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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 15 No. 35 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of June 25, 2015 CMCA AUDITED

$9,000 and Counting – After a year (and, in some cases, years) of cultivation, students and teachers at Lester B. Pearson Public School took the plunge and joined student Jakob Israel in shaving their heads to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. Jakob launched Jakob's Cause last year, having his head shaved alone at the year-end assembly. This year, however, there was a lot of hair to go around. (Back Row) Teacher Justin Isaac, Anita Mokhtarani, Kannan Bloor, teacher Lesley Dagher. (Middle Row) Julia Macfarlane, Lucas Nacevski, Zach Green, Joshua Walters, Tucker Kauffeldt, Rojin Bakhtiarpour, Jakob, Hannah Legros and Karen Beaulieu of the Canadian Cancer Society. (Under the Cheque) Colin McCarthy. (INSET LEFT) Jakob with Principal Arin Otis proudly showing off the results while, right, bracing for the clippers.
Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Olympian and advocates join Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

By Brock Weir

They conquered their sports and helped others do the same, and now three Aurora residents who have had significant influence in the world of athletics are coming together as the Class of 2015 for the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees include Olympic medallist Mark Heese, tennis champion Ken Sinclair, and Alan Dean, who has dedicated his life to breaking down barriers in sport for those who are physically disabled.

Volleyball star Mark Heese, who represented Canada at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Sydney and Athens, joins the esteemed group as the sole honouree in the "Athlete" category, which recognizes area individuals who have "demonstrated outstanding achievement in their athletic field of endeavour of brought honour and fostered pride in the Town of Aurora through their athletic achievements."

A bronze medallist at the inaugural Olympic beach volleyball event in Atlanta, Mr. Heese is recognized for his contributions to the sport.

"Aurora has been a wonderful place to live, train and raise a family," said

Continued on page 6

No need for a second library, say residents

By Brock Weir

There is no need for a second branch of the Aurora Public Library to meet the needs of a growing population, according to a study carried out by the Town and the Library.

Although a second satellite branch has been floated for many years, particularly to serve the growing number of neighbourhoods in northeast Aurora, surveys conducted by consultants Monteith + Brown and Libraries and Transition, indicate this is not a

See Library on page 10

Aurora Museum and Archives re-opens Thursday

By Brock Weir

If you're an Aurora resident of a certain generation, chances are you've heard stories of a once celebrated hockey trophy.

Once the top prize of the now-defunct Metropolitan Hockey League for the Toronto and York Radial Railway, it was a silver cup much coveted by the local Aurora team – and, of course, their chief rivals in Newmarket.

Established in 1913, the cup was taken by Aurora a number of times in the late 1910s and early 1920s before disappearing off the map in 1922 when it was taken back by Newmarket. The League, as it turns out, folded along with the Radial company, but the cup itself experienced a brief resurgence on the rink in 1949 after being located in a Pefferlaw basement and after a few more wins under its belt, its whereabouts became murky until 1995.

This Thursday, the Allan Moore Trophy takes pride of place among the artefacts charting Aurora's history when the re-established Aurora Museum and Archives re-opens its doors at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Like the Allan Moore Trophy, the Aurora Museum itself has followed a similarly winding path. Now, well over a decade since it shut its doors at the Church Street School, it re-opens to a new era at the same building – now the Aurora Cultural Centre – with its

See Exhibition on page 10

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Weekly Notice Board

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Accessible formats
905-727-3123 ext. 4212
accessibility@aurora.ca

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Monday, July 13	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, July 14	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Tuesday, July 28	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
August 2015			
Tuesday, August 11	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Tuesday, August 25	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council

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**

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

YEAR OF SPORT 2015 TOWN OF AURORA

The Town of Aurora proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Sport in Aurora. Please see the upcoming sport event below that supports the importance of healthy sport and activities in our community.

Event: Kickit2Winit
Date: **Saturday, October 3, 2015**
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Location: Aurora Sports Dome

For more information, please visit www.kickit2winit.com or call 647-234-3970.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning starting in late June to early August 2015

Please be advised that Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning will occur on the following streets between late June and early August.

- Loraview Lane
- Zokol Drive
- McGee Crescent
- Heatherfield Lane
- Wilkinson Place
- Benville Crescent
- Long Valley Road
- Monkman Court
- Langman Place
- Tamarac Trail

If you have any questions regarding the block pruning, please contact the Parks department at 905-727-123 ext. 3233.

Reminder Notice: Grass clippings are not collected in Aurora's curbside yard waste program

Grass clippings are not collected in Aurora's curbside Yard Waste Program. You can compost your clippings by using a backyard composter. Can you purchase a backyard composter for $31 at the Operations Works Yard at 9 Scanlon Court.

If you do need to dispose of grass clippings, both the Georgina Waste Transfer Station and the Bloomington Yard Waste Depot accept grass clippings.

Also, please note the following items are not included in Aurora's curbside Yard Waste Program:

- Kitchen scraps
- Rocks
- Dirt
- Sod
- Tree stumps
- Flower pots/trays
- Treated wood
- Animal droppings

If you have any questions, please contact Access Aurora at 905-727-1375 or by email at info@aurora.ca

Register now for Town of Aurora Summer Camps!

Register now for one of our many fun and exciting Summer Camp options. Whether you are interested in sports, art or science, we offer something for a variety of ages. For more information, please see The Town of Aurora's *2015 Spring and Summer Parks & Recreation Program Guide* on our website at www.aurora.ca or pick-up a copy at one of our facilities today!

Dinner and a Movie completed for the season

Dinner and a Movie is now completed for this season. We look forward to seeing you all in September.

For more information, please call 905-727-3123 Ext. 4760

PUBLIC NOTICES

Temporary Road Closure – Canada Day Parade

Please be advised that vehicular traffic on the following portion of Yonge Street will be temporarily prohibited on **Wednesday, July 1** for the Canada Day Parade:

ROAD(S) TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED:

- 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to Orchard Heights Boulevard
- 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Old Yonge Street from St. John's Sideroad to Twelve Oaks Road
- 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Yonge Street northbound lane from Orchards Heights. Boulevard to Wellington Street
- 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Blvd. to Industrial Parkway South.
- 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Engelhard Drive at Edward Street and Industrial Parkway.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Property Standards/Clean Yards Bylaw

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

Outdoor Water Use Bylaw

Residents are reminded that as of **Friday, May 15**, The Town of Aurora enforces a municipal by-law related to outdoor water use. It is important that all residents and businesses observe the following regulations, as they have been put in to place to ensure a continued and abundant water supply.

No person shall use the Town's municipal water from a hose, pipe, sprinkler or permanent irrigation system for the purpose of watering any lawn, garden or washing of vehicles, sidewalks, driveways, patios, decks or windows, or filling swimming pools except as follows:

- An even numbered address may use water outdoors only on even numbered days of the month;
- An odd numbered address may use water outdoors only on odd numbered days of the month; and
- Outdoor water use will only be permitted between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/bylawservices

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Pesticide Tree Injection for Control of Emerald Ask Borer

Town-owned ash trees located along the streets and parks listed below will be treated to help control Emerald Ash Borer. Treatment will take place between the dates of **Wednesday, July 1** and **Monday, August 31**.

To Control: Emerald Ash Borer
Pesticide Product: IMA-Jet
PCP #: 31375, registered under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada)
Pesticide Product Active Ingredient: Imidacloprid

For more information please contact: Trugreen at 1-800-565-5295 or Town of Aurora, Parks and Recreation department, at 905-727-3123 ext. 3222

Selected ash trees to be injected on the following streets:

Amberhill Way; Ardill Crescent; Ashford Court; Attridge Drive; Aurora Heights Drive; Benville Crescent; Corner Ridge Road; Cranberry Drive; Craiglee Court; Deerhorne Cresent; Defoe Court; Delayne Drive; Dinsmore Terrace; Evelyn Buck Lane; Gilbank Drive; Harmon Avenue; Heathersfield Lane; Hodgkinson Crescent; Hollandview Trail; Hollidge Bouevard; John West Way; Karindon Court; Kennedy Street West; Klaimen Court; Lacey Court; Langman Place; Lenarthur Court; Little Erica Way; Long Valley Road; Lougheed Court; Luxton Court; Marsh Harbour; McCleod Drive; McGee Crescent; Meadowood Drive; Monkman Court; Moorcrest Drive; Mugford Road; Murdock Avenue; Ochalski Road; Owls Foot Crescent; Pinnacle Trail; Raiford Street; Rush Road; Storrington Gate; Timberline Trail; Timpson Drive; Tribbling Crescent; Trillium Drive; Treegrove Circle; Twelve Oaks Drive; Wilkinson Place; Willow Farm Trail; Whispering Pine Trail.

Selected ash trees to be injected in the following parks:

Atkinson Park – Twelve Oaks Drive; Chapman Park – McMaster Drive; Copland Park – Aurora Heights Drive; Elizabeth Hader Park – Timpson Drive; William Kennedy Park – Kennedy Street West; Wilson Park – Moorcrest Drive

Holiday Service Schedule
Canada Day – Wednesday, July 1

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way) will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday, July 1** for Canada Day. Regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on **Thursday, July 2**.

If you would like to pay a water or tax bill, payments can be placed in the drop-off box 24 hours a day outside of Town Hall. Please do not place cash payments in the boxes and remember to include your payment stub along with your payment. Alternatively, you may pay your bills through your ATM or through your bank's online banking service. Parking tickets can be paid online at **www.paytickets.ca**

LIBRARY

The Aurora Public Library will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday, July 1**.

For more information, please visit **www.library.aurora.on.ca** or call 905-727-9494.

WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection is **MOVED ONE DAY FORWARD** from **Wednesday, July 1** to **Friday, July 3**. For example, regular scheduled collection on Wednesday will be collected on Thursday. For information, please consult your *2015 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar*.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

As always, the Town will continue to provide essential and emergency services.

For Town-related emergency situations, please call 905-727-1375 or 905-727-3123 and follow the voice prompts.

FOR ALL OTHER EMERGENCIES, CALL 9-1-1

RECREATION CENTRES

Aurora Family Leisure Complex, 135 Industrial Parkway North

Tuesday, June 30	5:45 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesday, July 1	8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Fitness centre 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
Thursday, July 2	5:45 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, 1400 Wellington Street East

Tuesday, June 30	7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, July 1	CLOSED
Thursday, July 2	7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For swimming, skating and Club Aurora fitness schedules, please visit **www.aurora.ca** or call 905-726-4770.

Fireworks, family fun, and "Fleetwood Mac" take centre stage for Canada Day bash

By Brock Weir

Canada's Birthday Town lives up to its name beginning next Tuesday, June 30, for two days of Canada Day celebrations in Aurora.

The party starts once again with Dance in the Park, hosted by the Rotary Club of Aurora, which runs from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., featuring a free night of live bands, along with an on-site barbecue.

The fun continues the following morning at 8.30 a.m. when Yonge Street shuts down in anticipation of the traditional Canada Day Parade. Before the 25-entry-strong parade itself begins at 10 a.m. on Orchard Heights Boulevard winding its way to Murray Drive, kids are invited to head over to the Aurora Public Library to get their creative juices flowing by taking chalk in hand to draw on Aurora's busiest street.

According to Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora, there is an increased emphasis on multiculturalism in this year's parade, along new service clubs and organizations, including the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

Following the parade, Lambert Willson Park on Industrial Parkway North is transformed into Canada Day Central, with a virtual trip across Canada for kids with a sense of adventure.

"Our passport activity is certainly a labour of love of mine," says Ms. Ware. "We design a passport for interactive activities that reflect a fact pertaining to each province or territory. When you get to 'Nunavut', for example, there will be a geocaching activity because Joliffe Bay, Nunavut is home to the world's most northern geocache.

> *I do feel confident the menu we are providing is innovative and really rich with community spirit.*

"The passport, to me, is one of our most important features. When you get to Canada Day events, sometimes it is just random bouncy castles and the traditional birthday-style activities, but we put a significant amount of time into this so it is educational, interactive, and certainly different."

Live entertainment will be the order throughout the day as bands such as Delayne Drive and the Aurora Community Band take the stage before young talent takes over as the top eight semi-finalists in the Aurora Teen Idol competition go head-to-head for the final crown.

Following the competition, the evening's entertainment kicks into high gear. Before the traditional fireworks display at dusk, the night belongs to Fleetwood Mac with a tribute to the band and Stevie Nicks, along with a tribute to Tom Petty, and, finally, DESIRE, a tribute to U2.

"I can't get my phone to stop ringing for them," says Ms. Ware of the tribute to Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac, who performed at the event last year. "Not only are they talented, but they have a good combination going for them. Stevie Nicks is a huge draw in her own right, Tom Petty has strong followers and then there's Fleetwood Mac!

"I hope Aurora's Canada Day is the location that families will ring in this national holiday. I hope people will travel into Aurora with friends and family and then spend the day with us. I do feel confident the menu we are providing is innovative and really rich with community spirit."

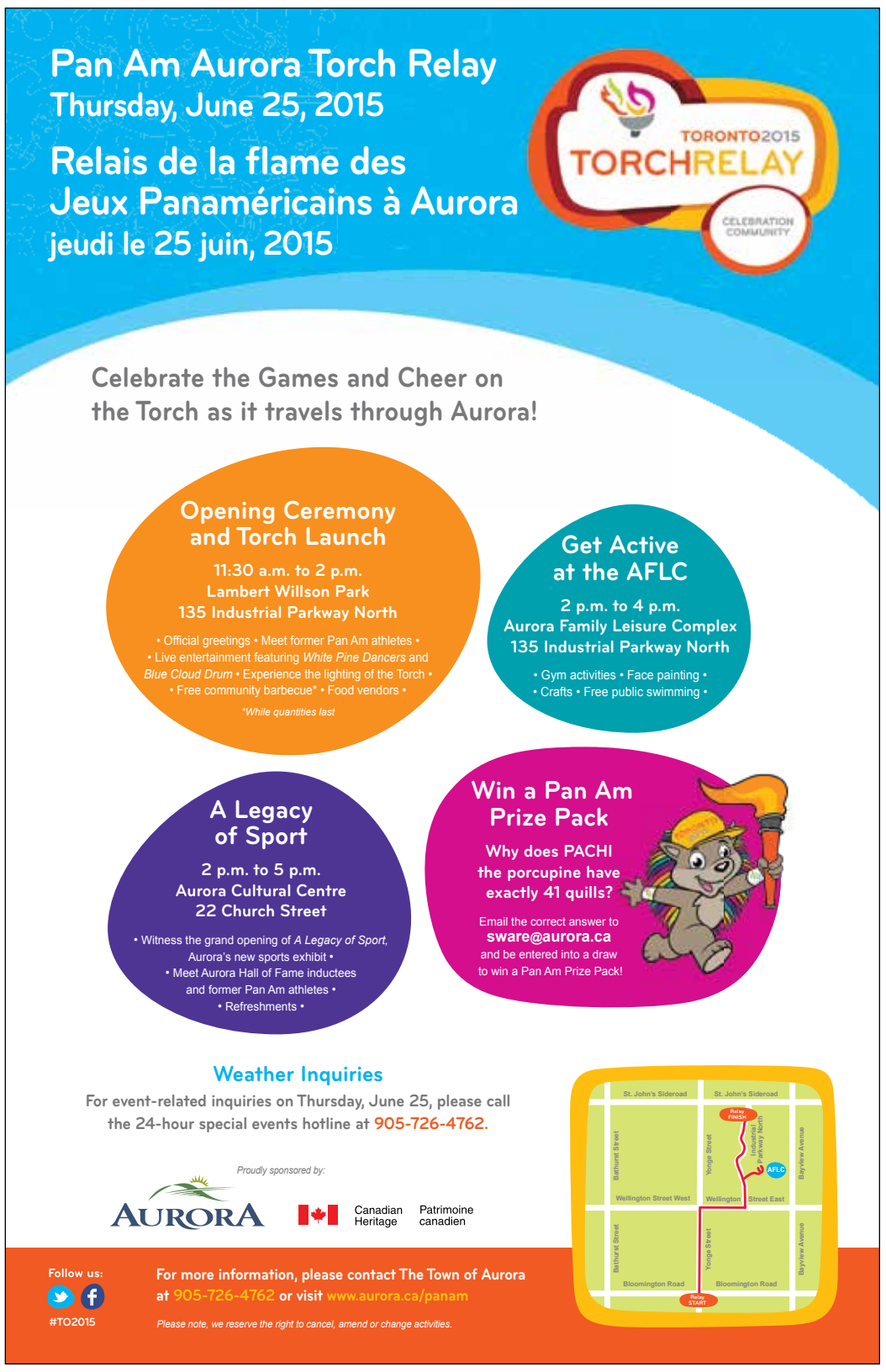
Briefly

THEATRE TAKES ON "INTO THE WOODS"

If you've seen the film adaptation of "Into the Woods," it's time to reacquaint yourself with the acclaimed Aurora-based Wavestage Theatre Company and their new production of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's musical. "Into the Woods tells the epic fairy tale of several Brothers Grimm characters; a baker and his wife who journey into the woods to reverse a curse cast by the Witch that lives next door. But when they encounter Cinderella, Rapunzel, Jack, and Little Red Riding Hood, fairy tales collide on this quest that reveals that wishes do come true, but at a price. Featuring a cast of Wavestage Theatre's most powerful singers, with dazzling lyrics, sumptuous melodies, and a deliciously wicked plot, this astonishingly clever Into the Woods will leave your family smiling. The show runs July 9 – 12 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit www.rhcentre.ca or call 905-787-8811.

LOCAL COMPANY NAMED TOP PERFOMER BY CANADA POST

Aurora-based company Prime Data has been honoured by Canada Post with the award for Top Performer in Direct Mail Growth. Deepak Chopra, CEO of Canada Post, stated that Prime Data is "one of the best, if not the best, evangelist of the power of mail in moving hearts." Steve Falk, President of Prime Data, attributes the outstanding growth to Prime Data's pioneering spirit when it comes to data and technology. "Our investment in technology is what gives our clients great direct mail results, and that fuels the growth. We're honoured to receive this award -- a result of the hard work and innovative thinking of the entire team at Prime Data.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Porcupine princes parade marks 2015 Art in the Park

Do not pinch porcupines!

This summer festival of art, music, food, friends and fun you will not want to miss. The Aurora Town Park will host a creative day of artistic life with fun activities on Saturday July 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., bringing together local farmers of the Aurora Farmers' Market, Artists and Musicians for Art In The Park and the Porcupine Princes Parade Tour along with the partnership of Kerry's Place Celebration and BBQ.

It is indeed a pleasure to once again coordinate for my seventh year this event of Art In The Park bringing in the visual Artists and bands performing.

I do enjoy so much the many friendships and memories this day will bring. Thank you to all the following participants who will make Art In The Park Porcupine Princes Parade Tour 2015 a great event.

Art In The Park Artists: Mariana Badescu, Deborah Campo, Ellen Downe, Angela Durante Dukát, Elsa Ka Fai Lum, Melanie Hillcock, Sharon Kolinsyk, Najma Kausar, Laurie Larson, Local Colour Aurora Eva Folks & Judy Sherman, Pamela McNeill, Sabine Ellen Mayer, Sharon Pozner,

Ben Tipton, Malcolm Watts, Denise & Angel Waskul

Crafter: Nancy Wood

Porcupine Princes Parade Tour Band Performers:

Rudy and Andrew Veltri "Country Classics,

Aaron Morris & Paul Mason "Reggae"

The Williams" Father & Son Bruce & Kieran

Magic Duda - Corey Clarke Magician

Patty McLaughlin With The Song Circle Musicians.

Thank you also to our farmers and Jennifer Rightmyer of Kerry's Place Autism Services.

Artist Deborah Campo
Art In The Park 2015 Coordinator

Get off your butts and keep Aurora clean

My name is Monica and I have lived in Aurora for many years. I walk to most places, weather permitting, and use the bus other times.

When walking, I see many cigarette butts on the sidewalks, private property and even roads, along with other kinds of garbage too.

When people are in cars and are smoking, they just toss the butt out the window instead of putting it in the ash tray and emptying it when they get home.

When on the street, it is not much different. They just drop it on the sidewalk.

This will not change until smokers realize what they are doing to themselves and the environment.

When you get home, do you just drop it on the floor or on the furniture?

The smell of cigarettes is disgusting to most people. When mothers are out walking with their children, they have to be so careful of the ones that walk beside the buggy that they don't pick up anything on the ground.

I thought things might change with people being made aware of the dangers of smoking but, alas, this doesn't seem to be the case.

I would love to see the butts and garbage disappear not just when the Mayor has a special day like the Annual Clean-Up Day, but all the time.

When I am out walking I always take a shopping bag with me and I pick up the garbage, but I can't pick up btuts.

So, please don't litter. Keep Aurora clean.

Monica Day
Aurora

Machell's Corners

The Dog Days Are Over

BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

June is always a curious time of year in Aurora, particularly from the perspective of a local newspaper.

Throughout the course of the rest of the year, things typically follow a set pattern. Rested and alert following the winter break, Aurora gets back into its natural rhythm by the time Baby New Year is barely out of his swaddling clothes.

Schools pick up where they left off, businesses quickly get back up to seam, and there is a regular stream of events and issues to cover, events that are, more or less, pretty evenly spread around and manageable to cover.

This is a pace which is maintained through most of the spring, lasting just about to the end of May where the realization summer is soon to be upon us suddenly hits the population en masse. After that watershed moment, things start flying fast and furious. It is almost as if everyone in Aurora collectively decides now is the time to close any loose ends and jam in as many things as possible before the end of June.

This, of course, clears everyone's schedules for a nice, relaxing summer, replete with visits to the cottage (if you're lucky enough to have one), vacations (if you're lucky enough to afford one) and generally living large.

Some sensible people stick it out in Aurora at least until the last of the fireworks descend on Canada Day – after all, this is Canada's Birthday Town and we know how to throw a good party – before going on their merry way. After that? Cue the mass exodus.

Around this time of year I usually start looking forward to the dog days of summer, a time when my personal work schedule becomes a little bit more relaxed and there is a bit of breathing room between issues that crop up, events that need to be covered, and when people doing all the weird and wonderful things Aurorans have become known for make themselves known in one way or another.

On Thursday, however, it became clear that these dog days of summer are over before they even began.

This came about in the late afternoon as I went with the flow created by Federal Liberal leader Justin Trudeau when he made an unheralded stop in Aurora, which quickly turned into anything but. His mission, as it became clear – and who were we not to accept it? – was to do a brief circuit of Downtown Aurora (such as it is) to meet with people – residents and business owners alike – before moving onto Whitchurch-Stouffville.

There was nothing particularly out-of-the-ordinary about this visit, at least on paper. It was due to start at T.C.'s Burgers before looping north on Yonge Street to take in the visage of his father, immortalized on the mural painted on the southeast corner of Yonge and Wellington, heading south to end at the Aurora Public Library.

As soon as he walked through the doors of one of the community's favourite burger joints, however, all bets were off as he sat down with a group of students enjoying an after-school meal, just shooting the breeze. Through my years of covering these walkabouts, this is always risky business and the results usually hit one of the two extremes.

These kids seemed to be engrossed by their encounter and, as soon as Trudeau left to make the rounds, they excitedly picked up their phones to Instagram evidence of their encounter. Whether or not this had more to do with celebrity than political engagement will become clear in due time, but shortly thereafter, when Trudeau jumped up onto a Pepsi truck waiting for the light to turn green at Yonge and Wellington, clarity descended.

Newmarket-Aurora Liberal candidate Kyle Peterson was right – this was the unofficial start of the Federal Campaign in our fair town, so rather than borrowing a few lyrics from Florence & the Machine, it might be more appropriate to paraphrase an iconic quote from Bette Davis in All About Eve…

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS, IT'S GOING TO BE A BUMPY SUMMER

Now that Mr. Trudeau has made a splash on a relatively small stamp of Aurora, it is now time to wait and see how incumbent Prime Minister Stephen Harper and NDP leader Thomas Mulcair are going to tackle this riding.

They're going to have their work cut out for them now as, as we know, the compact, manageable riding of Newmarket-Aurora as we know it will, in just a few months' time, be consigned to the dustbin of history. It's set to be replaced by a newly reconfigured riding of the same name incorporating all of Aurora north of Wellington Street, while the below-the-belt section of Aurora will vote in the new, mellifluous riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

That's right: It's a matter of "double your pleasure, double your fun" for the Town as a whole which will result in two clear winners by the end of the fall. They all want your vote, their leaders want your vote, and they will be here to stump for their candidates.

Also serving to spice things up will be the ongoing saga surrounding the redevelopment of the Highland Gate Golf Course. As The Auroran went to press this week, final preparations were being made on a public planning meeting, which will be Council's first formal opportunity to discuss plans brought forward by the partnership looking to convert the former golf course into a residential development – as well as take in comments from the public at large on the merits (or lack thereof) of what is proposed.

There will be no shortage of comments. This much was clear from the 400-plus residents who turned out this spring for a public information session on the same hosted by Geranium. In fact, this was so clear from the outset that the Town of Aurora had the foresight to realise they simply did not have enough room at Town Hall to accommodate everyone and subsequently had to book St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School to accommodate every resident looking to have their say.

This week's meeting will be the first of three public planning sessions currently scheduled to tackle this particular development, a slate which is scheduled to pick up once again this September. However, given the number of speakers at the information session, I wouldn't be surprised if this continues to be a dominant issue and bone of contention in what would otherwise be a relaxing – albeit dull – summer.

Let's get the party started.

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

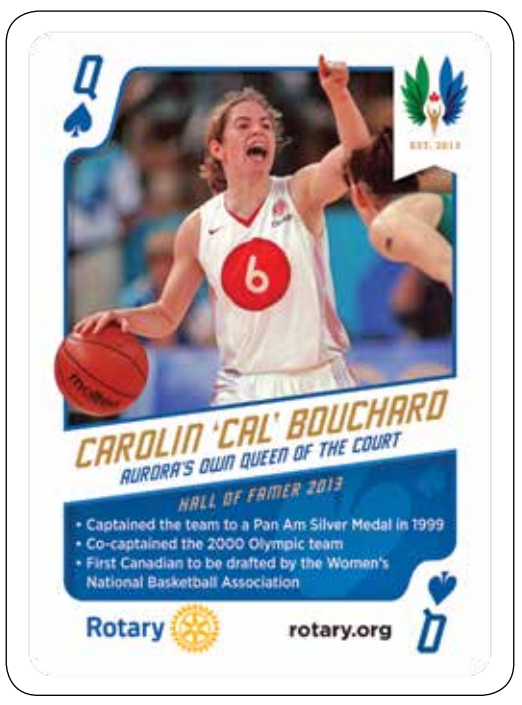
GET IN THE GAME with 52 PICK ME UP

Beginning June 25, playing cards customized with imagery celebrating Sport in Aurora will be distributed throughout Aurora over the next year. Interested? Come to the Pan Am Torch Relay Celebration at Lambert Willson Park to start building your collection. Details of each card's location will be published weekly in The Auroran, as well as at livinginaurora.com. Pick a card, any card and collect them all!

THIS WEEK: The Jack of Spades. Inducted into the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame in 2014, Bruce Stafford is the founder of Aurora's nationally-recognized Storm Volleyball club. Pick Me Up June 25 at Lambert Willson Park during the Pan Am celebrations starting at 12 noon.

NEXT WEEK: THE QUEEN OF SPADES: Inducted into the Boston College Sports Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame in 2014

Carolin Bouchard captained the Canadian Women's Basketball team to a Silver Medal in the 1999 Pan Am Games. Pick Me Up this Tuesday, June 30 at Town Park for Dance in the Park starting at 7 p.m.



Ottawa Report

LOIS BROWN
MP Newmarket-Aurora

End of Parliament Wrap-Up

The House of Commons has risen for the last time before the upcoming election, concluding the most productive Parliament in two decades.

Over 160 bills received Royal Assent, including an unprecedented 40 Private Members' Bills. Under Prime Minister Harper's leadership, more than three times as many Private Members' Bills have become law than under any other Prime Minister.

We've continued to reduce taxes, returned Canada to a balanced budget and delivered record transfer payments to the provinces and territories. The passage of Economic Action Plan 2015 this spring continues our low-tax plan that will help continue to create jobs, spur economic growth, and ensure long-term prosperity for all.

We lowered federal taxes to levels not seen in over fifty years. An average two-earner family of four is saving, each and every year, $3,293 in personal income tax relief, $1,018 in GST tax relief and $2,329 in additional child benefits. Low- and medium-income families have seen proportionally greater tax relief. Those earning less than $30,000 have seen a 97% reduction in federal income taxes and those earning $60,000 have seen a 20% reduction in federal income taxes.

In addition to important economic accomplishments, the Government kept its commitment to keep our streets and communities safe and to ensure the safety and security of Canadians. The Anti-terrorism Act, 2015 became law. A core piece of legislation, it responds to the evolving threat of jihadi terrorists who are directly threatening our country.

Here at home, we've made significant investments such as those in transit; including the GO and Viva Rapid Transit Systems; and public infrastructure, including approximately $15 million in gas tax funding to the Towns of Aurora and Newmarket and millions of dollars in direct funding for projects such as Aurora's wastewater infrastructure, Newmarket Operations Centre, Hillary House and Shared Digital Infrastructure Collaborative.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in New Horizons for Seniors funding are benefitting local seniors such as those at the Aurora Seniors' Centre, York Region Food Network, CHATS and Aurora Historical Society; and creating summer jobs for students such as those at Hospice King-Aurora, Kerry's Place, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Youth Soccer Club and Blue Hills Child and Family Centre.

It has been a great honour to work for and represent the residents of Newmarket-Aurora, a privilege I do not take for granted. I will continue to work hard to deliver results for you and your family and would look forward to speaking with you on your priorities. A complete list of Bills during the 41st Parliament receiving Royal Assent and Private Members' Motions Adopted can be found on my website at www.loisbrown.ca.

Strengthening Trade Within Canada

Industry Minister James Moore recently met with his provincial and territorial counterparts in Toronto to discuss negotiations and progress on modernizing Canada's internal trade framework. The meeting sent a strong signal about the importance of the issues being negotiated and the need to accelerate the work toward a new agreement. All ministers agreed to complete renegotiations by March 2016.

This follows up on a Government of Canada strategy titled One Canada, One National Economy: Modernizing Internal Trade in Canada released last August. Nearly 40 percent of Canada's trade occurs within its borders and barriers to internal trade cripple Canada's economy and hurt the bottom line of families and communities. The federal strategy responds to the realities of a globally integrated economy like Canada's and creates a modern internal framework for federal, provincial and territorial partners.

Applying for CPP Now Faster and Easier

The Government of Canada has launched a faster and easier online application for the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). It allows retirees to complete and submit their CPP retirement pension application entirely online in just a few clicks, replacing the online process which required claimants to complete a long and cumbersome application online, and print and mail a signed signature page.

This is part of the Harper Government's efforts to continually improve Canadians' access to the benefits and services they need. The My CPP Retirement online application is available within a My Service Canada Account. Claimants are recommended to apply 6 months before they want their retirement pension to begin.

Lois Brown is the Member of Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development. She can be reached by phone at 905-953-7515 or through her website at www.loisbrown.ca

Mural Musings

INSIDE AURORA
Scott Johnston

With Canada Day rapidly approaching, there's no better time to look at that most Canadian of features in Town, the "Oh Canada" mural at Yonge and Wellington, and pose the question; is it time for an update?

Don't worry; I'm not suggesting a wholesale change. We should all celebrate our country's history and successes, and those images are a great reminder, especially to our younger generations.

But while many of the themes up there are great choices, and will remain in our minds for years, I think a few tweaks might make the overall collage more relevant.

This came to mind when we were driving by the mural one day, and my nephew asked me "who's Team Canada?"

I explained about the excitement around the country-unifying hockey series between Canada and the then USSR in 1972, and that final electrifying goal by Paul Henderson. But the resulting unimpressed "humph" told me that the impact wasn't sinking in.

So, for the required hockey reference up there, we need one that's historic, but also one that more recent generations can appreciate.

If we want one that people across this great land will be able to relate to for years to come, we need go no further than to highlight the futility of the Toronto Maple Leafs. The image could be accompanied by the phrase "Perennially Cup-less", or "Maybe next year", or words to that effect.

The best part is that with it already pushing fifty years since their last Stanley Cup win in the 1960s, it's pretty much guaranteed the caption will never need to be updated. At least, not in any sort of foreseeable future.

Another great Canadian achievement was the invention of the telephone, which justifies Alexander Graham Bell's inclusion on the wall. While his face should remain up there, kids may not associate him with today's modern portable devices, so let's emphasize this by adding a cell tower in the background.

This would also add another recognizably prominent structure, like the CN Tower and House of Commons images that are already up there.

Apart from structures, there are a number of natural features on the mural, like the prairies and the Rockies. As these are still relevant, we can keep all of them, at least until the hydro-electric companies divert any more water from Niagara Falls, and this natural wonder runs dry.

Animals are another recurring theme on the wall, but for some reason, plants seem to have been given a miss.

There's one plant that is unlikely to become anything but more common across the country in both our urban and natural landscapes, based on increasing country-wide water and herbicide bans.

Therefore, let's address this vegetative omission on the wall by including a dandelion in some open spot, preferably close to ground level.

If we want to go all out, we could include an image that combines built structures, natural features, animals and plants. This could only be something that wasn't even discovered when the mural was painted (or it would surely be up there); the world's longest beaver dam, at almost a kilometre in length.

A visual like that would could wind around other elements of the mural, and would almost "out Canadian" the existing images of the Bluenose, Group of Seven, or that pile of donuts.

Finally, the smiling face of Bonhomme reminds us that our friends in Quebec City host the world's largest winter carnival.

But that carnival is enjoyed by just over 30,000 people a day. While an impressive statistic, there's another annual event in Canada that hosts over 50,000 people in just a six hour period.

Maybe it's time that Aurora's Street Festival makes an appearance on the wall.

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

IN GOOD COMPANY

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

Celebrating Aurora

This is a decidedly busy time of year for municipalities and Aurora is no exception. With so many events and activities taking place it is difficult to give each of them equal time in my monthly article, but I will certainly give it the "old college try."

First, I would like to thank Aurora's outgoing Chief Administrative Officer, Neil Garbe, for his service to the Town and our community during his six-year tenure with three different Councils. Neil brought a wealth of management expertise to Aurora and put a number of processes in place to increase efficiencies and accountability at Town Hall. His poise and professionalism greatly assisted my transition from the private sector to the Office of the Mayor, and I have every confidence that Neil will bring the same level of excellence to Richmond Hill, as he assumes the CAO position there.

During the summer, members of our Executive Leadership Team will be assuming the CAO role on a rotational basis, until an interim-CAO is selected to take the position. The interim CAO will help conduct an executive search for a permanent CAO, beginning this fall.

Thank you to Judy Marshall and the staff and volunteers at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for another wildly successful Street Festival on Sunday, June 7. Yonge Street was billowing with thousands of residents and visitors enjoying the many offerings of hundreds of on-site vendors. Many people stopped by the Town booth, and I would like to thank those who took the time to complete our communications survey. The Aurora Street Festival is a cornerstone event for our community and the Chamber deserves kudos for another job well done!

Thank you to the residents who attended our Public Planning meeting on Wednesday, June 24 at St. Maximilian Kolbe High School to provide input into the proposed redevelopment of the Highland Gate property. This is the first of three scheduled consultations, so those who didn't get the opportunity to share their perspectives will have a chance in September and October.

I hope everyone has the opportunity to show Aurora's pride during the Pan Am Torch Relay on Thursday, June 25. The Opening Ceremony will begin at 11.30 a.m. at Lambert Willson Park on Industrial Parkway North, with official greetings, a performance by White Pine Dancers and Blue Cloud Drum and a free community barbecue.

The Pan Am torch will travel up Yonge Street from Bloomington Road, head east along Wellington Street and travel up Industrial Parkway. Come and watch the relay and partake in the many activities taking place, including free public swimming at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex and the Legacy of Sport exhibit at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Remember to drop by Hillary House throughout July and August as the Aurora Historical Society celebrates Pan Am with Tennis in Canada from Early Beginnings to Global Success. Go to www.aurora.ca/panam for further details.

On June 30 and July 1, Aurora – Canada's Birthday Town – celebrates Canada Day with events for the whole family. On Tuesday, June 30, join us for food and live entertainment with

Continued on page 16

NEW AURORAN POLL

Are you planning on attending any part of Aurora's Canada Day celebrations next Tuesday and Wednesday?

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

Does Aurora need stricter rules when it comes to cell tower placement near residential neighbourhoods?

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

RESULTS TO DATE June 23, 2015	A	B	C
	38%	62%	0%

TSN personality to recognize best in sports at Hall of Fame ceremony

By Jake Courtepatte

For the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame (ASHoF), they want the best in the biz to introduce the newest members into their hallowed halls.

That's why they have once again enlisted the help of TSN personality and Canadian sports host legend James Duthie to be Master of Ceremonies at this year's ASHoF induction dinner.

"We are delighted to have Mr. Duthie return to our celebration activities," said ASHoF project manager Nancy Black. "His knowledge of local and national sports is extensive and his community pride is evident. As well, he can tell humorous or heartwarming sport stories better than anyone else and as such, makes for the perfect Master of Ceremony."

Last year's sold-out crowd enjoyed both the comedic and serious sides of Mr. Duthie, an Aurora resident who takes the importance of local sports to heart.

Duthie's kids were born in the Danforth in Toronto, where he lived for a number of years before being hit with the need to "get away."

"We were just looking for a nice town, looked around Aurora and we were easily convinced," said the father of three, who moved his family to the area in 2008.

His community involvement in those seven-or-so years has led him to meet and grow close with parents from his son's hockey team, and his daughters' soccer and swim teams.

"Most of the people I know in the town are because of that. So when I think of the role of sports in a community, I think of what it does to bring the community together."

Aside from the social aspect, Duthie recognizes the importance of local sports at a physical and psychological level as well.

"I think in many ways, sports are the backbone of a community. One of the reasons I chose Aurora is that they recognize that…there's so much to do, and so much is offered."

Sport Aurora, the governing body of the ASHoF, has grown to a membership of almost 30 organizations since its roots a decade ago. While 2015 has been announced as the "Year of Sport" in Aurora, Sport Aurora looks to enshrine the legacies of a handful of local athletes, builders, and volunteers in this year's induction dinner, scheduled for November.

As a long-time sports fan himself, and one who has been recognized with three Gemini Awards and one Canadian Screen Award, Duthie would be the first to tell you how much it means to be recognized by your community.

"The history of a community is so important. How often do we hear people say, 'Connor McDavid's from Newmarket,' or people from Aurora say 'Ryan Murphy (Carolina Hurricanes defenceman) is from Aurora.' There's a certain pride that comes from that, for both the individual and the community."

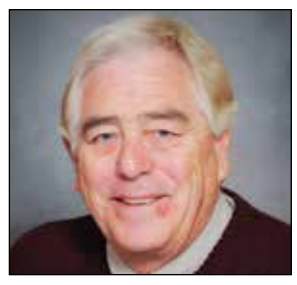
James Duthie, participating at last year's Induction Ceremony. **Supplied photo**

Now in his second year as MC of the event, Duthie admits he entered the 2014 dinner with little to no knowledge of some of the inductees, particularly those of the builders class. He said he has always found it interesting while visiting local rinks to see their own shrines to local legends, finding out who was from where…and it was about time Aurora did the same.

"There are so many great people in this town, I know how much it means not only to the community, but to the individual, who may have put in countless hours on the rink or on the field without being recognized."

With this year's inductees announced, tickets to this year's induction dinner will be available soon. You can follow along at www.aurorashof.ca.

Athletes, builders honoured for contributions



From Left: Ken Sinclair, Alan Dean, and Mark Heese. **Supplied photos**

From page 1

Mr. Heese in a statement. "Although I am not competing anymore, while I was, I felt a great deal of support from the community."

Alan Dean, a pioneer in the advocacy of sports for the disabled is being honoured in the "Builder Contributor" category, alongside Ken Sinclair, a ten-time Canadian Singles tennis champion.

The Builder category recognizes individuals who have had an impact on the local sports scene through leadership or philanthropy, or even contributing financially to local sports infrastructure.

Mr. Dean's pioneering work in establishing Sports Associations for the Physically Disabled has landed him in the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame. Already a Hall of Famer with the Canadian Foundation for the Physically Disabled, he said he was "a little overwhelmed" by this most recent honour.

"I have been around sports a long time and enjoyed my participation as a volunteer and, as a result, I was able to travel all around the world."

Mr. Sinclair too is already a Hall of Famer, an inductee to the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame in 1996. His wife, Betty, said her husband is "very pleased" at being honoured by his hometown.

Despite the categories in which each of the three men were nominated, Ron Weese, Chair of the ASHoF, says they are all leaders and builders in their own ways in contributing to the development of sport.

"Mark still remains in this community and contributes to volleyball and building that program," says Mr. Weese. "They are all leaders and they all build. They are universal recognized oftentimes within their sports, but even outside of sports."

Mr. Dean, he added, also exemplifies the spirt of the "Activate Aurora" project, efforts through Canadian Sport 4 Life to make Aurora Canada's most active community.

"We try and celebrate sport and celebrate the people who deliver and bring sport to the communities," says Mr. Weese. "This is a really great opportunity to identify each one of these people and to say this is what they have done. It is a great source pf pride for Sport Aurora and the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame to be able to identify these people and then to ensure the community is aware of the leadership and excellence they have provided."

Now, with the Class of 2015 revealed, the fun part is set to begin as the Board of the ASHoF gets to work researching each inductee even further ahead of this November's induction ceremony at St. Andrew's College.

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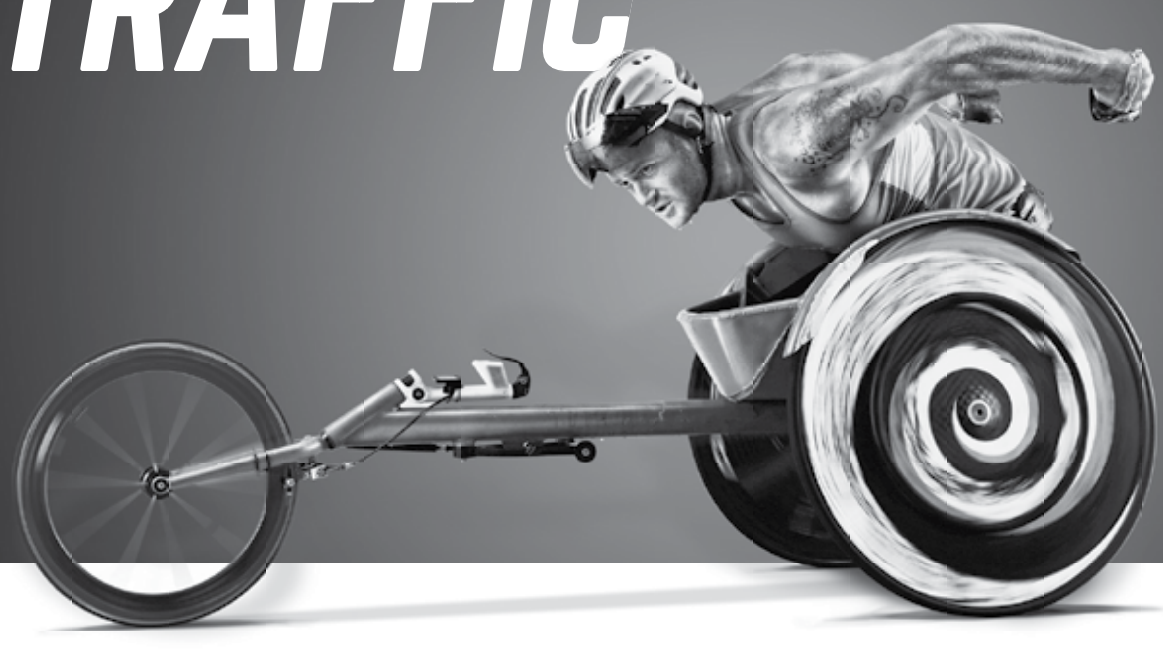

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Trudeau hits Aurora in "unofficial start" of Federal campaign

By Brock Weir

Transit riders had a bit of a surprise on Thursday afternoon as Federal leader Justin Trudeau hopped on a northbound Viva bus stopped near Yonge and Wellington.

Greeting travellers with handshakes and answering some questions accompanied by local candidates Leona Alleslev and Kyle Peterson, he came out the other side and continued his circuit meeting local retailers, business people, and the public at large in Downtown Aurora.

For Mr. Peterson, who will represent the Liberals for Newmarket-Aurora in this fall's Federal Election, it was the "unofficial start of what is going to be a summer of campaigning."

Mr. Trudeau arrived in Aurora around 4.30 p.m. after making a number of stops in surrounding municipalities, beginning at T.C.'s burgers for an impromptu chat with local students before heading north on Wellington Street, stopping in at Caruso & Company, Aw, Shucks!, taking in the images of his father and fellow Liberal Marc Garneau on the Wellington Street mural, and continuing south at a number of businesses, concluding at the Aurora Public Library.

"The fabulous warmth of the crowd" is what Ms. Alleslev, Liberal candidate for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill, said would be her impression of the day, and a good sign of things to come.

"I was very surprised how well received he was when they didn't know he was coming," she said. "Just for them to burst into smiles and waves and honks shows that he has the support of the people, even if the polls might say something different."

During their brief stop at Aw, Shucks!, one patron approached Mr. Trudeau and his two local candidates about the legalization of marijuana. Elsewhere, they said, issues on the minds of voters included quality and quantity of jobs, support for the arts, open and transparent government, and peacekeeping.

"This shows Mr. Trudeau is quite down to earth and he is happy to walk the streets anywhere in Canada," said Mr. Peterson. "He is on his own, he approaches people and there is no security around him. He is unscripted, he loves chatting with everybody he can, and I think the reception was warm. There was a personal connection made with a lot of people."

Touring Aurora's historic downtown core was a way to give Mr. Trudeau "a good taste" of what Aurora stands for, agreed both candidates.

"[It showed him] what it's about, the family businesses that are on Yonge Street, and how it is the heart and soul of Aurora, and the importance of these types of areas to all towns," said Mr. Peterson. "This is, in a way, the unofficial start of what is going to be a summer of campaigning, so it is great Mr. Trudeau knows the importance of Aurora to the Federal election and this is one of the first stops on the unofficial campaign, so that was a positive sign for the people of Aurora."

For Aurora, this will be a different style of election to what the Town has become used to. This fall, Aurora will be split into two electoral ridings – with Aurora lying north of Wellington Street voting in the riding of Newmarket-Aurora and south of Wellington with the new riding of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill.

Watching the election closely will be Mayor Geoff Dawe, who was on hand to meet Mr. Trudeau at the Aurora Public Library. In particular, it will be important to pay attention to each party's pledge on infrastructure dollars.

"I think there should be a national transit policy and I would like to see clarification around the whole cell tower implementation process because it really should be a Federal responsibility as the goal is to equalize communications capability across Canada," said Mayor Dawe. "That really has to be done at a higher level so all those pieces of the jigsaw fit. Quite frankly, [the current process] is not working."

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

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Future of Howard Johnson's site is a question to which Council wants answers

By Brock Weir

A new hotel to serve the needs of visitors to Aurora is an issue that has been championed for over a decade by politicians, business leaders and the community at large.

These voices were only heightened when Howard Johnson's, Aurora's only hotel, shut down over one year ago – and now local lawmakers want action on the site which is still held by landowners who have, say the Town, been hard to pin down.

Last month, Council requested municipal staff look into how Aurora's existing property standards bylaws relate to the former hotel site. A report before Council last week from Techa van Leeuwen, Director of Bylaw Services, said her department has been "involved" with the property since February 2014 after complaints from area residents, complaints which continue to trickle in.

"Bylaw services received a complaint from a patron that the hotel was in disrepair and building systems were not functioning properly," said Ms. van Leeuwen, noting inspections were made at the time and an Order to Comply was issued. "Prior to the expiration of the property standards order, the hotel went out of business and the building was vacated. The deficiencies of the order do not apply to a vacant building. Bylaw Services has attended the site on several occasions over the past year. It has been confirmed the building is secure and utilities have been disconnected. The property owner has retained an individual to oversee the maintenance of the building including weekly site visits, interior building walk-throughs and cutting grass."

"We have been attending the property approximately once every two weeks," added Ms. van Leeuwen, responding to questions from Councillor Michael Thompson on a variety of complaints and rumours he has received on the building. "We did recently attend the property as we had received some concerns with equipment and auto repairs as well. [The maintenance man] was securing the underground garage. It could have just been construction equipment, small machinery, or those types of repairs."

While the memo notes there have been reports of breaking and entering on the site, reports which have been addressed by York Regional Police, who are continually "monitoring the area

Continued on page 16

Budget numbers "concerning" for Councillors, municipal staff

By Brock Weir

Aurora's 2014 fiscal year closed with a budget surplus of nearly $790,000 – and while that might seem like a positive for many people, had a few unforeseen circumstances not seen a sudden influx of cash into Town coffers, the year would have ended in a $431,200 deficit.

These were the numbers presented to Councillors last week by Dan Elliott, Treasurer for the Town of Aurora. Despite the year ending in a surplus, the potential of hitting a budget deficit raised alarm bells around the table and led to calls for various municipal departments to be more mindful of the budgets allocated to them.

"Overall the Town's municipal operations budget closed the year with a surplus of $787,840," said Mr. Elliott in his report to Council. "However…the corporations' year-end surplus position was the result of four significant unplanned revenue windfalls attributable to 2C lands development driven fee revenues, an GST rebate tax credit refund, supplementary tax surplus variances, and investment income.

"Had these fortuitous revenues not occurred, the corporation would have finished the fiscal year in a deficit position of $431,200, suggesting that despite spending curtailments by staff, the corporation's approved operating budget was insufficient in meeting its core operating requirements in 2014."

2014's Budget was initially approved at $53,470,100, but Council subsequently upped the ante by $450,100, noted Mr. Elliott. While most municipal departments ended the year in a favourable position, one of the biggest deficits was in the area of Infrastructure and Environmental Services, which ended the year at 5.1 per cent over-budget, attributed to salaries, road operations, and unplanned expenses when it came to the repair and replacement of equipment and other components of municipal facilities.

By the time these numbers hit the Committee level last week, Mr. Elliott said these unplanned revenues "more or less bailed us out", a fact that was "concerning."

"Going into the 2015 Budget, we saw some substantive budget reductions and so it does not bode well necessarily if we stay on a similar track for this year, although we know because of supplementary revenues, we're going to have some of those fortuitous revenues again. We're not doing that deliberately in our budget process because we know it is not a sustainable revenue source. I am concerned that it appears the expenditures budgets are beginning to be very, very tight…not quite sufficient enough to operate the municipality in the manner to which we are used to having it run and operated.

"Despite the efforts of my colleagues around the table in trying to constrain our expenditures and trying hard to stick to budgets, we have things like snow events, weather events, facility repairs that sneak up on us. These are all things that add up together. Fortunately, we're able to end the year in a black ink scenario, but if it weren't for those fortuitous revenues we would be in the red and it is concerning to me. We have to be careful."

This was also concerning to Councillors who said Aurora cannot keep relying on these sudden windfalls.

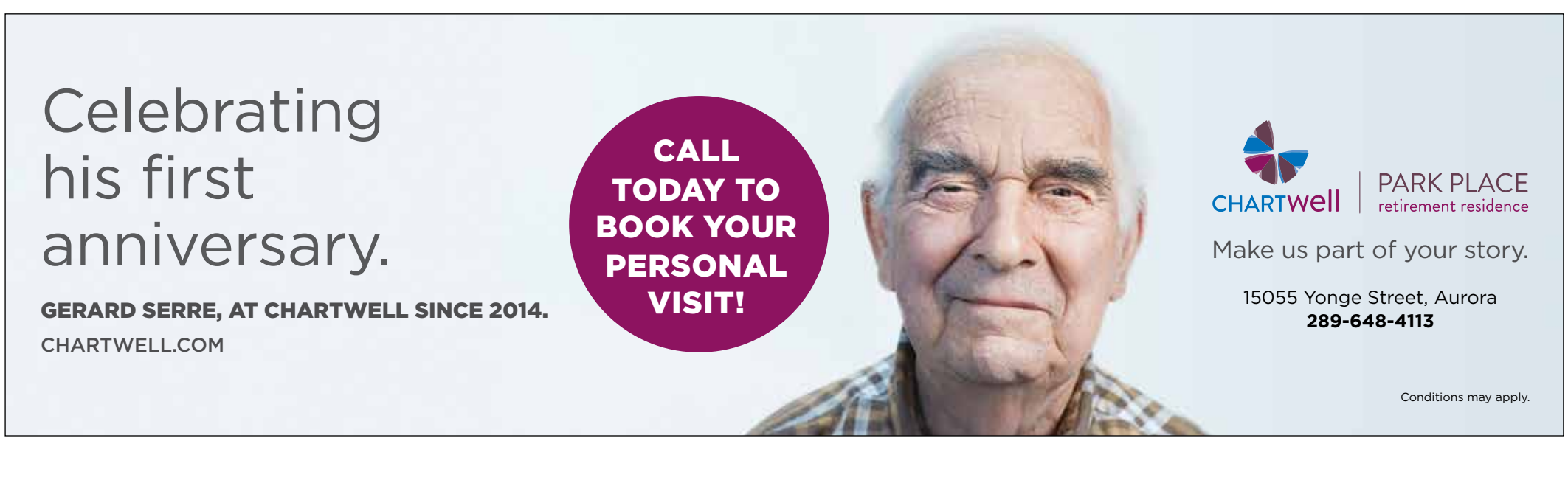
"I am not comfortable with relying on fortuitous revenues coming in," said Councillor Michael Thompson, questioning whether their financial system would be able to report quarterly, or semi-annually on where these expenditures and revenues lie at any given point in the year. "A couple of times we have seen these reports at the end of the year get all rolled up and I think it would be helpful for Council to have more up-to-date information as we progress through the year."

Updates to the reporting system are currently being looked at, responded Mr. Elliott, and an updated forecast is in the works. This is not a fool-proof system, however, he noted, as things can change every day. For instance, in last October's forecast, the GST rebate information became clear just the next day, producing a "big" variance.

Councillor Harold Kim also asked for more up-to-date and frequent reporting as this is a frequent occurrence.

"I feel like Michael Corleone in Godfather III – just when you try to get out it kind of drags you back in," he said of the budget process. "This is not a one-off incident. I know we have the Finance Advisory Committee and we're going to move to a multi-year budget where we can smooth things out.

"I trust with our newly formed committee, we're going to have to perhaps go line by line and form that baseline to ensure that we don't have the access or shortfalls we can amortize over five years… We just need to do a better job going forward."



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THE AURORAN Arts & Culture

Exhibition honours local athletes and sporting heritage

From page 1

inaugural exhibition "A Legacy of Sport."

Planned to coincide with the Pan Am Games torch relay, which also passes through Aurora this Thursday, the exhibition is the brainchild of new curator Shawna White, who has been working closely with sports bodies across Aurora, including the Aurora Sport Hall of Fame, to highlight memorable moments from, and individuals who have played a large part in the Town's sporting history, as well as shining a light on some of the individuals, teams and places that have become forgotten over time.

"I am hoping people really see how connected this town is to sport and how it always has been," says Ms. White. "Now you enrol your kids in soccer, baseball, hockey and just assume it is what it is, but Aurora has always been running like this. If there wasn't a formal program there was a picnic or an event where they were running races, or there was a football match. There was always some competitive play around sport.

"It is very gratifying this journey has come full circle and the museum is back here where it was before the Cultural Centre was renovated and opened. To have it open just feels like home and where it needs to be."

A Legacy in Sport will take visitors on a journey through time beginning with "The Kicking Game", which showcases some of the earliest sports played in Aurora. "Play Ball" highlights local developments on the baseball, softball and slow pitch diamonds, while further showcases examine swimming and hockey, ranging from makeshift games on ponds from Aurora's earliest days to today's rosters of Tigers, Panthers and Oldtimers.

Artefacts from St. Andrew's College are also featured, as is a showcase devoted to skating – ice and roller.

"The first rink in Town was in 1885 on Machell Avenue and it was a doubled decker with ice skating on the bottom and roller skating on the top," explains Ms. White, illustrating how this tradition was revived in 1979 with artefacts from the former Canadiana Roller Rink on Edward Street.

Particularly timely, however, is the salute to Aurora's own Pan Am Athletes, including skier Brian Stemmle, who has the distinction of taking on the slopes in the first and only Pan Am Winter Games, current hopefuls including gymnast Samantha Sendel, and some athletes will even be on hand for Thursday's Grand Opening.

"Janice Shepp Jones competed in the 1959 Pan Am games in Chicago and phoned the Town and made herself available," says Ms. White, pointing out Ms. Jones' medals, bathing suit, and team uniform now on display in the exhibition. "Once we had Jan, we put the call out [for other Pan Am Athletes] and calls started coming in."

Shawna White, curator of the Aurora Museum and Archives (left) and intern Michelle Johnson proudly display the Allan Moore Trophy, which is now on display in the newly re-established museum. Behind them are artefacts on loan to the exhibition by Pan Am silver medallist (swimming, 1959) Janice (Shepp) Jones. Ms. Jones is expected to be on hand for Thursday's museum opening.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

To see just what resulted from these calls, head over to the Aurora Museum and Archives' grand opening of A Legacy of Sport this Thursday, June 25, from 3 – 5 p.m. The exhibition runs through the rest of the year.

Library Square still at issue: study

From page 1

priority for residents, who say they are well served by the current location at Yonge and Church.

"The current library plays a unifying role in the community and its central location allows it to serve the entire Town in a cost-effective manner," says the study, which is due to be presented at Council this week. "Although northeast Aurora has been talked about as a potential location for a library branch, the public consultation program did not identify a compelling need for a second service point in the Town. Through the telephone survey, 94 per cent of Library users indicated that the current location of the Library meets the needs of their household and 82 per cent of non-users indicated that the current location is convenient. 33 per cent of library users (and 23 per cent of non-users) stated the Library should establish a second library location to service the growing areas in the Town. There is no evidence to suggest that the downtown library location is a major deterrent for residents of northeast Aurora or other parts of town."

That being said, the current configuration of the Library is insufficient to meet these needs, but a bit of retooling can make it much more efficient to serve the community.

The Library is approximately 36,400 square feet, not including space dedicated to meeting rooms, the front lobby and café, washrooms and other amenities. Reconfiguring these spaces will allow an expansion of space within the building, which lies on a site with little opportunity to expand outward. Such options include reducing the size of the existing circulation desk, culling duplicate book titles to free up space on shelves, and reducing public workstations.

Of greater concern to the majority of participants in the study is the parking situation surrounding the Aurora Public Library. The study indicates revisiting the issue of Library Square, a long-delayed process to make a decision on the fate of the old public library building on Victoria Street, and the adjacent former location of the local seniors' centre, might be worth a second look. It is a timely recommendation, coming on the heels of a notice of motion before Council this week from Councillor John Abel urging the establishment of an ad-hoc committee to steer a decision on Library Square once and for all.

"Parking is of general concern to the majority of participants, both in terms of the number of parking spaces available and the internal traffic circulation of the lot," notes the study. "Some participants pointed out that users of the Aurora Cultural Centre park their vehicles in the Library's parking lot, exacerbating the parking problem.

"Through the telephone survey, 40 per cent of users indicated that parking concerns stop them or their household members from visiting the Library as often as they would like. Despite these challenges, and the impact on Library usage, this issue is not unique to the Library and must be addressed collectively by other tenants/users within Library Square, such as the Town, the Aurora Cultural Centre, churches, downtown merchants and residents."

MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

We had the most gorgeous, warm, sunny weather this past Saturday at the Farmers' Market for our annual Strawberry Festival.

There were beautiful, fresh strawberries everywhere, strawberry smoothies and even a strawberry pizza finished with a balsamic glaze.

Now that we're well into June, the salad greens have arrived in many varieties, along with peas and young garlic. Every week we will see more local produce arriving at the Market, so even if you're heading to the cottage, plan to come by the Market to stock up for your weekend needs.

Now I'd like to introduce you to our youngest vendor.

Her name is Avery Benlolo and she is 12 years old. This young entrepreneur has started her own business which she calls Sweet Scrubs N' Stuff, which features products that moisturize and exfoliate your skin.

Avery lives in Aurora with her two older sisters and her parents.

She attends The Country Day School in King City. Avery says that her business began partly because she had a lot of free time and partly because she had noticed that her hands and skin seemed to be dry and itchy. She began by searching for recipes online and, after much searching, found a few she wished to try.

After experimenting and some trial and error, she found some that really worked for both herself and her family.

She was so pleased with the products that she began to think of trying to sell them, but wasn't sure where. She looked for fairs, events or markets but nothing seemed to be the right fit for her. She was disheartened, but her family rallied to support her and offered to help her find the appropriate venue.

Throughout her journey to create a business, Avery's family has been both motivating and supportive. After considerable thought, they decided to submit an application to the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair where they were frequent visitors.

The Market Committee was so impressed with her drive and entrepreneurial spirit and she was accepted to be part of the 2015 outdoor season.

She has been at the Market only a few times as her summer involves also going to camp, but she loves being a part of the Market and has already developed a loyal following. She says that she is so grateful to have the opportunity and support to do something she loves.

She will be back at the Market on August 29th. Please drop by her booth in the park to try some of her wonderful products. She is a truly inspiring young person!

Our next Special Event takes place on July 4 and is our Art in the Park day together with Kerry's Place Appreciation Day. Artist Deborah Campo co-ordinates this event for us, as she has done for several years. This year's title for the musical entertainment is "Porcupine Prince's Parade Tour".

The musicians who will be performing include Rudy and Andrew Veltri with country classics, the Market's own Aaron Morris and Pau Mason with reggae, father and son Bruce and Kieran Williams and Patty McLaughin and the Song Circle Musicians. There will also be a performance by "Magic Duda", Corey Clarke, a magician.

At press time, Deborah had received confirmation that there will be 17 artists showing their work in the park, but there may be a few more. The Kerry's Place portion of the event is co-ordinated by them and always has several exciting events planned for the day. All I know at this time is that there will be some new activities this year and it will be a fun-filled day.

See you at the Market!

Fresh strawberry "lollypops" proved to be popular last Saturday as the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair hosted their annual Strawberry Festival. **Auroran photo by David Falconer**

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

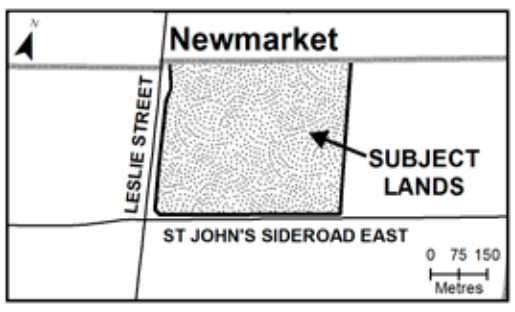
AURORA

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

The Town of Aurora has received the following application under the *Planning Act*:

APPLICATION: The Owner has submitted applications to Amend the Zoning By-law and Draft Plan Approval of a proposed Plan of Subdivision to allow ten Employment Blocks and Environmental Protection Area on the total 19.9 hectare property.

PROPERTY: 1588 St. John's Sideroad



LEGAL DESC.: Part of Lot 26, Concession 3

APPLICANT: 2352017 Ontario Inc.

FILE NUMBER: SUB-2015-02, ZBA-2015-05

CONTACT: Additional information may be obtained from Drew MacMartin of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 extension 4347. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote the file name and number.

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees. The Town collects this information to enable it to make informed decisions on the relevant issue(s). If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. By submitting a fax, email, presentation or other communication, you are authorizing the Town to collect and use the above-noted information for this purpose. The Town audio records Public Planning meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council and/or its Committees, the Town will be audio recording you and Town staff and may make these audio recordings available to the public. Please direct any questions about this to the Town Clerk at 905-727-3123, ext. 4771.

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THE AURORAN
SPORTS

Vol. 15 No. 35 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of June 25, 2015

Jays come up big in busy week at home and away

By Jake Courtepatte

Even a back-to-back-to-back schedule can't stop the Aurora Jays AA men's baseball team, winners of all three of their games last week.

Following a couple of rare losses at the beginning of the month, the Jays bats have once again taken control of any and all games, first taking it to the Nobleton Cornhuskers on Thursday.

With the Huskers still desperately searching for a win this NDBL season, Jays leading hitter Ian Rettie hit his league-leading fifth home run of the season, while going three-for-four in a 13-hit, 10-run onslaught.

Ted Beadle gets the out at first base in the second inning against the Orangeville Giants on Wednesday.
Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Brad Crosby, a staple for the Jays both on the mound and at the plate in recent years, had a hit in all four at-bats while scoring two of his own.

Rob Spencer continued to contribute solidly on the mound, giving up only two hits through four innings while striking out four.

Wednesday's make-up game with the Orangeville Giants had the Jays in Aurora for the second time in two nights, instead at Stewart Burnett Park across town.

The home-field advantage still shone through, as the offensive-minded Jays had a great heads-up play in the second inning. A single by Phil Hache led to him taking second base standing after a failed-pick off, followed by a nicely-hit single from Stephen Vallee. Looking to stop at third, Hache took advantage of an absent-minded catcher not watching the plate, scoring the Jays first run of the game and giving the Giants a taste of what they can do.

After giving up a run in the first, Andrew Bukovec settled in nicely, going three-up, three-down in the top of the second and top of the third.

More Jays offence followed in the bottom of the third, with Chris Rettie hitting a double to the fence right down the centre, followed by almost an identical hit triple from Chris Fafalios to score him.

Another great piece of base-running came one walk later when Fafalios stole home on a double steal.

Crosby and Ted Beadle also hit doubles in the game, with the home team eventually taking a 7 – 4 win.

Bukovec had a solid outing, giving up four runs over six innings of work before being relieved by Zach Wiseman for the seventh.

Thursday's win on the road in Midland was almost blown, after the Jays took a commanding 7 – 0 lead in the top of the third. The Indians were able to bring the score back to 8 – 6, but were met by a great closing effort by Crosby who shut them out in the final two innings.

Following press-time, the Jays are on the road for both of their matchups this week, heading to Lisle Friday to take on the Astros before meeting the Barrie Angels on Sunday.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.ndbl.ca.

AYSC joins prestigious provincial league

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club officially welcomed the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) to the Town of Aurora last Saturday, bringing with it a higher level of competition the Aurora program has been craving.

The club became one of eighteen members in Ontario granted an inaugural license to the league in 2015,

Continued on page 13

Aurora Youth Soccer Club held a special ceremony last Saturday to welcome the Ontario Player Development League to Aurora, an elite provincial training program. **Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

Happy Canada Day!

Ontario

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

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Lady Redbirds lacrosse growing in York Region

By Jake Courtepatte

Boys lacrosse is long since established within York Region.

With roots in East Gwillimbury over a quarter century ago, the organization now known as the Redbirds settled in Newmarket in 1996.

It has grown to provide box and field lacrosse teams at both the house-league and rep level, boasting a handful of alumni at the NLL level as well as dozens of collegiate players.

Now, the girls are finally earning recognition through the Lady Redbirds program.

Last weekend they got the opportunity to host a weekend of girls lacrosse for the first time in their history, as more than 600 young athletes, many from Aurora, converged on Ray Twinney and George Richardson Parks. Unlike the boys rep program, the girls schedule consists of a Saturday or Sunday festival each week, where a dozen girls lacrosse associations from central Ontario come together at a rotating host site, each team playing two games on the same day. Over the course of the season, each rep team will play 16-20 games culminating in a trip to the Provincial Championships – at which the U13 Redbirds earned their first silver medal last season.

This year, the U13A squad is tied for second in their division, defeating both St. Catherines and Mimico over the weekend. The U15 team won their only matchup with Kawartha, while the fledgling U11's and U13's came up short in their games.

The U13 Lady Redbirds (white) were one of four Newmarket Redbirds teams to compete in last weekend's festival at Ray Twinney Sports Complex. Here the U13s are pictured taking on the Halton Hills Bulldogs.
Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Lacrosse is a unique sport, in that the game changes severely between levels and genders. Dawn Beal-Nacevski, director of the girls program, understands that girls lacrosse is a different game from the boys, and it must be played as so.

As U15 coach Fraser Cowell explains, "The first three things someone will likely notice are that each team has eleven players plus a goalie (versus ten plus one for boys), that the girls wear almost no equipment except for eye protection, and that the goalies also have much less equipment – to the point that they look human. The girls game is a non-contact game, and there is no cross-checking. The girls are allowed a certain level of stick checking (called a c-check)."

Cowell goes on to explain that "the girls' sticks have virtually no pocket to cradle the ball, and thus running and passing become critical skills. You'll also notice that the girls carry their stick higher, about face height, and the lack of a pocket causes them to cradle the ball carefully. The lack of a pocket really encourages a skill game vs a physical game."

With the season running from mid-April to late July, the Lady Redbirds take on opponents from around the GTA and Golden Horseshoe area, including Brampton, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Kawartha, Kitchener-Waterloo, Oakville, Orillia, Oshawa, Owen Sound, Six Nations, St. Catharines and Toronto.

There has been a steady growth in the organization's three years of operation, and by next season Beal-Nacevski and her team hope to expand the house-league program as well as add an U17 division into the mix.

For those looking to give the game a try, the Lady Redbirds will be hosting three "Welcome to Lacrosse" clinics over the next year, with the first coming this fall. Dates are yet to be finalized, but you can contact Dawn at dawnbealnacevski@gmail.com or 416-689-8875 for more details.

Soccer club heading in "exciting direction"

From page 12

hosting them for the first time while running alongside the AYSC's annual June festival, the club's house-league season kickoff.

As a member of the AYSC OPDL program, players are given the opportunity to learn from nationally-licensed coaches, extensive player personnel, as well as gain the most exposure province-wide playing in front of OSA scouts.

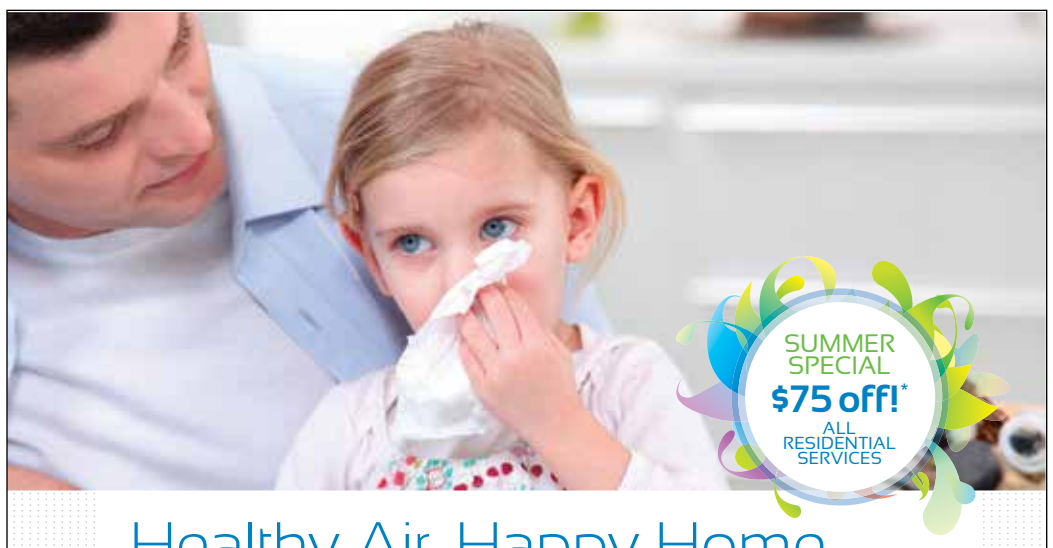
"This is a great opportunity for the Town of Aurora to get out and see this elite training program at play," said Kimberly Warner, Social Media and Events Coordinator at AYSC. "The OPDL is more than a league, it provides a top-notch training environment for all players all-year round."

With four games on the schedule for the day, an opening ceremony was held prior to the U13 girls matchup welcoming the league to Aurora. There to say a few words was one of the newest members of the club, soccer star Jim Brennan, who took the reins as the executive director of AYSC in March.

Brennan joins the organization with tons of valuable experience. The East York native played professionally in the United Kingdom for twelve years before settling in as captain of Toronto FC for four years from 2007-2010. He also represented Canada internationally almost fifty times.

"The club is heading in an exciting direction," said Brennan to the parents and players gathered at Sheppard's Bush. "This league is a top developmental league, where not only can our best athletes shine, but everyone can learn at the highest level."

Mayor Geoff Dawe called the league "a great step forward for soccer in the Town of Aurora."



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Joint Operations Centre construction to continue with project manager

By Brock Weir

As construction of Aurora's new Joint Operations Centre marches on, the project will continue to be overseen by a project manager after the recent appointee has proven his worth.

Hired last winter on a six month contract to help guide the new multi-million dollar facility on Industrial Parkway North, which will become home to Aurora's Parks and Recreation Department as well as the Department of Public Works, the project manager is responsible for reducing costs on the project by over $300,000 according to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Public Works. Extending the contract, however, will result in a cost increase of $54,400.

"One of the bigger challenges this spring was the construction of the retaining wall along the north face of the site," said Mr. Simanovskis of the project thus far. "There were some concerns with the spring thaw and potential issues with soils. However, all of that was avoided and a large part with the support of our project manager we brought in in February. Right now we are standing at about 45 per cent spent on the project…and looking at the building completion date of early 2016 and a move-in date of March. All of that is still on track.

"The project manager has been very instrumental in overseeing details of the project that we, as staff, would have had to be involved in and frankly I don't see how we could have done the amount of work and effort he has done, and he also brings with him…a huge amount of experience. It has been a very effective assignment and it has resulted in some cost avoidance plus savings."

An additional savings of approximately $250,000 was also realised through the project manager streamlining soil challenges on the site.

"I know there was some concern when Mr. Simanovskis originally brought forward the concept of the project manager and I think his report has proved it has been a valuable experience and I certainly support the concept moving forward," said Mayor Geoff Dawe.

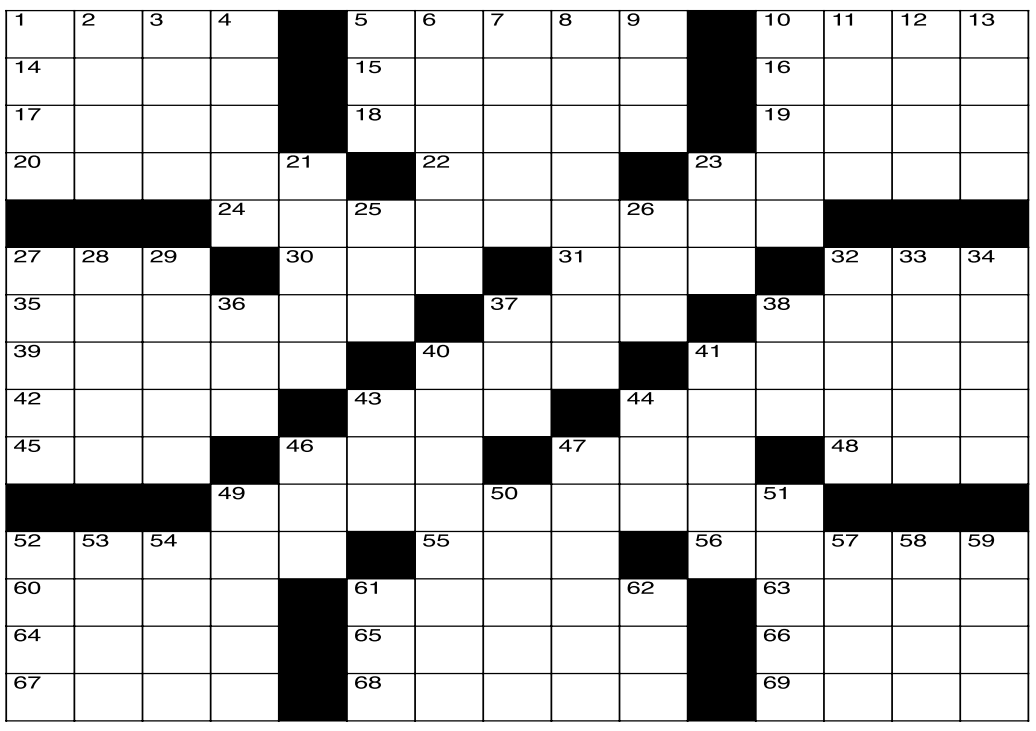
The total approved budget for the Joint Operations Centre, including contingency funds, currently stands at $20,385,000, $11.9 million for which will be funded out of development charges (money paid by incoming developers to account for future growth needs within municipalities) and $8.4 million from the sale of lands.

The project received a $4.71 million from Infrastructure Ontario in the first infusion from Aurora's construction line of credit with the funding body for this particular project, but some Councillors expressed concern at last week's General Committee meeting on whether the collection of development charges and money from the sale of employment lands on Leslie Street were still on track.

While Dan Elliott, Aurora's Director of Finance, said those forecasts were still in the works, he is optimistic about the progress.

"I think we're going to be three quarters of the way [in collections] by the time we finish and the sale of land, as we all know, is difficult to predict," he said. "We have a couple of [potential sales] in the hopper and we know there are a few others kicking tires. We have $3 million from the sale of [the current works yard] on Scanlon Court that will close after we move out. I think we're going to be in good shape, but until the project ends, and as 2C continues, I haven't got a forecast."

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Suns
5. Bog
10. Woodcutter hero Ali
14. Aquatic reptile (abbr.)
15. Cape Verde capital
16. Chemical compounds
17. Maple genus
18. "All _____ on deck"
19. Roman public squares
20. Leavened rum cakes
22. Quilting gathering
23. Large hero sandwich
24. Oprah's BFF
27. London radio station
30. Downwind
31. Frosty
32. Brake horsepower
35. In a way, removes
37. Bridge-building degree
38. Mother of the Titans
39. Nostrils
40. ___ choy: Chinese cabbage
41. A.K.A. rose-red spinel
42. Blue goose genus
43. Take in solid food
44. Speak incoherently
45. Chop with an axe
46. Wrapped package (abbr.)
47. Auricle
48. Former CIA
49. Highway Patrol's Crawford
52. Yemen capital
55. John __, Br. statesman (1584-1643)
56. Expressed pleasure
60. First Chinese dynasty
61. Indian dresses
63. Swiss river
64. Teen skin disease
65. Takes dictation
66. Husk of wheat
67. Went quickly
68. Stud with jewels
69. Recess

CLUES DOWN

1. Wound crust
2. Killer whale
3. Leopold & ___
4. Bony piece of meat
5. Speed measure (abbr.)
6. Productive land
7. Rajah's wife
8. Close companion
9. Possesses
10. Make less visible
11. Buffalo
12. Tennis player Bjorn
13. Mountain range in Kyrgyszstan
21. Gross revenue
23. Honey (abbr.)
25. Affirmative
26. Frozen water
27. Carpenter's work table
28. __, Danish astronomer
29. 1977 AL MVP Rod
32. Italian Air Marshal Italo
33. Mends
34. Bullfighting maneuvers
36. 1/100 yen
37. Board of Trade
38. Idle talk
40. Hairless scalp
41. Hannibal's surname
43. Old Tokyo
44. Spoken in the Dali region
46. Women's undergarment
47. Weasel's winter fur
49. Blatted
50. Medieval circuit courts
51. Muslim shrine in Mecca
52. Former ruler of Iran
53. Fungal spore sacs
54. Baseball team #
57. Stringed instrument
58. Geological times
59. Sandy piece of seashore
61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
62. Drunkard

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

		S	P	F		A	P	O		D	E	C		
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Adam Schellenberg and Tracy Beatty of TD Bank Group, Mayor Geoff Dawe, Ian McGuire of TD Bank Group, and Councillor John Abel mark the partnership between the Town and the bank to present the TD Concerts in the Park Series. With donations to the Aurora Food Pantry, you can win the "ultimate concert experience" at each of the weekly concert through July and August. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

Town, TD Bank collaborate for "premium concert experience" for music lovers and food pantry

By Brock Weir

The first party in Aurora's Concerts in the Park series is a little over a week away, taking over Town Park next Wednesday, and this year – with the help of TD Bank Group – the Town of Aurora is getting ready for a concert series to remember.

The Town and the Bank have joined forces to present the TD Concerts in the Park Series, promising a new concert experience for attendees of these musical Wednesday nights with the launch of the premium concert experience. Before each concert, show organizers will accept food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry and with every food donation, you have the chance to earn an upgrade to the front row for you and up to three guests to enjoy the show from special TD Bank Muskoka chairs along with complimentary food from vendors.

"We really analyze every element of the concert and we get a good feel as to what keeps the concert experience fresh and what is motivating for the attendees who come each week," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "Every year we try to add a new feature, whether it is direct or subtle, and this was just a really good year to tie in a premium concert experience. TD Bank Group was very receptive to it. We were ecstatic to see how eager they were to get involved and I am really excited to see the patrons be able to experience this."

This particular journey started off with a brainstorming session by Ms. Ware on how to increase donations for the local food bank. This opportunity soon fell into place offering a "win-win all around," she says, noting they are hoping to have "overflowing" donations for families in need.

"We're thrilled to support the Town of Aurora by sponsoring the TD Concerts in the Park series, which will profile exciting local talent," says Adan Schellenberg, District Vice President of TD Canada Trust. "TD understands that music has the power to bring people together and we're proud to support events like this one."

SENIOR SCAPE

Jim Abram

Fun time playing Texas Hold'em

Fun Time Playing Texas Hold'em poker!

On Friday, June 12, the Aurora Seniors' Centre hosted their first ever Texas BBQ and Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament. The evening of fun and competition started with a delicious BBQ dinner and assorted snacks. There was lots of good food and certainly no one went home hungry!

Texas hold 'em is a variation of the standard card game of poker. Two cards (hole cards) are dealt face down to each player and then five community cards are placed face-up by the dealer—a series of three ("the flop") then an additional single card ("the turn") and another additional card ("the river").

The best five card poker hand is obtained by taking cards from either the community or their hole cards. Players have the option to check, bet, raise or fold after each deal; i.e., betting may occur prior to the flop, "on the flop", "on the turn", and "on the river".

Then the best hand, or most strategic bluffer, wins the chips in the pot. At the end of the tournaments, the person with the most poker chips wins the coveted winner's trophy. There is also a trophy awarded to the winner of the consolation table.

These trophies are then kept on prominent display in the Aurora Seniors' Centre trophy case.

Our tournament winner is Frank Leone. Congratulations Frank! Frank went "all-in" holding the worst hand in poker: a 2 and a 7 before the "flop".

Several competitors went all in as well so the competition was on. Frank lucked out when three spades came up on the flop filling out his flush, the winning hand making Frank our Texas Hold'em poker champion.

Norm McCully followed in second, then yours truly, Jim Abram was third and Iris Hazen fourth. Our consolation table winner was Iris Garel. Congratulations to all the winners. A fun time was had by all.

Also, a special thanks to Pat DeAngelis, Peter and Bonnie Maxwell and their team of volunteers for organizing and running such a tremendously successful and fun event.

A Special Thanks to Charles

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Charles Sequeira for his many years of contributing to the Seniorscape column during his 10+ years as President. Your writings will be missed but not forgotten. Charles, we all are hopeful that you consider writing as a guest writer whenever you get the urge!

Joining me in writing Seniorscape will be Sylvia Gilchrist and Marie Leone. Welcome aboard Sylvia and Marie. I know you will have as much fun writing for The Auroran, on behalf of seniors in Aurora as much as I do!

Jimmy's last word: I just got my cheque for my share of the 35 million dollar Nortel class action law suit! $16.15. How will I spend all that money!

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

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That's a wrap as Gateway Café and Lanes, Aurora's only bowling alley, marked its closure with a free day of bowling open to the entire community as a thank you for 50 years of business.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Attempts to reach hotel owners unsuccessful: Town

From page 8

for suspicious activity", Councillors were glad to hear the building was secure.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, however, questioned whether these standards could be in place "indefinitely." As long as the building doesn't fall into disrepair "to the point where it would require a demolition" it can remain status quo, said Ms. Van Leeuwen.

That was not enough for the Councillor, who pressed for more detail on just what the property owner intends to do with the building. The answer was a simple one: it's a matter of playing the waiting game.

"We have been attempting to try and meet with the owners but as of yet we have not been successful," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning. "We have been attempting to contact the owner and sit down with him just to understand what, if any, plans he has with it. As long as it is safe and secure, I am not sure how long it is going to continue to stay vacant."

Attempts have also been made by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), added Mayor Geoff Dawe, who serves as Chair of the organization.

"The Conservation Authority has been trying to track down the owner with some issuse they have been dealing with [regarding] this piece of property and they are having a difficult time in tracking [them down]," said Mayor Dawe. "The Conservation Authority has certainly been working diligently to track these folks down and get some of those issues cleared up."

When The Auroran spoke to the owners of the property last year, issues with the LSRCA included objection to fill used by the property owner to repair the hotel's rear parking lot, which abuts Tannery Creek.

IN GOOD COMPANY

From page 5

the Rotary Dance in the Town Park at Aurora Town Park. On Wednesday, July 1, join us for the annual Canada Day parade along Yonge Street, a classic car show, First Nations presentations, activities for kids, live bands and our fabulous fireworks display. Events take place in Lambert Willson Park. Full event details are available at www.aurora.ca/canadaday.

Throughout the summer, we have a great line-up of entertainment, including Theatre in the Park, Movies in the Park and Concerts in the Park. Theatre in the Park takes place at 7 p.m. from Friday, July 10 to Sunday, July 12 in Town Park. The Humber River Shakespeare Company will be performing Falstaff and The Merry Wives of Windsor. A donation of $20 would be greatly accepted to support the theatre company's production and performances.

Movies in the Park feature six movies from July through September. The first movie takes place in Lambert Willson Park on Friday, July 17, featuring Ferris Bueller's Day Off. All movies begin at dusk.

Concerts in the Park run on Wednesdays in Town Park throughout July and August from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The first concert features Susie Sunshine on July 8. Each concert features a draw for a "Premium Concert Experience" provided by TD, where your family can win the chance for complimentary food and front row-seats. To enter, simply bring a food donation for the local food pantry. Donations are also gratefully accepted at Movies in the Park.

As a final note, we will be launching our Citizen Budget online consultation again. We will have a soft-launch in August and promote this online survey in September and October. This is a great way to have your voice heard on how your tax dollars are spent, so visit www.aurora.ca this fall for more details.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

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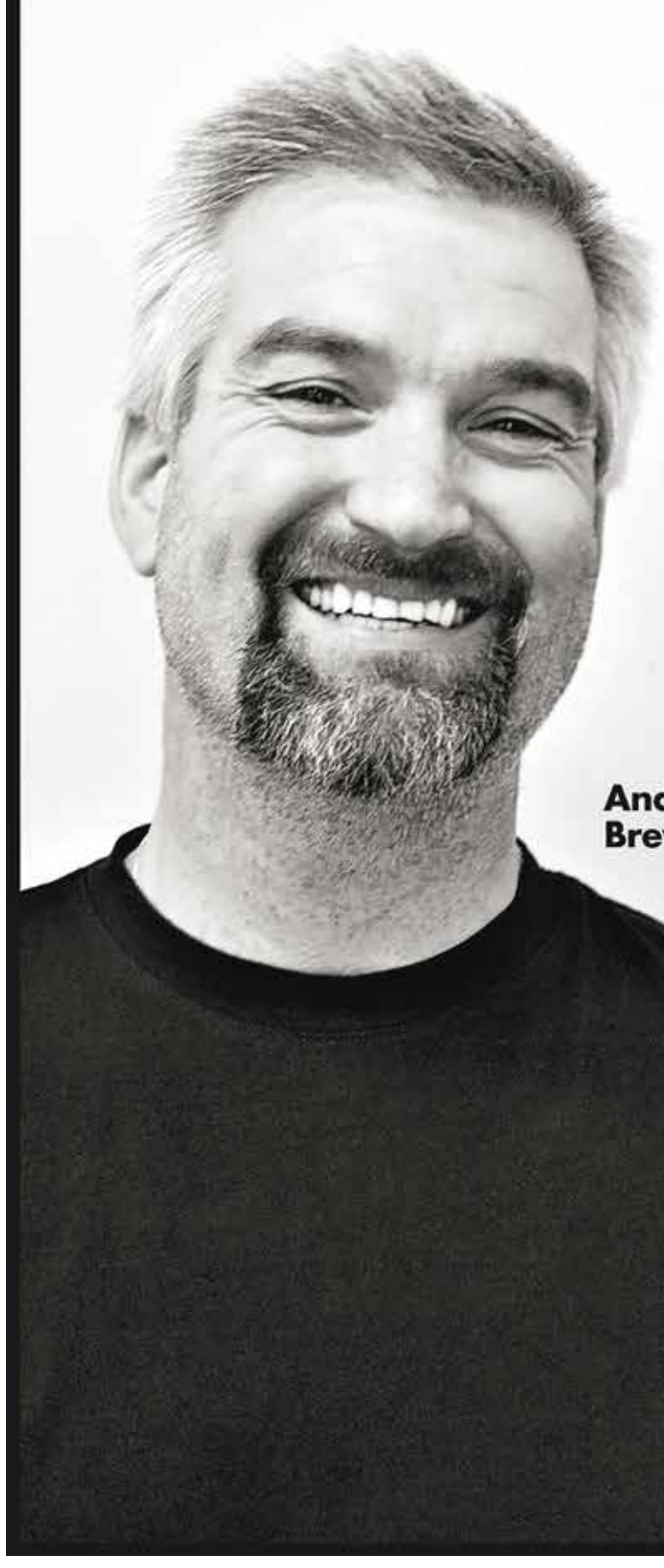
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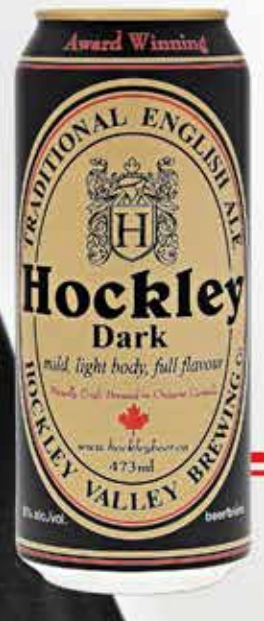

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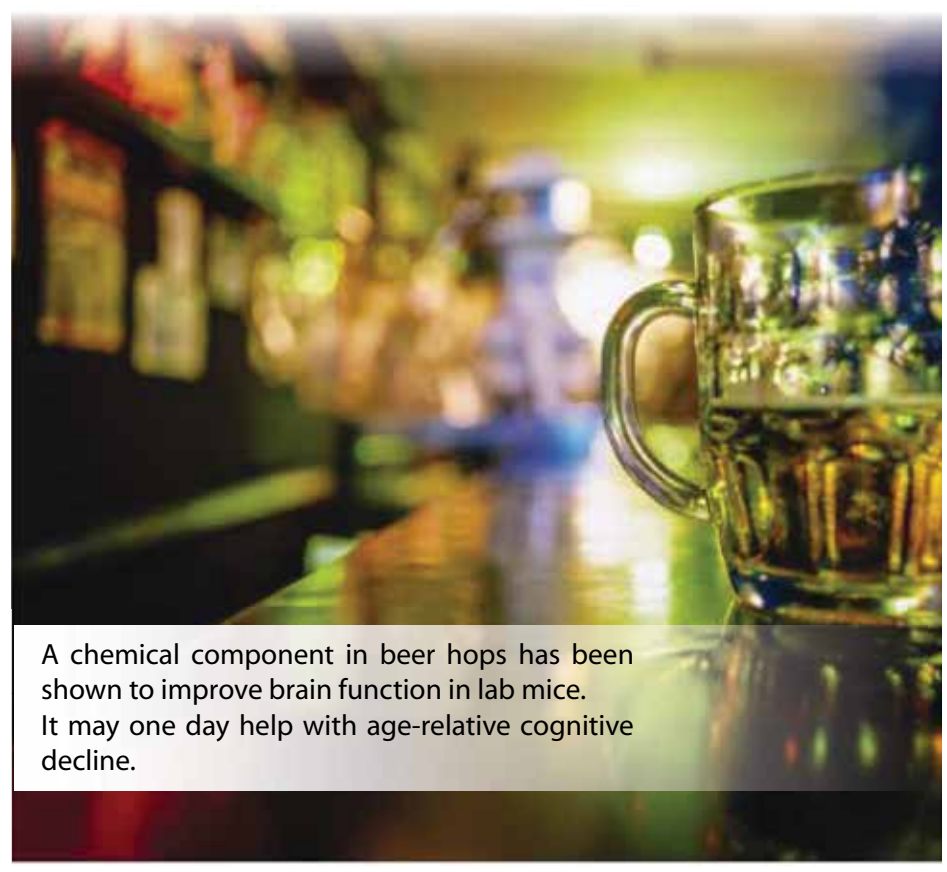
Can Beer boost BRAINPOWER?

A CHEMICAL COMPONENT in beer hops has been shown to improve brain function in lab mice. It may one day help with age-relative cognitive decline.

There is newfound reason to indulge in a pint or two of your favorite beer, and it's not just to catch up and share a few laughs with friends. New research has shown that a chemical compound in beer may be able to improve cognitive function. The beverage once thought to obliterate brain cells when consumed in abundance may actually have the opposite effect and boost brain power.

No one should run out an start imbibing just yet, however. The study that ran in Behavioral Brain Research in October 2014 was preliminary and only conducted on lab mice. During the study, scientists discovered that xanthohumol, a type of flavonoid found in beer, seemed to improve brain function in the young mice given xanthohumol doses. The cognitive flexibility of the mice was tested with a specially designed maze, and younger mice showed signs of intellectual improvement. Older mice showed no improvements. Researchers believe xanthohumol and other flavonoids, such as those found in red wine, blueberries and dark chocolate, may play a role in helping a person form memories.



A chemical component in beer hops has been shown to improve brain function in lab mice. It may one day help with age-relative cognitive decline.

The mice were given very high doses of the flavonoid. A person would have to drink roughly 2,000 liters of beer a day to equal what the mice consumed to show improvement. However, should a supplement hit the market down the road, it may just be possible for men and women to consume a potentially beneficial amount of xanthohumol without bellying up at the bar.

One of the goals of the xanthohumol study was to examine its potential efficacy at treating age-related deficits in memory. Xanthohumol also may benefit those with metabolic syndrome, a condition associated with obesity and high blood pressure, as it can speed metabolism and reduce fatty acids in the liver.

Flavonoids are plant compounds that often provide plants with their color. Scientists have attributed many health benefits to flavonoids in foods and plants and have even suggested flavonoids can help in the fight against cancer and heart disease. Xanthohumol is rare and is most often found in the hops commonly used to make beer.

While doctors and researchers do not suggest running out and consuming a few six packs right now in the goal of improving brain function and cramming for that next test, xanthohumol may one day be harvested from beer hops to slow down age-related memory .

The beverage once thought to obliterate brain cells when consumed in abundance may actually have the opposite effect and boost brain power.

BEST DRINK

Our Brewmaster had a penchant for English ale, so he created something better, combining two styles of ales he fancied while studying and brewing his way across the UK. It's an ingenius hybrid of a Northern Brown Ale and a Midlands Mild, with a body tweaked to give it a lighter, more North American appeal.

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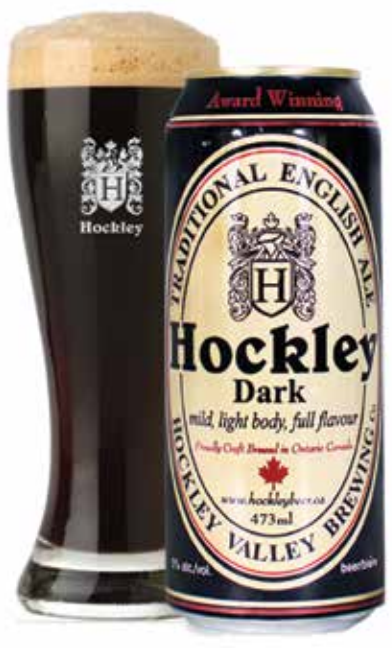
2008 Ontario Brewing Awards - Gold Medal



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POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Healthcare Costs

I attended a fundraiser recently for a beautiful little girl who is battling cancer.

The event was necessary to help raise funds to pay for some of the drugs, hotel stays, travel – the hidden costs of cancer care that are not covered by our current system.

Though our healthcare system is wonderful, there are glaring gaps in coverage that can have significant health and economic impacts. When you are in hospital, the drugs and assistive devices are covered under OHIP. Similarly, emergency dental work – if done in a hospital – is covered. It's when you need to go home that the problem arises.

Many of us have some kind of drug plan and dental coverage either through our employers or through a private plan, if self-employed. For those with coverage, picking up your bottle of penicillin to cure your child's bronchitis, or going to the dentist for a regular cleaning, are not cause for concern.

You may have to pay a small portion of the cost, but a significant amount will be covered, and some plans cover it all.

But what if you don't have coverage, or can't afford to pay for private coverage? Eyeglasses, hearing aids, braces, dental fillings, and physiotherapy – common health related expenses can quickly add up if you don't have coverage.

Many people have no coverage at all. They can't go to the dentist even once a year let alone the recommended every 6 months. They can't go to physiotherapy after an accident. They can't get the drugs they need in order to fight off infections. Even those battling cancer may not get all the drugs they need unless they can pay for them themselves.

Yes, there are options if you don't have coverage. However, you have to meet the criteria.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term care, the following folks are able to get coverage: Seniors (over 65), those in a long-term care home or home for special care, those enrolled in a home care program, those who have high drug costs relative to income and are registered with the Trillium Drug Program and/or you receive social assistance through Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

In other words, a small group of people would qualify – and that does not appear to include the lower middle to middle class(though I am not clear what "middle" class even means these days).

Assuming you meet the criteria, there are still further restrictions. Close to 4,000 prescription drugs are covered, but many are not, nor are "…syringes and other diabetic supplies such as lancets and glucometers, eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids, or compression stockings." Your insulin may be covered, but the syringes are not.

What about a trip to the dentist? Forget it. Again, unless you meet a very narrow set of criteria or you have some kind of emergency, then you are out of luck – and out of pocket. OHIP covers dental work done in hospitals. Emergency care is covered, preventative care is not, despite the fact that Ontario's own Medical Officer of Health stressed the vital importance of oral health in overall long term health.

When health care is discussed, the focus is always on access to hospitals – more beds, more nurses, more technology. That is desperately needed to be sure, but what about when you go home? If you don't have the drugs or assistive therapy you need to fully recover, you're going to end up back where you started – in a hospital. And what about dental care? If you have to wait until your tooth rots to get dental care and end up in surgery instead, how is that cost-effective?

The focus of health care debates should be about equitable access to health care and how best to fund it. It may be wonderful to have an MRI to sort out your wonky elbow after a fall, but if you can't afford the brace and follow-up physiotherapy needed to fix it, then what the heck is the point?

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

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COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

PAN AM TORCH RELAY – Cheer the Pan Am Torch as it makes its way through Aurora today. The Opening Ceremony and Torch Launch will be held today from 11.30 – 2 p.m. at Lambert Willson Park (135 Industrial Parkway North) featuring official greetings, past Pan Am athletes, live entertainment featuring the White Pine Dancers and Blue Cloud Drum, a free community barbeque and, of course, the lighting of the torch!

****

Indoor Pan Am activities continue at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. featuring gym activities, face painting, crafts, and free public swimming.

****

Don't miss the long awaited return of the Aurora Museum & Archives which re-opens on Thursday, June 25th following the Pan Am celebrations in Lambert Wilson Park. In celebration of the Year of Sport in Aurora, the inaugural exhibition, *A Legacy of Sport*, examines the long connection of sport to the Town in historic and contemporary times. Official opening is 3-5pm and the exhibition runs throughout the year. The museum is located on the second floor of the Aurora Cultural Centre.

****

TD Summer Reading Club: The Aurora Public Library's TD Summer Reading Club begins today. Come in and sign up. Read books, win prizes and use your imagination! Read 12 books and be entered into a draw for the Grand Reading Prize! For kids 12 and under. Signups begin the last day of school!

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

The Aurora Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) hosts a Strawberry Supper tonight followed by a dance with musician Bill Nadeau. 6 p.m. to 12 midnight. Dinner is $10. Purchase tickets in advance at the Legion. Dance is free for members. $5 cover for guests.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

The Schomberg Horticultural Society presents their annual garden tour today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A self-guided driving tour of nine fabulous gardens in and around Schomberg and the picturesque Township of King. The gardens range from small town gardens, to a tranquil farm, to large estate gardens. Tickets are sold on tour day at Schomberg's Community Hall (325 Main Street) or sold ahead of time at Black Forest Garden Centre (15455 Keele Street), Pathways to Perennials (4681 Lloydtown Aurora Road, Pottageville), and Sheena's Kitchen (357 Main Street, Schomberg). $10pp. No pets. For more information, call Barb at 905-939-2216.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Get your Canada Day celebrations on early tonight with the Rotary Dance in Town Park. This licensed venue at Aurora Town Park, hosted by the Rotary Club of Aurora, features live entertainment from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. A beer garden and barbeque are available. Admission is free!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Canada's Birthday Town celebrates Canada Day in style today with several events taking place Aurora-wide. The traditional Canada Day Parade begins at 10 a.m., running on Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive. Kids are invited to participate in chalk sidewalk drawing from 8 a.m. in front of the Aurora Public Library.

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Festivities continue at Lambert Willson Park with a free pancake breakfast. Rediscover Canada with fun passport activities for kids. Learn interesting facts about Canada's Provinces and Territories and participate in interactive games. Some of the activities include a petting zoo, antique and classic car show presented by the Aurora Car Club, Kids Workshops presented by Home Depot, live entertainment, a horseshoe tournament and the competition round for Aurora Teen Idol.

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Evening festivities at Lambert Willson Park include the Aurora Community Band, Delayne Drive, a Tribute to Stevie Nicks, Tom Petty and Fleetwood Mac. The final entertainment feature will be the U2 tribute DESIRE before the night ends with a spectacular fireworks show.

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The Aurora Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) will host a Canada Day barbeque today at 12 noon featuring entertainment from The Ted and Brian Show starting at 1 p.m. Prizes, tomboli table, great fun for the whole family.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

Calling All Artists! Art In The Park, a Festival of Artisans, will take over Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with the Aurora Farmers' Market and Kerry's Place Autism Services.

MONDAY, JULY 6

Turtles take over the Aurora Public Library today. Turtles of Ontario is created by fibre artist Rosemary Oliver, this display features replicas of the eight turtles of Ontario. The shells are made of papier-mâché, the wired and stuffed limbs are made of fabric, with paint and hand embroidery completing the anatomical details. Accompanying the turtles is information about the Metro Toronto Zoo's Turtle Tally Program that encourages people to report any sightings of turtles. On exhibit in the Living Room Display Case from July 6th – 31st.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

Aurora's Concerts in the Park Series launches today at Aurora Town Park with a children's concert featuring Susie Sunshine. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal costs and donations of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Join the Aurora Public Library's Summer Science Lab today as we transform our program room into a fully functional science lab. Together we will explore scientific principles like force, mass and energy by doing exciting experiments. Some will be messy, some will be loud, but they will all be fun and interesting! 2.00 – 3.00 p.m., Optimist Room, Ages: 6-9. Drop In.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

PARTAGEZ LE FRANÇAIS: York Region's French Language Conversation Group expands to Aurora with a session at Country Style (14980 Yonge Street) from 6.30 – 8 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from beginners to francophones) looking to put their French language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, email Partagez.York@yahoo.ca.

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Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight with A Tribute to Gordon Lightfoot, featuring John Stinson's tribute to Canada's greatest songwriter and international folk-rock legend. You will feel like you're at a Gordon Lightfoot concert. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal costs and donations of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight with The Megacity Big Band. Enjoy an exciting evening of live big band favourites of jazz and swing from the 30s, 40s, and 50s. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal costs and donations of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

Aurora's Concerts in the Park series continues tonight at Town Park with The Wheat Kings. The ultimate tribute to "The Tragically Hip", the Wheat Kings deliver the same energy, style and sounds as the Hip themselves, giving audiences exactly what they came to feel and hear. Concerts run from 7 – 9 p.m. Delicious food is available through on-site vendors at a nominal cost and donations of non-perishable food will be gladly accepted for the Aurora Food Pantry.

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

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DEATH NOTICE

Mills, June

– Peacefully at Southlake Regional Health Centre on Thursday, June 18, 2015, in her 65th year. June beloved wife of Justin Schmidt and predeceased by her late husband James Mills. Loving mother of Jennifer (Brennan), Peter Lalonde and Amber Schmidt. Nana will be lovingly remembered by Aurora. Dear sister of Pam and Sandra. Friends may call at the MARSHALL FUNERAL HOME, 10366 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill on Sunday June 28 from 2pm until the time of the service at 4pm. In memory of June, donations to the Lily of the Valley Court No. 12, Order of the Amaranth, c/o Marion Boyle, 233 Scarborough Golf Club Road, Toronto, M1J 3J7, would be appreciated.

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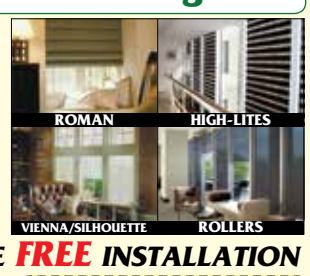

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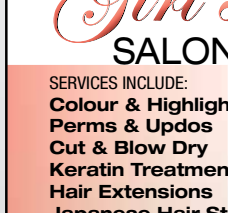

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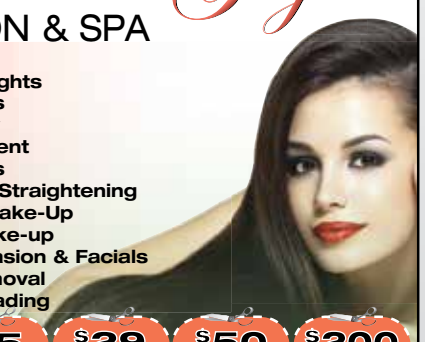

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