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# THE AURORAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

Vol. 16 No. 14 905-727-3300

[theauroran.com](http://theauroran.com)

FREE Week of January 28, 2016



**BATTLE OF YONGE STREET** – Al Lord, centre, drops the ceremonial puck at last week's Pink in the Rink Game between the Aurora Tigers and the Newmarket Hurricanes. Joined at centre ice by Tigers' Daniel Mantenuto and the Canes' Jonathan Colley, as well as Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson and MPP Chris Ballard, Mr. Lord's late son, Kevin, was one of three players honoured at the game, which benefited the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre. For more on the game, see Page 11.

**Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte**

**HUGE! WINTER BLOWOUT**

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## Neighbours "rise up" for better Downtown plan

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Cultural Precinct should be backed with a concept that can endure for generations, according to area residents.

Councillors took their first formal sweep over a vision for the proposed precinct plan at the Committee level last week, but local neighbours stepped up to fire the first salvo, presenting a vision of their own, arguing the concept on the table fell well short of the mark.

For Susan Morton Leonard, a long-time advocate for heritage and culture in

her neighbourhood, the building blocks for a strong plan are there, but they are not reflected in the concept plan created by FOTENN Consultants.

"The plan is not the big and better plan Aurora deserves," said Ms. Morton Leonard. "While we agree with the rationale that culture can be an economic driver, it requires supportive infrastructure to meet the goals. We are not aware of any real research than what has been marketed to us by FOTENN. Are there studies being commissioned by the Town to examine the economic value of the Cultural Precinct or a cost-

benefit analysis to understand if the proposed developments will indeed help Aurora?"

Traffic studies were a concern Ms. Morton Leonard shared with fellow resident Lenore Pressley, with both women agreeing they were long overdue in the area.

"While we are not opposed to this, we do have significant concerns about the present plan," said Ms. Pressley of the local Ratepayers Association. "Our association members feel disenfranchised with regard to keeping

Continued on page 6

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## Police and Transit team up to eradicate hate crimes and bias

By Brock Weir

Hate crimes are on the rise in York Region, but many instances simply go unreported.

Rather than make eye contact with their fellow commuters, transit riders often avert their eyes to on-bus advertisements and York Region Police and York Region Transit are hoping hundreds of new advertisements now rolling out encourage people to step forward and step up to make hate crimes and hate bias things of the past and

Continued on page 3

## International class debater prepares to take on the world

By Brock Weir

Some people might have reached their saturation point with the ongoing race to be the next president of the United States, but Aurora's Olivia Railton is not one of those people.

A world-class debater with international titles under her belt, Olivia, a student at Country Day School, is spending this month preparing to take on the best of the best from across the country in Winnipeg this February at the Canadian National Championships.

When she takes the stage in Manitoba, Olivia will have to flex her

muscles in writing and presenting a persuasive speech, impromptu speaking, presenting a reading, and debating on a topic that is yet to be determined.

"I would love to debate the American election and who should most definitely not be president," she says, without naming names. "I am currently doing a project in my world issues class right now about 'green washing' and 'white washing', how corporations are doing things to cover up their criminal activity. It would be interesting if one of those topics came up about corporations

Continued on page 9

**AURORA Montessori School**

**PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

**Toddlers to Grade 8**

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[www.auroramontessori.com](http://www.auroramontessori.com)

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# Weekly Notice Board



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Email info@aurora.ca • Website www.aurora.ca

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

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Tuesday, February 2	9:30 a.m.	Leksand Room	Joint Council Committee
Tuesday, February 2	3 p.m.	Leksand Room	Community Recognition Review Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 2	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee*
Wednesday, February 3	7 p.m.	Leksand Room	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 4	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Economic Development Advisory Committee

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

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



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Town of Aurora Notice of Service Disruption

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be a scheduled service disruption at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on Friday, February 5 and Saturday, February 6.

This disruption includes:

- Parent & Tot Shiny Friday, February 5 at 9:30 a.m. CANCELLED
- Public Skate Friday, February 5 at 4:30 p.m. CANCELLED
- Public Skate Saturday, February 6 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. CANCELLED

Thank you for your patience and we apologize for any inconvenience.

For more information, please call: 905-726-4760

### Temporary Road Closure on Monday, February 15

Community Event: Arctic Adventure  
Date: Monday, February 15  
Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Roads to be temporarily closed:

- Wells Street at Mosley Street – Full Closure
- Wells Street at Metcalfe Street – Road Closure – Local Traffic Only
- South property line to the Old Wells Street School (#64 Wells St.) - Full Closure

## THANK YOU

### Salvation Army Kettle Drive Results!

The Town of Aurora and the Salvation Army held its annual Kettle Drive during the month of December and is pleased to announce that \$48,251 was raised! Your generous contributions help provide practical assistance to vulnerable members of our community during the holidays and throughout the year.

Sincere thanks to The Real Canadian Superstore, Metro, and LCBO locations of Aurora for hosting the Kettle Drive. Thanks also to everyone who donated and volunteered to make this year's campaign a resounding success!

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Part-time Labourers
- Part-time Arena Operators
- Summer Camp Positions

For more information, please visit [www.aurora.ca/jobs](http://www.aurora.ca/jobs) or call 905-727-1375.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### Teen Skate Night Friday, February 26

Aurora teens are invited to the AFLC for a teen-only skate from 10:45 p.m. to 11:45 p.m.

The cost is \$3 per person, food and drinks are included.

Tickets will be sold the night of the event at The Loft (upstairs at the AFLC) starting at 7 p.m. Food and drinks will be available starting at 9 p.m.

For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 3128 or email [dridsdale@aurora.ca](mailto:dridsdale@aurora.ca).

### Aurora Youth Job Fair

All local part-time jobs. All in one place.  
Youth of all ages are invited to attend!

Thursday, March 17  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Aurora Family Leisure Complex

Interviews may be conducted on-site so come prepared with your resume.

No resume? No problem! Sign-up for the Job Prep 101 Course on March 14 and 15. Register online using course code #41701.

For more information, please call Daniel Ridsdale at 905-727-3123 ext. 3128 or email [dridsdale@aurora.ca](mailto:dridsdale@aurora.ca).

## REMINDER

### Pet Licence Renewal



Pet	Regular price	Micro-chipped	Seniors Rate
Dog	\$30	\$22.50	\$15
Cat	\$20	\$15	\$10

Pet Licences are available for purchase at the following locations:

- NEW! Available online at [aurora.ca/pets](http://aurora.ca/pets) starting February 1
- Aurora Town Hall 1st Floor – 100 John West Way, Aurora
- York Region OSPCA – 16586 Woodbine Avenue, Newmarket

For more information, please contact By-law Services at 905-727-3123 ext. 4751 or email [bylawdept@aurora.ca](mailto:bylawdept@aurora.ca)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### P.A. Day Program

School is out on Monday, February 1 and we're going to have a ton of fun!

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Location: Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex  
Fee: \$38.50  
Code: 41544

Extended Care is also available in the morning and afternoon. For more information or to register online, visit [aurora.ca/PADay](http://aurora.ca/PADay).

**Please join us for the Annual Mayor's Luncheon presented by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016**  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**Oakview Terrace**  
13256 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill  
Tickets: \$45

Please help us welcome new Town of Aurora CAO, Doug Nadorozny  
Register online at [aurorachamber.on.ca/events](http://aurorachamber.on.ca/events)

Thank you to our sponsors

**aurorachamber.on.ca**  
905-727-7262 @AuroraChamberON

### Club Aurora Members, Free Guest Day

On Friday, February 26, Club Aurora members are welcome to bring a friend or family member (one guest per member) to enjoy the Club Aurora facility for the day.

Guests are required to complete a PAR-Q form at the Reception Desk. Guests must be 12 years or older.

For more information, please call 905-726-4764 or email [fitness@aurora.ca](mailto:fitness@aurora.ca).

**AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**

**Are You Interested in Helping to Preserve the Pet Cemetery?**

The Aurora Museum & Archives is looking for volunteers to help compile an inventory of tombstones at the Pet Cemetery.

Individuals should be physically able to traverse uneven terrain in an overgrown forest environment.

Access to the site will depend on the weather, most likely at the end of March or beginning of April.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Shawna White at [swhite@aurora.ca](mailto:swhite@aurora.ca) or 905-505-1190.

"The brightest stars are those who shine for the benefit of others."

**2016 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Volunteers are the heart of the community. A volunteer's passion motivates us to do good for others, which becomes a source of inspiration. The smallest act of kindness has the power to make positive change, inspire thoughtfulness and transform lives.

Do you know an individual, corporation or business who has ...

- ★ Given their own time for the benefit of others in Aurora?
- ★ Gone the extra mile in supporting our community?
- ★ Made Aurora a better place to live? If so, why not nominate them for a Community Recognition Award?

The Town of Aurora is calling for nominations for the 2016 Town of Aurora Community Recognition Awards. The awards honour individuals, groups and businesses that have actively supported the Town's development and enhanced the overall community.

Download a nomination form at [www.aurora.ca/CRA](http://www.aurora.ca/CRA) or pick up a copy at any Town facility reception desk.

★ Nominations will be accepted until Friday, March 4, 2016 ★

For more information, please contact The Town of Aurora at 905-727-3123, ext. 4232 or email [communications@aurora.ca](mailto:communications@aurora.ca)

#AuroraCRA

Celebrate *Family Day* at Aurora's

# ARCTIC Adventure

Monday, February 15, 2016  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Aurora Town Park, 49 Wells Street

**Live entertainment**

- Don't miss "Battle of the Chainsaws", First Nations Presentation and the Muskoka Wildlife Show!

**Winter activities**

- Enjoy mini golfing, snow shoeing, mini snow tubing, Body Zorbing, outdoor skating and more!
- Healthy Kids Community Challenge activity booth

**Indoor activities at the Aurora Armoury**

- Children's activities
- Soup for Smiles by the Optimist Club of Aurora

**Food vendors on site** Proudly sponsored by:

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Call 905-726-4762 or visit [www.aurora.ca/arcticadventure](http://www.aurora.ca/arcticadventure) for more information  
Please note, we reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

# Aurora's Borealis

**Don't miss Aurora's Borealis!**

Visit Aurora Town Park every evening from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. until Monday, February 15, 2016 and enjoy the beautifully lit trees and festive atmosphere. Aurora Town Park is located at 49 Wells Street.

For more information, please call 905-726-4762 or visit [www.aurora.ca](http://www.aurora.ca)

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

# “Say No to Hate” campaign launched on nearly 400 York Region Transit buses



Ryan Keay, Manager of Transit Enforcement and Security for York Region Transit, Chief Eric Jolliffe of the York Regional Police (YRP) and Inspector Ricky Veerappan of the YRP's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau, came together to launch the YRP's Say No To Hate campaign in Aurora on Friday.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

**From page 1**  
to celebrate the rich diversity of the Region.

“We live in a microcosm of the world here,” said York Regional Police Chief Eric Jolliffe. “York Region is probably the most diverse community in Canada. For us, it is very important to work in partnership and to be proactive with all the communities we serve to ensure everyone feels welcome and safe. It is about education, awareness and prevention. Part of this is for people to understand that some of these actions like the painting of the swastika or painting ‘Go home!’ on a Mosque are hateful and they are not acceptable.

“We live together in a very safe community and we want to keep it that way. Because we police in a very diverse community, we want to be proactive and ensure that our community is very aware and comfortable reporting incidents to us.”

It is important, said Jolliffe, to “continually build trust and confidence in our communities” because some

people who make their way to York Region might come from countries where relationships between citizens and police can be fraught.

“Part of our goal is to make sure we open those lines of communication to ensure our community trusts the work we do.”

Over 400 ads are now on the move across all York Region municipalities.

Last year alone, York Regional Police responded to 107 reports of hate crimes. 43 of these were targeted to the Jewish community, 18 were against the Black community, 10 against the LGBTQ community, and four targeting the Muslim community.

“We track hate incidents as well because, at some point, people who continue this type of derogatory or offensive behaviour cross the line into criminality and it is important for us to know who those people are,” said Inspector Ricky Veerappan of the YRP's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau.

“It is about keeping our communities safe and secure but, at the same time,

celebrating the diversity we have, recognizing that hate crimes are extremely offensive and we should all be offended when any community is targeted. Hate crimes are a criminal offence that target core human identity like race, ethnicity, culture, and religious beliefs. Those are core values of any community.

“Hate crimes have that ripple effect where if one person is targeted, an entire community is victimized because they all share that same core identity.”

In investigating these incidents, the YRP bills its responders as part of the “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion” bureau. It puts a “positive angle” on the work these officers do, said Inspector Veerappan, and it is “taking people away from the very nasty side of some of the historical animosity, global conflict and sectarian violence” seen around the world “moving us in a more positive direction so we can build capacity and, really, a better understanding of our friends and our neighbours in our York Region communities.”

The York Regional Police's centralized hate crime unit also monitors the local impact of global events, according to Jolliffe, with officers liaising with numerous community partners outside of the police, including school boards, to foster community safety.

“We want to encourage members of the public to report hate to York Regional Police,” said Jolliffe. “Hate crime and hate incidents affect all

citizens and their feelings of safety and security which have no place in York Region. We continue to be proactively engaged with many of our community partners to combat and eradicate hate in all its ugly forms while prosecuting hate crimes to the fullest extent of the law.”



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### Briefly

#### DAWE RE-ELECTED LSRCA CHAIR

Mayor Geoff Dawe has been re-elected Chair of the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). He was re-elected last week for a second consecutive term. “Receiving the continued support of my colleagues on the Board of Directors means a great deal to me,” he said. “This past year as Chair of the LSRCA has been a highlight of my career and I am thrilled to continue on in that role. I expect 2016 will be even more exciting as the Authority begins implementing our new five-year strategic plan.” This new strategic plan will “mark the beginning of a new chapter” for the LSRCA with a “Vision to Action, Action to Results” including a new vision and mission that will be a renewal of, rather than a departure from, their previous mission and values to “work with our community to protect and restore the Lake Simcoe watershed by leading research, policy and action” while envisioning a “thriving environment that inspires and sustains us for generations to come.”

#### NOMINATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR CHARACTER COMMUNITY AWARDS

If you know schools, businesses, and organizations that have demonstrated good character over the past year, the Character Community Foundation wants to hear from you. Nominations are being accepted through February 8 in categories including Business Person, Organization, Citizens, Schools and Educators of Character as well as demonstrations of character in the fields of the arts, sports, environment and community. For more information, visit [www.charactercommunity.com](http://www.charactercommunity.com) or call 905-895-5155 x134.

#### EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

This Monday, February 1, marks the beginning of Eating Disorders Awareness Week and Aurora's Eating Disorders of York Region's Riverwalk Wellness Centre invites you to come by their office next Wednesday from 1 - 4 p.m. to leave a “message of hope” for those in the battle. Riverwalk, located at 15213 Yonge Street, Suite 15, Aurora, will open the doors to their art gallery and living room space featuring a selection of artwork and information on the programs they offer. Visitors may leave messages of hope, inspiring positive affirmations over negative self-talk on a giant “sign of support.” For more information, on Riverwalk and various other activities going on during the week, visit [www.edoyr.com](http://www.edoyr.com) or call 905-886-6632.

#### INTERESTED IN A SHARE OF THE HOEDOWN?

If you are a local non-profit, charitable or community organization looking to share in the proceeds from the annual Wild, Wild West Hoedown hosted by Magna International, mark February 4 in your calendars. Magna will host an application information session that evening from 6 to 8 p.m. in Newmarket Council Chambers (395 Mulock Drive). All York Region charity, non-profits and community groups interested in learning more about the requirements to apply for Hoedown funding are invited to attend. To RSVP, email [info@hoedown.ca](mailto:info@hoedown.ca). Drop-ins are also welcome.

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### Happy New Year!



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Hope to see you soon!

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

*Welcome to our brave new world, says reader*

This is a response to the Toronto Star opinion piece entitled “Queen’s Park moves to silence dissent on electricity; A new law would shut down the last arena of independent public review of the billions of dollars in public spending on electricity” by Brady Yauch, Executive Director of the Consumer Policy Institute (CPI).

Our brave new world has arrived and very few people even knew it was coming!

The provincial government just passed Bill 112 with the somewhat Orwellian name of “Strengthening Consumer Protection and Electricity System Oversight Act, 2015.”

I personally think that we have to ask ourselves how removing oversight and ramming power supply infrastructure through while exempting it from the environmental assessment process will protect consumers.

For those of us that recall the York Region power line fight, the peaker plant fight, the Oakville gas plant fiasco, the smart meter fiasco, the clean energy plan’s above market costs and the ever increasing cost of power as a result we can now look forward to having infrastructure and cost increases imposed on us without adequate representation or oversight.

All of this was predictable, of course. Some would argue that the province’s hand was forced due to the politicised nature of the delivering infrastructure and the lack of constructive and productive input traditionally offered by municipalities.

That was certainly the case in Aurora from 2006 to 2010.

In short, we blew our opportunity to positively influence the way in which power is planned and delivered in Ontario and now we are going to pay the high price both literally and figuratively.

Richard Johnson  
Aurora

*Wine tasting for a good cause with the Optimists*

The Optimist Club of Aurora is a volunteer group of 50+ members whose mandate it is to help the youth of Aurora.

We support creating an optimistic future for our kids by providing funds for opportunities that some may otherwise miss out on if it wasn’t for our support.

To list a few examples of our work, we send high-risk youth to a survival camp, bought a bed for a destitute eight-year-old, funded medication for a very ill two-year-old, and provide scholarships to local high school kids that reward their community spirit!

As well, we host an annual chess tournament, help sponsor the annual Opti Hockey program, and help sponsor the annual Minor Hockey Showcase Hockey tournament

To help us continue our work in supporting youth, we are holding a fundraising Wine Tasting event on February 5 at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 6 – 10.30 p.m.

There will be four Ontario wineries, three food vendors, a silent auction plus a professional wine taster to guide you through the process.

A live jazz duo will be featured all evening as well.

Tickets are \$20 and available at McAlpine Ford Lincoln or by contacting Greg Way at gjway2@gmail.com.

We extend special thanks to our signature sponsor, McAlpine Ford Lincoln, for being a large part to help us raise funds for Aurora’s youth.

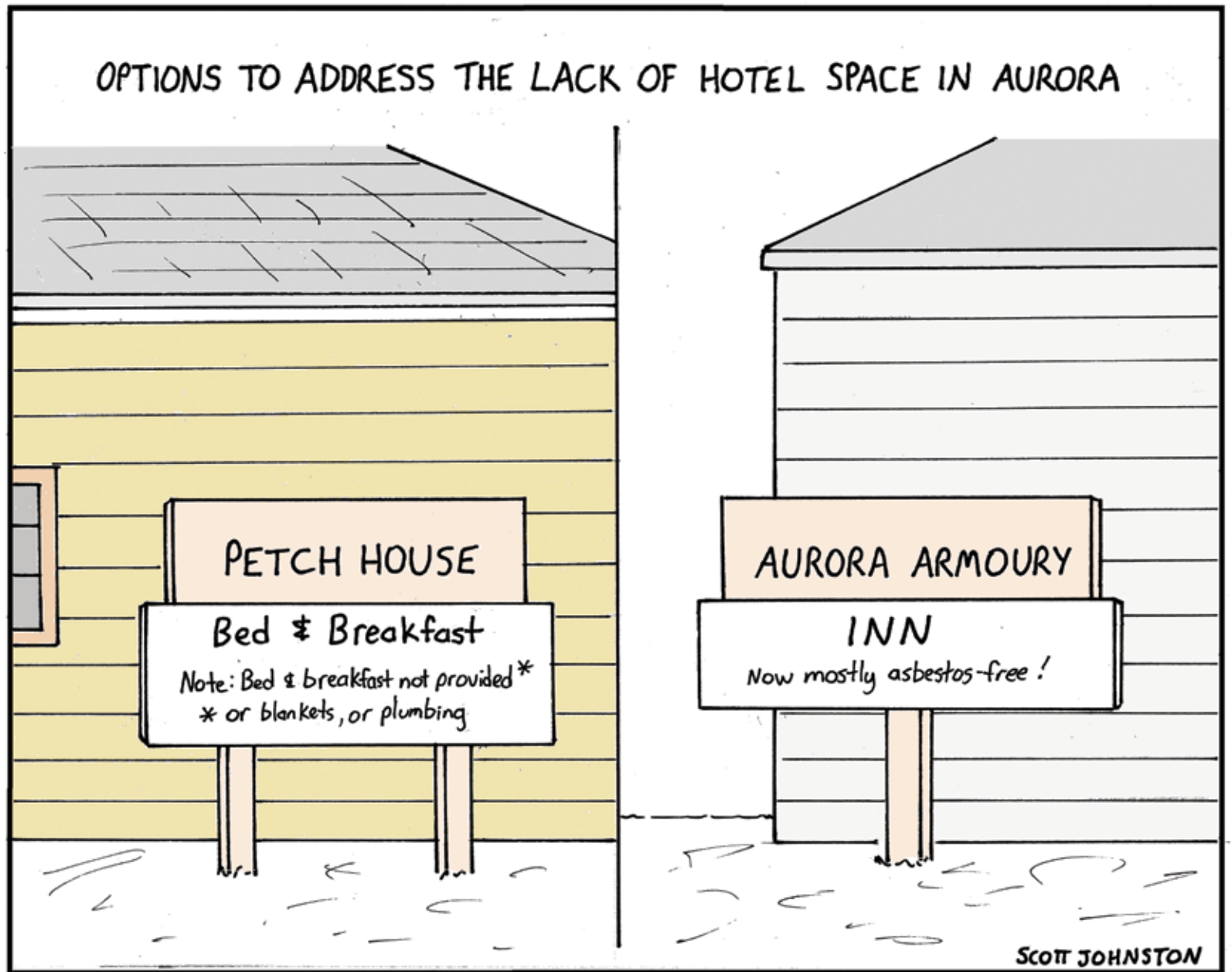
Anna Kroepflin  
Optimist Club of Aurora

*Taxpayers shouldn’t take a hit over “NIMBYs” at Highland Gate*

As a taxpayer, I am not looking forward to a tax increase – Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings are expensive – precipitated by a group of NIMBYs over

Continued on page 5

**Machell’s Corners**



**BROCK’S BANTER**  
Brock Weir

**Or die trying!**

week, it seemed Council was once again putting on its leaden boots when it comes to making a decision on what should be done with Aurora’s Downtown Core.

This has been a problem that has been on the table for very close to 20 years with nearly 50 solutions brainstormed and presented to Council over the last 15 years, and politicians dragging their heels repeatedly over the last 14 years citing over and over again the breakneck speed in which potential solutions and magic bullets are flying at their faces.

There has to come a point where, after 15 years, accusations of moving too fast have to be taken well and truly off the table.

Having been privy to public discussions on the subject for just six of those 15 years, I can tell you in that time I have seen five residents of this Town, some of Aurora’s more actively engaged citizens on this subject, townspeople who contacted me personally to sound off on the issue...

Well, let’s get down to the cold reality: they’re dead.

I’m sure they tried their best to hang on to see something – anything – borne to fruition, but, alas, it was not to be.

Given the nature of the delegations presented to Council at the committee level last week, along with the comments of Council members and Town Staff, it seems we’ll have a bone pile as expansive as the Paris Catacombs before ground is broken on anything municipally driven in the Downtown Core, whether it is on the Yonge Street drag itself or the not-so-newfangled concept of a Cultural Precinct.

Holding my breath throughout a good chunk of the meeting when the conversation seemed to be heading sideways, I began to slowly exhale when Councillor Wendy Gaertner underscored just how long it has taken to get to this point, citing John West, one of the aforementioned five, as one of the people in the trenches

Show of hands – how many of us remember back to those heady days of being a four or five-year-old getting mentally prepared for that daunting first day of school?

If you just raised your hand, chances are you recall one of two things – a) the excitement of getting out of the house and meeting new friends, meeting new teachers, and learning new things... or b) the fear and trepidation that came with getting out of the house, meeting new friends, meeting new teachers and learning new things.

Unless you’re a rare case, you sucked it up, brown bagged it, strapped on your backpack and made the slow walk to your bus stop, or the school itself, having no real concept of the big, bright future that was before you.

Fast forward several years, and you very might very well have had a rerun of the same experience as you weighed your options on what to do once high school wrapped up.

If you’re of a certain age, you’re probably trying to help guide your own kids and grandkids to make the right decision right now at this pivotal point in their lives.

In those early days, you went off to school because it was either something you were eagerly looking forward to or because it was something your parents said you had to do. Either way, the latter was always true.

The second phase is significantly different. You have the whole world opening up to you.

Depending on your grades and interest, you can apply for university, investigate colleges for hands-on studies, or look for opportunities to launch directly into the workplace. You take a leap of faith, hoping you’re making the right decision, knowing that, for better or worse, you are moving forward.

You might have come to regret your decision; you might have backtracked to this crossroads once again to follow a different path; you probably emerged stronger.

But, the important thing is you made a decision.

Perhaps our local lawmakers need to take a look back at the thrill they got from making that very important leap in their lives.

As The Auroran went to press this

with her. The lungs seized one again, however, when she said the accelerated development of the Cultural Precinct Plan was Council “going too fast.”

“I think we have a wonderful opportunity to mark our Council as a very special, forward-thinking, and a Council that really cared about making Aurora better for its residents,” she said. “Let’s be careful, let’s do it right.”

Added Councillor Jeff Thom: “We have had considerable consultation with the community, all of which has not been positive. Rightly, we have to look at this and say, ‘Why would we go to phase three where we are going into a more detailed costing that not everyone is buying into?’”

The truth of the matter is no matter how many years these downtown projects are delayed, there is never going to be anything on the table that is going to garner a 100 per cent buy-in from the community as a whole. Politicians, try as they might, are never going to please everybody, no matter how far they can bend over backwards. Heck, the neighbourhood in question can’t even agree on why municipal efforts to designate their southeast quadrant Aurora’s second Heritage District went belly up, with some choosing to ignore the very existence of the overwhelming opposition to such a designation within their own neighbourhood.

This is not the only Council that has had the opportunity to mark itself “as a very special, forward thinking... Council that really cared about making Aurora better for its residents.” Since the issue of Library Square came up, five Councils have had this chance and, so far, Aurora has very little to show for it aside from money spent on consultants to have jaw sessions with residents and a stack of binders that might need its own special room in the new Joint Operations Centre.

Communities as close as Newmarket are enjoying accolades from far and wide for the steps they have taken to revitalize their downtown. I am not talking about their Main Street because their circumstances are very different from ours, but the areas surrounding this prime corridor are thriving thanks to their politicians, despite a lack of 100 per cent consensus, taking a leap of faith and hoping for the best.

Aurora should take the leap as well.

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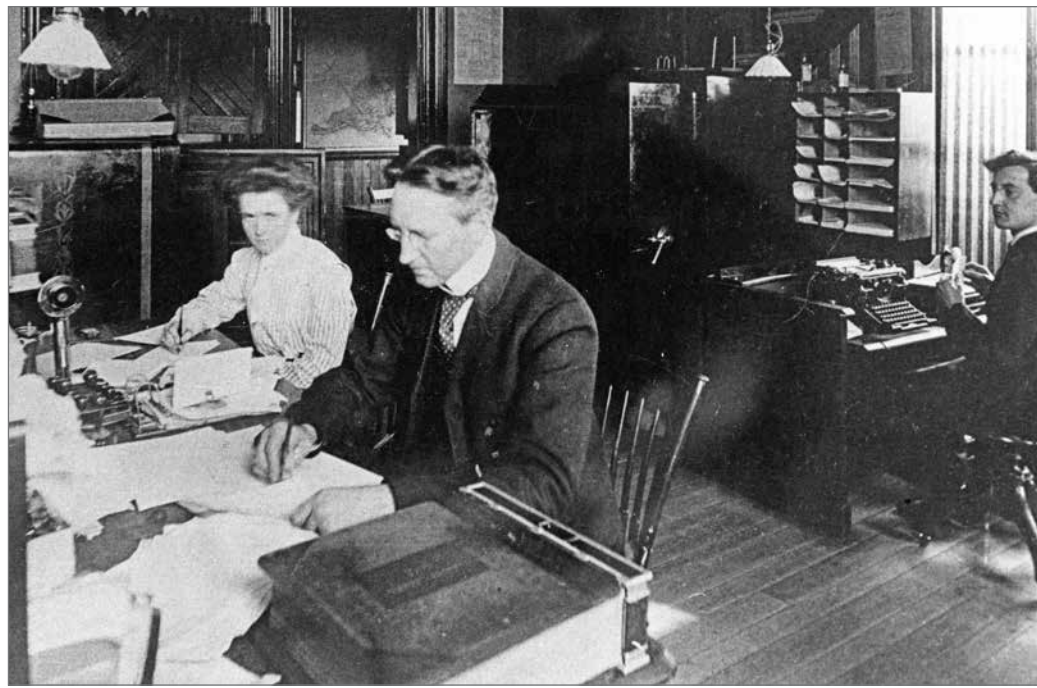
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## The Aurora Museum and Archives Is celebrating...

### HAVE FUN AT WORK DAY!

(January 28)

This black and white photograph shows the interior of J. Fleury's Son's Office on Temperance Street in 1910. Pictured are Miss V. Petch, Mr. Charles Webster and an unidentified man by the window. If you have any information on the unknown office worker, contact [brock@auroran.com](mailto:brock@auroran.com).



## MP's Report

Kyle Peterson, MP  
Newmarket-Aurora

### Pre-Budget Consultation

Happy New Year. I sincerely hope everyone had a chance to spend some quality time with friends and family over the holiday period. I also hope you share my excitement and optimism for the upcoming year.

On Monday of this week, the House returned, and I travelled back to Ottawa after a busy few weeks in here in Aurora and Newmarket.

Over the last month, I have had the opportunity to visit a number of local businesses.

I continue to be impressed by the number of fascinating companies, right here in our own backyard.

As diverse as these businesses are, one similarity struck me: they are all doing innovative work, focussing on the future.

The entrepreneurs behind these businesses share an optimism for Canada's economic future.

I remain steadfast in my commitment to these local companies, and others, to help them create great jobs right here in our community and to help ensure that they continue to innovate.

I also was pleased to meet with a number of constituents and community groups in our office. It is always rewarding to gain the insight from others when we develop public policy.

Our government is committed to consulting with Canadians as we develop the 2016 Budget. Along with other York Region MP colleagues, we hosted a Pre-Budget Consultation in the York Region Administrative Centre.

The input from the participants was quite valuable.

I am holding another session on February 10 at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Please contact my office for details. Also, you may provide any input into Budget 2016 online at [www.fin.gc.ca](http://www.fin.gc.ca). We want to hear from you!

I will be back from Ottawa this weekend, and I am happy to invite you to our New Year's Family Skate on January 30 at 5.45 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. at the Magna Centre in Newmarket.

Please come by and enjoy some free public skating.

I look forward to seeing you there.

As a reminder, our office has been open since mid-December, and my staff is happy to serve you.

We are located at 16600 Bayview Avenue, Suite 202. Our phone number is 905-953-7515 and email is [Kyle.Peterson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kyle.Peterson@parl.gc.ca).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need any information or help.

I hope you find the upcoming year a fulfilling one.

All my best for 2016!

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

their differences with Geranium's plan for Highland Gate.

Of course, a hearing is their right. Perhaps the NIMBYs can moderate their differences and settle the dispute at an informal hearing held before the court case happens.

Should the Highland Gate residents feel they are being short changed and wish to proceed to court, then perhaps they would like to pay the Town's legal costs? Geranium Corp. are well respected builders/developers. Do you think they would go to the OMB if they thought they would lose?

The way I see it anyhow.

L. McCabe  
Aurora

### AURORAN POLL

Is it time for Canada to ditch the "First Past the Post" voting system?

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

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

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
January 26, 2016	44%	56%	0%

Feel free to e-mail Scott at: [machellscorners@gmail.com](mailto:machellscorners@gmail.com)

## Aurora's Older Adult Demographic Growing

The Town of Aurora recently updated its Parks and Recreation Master Plan and Sport Plan.

This is of particular importance to older adults and seniors living in our great community given the significant projected growth of this segment of our population.

Below is an excerpt from the Final Draft of the Master Plan as it relates to the needs of older adults:

*There are an estimated 16,300 Aurora residents in the 55+ age group according to York Region forecasts. Older adults represent the fastest growing segment of the population having nearly doubled their 2006 Census population figure and will account for roughly one in three residents by 2031 with a total market population of 26,500 persons.*

*The Town of Aurora is a progressive example of a municipality that has proactively planned for its older adults, most notably through the construction of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, which is a highly regarded facility of its type to this day. The Aurora Seniors' Centre contains a number of rooms and lounges oriented to the interest of residents 55 years of age and over. It provides a lounge, games room with billiards table, library, fully equipped kitchen, woodworking shop, and computer area through which a wide variety of social activities and fitness programs are delivered to members.*

*The Aurora Seniors' Centre is an excellent example of stand-alone, yet multi-use, senior centre development as it consolidates multiple opportunities on site. While the facility is very well utilized throughout the day, the collective efforts of the Town and the Aurora Seniors Association are anticipated to be able to meet the needs of Aurora residents over the master planning period.*

*A review of utilization data for the various rooms in the Aurora Seniors'*



### Senior Scape

Jim L. Abram

*Centre demonstrates excellent growth with nearly 10,000 hours booked for rentals and programs (compared to 6,900 hours in 2010), however, usage data for the various program rooms shows utilization rates at no more than 25%. It is understood that peak daytime hours are very well used and is constraining the ability to grow programming during these peak times, though it is also understood that the Aurora Seniors' Centre has also achieved great success on a regional scale and that a sizeable portion of members come from outside of town.*

*The online survey ranks additional investments in older adult space as the seventh highest priority, suggesting a moderate level of support exists among survey respondents (whose average age was 52 years) – other consultation activities did not yield significant input regarding older adult facilities but instead generally spoke to making sure older adult services as a whole continue to be considered as the population ages.*

*With no new major indoor facilities recommended through the Master Plan that could integrate new older adult space, the preferred strategy for meeting future growth needs is to continue to use the Aurora Seniors' Centre as the service centre and program delivery hub while enhancing older adult program delivery through an outreach model using other municipal community centres such as the [Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex] and within program rooms located in Victoria Hall, the Petch House (pending results of the ongoing usage study), the Aurora Community Centre., etc.*

*The former public library on Victoria*

*Street could also be an option if it is renovated to accommodate recreational uses (including but not limited to the older adult market) as it would logically fit with the new Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Cultural Centre campus.*

*Applying an outreach model to multi-purpose spaces across Aurora, particularly in peak daytime hours, will help improve distribution of older programming and strengthening neighbourhood-based opportunities throughout the Town.*

*The preferred strategy to do so is something that could possibly be pursued in collaboration with the Aurora Seniors Association. As advanced in Recommendation #2 of the Community Centre assessment, the Town should also continue to explore opportunities to make its existing community centres more inviting and comfortable to older adults such as integration of additional seating and socialization areas in lobbies, and delivering programming through the common multi-purpose rooms or fitness studios. Doing so would make the facilities more "Age Friendly" and complements the intent of the previously discussed youth space assessments.*

The Master Plan recommends as follows: Continue to position the Aurora Seniors' Centre as the primary hub for 55+ programming while exploring ways to extend the reach of services into neighbourhoods through use of existing multi-use community centres, parks and other civic destinations (e.g. Aurora Public Library, the former public library branch, etc.).

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

## Groundhog Daze 2016



### INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

whether it was expected to be a long or short winter. It was a real party atmosphere."

"Now, no one really knows I exist, and The Auroran's about the only annual media coverage I get. As for folks from outside of Town, even if they did show up, there's no hotel space to accommodate them, anyway."

"Maybe that's your problem," I said. "You need to adapt to the times."

She sniffed as she looked over. I think she'd been crying a bit.

"It's been tradition for you to stand out here and make your announcements. That's what Groundhog Day is all about. But, apart from maybe the Arctic Adventure, people don't want to spend hours standing around outside in the cold in February. They'd rather all be inside on their smart phones and tablets."

"So why don't to take to the internet, or Twitter, or Facebook? I bet if you got plugged into social media, you'd get millions of followers from all over the world."

A few days ago, as often happened when I was out walking in the arboretum this time of year, I ran into Aurora Annie, our local weather prognosticating groundhog.

As was frequently the case when I saw her, she looked depressed.

"What's the matter?" I asked, brushing the snow off a convenient bench and sitting down. "Are you concerned about getting your prediction right this year?"

"No, it's not that," she sighed, hopping up to take a spot beside me. "I just don't know if people appreciate me anymore."

"Of course, we do," I reassured her. "Canadians love talking about the weather, and there aren't many towns with someone of your talents. What are you at, a 72 per cent accuracy rate?"

"Actually, it's 78 per cent," she said with a shy smile. Then, throwing her tiny arms wide she continued, "but it's not my meteorological skills, it's that no one really cares what I have to say."

Looking off into the distance, she sighed again.

"I remember when people would flock to Aurora to hear my predictions. There would be newscasters, and well-wishers by the dozen. I'd stand up on that stump over there, the crowd would hush with anticipation, and I'd make my prediction. Then they'd cheer and laugh and smile. It didn't even matter

# Local inventors are two-for-two on CBC's Dragon's Den

By Brock Weir

Stepping in front of CBC's Dragons seems like a daunting task for anyone, but when you've already tangled with the business titans once – and emerged

with a deal – the second-time-around is a lot more comfortable.

At least, that was the case for Aurora inventor Adam Pauze and his son-in-law, former Major League Baseball player Cliff Floyd.

The duo, who struck pay dirt initially during the 2014-2015 season of the hit CBC series after forging a tentative deal with former Dragon Arlene Dickinson over Mr. Pauze's innovative dry wall axe, were back – this time with an invention of Mr. Floyd's: a baseball cap liner to protect the heads of players.

"Cliff came to me just after a couple of pitchers were being hit by balls in Major League Baseball," says Mr. Pauze. "Cliff noticed it and said, 'Hey, you know what, Pops? We need to come up with something that is going to protect our youth.' He was thinking about the kids who play travel baseball right now. We went to our product developer, Bob Dickie at Spark Innovation in King, and between me, Bob and Cliff, we came up with the concept and took it from there."

Spark Innovation was also a significant partner in the development of the drywall axe.

Although they struck a deal with Ms. Dickinson the first time around, she later backed out of the deal.

The axe is still "plugging along", sold nation-wide at Canadian Tire, and experienced a significant bump



Dragon's Den winner Adam Pauze celebrates at Boston Pizza last Wednesday with wife Manon. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

in sales following their first television appearance, but the duo still have yet to "hit the American money machine," according to the inventor.

The new baseball cap liner, however, is a different story.

Friends and family gathered at Aurora's Boston Pizza on Wednesday night for a viewing party to watch the pitch unfold.

They were not disappointed.

The men emerged from the Dragon's Den, deals in hand from Joe Mimran, Michele Romanow and Michael Wekerle for a \$150,000 investment in the product in exchange for a shared \$2.50 on each unit sold over the next 15 years.

"This influx of cash just makes

everything move a lot faster," says Mr. Pauze, noting their latest appearance was taped six months ago. You don't have to wait around, you can order products, and you can do some marketing. Over the last six months, we signed a deal with the two largest baseball associations in the U.S. – the Babe Ruth League and the Cal Ripken League. Now, we are the official fielders' head protection for both leagues and we start selling it through their facilities come April when we're invited to go to their camps and all their tournaments to start selling our product."

The product also recently received the green light to be sold to high schools across Canada and the United States.

Despite this success, however, they are not keen to rest on their laurels. Given the warm reception received by this invention, they are already hard at work brainstorming how it can be used in other sports, including soccer, racquetball and curling, as well as entirely different applications.

"We are in the process of developing a few new products and once the ball cap liner starts moving on, we're going to expand it into the medical field for people with self-injury behaviour, autism and things like that," he says.

## Resident calls for re-think on Precinct

From page 1

us informed about plans that affect our area. The residents represented by this ratepayers group live within a few blocks radius of the planned area and in spite of being told by the Town we, as a registered association, would be informed of any change that would affect our area, this did not happen."

Traffic studies, she said, have been requested many times over the past 15 years, yet building, development and redevelopment have rolled on in the heritage neighbourhood and traffic problems have mounted.

"How can the Town approve all this development and determine if the infrastructure in place is adequate to accommodate the increased traffic and parking without doing traffic and parking studies?" she pondered. "How do you think people are going to get around? It seems to us that development in this area is done without any forward planning as far as traffic and parking. With these concerns in mind, we are asking the Town do a traffic study and a new parking study to determine if this Cultural Precinct Plan should even be considered. To do otherwise will confirm that you do not care about the wellbeing of the southeast area residents."

Forward planning is key to the success of this area, according to Ms. Morton Leonard. Over the last few years, she has seen businesses along the historic Yonge Street corridor come and go. They had sufficient parking, she said, but not enough shoppers to keep them afloat. Consideration should also be given to attracting GO Train commuters to venture west from the station and into the Cultural Precinct area for reasons

other than picking up their cars for the drive home.

"If you stand on the GO platform and look west, you can look directly into the west side of Aurora," she said. "For too long, Aurora's east and west communities have been divided. We have an opportunity to bring both sides together by using Mosley and Tyler Streets to create a cultural corridor rather than a precinct. Let's celebrate our thoroughfares. Let's tell Aurora's development story."

"We need a sophisticated plan that includes a vision that appreciates both Canada's and the Town's history; one that creates economic opportunity and supports popular contemporary uses," she said.

The concept plan also saw pushback from representatives from Trinity Anglican Church. The vision calls for a pedestrian laneway to be created to the rear of the church, connecting a pathway directly north of the Aurora Public Library and out through to Wells Street, as well as a reconfiguration of the church's existing parking lot.

Wardens from the church appeared before Councillors to state their opposition, concerned that Council's vote could be seen as a wholesale approval of the plan.

Although they came at their opposition from different directions, the neighbours – individual and church alike – were united in their belief there is a better option out there.

"It needs to be based on ideas that can endure for 50 years as well as a century," concluded Ms. Morton Leonard. "Please rise up to the challenge of a bigger and better plan."



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# Confusion over Cultural Precinct could delay plans for core

By Brock Weir

Enthusiasm for the future of Aurora's Cultural Precinct was dampened around the Council table last week as local lawmakers, municipal staff, and members of the public alike expressed confusion over the next steps of the project.

Wording in the report before Council, argued some Councillors, implied Council was giving its endorsement to the conceptual plan, which would see a significant re-think in the look, feel and purpose of Aurora's Downtown Core, and moving towards an implementation phase.

Others, however, said the conceptual plan was just that – a concept – and moving ahead was the next step in honing a sharper vision for the future.

"I am not asking you to approve the concept, but I believe the approval in principle has already been given by Council with regards to the development of a concept for a Cultural Precinct and, with that, and with the approval moving forward with phase three, we are continuing on and hope to get to a point where Council will be provided with a report and recommendations on how to move forward, and the strategies to move forward, on a Cultural Precinct sometime in February or March," explained Al Downey, Director of Parks and Recreation, who is taking the lead on the Precinct plan.

Nevertheless, wording in the report outlining Council's "endorsement" worried some Councillors who, earlier in last week's Council meeting, were faced with significant concerns from area residents as well as members of Trinity Anglican Church.

"We all agree it is a great idea and is a vital part of how we're going to drive people to the Downtown Core," said Councillor Jeff Thom. "We certainly want to make sure we include as many voices as possible in the process, but when you look back at what we have done so far...the plan conceptually hasn't changed all that much [following public input]. The plan is almost

identical to the original plan that was given to us. My concern is if we move forward, tacitly or otherwise, with the plan we have...it says consultation says the plan is great, which is not borne out by the people here."

These concerns were shared by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who said there were many missing pieces to the plan so far, including an inventory of all "historical" properties in Yonge and Wellington's southeast quadrant, parking studies, a study on the use of existing buildings (as well as re-use), any zoning changes that might be needed, the impact of multi-residential use on the neighbourhood, and the potential of "commercial infiltration" into what has traditionally been a residential neighbourhood.

"I am prepared to receive for information and do nothing else with this, certainly nothing in principle," she said. "It is true that the community endorsed the idea of having a culturally-focused area in the southeast historical quadrant. That was entrenched in the promenade plan. I believe everyone at this Council table would like to see that happen, but it was just an idea. I think we have a wonderful opportunity to mark our Council as a very special forward-thinking, and a Council that really cared about making Aurora better for its residents. Let's be careful and let's do it right."

"From what I understand at the table and from what I have heard, 'receive for information tonight' is an endorsement of that plan. I see people shaking their heads, but it sounds to me that that is what is happening and that is what is already happening. I think due diligence needs to be done now."

Among those disagreeing with this assessment was Mayor Geoff Dawe who reiterated the Cultural Precinct "concept plan" is still in the incubation phase and remains a concept.

"Conceptual' is the word and we're not moving forward with anything but a concept," said Mayor Dawe. "I want to have all the information I can get before I make a decision on how I think best to

move forward."

Added Councillor Tom Mrakas: "Do I have some issues with the concept of the plan? I do, but I don't think it is the time and place to do it. We continue on the path we have provided our director to take with the consultants, get all the information we need to finally look at this, take the residents' concerns, sit down, lock the nine of us in a room and actually get something done with this area."

For me, this area, especially [the block bordered by Yonge Street, Mosley Street, Victoria Street, and Church Street] is something that will kick-start the revitalization of the downtown, something this Town needs, something this Town has been looking to do for 15 years. This time we have an opportunity to do it right, come out with a plan everyone can see and be happy with

it, and the vision for Aurora can move forward in a way Aurora as a whole wants it to."

From the perspective of Councillor Paul Pirri, now is not the time to delay.

"You don't grow a community by not doing anything and letting things wither and die. There is an opportunity to do something," he said. "What exactly that is nobody has known for the last 15 or 20 years. We're coming forward with a plan for the area to drive people not just to Yonge Street to go shopping, but hopefully to the Cultural Centre, to the Armoury, depending on what gets created there in the future."

"Is everything going to be rock solid in our conceptual plan? No. I would argue it is not intended to be, either. It gives an idea, it gives a vision, it gives something to aspire to, and I think that is what is important here."

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## AYSC seeks Town's help for new facility

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club has recently made great strides in helping their players take the next steps to the big leagues, but despite top-notch soccer fields in the area, the one thing that is lacking has been looming over the club for quite some time.

According to Jimmy Brennan, Executive Director of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC), the elephant on the field is a lack of dressing rooms and the AYSC is seeking the Town's help in addressing that deficit, ideally at Sheppard's Bush.

"The Aurora Youth Soccer Club is an organization that continues to rapidly grow and strives to be one of the top clubs in Ontario," said Mr. Brennan, who made his pitch for a \$750,000 contribution from the municipality to construct a new change room and shower facility in the Town that could be

used by all sports and teams that happen to be using the fields. "The facilities are absolutely brilliant in this Town. When hockey players come off the ice, the first thing they do is go into the dressing rooms, shower, and get changed. [But] the problem we're having is we don't have one dressing room in this Town."

"We are bringing in teams from all over the Province, players are coming from Windsor and Ottawa, from up north, the GTA, and all over, and they have to get changed in their cars, play a game for 90 minutes in the middle of summer, and then they have to get back in their cars and drive home for another five hours, or to wherever they came from. We are asking for your help in helping us provide a dressing room and a great environment we can be proud of, just like every organization in Town is."

Such a facility, he said, would be open to rugby and lacrosse teams using the

Continued on page 8

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## Which of These Costly Homeseller Mistakes Will You Make When You Sell Your Aurora Home?

Aurora/King - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money.

This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home-sellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse- financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market.

As this report uncovers, most

home-sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step system to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar".

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# Volunteer honoured for 40 years of work with Cancer Society

By Brock Weir

When John Hunter was diagnosed with cancer nearly 30 years ago, his wife, Liz, wished she had someone to turn to.

It's not that she didn't have family and friends there to support her as she helped care for John, but there are just some things you can't share with those closest to you.

"I just wished I had somebody there I could talk to and with family you can't say all the things you want to just get off your chest," says Mrs. Hunter, 81.

John succumbed to the disease 27

years ago this week and, since that time, she has dedicated herself to those battling cancer, often acting as that all-too-important sounding board and comforting hand.

Mrs. Hunter was one of several Aurora residents honoured for long-time volunteer service on Sunday by the Holland River Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society. She was recognized for her steady 40 years of volunteerism with the organization which started with fundraising shortly after the couple immigrated to Canada from Jamaica in the 1960s.

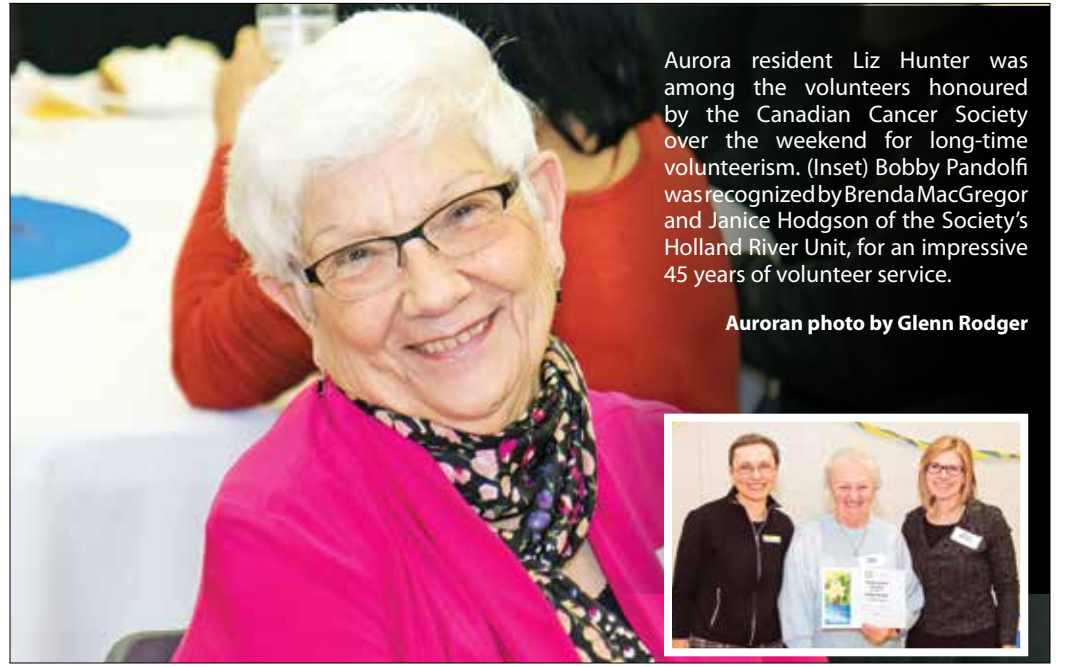
"I was always brought up to help your fellow man in any way," says Mrs. Hunter. "It could just be a smile or a kind deed. There was a lot of poverty in the area we lived and we needed to help people. When I came here to a totally different lifestyle, I said to a friend, 'what can I do?' I couldn't go to work because my kids were young and I didn't want to leave them, but she [suggested] I volunteer with the Cancer Society.

"I just started going door to door canvassing."

Things escalated from there soon enough. When her kids grew up, she was back in the workforce but continued fundraising efforts door-to-door and becoming involved with the Society's annual daffodil campaign.

"I had so many family and good friends who got this dreadful disease and I just felt I had to help them," she explains.

But the importance of her work she



Aurora resident Liz Hunter was among the volunteers honoured by the Canadian Cancer Society over the weekend for long-time volunteerism. (Inset) Bobby Pandolfi was recognized by Brenda MacGregor and Janice Hodgson of the Society's Holland River Unit, for an impressive 45 years of volunteer service.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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and that of her fellow volunteers was poignantly driven home with John's diagnosis. Looking back over his struggle, she knew she wanted to be there for the families and caregivers of those going through the battle and as soon as the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre opened at Southlake, she was among the first people to sign up as a volunteer.

"In the Centre, I admire the care the patients get and the attention not only from the doctors and the nurses and all the technicians, volunteers, and staff who so genuinely care, but we too learn from the patients," she says. "When I see what they bear, I put myself into their position and ask myself, 'Would I be able to handle this the way they do?' The patients are absolutely strong, but they are so grateful and appreciative of anything people can do."

Outside of the hospital, Ms. Hunter continues her annual work with the daffodil campaign and encounters fledgling volunteers, often high school students completing their required

community service hours, as they become involved with the Canadian Cancer Society for the first time. And sometimes these new volunteers also find opportunities to help within the walls of Southlake as well.

"I have stayed with the students on their first time to explain to them how very important this is, that they are doing a necessity and they are doing a wonderful job," says Ms. Hunter. "They know it is a dreadful disease, but maybe they don't quite realise that, sooner or later, they are going to know somebody [affected]."

"You have to learn how to approach people on the need for funding because that is how we hope to find the cures. When my husband got it 27 years ago, and I see what they can do now, it is absolutely incredible. It makes you feel good they have come this far and a lot of it is due to the funds we manage to get. There is nothing more rewarding to me in my life now than volunteering. It doesn't feel like 40 years and if I could do more, I would!"

## Change rooms would be open to all sports: AYSC

From page 7

Sheppard's Bush fields, or any other sports that happened to be on the turf, so it would be an investment in the community as a whole.

This past December, the AYSC was named one of two organizations involved in an expansion into the semi-professional League 1 Ontario ahead of the upcoming season though Aurora United FC, which will field a squad for men and women to allow players to stay with the club in Aurora before determining their next steps.

But there are certain criteria that need to be met with this next step.

"For the last number of years, we have kind of been pushing it off and trying to get away from it, but it is something that is haunting us now," Mr. Brennan told

Councillors. "They are really pushing for us to make this happen and get our facilities right so we can meet these standards."

Founded in 1964, the AYSC now boasts over 5,000 youth and adult members from across the community and beyond, providing not only youth programs and leagues for men and women, but also opportunities for special needs players. Mr. Brennan said the club would try to contribute to the estimate \$750,000, but by getting some "expertise" on board, this number could probably get "a lot lower."

Councillors received Mr. Brennan's comments at the Committee level last week and referred them back to staff to come back with a report.

With files from Jake Courtepatte

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# Aurora student not afraid to tackle the tough issues facing the world

From page 1

being held responsible for their actions with regards to human rights and environmental violations in ways other than just fines.”

But, if Olivia finds herself assigned to debate why Donald Trump – to pick a presidential candidate at random (or not) – is the best thing to happen to the United States, she is prepared for that.

“One thing debating has taught me is how to argue against your own beliefs, which I actually think is a decent life skill: how to swallow your pride, accept you have an opinion, and that is what it is. You can’t say your opinion is right on something like politics. Everyone has their own belief system and ideals. Someone might very much agree with Donald Trump’s policies, and there are ways in which I can see why someone would agree, even if I wouldn’t, necessarily, but if I had to argue why he would be a great candidate, I could.”

Topics Olivia can confirm she is tackling in other areas are no less heady. For her persuasive speech, she is preparing arguments on the problems with juvenile incarceration in both Canada and the United States, an issue she says raises a “multitude of concerns.”

“In 22 states, children are able to be prosecuted as adults,” she says. “If you are 10-years-old and you commit a crime, you could possibly be serving life in prison. It doesn’t make any sense, especially when you have children in situations that are hostile like prisons. You are kind of breeding them in a way at such a developmental stage of their lives to be scared of things and to hate authority.

“Offenders who get put in prison before the age of 18, have an 80 per cent higher chance of reoffending because they just grow to hate police officers and hate authority, and hate adults, and it is this awful situation. You need to focus on making kids better, not sticking them in jail.”

For her reading, Olivia has chosen

a selection from *The Day the Voices Stopped* about a man who, after 30 years, no longer suffers from schizophrenia, but debating, she says, is her true passion.

Olivia, now in Grade 11, first went to Debate Camp in the summer following Grade 8. One of the instructors at the camp told her it takes two years to get really good at it, and Olivia says she took this as a challenge. By Grade 10, she began taking home trophies.

“When I was younger and I was going to debate a lot of older kids in content and policy-based debates, it was really intimidating because I hadn’t learned anything yet,” she says. “When I was in Grade 8 and we were talking about the heads of corporations and international law, I was like, ‘What is this?’

“The first debate I did was at this camp and it was a philosophical and moral debate with the resolution: this house has found concrete evidence that God doesn’t exist.’ The house would destroy the evidence and the opposition argues it would share it with the world. I was government and I had to argue why that would cause so many problems. It was interesting because it was so hypothetical. You were thinking about fallout as opposed to the specifics and facts. It was the first time I was confident in my speaking and it made me realise I could actually debate and it gave me confidence in other debates. [Since then] there have been competitions where I haven’t necessarily placed or didn’t do as well as I thought I should have done, but [debating competitions are] really about personal improvement. A good thing to compare it to is athletics like track or cross country. You can be an Olympic cross country runner and never come in the Top 3, but you’re better than the majority of the world, you know you did your best, and I think if you know you worked hard, practiced, and gave it everything you could, then I would be happy.”



Olivia Railton’s talents are not limited to tackling the tough issues in a debate. She is also an accomplished musician, as demonstrated at a Stone Road area home last fall at the 2015 Holiday Home Tour hosted by Pickering College.

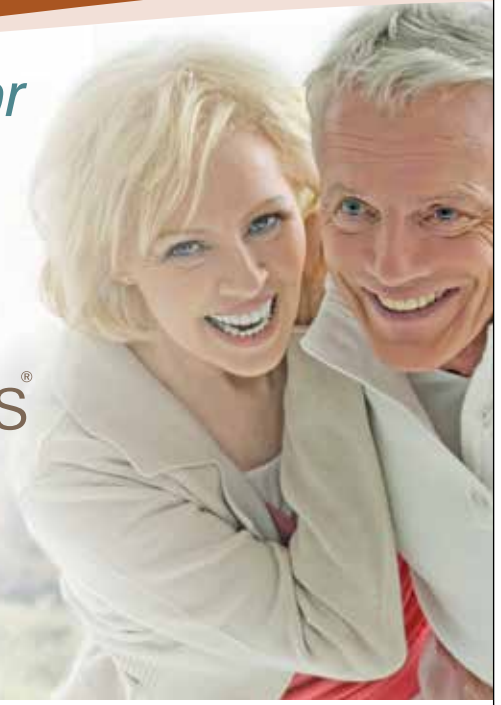
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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# - THE AURORAN - Arts & Culture

## Coffee House musicians look to provide Aurorans their moment of Zen

By Brock Weir

Do you ever have those weekend moments of standing by the window, coffee in hand, watching the snow fall, or watching the sunrise, completely at peace with the world?

For musician Jared Stafford, that feeling can be summed up as “ambedo”

and it is a feeling he hopes to share with his fellow Aurorans one note at a time.

“It is that feeling you get when you are in a trance moment,” says Mr. Stafford, 24. “It is tranquility, you become at peace, and time almost stands still. [My music partner and I] liked that concept, especially for a Sunday because at the end of the week, people want to relax and enjoy themselves and get lost in a moment. We hope we can provide that experience through music.”

You are invited to come out and experience your own sense of the feeling at the second Ambedo Coffee House Jam, which will take place this Sunday, January 31, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Second Cup, located on Bayview Avenue just south of Hollidge Boulevard.

The Open Mic night is the brainchild of Mr. Stafford who has been looking for a local open mic night outside of the typical pub and bar scene that would be family friendly and have an appeal to people of all ages and musical tastes.

“I felt in our area there is a little bit of culture missing with regards to the availability of events for people who just want to go and perform,” or some young people who have never performed before, to have that outlet,” says Mr. Stafford, who says his own musical heart lies in alternative rock, with splashes of the classics and show tunes. “This Coffee House concept is something I feel is appealing to a lot of different people and different performers. It is a lot more intimate, it is lower-key, and you can bring your kids or grandparents and they can



Local musicians Jared Stafford, left, and Ryan Lim entertain the crowds at their first coffee house earlier this month.

Photo by Ryan Lim

enjoy it too. It’s not going to blow the roof off the place!”

Forming the Coffee House at the Second Cup began with cultivating a good relationship with the owner. A regular customer at the location, Mr. Stafford says its bright, open concept design provides the perfect atmosphere.

“As a performer, it can be pretty intimidating to go and perform in front of a bunch of people you don’t know who may be a little tipsy and getting pretty loud,” he says. “It is a lot less intimidating when people are sitting, relaxed, paying attention, are quiet and are actually listening to you. That is the vibe we got on our first Sunday performance. Everyone was really interested in hearing the musicians and they were really respectful of that.”

At that first go-round, Mr. Stafford says everything went according to plan. They took what they liked from other open mic nights in the area and tailored it to the venue, while some of the rowdier elements were left firmly at

the door. Looking back, he says he was “quite pleased” with the song choices offered by the various performers, including a lot of selections atypical of open mic fare.

“People were willing to try it because the setting allowed it,” he says. “I am going to [measure the success of this] through the enjoyment of the people who are there. I am big on feedback. I will be the guy who will ask everybody I get the chance to how they enjoyed it and what they would like to see. I have a whole strategy for the future, but for now this is definitely the starting venue. It is one I would like to keep going as long as possible with support. If the reputation gets out there, that will be possible.”

For more information on the Ambedo Coffee House Jam, visit [www.facebook.com/AmbedoJamNight](http://www.facebook.com/AmbedoJamNight). If you are interested in performing, drop Mr. Stafford a line through their Facebook page or come out to speak to him at the event itself.

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
The Optimist Club of Aurora hosts a fundraising Wine Tasting event this evening at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 6 - 10.30 p.m. The tasting will feature four Ontario wineries, three food vendors, a silent auction, plus a professional wine taster to guide you through the process, all accompanied by a live jazz duo. Tickets are \$20 and available at McAlpine Ford Lincoln or by contacting Greg at [gjway2@gmail.com](mailto:gjway2@gmail.com).

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, is pleased to announce John Sheard Presents the Great Reunion - A Night of Beatles Classics. Take a walk down Penny Lane, revisit Yesterday and wander through Strawberry Fields. You'll know every song! Cash bar - concert at 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 advance, or \$30 day of concert, plus HST. For information, or to purchase tickets, call 905-713-1818, or visit [auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
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The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents a FREE Family Day Carnival, featuring the Pan Fantasy Steel Pan Band! They took us by storm last year, so we invited them back for a riotous afternoon of music, dancing, Local Colour Aurora creating in the galleries, family art activities - and all-around general merriment. Event 1 - 4 p.m.; drop in and enjoy! For information, call 905 713-1818, or visit [auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://auroraculturalcentre.ca).

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
The Newmarket and Area Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association presents its 2016 Fundraising Gala and Silent Auction today at 2 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Join us for an afternoon of spectacular music in support of local, independent music instructors. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$40 for families. For more information, visit [www.newmarketormta.org](http://www.newmarketormta.org).

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12**  
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The Resourceful Mother is hosting The Parenting Symposium with eight natural health experts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Andrew's Valley Golf Course for parents of children or teens who want to maximize their family's physical and emotional wellbeing and parent from the heart. For more information, visit [www.theresourcefulmother.com](http://www.theresourcefulmother.com).

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents a FREE Family Day Carnival, featuring the Pan Fantasy Steel Pan Band! They took us by storm last year, so we invited them back for a riotous afternoon of music, dancing, Local Colour Aurora creating in the galleries, family art activities - and all-around general merriment. Event 1 - 4 p.m.; drop in and enjoy! For information, call 905 713-1818, or visit [auroraculturalcentre.ca](http://auroraculturalcentre.ca).

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## Hurricanes tame Aurora Tigers to snap winning streak

By Jake Courtepatte

A pair of streaks came to an end at the Ray Twinney Complex in Newmarket last Thursday, but the joy was one-sided.

The Newmarket Hurricanes halted a two-game losing streak with a 4-3 victory over the Aurora Tigers, whose three-goal deficit in the first was too much to keep a five-game winning streak afloat.

Aurora goaltender Josh Boyko seemed almost stunned by the time he heard the first intermission buzzer, allowing goals from Ryan Young, Jonathan Colley and Max Routledge through twelve Hurricane shots.

Captain Daniel Mantenuto slowed the bleeding just over a minute into the second period, tapping in a gimme that Canes goalie Dalton Ewing thought was under his pad.

The Tigers couldn't capitalize on an almost two minute-long 5-on-3's, and paid for it when former Tiger Todd Winder put the Canes back on top by three late in the second period.

Ryan Shaw, sent the other way in the deal that made Winder a Hurricane, scored for the Tigers in the third while Drake Board added one of his own, eventually succumbing to a 4-3 score.

Despite what happened on the ice, it can hardly be called a loss when so much is gained for charity.

The game was this season's installment of the annual "Pink in the Rink" charity game, with all proceeds going to the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Though final numbers are still being tallied, last year's event raised over

\$15,000, while almost 500 fans showed up last week to show their support.

"The sight is just incredible," said Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson. "The rivalry here is great, but for these two teams to come together for charity really is something special."

With the home team decked out in vibrant pink uniforms, both teams took time to remember two former Hurricanes – KJ Ramolla and Kevin Lord – as well as Josh Sedore, the son of Steve Sedore, a former Hurricanes assistant coach.

It was the first Hurricanes victory in the annual battle in three years.

"You can always expect a good battle between these two teams," said Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen. "No matter what, you get what you paid for."

With the regular season schedule winding down, however, the focus does have to be put on the standings board. As the loss was the Tigers' only game of the week, they have fallen four points behind the Markham Royals for first place in the OJHL's North division, who earned back-to-back wins on the road over the weekend.

It's far from a comfortable position, sitting in fifth in the Northeast conference.

The Tigers return to the Aurora Community Centre for consecutive home games this weekend, starting Friday evening when they host the Georgetown Raiders, who lead the Southwest conference. Only a dozen games remain before the postseason.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit [www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com](http://www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com).

## Aurora Tigers peewees put on scoring clinic at Toronto tournament

By Jake Courtepatte

With a series against the rival Newmarket Redmen looming, the Minor Peewee A Tigers picked up an extra boost of confidence at just the right time.

They came away the champions at

the Toronto Aeros' annual "Winter Challenge" tournament, held last weekend.

A 2-2 tie with the Fox Valley Cyclones of Chicago would prove to be the only falter in the Tigers' system, handily shutting out the

Continued on page 12

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## They could get used to this Panthers come home with Gold again

By Cynthia Walters

The Aurora Panthers Midget BB team travelled to Chicago, Illinois to compete in the 2016 Winter Classic from January 16 – 18 and captured gold in a thrilling final game Monday afternoon vs. U19 College Jeanne Sauve Olympiens of Winnipeg. The gold-clinching goal was scored by the Panthers with only 26.6 seconds remaining in the evenly matched championship game. The coaches are extremely proud of the high level of compete from all 17 players throughout the tournament to represent Central York Region so well. This is their third gold medal of the season and the team now returns home to finish off their regular LLFHL season where they currently sit first at 19-0-2.

## Peewee Tigers end season on high note

From page 11

Toronto Shamrocks 3 – 0 later the same afternoon.

An 8 – 1 win over the Sudbury Wolves and a 6 – 0 shutout of the Don Mills Mustangs followed, leaving Aurora as the top seed out of round robin play.

A more confident Tigers squad entered the semifinal rematch with the Cyclones, earning a 5 – 1 victory early Sunday morning to send Aurora to the championship game.

There they met the West Hill Golden Hawks, winning 3 – 1 for their first tournament title in four tries this season.

The win came as a fitting closure for a season-opening wound, when Aurora lost 3 – 2 in a tournament championship in Toronto early in the season.

Six games over three days put a toll

on the Tigers' roster, never playing with a full bench. Despite this fact, the position juggling seemed to work as Aurora put up 25 goals-for in the tournament, surrendering only four against.

With one of their preseason goals now under their belt, the Tigers have turned to the York Region playoffs in a five-game series with the Redmen. Aurora took an early lead with a 5 – 2 win in Game 1 earlier this week.

The next game is Friday at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. Puck drop is set for 7:45p.m.

The Tigers finished the regular season with an impressive 31-9-9 record in early January.

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Photo by Chris MacEachern

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# AbuseHurts Delivers Hope through weekend furniture sale

By Brock Weir

Their capable hands have helped refurbish Yellow Brick House and taught women and men coming out of shelters and mental health facilities valuable skills as they get ready for a fresh start, but this Saturday you can put your own hands into the mix.

The Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness opens up the doors of their Edward Street warehouse this Saturday, January 30, and next Saturday, February 6, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a special sale of furniture, lamps, jewellery, dishes, pictures, clothing and gift items.

Proceeds from all sales will go to Abuse Hurts, a division of the Centre, which assists over 200,000 people every year from over 100 agencies across Canada.

The Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness moved to Aurora last June, taking over warehouse space on Connaught Avenue for their Delivering Hope program.

The Delivering Hope initiative brings together 10 to 12 women from local shelters who come out to have their hair, makeup and nails done, are able to pick out a new outfit or two, a new Danier coat and purse, and a full bag of makeup, according to program founder Ellen Campbell.

In addition to this arm of the program, it also provides furniture, new bedding, used housewares, and other important items to help individuals who have suffered abuse get back on their feet.

Partnering with the JRCC Furniture Depot out of Thornhill to collect these furnishings, the focus of the Centre has shifted slightly in recent years.

“Now that we are working with the JRCC, we are finding we are taking furniture we are not going to be selling to them,” explains Ms. Campbell. “Now, the JRCC helps us with furniture, and we help them, but we decided we would like to try and sell some of the higher-end furniture because we raise our own money and take no government funding. We have to be constantly finding different ways to raise money.”

“We were getting a lot of older furniture, but it was solid wood, so we started painting it with volunteer painting classes. We paint some of the older furniture, but we’re also teaching the women how to paint. They can come and learn for free, hoping they will come and develop a skill. We are going to try this on these Saturdays and if it does well, we’ll open it up more often. I think we’re going to do okay because we can pick the furniture up; we charge for pickup, but not a lot, covering our gas and the person we have to hire to do that, but then we can give a tax receipt for the furniture – and we’re getting some nice furniture. I am hoping certainly over a six month period we will be able to raise a considerable amount of money.”

The January 30 and February 6 sales run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 125 Edward Street. Parking and entrance is at the rear of the building.

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# Soccer Club looks for continued relationship with Town

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Soccer Club is now in its 62<sup>nd</sup> year of providing sporting opportunities to men and women within and beyond the community, now based out of their Highland Park home.

The lease is up on the municipally-owned land, however, and the group (ASC) is looking to continue its growth at the Clubhouse it has come to call home.

This week, Council is set to review a recommendation from staff to renew their lease for a further ten years, with options to renew for two five year periods following that.

The recommendation came forward nearly a year after their current lease agreement expired and the Club has had to work with the Town on a month to month basis. The lease renewal, however,

**Continued on page 15**

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### CLUES ACROSS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cathode-ray tube</li> <li>4. A leglike part</li> <li>8. Old world, new</li> <li>11. Sec. of Def. Panetta</li> <li>13. Greek god of E or SE wind</li> <li>15. Supervises flying</li> <li>16. In a way, bothers</li> <li>19. Federal savings bank</li> <li>20. Stout lever with a sharp spike</li> <li>21. F.S. Fitzgerald's wife Zelda</li> <li>22. Snakelike fish</li> <li>23. Scads</li> <li>24. Prophet</li> <li>26. Former "Daily Show" star</li> <li>31. Organized crime head</li> <li>34. Oil obtained from flowers</li> <li>35. 2X WWE Divas Champ</li> <li>38. Brine cured Canadian cheese</li> <li>39. Slow oozing</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41. Volt-ampere</li> <li>42. Phenyl salicylate</li> <li>44. European defense organization</li> <li>45. Anglo-Saxon theologian</li> <li>46. Doctrine</li> <li>49. Soviet peninsula</li> <li>51. Large long-armed ape</li> <li>55. Protects from weather</li> <li>56. Mops</li> <li>60. Bridge expert</li> <li>61. Fabric woven from goat and camel hair</li> <li>62. Capital of Honduras</li> <li>64. Tell on</li> <li>65. Wooden clog</li> <li>66. Beloved</li> <li>67. Fed</li> <li>68. Decays</li> <li>69. Single Lens Reflex</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

### CLUES DOWN

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applauds</li> <li>2. Actress Zellweger</li> <li>3. Obtained by addition</li> <li>4. Chief executive officer</li> <li>5. Flees</li> <li>6. Murres genus</li> <li>7. ___ Wong, spy</li> <li>8. Works well as a remedy</li> <li>9. Tripod</li> <li>10. A nautical unit of depth</li> <li>12. Most populous Native Am. people</li> <li>14. Genus Capricornis</li> <li>17. Universally mounted spinning wheel</li> <li>18. Spanish shawl</li> <li>25. Macaws</li> <li>27. No (Scottish)</li> <li>28. Takes dictation</li> <li>29. Spanish appetizers</li> <li>30. Muse of lyric and love poetry</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>32. Alias</li> <li>33. A way to beat</li> <li>36. Son of Jacob and Zilpah</li> <li>37. Amount of time</li> <li>39. Most guileful</li> <li>40. Younger US political party</li> <li>43. Electrical resistance unit</li> <li>45. Side way</li> <li>47. Milton's Cornus composer Henry</li> <li>48. Sheep up to age one</li> <li>49. Green algae</li> <li>50. Capital of Morocco</li> <li>52. S.E. French city on the Rhone</li> <li>53. Asian nation</li> <li>54. Great No. Am. RV Rally</li> <li>57. Culture medium and a food-gelling agent</li> <li>58. Inflamed lymph node swelling</li> <li>59. Native of Edinburgh</li> <li>63. Belonging to a thing</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

## Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION	M	M	E	S		D	A	S		S	O	S				
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K	O	R			R	E	D			S	A	R	I			



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# CLASSIFIEDS

## Town examines lease process

From page 13

raised some eyebrows among Council member when the item came forward for review by General Committee last week, with some members arguing it was important to move forward now to give the Club a degree of certainty over its future on the property with others saying more information was needed to ensure the best deal for all parties.

"We need to do some processes to be more responsive to these groups," said Mayor Geoff Dawe, noting he was in favour of a new agreement, but one for five years while the Town's lease agreements process gets overhauled to be more "responsive" to groups like the Aurora Soccer Club. "The lease for the Aurora Soccer Club was held up in legal for a while. I think we just need a better process to handle all our leases and that is why I am thinking...a five year lease will help us bring this into greater conformity and a better process."

Councillors seemed to agree a better process was needed, but had different ideas on how to reach that objective. Councillor Michael Thompson, for instance, said a five year lease might impact any long term decisions the Club might have to make in the future, such as renovations, and longer-range bookings for weddings and other events.

"There is a potential for impact," said Councillor Thompson, but Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation, said he knew of no plans for the clubhouse over the next five year period.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, on the other hand, said she was in favour of delaying a decision for a week or two for further information to come back to Council on the terms of previous lease agreements.

"I want them to stay on the property, but my understanding was the last time around they were renting out the clubhouse and using the money for their own benefit," she said. "In the last lease, that wasn't to happen and they were only to use it for their own use."

Martin Ambrose of the Aurora Soccer Club appeared at the podium before last week's discussion, noting the partnership between the Club and the Town is "what community is all about."

"It is about doing the right thing for our constituents, respecting one another, and our institutions and the relationships we have with each," he said. "We certainly feel privileged to be both a contributing and evolving organization within this community."

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