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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 16 No. 16 905-727-3300 | theauroran.com | FREE Week of February 11, 2016 | CMCA AUDITED

A MILLION ACTS OF KINDNESS

– Musician Glenn Marais was joined by Jason at the third annual launch of the Say My Name Canada Campaign. The anti-bullying campaign, which kicked off Thursday night at Aw, Shucks! in conjunction with Mardi Gras North, aims to log over one million acts of kindness from schools, organizations and individuals across Canada. For more, please see Page 7.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Ontario Councillors lay groundwork for OMB summit

By Brock Weir

After Highland Gate developers took their case to the Ontario Municipal Board, many affected Aurora residents looked to Newmarket to get an idea of what might happen in their neighbourhood, should plans for a 180+ unit housing development be approved.

Newmarket unsuccessfully fought the matter at the Board (OMB) but were, at the time, just one voice calling for action.

Municipal Councillors from across Ontario, however, hope they will have strength in numbers when it comes to pushing for OMB reform and gathered in Aurora on Saturday to lay the groundwork for just that.

Councillors Michael Thompson and Tom Mrakas hosted local counterparts from Newmarket and Georgina, as well elected lawmakers from the Cities of Brantford, Cambridge, Kitchener, Markham and Welland at the Aurora Cultural Centre, to confer about pressing issues in their respective communities and how, collectively, they can advocate for change.

With an eye to expanding the meeting to a much wider group of politicians this spring, Saturday's preliminary session was a chance for politicians to identify common ground and key principles.

"We have started to talk about the logistics, such as where and how we are going to structure this, but it is also about collaborating beforehand to ask: what is the purpose? What are we trying to achieve both with [the jurisdiction of the OMB] as well as golf course redevelopment?" said Councillor Thompson. "The summit [will] be about being proactive and getting ready to work together, but we wanted to start off with a small group to frame it and put some structure around it…so the summit has a more meaningful impact."

Continued on page 19

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Children around the world get a "helping hand" from SAC

By Brock Weir

As a teacher and parent, Terry Prezens knows "kids have great hearts."

A computer sciences teacher at St. Andrew's College, he has guided his students in using technology and resources at their disposal to devise ways to better the world around them.

"They do stuff because they are not afraid of failure or what the world is going to think of them so much," says Mr. Prezens. "If you tell them what they can do, and you explain to them

Continued on page 3

Tennis players set sights on bubble

By Brock Weir

Aurora tennis enthusiasts have lobbed several balls in Council's direction calling for an indoor tennis facility and now it's Council's turn to return the serve.

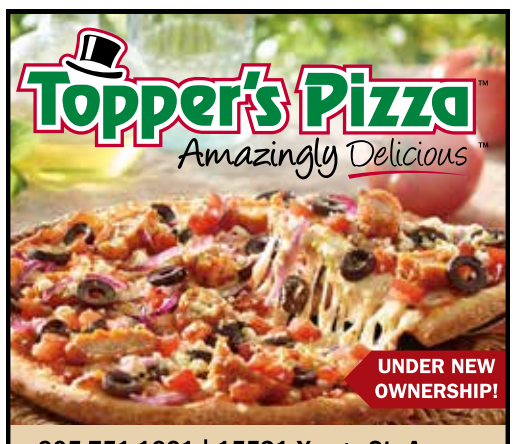
Councillors are set to sign off on a deal which would transform a corner of Stewart Burnett Park, just behind the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) on Wellington Street East, into a year-round tennis bubble.

Calls for an indoor tennis facility in Aurora are not new. In the last term of Council, the Aurora Community Tennis Club approached Council on building a multipurpose facility at Fleury Park, an idea which was shot down in short order by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, while plans for a cost-neutral bubble in lieu of this proposed "Fleury Ploughhouse" were popped at the eleventh hour in favour of taking a second look at a multipurpose facility.

Calls for an indoor tennis facility intensified following the closure of Timberlane Athletic Club at the end of last year and now Council is back at the bubble.

Last week, Council tentatively approved a 20-year lease deal with Canada Winter Tennis. Should the deal receive final ratification at this week's Council meeting, it will see the company enter into a lease payment

Continued on page 8



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★ Gone the extra mile in supporting our community?
★ Made Aurora a better place to live?
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Download a nomination form at www.aurora.ca/CRA or pick up a copy at any Town facility reception desk.
Brought to you by AURORA
★ Nominations will be accepted until Friday, March 4, 2016 ★

TOWN OF AURORA

Weekly Notice Board

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

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

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Tuesday, February 16	3 p.m.	Tannery Room	Community Recognition Awards Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 16	5:30 p.m.	Leksand Room	Finance Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 16	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee*
Wednesday, February 17	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library	Aurora Public Library Board
Thursday, February 18	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Friday, February 19	10 a.m.	Council Chambers	Trails and Active Transportation Committee
Tuesday, February 23	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Thursday, February 24	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning*

Council meetings are open to the public and can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit **www.aurora.ca**

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Find out more about improvements to GO Transit train service

Metrolinx is hosting a series of public meetings to provide information about their GO Rail Network Electrification project, which will enable faster and more frequent service. Interested persons are encouraged to attend:

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

For more information about the project and the full list of Public Meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca/news

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.

For more information or to apply, please visit our website www.aurora.ca/leadersoftomorrow

WHAT'S HAPPENING

2016 Community Recognition Awards

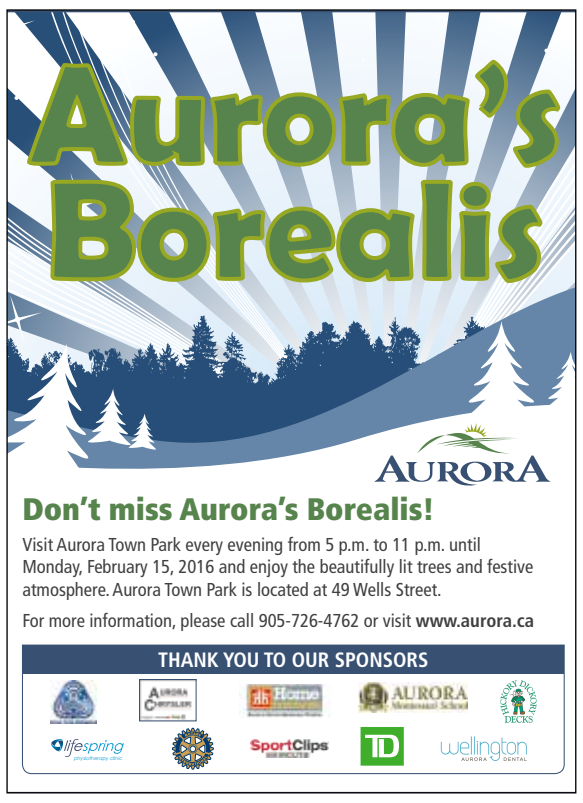
Do you know an individual, corporation or business who has …
- Given their own time for the benefit of others in Aurora?
- Gone the extra mile in supporting our community?
- Made Aurora a better place to live?

If so, why not nominate them for a Community Recognition Award?

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

Download a nomination form at www.aurora.ca/CRA 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



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

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Family Day Service Schedule

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MUNICIPAL OFFICE • 100 John West Way

Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way) will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, February 15** for Family Day. Regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. will resume on **Tuesday, February 16**.

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

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY • 15145 Yonge Street

The Aurora Public Library will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, February 15**. Regular business hours resume on **Tuesday, February 16.** For more information, please visit **www.auroraplca** or call 905-727-9494.

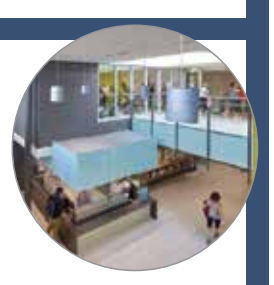
WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection in Aurora is **NOT AFFECTED** by Family Day. For information on waste collection in Aurora, please consult your *2016 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar*.

RECREATION CENTRES

Recreation centres including the **Aurora Family Leisure Complex** and the **Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex** will be operating with modified hours. For a full list of hours of operation and program opportunities including fitness classes, pool, gymnasium, rock wall and The Loft hours, please visit **www.aurora.ca/familyday**

Please note, the Aurora Seniors' Centre is **CLOSED** from Saturday, February 13 to Monday, February 15.



► **Check out our renovated Aurora Family Leisure Complex!**
135 Industrial Parkway North

EMERGENCY SERVICES

For Town-related emergency situations such as flooding, watermain breaks or downed trees, please call 905-727-1375 or 905-727-3123 and follow the voice prompts.
FOR ALL OTHER EMERGENCIES, CALL 9-1-1

The Town of Aurora wishes you an enjoyable Family Day!

3D-printed hands could be cost-effective solution for people in need

From page 1

how the world will benefit from it, it is a no brainer."

But Mr. Prezens recently played the waiting game – not afraid of failure necessarily, but certainly curious as to what a few people around the world thought of something he made: a prototype hand produced by the school's 3D printers.

Working on models created by e-Nabling the Future, Mr. Prezens stumbled into the initiative which connects 3D printer-equipped individuals, organizations and schools around the world with those in need of cost-effective artificial limbs.

Reading more about their efforts, becoming involved also seemed a no-brainer to Mr. Prezens and he set about downloading their plans and working out the kinks on their in-house machines.

"The first one that came out was terrible," he says with a laugh, "but when it finally came out, it was pretty good. I printed off the hand and sent it to them in early October. It took them more than two months to get back to me because they want to see the quality of your hand. You don't want them to partner with a child and then have a product the child is not happy with or [promise] something you can't deliver."

Just a few short weeks ago, however, they reached their verdict.

Testing it for strength, quality and durability, they gave SAC the green light begin printing out more hands for the group effort.

Printed out in white plastic, which has been donated to the school by parents, the artificial hand is flexible with articulated joints at the fingers.

As long as the wearer has a wrist, a simple flex can open and close the fingers. If the wearer does not have a wrist, stationary hands are also possible.

The end result, cautions Mr. Prezens, is not a true prosthetic but an aid to add more "functionality" in the everyday life of the wearer, even if it is something as simple as allowing someone to hold onto both handles of a bicycle for the first time.

In Mr. Prezens' classroom, students are taught to build things with a purpose.

If you can give a kid a real-world problem, the learning is "way better," he says.

Some of the real-world issues they have addressed includes a GPS wristband system where kids on the autism spectrum can check in with their parents (and vice versa) and t-shirts with sensors to help guide the visually impaired.

SAC teacher Terry Prezens displays a finished hand in front of the 3D printer that produced it for people in need around the world.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

In this case, the blueprint for the hand was already at the ready.

They estimate a similar product done by a professional could cost up to $8,000 per limb. For SAC, whose printers have been donated by parents, their cost to produce each hand might run up to $60.

While the teacher happy their finished product has been accepted by e-Nabling the Future, there is still a sense of unfinished business.

He has not yet received word if this first hand has found a lucky recipient locally or internationally.

"It would be nice to make one for somebody, to have some child actually benefit from having a hand they otherwise couldn't get because they just couldn't afford it at $8,000," he says. "If you are a parent, you want your child to have this prosthetic but the child is growing so fast; do you spend $8,000 and, in a year, they will outgrow it? $8,000 is a big chunk of change for most people.

"If we just help one person that will be amazing. That change of just helping one person is huge. There has already been success by the fact we brought [this issue to] the attention of students, faculty and staff and the possible solution we have. When I showed the kids the hand, they wanted to know what it was, but when you tell them how other people need it and how some people can't afford it, many of them hadn't even considered that as a possibility. Just bringing that up and making them think about it is a bit of a success."

But, with the go-ahead from the designers, they are eager to turn this success into making an impact as soon as possible.

If someone locally or globally needs an artificial hand, SAC could theoretically do it themselves and print it as the program comes with instructions on how to make to measure, but are cautious they could be inundated with requests.

Mr. Prezens says it might be a better idea to connect with the initiative online at enablingthefuture.org.

Nevertheless, there is a sense that Mr. Prezens, a father of a daughter who faces her own challenges with Down Syndrome and living on the autism spectrum, is itching to simply get down to business.

"If someone needed one, we would be okay going for it," he says. "I want to help some child and we have the ability to do it. If they need it and they can't afford it, I say we go for it!"

Briefly

AURORA MAN INJURED IN VAUGHAN HOMICIDE

A 22-year-old Aurora man was taken to hospital with serious injuries on Sunday following a Vaughan homicide. At approximately 3 a.m. on February 7, York Regional Police responded to reports of a stabbing in a parking lot near 120 Interchange Way. According to Police, the early investigation revealed an altercation occurred between two groups of people and two men were stabbed. One of the victims, a 22-year-old Richmond Hill man, Gianluca Cellucci, succumbed to his injuries at the scene, while the Aurora man was hospitalized and is expected to survive. Nick Bagherzadeh of Toronto was arrested without incident on Monday and will be charged with second degree murder and attempted murder. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Homicide Unit at 1-866-876-5423 x.7865.

FAMILY DAY FUN AT CULTURAL CENTRE

In addition to Arctic Adventure (see Page 15 for details), the Aurora Cultural Centre is offering a day of family fun on Monday's Family Day with a Carnival theme. Back by popular demand, Pan Fantasy Steelband will have you moving and shaking starting at 1 p.m. Continuing the theme, members of the public will be invited to create their own Carnival headpiece with support of art animators, using felt, pipe cleaners, jewels and more. Members of Local Colour Aurora are also set to return to the public galleries with artists Sandra Bytzek, Eva Folks, Jose K., Stu Lawson, Rick Ormond and Judy Sherman painting a real-time portrait of a local notable – but you'll have to come out to the Cultural Centre to find out who the special guest is!

WILLIAMS STAYS ON AT SOUTHLAKE

Dr. Dave Williams will stay on as President and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre after the hospital's Board of Directors formally voted in favour of extending his five year contract for a second term. "Dr. Williams has proven to be steadfast in his commitment to the delivery of safe, quality care and the continuous pursuit of healthcare excellence," said Jonathan Harris, Chair of the Southlake Board of Directors. "On behalf of the entire Board, we are very much looking forward to continuing to work closely with Dr. Williams on our strategic priorities." According to Dr. Williams, it's the combination of innovation and heart that makes Southlake so unique. "I am thrilled to have been asked to continue as the President and CEO at Southlake," he said in a statement. "I am truly honoured the Board has placed its trust in me yet again to be the leader of a hospital where staff and clinicians always put patients first."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chamber invites continued dialogue, redrafts strategic plan

(Re: Chamber members want "accountability" in new plan)

As Chair of the Board of Directors of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, I would like to address comments made during the Chamber's "Back to Business" strategic planning presentation and covered in The Auroran's February 4 article.

The January 28 meeting stimulated some engaging and challenging dialogue about the Chamber.

This discussion is necessary for growth and illustrates that the community cares about its Chamber.

We heard the message that the Chamber needs to offer relevancy, focus, accountability and action.

The Chamber is responding by delivering tangible outcomes.

First, let me address the issue of relevancy.

The definition of what makes a Chamber relevant is different for each member, but we are working first to address the most essential benefits we can give to the most members. To that end, we launched a substantial cost saving opportunity for members at the January 28 meeting. We also promised to re-introduce other partnerships that leverage the group purchasing power of the Chamber network. These programs can now be found on our website.

Secondly, with your comments in mind, we have revised the strategic plan to be more concise and manageable. We have responded to your request for a shorter list of priorities that will yield the best results for the Chamber, its members and the community. This focused, revised document will be ready on February 29.

Thirdly, I want to emphasize that the Board of Directors understands the need to be accountable to its members. This is the very reason we chose to take this approach to the strategic planning process. The goal of presenting plans in this forum was to ensure that any activities the Chamber undertakes reflect the needs of the Aurora business community. This is also the reason why, by way of similar meetings, this letter and other means, we will continue to reach out to the Aurora business community and listen carefully to your questions, comments and concerns.

I've said more than once that the business of chambers is changing. There are no easy answers but we are committed to finding them, with your help.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express my appreciation to those who joined us at the planning presentation, continue to demonstrate a commitment to the Chamber and who offer their constructive feedback. As members of the Board, we were overwhelmed by your expression of interest and especially want thank those who, since the meeting, have offered their expertise in organizational change. We need your knowledge as we chart this new path.

Those that have offered their time are invited to a discussion about volunteer opportunities at the Chamber office on a set time and date that will be communicated to you directly. By the time of this publication, you would have received the details of the meeting.

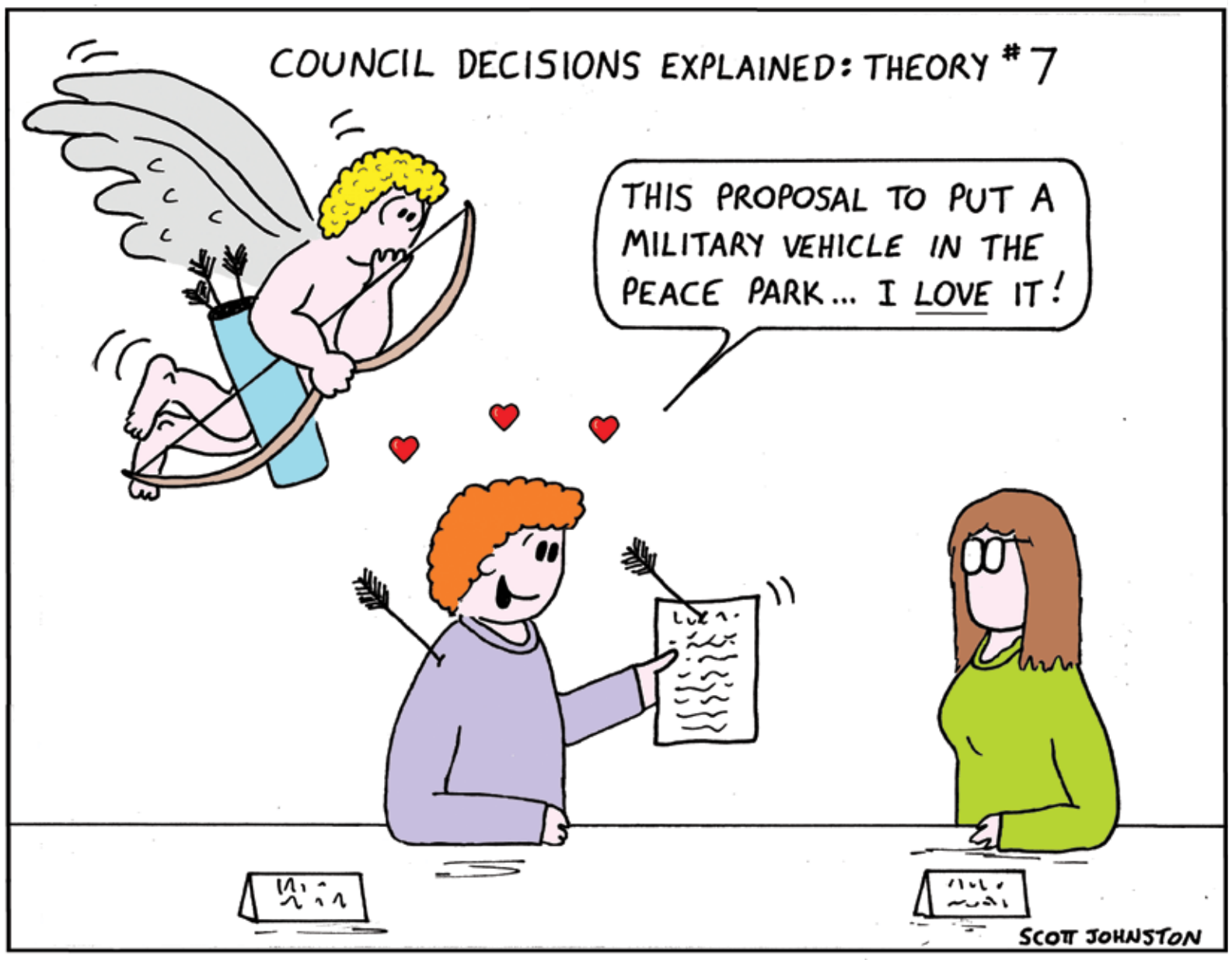
Finally, this letter is an invitation to continue this dialogue and to those who wish to share their time and knowledge with the Chamber. Join us and become part of the solution. Together we will chart an exciting future for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Javed S. Khan
Chair, Board of Directors
Aurora Chamber of Commerce

To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Machell's Corners



Smoother than a stale jar of Skippy

BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

Don't believe them? Just watch.

Every once in a while I have the itch to watch a Council meeting, or similar public spectacle, from outside the confines of the press box.

Late last fall, I was sitting in the press box for the thrilling conclusion of whether or not York Region Councillors would like to elect their Chair. For the entire time of the lengthy meeting, I was sitting on the edge of my seat waiting for the climax to come: a deferral to this month, in a move that shocked absolutely no one. As the scene unfolded, however, I had the pleasure of a running commentary from the Region's answer to Statler and Waldorf in my right ear.

"Of course he would!," said Statler who, in my mind's eye, was throwing up his hands in exasperation, when one of the team of 21 elected members did something presumably exasperating. I wasn't going to give him the satisfaction of turning around to watch his arms flapping around in the breeze, but the breeze on the back of my neck was telling.

"IDIOTS!" exclaimed his compatriot in heckledom.

They found themselves in a lather and wasted no time in rinsing and repeating throughout the three hour meeting, to the point where my colleague from another newspaper turned around to comment on their rudeness. She was right, of course, but let's be real: it was more entertaining, and more raw, than what was unfolding on the dais.

That was an exciting week overall.

If I hadn't been so entertained by their antics, and if there had been a lull in the debate, I would have turned my mind back to a discussion around our own Council table earlier that week.

Aurora's lawmakers launched into their semi-annual marathon talks about how many trees Aurora residents should be able to cut down on their own property.

It is a debate that invariably brings out the tears, snark, an unusual amount of theatrics and enough talk about trunk girth to make Sue Johansen blush.

"Has anyone seen that movie Groundhog Day?" asked Councillor Michael Thompson at the time.

That's when I wished I was sitting in the public gallery.

Basically, I had to sit on my hands lest I yell out, "Yes! Yes! Oh, God, YES!"

(Sue: I'll have what he's having.)

When dead horses are on the brink of being ground into a smooth, buttery paste, sometimes you need to let it all out. In my case, that had to come later. I had to stick to the task at hand through repeated and reheated arguments over why the tree bylaw should be tightened up. Or not. Rehashed arguments on why golf courses – apparently the last bastion of wildlife preservation in our ever-changing world, or so the story goes from some people – should be exempt from the Town's tree protection bylaw.

Slide presentations-cum-neighbourhood travelogues with Councillor Abel. The detailed history of Mayor Dawe's admitted ineptitude when it comes to his own landscaping prowess.

On and on it went. And on and on it goes.

By the time last November rolled around, it was clear few people were actually following this endless debate.

When Council first got the ball rolling on this discussion in the previous Council term, the place was packed with concerned residents who groaned and cheered as they saw fit, there were delegations galore, and no shortage of expert opinion. Last fall, just two people stuck around to soak in the rehash: the Executive Director of the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and the couple who brought the issue of tree cutting on Beacon Hall Golf Course to Councillors' attention in the first place.

Even the golf course owners themselves seemed to have lost interest in the debate.

Yet, that November General Committee meeting agenda, the bulk of which pertained to trees (the value of, protection of, replacement of) ran just short of a whopping 300 pages. Considering every single report that has come out about this over the last three or four years, it probably accounts for a whole 2C's worth of pulp and paper, not to mention the reams that have been dedicated to the subject in local media.

Eventually, you get to a point where you almost feel complicit in the destruction when absolutely nothing new is being said.

So, when Councillors once again put on their spurs to saddle up their favourite hobby horse last week, a few remarks were made and Councillor Thompson, who happened to be chairing last week's General Committee meeting remarked, "I understand the local paper will not be reporting anything on this issue."

That is not strictly true (see: the 777 words preceding this paragraph) but in the lengthy discussion last week, which ran nearly 40 minutes, almost nothing new was said.

The possible exception were comments at the start of the meeting from Councillor Abel mentioning the fact he works for a golf course but, following advice, did not believe he had a pecuniary interest in the debate and, later on, Councillor Gaertner's challenge of that view.

This hasn't been discussed around the table in over two discussions on this very topic.

As of our press time this week, Council is to convene once again to see if they can make a decision one way or another on whether the tree bylaw needs to change, whether it should stay the same, and perennial discussion on whether all this has been trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

Personally, I will be curious to see just how many people turn out to this week's session to speak out one way or another or, if the dwindling attendance last fall indicates a general frustration at the lack of any movement whatsoever.

Ever the optimist, despite being disappointed oh-so-many-times, I am hoping – and I am sure I am joined by people on both sides of this debate --- for some closure this week. I eagerly anticipate reporting in our February 18 edition that there have been some significant changes to the bylaw.

Or that the majority of Council has agreed to keep the status quo.

Something.

Anything.

THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8

Main number 905-727-3300 • Fax number 905-727-2620

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TODAYS NEW HOMES
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The Aurora Museum and Archives is celebrating…

INNOVATION DAY! (February 16)

A black and white photograph of a family piling snow blocks along the sides of their farmhouse to help insulate their home. What an innovative way to keep your home warm! Written on the back: "Jack, Sappa and Lucktoo (a dear)." Does this photograph look familiar? Do you know the location of this farmhouse? Let us know by emailing brock@auroran.com.

AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Pedestrian Observations

INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

We added a puppy to our family last summer.

Yes, she's terrific, and yes, we're exhausted. More on that in a future column.

But one of the advantages of having her around is that it has given us a chance to explore more of our neighbourhood, which has allowed me to observe a few things this winter.

The first is that there seem to have been a lot more Christmas (or "seasonal", if you prefer) decorations up than I remember seeing in previous years. That was certainly a nice diversion when spending great quantities of time roaming the streets on the bitterly cold dark nights, which seem to start at around 3.30 p.m. in December.

It was also entertaining to see the creativity of our residents. There was one house that had multitudes of lights that blinked in various sequences, choreographed to carols played over a loud speaker system.

I spoke to the owner one night and he confirmed he had spent quite a bit of time getting about a dozen different sets of bulbs set to come on and off with just the right timing. He was understandably proud.

Whether his neighbours, who were exposed to it for several hours a day for a month, appreciated it to the same degree, is another story.

On the subject of cold weather, while the white stuff has been rare this winter, we are fortunate to have the Town ensure that it is ploughed from our sidewalks so quickly.

However, one problem with this is that the snow clearing blades on the vehicles they use appear to be exactly the same width of our sidewalks. This sounds like a perfect situation, but it is only if the vehicle operator maintains a perfect alignment.

This can obviously be challenging on curvy bits of pavement buried under several centimetres of snow. Even going astray a short amount will result in great chunks of sod being ripped up from residents' lawns, and muddy tire tracks everywhere.

People obviously know this is coming.

In early December I noticed that a homeowner had pounded in several tall stakes along a curved piece of sidewalk outside their home. When I walked that way following our first snowfall, every one of them had been snapped into kindling, and the sidewalk was covered in mud and grass.

The lawn was a mess, but at least there was now some much-needed traction on that slippery stretch of the sidewalk.

Can the operators drive more carefully? Can the blades be made narrower? Can sidewalk edges be better defined?

I think the only solution to this is the arrival of spring.

Another thing I've noticed is that a social activity seen around the world seems to have come to Aurora; the placement of love locks.

This is a practice where a couple affixes a lock to a fence, as a permanent sign of their love, and then throws away the key. Or, I suppose, forgets the combination, if it's that type of lock.

Last year in Paris, the weight of locks attached to some bridges over the Seine got so extreme that authorities had to remove entire sections of fence for fear they would crash down onto the boats below.

I don't think we're likely to run into that sort of danger here in Aurora, as the locks I've seen haven't been on bridges, and apart from the Rotary Club's annual Frog Race in Tannery Creek, the traffic on our local rivers is pretty light.

But it's interesting to see us keeping up with worldwide trends.

As we get into warmer weather and more daylight, I'll be out exploring further areas of Town. I'm looking forward to some new discoveries.

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

MARKET MUSINGS

Jan Freedman

Here we are, mid-way through February in a winter that is just barely a winter.

Most of us are tickled pink that the weather has been so mild, but I know many who love outdoor winter sports are suffering, along with the businesses which support them.

I haven't had the opportunity to talk to our farmers to see how this winter weather will affect their crops, but we all have read how food prices will be rising and when you factor in the low Canadian dollar, the rise may be quite substantial; all the more reason to buy locally grown food from the Farmers' Market.

Now I'd like to introduce a friend I met at a multi-cultural festival in Newmarket last summer when I admired the brightly coloured, intricately detailed beaded earrings her entire family were wearing.

Her name is Attefa Ayyoubi (Atti) and she was born in Afghanistan in the early 70's and grew up in Kabul.

When she was a child, Afghanistan was a peaceful, safe and happy country where the most beautiful fruits and plants flourished.

She remembers that she used to like to sleep on the roof so that when you looked up in the sky, you could see the entire Milky Way. She and her siblings would actually jump to try to touch the stars.

Atti remembers those years as times of great happiness and of respect and honesty.

Being a very intelligent person, Atti finished high school at the age of 14 and went to Sofia, Bulgaria to University to study journalism. After studying in Bulgaria, she moved to Germany for seven years.

As a result of living in a many countries, she speaks several languages.

When she was in Grade 8, Atti learned about Canada and dreamed that, one day, she would see the wild, rushing waters of Niagara Falls. At that time, she hadn't thought that she would end up immigrating to Canada. She then married and had two children, a son and daughter here.

Atti's interest in beading began at an early age. She would take any sort of bead, even seeds, and turn them into necklaces. In the early days, the pieces took a long time to make and were quite simple. She particularly admired the intricate beaded work of the nomadic Kuchi people of Afghanistan and tried to learn from them.

Atti's work is influenced by Mexican, African and Aboriginal cultures and you can see that reflected in both her colours and designs.

She loves what she does and her passion is contagious.

She says that it is a hobby, but her children think of it more as a way of life.

Atti calls herself "Beading Mama", bringing cultures together, one bead at a time.

She will be at the next two Indoor Markets at the Armouries (February 13 and March 12), so I encourage you to visit her booth to talk to her and see her gorgeous beaded jewellery.

These are the vendors who will be at the February 13 Indoor Market at the Armouries from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The farmers will include 19th Avenue Farm, the Abbott Family Farm with meat, Oakridges Finest, Kind Organics, Pioneer Brand Honey, and Nature's Rainbow with heirloom plant seeds.

Among the food vendors will be Attilio's Olive Oil and Antipasti, Catharina's Kitchen, Cosmo's Smoked Meats Ltd., Green River Coffee, Nutmeg Bake Shop, Sasha's Sweets and Projet Christina Marie and John Abraham with his Fair Trade products and strudel.

Our talented artisans will include the Bear's Den, Nancy Wood, Eva Nagy, Green Leaf Designs, Kibo Natural Body Care Products, Beading Mama and Michelle Zikovitz.

The Winter Blues Fest group of musicians will have a pop-up performance between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, so be sure to plan to visit us this Saturday, February 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

See you at the Indoor Market!

AURORA SENIORS CENTRE

SENIOR SCAPE

Christina Doyle

FROM THE HEART!

Ah! those good old days when classroom desks were covered with lovely Valentines.

For some of us, it was like Charlie Brown who only hoped to get one little red Valentine, and it became the dreaded holiday where some of us would rather have stayed at home and not had to face the snickers of our peers as we waited to see if a Valentine ended up on our desk.

Then, by some incredible miracle, there it was: a humble little Valentine that gave you hope that the world was well with you again.

This Valentine Seniorscape is for you!

Not to forget our peers who remember those days with fondness and joy.

Although it's just a distant memory, there is much to gain by observing this special month.

There are people all around us, who give their time, their big shoulders to lean on, their gentle hearts, who offer you a few words that somehow carry you through the darkness, such as the uncanny, perfectly-timed phone call or the kind remarks.

These are given to you as gifts.

It's always nice to be on the receiving end but even more gratifying to be the giver. This month, give a little of yourself to someone.

Thank someone for the kindness given to you.

Always think in simple terms. As a retired teacher, the most special gifts came from students who made their own gift and wrote their own message to me.

We must always remember that our words can heal.

We all need to hear sometimes that we are appreciated but we also need to acknowledge those who do the many little things for us. Pause a moment and take the time to get to know someone new in your life, in your building, in your social circles, and welcome them.

Plant your seeds of kindness, as corny as it sounds. People do notice and listen. Winter can be a very lonely season so lets be that comforting blanket to someone today.

For some of us, hiking, skiing and skating are a thing of the past, and the cold weather only makes us reminisce of days gone by. However, be grateful that you had those days, those memories, and enjoy this month.

There is a little creativity in everyone, so why not cut out some red hearts, put them up and tell someone you care for them?

Work your magic this season: be bold and say a great big "thank you" to someone for their support. That is all it takes! Work from your heart, say from your heart, do from your heart and it will be the greatest gift of all one can receive.

Happy Valentine's Day to all the Charlie Browns out there and Welcome February!

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

AURORAN POLL

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

A) Yes B) No C) Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE February 9, 2016	YES	NO	UNSURE
	11%	89%	0%

More public input needed for speed cushion pilot

By Brock Weir

If you want to have traffic slowed down in your neighbourhood with speed cushions, you better speak up soon.

More public input is needed before a pilot project to see speed cushions installed in five problem neighbourhoods can get off the ground, Council learned last week.

Last year, Council reiterated its support for a motion from Councillor John Abel calling for a pilot in certain areas where residents have complained about speeding but, after public information sessions on the subject, the number of residents who turned out could be counted on one hand.

"[The warrant] is usually achieved through the efforts of a resident or a group of residents who live on the street seeking traffic calming measures," said Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure. The resident is required to achieve a minimum of 70 per cent support from the residents on the street to satisfy [the first warrant]. The October 1, 2015 open house attracted two residents, one in favour of the proposed plan and one opposed. This is insufficient feedback for a project of this nature."

To help bring in this feedback, the Town plans on a mail-out to all residents in the potentially impacted neighbourhoods to see if 70 per cent of residents are actually in favour. Over 1,400 letters will need to be mailed out to zero in on this threshold.

Topping the list of the five most impacted areas are Kennedy Street West from McGee Crescent to Murray Drive, Stone Road from Clift Road to Hawtin Lane, McMaster Avenue from Hollidge to Hollandview, Mavrinac Boulevard from Borealis Avenue to Spring Farm, and Conover Avenue from River Ridge Boulevard to Borealis.

Speed cushions in each area could cost between $75,000 to $100,000.

"The concern I have is the lack of response from residents," said Councillor John Abel, speaking to the issue at last week's General Committee meeting. "I think if residents know there is a survey coming forward, they will participate in it, if it is easy. We notice if you go door-to-door with a mailer, you get a much better response."

For many Councillors, it was a matter of casting a wider net.

As things stand, municipal staff carrying out these studies typically focus on the streets directly impacted by traffic calming measures. Often, streets connecting to the impacted road are left out of the equation and this should be changed, they argued.

"I would like to see a public planning process where you take a radius of where it is," said Councillor Michael Thompson. "I know with Stone Road, Conover and Mavrinac, there are a number of adjacent streets and the only way to get to them is to go over those sections of road. In my view, it impacts those who live on the adjacent streets just as much as those who live on it. There is value in expanding this survey."

Councillor Sandra Humfryes said she agreed, adding it is key to getting a full picture on traffic impact.

"When people want to avoid those streets with speed controlling methods, they are going to try alternate streets and other streets will get the fallout," she said.

For Kennedy Street, the feelings of the neighbourhood are clear to Dr. Beverley Bouffard, who made a delegation to Council in support of speed cushions on this particular stretch. A petition for traffic calming measures brought about by neighbours was not taken up by Council in 2011, she said, a move she added residents found "disheartening."

"We chose that street, suck it up. We went home and told our son our concern for he and his friends' safety on the road were not taken seriously," she said. "We represent a household with direct frontage on Kennedy West and Corner Ridge. We have lived in this great community for 15 years. The scope of the concerns from the boots-on-the-ground perspective is that Kennedy Street ranked on the traffic report as one of the five selected traffic speed locations sampled that was in the 86th percentile. The number of cars driving over the posted 40km speed limit was 12,300 in that sample, 88 per cent of the motorists were driving over the 40km speed limit in that sample.

"Given the proposed speed cushions will have less interference with EMS vehicle response times than the older ones, we stand as champions for proposing you to consider moving forward with this pilot proposal and let the data speak. Are we not committed to creating a balance and increasing housing development with an efficient walk-friendly neighbourhood, which is the heart and soul of a community, not just a mechanical collector road? Speed cushions are only a nuisance until it is your child's serious injury or, worse yet, a fatality."

Say My Name aims for one million acts of kindness

By Brock Weir

Sunday is Valentine's Day, a time of year when the colour pink becomes synonymous with love, hearts, and all things warm and fuzzy – but for local musician Glenn Marais, it is symbolic of something much larger and, sadly, rarer: kindness.

When a co-worker told Mr. Marais about the bullying her son was experiencing in school, the wheels started to turn. The result was Say My Name Canada.

The initiative, which encourages schools and businesses from across Canada to get on board with a month of kindness, has grown by leaps and bounds. The third annual campaign launched Thursday and Mr. Marais has marvelled at the legs this humble idea has found.

"We never really intended it to be much more than just trying to get people thinking and talking about just being kind to each other as a way to deal with bullying," says Mr. Marais. "Last year, it went through the schools and all these amazing things happened where kids were writing kindness notes on lockers. Three red-haired boys who were bullied almost the entire time they were in school created a poster and it went viral, explaining how what people said to them, even though it seemed like nothing, was hurtful to them.

"That was the whole idea of Say My Name: Someone's identity is important to them. When you make fun of them, you are taking away who they are and a little bit of what they are."

The campaign asks everyone in Canada and around the world to keep track of their acts of kindness and post online and through social media what they do as individuals, schools, and organizations to keep the kindness train rolling.

Groups can register online at Say My Name Canada to read success stories, look at pictures of kindness in action, and be inspired.

Since the campaign's inception, they have logged nearly 450,000 acts of kindness and by this time next year Mr. Marais says he hopes they will be right over the top.

MPP Chris Ballard, donning the campaign's pink shirt, and Councillor John Abel attended Thursday's launch. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

"I want one million in Canada, but it is even more important that we get every single province on board doing at least one, then I want to see it go around the world," he says.

Over the past two years, Mr. Marais says he has seen these acts of kindness morph according to the schools involved. A post-it note initiative, which say students leaving yellow notes of kindness and encouragement on the lockers of peers was truly student-led, he said. Sutton High School students, he added, went all out, ensuring at least one note was left on every single locker.

"They were going out of their way to make people feel better about themselves and I don't see why we as a human race can't have that focus of living for others a bit more," says Mr. Marais. "We also found a lot of people, adults, have been posting on our website that these things happened to them. It was amazing to me that adults, including a friend, who had been bullied all the way through high school and I had never known. He said to me, 'Even now, I carry a little bit of that with me and I am not going to get rid of it.' There are so many people who had similar stories. Everyone has gone into it one way or another where they face this kind of oppression and cruelty."

Mr. Marais, who now lives in Newmarket, grew up in Aurora. He returned to his old stomping grounds on Thursday evening for the campaign's third annual launch party, held at Aw, Shucks in conjunction with Mardi Gras North. The fundraiser for Say My Name was helped alongside the Mardi Gras launch which was a prelude to the February 13 Love Train Revue, hosted by George and Sher St. Kitts at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.

"I want to help Glenn take that 451,000 and help him get over that million mark and then we can start marching towards that and ask the rest of the world to do the same thing and help us stop bullying," said Ms. St. Kitts.

But let's not stop at just hitting the one million mark.

"It would be great to have this as part of a Mental Health Day with youth," says Mr. Marais. "We need a We Day for mental health. There are so many kids who are in peril and danger and it is not the most inviting society for mental health issues yet, but it is getting better. That is what I would love to see: a whole day conference and trying to spread this as far and wide as we can."

For more information on the campaign, visit www.saymynamecanada.com. For tickets to the Love Train Revue, call 905-787-8811.

Advertorial

Is STRESS Making you Sick?

By Dr. Vienna Iafrate, ND

Learn how you may be suffering from the effects of chronic stress, and potentially attributing it to some other cause. Dr. Vienna Iafrate, Naturopathic Doctor invites you to attend a two-part information workshop designed to teach you how you may be at increased risk of suffering from the well-documented devastating effects of chronic stress, and ways you can manage and treat your stress, naturally!

The stress response from an evolutionary perspective has allowed you the survival advantage required to be sitting here today, reading this advertorial. Your body adapted well thanks to the innate stress response, allowing you the speed and endurance required to flee from danger, survive a famine and perhaps emigrate to another country. This principle known colloquially as "survival of the fittest," where fitness denotes an individual's overall ability to pass copies of his or her genes on to successive generations, has brought us here today. The only trouble is, our bodies have yet to adapt to the stressors of the 21st century – here we have no bears to flee from and no imminent concerns of starvation or famine, but yet our innate stress response is working overtime. Research shows we are arguably more stressed today, than ever before in human history.

The medical community now attributes approximately 75 - 90% of all primary care visits to be stress related, with anti-depressant and anti-anxiety prescriptions exponentially on the rise. The stress response is meant to improve our chances of surviving a physical threat, but when this response is prolonged or extreme, as seen in today's society, the effects on the body and brain can be devastating. Chronic stress is now acknowledged as a key driver behind most of today's modern health concerns, both physical and mental. Nearly all illness is stress related: it's either caused by stress, aggravated by stress or causes stress.

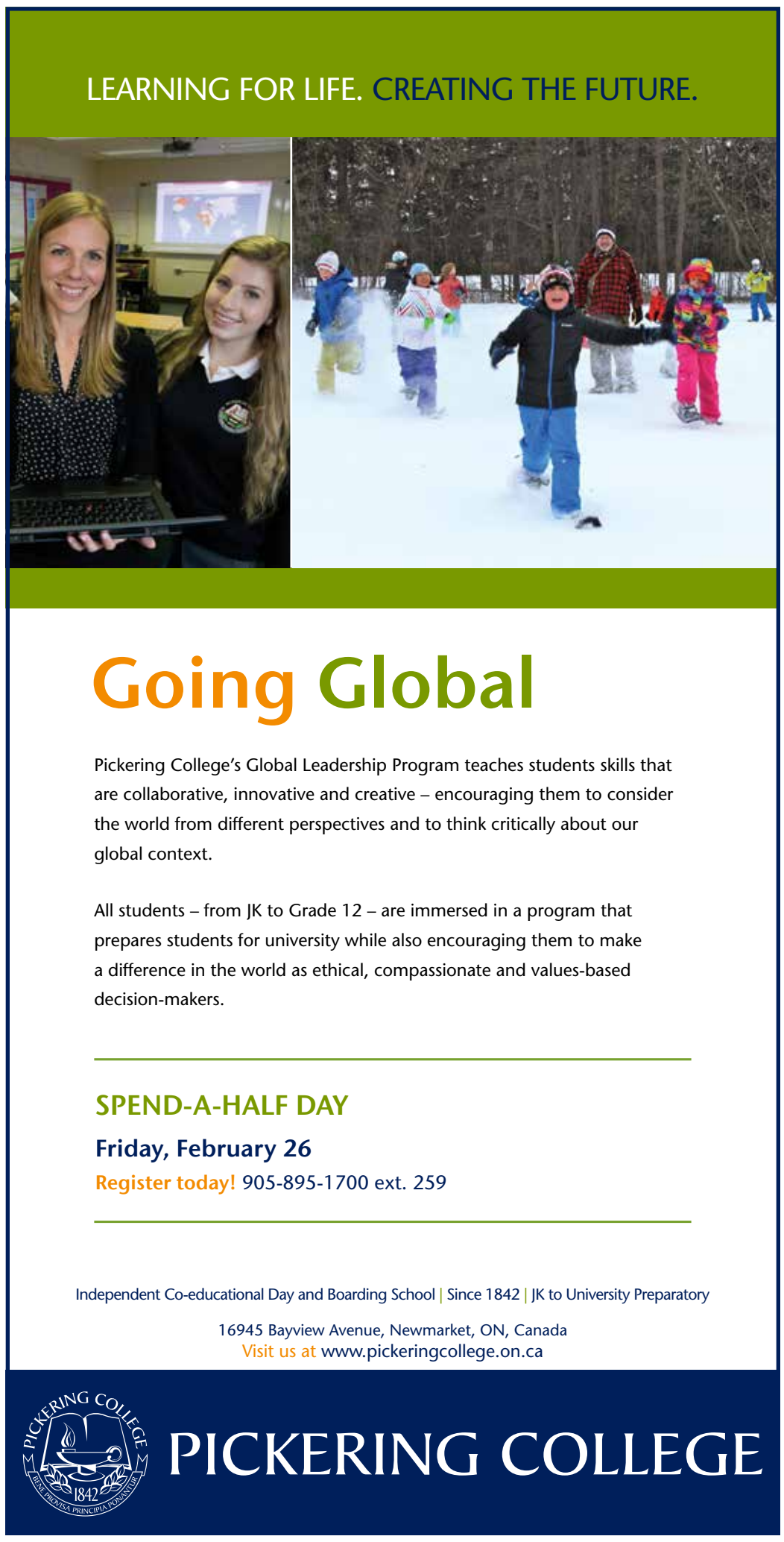
In light of recent scientific research, a number of physicians and researchers now recognize the ancient Chinese and traditional medicine philosophies that our mind and our bodies are in fact connected. What we perceive to be true within our minds, can profoundly influence our bodies. So that meeting you just attended, the argument you had with your wife this morning or your 5pm traffic commute, are all perpetuating the negative effects of an unnecessary stress response. The first series in this two-part workshop will provide information on how your stress levels could be causing or increasing your risks of:

- **Experiencing fluctuations in hormone balance**
- **Thyroid dysfunction**
- **Obesity**
- **Accelerated aging**
- **Alzheimer's disease**
- **Suppressed immunity**
- **Osteoporosis**
- **Sexual dysfunction**
- **Cancer**
- **Mood and other psychological disorders**
- **Hypertension**
- **Skin issues and many more!**

The King West Wellness Centre invites you to join Dr. Vienna Iafrate, ND for a two-part workshop series designed to help you determine if stress is making you sick. If you suffer from any of these health conditions mentioned above, or are at an increased risk of developing one or more of these concerns, this workshop series is for you! Part 2 of this series will explore the natural treatment options currently available to help replenish your adrenal glands, detox your mind and body as well as provide you with an introduction to facial rejuvenation acupuncture. The devastating effects of chronic stress may be written on your face, but it doesn't have to be!

This workshop series is $20.00 per attendee.

Part 1 of the workshop series will be held on Wednesday February 17th. Part 2 of the series will be Wednesday February 24th. Workshops will run from 7:30 to 9:00 pm at the King West Wellness Centre. 141 King Rd, Unit 10, Richmond Hill. Seating is limited. To make a reservation please call: 905-773-2225. Light refreshments will be served.



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Tennis bubble is "no-brainer", says Paul Pirri

From page 1

agreement with Aurora for $9,000 per year, plus 3 per cent annual inflation for the term of the deal, or $241,833.

The initial approval was greeted by applause from tennis enthusiasts filling Council chambers and for them, and some Councillors, the deal was a long time coming.

"Not much has changed [since 2013]," said Mayor Geoff Dawe. "I think we need to move ahead. I think what most people in the audience are interested in, and certainly what I am interested in, is moving forward."

This sentiment was echoed by Councillor Tom Mrakas.

"This should have been done a long time ago," he said. "We're going to be providing a service that is needed and is not costing the taxpayers any money. I don't see what the issues would be moving forward."

One issue, noted Councillor John Abel, is the location.

Councillor Abel said tying up "valuable" parks and recreation land behind the SARC was worth a rethink. Rather than having a bubble up here all year round, a more viable option, he argued, would be to throw a seasonal bubble over existing tennis courts at Fleury Park.

"We could use that valuable asset of land for what our Master Plan says, what our Sport Tourism Plan says, and that is a multi-purpose facility that could [house] tennis courts, volleyball courts, indoor tracks, indoor soccer, badminton and all those things," he said. "We have asked six times for a multipurpose facility for Council to consider as an option and we still haven't got that. We could put a bubble on the Hallmark lands, we could put it on Mavrinac. I do not know why we would let this very strategic, valuable piece of land at the SARC be occupied by a bubble."

Land behind and adjacent to the SARC were once earmarked as possible expansion opportunities for the facility, including additional ice pads, but neither the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan, or the updated draft up for Council approval this month cite any need for further ice pads, noted Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation.

Nevertheless, Councillor Abel's concerns were shared by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who seconded his failed motion to look at a bubble at Fleury Park and a multipurpose facility at the SARC.

"To tie up our very valuable and small amount of rec land for 20 years with a bubble at the SARC doesn't make sense to the community," she said. "There is no doubt we have to help the tennis community, but this proposal doesn't make sense to me."

Councillor Harold Kim agreed that the SARC is not the ideal location, but it is the best option at this time to give the tennis community what they want in a reasonable timeframe.

Other Councillors remained steadfast in their support.

"Councillor Abel's new idea [for Fleury Park], where are we going to get the money from?" asked Councillor Pirri. "The last thing I would want to do is spend money like a drunken sailor. We don't know where the funds are coming from. We have an option to provide something that is very much needed. Council, as a whole, turned that down last term. I disagreed with the decision then and I disagree with it now. We need to move forward on building something that meets the needs of our residents today and in the future. A tennis bubble will do that.

"It makes the Town money, as opposed to costing us a penny. It was a no-brainer them, it is a no-brainer now. We need to move forward with this."

In the end, Councillor Gaertner was won over.

"I don't know if I am going to want to rehash this at Council, I see the will of the table," she said. "I want the residents to be happy so, at the end of the day, I will be voting in favour of it."

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THE AURORAN Arts & Culture

Aurora Public Library unveils new look for a new reality

By Brock Weir

A library can mean many different things to many different people.

For Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leona Alleslev, it is a hub of "inspiration." For Mayor Geoff Dawe, it is a "passport" to places around the world and places through time.

APL's Cindy Shaver, and Borealis cover girl Sophie Bouvet, pose in front of the Library's new logo on Saturday afternoon. **Aurora photo by Brock Weir**

But, nowadays, a library is about more than just books – and the Aurora Public Library (APL) unveiled its new look on Saturday afternoon to reflect this new reality.

The open book logo is now a thing of the past, making way for a fresh image created by Cindy Shaver, APL's Marketing and Communications Coordinator.

Comprised of vertical blocks in primary colours, the finished product too is open to interpretation.

"Logos mean different things to different people and branding isn't so much about what we tell you it is; it is what you feel it is," said Ms. Shaver. "What I see may not be what you see, and that is okay, because that is the point – it is supposed to be something special you can kind of internalize and make work for you.

"The Library has been evolving. We have always been about books, which has been our mainstay for many, many years and that is what our prior logo reflected. It meant the opportunity to learn, to grow, and to inspire. Books are still very much a part of what we do, but they are not the only part. This logo is all about playing catch-up."

The old logo, she added, served APL well, but it didn't show the current reality. In devising the new brand, the first question Ms. Shaver said she had to ask was "What are we?", and took this question to APL staff and members of the public alike. They eventually agreed the Library is now a "community hub" where everyone can "come, gather, learn, grow and be inspired together."

"The blocks that you see are to show different buildings in the community with the Library at the helm of all that," said Ms. Shaver. "Other people say they see computer stacks and, if you see a book, that is okay as well. We just wanted something fresh and modern, and something which really showed the energy I think we embody here in the Library with our staff and services."

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New Syrian family of six ready to be settled by Interfaith group

By Brock Weir

It has been a week of mixed emotion for the Interfaith Refugee Resettlers.

The volunteer group, IRR, which is comprised of members from Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church, the Aurora United Church and the Newmarket Islamic Centre, received word at the start of the week that their efforts to host a Syrian family of six had hit a setback.

"We were saddened to hear their experiences with war in their country had caused a great deal of hardship to their family and that, as such, our sponsorship organization, AURA, felt their needs were far greater than our community could manage. The good news is they have arrived in Canada and are in the care of a support system that involves government agencies as well as sponsorship with a group trained to meet their needs."

While that was undoubtedly good news for the recently-arrived family, any disappointment felt by the IRR was lifted by further good news, learning soon after they have been selected to support another family of six.

"This young family is 'travel ready,'" they say. "We could be getting a phone call from AURA any day to welcome them. Our Settlement Planning Committee consists of members who are able to communicate in Arabic and provide transportation, as well as support the needs required for arrival. We have been working with the community to ensure all needs are met for our family and that we will be prepared to receive them when they arrive."

For more information on the IRR, or to support their efforts, email irrctee@gmail.com.

YRDSB holds workshops to ease transition of Syrian students

By Jake Courtepatte

York Region's teachers and staff are looking for any way possible to ease the transition of incoming Syrian refugee students.

In a collaboration between the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO-YR) and the York Region District School Board, around twenty teachers and staff took part in a workshop in Aurora last Wednesday to learn more about how to handle a situation they have never before faced.

"We wanted to do something to help with the influx of Syrian refugees," said ETFO-YR executive member Lynda Hockley. "It's not something we've ever encountered before, it's a unique situation. Although some of them have already arrived, we wanted to make sure that we are as well prepared as possible."

As of the last update, Hockley said that the school board is expecting a total of around 100 new Syrian refugee students. The board is looking to not only assist the students in their classroom needs, but socially, emotionally, and academically as well.

"In a situation like this, everybody is working together to assist everybody. We're assisting our teachers, and our teachers are assisting not only the incoming students, but the existing student body with acceptance, understanding, and integration."

Among the topics covered in the first workshop is one that is outside of the school, in assisting families with integration into the Region.

"They've come through reception, or will have, but now they are going to be part of our school families," said Hockley. "We want to make sure that our teachers know where to direct them in any part of the community, because they will look to us for answers."

"We know, as teachers, that we often do more than just the typical role of teaching the three Rs. We're looked to for guidance."

The workshop was an open-minded approach with discussions on language barriers, differing educational requirements, and social differences. One teacher even brought up the situation as an opportunity for current students to learn Arabic, citing that a quick Google search brought her to a translation chart she could hang in her classroom.

"It's some really rich and productive development for the teachers, because it is so specific," said Hockley. "We've all had new students, and some I'm sure have had students come from war-torn countries. But we want to make sure that everyone is prepared."

Hockley said the ETFO-YR is expecting and hoping that more workshops will be conducted to cover a broader range of teachers.

"Really what we focused on for the first workshop were the teachers who

Continued on page 21

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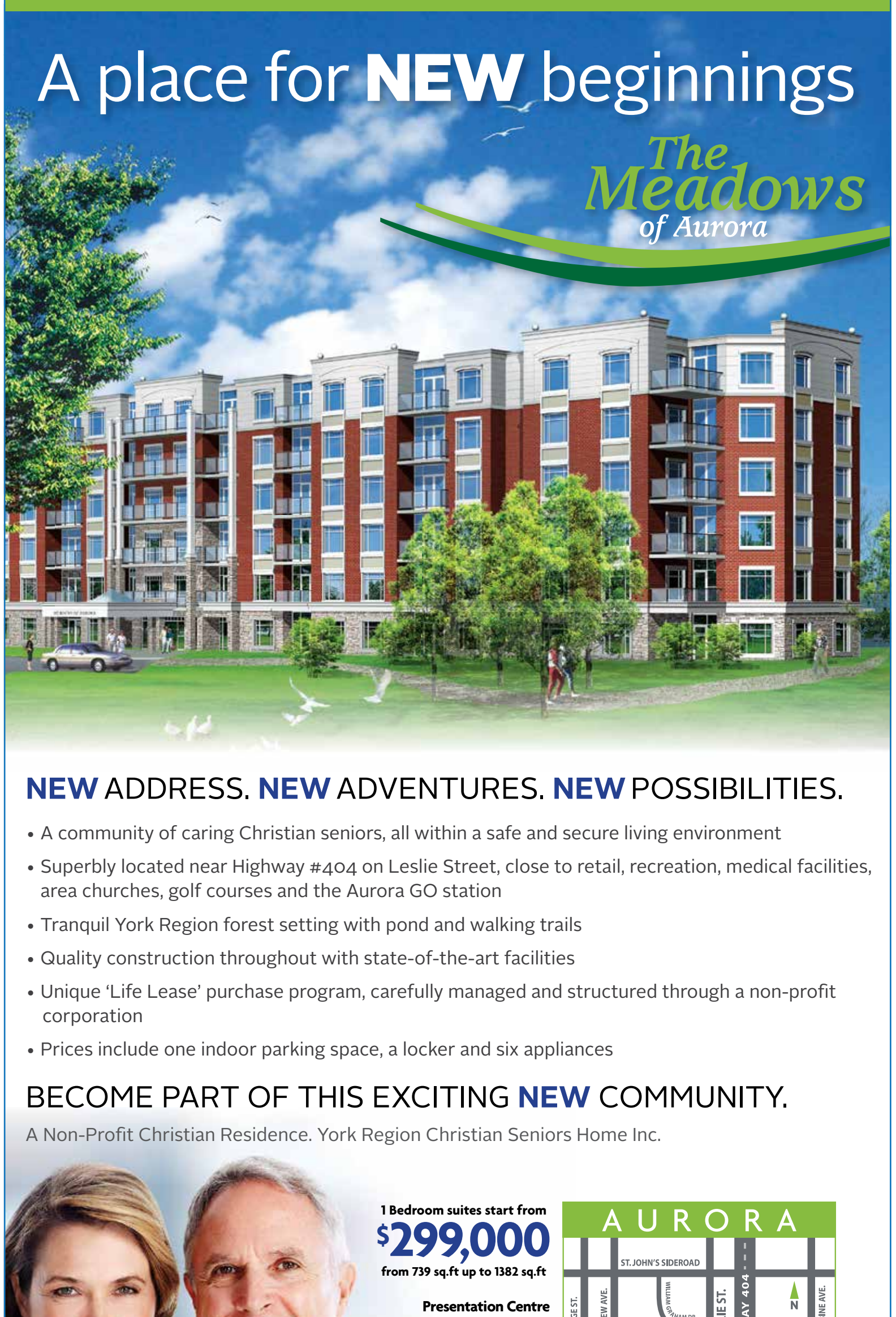

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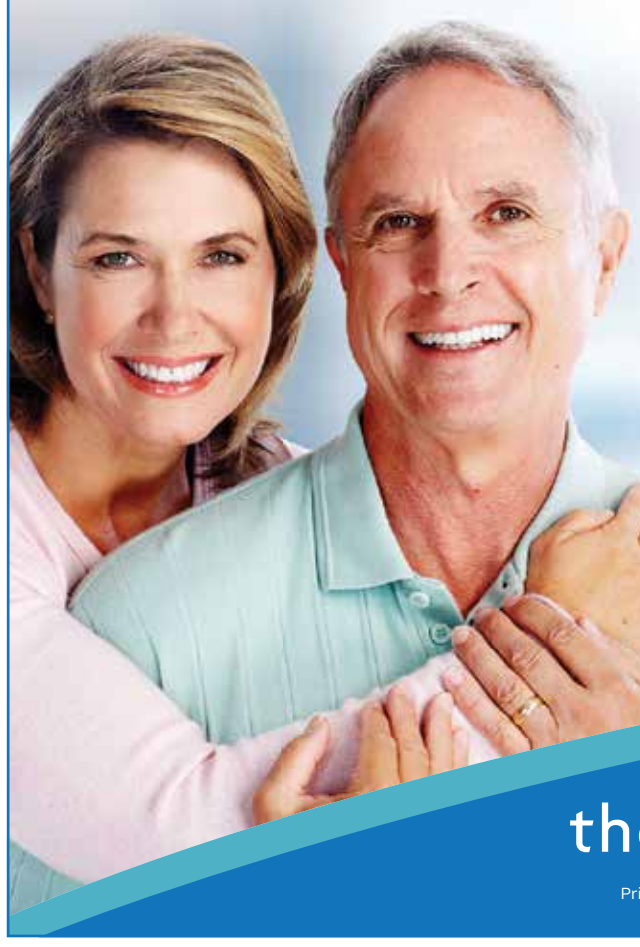

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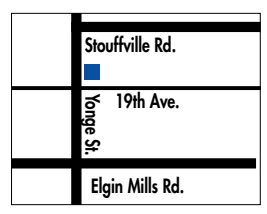

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Time running out for Tigers in battle for North

By Jake Courtepatte

The Aurora Tigers' chance of retaining their title of division champions is slipping away.

A busy weekend that saw two overtimes over three games wasn't enough for the Tigers to close the gap between them and the Markham Royals, who have flourished since moving from Hamilton before the season.

Goaltender Daniel Manella backstopped the Whitby Fury to a 3 – 1 win over the Tigers on Friday at the Aurora Community Centre, stopping 38 shots while getting beaten only once in the first period by JD Falconer.

The Tigers brought the burden of three regulation losses in four games back to the ACC on Saturday night to play spoiler to the Pickering Panthers, officially knocking the Panthers out of playoff contention by squeaking out a 2- 1 overtime win.

Josh Boyko and his Pickering counterpart Troy Paquette were perfect through the first two periods before Noah Delmas broke the goose egg for the Tigers early in the third. Pickering countered on the powerplay with just over five minutes to go.

Liam Nueman had the OT winner for the Tigers.

It was a similar story on the road on Monday against the Cobourg Cougars, with Cobourg sending the game to overtime with under a minute left on the clock and on the powerplay.

Fatigue seemed to play a factor, though, when the Cougars took the extra point just sixteen seconds into the extra frame to win 4 – 3. Aurora's goal scorers were Neuman, Darren Iwai, and Alex Formenton.

After picking up three of a possible six points over the weekend, the Tigers are left eight points back of a streaking Royals squad for first in the OJHL's North division, a team that has gone 7-0-1 in their last eight. They clinched their ticket to the playoffs during last week's action.

The Tigers, meanwhile, have struggled in stringing together wins for most of the season. Though a respective 6-4-1 since returning from the holiday break, with only two weeks left on the regular season schedule, every point is crucial.

"Giving up an overtime loss at this point in the year is a pretty big deal," said Drake Board, who leads the Tigers in goals with 19. "Everyone's looking for a playoff spot."

Though he took the loss on Monday night, Boyko has been stellar backstopping the Tigers since December. After pulling backup duties for most of the season, an injury to starting goaltender Alex Fotinos has given Boyko the spotlight, going 7-3 since the break while putting up a respectable 2.39 goals-against-average and a .915 save percentage.

Fotinos has struggled since being acquired early in the season, with the ex-OHLer earning a win in only two of the eleven games he has started.

Aurora's 24-15-0-7 record has them sitting in fifth in the Northeast conference.

This weekend doesn't get any easier: Aurora hosts Cobourg on Friday at the Aurora Community Centre, the divisional rival Royals on Saturday, and travel to Wellington to face the Dukes on Sunday, who are currently four points up on the Tigers.

Puck drop Friday is at 7.30 p.m.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com.

Josh Boyko stopped 29 of the 30 shots he faced in the Tigers' 2-1 OT win over the Pickering Panthers at the Aurora Community Centre Saturday night.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

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The Bantam AA Aurora Panthers exchange pins with the St. Louis Lady Blues prior to their opening game of the International Silver Stick tournament at the Aurora Community Centre.
Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

The quest for the highest honours in minor hockey culminated in Aurora over the weekend with 52 teams from across North America vying for six division titles at the 17th Aurora International Silver Stick tournament.

The belles of the ball were the Bantam AA Burlington Barracudas, who went undefeated in the marquee division of the tournament.

A late second period goal by Brynn Koocher gave the Barracudas the momentum in the final frame after fighting through a goalie battle early on, with Catherine Trevors and Rachel Carson adding the final touches to a 3 – 0 championship win over the Oakville Hornets. Burlington went 5-0-1 in the tournament, outscoring their opponents 17 – 5 along the way.

The Bantam AA Panthers were one of six Aurora squads entered in the tournament, but were the victims of some poor puck luck early on. A hard-fought matchup with the St. Louis Lady Blues on the opening day of competition had them on the wrong end of a 3 – 2 score, despite spending most of the game in the American end.

They lost a close match with the Nepean Wildcats later on Friday, and were knocked out by the London Devilettes 4 - 1 the following day.

All six Aurora teams failed to advance past the round-robin stages.

Nepean was the victor in the Bantam A division, with a perfect run of their own to the finals and handing Oakville another silver medal in a 5 – 2 win. Molly Henry was the MVP for the Wildcats, notching two goals in the championship.

Though the home teams didn't fair too well on the Aurora Community Centre and Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex ice, Central York Girl's Hockey Association president Mike Shields says he is happy with how the tournament has evolved since last year, with six American teams participating.

Last year, only one team came from the U.S.

In other divisions, the Bantam BB Syracuse Nationals topped the Nepean Wildcats 1 - 0, the Atom AA Barrie Sharks beat the Oshawa Lady Generals 2 – 1, the Atom A West Huron Waves beat Markham-Stouffville Stars 3 – 1, and the Atom BB Etobicoke Dolphins were the victors in a 1 – 0 game over the Brantford Ice Cats.

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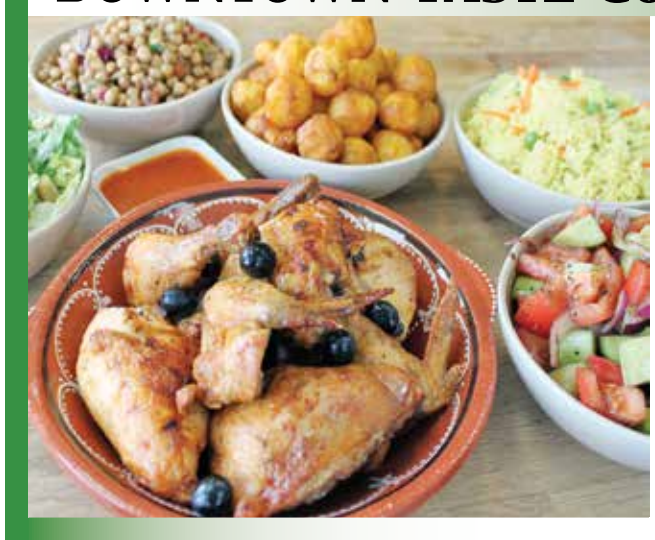

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Aurora puts healthy new spin on Arctic Adventure favourites

By Brock Weir

This Monday is Family Day and, once again, Town Park will be transformed into a winter wonderland for a whole day of family fun. This year, however, there will be some added attractions to get people on their feet and have fun.

Running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., this year's Arctic Adventure will feature returning favourites such as professional ice carving, a variety of outdoor winter games, Arctic golf, bouncy castles and, weather permitting, outdoor skating, tubing, and snow shoeing.

With this weekend's expected cold snap, however, there are some new activities and features to get warm and keep your blood pumping.

The Optimist Club of Aurora will be stationed in the adjacent Aurora Armoury hosting Soup for Smiles, a new initiative featuring a variety of soups to be tasted.

If the soup warms the blood, prepare to be pumped up with the official launch of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge. An initiative of several local organizations, including Windfall Ecology Centre and Sport Aurora, this is one of the first steps on the road to achieving Aurora's goal of becoming the most active community in Canada.

Throughout the day, there will be a number of booths featuring activities for kids and families, as well as information about local programs, including an obstacle course, pogo jumpers, a game of catch, selfie-opportunities at a specially created campsite, complete with faux fire, social media contests and, if Mother Nature cooperates, snow fort and snowmen building.

The Aurora Tigers will also be on hand from 11.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., skating with the public on the outdoor rink (weather permitting), before joining MPP Chris Ballard and Mayor Geoff Dawe at the band shell at 1.20 p.m. where the official kick-off will be followed by the home team, and team owner Jim Thomson leading the crowd in a fun workout session.

"This is going to be our big debut!" says Jen Atkinson, Director of Operations for Windfall Ecology Centre, noting the support of Mayor Dawe, Sport Aurora, Neighbourhood Network, the York Region Food Network, York Region Public Health, and local businesses. "Their support has been invaluable putting on the launch like this. Arctic Adventure is really well attended, so we will have the perfect audience and we just want to have a lot of fun."

Gemma Goldstein, who has been spearheading these initiatives on behalf of Windfall, says the objective has been to make things fun for everyone, regardless of age. Most importantly, it is about highlighting the fact that staying active and keeping healthy doesn't mean just sticking with a sport – and the importance of healthy eating will be underscored with free fruit kebabs available to all attendees at the Armoury. Capping the event will be a nature play put on by the Paddling Puppeteers, which begins at 2.45 p.m.

Plus, there will be something available to make sure you keep active well beyond Arctic Adventure.

"We are working with the Parks and Recreation Department and we're going to give kids passes so they can go and participate in activities, or go and swim for free several times with our Healthy Kids Pass from mid-February to July 15," says Ms. Goldstein. "It is really exciting and we're hoping to provide over 2,000 of these passes to kids in Aurora so 25 per cent of the kids in Aurora will be physically active.

For a full roster of Arctic Adventure activities, visit www.aurora.ca.

York Region high schools face off in Tier 1 hockey playoffs

By Jake Courtepatte

A few upsets could be in the cards for the first round of the elite division in York Region Athletic Association hockey, unless the league's top teams can turn it around in the short three-point series.

Aurora's St. Max Mustangs, second in the league in scoring all year, were effectively shut down by the fifth-place Newmarket Raiders in the first game of their series last Thursday at Magna Centre.

They took it to the Mustangs in the first minute of play, forcing goaltender Matthew Tanel to make a spectacular toe stop on a breakaway.

Newmarket opened the scoring midway through the first frame after a giveaway up the middle left Tanel no chance at getting into position.

St. Max was able to tie it up five minutes into the second on a scramble in front of the Newmarket net, but it was all the offence they could muster in the contest.

Tanel was a brick wall at the other end until the final three minutes of play in the third, when he was beaten by a lucky rebound on a screened shot.

The Mustangs have a must-win game against the Raiders at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex later this week.

The St. Jean De Brebeuf Bears of Vaughan lead the Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans 1 – 0 following a stellar performance from their veteran female goaltender, Fabiana Petricca. The Bears will be looking to close out the series Wednesday on the road following press time.

St. Theresa of Lisieux, who finished tied with the Mustangs for first in the league with a regular season record of 7-1-0, will try to rebound from a 3 – 3 tie with the St. Brother Andre Cardinals later this week.

Bill Crothers will also be looking to close out their first round series this week, with the Markham school taking the first game by a score of 4 – 3 over the St. Elizabeth Panthers of Thornhill.

Winning teams move onto the York Region semifinals before the final round is set to wrap up by the beginning of March.

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Fortune favours a bold Aurora debater as he takes on Canada

By Brock Weir

Stepping up to the podium, 17-year-old Ethan Fitzsimons tasked himself with challenging the old adage "fortune favours the bold."

Whether or not he agreed with the statement was beside the point; it's a sentiment we teach people to encourage them to make rash decisions. It was his argument and he was sticking to it. But the Aurora resident wasn't above showing a bit of brass at the Provincial debating championships.

"Can you guess whether or not you're allowed to bring up volunteers in a persuasive speech at a debate tournament?" he muses after the fact.

But, it worked. Calling up his volunteer from the audience, he threw his arms around them to demonstrate the health benefits of hugs in his persuasive speech to the audience.

"It impacts cortisol, it ups serotonin and it also ups dopamine," says Ethan. "I also talked about the weird social vibes and stigma we have against people hugging each other nowadays: teachers aren't allowed to hug people anymore; in high school it is okay… It is a weird topic, but I am just a huggy guy. So, I was wondering why people aren't talking about this, so I talked about it."

Evidently it worked, and his hugs led to an embrace from the judges and, this past weekend, he was off to Winnipeg to represent his school, Pickering College, and his community at the Nationals.

The simple fact is Ethan likes to talk. It's not so much about arguing, but when you grow up the youngest of four, it's best you find your voice.

Ethan's eldest brother found his niche debating and eventually decided to try it himself as a student at Aurora High School. Eventually he was persuaded to make the move to Pickering College and their debate team.

"There is a big age gap [between brothers] so I didn't really understand what debating was," he says. "Now that I have gone into it, it has actually helped a lot just in building our bond. It is easier to chat with him because we're on similar wavelengths and I have more conversation topics."

Okay, so even Ethan Fitzsimons admits there are some "weird" social aspects to hugging, but persuading people of its health benefits helped send the debater to the Nationals last weekend.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Describing himself as a "comedy-based" debater, stepping up to take on these mental and verbal challenges has brought about benefits well beyond the brotherly bond, trickling down in all areas of his life.

"As a debater, I sound and look a lot more confident than I am," he says, noting it is often more fun to tackle positions contrary to his own. "Half the time you do better. If it is a very ethical debate, it can be very difficult for people to do. It is part of realising every argument, particularly controversy, has two sides. People have reasons they believe what they believe and those are valid. I think doing something like that helps you to be a more open-minded person.

"I would rather argue for something I don't believe, as weird as it sounds, versus something I do because you don't get wrapped up too much in yourself. You feel too self-righteous if you're arguing for what you already believe in."

Speaking to The Auroran last Thursday before he embarked for Manitoba the following day, Ethan was preparing to get in the zone. Of Irish background, his Irish heritage was set to be the centrepiece of the "interpretive reading" component of the competition, with the rest of the topics still being mulled.

Asked what his dream topic might be, he was unsure but said the first thing that popped into his mind was "Is world peace possible?"

It is an endless topic and a continuous loop that would be fun to argue, he said. It's also an argument that is unwinnable" but, in the end, the important thing was representing his school and meeting like-minded students from across the country.

"I am sure I will meet people sillier than me, or people who don't even know they were part of the competition and were tricked into coming!" he said with a laugh. "I think it will be a fun gathering. [As a debater] the biggest thing I have learned is, half the time, fake it until you make it. I felt more confident after a while because I realised if you put in the effort and you genuinely try your best and think 'Okay, you know what? I will do well right here, right now,' you get up and do well. If you are unsure you want to join debating, or even badminton, a swim team, boxing or wrestling, the biggest thing to remember is: you embarrass yourself and it just goes terribly and you realise you have negative talent in that area, so what? Soooo what? I didn't even realise [my talent] was talking until I realised I talked too much about the things I was bad at!

"Actually, it's just gusto. That's what I've learned."

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Yonge Street parking plan to get closer look this spring

By Brock Weir

A pilot project to limit traffic on Yonge Street from Wellington to Kennedy Streets this summer to one lane in each direction with the rest dedicated to on-street parking will come in for a closer examination this May after Council fell short of endorsing the plan last month.

Council faced a recommendation to approve the pilot project, which is slated to run from June to October of this year. However, this recommendation was changed to approval pending a report with further comment, which is expected to come forward on May 3.

The concept, which was originally floated around the Council table last year by Mayor Geoff Dawe following the 2014 Municipal Election Campaign, could see traffic on Aurora's main traffic artery reduced to one lane in each direction from Wellington in the north to Kennedy Street in the south, with the two existing outside lanes transformed into on-street parking and landscape features.

"I somewhat facetiously suggested we defer this to 2032 so we can have the full 16 years to analyse it, like we have been beating ourselves up about Library Square, but I won't do that," said Mayor Dawe, after Councillors Sandra Humfryes and Michael Thompson offered some reservations on an outright endorsement of the pilot. "If anyone looks at Yonge Street at almost any time of the day, it is a single lane in each direction. It is already there. What this project was to do was to make it official. I do believe we should have, if not unanimous support from Council, there should be more support than there is right now."

Mayor Dawe suggested the report be referred back to staff for more information so that everyone is comfortable moving forward, but approval was made subject to the May date.

Speaking against the recommendation, Councillor Thompson said he supported the concept as "anything we can to do enhance our core" is worth investigating, but he still had lingering questions about the merits of this particular plan.

Compounding the issue, he said, was the fact the Region of York has yet to weigh in on the plan.

"I think this could be a good idea, but I don't know," he said. "Why don't [municipal and regional traffic experts] give us their perspective on possible potential. I just don't think we're treating this in a business-like manner. In any pilot project you need to identify the intention of the project, what it is founded in, the evidence to support it, and how you are going to measure success. You can't just say, 'I have an idea, so let's roll it out as a pilot project and then we will gauge it at the end.' That is not the way to run the Town."

Councillor Tom Mrakas expressed a similar view. While he said it could be a good idea, having those question marks still in the air made it tough to make a firm decision. The same concerns were offered by Sandra Humfryes who said she liked the idea, but wanted to see some movement on increasing efforts to divert traffic onto Industrial Parkway, originally intended to be a Yonge Street bypass.

Nevertheless, the pilot project had its supporters.

"We all want to see some sort of revitalization and, at times, I think we will almost accept anything," said Councillor John Abel. "One of the ideas was to create a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere and I think this is what it speaks to. We almost seem to get to a point where we're going to do it and then we step back. I feel this is another case [of] 'you want to cross the ocean but you don't want to lose sight of the shore.'"

Added Councillor Pirri: "I am happy to move forward with this right now. We have identified a plan we're going to move forward with. Now that we have identified the plan, we can go to the residents, see what they think about the plan, see what their concerns would be, and then come back for more consultation. Once the consultation has happened, it comes before us and we [determine] whether or not we're going to move forward."

Ahead of the May report, Municipal Staff plan to roll out an awareness campaign, including a public open house on April 19 and undertaking door-to-door consultation with Yonge Street Business Owners.

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Sedation Dentistry: The Answer to Dental Phobia

Dr. Pasha Nasirzadeh, Wellington Aurora Dental

There are plenty of reasons to be nervous before visiting the dentist. The trip can involve the fear of handing over control to someone else- just like a fear of flying. Some of us have heard stories of the discomfort and pain of others, or have had bad experiences in the past. There's also the issue of anxiety in clinical situations(1), which makes even the simplest visit for a cleaning a major problem.

These fears are well founded. No one likes giving up control. Picture it: you're lying prone, with someone you see a few times a year hovering over you; they're wearing strange glasses and a mask; there's a funny-coloured light in your eye; you're in a position where it's hard to speak, let alone express yourself; and Michael Buble is on the radio. Talk about a case for fear.

Peter Milgrom, author of Treating Fearful Dental Patients estimates that between 5% and 8% of Americans avoid dentists out of fear. That's a lot of people missing out on dental care because they're scared.

Fear Vs. Phobia

Far from making light of the situation, I want to clarify the difference between fear of the dentist and dental phobia. Those with a fear of the dentist will feel uneasy before appointments. They may exaggerate their worries and let their problems get stuck in their heads.

Dental phobia, on the other hand, is much more serious. It goes beyond anxiety to extreme fear and panic. Symptoms of dental phobia include:

- Trouble sleeping before an appointment
- Nervous behaviour in the lead up to treatment
- Unreasonable reactions (e.g. crying, physical illness) when faced with a dental visit
- Moments of panic when objects are placed in the mouth during a procedure

The First Step - Be Direct

Knowing that people harbour these fears, it's still important that they access proper dental care. Being direct with a dentist is the best bet. It can be intimidating - he or she is the expert, after all - but fearful patients have to assert their needs. Everyone should feel they have the right to ask "What can be done to make me more comfortable?" rather than leaving it to the dentist to decide. Being honest and upfront is the first step.

Patients with anxiety or dental phobia should plan to manage their dental appointments:

- Ask the dentist to narrate the procedure. For example: "This is what I'm doing next." "Here's what you're about to feel. Here's how long the feeling will last." Doing so allows the patient to manage their expectations
- Push the dentist to establish a comfort level. During a procedure be sure the dentist knows to ask often for permission to continue, particularly at tricky points or when performing new actions
- Make time for breaks
- Make sure that the procedure can be stopped at any point

The Next Step - Sedation Dentistry

Sedation dentistry, or sleep dentistry, is the next step in ensuring a comfortable experience for those who can't handle the dentist. Sedation types vary in strength from 1) laughing gas; to 2) intravenous sedation; and 3) general anesthesia. In situations 2 and 3 patients under sedation aren't likely to remember the procedure.

Sedation dentistry techniques can be applied for any procedure, regardless of its extent. This means that it doesn't matter if a patient is having a tooth filled or undergoing a root canal or more extensive surgery, the treatment to keep them comfortable remains the same. Seasoned sedation dentistry patients know the advantage of undergoing several procedures in a single appointment to minimize fear experiences and sedation exposure. This approach is effective with children, where managing difficult experiences early on can help prevent severe dental anxiety or phobia later in life.

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(1)http://www.livescience.com/36138-white-coat-syndrome-blood-pressure.html

Politicians find common ground as OMB summit takes shape

From page 1

The two Councillors called on Aurora to host a wide-reaching summit on the matter through a notice of motion approved by Council last month.

Since then, Councillor Mrakas said he had been encouraged by the response.

"There has been an eagerness and enthusiasm to get together and look at how we can move the summit forward and what principles will be embodied in the summit itself," he said. "One side tends to win over another. Maybe we can all get together and, at the end of the day, have that strength in numbers."

This was a view shared by Councillor Christina Bisanz of Newmarket.

As a private citizen of the Newmarket neighbourhood that grew up around the former Glenway golf course, she said she saw a community being "completely uprooted" firsthand by the process that is currently in place.

"It [put the community] into a state of disruption for a number of years to come," she said. "Having gone through that process with the OMB and taking a position as a community, we were trying to defend our municipality's official plan and it just became very clear to me there needs to be some revision to the OMB process and the degree to which the OMB can make decisions and rulings that override the vision and direction municipalities have set through their official plans.

"By bringing together representatives from municipalities that may potentially be facing the same situation we did in Newmarket where we lost a golf course, even in other issues they might be facing in their own municipalities with developers going to the OMB, perhaps collectively we should be able to bring enough input and influence as part of the review the Minister is going through, to have some influence at truly looking at some changes and a new direction for that body."

Fighting a matter at the OMB is not a decision to be taken lightly as it is often a very costly process, she added. The Glenway community had to raise their own money to hire their own legal team, including a planner, not to mention the money the Town of Newmarket spent fighting the issue.

"To have to go through that every time there is a challenge to the Official Plan, there is something inequitable around that."

Brantford's Richard Carpenter, however, came to the meeting from a slightly different perspective. The Councillor of 22 years has his eyes firmly on the horizon rather than on issues already examined by the OMB.

"Our municipality is looking at selling one of our municipal golf courses that we have had for 89 years and the whole idea of getting rid of greenspace in a community just to infill and put pavement in is against the environment and against the community," he said. "What we're looking at as a municipality, which I am dead against, is getting rid of two large greenspaces in the community and then building another one, which doesn't make any sense. It is taking away from the neighbourhood."

The nine-hole course in question, he said, is hilly and has lent itself as a toboggan run for the surrounding homes.

"It is the only greenspace in the neighbourhood, it is their park, basically a 50 acre park that the golfers have been subsidizing. When you look at it the other way around, it is probably the largest greenspace and comparing it to any green space, no matter how large or small, it cost the taxpayers the least amount of money. It loses $10,000 a year but every other green space costs more than that just to cut the grass and maintain it."

While this particular plot of land hasn't even been sold yet and is, therefore, a long way to ever becoming an OMB issue, forging ahead with a summit calling for reform is in the best interest of the taxpayer.

"I think municipalities need to find a way to say that the development industry doesn't run our communities and right now it seems to do that," he says of perceived inevitabilities once planning applications hit the OMB. "If I fall asleep in the back of a car and I wake up in a city someplace, I want to know I am in Aurora or Oakville because their city designs differently and it looks differently."

Clockwise from foreground: Councillors Christina Bisanz (Newmarket), Richard Carpenter (Brantford), Michael Thompson and Tom Mrakas (Aurora), Karen Rea (Markham) Nicholas Ermeta (Cambridge), and Yvonne Fernandes (Kitchener) discuss priorities related to OMB reform at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Saturday.

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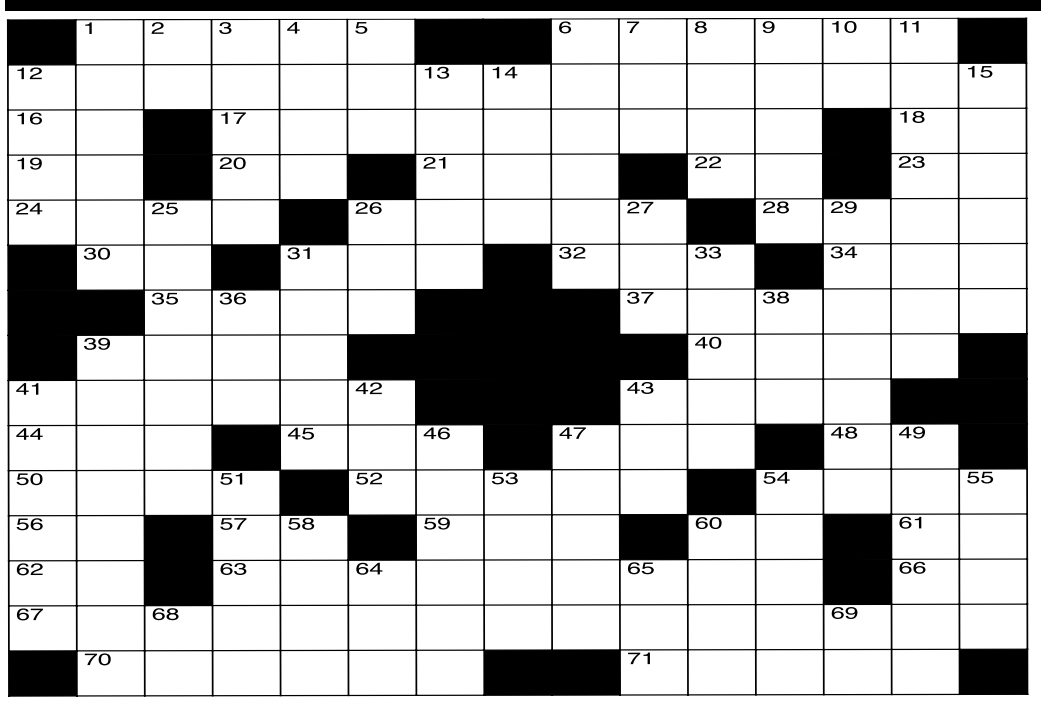

CLUES ACROSS

1. Construct
6. Seal
12. Last from Kent Haruf
16. A public promotion
17. Acutely insightful and wise
18. Yemeni riyal
19. __ Lang (country singer)
20. Blue Hen school
21. Decaliter
22. Point midway between S and E
23. 12th Greek letter
24. One point S of SE
26. Pools
28. Notes of hand
30. Algerian dinar
31. Metal cooking vessel
32. Short poking stroke
34. Mountain Standard Time
35. Dark hairs mixed with light
37. Hosts film festival
39. Frost
40. Former moneys of Brazil
41. Bodily perceptions
43. Baseball great Ty ___
44. Before
45. __ Caesar, comedian
47. Containerful
48. Expression of uncertainty
50. Tells on
52. Bones
54. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
56. Singer Jolson
57. Atomic #73
59. Pigeon sound
60. Jr's. father
61. 6th tone
62. Debt settled (abbr.)
63. Contrary
66. Chinese tennis star Na
67. 44th First Lady
70. Methyl phenol
71. Avid applause

CLUES DOWN

1. Started growth
2. Biblical Sumerian city
3. Where Alexander defeated Darius III
4. Something to be borne or conveyed
5. Removed earth
6. Traveled by water
7. Hirobumi __, Japan
8. Antelopes
9. Japanese emigrant's offspring
10. For instance
11. T cell glands
12. Acorn trees
13. Burdened
14. Wound deformity
15. Has faith in
25. Title of honor
26. Someone
27. Pouch
29. Comprehensive
31. Separates with an instrument
33. Noble
36. US, Latin America, Canada
38. Snoot
39. About heraldry
41. Angel
42. Female sibling
43. Former OSS
46. Stressed-unstressed-unstressed
47. An imperfectly broken mustang
49. Call out
51. A long scarf
53. Coconut fiber
54. Scene of sports & events
55. Bodily suffering
58. Cloths
60. A way to agitate
64. No seats available
65. Linen liturgical vestment
68. Atomic #103
69. Home screen

Last Week's Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

Who does what in our community

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COMING EVENTS

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.

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.

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.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

The Aurora Historical Society will hold their Annual General Meeting tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Magna Room at the Aurora Public Library. The event will feature a Year in Review, AHS Business, plans for the year ahead, the election of the Board of Directors, and guest speaker Jacqueline Stuart with "Flashback: Aurora 1916."

* * * *

Sport Aurora will hold its Annual General Meeting this evening at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at Aurora Town Hall. Discussions will include the development of the Aurora Sports Plan, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the unveiling of the PLAY in Aurora tourism guide.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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_coversation or email Partagez.York@yahoo.ca.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Country Day School hosts Dr. Mike Evans, an internationally acclaimed healthcare and medical expert known for his work in innovative health messaging conveyed through his series of whiteboard videos today at 9 a.m. Discover more about the art and science of better eating, sleeping, thinking and moving. This talk distills the key message from Dr. Evans' work and answers common questions about the best diet, the best way to get a good night's sleep, and the importance of activity. Free admission. For tickets, visit cds.on.ca/tickets.

WEDESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Garden Aurora – Photography Competitions: What judges are looking for. Join Mark Girard, an accredited photography judge, as he discusses what judges look for when evaluating photographs. Meeting of the Aurora Garden Club is held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 8 p.m. Join us for refreshments and the opportunity to become a member. Further information at www.gardenaurora.com or 905-713-6660.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street presents 3-time Juno Award winner David Francey in concert with his quartet. Enjoy the best in Canadian folk & roots. Cash bar – concert at 8 p.m. Tickets $28 advance, or $32 day of concert, plus HST. For information, or to purchase tickets, call 905-713-1818, or visit auroraculturalcentre.ca.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) will hold progressive euchre today at 7 p.m. All are welcome. $5 to play. Prizes. Call 905-727-9932.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

The Aurora Public Library's Money Talk$ series continues this evening at 7 p.m. with "Am I a Self-Directed Investor…or not?" This free, informal monthly discussion and education group is intended to share unbiased knowledge in economics and financial planning. Presentation followed by group discussion. For more information, contact the Library's Adult Information Desk at 905-727-9494.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Join local churches today for the World Day of Prayer this evening at 7 p.m. on Victoria Street at Mosley.

10,000 refugees due by month's end

From page 11

directly had students coming into their classrooms. We're hoping to reach a lot more students and staff after the success of this conference."

The reception by the teachers has so far been a positive one.

"One teacher couldn't make it today, so she sent a replacement to take notes. They're happy to do it… they all want to be here and get this information. There's fabulous dialogue going on."

Over four-million refugees have been driven out of Syria by the Syrian Civil War, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meeting the first group to come to Canada at Toronto's Pearson Airport in early December. Premier Kathleen Wynne said Ontario is on track to receive 10,000 refugees by the end of this month.

It was a packed house on January 31 as the second Ambedo Coffee House took over the Second Cup at Bayview and Hollidge. The open mic night returns this Sunday, February 14, from 7 – 9.30 p.m.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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S model shown. All-in price $21,509*

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ALL-IN PRICE $27,139*

$135‡ at 2.99% apr

semi-monthly for 60 months with $2,300 down payment. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

OVER 90% OF RAV4s SOLD IN THE LAST 20 YEARS ARE STILL ON THE ROAD TODAY.Σ

2016 CAMRY LE

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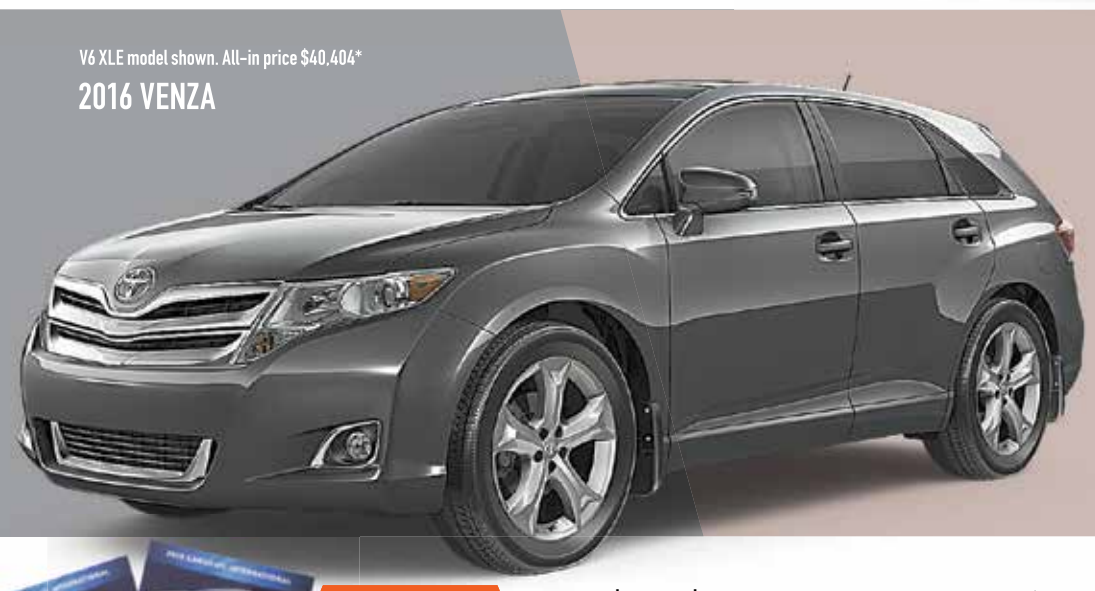
XSE model shown. All-in price $30,529*

2016 CAMRY



V6 XLE model shown. All-in price $40,404*

2016 VENZA

2016 VENZA FWD

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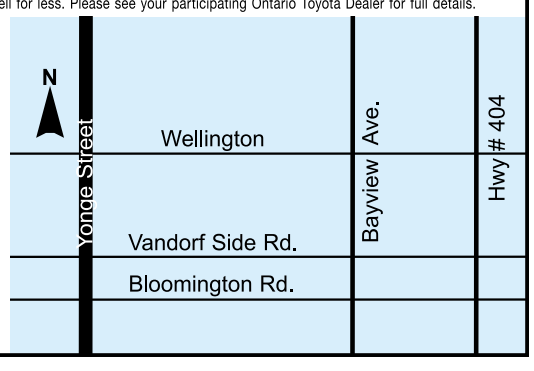

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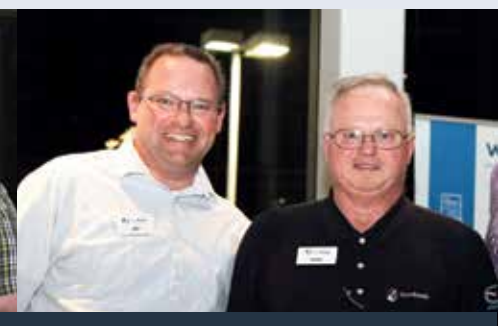
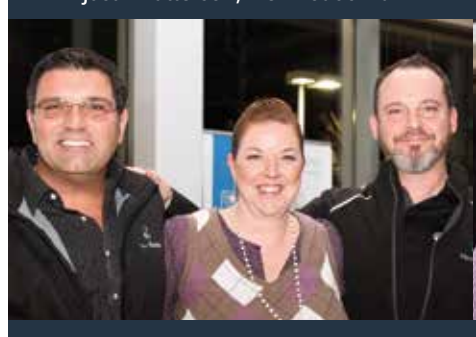
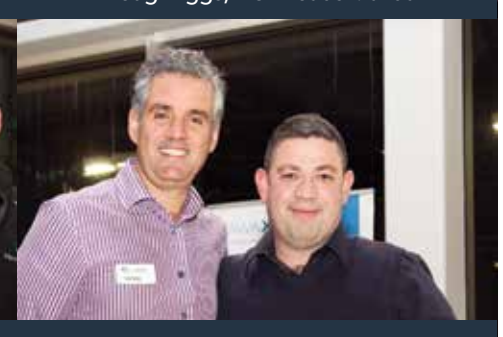
Jordin Tobin Congratulates
Justin Patterson, NewRoads Kia



Jeff Card Congratulates
Doug Higgs, NewRoads Mazda



Rino Rizzuto Congratulates
Jen Newlove and David Smirle,
NewRoads Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC



Michael Croxon Congratulates
Leon Verbon,
NewRoads Richmond Hill Subaru

Congratulations to our 2015 Winners

Justin, Doug, Jen and Leon, thank you for your positive outlook, uplifting nature and making us smile throughout 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM NEWROADS!

We are thrilled to recognize the following NewRoads family members for their incredible customer service and sales performance in 2015. Well done!

NewRoads Kia
Blake Tobin, Highest Customer Service Index
Rob Shedlowich, Top Sales Volume and Top F&I

NewRoads Mazda
Warren Harrison, Highest Customer Service Index
Gary Maguire, Top Sales Volume
Mark Szczucinski, Top F&I

NewRoads Chevrolet Cadillac Buick GMC
Steve Leadbeater, Highest Customer Service Index
Stef Zangari, Top Sales Volume
Adam Porteous, Top F&I

NewRoads Richmond Hill Subaru
Leon Vaksman, Highest Customer Service Index
Francis Lee, Top Sales Volume
Robert Ruffolo, Top F&I