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Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 16 No. 39 905-727-3300

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FREE Week of July 21, 2016



31-year-old Kerry Greico, who lives with brain injuries following surgery for a brain tumour over 10 years ago, was left disappointed after applying for a dishwashing job at a local restaurant.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE LIFETIME MEMBER

PRESIDENT'S GOLD AWARD

ROYAL LEPAGE Community REALTY

Potential employee just wants a chance to prove herself

By Brock Weir

Thirteen years ago, Kerry Grieco was spending July preparing for what promised to be one of the most exciting times in her life.

18-years-old, and fresh out of Cardinal Carter Catholic High School, she was preparing to study early childhood education at Seneca College, pursuing her dream of becoming a kindergarten teacher.

Just a month into her studies, however, Kerry was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

The subsequent surgeries, radiation and chemotherapy left her with

mental and physical challenges, including some weakness on her right side and short term memory loss. Now 31, however, she has repeatedly defied the odds, working with children throughout the school year at a Newmarket school, as well as filling her time as a dishwasher at Aurora's Panera Bread.

"The people are really happy to see me all the time," says Kerry of working at Panera Bread. "I also volunteer at the Aurora Seniors' Centre and a lot of them are very friendly and helpful towards me. It gives me something to do and I am not struggling with anything there. I like dealing with

people and being active."

But, a recent job interview for a similar dishwashing job at the Swiss Chalet restaurant on First Commerce Drive left Kerry and her family disappointed.

"It was very quick," says Kerry of her meeting with store owner Mona Karim. "She came in, we introduced ourselves, she asked me what I wanted to do and I told her I wanted to wash dishes. She kind of just looked at me and said, 'I don't think you could really do it.'"

When asked how that made her feel, Kerry said "not good," before

Continued on page 17

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EDUCATION WITH BALANCE

Wilcox, Haywire to headline Ribfest

By Brock Weir

Get ready for a true blast of classic Canadiana as Canadian rock mainstays David Wilcox and Haywire lend their talents to next month's Aurora Ribfest.

Mayor Geoff Dawe, along with Frank Mete of the Rotary Club of Aurora, made the announcement last Wednesday at the weekly Concerts in the Park – along with the fact this year's Ribfest concerts will be free admission after last

Continued on page 8

Early budget forecast estimates 3.6% tax increase

By Brock Weir

The municipal portion of your tax bill next year could increase between 3.3 and 3.6 per cent if early budget forecasts remain on track – but that means some belt tightening at Town Hall, according to staff.

Councillors received an early prediction on 2017 Budget pressures last week before tasking staff with bringing in a budget with an increase pegged at the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – currently standing at 2.3 per cent – plus a 1 per cent increase on top of that which is to be earmarked to boost reserves.

According to Town Treasurer Dan Elliott, however, there are some challenges at Town Hall that need to be overcome before that target is met.

"We have a number of budget items that have come to light that are significantly out of place and we discussed these with the Finance Advisory Committee already," said Mr. Elliott. "We have some budget 'right-sizing' to do and it is quite significant, more significant than I first imagined. We were looking at that [on Tuesday] and developing some strategy."

"We think we can accommodate the 'right-sizing' in the budget, the growth

Continued on page 16

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905-727-3123 ext. 4212
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COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Date Time Location Meeting

No Meetings Week of July 25

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



THANK YOU

The Town of Aurora congratulates Aurora Teen Idol 2016, Melissa Suma, and 1st Runner Up, Kahlan Crowe.

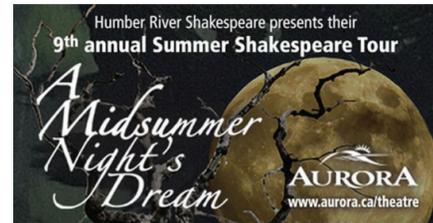
The Town of Aurora would also like to thank the following organizations, volunteers and sponsors for their generous contributions to the 2016 Canada Day Celebrations!

Dance in the Park
Aurora Rotary Club

Canada Day Parade
Aurora Rotary Club
Casey Transportation
Mary Georgopoulos – 2016 Citizen of the Year
Highland Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac
St. Andrew's Valley Golf Course
York Regional Police Auxiliary Unit
York Regional Police

Canada Day Festivities
Aurora Classic Custom Car Club
Aurora Community Arboretum
Louisa Barbosa
Club Aurora
Home Depot
Optimist Club of Aurora
Rotary Club of Aurora
St. Andrew's Valley Golf Course

Event Sponsors



Thank you to all who came out to enjoy Aurora's Theatre in the Park this past weekend!

A very special thank you to the Humber River Shakespeare Co. for bringing Shakespeare to life with their enchanting presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". Don't miss their other stellar performances throughout the year.

For more information, please call 1-888-993-4772.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

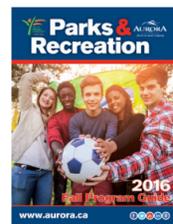
Youth Engagement Committee

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications to be a member of the Youth Engagement Committee for the 2016/2017 season. Open to Aurora youth ages 12 to 17. The submission deadline is **Wednesday, August 31**. Apply today!

For more information and application forms, please visit www.aurora.ca/youth

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Coming Soon! Fall 2016 Parks & Recreation Program Guide



Look for your copy delivered to your doorstep in The Banner on Thursday, July 28.

Starting August 2, Aurora residents can register online for Fall programs and activities. Create your new e-PLAY account today!

For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/ePLAY



We offer fun and exciting programs for every camper, from sports and swimming, to science and technology, to arts and crafts and cooking. It's not too late to register!

For more information, refer to your 2016 Spring/Summer Program Guide or visit us online at www.aurora.ca/campprograms

Adventure-A-Day

Bring your friends and join us for an Adventure-A-Day including babysitter's training, tree top trekking, home alone course, Cold Creek Conservation Area, biking, climbing and swimming.

When: Monday, July 25 to Friday, July 29
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Aurora Family Leisure Complex

Registration is required. For more information, please call 905-726-4760.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

- Summer Student, Human Resources
- Recreation Supervisor, Community Programs
- Youth and Community Development Coordinator
- Youth Programmer
- Part-time Program Leader
- Part-time Skate Patrolter

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/jobs or call 905-727-1375.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Textile Recycling Pilot Project

The Town of Aurora in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York and Textile Waste Diversion is pleased to provide Aurora residents with new, convenient options for re-purposing used clothing, textiles and household goods.

Our goal is to provide more convenient access to textile recycling and keep these items out of landfill. Material collected through this program will be sorted and processed through a local facility, and either re-sold, re-used or recycled. Proceeds from this collection will be used to support diversion programs for residents of The Town of Aurora.

Aurora residents can re-purpose unwanted clothing, textiles and household goods 24-hours a day at a number of Textile Waste Collection bins at Town facilities or arrange for home pick-up.

For more information about this pilot project or for the full list of locations and accepted items, please visit www.aurora.ca/clothingrecycling

MOVIES in the Park

Movies start at dusk and are FREE
Selected evenings in August and September

Arrive early to enjoy the stellar movie-themed activities and special pre-movie surprises!
A food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated.
For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

www.aurora.ca/moviesinthepark
905-726-4762

e-PLAY is being enhanced...

Get ready, Aurora!

We're working hard this summer to improve our e-PLAY online registration system. The future e-PLAY website will launch in August and will allow you to register and pay for parks and recreation programs, save programs to your online wishlist, manage your family's schedules and receive reminders from your computer, tablet or smartphone!

Create your new account now at www.aurora.ca/ePLAY
With a few easy steps, you can set up your profile and get a jump on the Fall Program registration rush in August.

Those who create their new account before **July 31, 2016** will be automatically entered to win a \$100 credit towards any registered Recreation program.

For more information, please call 905-726-4770 or visit www.aurora.ca/ePLAY

TD PRESENTS Aurora's 2016 Concerts in the Park

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Aurora Town Park, 49 Wells Street

July 27: Neu Jenarashun

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TD Premium Concert Experience

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Aurora

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Inclement Weather?
For inclement weather-related inquiries, please call 905-726-4762.

www.aurora.ca/summerconcerts
905-726-4762

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

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DAVID WILCOX
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Photo credit: Mark Pinedo
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SATURDAY AT 9 PM

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Media Sponsor: Rental Sponsor: Waste Sponsor:

We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.
For health and safety reasons, pets will not be able to experience Aurora's Ribfest, service dogs excepted.
For inclement weather inquiries, please call 905-726-4762.

www.aurora.ca/ribfest • #AuroraRibfest • 905-726-4762

Bring your pet in while you shop at new Canadian Tire



Canadian Tire Aurora manager Jeff Hodgkinson greets 11-week-old Oscar, and his human, Jessica Bosma, to the pet friendly store on Monday.

Aurora photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

If you're on Aurora's east side to do a bit of shopping for your back yard or picking up a few things for that weekend away at the cottage, why not let your pooch enjoy some retail therapy as well at Canadian Tire?

Our four-legged friends are now welcome guests at the store, which recently located to Bayview Avenue at River Ridge Road this past spring.

The new "Pet Friendly" policy is the brainchild of store managers Christine and Jeff Hodgkinson, who believe making a few accommodations in the store to accommodate dogs and other pets was a small price to pay in preventing owners from leaving their dogs in closed-up cars during heatwaves.

"Last summer, it seemed like every time you turned on the TV or radio, there was somebody getting their windows smashed to save a pet," says Jeff. "The genesis of it started quite some time ago and the credit belongs to Christine. She told me there was another major retailer that was doing it and created a bunch of kerfuffle. She said it was something we should be doing. She went and talked to our vet and asked what he thought it was and he gave us guidelines to follow."

The implementation of the program was pretty easy, with the hardest part producing the signs to spread the word.

"We needed to be prepared to do some cleanup, so we always have somebody from the janitorial staff kicking around – but I don't believe we have had an issue

yet!" says Jeff, noting they then had to decide what doggie treats would be available at the cashier kiosks on the way out. We just had to make sure the animals that are coming into the store are well-behaved. All of the pet people who have come in here so far are all responsible pet owners.

"The biggest feedback is we're now seeing repeat dogs in the store! The staff are telling me they will see one, two or three visits from the same dog and it is almost like the dog is more identifiable than the customer. I am not really sure that is a great thing, but that is reality. The people who have taken advantage of it love it and it has been pretty well received."

Mr. Hodgkinson describes himself as "the new kid" in Aurora, having joined the Aurora store in February as the old store at Murray Drive was transitioning to its new location.

It was a big task, but one that has paid dividends. While he speculates the move has caused them to lose some of the customers that previously came up from northwest Richmond Hill, new customers from southeast Newmarket have been coming in droves – of both the two-legged and four-legged varieties.

"To me, this is a service you can offer your consumer that doesn't cost you anything," he says. "It is better for the pets – and it is better for the windshield and window glass! It has been a win-win."

Canadian Tire's pet friendly policy will be in place year-round.

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Briefly

LSRCA URGES WATER USE REDUCTION

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is recommending that businesses and residents reduce their water consumption while hot, dry weather conditions continue. "Low rainfall since mid-April has contributed to drought conditions, which can put stress on municipal water supplies," said Tom Hogenbirk, Manager of Engineering at LSRCA. "While we did see some rain in parts of the watershed this past weekend, it wasn't enough to counter the effects of the hot, dry weather over the last couple months. Until we see enough rain to bring us out of the early drought stage, we're encouraging all water users to conserve, including businesses, aggregate operations, golf courses, water bottlers, farms and residents," he concluded.

AURORA

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

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

APPLICATION: The Owner has submitted Applications for Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment to allow the development of two six-storey apartment buildings each containing 150 residential units for a total of 300 residential units on the 1.81 hectare parcel of land. Two levels of underground parking are also proposed.

PROPERTY: 15036 and 15286 Leslie Street

LEGAL DESC.: Part of Lot 21, Concession 2, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York

APPLICANT: 1754260 Ontario Limited (Polo Club)

FILE NUMBER: OPA-2016-03 and ZBA-2016-07

CONTACT: Additional information may be obtained from Lawrence Kuk of the Planning & Development Services department at 905-727-3123 ext. 4343, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning & Development Services department at the address noted below, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca. Please quote the file name and number.

Personal Information Collection Notice

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

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123, ext. 4343

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Aurora shouldn't be so "hostile" to commuters: Downtown resident

(Re: Commuter Parking Moving Northward concerns Council, neighbours, July 14)

I have lived in Olde Aurora for over 19 years.

I live a block from Yonge Street, a block from the library (then and now) and the Church Street School, and within two blocks of at least five different buildings that host Sunday morning services and have limited or no parking facilities.

I also live within two blocks of Town Park and have used it regularly over the years. My street was listed in the article as one that would have its parking restricted during the day.

I don't understand why we are being so hostile to our neighbours in Aurora and South Newmarket who take the GO Train. We want people to use mass transit and not drive one to a car into Toronto every day.

Our representatives have been calling for all day train service for years.

How can people take the train if they can't get to it?

Why can't the commuters park on the residential streets around the train station?

What harm does it do to have cars on these streets during the day?

I know that my street is much safer when it is lined with parked cars as all the drivers slow down.

I completely understand why parking spaces at Town Park should be available to park users throughout the day. Why can't commuters use the other streets? We say we want people in Aurora's town core; we should stop making it so hard for them to come here.

Melinda Moore
Aurora

New home needed for Celestial Harp

After 14+ years of living in a renovated barn/studio, the Town of Aurora has decided to enforce a non-residential zoning bylaw. I have been told to move in two months.

The landlord has been great. Over 14 years there was cheap rent and no rental increases.

In 14 years, rents have significantly increased and my pension will no longer cover the rent for any similarly sized place (2,000 to 3,000 sq. ft.). So right now there doesn't seem to be any place available for me and the Celestial Harp.

It looks like I will have to downsize and let go of the Celestial Harp.

Does anyone have any suggestion as to where the Celestial Harp might belong?

Three areas of concern stand out:

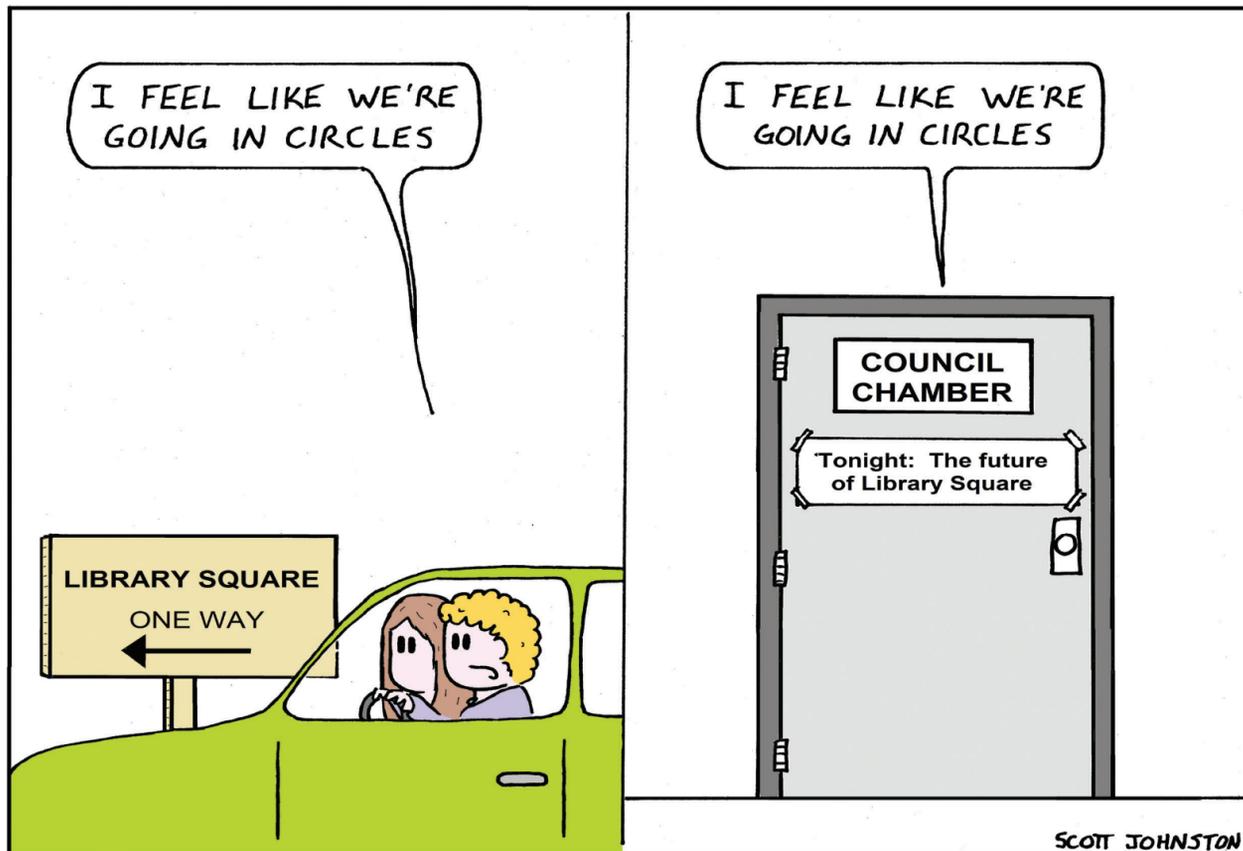
1. Find a home for the Celestial Harp.
2. Creative ideas about how the Celestial Harp might find a studio or gallery where it can reside and still maintain a presence in the community and perhaps get gigs?
3. How to find a rental place within my limited budget, for me and the Celestial Harp to stay together.

I would appreciate any advice or suggestions.

To see the Celestial Harp and hear some of its recordings go to www.thecelestialharp.com



Machell's Corners



They're not the "walking dead"

After false reports sprang up detailing his demise around the turn of the last century, American novelist Mark Twain memorably quipped "reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Death, the one great certainty, ultimately came a-calling, and since Death never really takes a holiday, false death reports maintain a cottage industry. These have only heightened in the information age, kicking into high gear through the proliferation of social media.

Those of us who engage in social media in one form or another have undoubtedly seen these reports, which are shared without an inclination to fact check the invariably adrenaline-fuelled stories on the untimely deaths of people like Tom Hanks meeting their maker after performing some sort of daredevil feat.

These flurry of death rumours hit the online community two or three times a year, leading people like Hanks to take a second out from their holidays or film shoots to assure the world that they too are on the right side of the ground – at least for the time being.

Over the past couple of weeks, it has become clear it's Mother Nature's time to step up to the plate and also say reports of her death have been greatly exaggerated.

Over the past few decades, she has taken quite a hit.

Battered and bloodied by her children over the millennia before efforts accelerated over the last century, the poor girl has been left pockmarked. Her blood, our water, has been poisoned. Her flesh, our earth, has become pitted, burned and scabbed. And the bounty she provides has now, as a result, been called into question.

Nevertheless, she chugs along, doing her best to provide that clean water to sustain us, the flesh in which we produce our resources, the trees and plants which replenish our air, and a never-ending supply of natural wonder to keep us awestruck and busy.

And how to we repay her? We get lured away by the latest shiny hussy that comes along. But, this bimbo, which has tempted us with its come-hither LCD screens, has become an unlikely White Knight for Mother Nature and engaging in what she provides.

This past Thursday, I was walking south on Yonge Street from our office near Wellington enroute to the Aurora Public Library. Along the way, I heard the muffled squeak of a rubber-soled shoe running aground on an uneven paving stone.

I saw the culprit up ahead: an older teen wearing an eye-catching combination of vivid blues and oranges. His bright azure and white Adidas runners had hit the pavement just south of Mosley but it didn't seem to faze him. In fact, he wasn't fully into a stumble before he righted



BROCK'S BANTER
Brock Weir

himself, recalibrated his limbs and continued on, all the while never taking his eyes off the Smart Phone he clutched in his hands.

He continued on, I continued on, and I hardly made it 15 more steps when I heard the sound once again through the cacophony of mounting traffic.

He had run aground again, he was walking again, and once again he had not looked up.

By this point, he was at the Yonge and Mosley intersection and didn't bother to look up as he crossed the street to the next block. By this point, I was too fascinated to continue, and stopped by the railing of the CIBC to see what would happen next.

Curious as to whether this guy was ever going to look up and take notice, I stood there, unmoving, as he got closer and closer. And closer. Quickly, he was about to make contact with my own blue shoes when he stopped dead in his tracks less than a metre away and, in a split second, jutted to his left and jogged around me, once again never looking up.

I turned around quickly, eager to confirm my suspicions and, yes, this gentleman was in the heat of tracking down pocket monsters in the new Pokemon Go app.

Unless you have been living under a rock, you are already familiar – perhaps too familiar – with the concept of this program, where people download it onto their phones and use the built-in cameras to seek out and capture Pokemon scattered through just about every community with access to a WiFi or cell reception.

My suspicions confirmed, I continued on my way, not eager to look back and see if the hunter made it across Wellington. There have been no police reports to the contrary, so well done, whoever you are.

As parents, communities, and society in general bemoan the rise of personal devices and the ironic disconnect resulting from being so readily connected to the world, not to mention the subsequent rising tide of an alienation from nature, sedentary lifestyle, and everything that comes with that, who could have guessed that a cell phone app would be the one thing to coax this generation out of their basements?

It has vaulted them into parts of their respective communities they would not otherwise darken, and cross paths and interact with fellow hunters they never

would have engaged in.

Like the first iteration of Pokemon nearly 20 years ago, this fad will inevitably fade but the people, places and things hunters encounter along the way, as well as the all-important connections fostered, have a better chance of standing the test of time. And, for that Mother Nature might be due for a resurgence.

If you have not yet succumbed to the fad – and, in the interests of full disclosure, I have no plans to download it myself having been immune to First Wave Pokemonism when I was its target demographic – take this as an opportunity to learn.

Its astronomic popularity has proven once again that engagement in the mundane is indeed possible if framed correctly in a novel, if not nostalgic, way. If people can be given a good reason to come out of their lairs, other applications are surely possible.

Take, for instance, attempts by the Aurora Museum & Archives to get people to explore the treasures to be found in the Downtown quadrant now colloquially known as the Cultural Precinct through the tried and true methods of geocaching.

A noble effort to be sure, and something that appeals to the more ardent geocachers among us, but it seems nowadays Pokémon positioned outside the Aurora Armoury or in a corner of the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge might be a bit more appealing than hunting down a silver coloured medallion commemorating 22 Church Street, no matter how attractive the medallion might be. (And it is. It is sitting on my desk as I write).

Next month, the 2016 Aurora Ribfest kicks into high gear a month early to avoid the inclement weather of September, casting off the it-seemed-like-a-bad-idea-at-the-time idea to institute a wristband policy to ensure the after-eight revelry is strictly open to the 18-plus. Throwing up a time-sensitive Pokémon knock-off somewhere at the Aurora Community Centre might now be the most efficient way possible to lure the young'uns out of Machell Park while their parents and grandparents get down to the sounds of their generation.

Each year, there is a familiar refrain around the Council table bemoaning the lack of public participation in the budget process. A term or two ago, former mayor Evelyn Buck suggested tongue-in-cheek the obvious solution of offering "dancing girls" as part of the budget floorshow.

Now that this craze is in full swing – and Budget preparations are now underway – is there a particularly sexy Pokémon available for hire to lure residents into Council chambers with her or his whiles?

It might be something to look into.

In the meantime, however, just enjoy the fact people are out there, interacting with each other, exploring their communities.

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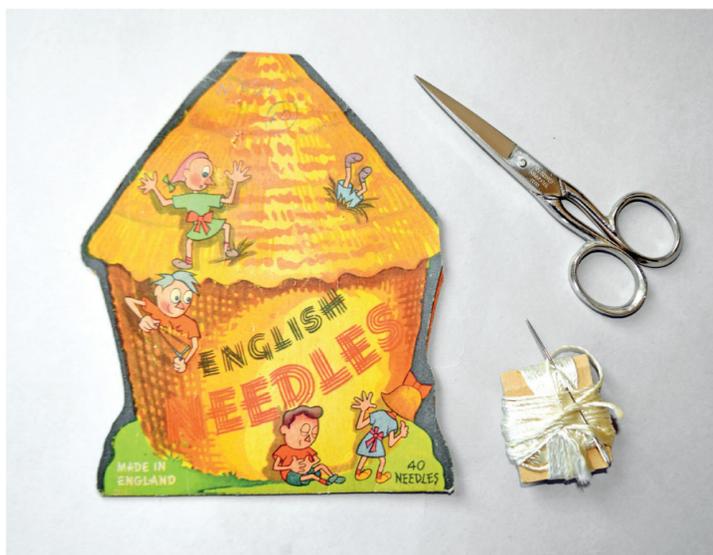
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The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating

Thread the Needle Day
(Monday, July 25)

Sewing tools, including thread, needle and scissors, pack of "English Needles" sold at Fisher's Store in Aurora for 10 cents in the late 1950s. This store was located just south of Caruso's on Yonge Street.



IN GOOD COMPANY

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

An exciting events line-up this summer!

Summer is a time to relax, have fun and enjoy quality time with family and friends. Thank you to the residents and visitors who attended our ever popular Canada Day celebration. Your strong display of patriotism and love for our country is inspiring.

This hot and humid weather looks like it's here to stay for a while. I'd like to remind residents that the Town has air conditioned facilities, pools and outdoor splash pads available to help beat the heat. For more information on facility or park locations, please visit www.aurora.ca or call Access Aurora at 905-727-1375.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is recommending a reduction in water consumption while the hot, dry weather persists. Until there is a significant amount of rainfall, water conservation is encouraged. For Aurora residents and businesses, odd/even watering restrictions are in effect. Check out www.aurora.ca/bylaws for more details.

Don't miss the exciting upcoming events for the remainder of July and the month of August. Just recently, I was asked to deliver an exciting announcement about the upcoming Aurora Ribfest event in August. Two iconic Canadian rock bands, David Wilcox and Haywire, will perform at Aurora's Ribfest on Friday, August 26 and Saturday, August 27 at Machell Park. This year's event is sure to be another hit with this fabulous entertainment and activities line-up. Stay tuned for more details to emerge about this annual celebration!

Join us for Concerts in the Park during July and August. Enjoy dancing and songs by a list of live entertainers. Concerts are free to attend. A food donation to the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. Food vendors are also on-site selling a variety of treats for a nominal fee. For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

Also, starting in August, watch some of your favourite movies outdoors on Canada's largest screen! Movies are free to attend. A local food donation is suggested. Arrive early to enjoy movie-themed activities and special pre-movie surprises. For more information about these events or to view the schedules, please visit www.aurora.ca/specialevents.

The Town of Aurora's Finance Committee has started meeting to discuss the 2017 Budget process. Council and staff are working together to create an efficient and effective budget process like last year. The 2017 Budget will follow a similar process as the 2016 Budget, with this year's target being an inflationary adjustment, plus 1 per cent for infrastructure.

The process with Council was open, communicative and well-organized with only minor changes to the proposed budget. The Finance Advisory Committee and Council have finalized and approved two foundational documents regarding the annual budget; the Council Budget Principles and Council Budget Process documents. These documents will help guide and ensure a fair, progressive and affordable budget for Aurora.

I'm pleased to mention that the Ontario Government will be building

Continued on page 13

Affordable Housing, Funding, Electric Cars and more

York Region Housing Funding

This past week, I was honoured to announce that York Region will be receiving an additional \$23 million in funding for affordable housing. This new funding is under the Canada-Ontario *Investment in Affordable Housing Program* to help build and repair affordable housing for families, individuals and seniors.

A place to call home is the first step out of poverty. It is the first step to realizing new opportunities and it is the first step to a better quality of life. As Ontario's new Minister of Housing, I will do all I can to get Ontario closer to that important goal.

York Region's original allocation was \$45 million over four years. This additional funding will bring that total to \$68 million in funding for the Region. We have common priorities with York Region, and by working together we can realize our vision that every person should have an affordable, suitable, and adequate home to provide the foundation to secure employment, raise a family, and build strong communities.

York Region now has the flexibility to select how the funds will be distributed across the community based on local housing needs. Options include new rental construction, home repair, housing allowances, rent supplements or affordable home ownership.

Southlake Regional Health Centre Funding

Last week I attended an announcement at the number one cancer centre in Ontario—the Stronach Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake Regional Health Centre in Newmarket. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, announced the government of Ontario is investing \$3.6 million for a new radiation treatment unit.

Radiation is an effective and powerful treatment that makes cancer cells unable to grow and repair themselves. The therapy can be localized to the part of the body being



View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

treated. Southlake Regional Cancer Centre is a state-of-the-art facility that provides exceptional patient services and support. This additional funding means an additional 400 cancer patients from York Region and south Simcoe County will now have access to advanced radiation therapy every year as a result of the new radiation treatment unit, the fourth such machine at Southlake.

The addition of this suite will also allow for more treatment options closer to home for York Region and Simcoe County residents. No longer will patients have to commute to Toronto, which often was more stressful than the treatment.

Electric Car Charging Stations

York Region will soon see more electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Nineteen stations will be added to the current network and will all be in service by March 2017. The province's investment in *Ontario's Green Investment Fund* will help address the anxiety some drivers feel regarding the distance their electric vehicles can travel compared to traditional vehicles. Building this network of 500 EV charging stations across 250 locations in Ontario will make planning a trip easier.

The goal is to have charging stations as readily available as gas stations. Thanks to the Electric Vehicle Chargers Ontario network of stations, drivers will be able to travel from Windsor to Ottawa, or from Toronto to North Bay, as well as within major urban centres.

Partner Facility Renewal Funding

The Yellow Brick House here in Aurora is receiving \$36,500 from the government of Ontario for its *Partner Facility Renewal* program. Yellow Brick House will be using the funding for much needed updates and repairs.

They will be installing emergency generators, paving and re-painting interior walls. Yellow Brick House has helped countless women and children in Newmarket-Aurora and across York Region by providing emergency shelter and community.

The province is investing \$16 million for upgrades and repairs at more than 170 community agencies across Ontario. These investments help developmental services, community services, Violence Against Women agencies, and Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy agencies to better serve clients.

Beat the Heat

July has got off to record highs. We're only a few weeks in and have already had too many heat alerts to count.

Extreme temperatures and humidity can cause health problems for Ontarians, specifically those people who are at a higher risk. The individuals that may be more vulnerable than others include infants and young children, people with chronic medical conditions, seniors, homeless people and people who work outdoors or in places that emit heat through industrial processes. Remember to check on family and friends that might fall into these areas. Newmarket and Aurora both opened cooling centres and have splash pads to help keep you and your loved ones cool in the heat. Lastly, don't forget your pets; if it's hot for you, it's hot for them. They need shade and lots of water.

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

Accessibility?



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

visually or aurally challenged.

It's about provisions to ensure those across the broad spectrum of accessibility needs can access facilities and services with no impediments.

But, is that where accessibility stops? Putting in a ramp and patting yourself on the back about how "inclusive" you are? What about those folks who are challenged by other issues, not necessarily physical? What about folks who have "invisible" disabilities? What accommodations – if any – are made for them?

Much like other rights based legislation; it takes time for a culture to be inculcated with a new norm. And it is clear that we still have quite a ways to go. A recent event with a good family friend and their daughter's painful odyssey toward gainful employment makes that patently clear.

You can have all the legislation in the world, enforce changes to enable folks to access all manner of things, but

how do you legislate fairness? How do you ensure that everyone – regardless of their abilities – has equal access to every aspect of modern life – including employment?

Yes, yes, it is wonderful that folks in a wheelchair can now go to a restaurant and eat just like everyone else, but if they can't get a job to pay for that meal, what the hell is the point?

You don't have a right to a job, that's true, but what you do have a right to is the opportunity to try to get a job, based on your abilities. If you can do the job, it shouldn't matter if you have cognitive challenges, or physical challenges. According to the law, it's not supposed to matter.

Think about it this way: would you work for a company that would not hire people of colour because they didn't "think" they could do the job, or frequent a restaurant that did not hire female chefs because they didn't "think" they could handle the job? Or frequent a business that would not hire seniors because they didn't "think" they could handle the job? I dare say your answer would be no to all of the above.

It's not about quotas. It's not about tokenism. It's about giving folks a chance to contribute in whatever way they can.

At least give them a shot. They have a right to surprise you.

Most of us don't think about it on a daily basis as we are now accustomed to it, but it wasn't long ago that many businesses, doctors' offices – even the public bus – were inaccessible to people with mobility or accessibility issues.

Think about your high school and then think about your kids' high school and see how far we have come in accepting, and even expecting accommodation, as normal. Now we assume that there will be parking for the disabled, bathrooms equipped to accommodate a wheelchair or a ramp to allow folks with mobility or other physical challenges to enter a restaurant, library or Starbucks to get a coffee.

And, for those that don't accept it, there is legislation to make them accept it.

In Ontario, "businesses, public sector organizations, municipalities, educational institutions, producers of educational materials (such as text books) and Library boards are required to be AODA compliant by the end of this decade."

That means they must meet at least a minimum standard of accessibility for all users. It's not just about making a building "accessible" – putting in a ramp, widening doors, including at least one bathroom per floor for the physically challenged – it is about making websites accessible for the

NEW AURORAN POLL

Have you fallen under the spell of Pokémon GO?

A) Yes B) No
C) What's a Pokémon?

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous Poll Results

On Tuesday afternoon, the Anglican Church reversed its decision, now supporting same sex marriage. Do you agree with the change?
Yes No Unsure

RESULTS TO DATE	JULY 19, 2016	YES	NO	UNSURE
		100%	0%	3%

Mayor concerned Mavrincac Park development is "too territorial"

By Brock Weir

A nearly \$1.1 million plan to transform a vacant six acre parcel of land on Mavrincac Boulevard into a neighbourhood park was approved by Council last week, amid worries voiced by Mayor Dawe its development had become a "territorial" issue.

Council signed off on the plan, which includes extensive green space—including picnic areas – along with a full-size basketball court, two tennis courts, two pickle ball courts, a playground, shade structures, and significant plantings.

Gone from the picture are parcels of lands which were originally proposed for community gardens, as well as a proposed washroom facility and fitness trail, both of which were nixed by Council as part of last Tuesday's direction.

"I am so glad to see we are finally at this stage and the neighbourhood is going to have a park," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner, adding her voice against the fitness trail and washroom as those are not normally features in a smaller neighbourhood park. "[A fitness trail] would be lovely, but it is just an increase in service level. I don't think it is wise [or] fiscally responsible."

While Council generally supported the elimination of a bathroom facility, Councillor Michael Thompson questioned whether a fitness trail, similar to fitness stations and equipment scattered throughout the Sheppard's Bush Trails, should be eliminated as Council aims to become the "fittest community in Canada" by 2020.

"Council as a whole has made a commitment to physical activity and trying to achieve some lofty goals around sports and recreation," he said. "By putting in the fitness trails and the equipment to go with it, it supports some of the strategic objectives we're trying to achieve around sport activity and getting more people from our community out and active."

Others said their objection to copying that particular feature in Sheppard's Bush was based on personal experience.

"I have never seen anyone use it," said Councillor Harold Kim. "My kids have used it, but they really don't use it in the way it should be used, so for those reasons I can't support the fitness equipment."

Added Councillor Tom Mrakas: "It is just going to be sitting there. Maybe upon occasion, someone is going to jump on it to see what this thing does, but at the end of the day, if this is how we're going to promote fitness, are we going to be putting this in every park in Town?"

One area of fitness, however, that has shown a demonstrated need is pickleball

for older Aurorans. The sport, which is best described as a combination of tennis and badminton, is hugely popular in the senior community and many courts have been provided in and around Town.

Whether or not these two courts should be provided in Mavrincac Park remained a bone of contention.

"Personally, I don't mind having pickleball [here] but from what I remember, the majority of residents didn't seem to want it," said Councillor Gaertner. "I think we should go with what the residents want and that is my personal view. I understand the rationale, but this is a neighborhood park and the neighbourhood didn't want pickleball and I think by putting pickleball in here, we might be bringing in people from outside of the community to use the park and we don't want to do that. This truly has to be a neighbourhood park."

Councillor Sandra Humfries later made a motion to remove pickleball courts from the overall park plan, but this motion was voted down by the rest of Council.

The debate surrounding it nevertheless earned a sharp response from Mayor Dawe, who said while this was indeed a neighbourhood park, it is a neighbourhood park for the entire Aurora neighbourhood.

"The reason I am against this is becoming very clear with this discussion, because this park has become very territorial," he said, before finding himself on the losing side of a 7 - 2 recorded vote in favour of the plan. "It has become 'my park in my neighbourhood' and nobody else can use it. What would happen if a school had gone in there? How many people would be coming from outside the neighborhood to use that school? Many. We don't put in parks that are simply for someone in a specific area. We put facilities in the Town for everyone to use."

"I am very upset by the concept that it is territorial so it is simply 'my park.' I just think that is wrong, quite frankly. I can't support spending more than \$1 million on this."

The other vote against the park plan came from Councillor Paul Pirri, who reiterated the opposition he has had to developing this land as a park since the outset.

"I have been opposed to this from the get go," he said. "I continue to believe it is a waste of money. It is a superfluous park, it is not needed, and it is not identified in any of our master plans. I don't have anything else to say. I look forward to voting against this because I don't think it is in the best interests of the Town of Aurora."

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Downtown townhouse development lacks affordable, accessible options: resident

By Brock Weir

A development of 126 stacked townhouses on Yonge Street just north of the Wellington Street intersection was formally approved by Council last week, following concerns from a local realtor that there were not enough accessible and affordable options to meet the demands of the community.

The development is slated for the vacant lot on the west side of Yonge Street next to the Dollarama, which, until its demolition last year, had been a grocery store, most recently serving as Liquidation World.

Initially slated to be a condominium development consisting of retail space on the ground level and condo units above, the plan was changed after developers, according to reports from Aurora's Planning Department, couldn't make a business case for the retail.

Nevertheless, the housing project marches on but for Aurora-based

realtor Beverley Varcoe, the plan falls well short of the mark.

"The Town has a growing demographic of seniors, but not enough affordable, accessible housing," she told Council members as a delegate at last week's meeting. "The preferred choice is a high-rise condominium and apartment building with elevators, underground parking and a central location. The Town has numerous retirement and nursing homes but we have a vibrant, active seniors segment of the population that has about 20 years or more before they need extended care housing. Aurora has not planned for the housing in this middle senior age bracket and it is a huge segment of the future demographics of Aurora."

But it's not just in danger of missing the boat on the seniors demographic, she added.

"Aurora is losing the entire demographics of 30 and 40 year olds because of the lack of affordable housing," said Ms. Varcoe. "Young

people and families who grew up here cannot afford to stay here. There is a huge migration moving north. Aurora needs to look at the Downtown Core of Barrie. The Town has been building high density apartments for a number of years. They now have a vibrant, busy downtown core for seniors, first time buyers and young families. In conclusion, I believe the Downtown Core needs a type of high rise condominium building that is on the site selection of accessible units in an affordable price range."

Following her comments, several Councillors said they agreed with many of her points and sought assurances from Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, that there will be accommodations made for potential buyers looking for that accessible option.

He said developers were willing to work with buyers in accommodating their needs through external chair lifts and other options.

While these assurances made Councillors more comfortable with the plan it was far from an easy sell.

"I am of the belief we should be looking at that path of accessibility in everything we do in our design, whether it is the Promenade study or intensification, I find excluding all those with any physical barriers [is something] I am just not in favour of [in intensifying] our Downtown," said Councillor John Abel. "Our future in the Downtown is inclusive and I think everything going forward should always bear that in mind."

Councillor Harold Kim offered a counterpoint, agreeing the need for affordable housing is one of the "biggest comments" they hear around the table.

"Adding elevators will certainly add to that cost," he said. "In this economic climate, you can't just have it all and part of affordable housing is ensuring that it is cost-effective, it is a pleasant

Continued on page 16

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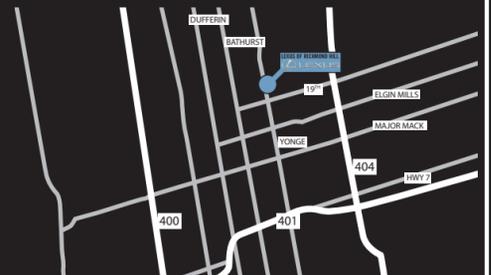
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THE AURORAN ARTS & CULTURE

No wristband policy at this year's Ribfest



Frank Mete of the Rotary Club of Aurora helps Mayor Dawe unveil the Ribfest lineup at last week's Concert in the Park. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

From page 1

year's wrist band system "didn't go over so well."

Singer-Songwriter David Wilcox will take the stage on Friday, August 28. Hailed by the Town as "a brilliant song writer, a great singer, and one of the most talented guitar players in the world," Wilcox has such hits under his belt as Bad Apple, Do The Bearcat, Catman, Hot Hot Pappa, and Suzie Q.

Hitmakers from Prince Edward Island, Haywire takes over the party on Saturday, August 29. Known for their platinum hits "Bad Bad Boy" and "Don't Just Stand There," the group's Aurora appearance comes as they launch their new album.

"David Wilcox has been on the radar for some time and the timing of the event worked out with his schedule, which we are really thrilled about," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "With regards to Haywire, they actually produced a new album over the wintertime and there was a really good synergy with their resurgence. Having David Wilcox being at the one end of the classic rock spectrum and Haywire on the other end is going to give a nice balance at this event."

"Thousands of people have a familiarity with David Wilcox automatically. We knew he would be a really welcomed addition to Ribfest for the community and the demographics that attended. However, I don't feel Haywire has as strong a name familiarity but once people research them I am now getting calls. They are a very strong band and the lightbulb goes off."

The decision to abandon the wrist band system, which was put in place last year to both turn a profit and ensure the headlining concerts remained an over-18 affair, was "made corporately," notes Ms. Ware.

"Weather did impact the forecasted number of wrist bands that were to be sold last year, but because weather is a factor, building budgets based around that anticipated revenue is not a secure revenue," she says. "We are very fiscally responsible with budgets, but the sale of wrist bands is very heavily weather dependent and therefore we don't have as much control on the results of them."

Nevertheless, while she was on the ground at last year's event, she says she received some positive feedback over the system which has now been binned.

"We had one gentleman and it was

his 50th birthday and he bought 10 wristbands for Chilliwack night. He couldn't believe he was taking nine of his closest friends to celebrate his birthday with one of his favourite bands for \$50. [After we announced the 2015 bands] on Wednesday night, a few people came to the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex to purchase their wristbands for the David Wilcox concert. Now we're spending a lot of time explaining that it is free this year, even though we had the fee for just one year."

Ribfest runs at Machell Park beginning Friday, August 26 through Sunday, August 28. The park is open on Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The headlining concerts open at 9 p.m. Saturday features performances from the Top 20 contestants in the Hoedown Showdown competition as they are whittled down to 10 in the Semi-Final round.

For more information, visit www.aurora.ca/ribfest.

Doors Open Aurora 2016: Cultural Precinct Walking Tour

By Jeff Healy
Town of Aurora



The Town of Aurora's Cultural Precinct is an attractive, vibrant, people-focused district strongly connected to the Town Centre and other key community destinations.

The Precinct is a celebrated community hub of year round activity and serves as a focal point for the arts, cultural tourism and creative industries.

The Aurora Cultural Precinct is located within the Old Town area of Aurora and directly adjacent to the Historical Downtown, Wellington Street Village and Wellington Street Promenade. The site is also in close proximity to Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area and the southern edge of the Oak Ridges Moraine.

The Precinct is a three block area bounded by Mosley Street to the north, Larmon Street to the east, Metcalfe/Church Street to the south and Yonge Street to the west. The Precinct features the highest concentration of built heritage and cultural landscape resources in the downtown. The Anglican Church and its related buildings form the core of the district and nearby there are public buildings such as the Mechanics Hall, former Well Street Public School and the Armoury.

Interwoven with these prominent buildings are representative examples

of early houses and commercial properties. Town Park remains the most important public open space, a gathering place for everything from dog walking to weekend markets and special events. The Precinct provides a visible record of

the Town's past and features attractive streetscapes, mature trees, varied building types and, in the case of Church Street, a compelling view up to the Anglican Church.

During this year's Doors Open Aurora event, Town Curators Shawna White and Michelle Johnson will lead a Walking Tour through the Cultural Precinct which will focus on buildings, culture and nature that make up the built environment of Aurora.

The Cultural Precinct Tour will be exploring various areas of the neighbourhood, including existing Doors Open Aurora 2016 sites and potentially a few other sites within the Precinct.

The Town of Aurora is proud to present the Cultural Precinct Walking Tour as a Doors Open Aurora 2016 site. Make sure to attend the Cultural Precinct Walking Tour, which begins at 1 p.m. at the Doors Open Headquarters in Town Park on Saturday, August 20

For more information about Doors Open Aurora, to volunteer for the event, and to print a copy of the Doors Open Aurora 2016 Map Guide, please visit www.aurora.ca and click on the Doors Open icon on the front page.

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Williams student's summer company aims to make local businesses accessible for all

By Brock Weir

Ben Williamson has been becoming increasingly frustrated over the lack of accessibility within the Province of Ontario but, thanks to a grant from the Province, he has set out to do something about it.

The Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary Student put his concerns into action founding the company Accessibility 4 Ontario last month with support from the Province of Ontario's My Summer Company program, as well as mentorship from the York Small Business Enterprise Centre.

Accessibility 4 Ontario is an "accessibility-solving company that helps local businesses interacting with people with disabilities to become handicapped accessible," explains Ben, noting the Province of Ontario will require all businesses to be compatible with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) by 2025. That act in itself, however, needs work, he says.

"My idea was to start a business so that other businesses can be improved and I can help them become accessible," he says. "The AODA in its current form is a very low bar for accessibility and what I offer is unique in that I know the standards for the AODA but I also have the lived experience to be able to tell businesses that the AODA may say you need to train your staff to become 'disability-friendly' as they say, and that may include learning how to be receptive to customers who have various needs, but there is so much more to accessibility than just putting a ramp in.

"Ultimately, I think the definition of accessibility should mean everyone has the same opportunities, whether or not they are able-bodied or they have a different race than the next person. Every person should have the same opportunity as the next and that's what 'accessibility' should mean."

Putting a ramp in a restaurant is one thing, but if the counter is



Ben Williamson, the entrepreneur behind Accessibility for Ontario, right, was joined at a recent fundraiser by Tyler Barker, left, Chair of Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

not of the right height to allow Ben, who lives with cerebral palsy, go up and place his order, than it is not accessible.

With mandatory compliance to the AODA nine years away, one of the biggest roadblocks Ben says he has encountered in making his business viable is businesses asking the question, "Why should we care?" if the deadline is so far away. There is no incentive from the Ontario Government to make businesses accessible, he added, noting he often gets a strong reaction from businesses when he suggests otherwise.

But this, in the end, is counterintuitive.

"You have to make sure that clientele want to come back to your business, otherwise you're going to lose business," he said. "In the end, not only is it the right and moral thing to do, but it can benefit your businesses in the long run because not only are you nine years ahead of every other business in Ontario, you will start to generate a name as an

accessible business in the community, and that will generate business."

The need will only get more apparent in the next few years due to Ontario's aging population, he adds.

In addition to his business providing advice to businesses on how to make their businesses compatible and accessible, it also connects them with local contractors to make it possible. Mr. Williamson also offers his services as a public speaker to raise awareness of disabilities and engage youth.

"A year from now I would like to be a reputable name in the community with a stable clientele," he says. "I would like to be able to say I have helped multiple businesses throughout York Region and the GTA become more disability-friendly. I would like to eventually hire some additional staff and my goal is all of my staff will be disabled."

For more on Ben Williamson and his business, visit www.accessibility4ontario.ca.



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FREE Week of July 21, 2016

Girls' Lacrosse Exchange creates lifelong memories

The Lady Redbirds hosted their visitors at George Richardson Park on Thursday afternoon.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



By Kim Sillcox

In the volatile world we live in today, it is more important than ever to create opportunities for young people to meet their counterparts from around the world. Not only do these experiences create lasting memories and friendships, but they also provide insight and understanding into another country's culture and history. Sports often serve as the perfect catalyst for making this happen.

In mid-March, Dawn Beal-Nacevski, executive director of the Lady Redbirds Girls' Lacrosse organization, received an email inquiry she couldn't refuse.

Barb Boyes, Director of Player Development for Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse (OWFL), had contacted her with a fabulous opportunity for the U15 and U19 teams from Aurora/Newmarket to be exposed to some international play by hosting 48 13-15 year olds from St. Swithun's School, an independent boarding and day school in Winchester, England.

Their Girls' Lacrosse team was planning to tour southern Ontario the second week of July and were looking for one or two clubs to host them and schedule games for July 13 and 14.

In previous years, Oshawa's Lady

Blue Knights have been the only club to host this type of international exchange, and have successfully built them into their summer program. The Lady Redbirds, who are just entering their fourth year, and still a relatively young club in comparison, jumped at the opportunity to follow suit.

As soon as they agreed, the Redbirds' organizing committee sprang into action – scheduling the games, recruiting family members to billet, planning the social events, and all the other little details involved in making this happen.

Since the Redbirds' U19 team is in its first year and consists predominantly of 14 and 15 year olds, the billeting was split between the U19, U15 and U13 teams. On average, two UK girls were paired with each willing Lady Redbirds' family, with some families hosting three or four and some Redbirds joining forces to co-host.

The six accompanying UK coaches stayed in a local hotel.

Invitations were extended to other local clubs to play during the July 13-14 mid-week tournament, and Orillia, Halton Hills, Toronto Beaches, Kitchener-Waterloo, Oshawa and Orangeville agreed to join us.

As an aside, on July 9 and 10, the Lady

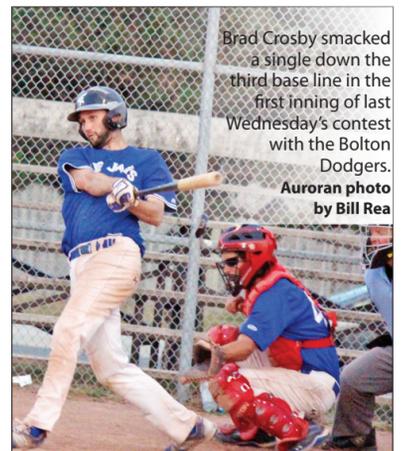
Continued on page 13

Jays fall to Dodgers in Bolton

By Bill Rea

Forget the fourth inning, and it was a pretty even and entertaining match last Wednesday night between the Bolton Dodgers and the Aurora Jays in Bolton. But the fourth did happen, and it resulted in the 6-2 final for the Dodgers. "We had decent pitching, we had decent defence and we had hard-hit balls that they made decent plays on," was the way coach Rob Wilson summed up the evening at the end. Nathan Robinson was solid on the mound for the Jays for the first three innings, allowing just two hits, although he had a bit of a problem with hitting batters with pitches. Three reached first that way. Devon Wu came on in relief in the fifth. The Jays were first to score when centre fielder Stephan Vallee crossed the plate after the Dodgers allowed three base hits in a row to him, first baseman Chris Rettie and third baseman Brad Crosby, but the Dodgers were quick to tie things up in their end of the frame. Designated hitter Nick Taconga led off with a single, and his fleetness of foot enabled him to get to third when second baseman Luke Ratcliffe advanced him with a sacrifice bunt. First baseman Michael Gemmiti got him home on a double. Bolton took command in their end of the fourth. Dodgers' coach Andrew English, who was playing third base, got on when he was hit by a pitch, and centre fielder Shawn Hansen advanced him and reached base with a bunt that stayed on the fair side of the third-base line. Left fielder Shaun Bijai advanced both runners with a sacrifice bunt of his own, and Ratcliffe got the pair home on a single. Ratcliffe was able

to get to third when he started to steal as catcher Jon Bloomfield connected for a single, and Gemmiti was able to get them both home with a double. The Dodgers added their sixth run in the fifth when right fielder Marlon Young opened with a double, and then Taconga got him home on a bases-loaded single. Aurora was able to get their final run in the sixth when short stop Ted Beadle crossed the plate after opening the frame with a single. Catcher Chris Fafalios and left fielder Kyle Handley both contributed base hits, and right fielder Kyle Picken got Beadle home by hitting into a bases-loaded double play with no outs. "We haven't played poorly," Wilson observed. "We need to fix that extra gear (going into the playoffs)." The only real problem in the game came when the lights at the North Hill Park diamond went out just as the teams were going into the top of the fifth, and they stayed out about 15 minutes, but Wilson said it didn't negatively impact his guys.



Brad Crosby smacked a single down the third base line in the first inning of last Wednesday's contest with the Bolton Dodgers. Auroran photo by Bill Rea

Aurora schools celebrate their athletes of the year

By Brock Weir

Students from across Aurora packed up their football helmets, their soccer cleats and their hockey gear for the summer last month as Summer Vacation arrived but many of these athletes suited up and headed back into the arena last Tuesday.

Well, they headed into the political arena as nearly 40 of Aurora's best and brightest emerging athletes from 15 local schools were honoured in Council Chambers as Sport Aurora's 2016 School Athletes of the Year.

"This recognition, as part of [The Town's] Sports Plan, recognizes the promotion and celebration of sport," said Laurie Mueller, Managing Director of Sport Aurora, which is driving the development of Aurora's Sports Plan.

Each up-and-coming athlete had the honour of being introduced by a man with a long-established name in the sports community, namely Allan Dean, whose prowess on the soccer field and

his work for disabled athletes vaulted him into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame last year.

"Thank you, on behalf of Sport Aurora, for the opportunity to recognize the outstanding young athletes attending the Aurora school system," said Mr. Dean. "Each athlete has been named by their respective schools for their outstanding contribution to their sports programs. This recognition of these student athletes will highlight their achievements in our community."

"Sport Aurora, through its member stakeholders, provides opportunity in sports and recreation for people of all ages. Participation in sports and recreation by young people engages active minds, promotes fitness and a sense of achievement – all qualities that will bear them well later in life. Our committee is very excited about this opportunity to recognize these young athletes."

Aurora's 2016 School Athletes of the Year, in alphabetical order by school,

are:

Aurora Grove Public School

Hailey Appleby
Jonathan Avgousti
Igor Popovic

Aurora High School

David Blom
Madeleine Keller
Taylor Kruffeldt
Lauren Strathdee

Devins Drive Public School

Clarissa Duthie
Daniel McKay

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School

Erik Faber
Paige Sandwell

Highview Public School

Benjamin Barber
Andrew Langlois

Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School

Noor Boutanos
Dilan Da Costa
Alexandra Pantorilla
Evan Vierling

Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School

Bryn Curran

Sebastian Trinchini

Our Lady of Grace

Madison Chimenti
Christopher McGee

Regency Acres Public School

Kake Adams
Yasmeen Al-Kas
Sidney Gardiner

Rick Hansen Public School

Andrew Totsis
Karen Trac

St. Andrew's College

James Michaelis

St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School

Maya Antoine
Denise Balogh
Iliia Guselnikov
Matthew Liscio

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School

Caleb Niro

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School

Morgan Graham
Matthew Minchella
Wellington Public School
Wolfgang Gross
Sarah Williams



Aurora's top student athletes were honoured at Town Hall last week by Aurora Sports Hall of Fame inductee Allan Dean, Mayor Geoff Dawe, and Sport Aurora president Stephen Kimmerer.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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Aurora United FC celebrates their first of three goals at Sheppard's Bush on Saturday night.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

FC London bests Aurora United 4 – 3

By Brock Weir

Aurora United Men's FC hosted FC London at Sheppard's Bush on Saturday night, where the home team fell to the visitors 4 – 3.

London's Elvir Gigolaj notched the first goal 28 minutes into the first half, but Aurora's Simon Adjei tied things up two minutes later, leaving the first half a 1 – 1 affair.

Aurora came out strong in the second half with a goal from Zakariae Mahrady, but London's Mohammad Nafar quickly tied things up 2 – 2.

The next 20 minutes were scoreless, but three goals in quick succession near the end of the second was Aurora's

undoing. While Adjei notched another one for Aurora, two London goals from Sean Fawsitt and a second goal from Gigolaj sealed the deal for the visitors, who returned home with the victory.

With Saturday's win, FC London is currently sitting second in the League One Ontario's West Division standings, just three points behind Sigma FC, based out of Mississauga. The Aurora men, on the other hand, are in a less lofty position, standing sixth in the east out of a field of eight.

The Aurora United FC men next take the field at the Hershey Centre this Saturday, July 23, facing off against the North Mississauga FC.

Game time is 8 p.m.

Redbirds play host to "whirlwind" experience

From page 12

Redbirds also hosted Ontario Women's Field Lacrosse (OWFL). In total, 62 games were played in Newmarket by 600+ female athletes the previous weekend, across U9, U13 and U15 teams; an impressive feat for such a young club! Coach Jon Baker of the U15 team even organized a skills competition.

On behalf of the Lady's Redbird club, we would like to extend immense gratitude and thanks to our organizing committee members: Lisa Purcell and Carolyn Wasserman. These two ladies worked tirelessly to assign the billets, organize the social events and Canadian-style lunches, and assemble parting gifts for our new friends.

They worked closely with a representative from a UK tour group to pull it altogether, but could not have done it without all of the local support. All of our Coaches and Team Managers also played a significant role in making this a success, as did the many families that participated during our four hosting dates.

As the Redbirds' gathered in the parking lot early Friday morning taking photos and exchanging Snapchat and Instagram coordinates before bidding farewell to their new friends from England, one of our players on the U19 team, Olivia Purcell, summarized the 48-hour whirlwind experience perfectly.

"It was the best experience of my life! I hope we can take them up on their invitation to go there next summer!"

In Good Company

From page 5

three new GO Train Stations in York Region/Simcoe County. The new stations will be along the Barrie GO Transit line as part of Metrolinx's GO Regional Express Rail (RER) program. The areas will be on Kirby Road in Vaughan, Mulock Drive in the Town of Newmarket and Innisfil in Simcoe County.

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to Union Station and 60-minute service midday. There will be 180 trains per day with 15-minute service. I am pleased about this beneficial announcement because the program, over 10 years, will help manage congestion, increase job opportunities and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by reducing car trips and travel times.

Stay connected to the Town. Visit the Town's website, read the local Notice Board, subscribe to our social media feeds and sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter, Aurora Matters.

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6⁷⁸ EA
OVER LIMIT PAY 8.99 EA



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<p>300 pts SAVE UP TO 2.51</p> <p>3⁹⁸ EA</p> <p>St. Ives facial scrub 150-300 mL, body lotion 600 mL, or body wash 700 mL selected varieties 20348574004</p>	<p>1,000 pts SAVE UP TO 1.51</p> <p>6⁹⁸ EA</p> <p>Vaseline body lotions 600 mL-725 mL, serums 200 mL, spray lotions 184 g, or Dove men+care face care 10-148 mL selected varieties 20539200002</p>	<p>250 pts SAVE UP TO 1.51</p> <p>3⁴⁸ EA</p> <p>Dove bar 4 x 90 g, body wash 354-400 mL, Hair Care 355 mL, or Dove men+care shave gel 198 g selected varieties 20338850001</p>	<p>500 pts SAVE 1.51</p> <p>4⁴⁸ EA</p> <p>AXE white label shower gel 473 mL, antiperspirant 76 g or AXE Dove dry spray antiperspirant 107 g selected varieties 204806452</p>	<p>250 pts SAVE 2.31</p> <p>3⁹⁸ EA</p> <p>TRESemmé hair care or styling selected varieties and sizes 20681390003</p>	<p>500 pts SAVE 2.01</p> <p>4⁹⁸ EA</p> <p>Magnum bars 3/4's or Breyers gelato 442 mL selected varieties 20152000002</p>
<p>300 pts SAVE UP TO 2.78</p> <p>2⁰⁰ EA</p> <p>Red Rose, Salada tea 72 g or Lipton Pyramid tea 20's selected varieties 206393025</p>	<p>300 pts SAVE 1.01</p> <p>7⁹⁸ EA</p> <p>Lipton Herbal Berry Hibiscus tea K-cup pods selected varieties 12's 201601339</p>	<p>400 pts</p> <p>3⁹⁸ EA</p> <p>Hollmann's dressings selected varieties 740-890 mL 20648079001</p>	<p>400 pts LIMIT UP 4</p> <p>4⁹⁸ EA</p> <p>Bece! margarine selected varieties 680/907 g 20297880002</p>	<p>100 pts SAVE .54</p> <p>1²⁵ EA</p> <p>Knorr Sidekicks selected varieties, 111x27 g 20321430001</p>	<p>100 pts SAVE UP TO .72</p> <p>1²⁵ EA</p> <p>Knorr soup mixes, Lipton Cup-A-Soup or Knorr regular soup selected varieties, 40-166 g 20297840001</p>

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Cultural Centre, Historical Society need stronger governance: Kim

From page 1

of community needs and inflation of our expenditures within this framework, but it will be tight. There is not a lot of fluff in there at all for new programs or new service levels, and it will involve some constraints in a number of areas because not everything is moving by CPI. Some things like electricity and fuel are increasing by 10 per cent instead of two per cent.”

In plain-speak, “right-sizing” translates into restructuring and finding efficiencies whether it is through reducing staff or reorganizing existing staff to streamline costs.

Compounding the problem, he added

are “deferred tax increases”, which are tax pressures that have been put off until a later date.

Council’s approval of their laundry list of budget directions to staff also leaves the current funding of the Aurora Cultural Centre and Aurora Historical Society in a bit of uncertainty over how much public funding each organization will receive in the year ahead.

One task on the list was to look at budget underfunding at those two organizations, as well as the Aurora Public Library, so that each “would receive a designated budget funding amount for their respective budget development work.”

This provision was added last year to give each group a degree of certainty for

planning ahead, but this one item has been sent back to the Town’s Finance Advisory Committee for further review following concerns raised by Councillor Harold Kim.

Each group needs to present a stronger structural model before going forward.

“I brought forward the need for a consistent and predictable funding model for the other organizations, including the Library, but I had a change of heart over the last 10 months or so since the last budget deliberations,” he said. “After doing a lot more investigation and discussing with others, I think before we put forward a more predictable funding model and having an increase similar to that of the Library, we first need a strong and new governance model as well as a structural model for the other organizations, namely the Cultural Centre and the Historical Society.

“Without a strong backbone or model, we’re just going to be throwing money at it, when we, as a Town, don’t necessarily have a say in how the money is spent because of the structure of the organizations. In looking at other municipalities and their structures with regards to their own cultural organizations, there are very few, if any, that have the same type of structure as Aurora does and I think we need to review that.

“I am one who believes the Cultural

Centre and Culture is an important part of the Town and provides a valuable service, but if others want a consistent funding model there has to be some accountability and structure where there is communication and feedback from where the funding is coming from. We have to be able to quantify. It is tough to fund a project when you can’t really quantify the service being offered, how many people are using it.”

While some were reluctant to alter the list of budget tasks for staff in case it delays any work already underway in bringing the budget forward, as well as due to the fact the Cultural Budget was already due to come back to the Finance Advisory Committee, Councillor Kim’s amendment was ultimately supported.

“My thoughts have always been the same: can you do more to raise funds on your own so there is less ask at the table?” said Councillor John Abel. “I have been drawing that line in the sand. I want them to come in with their budget needs and explain it to us, their performance, and that is the oversight that we give. It is an investment in our community, just like the Library and the Museum. It is all part of social capital.

“I do not want to see an increase in these budgets. I would like to see them, for once, come in on line like we are asking our staff and everyone else, but we will see what their budget presentation is.”

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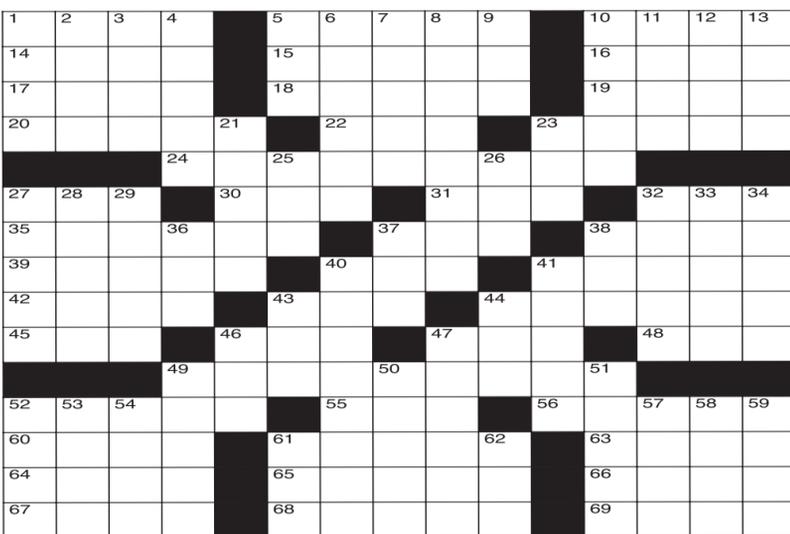
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1. “ER” actress Leslie
5. The Ibo tribe
10. Weapon
14. Olympian Jones
15. Moth genus
16. In addition
17. Neighborhood in Rio
18. Anoint
19. Insect repellent
20. Indigenous person
22. Tooth caregiver
23. Vacation here
24. Aware
27. 7th letter Greek alphabet
30. Actress Ling
31. Gandalf’s real name
32. Luxury car
35. Evildoer
37. Cricket term (abbr.)
38. Primal goddess of the Earth
39. More depressed
40. Cattle genus

41. Dish
42. Not west
43. Founder of Babism
44. Speak rapidly and foolishly
45. Fall back, spring forward
46. Where you sleep
47. Inform
48. Former CIA
49. Salts
52. Bleated
55. Never sleeps
56. Cavalry sword
60. Ceramic jar
61. Cyprinid fishes
63. Home to Cathedral of San Sabino
64. Edible Indian fruit
65. Lake in Botswana
66. University of Miami mascot
67. Perceives
68. Yellow-fever mosquitos
69. All humans have one

CLUES DOWN

1. Reveal secrets
2. Private school in New York
3. Pancake
4. Cichlid fish
5. Independent Voters Association
6. Nonviolent advocate
7. Suburb in Copenhagen
8. Heavy cotton garments
9. Self-addressed envelope
10. A way to make wet
11. Genus of trees
12. Millisecond
13. Kiss ballad
21. Unlock
23. ___ mot
25. “Joy Luck Club” author Amy
26. Catch
27. ___ and flowed
28. Monetary units
29. Scorched
32. Italian aviator
33. Things to eat

34. Waddles
36. A Queens ballplayer
37. It’s on your driver’s license
38. Talk
40. Witty conversation
41. Satisfies
43. Sound unit
44. Placental mammal
46. Offer
47. Flower cluster
49. Stamps
50. Palmlike plant
51. Developed poliomyelitis vaccine
52. Newhart, Marley, Dylan
53. Wings
54. Away from wind
57. Slugger Ruth
58. Musician Clapton
59. Gamble
61. Deoxyribonucleic acid
62. Female sibling

Stacked townhomes are “reasonable,” says Council

From page 7

place to live, and each housing type is geared towards certain segments. Although I appreciate that in an ideal world it would certainly have an elevator, we can’t have all townhouses going forward having elevators because there are many potential customers that don’t require it.”

In the end, Councillors Abel and Wendy Gaertner voted against the plan, while others said this was the best option for the site.

“I think it is great the developer is actually willing to work with anyone that is looking to buy into the development and work with them in providing any accessibility features,”

said Councillor Tom Mrakas. “I am not sure what more we can ask for. When this was first brought forward to us at public planning, I think all of us had certain concerns that some of us wanted to see a little more of a commercial aspect. I know I did. Then we learn from the applicant that it is just not viable and it would bring down the rest of the commercial stores in the core. This is going to bring in people.”

Added Councillor Michael Thompson: “I am glad that we have at least made attempts with the developer to try and see if there was a possibility moving forward [with retail]. It is unfortunate it wasn’t possible, but what we have before us is reasonable and I will be in support of it.”

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 21
DISCOVERY DAYS FOR KIDS AND THE AHS: Join the Aurora Historical Society for our summer children’s program Discovery Days for Kids! Each day will consist of a kid-friendly tour of Hillary House National Historic Site followed by a fun heritage craft or activity. Programs include Medical Detectives, Nature Seekers, Arts and Craft, Back to School, and our ever-popular Dig It! For more information, contact Leigha at 905-727-8991, 1.30 – 3.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 22
Christmas in July! The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosts their annual Christmas in July lunch today from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., featuring a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and lots of festive cheer. Tickets are \$17 per person and are on sale now at the Legion bar (105 Industrial Parkway North). Reservations may be made for tables of six or more.

SATURDAY, JULY 23
DISCOVERY DAYS FOR KIDS AND THE AHS: Join the Aurora Historical Society for our summer children’s program Discovery Days for Kids! Each day will consist of a kid-friendly tour of Hillary House National Historic Site followed by a fun heritage craft or activity. Programs

include Medical Detectives, Nature Seekers, Arts and Craft, Back to School, and our ever-popular Dig It! For more information, contact Leigha at 905-727-8991.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27
Aurora’s Concerts in the Parks series continues this evening with Neu Jenerashun, tonight at 7 p.m. at Town Park: A fun night celebrating our Caribbean heritage. Enjoy the Soca rhythms of the islands and party the night away. Sponsored by Re/Max Hallmark Lind Group Realty Ltd. Donations to the Aurora Food Pantry will be gratefully accepted.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17
Leap from reality into The Balloon Tree, a play inspired by Phoebe Gilman’s children’s book of the same name at this free family theatrical event at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Two performances: 11.15 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are limited and should be picked up in advance. Allow your imagination to run free as we follow Princess Leora on a magical adventure through her village in search of the one object that will save them all: a balloon. Up against her evil uncle, the Archduke, and all the guards in the kingdom, she cannot make it without the help of the villagers and, of course, the audience! For more, call the Aurora Cultural Centre at 905-713-1818.

Last Week’s Puzzle Solution

PUZZLE SOLUTION

		B	H	P		L	P	G		M	B	A				
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Restaurant owner says they are “advocates” in local community

From page 1

elaborating that she asked the store owner if she could simply give it a whirl to see if she was up to the task.

They made an appointment for last Tuesday at 5 p.m.

She and her father, Bill Hogg, returned at the appointed hour, but they were made to wait. After over 30 minutes, Mr. Hogg says they reached Ms. Karim by phone.

“She recounted to me twice using the language, ‘I didn’t think she was capable of doing the job,’” recalls Mr. Hogg. “At that point in time, I said, ‘I am really struggling with this concept that you have already made the decision my daughter is not capable of doing something before she is even given the opportunity to try.’ I said I found that extremely disrespectful.

“After I spoke to her, it was evident to me this was not a place I wanted my daughter working at given the behaviour I had personally seen. I just took Kerry home. There was no way I was going to even have her attempt to wash dishes there. There was no way she was going to work in that environment.”

Ms. Karim, the owner and operator of the First Commerce Drive location, as well as a restaurant in Newmarket, however, disputes Mr. Hogg’s assertion, branding this “a very unfortunate situation.”

“We are an employer that supports equal opportunities,” says Ms. Karim, noting she currently has disabled employees at her restaurants through working with YMCA employment programs. “We are advocates in our community.”

“I didn’t say [I didn’t think she would be able to do the job], I said ‘Our [dishwashing equipment] is very heavy.’ I wanted to make sure that for health and safety that she was safe. She really wanted to try it and I said, ‘If you were comfortable, I’ll give you a couple of shifts, no problem. Her father kept saying ‘You’re trying to say she is not capable and I said, ‘I didn’t say that. I

said let her try and make sure she is comfortable because not everyone is comfortable.’ It is heavy equipment and I just wanted to make sure she was comfortable, and I shouldn’t have said that and I apologise. It is an unfortunate situation.”

While Ms. Grieco and Mr. Hogg were left disappointed, if not angry, by the experience, Kerry’s story is not a unique one as so many people with varying degrees of mental and physical impairments seek gainful – and, most importantly, meaningful – employment.

Since her recovery, Kerry says she has given out many resumes without anything coming from it. Bill says they, and others in similar situations, receive a helping hand through programs designed to help those facing challenges enter the workforce by building resumes and driving them to drop off their CVs.

“It is a legitimate struggle for people to find work for people like this,” says Mr. Hogg. “Even if you speak to people who have gone and hired people, there would be two fundamental things that come forward: one, those people who have hired people with different levels of disability, it is difficult to find a role that they can work in that genuinely adds value. That is important for any business person. It is not charity, it is about finding a role this person can do.

“The second part is when they do find a role for them they are invariably extremely happy with the outcome. Someone who has a disability is very appreciative of the job. They take it very seriously. They recognize they are lucky to have been able to find the job. There is a huge difference between volunteering and getting paid to do something. It brings a sense of self-esteem. It would be easy for a lot of folks with disabilities just to sit around and do nothing, but they work hard at low paying jobs and the net benefit is not significant, but they want to do it because it gets them out into society, gives them an opportunity to feel useful and is an opportunity to interact with

people.”

And, at the end of the day, that is all that Kerry wants.

All she wants to do, she says, is find a job working with people and a chance “to make improvements.” The problem is getting one’s foot in the door.

“It’s important for people to know that having a job, for me, would help me feel more normal,” she explains, giving an example of someone talking down to her. “I am 31-years-old, I am not a kindergarten student. I don’t know how to say this without being mean, but I feel that people walk on

tiptoes around me because I have a brain injury. I don’t like it when people treat me like I am stupid. I do need extra time and extra help with certain things, but I don’t like people to act like it is a big deal. I don’t like people acting as though they need to act in a certain way around me

“I tell [potential employers] that I always do my best. I always try my hardest, give it my all, so in that way no one can come up to me and say, ‘Can you move faster?’ No, I can’t. I’m going as fast as I can and doing the best I can.”

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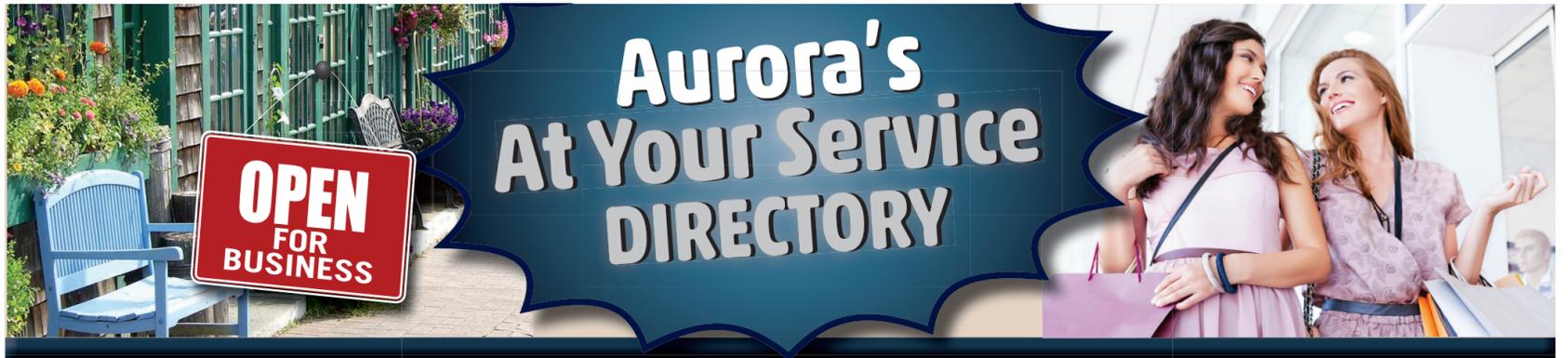
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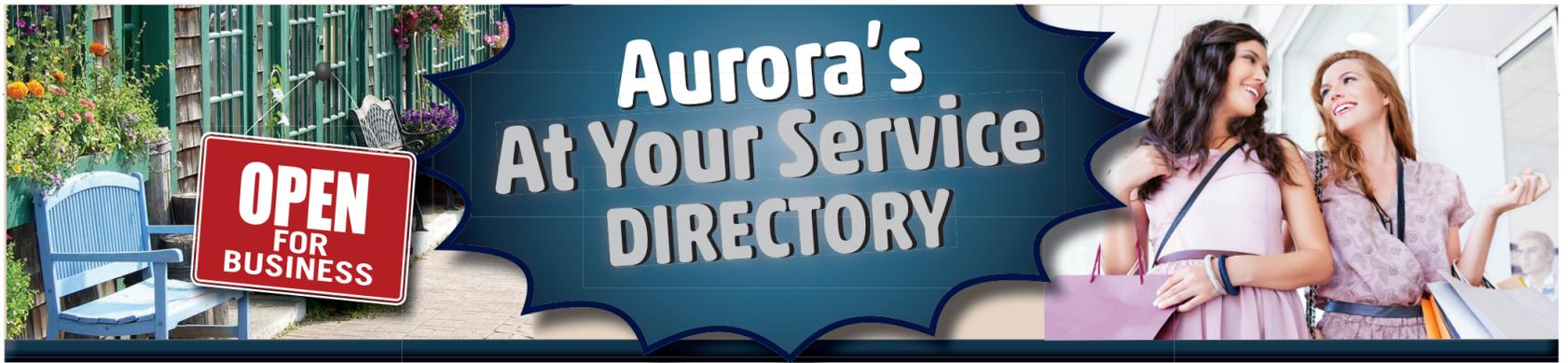
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DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Cover local events around the community.
- Produce multiple stories and bylines each week.
- Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips.
- Coordinate and edit content and columns submitted for publication.
 - Take photographs.
 - assign stories to contributors.
 - edit submitted copy for publication.
 - post stories to the website.
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
 - Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle
 - Reporting experience an asset
- An interest in local issues is a necessity, as the majority of the writing for this role will be on the local events in the Community.



Let's Talk.

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- Sales Driven
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- Marketing and/or Communication education an asset

Compensation:

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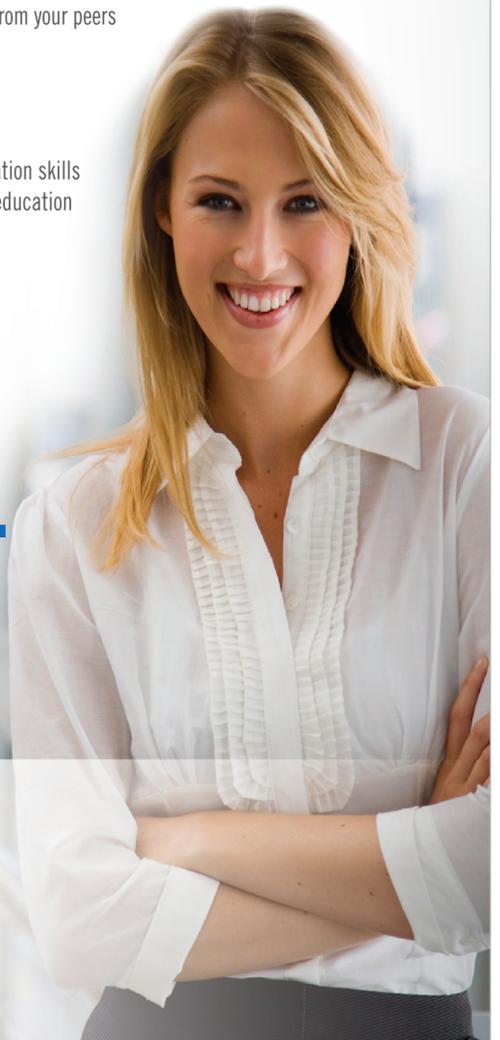
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