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# THE AURORED

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 16 No. 15 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of February 4, 2016



**8 Crayola CRAYONS**

**FULL SPECTRUM**  
Lexie, a Grade 12 student at Aurora High School, proves crayons aren't just for kids at the closing reception to their school's graduate art show, Vision, at the Aurora Cultural Centre last week. (Inset) Ticanna sands under her umbrella-ella-ella, modelling wearable art as part of the showcase. For more on the show, please see Page 10.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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## Mavrinac "parkland" should be sold, says consultant

By Brock Weir

A six acre parcel of land on Mavrinac Boulevard which the Town purchased last year following a contentious fight with Minto Developments should be sold to secure parkland in other areas of Town, according to consultants developing a new master plan for parks and recreation in Aurora.

Council is to debate the plan, first at the Committee level, on February 16 before the plan is potentially

adopted by Council the following Tuesday.

According to consultant Todd Brown, who presented the proposed new Parks and Recreation Plan to Council last week, local lawmakers must decide whether or not to maintain the land in question, but their master plan recommends against transforming the property into a park.

"The parcel really is a parcel that has a more passive or naturalization opportunity [rather than soccer

fields] because of its location encircled on three sides by residential uses," said Mr. Brown. "Therefore, there would be some conflict with the types of uses - and intensity of uses - that could occur at that site."

Sports fields on the land could have a negative impact on surrounding properties, he added.

Compounding the issue, he added, is the proximity of two large neighbourhood parks - Ada Johnson Park and Hickson Park - both located

Continued on page 8

## Council issues call to action on Municipal Board reform

By Brock Weir

The adage of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" does not apply when it comes to Aurora Council's relationship with the Ontario Municipal Board following a motion last week calling for the province to overhaul the system.

Council unanimously approved a motion brought forward by Councillor Tom Mrakas calling on the Province to limit the reach of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)

Continued on page 16

## Chamber members want "accountability" in new plan

By Brock Weir

As they continue their efforts to get "back to business", the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is placing an increased emphasis on being advocates for local businesses.

Members, however, said they want to see action - and soon.

Chamber members had their first chance to weigh in on the organization's future last Wednesday as Board Chair Javed Khan laid out their strategic plan for the next few years.

"Our mission now is to be a progressive community leader," Mr.

Khan told the packed house. "We want to be engaged, we definitely want to focus on community prosperity, and we want to focus on everyone in this room [to] move your business forward."

"When it comes to re-establishing the value and visibility of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce brand, first we need to strengthen our relationship with the Town of Aurora. We firmly believe that it is the number one priority for us as a Chamber. We need to get back to really being a strong partner with the Town of Aurora, with the Mayor's office, with the new CAO's office, and with staff."

Continued on page 17

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# Weekly Notice Board



Aurora Town Hall  
100 John West Way • P.O. Box 1000 • Aurora • Ontario • L4G 6J1  
Phone 905-727-1375 • Fax 905-726-4732  
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
Monday, February 8	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 9	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, February 10	7 p.m.	Aurora Cultural Centre	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Thursday, February 11	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Thursday, February 11	7 p.m.	Leksand 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 Street) – Full Closure

### Notice of Completion

#### Town of Aurora Comprehensive Storm Water Management Master Plan (CSWM-MP)

The Town of Aurora has completed the development of a comprehensive storm water management master plan (CSWM-MP) in accordance with the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of Comprehensive Storm Water Management Master Plans in the Lake Simcoe Watershed and the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process. The CSWM-MP Final Report, November 2014 (Version 2.0) received approval from the LSRCA on October 19, 2015.

As of June 2, 2009 the policies of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan came into legal effect as provided by the Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008, S.O. 2008, c. 23, as amended. Policy 4.5 of the "Lake Simcoe Protection Plan" states that "within 5 years of the date the Plan comes into effect, municipalities, in collaboration with the LSRCA will prepare and implement comprehensive storm water management master plans for each settlement area in the Lake Simcoe Watershed". The Town of Aurora is a settlement area within the Lake Simcoe Watershed and therefore needs to prepare a comprehensive storm water management plan.

The Comprehensive Storm Water Management Master Plan study has been prepared following a Master Planning approach under the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process. The long range planning approach that is undertaken within the process enables the Town of Aurora to identify opportunities and be proactive in addressing issues before they become a problem. It also allows the Town to implement individual works which, over time, collectively become part of a larger management system.

The CSWM-MP Final Report, November 2014 (Version 2.0) document can be viewed and is available at the following locations:

Engineering Department  
Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way, Box 1000  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1  
Monday to Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Telephone: 905-727-1375

Aurora Public Library  
15145 Yonge Street  
Aurora, ON L4G 1M1  
Available during library hours  
Telephone: 905-727-9494

Interested persons should provide written comment to the municipality on the proposal within 30 calendar days from the date of the Notice. Comments should be directed to the Town's Municipal Engineer, Mr. Glen McArthur, P.Eng.

If concerns arise regarding this project, which cannot be resolved in discussion with the municipality, a person or party may request that the Minister of the Environment (at the address below) make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (referred to as a Part II order), which addresses individual environmental assessments. Requests must be received by the Minister at the address below within 30 calendar days of this Notice. A copy of the request must also be sent to the Town's Municipal Engineer. If there is no "request" received by March 5 2016, the Comprehensive Storm Water Management Master Plan shall be considered final.

Minister of the Environment  
135 St. Clair Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

This Notice issued on February 4, 2016

Glen McArthur, P.Eng.  
Municipal Engineer  
Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way, Box 1000  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

## WHAT'S HAPPENING



**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)

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[aurorachamber.on.ca](http://aurorachamber.on.ca)  
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### John West Memorial "Leaders of Tomorrow" Scholarship Award

The Town of Aurora encourages local students entering their first year of full-time post-secondary study to apply for the John West Memorial "Leaders of Tomorrow" Scholarship Award.

The scholarship honours students who have contributed to the advancement and overall well-being of Aurora. Each scholarship has a value of \$1,000 and will be awarded to one male and one female student.

This award would not have been possible without the donation of funds from former Mayor John West, who passed away in December 2013. The former Mayor and long-serving Councillor provided more than two decades of public service to The Town of Aurora between 1979 and 2006.



**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



### 2016 Resident's Guide is now available. Includes 2015 Annual Report!

The Town of Aurora's 2016 Resident's Guide was delivered to households in Aurora last week through *The Banner* newspaper. New this year, our 2015 Annual Report can be found inside the guide.

If you have not received a copy, please drop by any Town facility to pick one up. You can also view the Guide online at [www.aurora.ca/residentsguide](http://www.aurora.ca/residentsguide).

For more information, please contact the Town of Aurora's Corporate Communications department at [communications@aurora.ca](mailto:communications@aurora.ca)

### Library Events

New Logo Launch Party  
Saturday, February 6 – 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Library Living Room

The Library will officially unveil its new logo and new look. Join the party! Enjoy refreshments and participate in a fun video.

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



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.

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- ★ 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

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



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- Children's activities
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# Our Lady of Grace C.E.S. gears up for 60th anniversary celebration



Our Lady of Grace parent Vicky Yaeck, Principal Ines Donato, teacher Jo-Ann Smith, and parent Eric Poblete are hard at work planning the school's 60th anniversary celebrations, which will take place May 1. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

By Brock Weir

As an elementary school athlete, Jo-Ann Smith remembers hopping on the bus to play off against students from local Catholic schools.

With 35 years as a teacher now under her belt, she is marking her 28th year teaching at Aurora's Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School (OLG).

As a teacher, she has seen her daughter come through the Aurora Heights Drive school, has watched her grandson take his first educational steps as a current kindergarten student at the school, is preparing to see her granddaughter follow in his footsteps this fall, and now she is helping shape the school as it prepares for a momentous milestone on Sunday, May 1.

This year, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School will celebrate its 60th anniversary, and plans are now underway to celebrate the occasion in style.

According to parent councillor Eric Poblete, who is helping lead the celebrations, they knew as soon as they realised the 60th anniversary was approaching that it was a matter of go big or go home.

"This is a great way to bring not only the school community, but past school communities as well, back into the environment to celebrate," says Mr. Poblete. "The initial thought was we would have a large event at the end of the spring. The initiative came about that way, plus with the [York Catholic District

School Board]. Elizabeth Crowe, the Chair at the time, indicated to us there should be a large celebration. Certainly with this school being the oldest in their board, they wanted it to be done in the proper way. Towards the end of last year, she contacted us and said, 'Be prepared! We're going to start fixing the school and repairing it because we expect to have a fairly public and high exposure of the school.'"

May was ideal, he added, because it coincides with their end-of-the-year festivities as well as Education Week within the Board.

"We had a date, combined that event with this event, and now we have been taking a lot of parent and teacher volunteers to try and coordinate this," says Mr. Poblete.

There has been no shortage of enthusiasm on either front with parents and teachers alike eager to get the ball rolling.

"We have always had a lot of support from the parents," says Ms. Smith.

The feeling is mutual, adds Vicky Yaeck, whose own children recently graduated from OLG.

"As a volunteer, we always felt welcomed by the teachers, which is very important because there are a lot of schools where the teachers aren't as welcoming. It feels like a community when you walk into the school. The kids feel it and it is an all-round good feeling."

Ms. Yaeck's eyes well up when she speaks of this "community" in

action, particularly recalling her daughter winning an award for oral communication. Her learning, says Ms. Yaeck, has been something of a struggle.

"This was a huge milestone for her," she says. "It wouldn't have happened without the teachers."

This school year marks the second time around Ines Donato has been a part of the OLG community. First coming through their doors 11 years ago as Vice Principal, she returned this year to take the helm as Principal and is excited to have had the chance to be a part of the celebrations.

The first priority, she says, is starting the celebration with a mass, which is set for 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on Yonge Street. Following the service, the party heads over to the school for formal presentation, themed rooms, and a student performance of a specially-penned song.

"I feel like I have come full circle," says Ms. Donato of her second go-round at OLG. "I also live in the community

and it is wonderful to be in church on Sundays and really have that sense of community that is within our faith and everyone coming together based on our belief in Jesus. It is exciting and it is also a challenge. I am a little anxious about all the things we would like to do for this anniversary, but I know we're going to work and it is going to be a really exciting day."

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**FEBRUARY 29, 2016**




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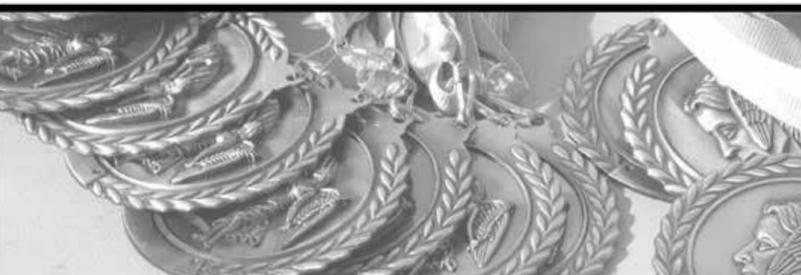
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Call: 647.632.6911



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Second look urged over LAV placement out of "respect" for vets**

Reading the various letters in the Auroran, there appears to be varied opinions for the placement of the LAV alongside of the Cenotaph.

The opposition to this LAV being placed there is in no way disrespectful of any of our veterans, but in gratitude for those that gave their lives for us and buried in far off lands as well as those buried here at home, and those who served in the various conflicts around the world.

This LAV project was promoted by the previous Government and its supporters as a means of trying to mend their attitude toward returning veterans after it turned their backs on them. I keep wondering why the Legion and the Queen's York Rangers are supporting this sort of agenda.

These LAVs are not monuments; they are cobbled together from surplus parts, originally built by General Dynamics in London, ON, a division of one of the top five arms dealers in the world. Nor is there any guarantee that these machines have ever been active. They are now being sold to countries like Saudi Arabia and elsewhere not as monuments but as war machines.

This is not a monument.

As The Auroran has previously stated "in the end, it is simply a vehicle on a piece of cement" And is this what we want to have here, to overshadow the Cenotaph? When we are asked "to remember them" how are we to ignore the machinery of war that caused these names to be placed here? How is it that we can even contemplate elevating the status of these LAVs to even one of the names engraved in remembrance?

It has been stated that "we need to update, as most of the present monuments are between 70 and 100 years old", (so are the names that we honour) "that we need to give the younger generations a more relevance to our veterans and what they stand for."

What greater respect and relevance can we show, than to honour their names? The present methods of honour have been respected for the non-militarization and for removing the glorification of war, why should we abandon these traditions now?

Monuments do not require "updating"; they are there to remind us through the years that "we shall remember them" no matter how old they are.

I find it sad that people need to appeal to our Council about preserving the dignity of our Cenotaph and what it stands for, and have a hard time rationalizing weaponry to serve as a monument. It's certainly not a hawk and dove thing, it's about preserving the memories in a dignified and respectful manner.

We have soldiers suffering from PTSD along with migrants from many war-torn countries. Do we really want to expose these people to this sort of machinery?

These LAVs could be placed at the armoury, and a more fitting monument should be placed at the Cenotaph.

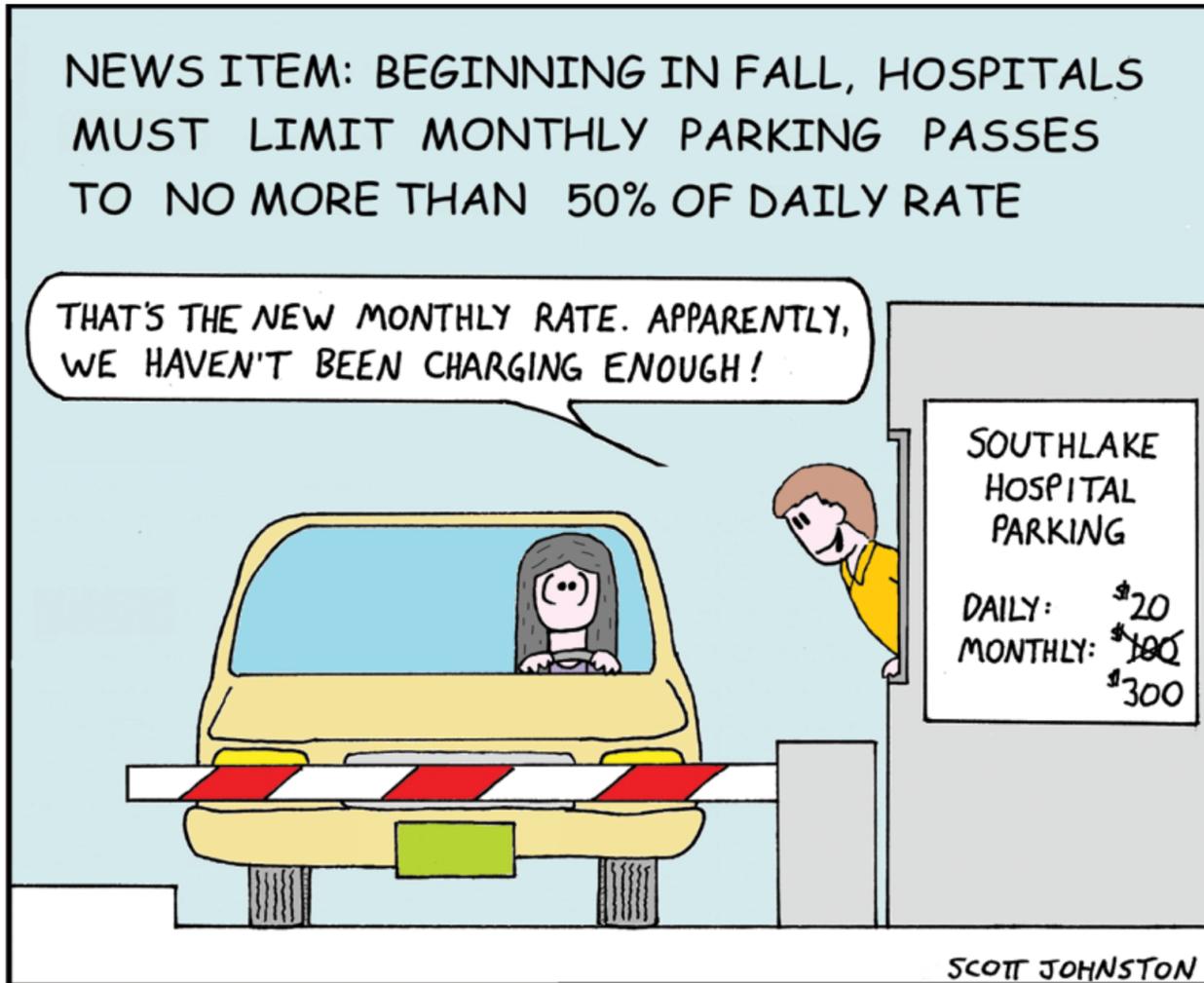
We do not want to make Scott Johnston the Aurora Prophet, (see The Auroran 12 November 2015 editorial cartoon) we need to show him that our council will continue to respect the Cenotaph and its surrounding environment as it was intended to be.

I would ask that council to "please" take a second hard look at what you have agreed to. For the proper respect that all veterans deserve both now and in the future.

John & Rhonda Sanders  
Aurora

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

**Macell's Corners**



When I was a youngster, I always asked my paternal grandmother to take out her wallet.

I wasn't looking for a handout, of course, although the occasional slip of an old orange \$2 bill was always welcome, but the real reason was just behind her credit cards.

Below the plastic was a small pocket and inside the pocket was an old Canadian silver dollar.

It was a coin that you might ordinarily glance over. By the time I got around to seeing it, it no longer gleamed in the light. Time and touch made any semblance of shine a memory of the past, replaced with a worn patina, beautiful in its own way.

Underneath the tarnish was a depiction of Parliament's Centre Block and its showpiece Peace Tower.

The purpose of the coin was to commemorate the visit later that year of George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the first reigning sovereigns to visit Canada.

This coin, my grandmother invariably explained, was her lucky coin.

At that time, my interest in the coin was purely numismatic and I did not have the foresight to ask how it became so lucky to her.

By the time it was clear she was suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, I soon regretted not taking the opportunity to gain some insight on why this coin had become something of a talisman, seemingly on her person at all times. It was, I thought, a question that would remain in the back of my mind, its answer apparently lost in the ether.

Last Wednesday, however, something finally clicked and, in hindsight, the answer now appears patently obvious.

That evening, the CBC website ran a story on a multimillion dollar proposal to dig an expansive new basement underneath Parliament.

The merits of spending such a vast amount of money on something as simple as a basement were examined from both sides. The bedrock deposits underneath Parliament Hill are nothing to sneeze at and will take some resources to remove. But, of course, there was the question of whether a new basement was needed.

As someone who once worked in Parliament, took a wrong turn in the tunnel connecting the West and Centre blocks, found myself stuck at the bottom of a ridiculously narrow spiral staircase that apparently had not been used since the King-Byng



**BROCK'S BANTER**  
Brock Weir

**And then it clicked...**

Crisis, with no other option other than going up, and doing so only to find myself popping through a tiny door from the bowels of our seat of democracy right into the middle of a rare scrum in the first year of the Harper administration, the need for change was not lost upon me.

But that wasn't what caught my eye. What they zeroed in on was a passing reference to the fire that destroyed the Centre Block 100 years ago this week.

In 1916.  
On February 3, 1916.  
The very day my grandmother was born.

Out of the ashes rose something better, stronger and more enduring.

Did this connection have a resonance with her? Did she derive some sort of strength from it? Was this why she saw the coin as a good luck charm?

I'll never know for sure, but I like to think so.

And I like to think I found a missing piece of the puzzle that has been hiding in plain sight all this time, right in time for what would have been her own centennial.

One piece of the puzzle remains, however: whatever happened to that silver dollar?

**VICTORIA DAY**

That silver dollar commemorated the milestone visit by George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the parents of our present Queen, who marks the remarkable 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her ascension to the Throne this Saturday, February 6.

A 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary is not one of the biggies but, in the grand scheme of things, it is still a milestone worth commemorating.

At the end of last summer, I had the privilege of being a part of the planning of the Town of Aurora's community celebration on September 9 to mark the moment Queen Elizabeth II officially became the

longest reigning monarch in modern Canadian history, just sneaking past the record long-held by Queen Victoria.

It ultimately turned out to be a well-attended event with people coming to celebrate the occasion from across York Region and the GTA.

I took great pride in how things turned out and, of course, provided plenty of opportunities to brainstorm for the future.

While a 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary is not the cause for a grand celebration, there is something on the radar the Town might want to consider down the line.

On April 21, the Queen celebrates her milestone 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

It is a birthday that will be celebrated in grand style in the United Kingdom with equestrian parades, a mammoth street party in London, along with the ceremony the Brits do so well.

But a few short weeks after that is Victoria Day, the Sovereign's Official Canadian Birthday.

If you're a Monarchist, you're very cognizant that Victoria Day is a double-barreled celebration not only of Victoria, but the reigning sovereign as well. If you are less inclined towards the monarchy, it is the unofficial start of the summer, the time to formally open up the cottage, or head out to enjoy a day in the sun. Some people do both – and there is nothing wrong with that!

But, as far as Aurora goes, there is nothing by way of a Victoria Day event; an event where families can come together to mark the unofficial start of the summer, if not the historic roots of the holiday.

The closest thing Aurora has to a community event that weekend is, of course, the Aurora Farmers' Market.

With the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the horizon, perhaps the time is right to give some thought on Aurora finally getting in on the Victoria Day action, providing a reason for the community to come together rather than head out of Town en masse, as seems to be tradition, and forming a new, enduring tradition.

It can be something as simple as doing something to soup up already scheduled events at the Aurora Farmers' Market or something a little grander.

Councillor Harold Kim's suggestion of a multicultural festival has been simmering away on the backburner long enough for scum to form on the surface. Perhaps it is time to remove the film and give Aurora a teaser of what could be.

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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

**52 PICK ME UP**

The wait is over! Full decks of the 52 PickMeUp playing cards are now available for \$15.00 each. 53 PickMeUp is a deck of cards celebrating important milestones, figures and games in Aurora's sporting history. Pick up a deck or two through Town Hall, Aurora Museum & Archives, Sport Aurora and the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**There's Something About Mary, says reader**

Where is she now?

Those of us who used to frequent Jonathan's Restaurant enjoyed sharing our lives, thoughts and dreams with Mary Georgopoulos, the former owner of the Aurora restaurant which fed residents for over 20 years on Yonge Street.

Many miss her kindness, compassion and community spirit. It was always great to be able to just pop by and spend time with her. So many ideas and great times were born and celebrated with her over the years. It was the heart of Aurora, helping local charities, fundraisers, churches and hosting countless community events.

Where is she now?

I was happy to find her back on Yonge Street, Aurora, currently working at Aw Shucks' new location just south of Wellington.

It seems Mary missed us too. She is helping gather a lunch crowd and I know she would love to see her friends.

The new venue is beautiful.

It's a treat to share a delicious organic coffee and/or lunch and catch up with Mary G.

So, if you miss her too, visit her for lunch or a coffee, Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

But wait, there's more!

Making it extra special is Vera Harrison is there too!

Good choices, Aw, Shucks!

The Heart of Aurora is once again on Yonge Street daily.

Thanks, Mary. It is so great to have you back on Yonge!

Sher St. Kitts  
Snowball

**A proposal to strengthen health care in Ontario**

Over the past decade, Ontario's health care system has improved significantly.

Together, with public medical community input, we have reduced wait times for surgery, increased the number of Ontarians who have a primary health care provider to 94 per cent, reduced emergency room wait times despite substantial increases in volumes and expanded services for Ontarians at home and in their communities.

There are, however, a number of areas where we need to do more.

Too often, health care services can be fragmented, uncoordinated and unevenly distributed across the province. For patients, that means they may have difficulty navigating the system or that not all Ontarians have equitable access to services. Too often our system is not delivering the right kind of care to patients who need it most.

The next phase of our plan to put patients first is to address issues that create inequities. We propose to truly integrate the health care system so it provides the care patients need, no matter where they live. Our proposal would improve access to primary care, standardize and strengthen home and community care, and strengthen population and public health.

With the recent release of the Ministry of Health's discussion paper "Patients First - A proposal to strengthen patient-centred health care in Ontario," we are seeking your input on our proposal, and your advice about how to integrate other improvements including community mental health and addictions services.

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Newmarket-Aurora, I hope you will join us, and contribute your expertise and perspective. We can't succeed without it. To participate in the consultation, visit the Ministry's website for background material and submit your comments online or via an email to me (address at the end of this column).



**View From Queen's Park**

Chris Ballard, MPP  
Newmarket-Aurora

To reduce gaps and strengthen patient-centred care, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is proposing to expand the role of the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). There are four components:

1. More effective integration of services and greater equity. To make care more integrated and responsive to local needs, make LHINs responsible and accountable for all health service planning and performance. Identify smaller sub-regions as part of each LHIN to be the focal point for local planning and service management and delivery. In their expanded role, LHINs would be responsible for working with providers across the care continuum to improve access to high-quality and consistent care, and to make the system easier to navigate. The LHIN sub-regions would take the lead in integrating primary care with home and community care.

2. Timely access to primary care, and seamless links between primary care and other services. Bring the planning and monitoring of primary care closer to the communities where services are delivered. LHINs, in partnership with local clinical leaders, would take responsibility for primary care planning and performance management. The LHINs would work closely with primary care providers to plan services, undertake health human resources planning, improve access to inter-professional teams for those who need it most and link patients with primary care services. The Ministry would continue to negotiate physician compensation and primary care

contracts.

3. More consistent and accessible home and community care. Strengthen accountability and integration of home and community care. Transfer direct responsibility for service management and delivery from the Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) to the LHINs. With this change, LHINs would govern and manage the delivery of home and community care, and the CCAC Boards would cease to exist. CCAC employees providing support to clients would be employed by the LHINs, and home care services would be provided by current service providers. This shift would create an opportunity to integrate home and community care into other services.

4. Stronger links between population and public health and other health services. Integrate local population and public health planning with other health services. Formalize linkages between LHINs and public health units. The Medical Officer of Health for each public health unit would work closely with the LHINs to plan population health services. LHINs would be responsible for accountability agreements with public health units, and ministry funding for public health units would be transferred to the LHINs for allocation to public health units. Local Boards of Health would continue to set budgets, and public health services would be managed at the municipal level.

With the above four changes the ministry would continue to play a strong role in setting standards and performance targets, which would help ensure consistency across the province.

I look forward to learning what you think of our proposal to ensure Ontario residents continue to receive top quality health care.

*I invite you to contact me on any issue. Please call my community office at 905-750-0019, or visit my website at [www.ChrisBallardMPP.ca](http://www.ChrisBallardMPP.ca). My email is: [cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:cballard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org).*

**Send Out the Clowns**

Unable to obtain the endorsement of anyone of note, not even an Alderman from Podunk in the State of Nowhere, Donald Trump has instead obtained the dubious achievement of receiving the ringing endorsement of none other than Sarah Palin.

Or should I say, rhyming endorsement of Sarah Palin because, true to whacko form, the former Governor of Alaska, VP candidate and reality star extraordinaire, gave a rhyming, rapping, riotous "statement" of support for Trump that simply has to be seen to be believed.

It was beyond bizarre.

As an aside, SNL's parody of Palin's statement is pretty much bang on. And hilarious.

Campaign theme songs? Yes.

"Born in the USA" seems to be a favourite of candidates on both sides of the aisles, although I don't think either really understands the song, or I am certain that the Republicans wouldn't be using it. But, a rhyming, rapping, smiling, clapping "endorsement" for a candidate for President?

And let's not even mention the prosti-tot mini "freedom" cheerleaders he trotted out last month.

Good Lord!

This should be the final straw for Trump folks.

I mean, Sarah Palin is your big gun? Really? I know she has a certain amount of unexplainable appeal to a small demographic, but Sarah Palin is

the best you can do?

She's not fringe; she's the fronds on the fringe for heaven's sake.

By any reasonable definition, Trump is not a serious candidate for President. Full stop.

He has no policy background, no platform to speak of, no political bona fides that would warrant him being considered let alone discussed as the leading candidate. He doesn't even make sense half the time.

And now, with Palin stumping for him, the three-ring circus that was the Trump campaign, has become a chaotic mess of incendiary messaging, quips and quibbles.

And yet - as of this week even after losing Iowa! - he is still leading in many polls. And don't get me started on the polls.

Why?

Because his campaign is all you hear about.

Public opinion is shaped by what is put in front of it, and if what they see and hear is "All Trump, all the time", then of course he is top of mind for

those harried folks answering the phone for a political poll.

These polls decide who even gets to be on the stage for the debates - top tier and undercard. Contender and Also-ran. The viability of a candidate decided by a debate organizer. How does that further the cause of democracy?

Elizabeth May faced the same obstacles in the recent Federal election as some debate organizers' failed to include her in various debates, arguably inhibiting the ability of the public to fully assess all the candidates for Premier.

Before I get a flaming email, yes, I know it is not a strictly analogous situation, but I'm using it for illustrative purposes.

The bottom line is coverage matters. Who you choose to focus your valuable air time on affects who we choose to consider as important - or not.

In my opinion, it's time that choice is made a bit more wisely.

Trump's campaign is a joke.

It should be seen and framed in that context, in my humble opinion. Stop covering it like it's a real campaign - because it isn't. It is a bizarre vanity exercise that needs to end. Now.

Someone - anyone - please give that man the hook, and let the serious contenders take the stage.

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



**POLITICS AS USUAL**

Alison Collins-Mrakas

**Marsh parking complaints "ludicrous", says property owner**

(Re: McKenzie Marsh lacks proper parking, January 21)

Mr. Jackson, first at least get the name of the property correct.

Why in the world would you think you have the right to trespass on private property that is widely known to be posted and reserved for wildlife, and even propose a parking lot on someone else's private land which would be severely damaged by such use?

No one with even a modicum of interest in wildlife would propose such a ludicrous idea!

We have spent many years creating this sanctuary and it is widely known to be a restricted area.

We will not stand by and let your idea, that is nothing but an exercise in selfishness, destroy this haven for wild animals. There are many places open to nature lovers, if you are one, and hikers.

H.J. McKenzie  
Aurora



Over the years, the McKenzie Marsh has become an important habitat for many creatures, including swans. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

**NEW AURORAN POLL**

**Should Aurora sell its six acre parcel of land on Mavrinac Boulevard to buy parkland in less-served areas of Town?**

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

*Previous Poll Results*  
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!

<b>RESULTS TO DATE</b> February 2, 2016	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>
	<b>44%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>0%</b>



Country Day School celebrated another milestone with the opening of its new senior school building. All hands were on deck for the official ribbon cutting.

## Country Day School formally unveils new senior school

By Jake Courtepatte

Country Day School has added another milestone to its long and storied 43-year history in King City.

The \$10 million “Making Connections” campaign, the largest campaign in the independent school’s history, was capped last Tuesday with the official unveiling of the new two-story senior school building. The 51,000 square foot addition includes a new dining hall, administration offices, learning and support centres, and nine new classrooms.

More than 250 current and past CDS parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff, enjoyed an evening exploring the building.

“When our founders opened The Country Day School doors for the first time in 1972, they did so cherishing the promise of youth and the importance of education,” said Head of School John Liggett in his remarks. “Those same values are present as we officially open the most recent in a long line of new Country Day School doors. With a reverence for all the hard work that came before us, and a commitment to further advance CDS into the future, we hereby officially open our new

dining hall and rejuvenated senior school.”

Approved in April of 2012, the Making Connections campaign saw a portion of the senior school dismantled in December, having served its purpose since 1986.

Other parts of the school were put in place in 1998 and 1999, and still stand following renovations.

Named donors are recognized throughout all areas of the new building, such as the Niczowski, Temovsky, and Arrigo Dining Hall, and the Croxon Family Administration Centre.

“A lot of people think of the Country Day School and the independent school network, and they don’t really know what that means,” said Paul Jewer, Chair of the Board of Directors. “Independent means we’re on our own. We make our own decisions, we are responsible for our own destiny, and the quality of education that we provide for our children. Thanks to this community as a collective, we have this fantastic new space.”

King Mayor Steve Pellegrini also added his own positive remarks, saying the new building is “something the community can be proud of.”

## Joint Operations Centre falls just short of the Gold standard

By Brock Weir

It isn’t even done yet and already Aurora’s new Joint Operations Centre is falling just short of getting the Gold.

Nearly a further \$100,000 will need to be spent on the already costly build on Industrial Parkway North, which will bring the Town’s departments of Parks & Recreation as well as Public Works under one roof.

When the Town approved the project in the last term of Council, they specified – and allocated the money for – the project be LEED (Leadership and Energy and Environmental Design) Certified Gold, with certification monitored by the Canada Green Building Council that evaluates based on sustainability, energy efficiency, and other “green” criteria.

The investments Council has made to achieve the Gold, however, were only enough to clinch silver; they learned last week, raising the eyebrows of Councillor Michael Thompson who sought answers on why more money was needed to achieve the standard they already targeted.

“LEED Gold was always a standard we had approved and we put aside money to achieve that for the Joint Operations Centre (JOC),” he said. “When I look back through all the different reports we had, in fact, increased our fees to the architect to ensure that the building would be Gold. [Now] it says we...need to do additional things to get to Gold. On top of that, we have to increase the funds to the architect again and it doesn’t really indicate why.”

“We made a decision, we had lots of debate over LEED Silver or LEED Gold and, at the end, we said Gold and, as a result of it, costs were going to increase. We said that’s fine and now I see a report that says, ‘Yes, you may have made a decision to go to LEED Gold, you may have increased the cost of the building, but we’re not at LEED Gold.’”

Turning to Mayor Geoff Dawe and Councillor John Abel, who sit on the financial task force monitoring the JOC build, Councillor Thompson requested more information.

Mayor Dawe said Council did indeed direct the project to hit LEED Gold, but there have been complications.

“Somewhat surprisingly, it turns out there is a fluid nature to what gets

classified as LEED Gold and what does not,” Mayor Dawe explained. “There is a number of items that seem to be somewhat subjective in terms of how LEED Gold is determined.”

Added Councillor Abel: “One of the main criteria for Gold is the rehabilitation of a brownfield. When you present all these things that inspire LEED designation, it is subject to the body to say, ‘You asked for five points, we’re going to give you four,’ and there is a margin of error. One of the biggest things we didn’t realise when we [went] for the Gold was [the issue of] brownfield. That should have been discussed at that moment when we were realistically going for that certification. Had we known that, we might have phrased it a little different: do your best to get to Gold. Having said that, with the consultant and the architect, they feel that if they present a more detailed and more robust application, they might be able to attain that Gold.”

This was a view largely shared by Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, who told Councillors that there is just one shot to file a submission for LEED Gold. There is no “running back later with changes, amendments, additional arguments or more information,” he said, but they are close.

“We believe we need a few more points to kick it over just in case one or two [potential points] get dismissed,” he said. “The additional funding is to have the consultant actually assist us in preparing some specific action items, document plans, and other documents that will be part of the submission that will help us achieve several other points. We hope that in doing so we can catch a Gold.”

Councillor Thompson, however, said he was not satisfied with these answers and, ultimately, the matter was referred back to staff for more information. If there is a \$100,000 increase to achieve what Aurora has already paid for, he argued, there is a missing piece of the puzzle.

“We paid for something, now I am hearing they missed the mark, so I am wondering: what did we pay for?” he asked. “Now we are paying again for that LEED Gold standard. For me, this is a significant issue and I am not sure why there are no details here to educate Council on this issue and I think it is a miss.”

# TAKE FLIGHT

AT THE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE

February 18  
7 - 9 pm

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Briefly

MORE P.A. DAYS FOR YRDSB STUDENTS

Students in the York Region District School Board rejoice – you’re getting some extra time off. As a result of provincial labour negotiations, a P.A. Day for all public elementary schools has been set for Friday, May 6, with secondary schools receiving their own P.A. Day on Friday, June 3. These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Minister of Education, says the Board.

FRAUD REPORTS INCREASING IN YORK REGION

York Regional Police are urging extra caution following increased reports of fraud, including the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Scam, the Lottery Scam, and a variety of Romance Scams. The CRA Scam is often done by phone or email where suspects identifying as police officers contact individuals to collect overdue taxes. Some suspects have even used software to disguise their caller ID to seem like they are calling from the CRA. The Police do not engage in tax collection of any kind. In the Lottery Scam, individuals receive personalised letters by mail advising them of a windfall. Lotteries, caution police, do not tell you to call a mobile phone number, keep your winnings secret, or ask winners to pay any fees up front to receive a prize.

SAY MY NAME

Aw, Shucks! will be hopping this Thursday night, February 4, with the official launch of the Say My Name Kindness Campaign, as well as the launch of the Mardi Gras North celebration. Say My Name Canada, the brainchild of Newmarket musician Glenn Marais, is a kindness challenge beginning at the end of January to combat bullying. Groups and individuals are asked to join together in a month of kindness, keep track of acts of kindness and post online and through social media. Events get underway at 7.30 p.m. For more information on the initiative, visit [www.saymynamecanada.com](http://www.saymynamecanada.com) or see next week’s Auroran.

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# Quality – and a bit of magic and nostalgia – are formula for young entrepreneur's success

By Brock Weir

"We just decided to put a modern spin on it," says Viktor Grabovskyy.

Followed by a pause and a slight chuckle.

The laugh is followed by a "no pun intended," but when you're making a luxury spinning top for the masses, it's hard to avoid the obvious pun, so you might as well embrace it.

The 23-year-old Aurora resident, co-founder of Forever Spin, is basking in the success of his start-up company's latest Kickstarter campaign, which raised over \$735,000 over a 35 day span before concluding last week.

The partners, who have taken a turn in Dragon's Den with their product have come a long way since first getting their hands dirty laying the groundwork on a start-up software company before their orbit wobbled in a different direction.

"We were looking to start the software company about three years ago but realised we didn't have the funding necessary to sustain it and really sustain the goals we had in mind," says Mr. Grabovskyy, adding they decided to focus on their passion.

Some might question how one can get passionate about a spinning top, but consider this: chances are, it is one of the first toys you remember playing with. The same can probably be said of your parents, grandparents, and a generation or two before them.

There is a timelessness about a spinning top, he says, but there is room for, yes, that all-important new spin.

They launched their solid metal product in the middle of 2013, first as a novelty item. They wanted to launch a high quality product that was both memorable and embodied with just a little bit of magic.

"It would have to be something that was genuinely enjoyable, something that was beloved and with a dedication to quality and nostalgia," he says. "Those three elements together, we came up with a shortlist of about 20 different ideas. We remember that the first toy we recall playing with was a wooden spinning top. With that information, we just decided to put a modern spin on it and we decided to have a metal spinning top collection and we haven't looked back.

"In fact, we have completely forgotten about our software start-up and we

are making tops full time. I am very passionate about business and making sure that any company, any venture, any activity I get into has some element of growth associated with it. This has been quite exhilarating and fun as we have gone and, as we have expanded our business. I am very happy with where we are and what we have been able to accomplish."

In the future, however, they are looking to do a lot more. While they bill their product as a "luxury" spinning top, they hope to have their tops in the hands of a many more Canadian students within the next year in the form of a "metal museum." The company wagers students have probably not had the chance to hold a chunk of solid tungsten or titanium in their hands. But honing tops out of those metals, and a host of others, can create a set both entertaining and educational.

"It is a smaller set of the collection, but taking it into schools and really witnessing a child's firsthand experience when they feel the sensation of a copper top in their hand, or when they feel the weight of an aluminum top and compare it to the resilience and the massive weight of tungsten is something we hope will inspire young individuals to learn with tactile experiences versus

*This has been quite exhilarating and fun as we have gone and, as we have expanded our business. I am very happy with where we are and what we have been able to accomplish.*

being taught in textbooks.

"It is something we are very excited about."

Mr. Grabovskyy moved to Aurora with his family in 2000. As a youngster, he attended George Street Public School before moving on to Aurora Senior Public School, graduating from Aurora High before doing a double degree in computer science and business at Laurier and Waterloo.

"This has been a path that is very

unpredictable," he says. "There are projects I am passionate about, there are ventures I look forward to getting back into and taking another look at, but at the start of last year with the conclusion of our second campaign, that is when I really started to see the potential of what we are doing and the bigger picture of what we can accomplish outside of just selling tops and getting the sensation to our customers.

"The spinning tops themselves, it is something that we'll never not

enjoy. It is something that is magical and something that resides in the background of your mind. Give it the chance to resurface again, and you'll be pleasantly surprised. That is the feeling we get, that is the feeling our customers get, and that is something we are very happy to provide."

For more on Forever Spin and their latest campaign, visit [www.indiegogo.com/projects/foreverspin-world-famous-spinning-tops-3#/](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/foreverspin-world-famous-spinning-tops-3#/).

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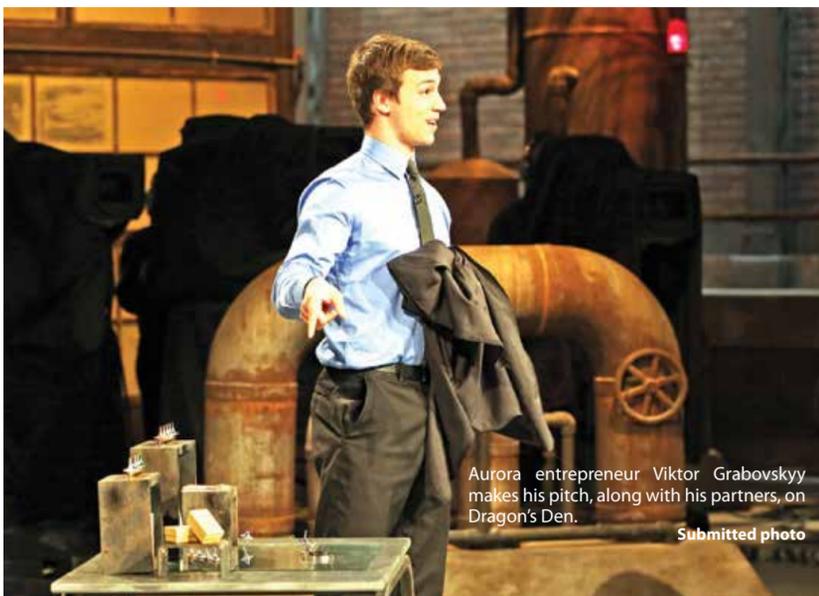
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1508-1411\_E (01/15)



Aurora entrepreneur Viktor Grabovskyy makes his pitch, along with his partners, on Dragon's Den.

Submitted photo

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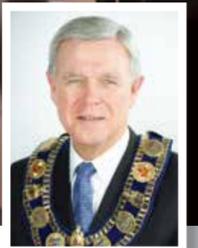
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**AURORA**

# Six acres were purchased last year for “municipal purposes”

From page 1

within an estimated eight minute walking distance from the Mavrincac lands which already offer a variety of amenities.

“If [Mavrincac] were to be retained and created as parkland, that area would be over-serviced in comparison to the rest of your community,” Mr. Brown told Council. “We do believe that divesture of that parcel creates an opportunity for the municipality by enabling you to re-invest those funds through the divesture of the lands to find a better suited parcel that reconciles deficits in the community and perhaps provides an opportunity for land banking for a future community centre or a multiuse sports field park.”

Also factoring into the recommendation were plans for the Aurora Wildlife Park, now called the Ivy Jay Nature Reserve, which begins on Wellington Street East, just east of Mavrincac, running north between

the 2B and 2C developments.

“We have two local parks within an eight minute walk and there is also the wildlife area,” said Mr. Brown. “That area is very well-served with opportunities to meet the local residents’ needs. [Recreation amenities on the Mavrincac land] would essentially be duplicating what you already have within eight minutes.

“A goal of the plan is to eliminate duplication and look at areas of gap. We felt that was not an area of gap. We do recognize the Town purchased that land from Cash in Lieu of Parkland [reserves] and, therefore, if it was not pursued as a parkland there would have to be reimbursements to that fund to make that happen.”

Aurora purchased the land in question last fall, after nearly two years of contention, for \$2.47 million, the value of the land at 2007 prices, as per the condition of the municipality’s original subdivision

agreement that year.

Originally earmarked for a new Catholic school, the subdivision agreement included the clause that if the land was no longer needed by the York Catholic School Board the Town of Aurora would have first right of refusal to secure the land at these original prices, a provision which landowners Minto Communities disputed and legal proceedings commenced.

The land was eventually secured just short of the matter appearing before the courts.

Area residents urged Aurora to fight for the land to prevent further homes being built in the area, arguing they purchased their homes at a premium in the belief they would back onto a school or, at the very least, open space.

The eventual purchase, at the time, was heralded by Mayor Geoff Dawe as a victory in ensuring Aurora enforces its agreements.

## COMING EVENTS

### 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.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. This month’s speaker will be Lesley Page and her topic will be “Life’s Too Short To Be A Passenger.” For more information call Program Chair Cliff White at 905-841-2421 New members welcome!

### 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).

\*\*\*\*

**PARTAGEZ LE FRANÇAIS:** This free French language conversation group meets today at Country Style Deli and Bistro (14980 Yonge Street) from 3 – 5 p.m. The group welcomes adults – from Francophones to beginners – 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, visit [bit.ly/partagez\\_oversation](http://bit.ly/partagez_oversation) or email [Partagez.York@yahoo.ca](mailto:Partagez.York@yahoo.ca).

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents Drew Jurecka & the Hot Jazz String Quartet, Grappelli & Django, and the best of Gypsy-Jazz. A great kick-off to Valentine’s Day! Cash bar – concert at 8 pm. 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).

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

The Royal Canadian Legion will host their Valentine’s Dinner and Dance tonight at 105 Industrial Parkway North. DJ: Dave Jones. Purchase tickets in advance by calling 905-727-9932. \$25pp.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

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).



## Transit Project Assessment Process GO Rail Network Electrification – Public Meetings

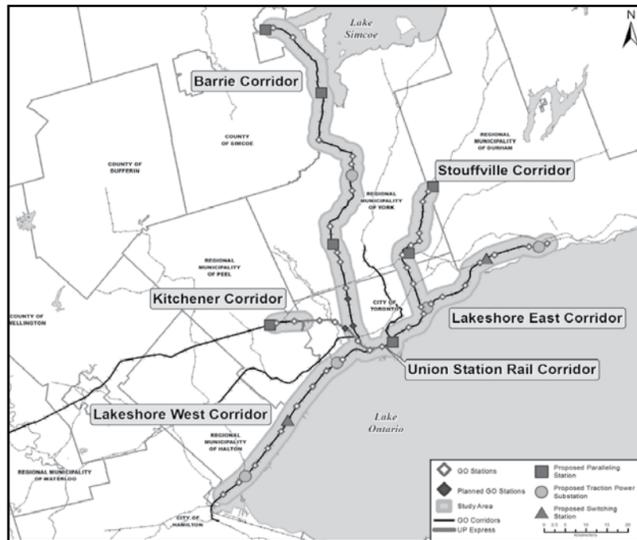
Metrolinx, an agency of the Province of Ontario, is helping to transform the way the region moves by building a seamless, convenient and integrated transit network across the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).

As part of this project, we are expanding GO Transit to enable 15-minute service on most corridors with electrified trains, which will enable faster and more frequent service. Together, these infrastructure improvements will change how people move around Toronto and the region with four times the current number of GO train trips, service on evenings and weekends, and twice the number of trips during peak periods.

Building on the GO Electrification Study completed in 2010, which looked at the electrification of the GO Transit rail system network, Metrolinx is currently undertaking environmental studies under the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP), in accordance with *Ontario Regulation 231/08*, to examine the conversion of several rail corridors from a diesel to an electric-based system. The project will include design and implementation of a traction power supply system (i.e. traction power substations and high voltage connections to Hydro One’s existing grid), as well as power distribution components (i.e. electrical power distribution facilities) located in the vicinity of the rail corridors.

The Study Area (see map) includes six GO rail corridors, including potential locations for the electrical power supply and distribution facilities:

- Union Station Rail Corridor
- Lakeshore West Corridor – Strachan Avenue to Burlington
- Kitchener Corridor – UP Express Spur (at Highway 427) to Bramalea
- Lakeshore East Corridor – Don River to Oshawa GO Station
- Barrie Corridor – Parkdale Junction to Allandale GO Station
- Stouffville Corridor – Scarborough Junction to Lincolnville GO Station



A series of public meetings are being held as part of the TPAP process to provide information about the scope of the project, environmental studies, design and engineering components, preliminary locations for traction power supply/distribution facilities, project timelines and next steps. Interested persons are encouraged to attend:

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016**  
Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School  
959 Midland Avenue  
Scarborough, ON M1K 4G4  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016**  
Nantyr Shores Secondary School  
1146 Anna Maria Avenue  
Innisfil, ON L9S 4X5  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Monday, February 29, 2016**  
Oakville Trafalgar High School  
1460 Devon Road  
Oakville, ON L6J 3L6  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 3, 2016**  
Holly Community Centre  
171 Mapleton Avenue  
Barrie, ON L4N 8T6  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 9, 2016**  
Lakeshore Collegiate Institute  
350 Kipling Avenue  
Etobicoke, ON M8V 3L1  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016**  
St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School  
278 Wellington Street East  
Aurora, ON L4G 1J5  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 24, 2016**  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
North Building, Room 203  
255 Front Street West  
Toronto, ON M5V 2W6  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 1, 2016**  
Holy Name of Mary Catholic Secondary School  
115 Glenvale Blvd.  
Brampton, ON L6S 3J7  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Monday, March 7, 2016**  
St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School  
1 St. Joan of Arc Avenue  
Maple, ON L6A 1W9  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, March 10, 2016**  
Glengrove Public School  
1934 Glengrove Road  
Pickering, ON L1V 1X2  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Monday, February 22, 2016**  
Unionville High School  
201 Town Centre Blvd.  
Unionville, ON L3R 8G5  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, February 25, 2016**  
Abilities Centre  
55 Gordon Street  
Whitby, ON L1N 0J2  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 2, 2016**  
Stouffville District Secondary School  
801 Hoover Park Drive  
Stouffville, ON L4A 0A4  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**  
Robert Bateman High School  
5151 New Street  
Burlington, ON L7L 1V3  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 22, 2016**  
Nelson Mandela Park Public School  
440 Shuter Street  
Toronto, ON M5A 1X6  
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For additional information about this project, please visit [gotransit.com/electrification](http://gotransit.com/electrification).

Consultation with the public, review agencies and Aboriginal communities is a key component of the GO Rail Network Electrification Transit Project Assessment Process. Comments and information regarding this study will be collected to assist in meeting the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and may be included in study documentation. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record. If you have a comment or question, or to receive additional information related to the project, please contact the project team: [electrification@metrolinx.com](mailto:electrification@metrolinx.com) or via telephone 416-869-3200.

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez composer le 416-869-3200 ou le 1 888 GET-ON-GO (438-6646).



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# New five year plan charts growth for parks and recreation

By Brock Weir

New sports facilities, arenas and pools could be part of the Aurora of 2021 if the Town's new draft master plan for parks and recreation is approved by Council next month.

The update to the previous five year plan was presented to Council last week calling for significant projects to account for the needs of Aurora's present population and forecasted growth.

Among the recommendations presented last week were carrying out architectural studies and a business plan to add a gymnasium, new multipurpose space, and a fitness centre to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex on the east side of Aurora and a business plan to look at converting the old home of the Aurora Public Library on Victoria Street to address municipal needs, "recreational or otherwise" in association with the Aurora Promenade, said consultant Todd Brown.

A potential future need is also a new pool facility to provide more opportunities for swimmers across Aurora. This could either be a new pool constructed at an existing leisure complex or a new facility altogether.

"If you decided to go [with a standalone facility], we would recommend that the gymnasium and fitness centre we talked about for the SARC in our first recommendation be located as part of that facility because that would make it a multiuse, multigenerational type of facility, as well as a standalone aquatics centre," said Mr. Brown.

Existing facilities are also worth a re-think, he added.

These public spaces have the potential to "encourage greater socialization opportunities, particularly among young families, youth and older adults, with comfortable seating and greater accessibility, ensuring your community centres act as community hubs," he noted.

"There is a need for three rectangular fields," continued Mr. Brown, turning

his focus to outdoor amenities. "We are recommending they be located [on lands recently bought by the Town behind] the Hallmark Building site (near Vandorf Road and Industrial Parkway)."

An artificial turf field located at Stewart Burnett Park or at the proposed new Complex would be something to think about, along with a new ball diamond geared towards older players and hardball use, two minor splash pads "in areas of gap", and a new water feature, such as a fountain, in the Aurora Promenade area.

"Providing tennis courts, basketball courts and playgrounds within neighbourhood parks in developing areas, more specifically the 2C lands, ensuring new and rejuvenated playground areas incorporate barrier-free access opportunities to ensure both children and their caregivers are given the opportunity to participate, and exploring provision of an outdoor artificial ice surface in conjunction with an urban design, economic development or civic improvement initiative, possibly as part of the promenade as well," added Mr. Brown.

In the future, as Aurora reaches build-out, the new draft parks and recreation plan calls in the acreage of parks needed per resident. This target currently stands at 2.5 hectares per Aurora resident but should be brought down to 1 hectare or 1.5. The current standard is a goal that is never going to be achieved in Town with the amount of land currently available, said Mr. Brown.

Although Council won't have a chance to formally address the recommendations in the plan until a meeting currently slated for February 16, Councillors provided a flavour of the discussions to come last week.

Looking over the vision, Councillor Tom Mrakas, for instance, said there should be an increased emphasis on taking a second look at how existing facilities are currently being used. Hockey arenas, for example, have particular down times where they are either not being used for hockey

or skating, or have their ice removed entirely. Repurposing such spaces for basketball and other sports during those times could buy Aurora some time before making a decision on future infrastructure builds, he argued.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner also weighed in on the plan, underscoring a point in the plan which shows the

pool at the SARC being overused and in high demand compared to the older pool at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex. This, said Mr. Brown, could be attributed to a number of factors including the age of the facility and the fact the SARC pool provides a greater depth and, therefore, allows for a greater variety of use.

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# - THE AURORAN - Arts & Culture



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## AHS students share their VISIONs



Artists and models Brooke, Jason and Alex showed off different takes on “wearable art”, as they roamed around the galleries.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

By Brock Weir

As they prepared for the reception last week to mark the close of their graduate art exhibition, artist Jessica Soud helped her fellow student, Madeleine Neufeld, lace up into an intricate network of cables to symbolise the bones inside.

The discarded cables and wires were not simply the closest and easiest materials to hand. Jessica wanted to convey something very deliberate.

“If you look at humanity today, it is more integrating into technology and that is how a lot of people express themselves,” she said, looking over her model.

But humanity also tends to express itself through some of its baser instincts. Of Syrian heritage, Jessica says she only has to look to their ongoing civil war to see this in action.

The “wearable art” modelled by Madeleine was just one of a number of pieces Jessica had on show in VISION, the exhibition curated at the Aurora Cultural Centre by Grade 12 students from Aurora High School, which wrapped up on Saturday. Other pieces in her collection included depictions of family portraits, skewing darker to skulls.

Alex Miceli, on the other hand, took her artistic hand to create more comforting images.

“My theme overall is familiarity and home,” he says, guiding her model, Jason Saunders, into place.

Jason was decked out from head to toe in artificial leaves – a few patches of green nearly obliterated with the bold colours of autumn – and branches poking out from his body here and there.

“My two paintings represent things I find comforting,” Alex explained. “I grew up around forests and I really like nature and being around trees. When I

thought about doing wearable art, I felt a tree would be really representative of something I grew up with. People often take trees for granted. We see trees changing colour all the time, but I wanted people to think it could be art.”

But, what was the verdict of her art himself?

“It’s a little bit pokey and I have been hitting people with my branches a lot, but I am wearing it,” said Jason with a grin.

Each year, “wearable art” is a hallmark of the AHS show, but this year “vision” was the overriding theme that emerged from the students’ art, said teacher Lee-Anne Moore.

“It is the exploration of that concept on the literal, figurative and symbolic level, examining the world from unique perspectives,” she said at last week’s closing reception. “Tonight we honour the imagination and powerful commentary of our youth and the artists’ vision.”

The artists’ vision also made an impact on Cultural Centre curator Stephanie Nicolo, who has been working with the students on their self-curated exhibitions for the past six years.

“There is a special place in my heart for the beginnings of this program and as it has gone on over the many different years and with different artists, it has always changed the way I look upon the world because of your very special and unique ways of displaying those parts of the world,” said Ms. Nicolo. “You have a wonderful knack for creating beauty with really difficult topics. This year we have seen a lot about global warming in your art pieces; there is an interesting perspective on mortality; a few skeletons in the room, but you guys bring something very special to these exhibitions. We are blessed to see these pieces in the gallery.”



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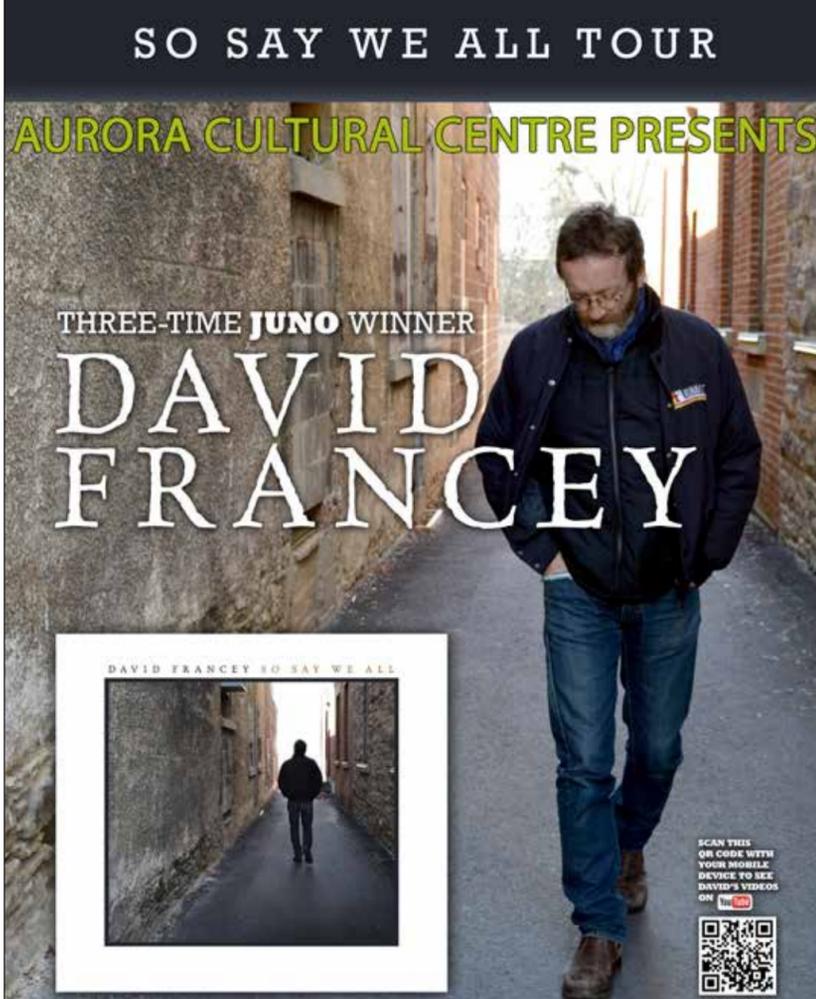
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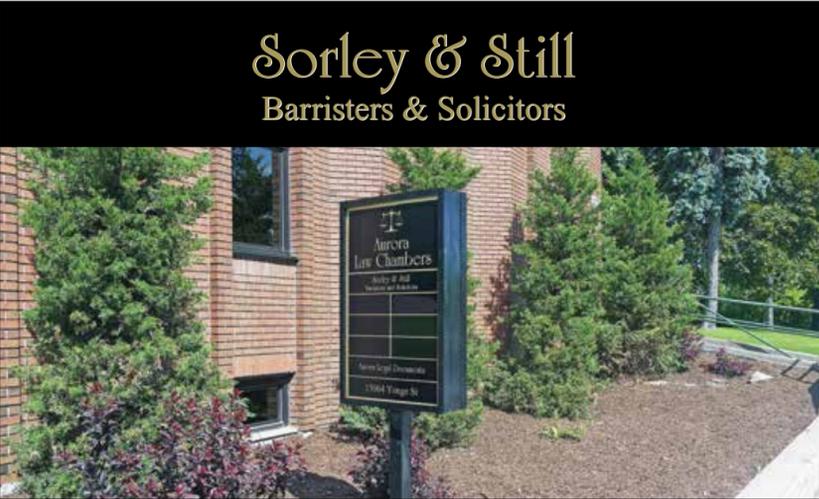


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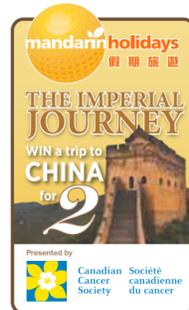
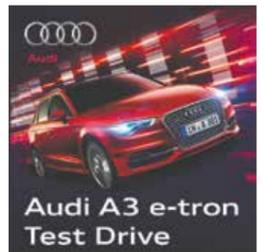
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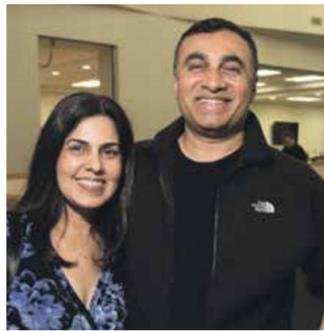
# LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME!

## CDS Opens its Rejuvenated Senior School

The \$10M *Making Connections* campaign, the largest campaign in The Country Day School's history, is nearly complete and the School celebrated the grand opening of its new building at a reception and ribbon cutting on January 26.



Following remarks, Head of School John Liggett, accompanied by the Mayor of the Township of King Steve Pellegrini and members of the CDS Board of Directors, were joined on stage by lead donor families for the official ribbon cutting. Guests toured the new facilities throughout the evening and CDS Student Ambassadors were available to assist and answer questions.



The CDS community gathered for the grand opening of a 51,000 square-foot addition to the School, which includes a state-of-the-art Marché style Dining Hall and a spectacular expansion of the Senior School.

Guests commented on the extraordinary architectural design, which not only provides an entirely new look to the main entrance of the Senior School, but includes unique spaces to optimize learning.

Hallways and classrooms are flooded with natural light and afford beautiful views of CDS' rural 100-acre setting. Students now have significantly more breakout areas and inspirational spaces for learning and creativity.

**We are incredibly proud of how far our school has come in just 43 years. Thank you to our community for helping us achieve this milestone!**

To learn more, please visit [www.cds.on.ca](http://www.cds.on.ca). Better yet, call us at 905 833 1972 to book a personal tour. We would love to show you how far we have come in our first 43 years and invite you to be part of our future.



# THE AURORAN SPORTS

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FREE Week of February 4, 2016

## Tigers d-man Locke commits to UOIT Ridgebacks

By Jake Courtepatte

Kyle Locke is capping off his five-year junior hockey career with a step into the OUA.

The 6'1", 207-lb. defenceman has signed with the University of Ontario Institute of Technology Ridgebacks for the 2016-17 season, enrolling in the school's commerce program while hoping to bring a big presence to the blue line.

"What I want to bring is just a big, steady defenceman that can jump up here and there," said Locke. "For the most part, I just want to play my position and be reliable on the backend."

Locke will be joining a club that is certainly on the rise.

Head coach Curtis Hodgins has already done wonders in only his first season behind the bench, with the Ridgebacks setting a program high for wins in a season with six games remaining on the regular season schedule.

"It's definitely exciting, knowing how young they are and how much they still can grow. I want to be a part of that, I want to grow with the team, and hopefully with that we can even break some more records."

A part of the Aurora Tigers' program since the midway point of the 2014-15 season, Locke has made his presence felt as a physical defenceman while also finding his scoring touch this year. Through 42 games this season, he sits fourth on the team in points with twelve goals and eighteen assists, while leading the team by a long shot with 90 PIMs.

In 84 games with the OHL splitting time between the Guelph Storm and North Bay Battalion, he racked up 84 penalty minutes.

"The way he skates - he's a very mobile, great skater and very strong," said Hodgins. "...His game is probably more suited to the CIS level where guys are a little bit bigger and he can actually play physical because it's very tough to play physical in the Ontario Junior Hockey League with the

amount of penalties that are called now. I think his style of play, the fact he's very mobile and strong will equate very well to CIS hockey."

Though the leagues may have their differences, Locke expects to see a lot of the same faces in the OUA.

"In the OHL I've seen a lot of talent, and I'm sure a lot of guys in the league next year have played there. With the OJHL, I got to actually go back to the basics, getting a chance to play a lot and play a big role. Hopefully that experience can help me."

The native of Aurora is looking forward to getting started with the relatively new program, first developed in 2008.

"I know a lot of the guys and I've heard great things about the program and the change room, so that's definitely a huge factor," he said. "It's close to home where my parents can come out and watch. It's a new facility, I love what they've got going on here and it's a good atmosphere I'm feeling, so I wanted to be a part of that."



Kyle Locke with UOIT Head Coach Curtis Hodgins. Photo by Chris Cameron



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# Saints fall short in retaining home tournament title

By Jake Courtepatte

St. Andrew's College's pipes and drums band opened the 33rd annual Macpherson Tournament Friday night with a rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In," but the Saints marched

out on Sunday with a silver medal in their home tournament.

It was a wild and raucous scene at Friday's opening ceremonies, a standing-room-only crowd at La Brier Family Arena blaring horns and decked out in Saints red and white to watch the varsity hockey squad take on the Notre Dame Hounds of Wilcox, Saskatchewan. Before puck drop, an opening faceoff was held with the familiar faces of Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe and Headmaster Kevin McHenry; as well as a pair familiar to a majority of the province's population: former Maple Leafs Curtis Joseph and Wendel Clark.

Clark, the captain of Toronto's NHL squad for four years, had allegiances on both sides: though he played for the Hounds in the 1980s, his son Kody is now a Grade 11 student on the Saints varsity team.

"Both teams here have similar values," said Clark following the puck drop. "I know the Saints program is a fantastic one that just continues to grow, and the job they do putting on this tournament is phenomenal. It's their tournament and I know the guys want nothing more than to win it on home ice."

Having already downed Shawnigan Lake School 7 - 0 earlier in the day, the Saints handily defeated the Hounds in the late game, a 4 - 1 win to the delight of the home crowd. Notre Dame was held to just twelve shots.

They kept rolling on Saturday, beating



Former Maple Leafs' Curtis Joseph and Wendel Clark dropped the ceremonial puck to kick off last weekend's Macpherson Tournament as Mayor Geoff Dawe and SAC Headmaster Kevin McHenry look on.

Submitted photo

Bishops College School by the same score while narrowly edging out Albany Academy of New York in a 2 - 1 game. Mitch Martan, fresh off his commitment to the NCAA DI's Boston College for 2017, sent the Saints to the final with a late third period goal.

It just wasn't meant to be this year, the Saints falling to the undefeated Northwood School 7 - 2 on Sunday. Northwood struck seven times before St. Andrew's notched two late goals. The Saints beat Northwood in the final of last year's tournament.

The Saints did take home some other

hardware, with team captain Reid Yochim earning the Robin Fraser Plaque for leadership and sportsmanship, while Morgan Barron was the lone Saint on the tournament All-Star team with a seven-point effort.

"It wasn't the result we were expecting or hoping for, but the guys played really well," said Yochim. "We're thankful for the support from everyone at the school throughout the tournament though, it's been amazing."

In the 33-year history of the tournament, the Saints have won gold nine times, silver eight, and bronze eight.

## Four straight goals not enough for Aurora Tigers comeback

By Jake Courtepatte

Superstar siblings spoiled the party in the Tigers' den on Friday, as a late goal from the Georgetown Raiders prevented what would have been an epic comeback.

Brendan and Jack Jacome, both in the top fifteen in Ontario Junior Hockey League scoring this season, padded their stats with four points each in a 5 - 4 win at the Aurora Community Centre.

Brendan Jacome opened the scoring with a minute to go in the first, with brother Jack seemingly skating around every Tiger while circling the Aurora net before feeding Brendan.

He beat Alex Fotinos, who had already been forced to stop seventeen shots in the period.

Both brothers assisted on Georgetown's second goal early in the middle frame, a rebound that left a sprawled Fotinos little chance. Two more tallies for the Raiders came

before the midway point of the game, the fourth a cross-crease pass from Jack to Brendan, giving Georgetown a 4 - 0 lead.

Three straight goals with under five minutes to go in the second for Aurora turned the tables for the final period.

Evan Kearns scored twice in less than a minute, getting two whacks at a rebound then charging right for the goal after the next centre ice faceoff.

Drake Board brought out his best moves in the dying seconds of the second, niftily dragging the puck around a Georgetown defender before going in alone and roofing it over goaltender Andrew Masters.

With the score now 4 - 3, Tigers coach Thomas Milne shook things up in net for the third, electing to put Alex Boyko between the pipes. Fotinos faced 33 shots in the first two periods alone.

Defenceman Noah Delmas completed the comeback with a rip from the blue line on a 5-on-3 powerplay at the 12:55

Continued on page 15

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TOWN OF AURORA  
PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC MEETING**

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following planning application on Wednesday, February 24 at 7 p.m at Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers.

**APPLICATION:** The Owner has submitted a Complete Application for an Amendment to Zoning By-law 2213-78, to change the zoning from Special Mixed Density Residential "R5" Zone to Special Mixed Density Residential "R5-X" Exception Zone to also permit a business and professional office on the subject lands.

The land to which the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment applies is also subject of an Application for Site Plan Approval, file: SP-2015-10.

**PROPERTY:** 15342 Yonge Street (Horton Place)

**LEGAL DESC.:** Part of Lot 14, Registered Plan 246, and Part of Lot A Part of 1 Linked Reserve, Registered Plan 36

**APPLICANT:** Lora Cai, Xun Gong and Richard Gong

**FILE NUMBER:** ZBA-2015-16

**CONTACT:** Additional information may be obtained from Jeff Healey of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4349, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the address noted below, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to [planning@aurora.ca](mailto:planning@aurora.ca). 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.

Zoning By-law (O. Reg. 545/06)

If a person or a public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora before the bylaw is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of The Town of Aurora to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to The Town of Aurora before the bylaw is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of The Town of Aurora in respect to the Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to The Town of Aurora to the attention of the Director of Planning & Development Services.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | [www.aurora.ca/publicnotices](http://www.aurora.ca/publicnotices) | 905-727-3123, ext. 4349

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# Tigers host Pickering and Whitby at ACC this weekend

From page 14

mark.

The ACC was buzzing and the Tigers' bench electric before Brendan Jacome regained the Georgetown lead with five minutes to go.

A scrum ensued at the final whistle, including 5'7" Board challenging 6'7" Georgetown defenceman Jake Payette, but the night was over for the Tigers.

"It turned into a well-fought game for both sides," said Brendan Jacome after the contest. "It just goes to show that you can never let your guard down, especially against a good team

like this."

"We got some good bounces, their goalie (sic) played really well. In the end it could have gone either way."

The Tigers must have still been fired up less than 24 hours later, dismantling the Lindsay Muskies 8 - 1 in front of a hometown crowd.

Captain Daniel Mantenuto had a goal and three assists, with Liam Neuman, Austin Gerhart, and Ryan Shaw each contributing three points of their own.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak.

But even after the smoke cleared, the

Tigers now sit far back of the Markham Royals for the lead in the OJHL's North division, who haven't lost a game in regulation in almost three weeks.

Markham (28-13-2-3) currently holds a nine point advantage over the Tigers (23-14-0-6).

A pair of home games are coming up

this weekend when the Tigers host the division rival Pickering Panthers (14-27-1-4) on Friday, followed by a matchup with the Whitby Fury (21-21-1-4) of the league's toughest East division.

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



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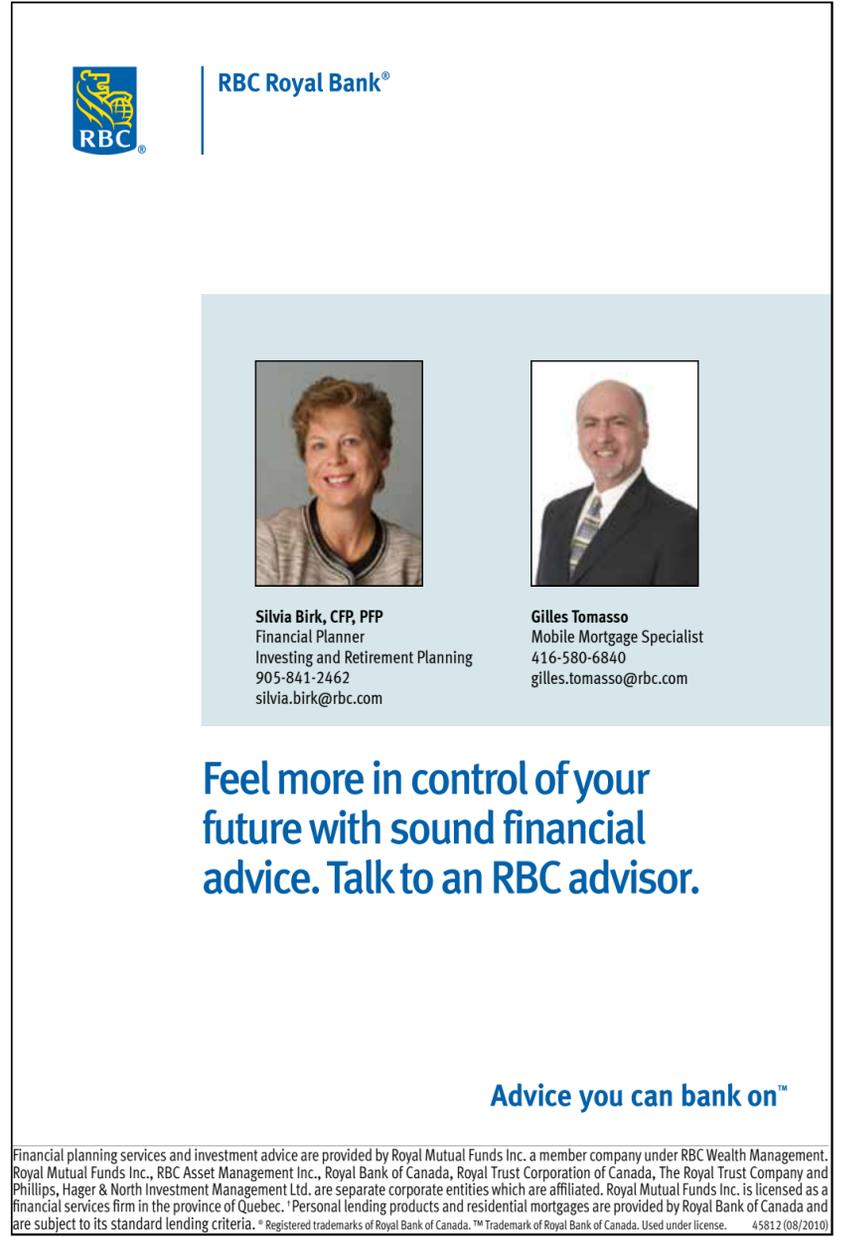
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# Humfryes calls on Mayor to take OMB concerns to Region

From page 1

when it comes to local planning decisions. The motion calls on the Province to

limit the jurisdiction of the OMB only to questions of law and process, and to bolster the planning decisions made by municipal councils unless they fall afoul

of existing legislation.

While the move is likely to have no impact on current cases between the Town and developers before the OMB, including the redevelopment of Highland Gate, Council largely agreed the time for change is here.

“When we look at applications that come before us at our planning meetings, the Town and municipalities have all the responsibility and we bear all costs,” said Councillor Tom Mrakas. “Yet, in my opinion, we have no authority at the end of the day. We need to take steps to put forward this motion to let our feelings be known, as a municipality, that the way appeals are put forward are just not right. When we stand together, we do so from a position of strength and we let the Province know we expect change, we expect reform and I think by standing together we get that.”

Since he put forward his motion last month, the Councillor said he has heard concerns that OMB reform could lead to Councils making decisions based on NIMBY-ism (Not In My Back Yard), something he dismissed. Upholding Official Plans, he said, is what local lawmakers are mandated to do.

The motion was supported by Councillor John Abel, who brought forward a similar motion last year.

The OMB, he said, “is almost redundant” and has “eroded” Aurora’s existing Official Plan wholesale.

“It is time for revision,” said Councillor Abel. “The Provincial Government knows it. We have to make everyone aware there is a unifying voice from the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario] all the way through.”

Added Councillor Jeff Thom: “The system in Ontario is broken and it needs to be fixed. Ontario is the only province with the setup we have.”

A similar view was offered by Councillor Wendy Gaertner who said there was, once upon a time, a justification for the OMB but “those days are long gone.”

“Municipalities are strong now, we’re educated, we know what we want for our communities and we should be in charge of dictating their planning,” she said.

For Councillor Harold Kim, pressing the Province to overhaul the OMB was something of a “David and Goliath” case. While he said we all know what happened to Goliath, he said he hoped Aurora’s motion would have a “snowball effect” with other municipalities to affect real change.

“Hopefully we will get some benefits and future municipalities will benefit as well,” he said.

The more voices the better was something Councillor Sandra Humfryes advocated for, voting in favour of the motion while also pressing for Mayor Geoff Dawe, Aurora’s representative around the Regional Council table, to take this motion to the Region and have it put on the floor for Regional endorsement as well.

“It is very critical,” she said. “We are continuously trying to make a significant change and [have] impact to this very serious change that is required with communities being impacted now. It really should be in our control what happens to our Town and our residents. I think it allows for a lot of further support from all Ontario Municipalities and that begins at the Region.”

While Mayor Dawe said he would check on the proper procedures to bring this to the Regional Council Table, Councillor Humfryes said she hopes there is action by the next Regional Council meeting on February 18.

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### CLUES ACROSS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Soybean paste</li> <li>5. Unit of time</li> <li>8. Watering holes</li> <li>12. Joint</li> <li>14. Certified public accountant</li> <li>15. ___ Mater, one's school</li> <li>16. Resells tickets</li> <li>18. Batter's objective</li> <li>19. Past participle of lie</li> <li>20. State of Islands</li> <li>21. Fed</li> <li>22. Cause cell destruction</li> <li>23. Daily Show host</li> <li>26. Diagrammed</li> <li>30. Cat sounds</li> <li>31. Most sorry</li> <li>32. Do wrong</li> <li>33. Coral reef and lagoon island</li> <li>34. That (Middle English)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>39. Electrically charged atom</li> <li>42. Nassau is the capital</li> <li>44. Frogs, toads, tree toads</li> <li>46. Marjoram</li> <li>47. Where the Donald lives in NYC</li> <li>49. Whale ship captain</li> <li>50. A way to emit sound</li> <li>51. Comparable</li> <li>56. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist</li> <li>57. Businesswoman</li> <li>58. A way to split up</li> <li>59. Solo Operatic piece</li> <li>60. No (Scottish)</li> <li>61. In a way, tears</li> <li>62. Bridge breadth</li> <li>63. Single Lens Reflex</li> <li>64. Thou __ protest too much</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

### CLUES DOWN

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Korean War TV show</li> <li>2. South American Indian</li> <li>3. Cape at tip of Denmark</li> <li>4. A podrida cooking pot</li> <li>5. Russian sourgrass soup</li> <li>6. Perfect example</li> <li>7. Supplier</li> <li>8. Unhealthy looking</li> <li>9. Spanish beaches</li> <li>10. Am. follower of the Mennonite Bishop Amman</li> <li>11. Well-balanced</li> <li>13. Outer surface cells</li> <li>17. Fathers</li> <li>24. Sun up in New York</li> <li>25. Dweller above the Mason-Dixon</li> <li>26. Young women's association</li> <li>27. Tell on</li> <li>28. Bustle</li> <li>29. Poundal</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35. An ugly, old woman</li> <li>36. Doctors' group</li> <li>37. ___ Ling, Chinese mountain range</li> <li>38. Volcanic mountain in Japan</li> <li>40. Leaves parentless</li> <li>41. Existing in or produced by nature</li> <li>42. Inclination</li> <li>43. Extents</li> <li>44. Peninsula between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf</li> <li>45. Language of Nile</li> <li>47. Twyla __, US dancer</li> <li>48. Card game</li> <li>49. River in Turkey to the Caspian Sea</li> <li>52. Scored 100%</li> <li>53. Tonight's former host</li> <li>54. ___ and ends</li> <li>55. Notable exploit</li> </ul> |
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## Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION	C	R	T		C	R	U	S		E	E	C				
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**THUMBS-UP**  
Ellen Campbell, CEO of the Canadian Centre of Abuse Awareness was joined at their warehouse Saturday by Carol and Helena as they opened their doors to sell furniture to benefit the organization. The sale, which also includes other furnishings and housewares, continues this Saturday, February 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 125 Edward Street. Parking and entrance at rear.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

TOWN OF AURORA  
PUBLIC NOTICE



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

Aurora Town Council will hold a public meeting to receive input on the following planning application on Wednesday, February 24 at 7 p.m at Aurora Town Hall Council Chambers.

**APPLICATION:** The Owner has submitted Applications to amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-law to permit the development of a multi-tenant commercial building with retail sales and service commercial uses as primary uses.

**PROPERTY:** 15255 Leslie Street and 1540 Wellington Street East



**LEGAL DESC.:** Parts 1 and 2, Plan 65R-470 and Part of Lot 21, Concession 3

**APPLICANT:** 2283986 Ontario Ltd.

**FILE NUMBERS:** OPA-2015-06 and ZBA-2015-17

**CONTACT:** Additional information may be obtained from Lawrence Kuk of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4343. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the same address, faxed to 905-727-3123, ext. 4771 or emailed to [planning@aurora.ca](mailto:planning@aurora.ca). Please quote the file name and number.

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# Chamber of Commerce launches “Back to Business” strategic plan

From page 1

To this end, the Chamber said they will be working to have a member of their Board on hand to participate in as many municipal meetings as possible to weigh in on local business decisions as they progress, rather than reacting to them after they are done deals.

In addition, a revitalized Chamber means a revitalized sense of relevance amongst members, Mr. Khan added. At this point, plans to realise that goal are still being looked at, but plans are underway to bring in 84 new members by the end of June, reaching out to 800 area businesses, putting a renewed focus on young professionals, coordinating economic roundtables within the Region, and forming partnerships among stakeholders and all levels of government.

“No longer will be the Chamber you don’t hear from,” said Patricia Poulin-Ulbricht, Past Chair of the Chamber.

Added Mr. Khan: “We want to demonstrate being more proactive when it comes to your success as a business in our community.”

But many of those in the room, however, stepped up to say they wanted less talk and more action.

One member, for instance, questioned the Chamber’s relationships with landlords with an eye on what can be done to get businesses to move into the vacant storefronts in Aurora’s Downtown Core.

That, said Mr. Khan, is something the Chamber needs to work for and that could stem from a strengthened new relationship with the Town of Aurora.

Another said he heard a “lot of buzzwords and it was like sitting in an MBA program at York University.”

“You hit all the words, but they are shallow,” he said.

Following these comments, Mr. Khan said input from the members on the plan – which he characterised as a “living, fluid document” at the outset of the meeting – made the issue of accountability shoot up to the top of

their priority list.

“The number one thing after today is accountability,” he said. “We have to deliver. We can all say this stuff, but if we’re not accountable and we don’t deliver, it is exactly what you said: it’s shallow. That is where the hole has been dug. We do a lot of great social events, but when it comes to advocacy and representing the business community in front of individuals in this Town who are the decision-makers, we have been absent.”

Others, such as former councillor Bill Hogg, said what was presented to the membership last week seemed like a “laundry list” without “critical priorities” being identified. Without that being done, it will be hard to get a buy-in from Chamber members.

“The leadership of this organization needs to reach out and identify what the priorities are first and then clarify what those three to five are,” said Mr. Hogg, responding to a questionnaire

on feedback circulated to each table. “We can’t do it all. When you know what you are going to do, I either buy into the vision and get on board, or I don’t. Right now I have no vision. What I have right now is a boiler-plate strategic plan that you can slug in virtually any Town’s name into the vision, mission and strategies. I am not saying they are bad, but there is

more work to be done before you start asking me to get involved.”

But this is just the beginning, according to Mr. Khan.

“This is a first step and we’re not necessarily asking everyone to get involved,” he said. “When we want to get certain things done, we need a collective. This is phase 1-A. We need to keep going. This is not the end.”



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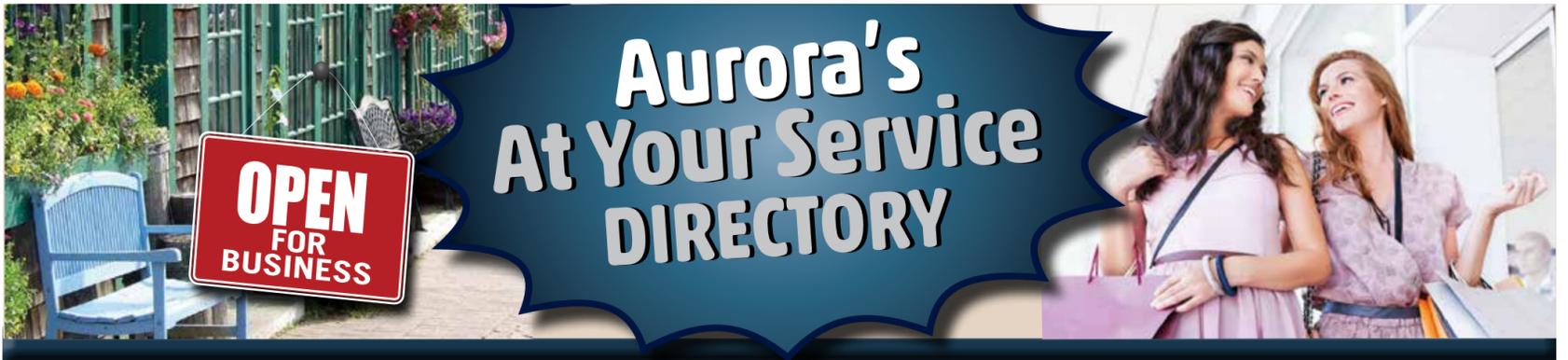
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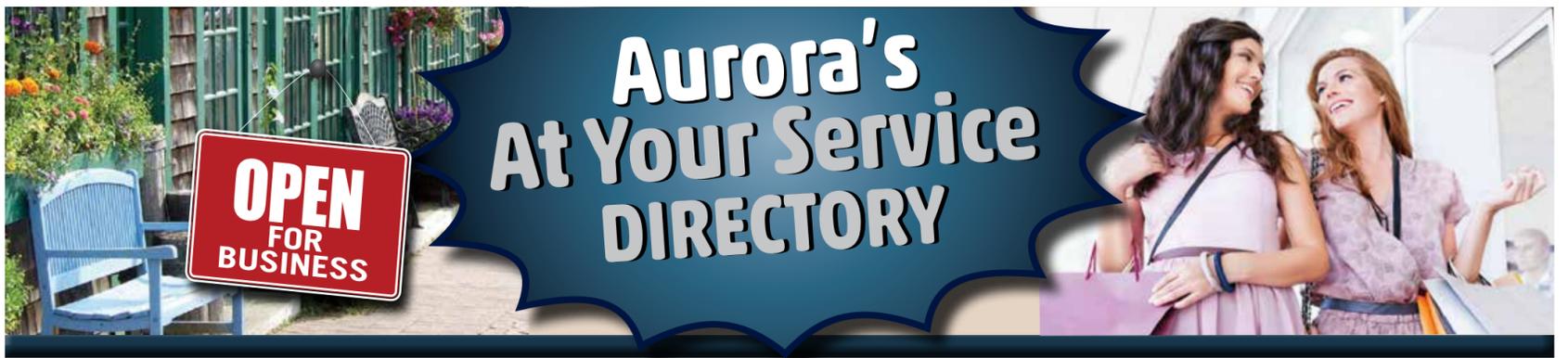
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Aurora adopts Blue Dot environmental movement

By Brock Weir

Aurora has joined a growing list of Canadian municipalities to adopt David Suzuki's Blue Dot movement. Council adopted the resolution last week, which recognizes "all people have the right to...breathe clean air, drink clean water, consume safe, food, access nature, know about pollutants and contaminants released into the local environment, and to participate in decision-making that will affect the environment."

Through Council's resolution, the sentiments will be formalized in a call to the Province for a formal review of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights, as well as to the Federal government to develop legislation enshrining the rights of everyone to live in a healthy environment.

"It is important to us to look to the future," said Councillor Tom Mrakas, who brought forward the original motion to Council. "I think it starts with the small steps and moving into bigger steps. This is a good first step to take for Aurora to do something positive for the environment."

With Council's endorsement came the view it was important to put action behind the words or, at the end of the day, "put our money with our mouth is", supporting the view that the principals in the motion would help guide a reworked Corporate Environmental Action Plan at Town Hall.

Some Council members, however, said they had some reservations on what adopting the resolution would actually mean in terms of advocating for a Bill of Rights and which tenets of the plan, if any, would be legally binding on a municipality like Aurora.

"I think it is impossible to be against this motion because it is very feel-good and we want our children, grandchildren and subsequent generations to inherit a better world, a cleaner environment, and the like," said Councillor Jeff Thom. "The motion asks something very specific that the Town not only support the Blue Dot campaign, but it also enacts, essentially, a Bill of Rights."

A similar view was offered by Mayor Geoff Dawe who said while he supported the motion, there needs to be a degree of caution as the principals can spill over into other municipal matters, including density, to which the municipality is not the sole driver. "We have to be very careful in how

we look at bringing these forward," said Mayor Dawe. "In some respects, it is motherhood and apple pie; who wouldn't be in favour of clean air, clean water, safe food, and the right to access nature? We just have to be very careful in how we put this together and make it work. I think it is a good motion and I will certainly support it [but] nothing is ever as easy as we like to think it is."

For resident David Heard, who was one of two residents to approach the podium to speak on the issue, it

certainly is not. While the principles of the motion are great, he said this kind of environmental advocacy has not historically been the case in Aurora.

"In this very Town, I believe there have been some consequences at times for speaking up, especially with environmental issues," said Mr. Heard, noting a potential long-sitting dumping site in Aurora. "Are we to ignore our place in order to be politically safe and maybe not rock the boat? I ask, are we joining programs because it is possibly

trendy...rather than to be transparent on the real issues at hand?

"What we need to do is much larger. I feel what we need to do is begin a grassroots movement and maybe it needs to start in this community. This community has strength in people who are intelligent, passionate. We have serious concerns in the municipality that need to be addressed. If we are going to write letters to the Feds, I would suggest we start asking for some money for some environmental cleanups in our own backyard."

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