905-727-3300

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## Jays split week with two one-run games

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Jays split their North Dufferin Baseball League schedule last week with one win and one loss.

Riding a four-game winning streak, the Jays entered their Tuesday home game against the Midland Indians sitting second in the standings.

The bats were once again firing with the Jays going up 7 – 0 after just two innings of play. Ian Rettie, the team's slugger so far this season, had a walk and a double to contribute to the lead.

Starting pitcher Ian Milne was perfect through four innings, giving up his first run of the evening in the fifth and three more in the start of the

sixth before getting yanked. He struck out five in his efforts.

Up 8 – 4 heading into the seventh and final inning, Zach Wiseman and the Jays gave up five more runs to give Midland a 9 – 8 lead in an impressive comeback. Chris Rettie came in for the final two outs, striking out one and giving the Jays a chance down by one run.

An error and a handful of hits put the Jays back on top of the see-saw game, winning by a score of 10 – 9.

In Clearview the next night to face the Orioles, it was the Jays that had to crawl out of an early deficit. Starting pitcher Rob Spencer gave up five runs in the first two innings, sparked by

some easy walks for the Orioles.

After a solid shutout third inning, he gave up one more run in the fourth before making way for Brent Owen in relief. Spencer, in his first start with the Jays, gave up five hits and six runs through four innings, walking five batters and striking out three.

From there, Owen went almost perfect, allowing just one hit for the remainder of the game and zero runs, giving the Jays a chance for a comeback while down 6 – 3 in the seventh inning.

A combination of errors and singles had the Jays going through the order and crossing the plate, but two runs were all they could muster in their last at-bat for an eventual 6 – 5 loss.

It was the first loss of the Jay's season since their opener, when they fell in a low-scoring game to New Lowell at the beginning of May.

The loss, however, drops the Jays to fourth in the NDBL with a 5-2-0 record. Following a Tuesday home game with the Bolton Dodgers, they will be looking to improve with a double-header against the Creemore Braves on Sunday.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit [www.ndbl.ca](http://www.ndbl.ca).



Brent Owen pitched three scoreless innings to close out Wednesday's game against the Clearview Orioles, but the Jays came up just short in a 6 - 5 loss. **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

## You can already feel Pan Am atmosphere, says Aurora's Sendel

From page 1

Canada's golden girl was also the first torch bearer for the Games, when the torch arrived in Toronto this past rainy Saturday before heading on a nationwide tour.

The fierce weather didn't dampen the spirits of the onlookers as the torch arrived via canoe in Lake Ontario, with MacLennan grabbing it first and heading through the streets of the downtown core before handing it off to astronaut Chris Hadfield in Toronto's Distillery District to light the community flame.

"It was a real honour," said MacLennan of the experience. "To be the first torch bearer in Canada and knowing it's going all across the country...it's a special experience."

The 26-year old has already compiled quite a resume, winning Canada's only gold at the 2012 London Olympics as well as the Canadian National Championship in Ottawa at this time last year. Team Canada has been dominant in trampoline in general since its induction into the Olympics in 2000, coming home from each Games with at least one medal.

Assisting MacLennan in her task is a bevy of local talent from around the York Region. Jason Burnett of Nobleton has won the Canadian Senior Men's Championship eight times, most

recently in Ottawa in 2014.

The King City Secondary School graduate is no stranger to the national level, having won a silver medal in the 2008 Olympics in individual trampoline.

"Having the Pan Am Games so close to home, it's nice," said Burnett. "My friends and family can actually come to my competition, having support physically there means a lot."

With veteran Stouffville native Karen Cockburn rounding out the team, Aurora's own Samantha Sendel has been placed as an alternate for the squad. Performing in doubles competitions with MacLennan, the pair has won numerous times on the international stage.

"I'm so excited," said Sendel. "Just to be there will be amazing. You can already feel the atmosphere."

While it may not look like much, Canada's entire trampoline team trains within Skyriders Trampoline Place, in a strip mall in Richmond Hill.

"It's probably the best facility in the world, even though it might not look like it," said MacLennan.

For the Pan Am Games, scheduled to hit York and the GTA in the second week of July, the trampoline team will join gymnasts at Ricoh Coliseum downtown. Tickets can still be purchased at [www.toronto2015.org](http://www.toronto2015.org).



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# Karate master's national tour makes stop in Aurora

By Jake Courtepatte

Karate enthusiasts from across Canada and the Northeast United States were all ears for a rare opportunity Monday to learn from one of the best.

Master Meitetsu Yagi, a tenth degree Black Belt from Okinawa, Japan, stopped by the Aurora Montessori School as part of a special nationwide tour. Yagi, the President of the

Meibukan Hombu dojo, is one of the highest-ranking karate masters in the world.

Steve Armes, Director and Chief Instructor of Shoshinkan Martial Arts, organized the Aurora event.

"This is a remarkable and rare opportunity for serious, traditional martial artists to learn from, and train with, one of the very best teachers in the world," said Armes. "We have



Aurora Montessori School played host to 10th Degree Black Belt Master Meitetsu Yagi on Monday, who offered his expertise in the martial arts to students from across Canada and the U.S. Northeast.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

students from all over Ontario, Quebec and the U.S. Northeast coming to Aurora for the seminar. I am very excited and honoured that we have been selected to host such a great karate master!"

Yagi used his lifetime of experience to teach the few dozen invitees how to master their "Qi" (pronounced "chee") or energy, in order to take their karate skills to the next level both physically and mentally.

Aurora Deputy Mayor John Abel, who opened the ceremony, commented on the difficulty of mastering the martial art.

"These people are some of the most

physically-fit athletes out there," said Abel. "The level of determination you need for karate is amazing."

The eldest son of karate legend Meitoku Yagi, Yagi trained under his father for fifty years. He has lived, worked, and initiated dojos in the United States, Guam, Philippines, and Saipan, and now travels the world teaching seminars on his father's form of hard-style Goju-Ryu karate.

"Being chosen to host a man at his level of experience is really something else," said Abel. "It goes to show the diversity of culture we have in the area."

## COMING EVENTS

### SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church presents their annual garage sale today from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Sports memorabilia, home interior; kids toys, lawn and garden tools, baby items, auto parts, vintage jewellery, dishes, Craftsman tools, collectables and hundreds of items priced under \$1. Snacks and drinks are available, as is a big bake sale. 7 Lacey Court, Aurora.

\*\*\*\*

The GranAurora Tea & More will take place this afternoon from 2-4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 32 Mosley Street. This tea supports the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign which is part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. It provides much needed funds for programs providing community and personal support for African grandmothers

who are sole caregivers for their grandchildren. Prizes, Crafts, Toys, Jewellery and Tea. \$25 Tickets from Dorothy at 905-953-0496.

\*\*\*\*

Riverwalk Wellness Centres celebrates 100 in 1 Day with an art gallery open house featuring the creation of a giant message of hope inspiring positive affirmations over negative self-talk. Write a message and your sign of support will be shared on Riverwalk's Art Blog. A Coffee House-style cafe will also form a centerpiece of the day. Bring a song, a poem, a story, visual art or anything else that you'd like to share. Performers and non-performers are warmly welcome. 12 noon - 2 p.m., 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15. For more information, visit edoyr.com and for more on 100 in 1 Days,

Continued on page 14

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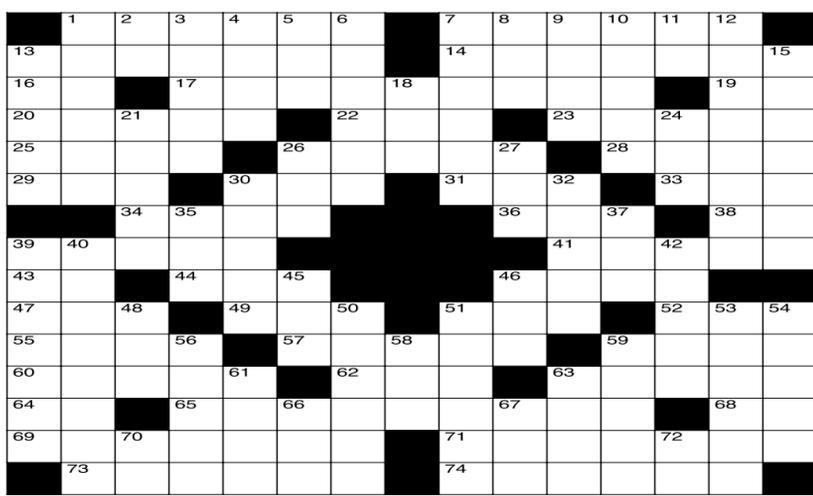
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### CLUES ACROSS

- S.W. gully
- Japanese polytheism
- N.H. Academy and town
- Most aired
- Prosecuting officer
- Badger State
- Atomic #24
- Moose genus
- Possessed
- Make a smooth transition
- Thug (slang)
- Locations or places
- Rivulet
- The self
- Not good
- Obstruct
- Decalitre
- Space for sitting
- Taxi
- 7th tone
- Ethiopian lake

### CLUES DOWN

- Something comparable
- Rural delivery
- "Laugh-In" co-host Dan
- Sheep genus
- Affirmative
- Vanilla's flower family
- In a way, made smoother
- Belong to he
- Greek rainbow goddess
- S.F. football team player
- Atomic #52
- Kiss
- Proverb
- Lattice support
- Cereal grass
- Rome, GA river
- Disease of cattle
- Seated
- A baglike structure in a plant
- Blatted
- Murdered in his bathtub

- Tears down
- Gold
- Angle (abbr.)
- Semitic fertility god
- Beak
- Digital audiotape
- Small child
- 4th caliph of Islam
- 4840 square yards
- Devious trick (Yiddish)
- Overgarments
- Large creature
- Ingest
- Nuisances
- \_, denotes past
- Wine waiter
- I, Portuguese
- Compunction
- Overshadow
- Emphasize
- An unsuccessful ending

- Finish
- Sheep sound
- Scarlett songbird
- Kills oneself
- Broad, flat pieces of stone
- Auto fuel
- Derek \_\_, X Harvard Pres.
- Woman's undergarment
- Topics of discourse
- Belonging to the peerage
- Most recent
- Point of debate
- Ostend artist James Sydney
- Phonograph inventor's initials
- Eagle's nest
- Ripped a fabric
- Lucre
- Manuscripts (abbr.)
- Frozen water
- 41st state
- Keystone state

## Last Week's Puzzle Solution

**PUZZLE SOLUTION**

S	E	S	S			C	L	O	S	E	S						
P	U	T	T			R	A	D	I	A	T	I	N	G			
A	C	E	R			I	C			R	A	D	A	R			
C	H	E	E	S	E	B	U	R	G	E	R		B	A			
E	R	R	A	N	D		N	E	E	D		M	I	S			
D	E	S	K			B	A	A	L		S	A	S	S			
				F	A	D	E	D			R	E	C	C	E		
B	A	L	L	A	D					M	A	C	H	O	S		
A	L	U	L	A		E	A	G	A	N							
L	A	M	B			M	A	D	E		S	P	A	R			
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				N	A	P	E	R	Y					D	O	S	E

## Team Aurora takes Run for Southlake's Municipal Challenge

By Jake Courtepatte

The Run or Walk for Southlake far surpassed its goal of \$175,000 this year, thanks in large part to support from teams like Team Aurora.

Led by captain Councillor Michael Thompson, the group of Councillors, along with Mayor Geoff Dawe, raised over \$7,000 for the Southlake Foundation, helping the hospital purchase critically-needed equipment.

"The Run/Walk is so important," said Councillor Thompson. "The Government of Ontario provides no funding for hospital equipment... Southlake depends on pledges and the fundraising efforts of the Foundation to fund these vital upgrades across the hospital so that each and every one of their patients can receive the world-class care that our community expects from Southlake."

Last month, hundreds of supporters came together to support the Newmarket-based care centre, one

of the largest fundraisers organized by the hospital.

Just over \$200,000 was raised for the event, held for the first time at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex.

"It has become what we wanted it to be, a real community event," said foundation president and CEO Neila Poscente. "There are all different people who participate, from your serious runners to those walking with strollers."

Team Aurora had their own personal victory, taking first-place in the annual "Municipal Challenge" with the other municipalities across the York Region, bringing the Mayor's Cup to Aurora.

"While we are all proud of the team's efforts and to have won the Mayor's cup, the real winner is the hospital and everyone who uses it," added Thompson.

Mayor Virginia Hackson of East Gwillimbury took home the trophy last year, as her team raised just shy of \$10,000.

The Aurora team, which had an overall goal of reaching \$5,000, ranked fifth in overall donations. Scotiabank friends and family were able to raise \$25,000 for the cause.

Consisting of Aurora lawmakers, including Councillors Sandra Humfries, Jeff Thom, Tom Mrakas, Harold Kim, and Mayor Dawe, Team Aurora hit the pavement hard for donations as well as hosting a pizza party at Town Hall to solicit funds.

"It was wonderful to help support the hospital's efforts to continue providing the very best healthcare for our community, and to be part of such an amazing event," said Councillor Thompson.

Mayor Dawe also expressed his support of the event.

"It was great to see so many people supporting our world-class hospital to help ensure it continues to deliver cutting-edge research and care."

While a victory was earned this year, Thompson said Team Aurora is already looking to the future, with a goal of more participants joining the cause.

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# Chamber's annual Street Festival celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday

By Brock Weir

Marking your 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is usually a cause to pull off something spectacular, but when this anniversary pertains to Canada's longest street festival on Canada's longest street, an event that attracts tens of thousands each year, pulling out any extra stops might seem like gilding the lily.

It's full steam ahead, however, for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce as they put the finishing touches on this Sunday's annual Aurora Street Festival, which takes over Yonge Street from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Wellington Street in the north to Murray Drive in the south.

To mark their milestone anniversary, the Street Festival has attracted nearly

700 booths, a new record for the now-venerable Aurora institution, and booked returning and fresh acts to keep the hordes of people entertained.

"We have constantly changed and constantly invited more people to come in with different things to sell," says Judy Marshall, CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. "Sometimes the Aurora retailers wish we just had local people, but it wouldn't be the same Festival then. People come from all over Ontario and I think that is really the distinctive feature – people come from everywhere and they come just to see Aurora."

"It is the biggest street Festival in Ontario and they just want to participate because they know the reputation of the festival. It is always

the first Sunday in June, they count on that, and they put it in their schedules every year, but it is always different, people are welcomed, they like coming to Aurora, and they like getting to know everyone better."

*People come from all over Ontario and I think that is really the distinctive feature – people come from everywhere and they come just to see Aurora.*

Staff and volunteers from the Chamber will have an early start on Sunday, hitting the streets at 8 a.m. marking off spaces and making sure everything is ready for the influx of incoming vendors. They particularly enjoy interacting with the vendors and

making sure their Festival experience runs as smooth as possible and, over the past two decades, many of them seem like old friends, says Ms. Marshall.

Over the past five years in particular, she says she has seen the Festival "expand and become more attractive" and while this year they have not had to turn any potential vendors away, they are booked solid, leading the Chamber to ponder whether an expansion might be necessary before it hits the quarter-century mark in 2020.

"We haven't sent anyone away this year, but we're full – it's wonderful and we're lucky," says Ms. Marshall. "I hope people leave with a good feeling about Aurora. Many people stop before they leave Aurora and go to dinner, or experience the hospitality of Aurora. There is a lot of economic benefit to the community."

## Runners, canoeists, cyclists gear up to support Oak Ridges Moraine Trail

The race is on to lend a hand to the Oak Ridges Moraine as cyclists gear up for the Oak Ridges Moraine Adventure Relay, which returns next Saturday, June 13, for the ninth year in a row.

An enthusiastic team of volunteers has planned one of the largest events of its kind in Ontario. This unique race annually engages over 400 canoeists, runners and trail cyclists covering 160 km of the beautiful Oak Ridges Moraine trail.

This year's day-long multi-sport team challenge is in final preparations for another challenging non-stop race. Proceeds from team entries and sponsorships go towards improved signage, parking lots, boardwalks and maintenance equipment used to keep the trail clear and safe for all users.

Teams of up to 15 will once again paddle, bike and run across the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail from Rice Lake (north of Cobourg) to Seneca College's King City Campus, with spirited start and finish line celebrations! This year's race welcomes many returning teams

eager to better their 2014 performances, and many newcomers who are taking on the Moraine challenge for the first time.

Organizers now boast nearly 30 teams ready to take on the challenge, making it one of the largest events of its kind on Canada.

"Over 120 Oak Ridges Trail Association members are volunteering for the day, says Relay Co-Chair Brian Millage. "Teams represent communities from Peel, York, Durham and Northumberland. It's so exciting to see teams entered from conservation authorities, cyclist, hiking and running clubs, and corporations."

With checkpoints in various locations along the trail route, participants are expected to check into the Aurora Checkpoint at the Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area parking lot between 7.15 p.m. and 8.15 p.m.

For more information on the Oak Ridges Moraine Adventure Relay, including registration, checkpoint locations, directions, and maps, visit [www.oakridgestrail.org/adventure-relay](http://www.oakridgestrail.org/adventure-relay).

"I need some help making design changes in my home, but the thought of working with a designer is quite intimidating. How does it all work?"



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This is a great question, and one we get asked quite a bit!

A lot of people walk through our showroom doors with an idea of what they would like to accomplish but find the actual process of design to be overwhelming. They know a change is needed, but aren't sure of the required steps and often don't have the time to see a project through from start to end. Hiring a designer or decorator is a great way to ensure that the job gets done in a way that suits your tastes, your needs, your timeline and your budget.

Before being hired, we're often asked questions about the design process itself, how long things take, how much it costs and perhaps the most frequently asked question: *what if I don't like it?* Let me start by saying that the design process is about YOU. We are your ghostwriters. We are here to tell *your* story. Our job is not just to create beautiful spaces, but to create spaces that reflect the things that you love and the way that you live.

The process begins with an in home consultation where we ask you questions about your lifestyle and the way that you use your space. *Do you entertain? Do you have kids? Do you have pets? Do you cook or are you the master of take-out?* We ask if there are colours you want to stay away from, patterns that you like, the style you're most drawn to, etc. Your answers to these questions will influence all of the decisions we make from the layout of your furniture right down to the fibres in the fabrics we choose for your drapery or your new sofa.

After our initial consultation, we come back to our offices where we start putting together a look based on the information we received from the client. Once we have come up with our design solutions we will meet with the client again to present the look and ideas we have come up with.

The purpose of this presentation is to make sure that we're on the right track with the look we're trying to achieve and that you're happy with the way things are turning out. If there's something you don't love we are more than happy to tweak it! Often clients are worried about hurting our feelings – none of this is personal for

us. This is your home and the last thing we want is to sell you something you don't like. I cannot re-iterate it enough- this process is about you, the client. You tell us how you want to live in your space and we put it all together for you.

If you love what we've created we'll go ahead and start placing orders. Its important to note that custom upholstery and carpentry can take anywhere from 6-10 weeks from the start of production

until it's arrival in our warehouse. There is this common misconception that you'll go to Orlando for 4 days, come home, move that bus and BAM- your whole home will be different. Part of our job is to be realistic and help manage your expectations. Things take time.

Here at Niche we have different routes you can take in terms of the design process. You can opt to hire us by the hour- a great option for small projects or times when you need a little help finishing off a space. This is a convenient service if you need someone to come over and give some decor advice, suggest colours or help select some accessories and art to make a room look polished. If the scope of your project is larger than that we offer full design service packages which can include detailed and scaled floor plans, furniture sourcing, custom window treatments, fabric and flooring selections, colour consulting and more!

A great designer marries form and function for a space that both looks great *and* works for you. I've heard horror stories about designers charging a huge fee upfront and then not delivering. I've heard about 'free consults' that end up coming with a bill. Make sure you feel comfortable with your designer before signing on to do a job, and don't be scared to ask questions along the way. The point of hiring a pro is to alleviate the stress that can come along with a renovation. The process should be simple, transparent and fun!

*Stay connected with us!*



From Left: Potters' Cathy Harris and Heather Smit, with Karin Allen and Laura Schembri of the Aurora Cultural Centre, check out the newly re-christened Pine Tree Potters Activity Room.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

**Pine Tree Potters leave legacy at Cultural Centre**

By Brock Weir

A decade ago, the basement of the Church Street School was dominated by a barn fan, an open sewer grate travelling the length of the room, and a kiln or two here and there as the well-loved and well-used home of the Pine Tree Potters Guild's workshop.

10 years on, the Potters have had a homecoming of sorts, putting their name on the completely renovated space which now houses the "messy art space" of the Aurora Cultural Centre. Now, with the sponsorship of the Guild, which now operates out of the lower level of the nearby Aurora Public Library, this "messy art space" is known as the "Pine Tree Potters' Activity Room".

"It was a perfect fit because this used to be our space," explains Guild member Cathy Harris. "We had a kiln room separately and a big, huge barn fan we vented out the window, the floors were undulating and there was a big sewer grate down there. During our spring cleaning, everything was raised and we would just bring in buckets, mopped the floor down, used squeegees and let it all run down into the grate – before the renovations!"

Before the renovations, the windows were caged – likely against all fire codes – and when it rained it poured,

directly into the studio space. Its current incarnation is a far cry from those early days.

"This lively and creative studio space mirrors the creativity of the Guild, whose members truly know what it is to get their hands dirty!" said Laura Schembri, Executive Director of the Cultural Centre. "The guild has a long association with the Centre and the history of 22 Church Street. We look forward to welcoming the public to enjoy the many ways they too can be creative in this space."

The sponsorship deal with the Pine Tree Potters is the second for the Cultural Centre after Meridian Credit Union purchased the naming rights to the former Red Gallery on the ground floor of the facility. A new agreement this fall will see the adjacent Reception Gallery renamed the "Apple Suites Gallery" – and the Centre has leads on further naming opportunities for the Blue Gallery and the Great Hall Gallery, although they welcome all offers!

"This is where the Potters had their strongest history, but it is also a place where art is made, not just shown," added Ms. Schembri of the Activity Room. "It is our messy art space and the people who are making art are seeing people who also make art and it is a wonderful partnership."

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## Important to speak up now: Councillor

From page 9

current application is very unlikely," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "I can't see the Province backdating the legislation when it comes into effect because it would affect so many municipalities."

Councillor Thompson addressed his comments to a large contingent of Highland Gate residents in the audience at last week's Council meeting, as did Councillor Harold Kim.

"We will best represent your voices in the public planning process [and] hear both sides," said Councillor Kim. "We have to be united and go with one voice, instead of having the potential haphazard way of going about things. I am feeling optimistic and I am hoping everything will just play with the process, work together, and look for cooperating on both sides."

But, the legislation can pave the way for a better process down the road.

"It is important to note that this [Bill] is in draft to come out in 2016, so

a lot of this is speculative," said Mayor Geoff Dawe of possible provisions that might be in the final draft.

Added Councillor Paul Pirri: "I would have liked to have seen this bill do a little bit more to give Councils more of a say of what can go on in their municipality, but this is what we have got at this point. It is not the best thing in the world, but I don't think it will meet York Region's needs going forward, but this is what the Province is willing to give us at this point in time."

From Councillor Thompson's perspective, the very fact the Bill is in draft form underlines the importance of why it is important to speak up now.

"Hopefully they take these comments and they make those changes so [the bill] does go far enough," he said. "I know they are looking at a review of the OMB in the fall, and I know we would all like to see it sooner rather than later, and if more municipalities send in the same comments, hopefully the Province listens."

## COMING EVENTS

From page 13

visit.toronto.100in1day.ca.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents We'll Meet Again Community Sing-Along, an annual favourite event in commemoration of the brave Canadian men and women who fought for our freedom. Join the Aurora Silver Star Singers as we sing together familiar wartime songs from WW1 & WW2. Song sheets will be given out - and a complimentary cake and coffee reception will follow the event. All welcome; event is offered at no charge. The Centre is fully accessible, with an elevator entrance at the north glass doors, and accessible washrooms throughout the building. For information, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca, or call 905-713-1818.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. This month's guest

speaker will be Keith Pitts and the topic will be cross-border shopping. For more information, call program chair Cliff White at 905-841-2421. New members are always welcome. Call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849 for more information.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

The Aurora United Church Charity Yard Sale will be held today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 10 Dodie Street, near George Street and Kennedy Street West. Reinstated by members of the AUC's Seekers Club, proceeds from the yard sale benefit the Aurora United Church Future Fund. Support us and have some fun, featuring the usual yard sale items, plus some collectables. Bring your loonies and toonies!

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

The Aurora Community Band presents "Favourites from the Past Four Seasons," a celebration of the successes of community music making, held at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10/adult and \$5/senior or student, available at the door or by contacting auroracommunityband@gmail.com

## Suncor Energy Foundation

Congratulations to Jim Abram! Jim was awarded a Volunteering Grant for \$750.00 in support of his volunteer work with Aurora Seniors Association. We hope this contribution will assist your organization in fulfilling its aspirations in the coming year. Jim is a Director on the ASA Board and volunteers his time on several activities.

Thank you, Jim!

## Bocce is Back

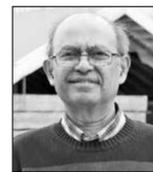
Spring is here and that means Bocce is underway and continue every Thursday morning at 9 a.m. We will also have Bocce Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm. Let the games begin!

## Gardeners needed!

Members are needed to tend and keep the Seniors' Centre's gardens (less than an hour a week), tidying up the beds, pruning when necessary, turning over the soil. If you are interested, please contact Judy Buchanan at judy202@rogers.com or leave a message at the Reception Desk.

## Annual General Meeting

Our 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, June 4th, starting at 2:00 p.m. This AGM will mark our 11th year of operation as an incorporated, non-profit organization. This is your opportunity to hear and comment on the year's progress and participate in



## SENIOR SCAPE

Charles Sequeira

## Changing of the Guard

decisions affecting your Association.

As in previous years, a barbecue and refreshments will follow at \$2 per person for members who attend the meeting. Complete agenda packages are available at the Centre's reception desk.

## Future

This will probably be my last submission for the Senior Scape, as I will be stepping down as President of the Aurora Seniors Association effective Thursday, June 4. I have enjoyed writing about the activities at our Seniors' Centre to the Community at large and hopefully encouraged many seniors to visit our Centre and become members.

The main intent of all my Senior Scape articles was to ensure that all seniors took an interest and participated in various activities to be active in body, mind and spirit.

I am sure the new ASA Executive will assign another member to continue with these submissions alternating with Jim Abram. I take this opportunity to thank Brock Weir of the Auroran for receiving all my previous submissions and publishing them in The Auroran.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site [www.auroraseniors.ca](http://www.auroraseniors.ca), email [auroraseniors@rogers.com](mailto:auroraseniors@rogers.com) or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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A directory of who does what in your community

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King Weekly Sentinel

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