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# THE AUROROAN

*Aurora's Community Newspaper*

Vol. 18 No. 19 905-727-3300

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

FREE

Week of March 1, 2018



**FIGHTING FOR "REAL FOOD"**

Spencer Savage is pictured here at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex snack bar. The Aurora student was one of several community members who appeared at Council last week demanding healthier options, "real food", at municipal concession stands and in vending machines.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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## Parents, kids wage battle for "real food" options

By Brock Weir

He might not vote yet, but Spencer Savage has his eye on the future.

This week, the young Aurora resident told elected officials that while he and his peers might not be able to vote quite just yet, they are the future homeowners of Aurora, future parents, and perhaps even future mayors and councillors. But to do that, he said they need a strong, healthy foundation.

Spencer was at Town Hall last Tuesday

to help lead a vanguard of parents and advocates to advocate for healthy food, "real food" options in local vending machines and concession stands.

Calling on Council to set a higher standard when it comes to the amount of healthy food available at municipal facilities, particularly recreation centres, they said it was time to put the health of citizens ahead of a buck.

"Do you care about me?" asked Spencer. "Do you care about the kids in Aurora? I know we don't vote yet, but one day we will be the homeowners of

Aurora, parents ourselves, and maybe even the mayor. For now, we're kids and we deserve every opportunity to grow up healthy and that is why we sign up for sports and activities in the Town's rec centres.

"I spent 10 - 15 hours a week there and sometimes my mom has to pack a snack because there are no healthy food options at the concessions. Why is that? Aren't the recreation centres places for health and fitness? Would you work out at the gym for an hour and then go and

Continued on page 12

## Aurora United Church gears up for 200th anniversary celebrations

By Brock Weir

What William Tyler did with his five shillings 200 years ago is lost to the mists of time, but, for generations of Aurora residents, the other side of the transaction is abundantly clear.

The results provided the backdrop for two centuries of joy, sorrow and spirituality in this community and, although it has taken many forms, the foundations of this investment are still going strong today.

Continued on page 10



**END OF A BLUE STREAK** - The 2018 Aurora Winter Blues Festival took a bow on Saturday night at St. Andrew's College's Wirth Theatre with Mad Dogs & Englishmen. An evening saluting the music of Joe Cocker and Leon Russell was the grand finale of a month of Blues in Aurora. For more, see Page 18.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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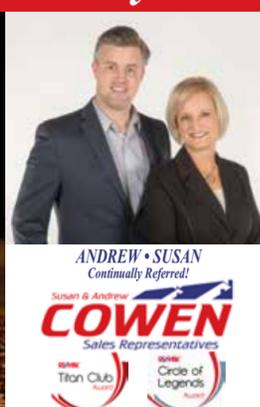
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# TOWN OF AURORA Notice Board



## Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Monday, March 5	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Heritage Advisory Committee
Tuesday, March 6	9:30 a.m.	Holland Room	Joint Council Committee
Wednesday, March 7	4 p.m.	Holland Room	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 7	8 p.m.	Aurora Cultural Centre	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Thursday, March 8	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Tuesday, March 20	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, March 20	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee

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

Council meetings are open to the public. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit [aurora.ca](http://aurora.ca).

## Public Notices

### Notice of service disruptions

Please see below for the scheduled service disruption at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC):

- On Tuesdays at 7:45 p.m. Aquafit will be cancelled for the remainder of the winter season. Spa hours are revised to 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Please see below for the scheduled service disruption at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC):

- On Thursdays at 9:55 a.m. the SARC Therapy Pool will be closed for the remainder of the winter season.

We apologize for any inconvenience. For more information, visit [aurora.ca/news](http://aurora.ca/news).

## What's Happening

### March Break camps

Stay busy during this March Break! The Town of Aurora has activities and programs for everyone in your family to enjoy.

Check out the March 12 to 16 recreation schedule by visiting [aurora.ca/marchbreak](http://aurora.ca/marchbreak).



### Skylight Gallery Artist for March

Salah Khosravi is the Skylight Gallery artist for March. His passion for drawing, painting and photography began in his early teen years. He studied drawing and painting on his own and has been working with different techniques such as pen, graphite pencil and oil over the years.

With a self-admitted obsession for photography, Salah photographs his subjects wherever and whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Within the last few years, Salah has begun to expand his focus more into painting, especially with oil, in hopes of more thoroughly expressing his talent and passion for portraits and animals.

Salah's exhibit will feature a variety of portraits, figures and animals using mainly oil on canvas and few graphite pencil drawings.

To view this exhibit, visit the Skylight Gallery at Aurora Town Hall, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## What's Happening

### 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. overnight parking restrictions

Our bylaw states that cars must be off the road between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. between **November 15** and **April 15**. Winter road maintenance may take place several days before and after a weather event.

The Town of Aurora is committed to ensuring safe travel on our roadways. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Apply for the John West Memorial Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Award

The Town of Aurora is currently looking for youth candidates entering post-secondary school who have made a positive impact on the community.

The scholarship is \$1,000. Application deadline is **Tuesday, May 1**.

### Club Aurora wellness seminar – women's health

Register today for Club Aurora's women's health seminar on **Saturday, March 24** from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the AFLC. This seminar is free for Club Aurora members. For more information, visit [aurora.ca/fitness](http://aurora.ca/fitness).

### Register now for spring & summer programs

Registrations are now open for Town spring & summer programs. There are many programs and activities for the whole family to enjoy. To view the recreation guide, please visit [aurora.ca/recguide](http://aurora.ca/recguide).

### Register now for 2018 summer camps

Save 10% off select summer camps when you register from **February 26** to **March 9**. The early bird discount applies to the following summer camps: Tots of Fun, Kinder Kamp, Sports Camp, Adventure Camp and Arts Camp. For more information visit [aurora.ca/summercamps](http://aurora.ca/summercamps).

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## What's Happening

**AURORA'S 2018 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS**

The Town of Aurora believes in inspiring volunteerism and recognizing citizens who have made a positive impact in our community.

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

- ★ given their own time for the benefit of others?
- ★ gone the extra mile in supporting our community?
- ★ made Aurora a better place to live?

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

★ Nominations will be accepted until ★  
**Friday, April 6, 2018**

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 31**  
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Aurora Seniors' Centre • 90 John West Way

- Activities include face painting, a carrot toss, crafts and more!
- Find an egg and redeem it for an Easter goodie bag
- Pancake breakfast offered by the Optimist Club of Aurora. Nominal fees apply
- Children 12 & under are welcome to participate
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AURORA

# Josselyn-Hamilton ordained at Trinity Anglican

By Brock Weir



Auroran photo by Brock Weir

After three years at Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church, Philip Josselyn-Hamilton was formally ordained this month.

Before a packed congregation, which included his husband Alex Josselyn-Hamilton, former wife Kris Hamilton, and their sons Mylo and Dexter, Philip was ordained by Reverend Peter Fenty, Bishop of York-Simcoe in the Diocese of Toronto in the presence of Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Davis, outgoing Rector of Trinity Anglican Church, Rev. Kevin Robertson, Bishop of York-

Scarborough, the Venerable Robert Camara, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Montreal, and Mei Zhu, Church Warden of Trinity.

Through the ceremony, Alex, Mylo and Dexter took on the role of gift bearers while Kris was a featured musician in the service, alongside Jared Martens, Brenda O'Connor, Brenton Chan, Matias Recharte, and Wesley Bells.

After receiving the vestments of his new office, Josselyn-Hamilton was joined at the front of the altar by his self-described "modern family" to thunderous applause from the congregation.

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<p><b>PROSTATE PERFORM</b></p> <p>New Roots Herbal Prostate Perform stops the urgency and strain of urination and does not cause any side effects. Provides relief in just 7 to 10 days.</p> <p><b>30 sgels Sale \$29<sup>99</sup></b> <b>60 sgels Sale \$54<sup>99</sup></b> <b>90 sgels Sale \$76<sup>99</sup></b></p>	<p><b>ULTIMATE FLORA CRITICAL CARE</b></p> <p>Ultimate Flora Critical Care delivers 50 billion probiotic bacteria from 10 strains. You would need to eat over 50 servings of yogurt to equal the probiotic power in just one capsule of Ultimate Flora Critical Care! It is the ideal formula for improving digestion, boosting immunity and supporting overall health.</p> <p><b>Bonus Size</b> <b>72 enteric coated caps Sale \$54<sup>99</sup></b></p>
<p><b>TIME TO CLEANSE</b></p> <p><b>Kit Sale \$36<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>Wild Rose Detox is an herbal cleanse to help you lose weight and cleanse your body. Looking for an effective way to eliminate harmful toxins, reduce excess fat and feel better? Wild Rose Detox is exactly what you need.</p>	<p><b>SUPER ENZYMES</b></p> <p>NOW Super Enzymes support healthy digestive functions. Bromelain, Ox Bile, Pancreatin and Papain have been formulated to optimize the breakdown of fats, carbohydrates and protein for maximum assimilation.</p> <p><b>90 caps Sale \$17<sup>99</sup></b></p>
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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Make Your Voice Heard – it WILL count**

This letter is similar to one I just sent to our Mayor and Councillors.

I've been following the issue around protecting Aurora's older stable neighbourhoods from the negative impacts of incompatible development with great interest.

When I lived in Oak Ridges from 1994-2005, I saw clearly the kind of devastation that happens when the town does not meet its obligation in this area.

Just like Aurora, the new Official Plan of 1996 called for all new infill development in Oak Ridges to be compatible and in character with the existing neighbourhoods. But the kinds of monstrosities that began going up suggested that the town was either not interested in meeting this obligation, or they were unaware of it.

To see what I'm talking about, just take a drive around Lake Wilcox. It's heartbreaking to see how the character of these older neighbourhoods is being destroyed.

It's now happening in Aurora:

Recently, the same thing began happening here in Aurora. So, I was pretty happy when Councillor Gaertner – in response to many requests from angry, dismayed residents – began to actively advocate for a way to stop it – and then Councillor Mrakas also became involved.

Councillors - at this time I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure the protections to stable neighbourhoods dictated in the 2011 Official Plan: "that the stability and vibrancy of these existing neighbourhoods is protected from the negative impacts of potential incompatible development and growth pressures" [OP 2.1 vi.]; are put in place by reviewing and then changing Aurora's ancient 1968 zoning bylaws to reflect the specific requirements of that new 2011 Official Plan. This action is long overdue, and needs to be handled now as quickly as possible.

Aurora's new Official Plan was passed in 2011. Seven years ago.

At that time it would have been in the public's best interest to examine and update the existing zoning bylaws for our older stable neighbourhoods, with new zoning bylaws compatible with and guided by that new Official Plan. We've all come to understand the existing zoning bylaws pertaining to Aurora's older stable neighbourhoods – which are now 50 years old – were never reviewed to assess their compliance with that new official plan. How did that get missed? At 50 years old, those 1968 bylaws are dramatically out of date.

Having been missed, the building/planning department has been approving new builds in older neighbourhoods based on 1968 zoning bylaws, and NOT guided by the 2011 Official Plan. And these new builds are having the exact negative impact on older neighbourhoods – and residents – that the 2011 Official Plan specifically sought to avoid. [OP 2.1 vi.].

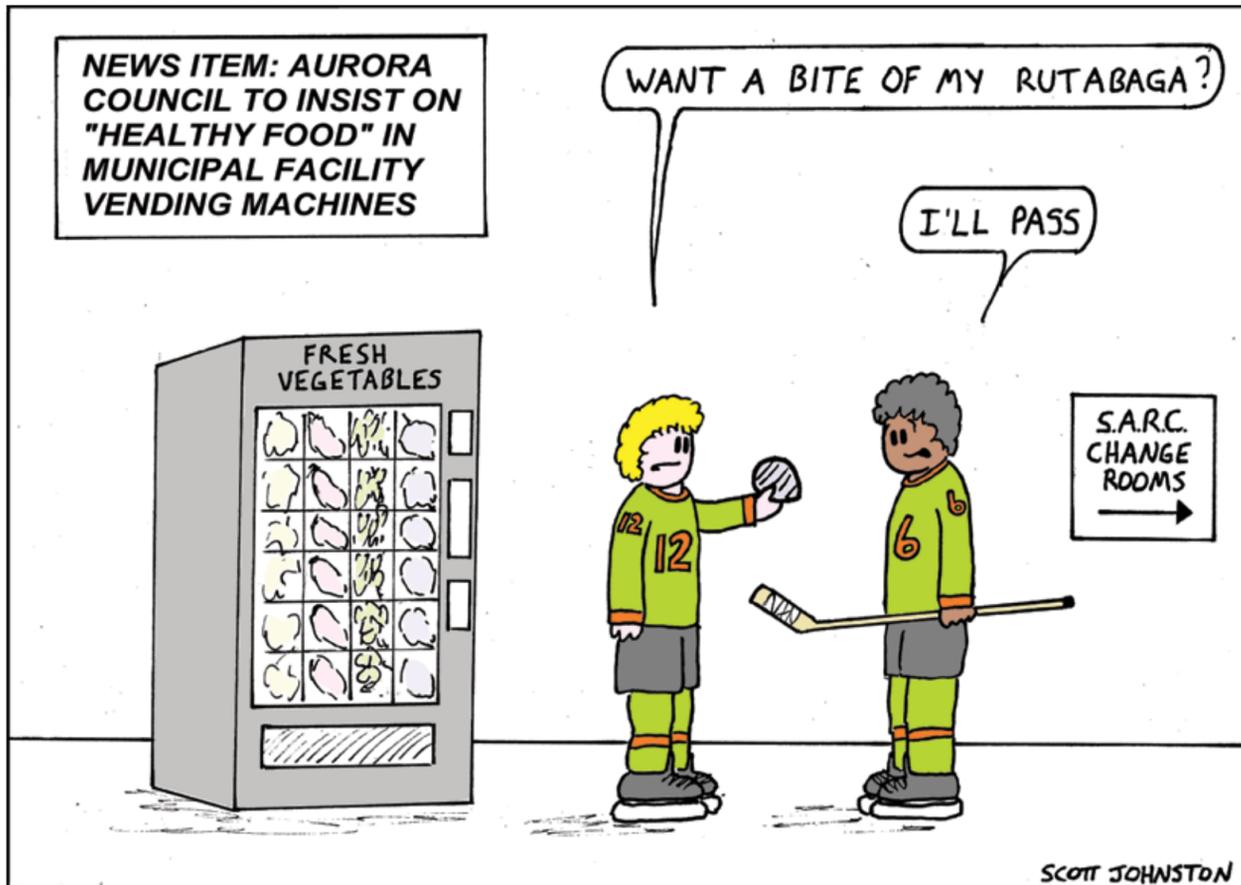
Clearly these bylaws need to be changed as soon as possible to ensure ALL building/development decisions evaluate the appropriateness of change, and the degree to which the proposed changes are considered compatible development and in the public interest. (OP 1.1c)

The phrase "Public Interest" in this case means – unquestionably – what is in the best interests of Aurora residents, homeowners and tax payers – not the best interest of developers.

Councillors and Mr. Mayor: You know it's an election year. I truly

**Continued on page 10**

**Machell's Corners**



**Settling for Silver**



**BROCK'S BANTER**

Brock Weir

Canadians are often celebrated for their own quiet sense of pride.

In some cases this pride is self-celebrated.

Whether this pride is pride from afar or part of introspection, the quiet pride can take on a crescendo all its own when it is threatened or otherwise tarnished.

Take, for example, the storm in a teacup that erupted in South Korea last week when Jocelyne Larocque was awarded the silver medal, along with the rest of the Canadian Women's Hockey Team, in the wee hours of our Thursday morning.

No sooner had the silver made a half-hearted pendulous half-swing across her chest then it was unceremoniously taken off by its recipient as the rest of her teammates down the line continued to receive theirs.

It was a gesture which had many Canadians – and indeed some international observers – clutching their proverbial pearls.

Athletes win gold and bronze, some sports-minded pundits opined, adding that one merely "settled" for silver, having to be content with second-best.

I'm not sure I agree with that assessment, but nobody has ever accused me of being an athlete.

Nevertheless, amid her defenders, presumably those in the know, this was a common refrain, but Larocque herself weighed into the fray the next day.

"In the moment, I was disappointed with the outcome of the game, and my emotions got the better of me," she said in a statement on Friday.

Reading the varied reactions in the meantime, however, I kept hearing the echoes of a heated discussion which took place around our Council table just a few nights before.

Although things could change after press time this week, I have to wonder if Aurorans will be heartened that their Council is not content to settle for second best.

Sitting at the Committee level last week, Councillors turned down a recommendation from staff which would have appointed the Deputy Mayor of Aurora as Aurora's alternate voice around the Regional Council Table, a governing body which currently only has one voice from this Town – Mayor Dawe.

This lone voice is something that has been stuck in the craw of this Council, as well as Councils, as Regional Council has uniformly turned down the bids of Aurora and other single-vote municipalities for another seat at the table.

Bids by single-vote communities like Aurora and King Township to gain that all-important extra seat have been turned down flat by fellow Region-mates,

laying the foundation for some significant angst, including a vote by Council to direct Aurora's Regional vote to knock down similar requests from abundantly represented municipalities in the Region's southern tier.

Throughout the multiple conversations on this matter, it was clear that although a second seat would be the ideal situation, a Regional alternate, someone who speak on Aurora's behalf – and ultimately cast a vote representing the community's interests – in the off chance Mayor Dawe was unable to attend a particular Thursday meeting in Newmarket was the next-best-thing.

But, with just a few months left before the 2018 Municipal Election, the tides seem to have turned – and the contortions Councillors executed in order to turn those tides almost better than any Olympic sport.

First out of the gate was Councillor Paul Pirri, who said he believed that seven months before an election was the wrong time to appoint someone to act as an alternate. There has been, he claimed, "some level of politicking going on" regarding the matter, without elaborating any further.

Another naysayer was Councillor Michael Thompson who said he agreed that the timing just wasn't right with only five meetings left on the Regional calendar.

Another factor to consider, he added, was Aurora had not really been earnestly fighting for an alternate; instead the fight for representation was for an additional seat.

While that was indeed the crux of the argument, there was indeed advocacy around the table for an alternate.

Councillor Thompson's view was summed up by Councillor Mrakas, who said a recommendation for an alternate in the form of the Deputy Mayor was "a little bit of settling," and going forward would "kill" any chances of reviving the conversation about an additional Regional seat.

After significant back and forth, the Deputy Mayor himself weighed in on the matter.

This position is currently held by John Abel, who secured this position by dent of

being the top vote-getter in the fight for one of the eight Council positions, a number which will be reduced to six by this fall's vote.

Over the course of the last four years, Councillor Abel, who, it should be stated, is mulling a mayoral bid in 2018, has increasingly found himself at odds with his Council colleagues on a myriad of issues, including, most recently, the redevelopments of both Library Square and the Aurora Armoury. Responding to the positions of his fellow Councillors, he said their opposition to his appointment as the Mayor's Regional alternate was as much about personality as anything else.

Personality conflicts are, of course, in the eyes of the beholders but I think Councillor Pirri is correct in saying that there is some politicking going on.

In my opinion, Councillors balking at this appointment because it would be in effect for the 2018-2022 term of Council as well simply doesn't hold water.

This is a Council which has mercifully made a decision on Library Square, a project which will have to be steered through completion by the incoming Council. This is a Council which has got the ball rolling on transforming the historic Aurora Armoury, a project which will also be brought in for a landing by the next Council crop. This is also a Council which made the decision to reduce the very size of the 2018-2022 term of Council by two seats.

Regardless of personalities – conflicts, or lack thereof – Aurorans are the only ones who really lose in this debate.

When Regional Council opted to sit back and do nothing when presented with the opportunity to make their Regional Chair an elected position, and thus beat the Province of Ontario to the punch, arguments were made that Regional Council abdicated its responsibility to the residents of York Region.

Nevertheless, that decision was made and, unfortunately, so was the decision to deny Aurora a second seat at the table.

Getting the ability to appoint an alternate, an opportunity seized upon by King Township, is the next-best-sing, the silver medal.

I'm not sure how Council sitting back, forgoing the opportunity to take this medal in hand, thereby ensuring Aurora's collective voices are represented as strongly and consistently as possible at the Regional table, is keeping their eye on the gold.

In fact, I believe it does the community a disservice.

**THE AURORAN**  
Aurora's Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.  
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Founder  
Ron Wallace

Publisher Emeritus  
Rosemary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.  
email: [administration@auroran.com](mailto:administration@auroran.com)

**EDITOR**  
Brock Weir  
[brock@auroran.com](mailto:brock@auroran.com)

**ADVERTISING**  
Zach Shoub  
[zach@lpcmedia.ca](mailto:zach@lpcmedia.ca)

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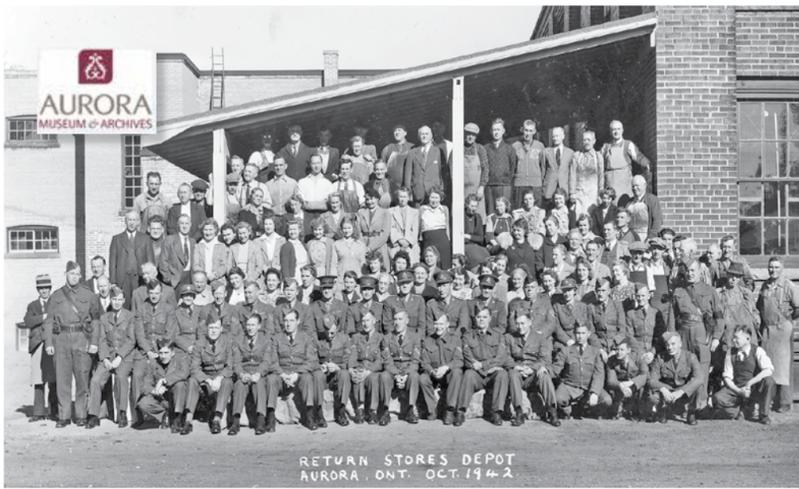
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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



## The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

Employee Appreciation Day  
(March 2)

In 1942, the old Fleury Foundry was leased to the Dominion Government and became home to the Number 2 Return Stores Depot. During the Second World War, the Depot was responsible for storing and distributing items to the military, including clothing, equipment, tools, ammunition, artillery and vehicles. This photograph (997.7.2) captures some of the Depot's first employees posing outside of the building. At the height of its operations, the Depot employed a total of 500 people – 300 military and 200 civilian. Let us know if you can help us identify anyone in the photo!



## POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Mainstream media, fringe media and the tinfoil-hat wearing brigade of the blogosphere all play a significant part in how the public's attitudes towards business, politics and people are shaped.

Rightly or wrongly, that is the reality. Bots that "troll" are a thing. A pretty big "thing" as it turns out. The US Attorney General (AG) released a report stating what most of us already saw as obvious. A foreign entity, in this case Russia, waged an info war on various US institutions using all forms of media – but in particular by weaponizing troll bots and troll farms (because that's a "thing" too apparently) – for the purposes of impacting the US election.

Before anyone sends me yet another flaming email about Trump, I am not saying that said well documented info-war actually handed Trump the election, so calm down please. What I am saying is that there is unquestionable evidence that there was a state sponsored program to interfere with the democratic process writ large.

Based on the US AG's report, Russian agents flooded social media with misinformation, often releasing simultaneously contradictory information, to sow discord and discontent; to force people to question the very existence of object truth. And they were – and are – very successful.

That's a game-changer. And it's quite simply terrifying.

This was no mere angry little man in a basement somewhere, eating Cheetos and firing off rambling, angry missives on Facebook or twitter. I dare say every community has its share of those kinds of folks. And every politician or public person everywhere has to deal with that kind of nonsense. Most recognize quickly that the tinfoil hat brigade are chattering to themselves and are best simply ignored.

This was something entirely different. This was an organized, highly structured disinformation campaign.

And it doesn't appear that it's going to end anytime soon or that it's limited to the US. It is a tactic that is being widely used by a host of different actors across the globe on stages big and small.

People now have no way of knowing whether their supposedly local partisan political chat group has any affiliation at all with the views being pushed out. What is true? What is false? Who knows?

I think there is universal concern about how fast and insidiously misinformation is spread today. But identifying the threat is one thing. What to do about it? Well that's an entirely different terrifying concern.

How do you police the internet? How do you balance the right of folks to say what they want, to read what they want, to believe what they want with the need to ensure that the "facts" that inform those beliefs, those opinions are in fact, well, facts? And who will determine what is a fact? And is that even possible?

My head starts to hurt the more I think about it. It seems like an intractable issue.

The internet has so many positives. It has democratized access to one of the most valuable commodities there is – information. It's frightening to think that it may have been all a façade.

## Your Role in Democracy; Exchanging Ideas at a Town Hall



### MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP  
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

The foundation of democracy relies upon an informed and engaged electorate. Democracy only works when we are willing and able to communicate ideas and vision for where we want our country to go. It is about hearing ideas we agree with, ideas we do not agree with, and ideas we have not even thought of yet.

I have been door-to-door in our community over the past couple years and it surprised me to hear some people say that they do not value the Federal Government because they feel that they have no role in our democracy. I fear that if everyone believed this statement to be true, then democracy would cease to exist in Canada.

Democracy requires interaction and communication between citizens and their elected representatives. This communication can be a phone call, a letter or an email, but the most significant means of communication is to be able to voice your perspective while also listening to the perspectives of not only your Member of Parliament but also other citizens in your community.

The best way to engage in democracy is through a town hall.

Town halls go beyond partisan politics. They are a forum for citizens, of all perspectives, to have the courage to invest in the shaping of a nation. The power of democracy is in the engaged discussion. It is about being heard, listening, and working together, regardless of political stripes, to achieve something bigger.

That's the piece of democracy that is at risk of being lost, and that is why I am asking you to participate in our democracy, contribute your ideas, listen to your fellow citizens, and attend a town hall.

Join me as we listen, engage, and envision what our country can become. I would like to invite you to the next Town Hall I am hosting: "Exchanging Ideas

with Your Member of Parliament." I am hosting the same event on two different dates and I look forward to seeing you at one of the town halls. Details below:

**EXCHANGING IDEAS  
WITH YOUR MP – TOWN HALLS**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018**  
**AURORA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**1:00pm to 3:00 pm**  
**(155 Wellington St W, Aurora)**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018**  
**RICHMOND GREEN**  
**SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**1:00pm to 3:00pm**  
**(1 William F. Bell Pkwy,  
Richmond Hill)**

Please Contact Me!

My office is always open for those who need assistance with Federal services and programs, or for anyone who wants to stop in and say hello. Visit us at 12820 Yonge St suite 202 in Richmond Hill, give us a call at (905)773-8358, or email me at [Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca). Thank you.

## Stable Neighbourhood Study



### FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Last week in the mail our family received a form letter from the Town of Aurora.

The document was a Notice of Public Open House – Existing Stable Neighbourhood Study.

The document states "The Town of Aurora initiated a stable neighbourhood study to examine whether the Town's Zoning By-law is effective in maintaining the character of our existing residential neighbourhoods."

It goes on; "The Town of Aurora invites you to a Public Open House that will feature a presentation on the existing Official Plan policy and Zoning By-Law and we are seeking your input about how neighbourhood character can be regulated."

"This is a great opportunity for residents to express what improvements or changes they would like to see to the Town's Zoning By-law in order to protect the character of our existing neighbourhoods."

The map on the back of the Open House document shows three main study areas. Living on Hill Drive, I am in the middle of the study area bounded by Bathurst, Wellington West and Yonge Street.

This has become an important topic in our community. I can't recall a local issue in the last couple of years that has drawn so many letters to the editor.

In addition to this study, the Town Council has instituted a one-year moratorium on new residential builds that currently exceed development standards.

We have seen slightly different variants on this general type of development issue play out in our communities over the last number of years.

Remember Glenway in Newmarket

and the Aurora Highlands Golf Course in Aurora? In both cases, private developers bought the club and existing land from the golf course owner with the intention of erecting town houses, single dwelling homes and in the case of Aurora, a 10 story apartment complex.

In both cases, the home owners in the local area banded together to form rate payers association and in both cases, the private developers appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board. And again in both cases, while cutting back slightly on the number of dwellings, the respective developments moved ahead.

I can partially see where the provincial government is coming from on this.

The Places To Grow Legislation that the former McGuinty government put in place in 2005 ascribed intensification targets for our towns and cities.

This makes general sense as we need to accommodate further population growth in our province and every community has to do their respective share in accepting more folks.

But what I find different about this situation is that Aurora, from what I could tell at the time, was meeting its mandated interim intensification targets and Highland Gate was a mature community.

If the town is meeting these targets, then locally elected officials should have ultimate say over zoning and

planning within Aurora.

Fast forwarding to today, I do agree that something has to be done to protect the sanctity of our existing community.

Just to be clear; at this point, I have not seen any of these monster homes being built on my street and I have not (yet) been impacted, but I know that this could happen at some point in the future.

I would like to think that common sense and respect for your neighbours would rule the day and that we would not need to put By-laws in place but I know that the world doesn't work this way.

On the one hand, we need to respect the ambience and character of our existing neighbourhoods. People who buy into these streets should be given some latitude if they are tearing down and building a new dwelling or enlarging an existing home, but not be given carte blanche to do what they like.

There needs to be some limits on height and the size of dwelling. Also, protections need to be put in place to guarantee the rights of the existing homeowners to sunshine on their property and to the general enjoyment of their own property, among others.

On the other hand, I certainly understand those who want to maximize the value of their investment and don't want any restrictions placed on them by local planning authorities.

In the end, like most good pieces of legislation or workable solutions, there will need to be a compromise – from both sides.

Stephen can be contacted at [stephengsomerville@yahoo.com](mailto:stephengsomerville@yahoo.com)

## THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you think the movement led by Florida students will lead to positive changes in American gun laws?  
**Yes No Unsure**

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

Previous poll results

Do you agree with the York Region District School Board's decision to move Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School to Bayview

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
FEBRUARY 27, 2018	74%	25%	1%

# Council shoots down option for alternate Regional rep

By Brock Weir

Citing just five more meetings on the calendar before the 2018 Municipal Election gets underway, Council is poised to say “no thanks” to an option to appoint an alternate voice to represent Aurora at the Regional table.

Council, sitting at the Committee level last week, voted down a recommendation to establish Aurora’s Deputy Mayor; Councillor John Abel, as Aurora’s back-up voice representing the Town’s interests at the Regional level. A final decision on the matter is expected to be made this week.

Mayor Geoff Dawe, as Regional Councillor, is currently Aurora’s lone voice at the table and an alternate would have been able to speak out on the Town’s behalf – and cast a vote – if the Mayor was unable to attend a meeting.

But, with an election in the offing, some Council members argued it was too late in the term appoint the Deputy Mayor –

conventionally the top vote-getter in the Council race – to the position.

“I think seven months before an election is the wrong time to be appointing someone to act in this capacity,” said Councillor Paul Pirri. “In my estimation, there has already been some level of politicking going on and regardless of who the policy is currently pointing to, I think it is the wrong time to do that. Further on down the road as well, I think it should be left up to the Council in the next term to decide who their alternate is. There is no guarantee that a deputy mayor wouldn’t have a full-time job and thus other commitments so they wouldn’t be able to act as an alternate. I am not 100 per cent in favour of doing this right now. For the next seven months...the mayor is well-positioned to serve this council and Regional Council.”

Mayor Dawe, who has been a long-time proponent of an alternate, took the flipside of the debate, stating from his perspective that the appointment of the Deputy Mayor would be just for the remainder of this

term. He acknowledged that more fulsome representation at the table, particularly with a second full seat for Aurora, has been advocated for but it is not yet in the offing.

“This is the best we have right now and we keep trying to push that ball up the hill,” said Mayor Dawe. “It’s better than what we have now [but] it is not as good as what we would like.”

King Township, he mentioned, recently appointed a similar alternate to act in the stead of Mayor Steve Pellegrini who, at the time of the debate, was attending the Winter Olympics in South Korea with his daughter.

“We have been asking for an alternate in some way, shape or format at the Region for years,” he continued. We have something I am of the opinion we should move forward on.”

For others, moving forward on this would be settling for second best.

Councillors have been long-time advocates for that sought-after second seat, efforts which have been repeatedly shot down by the rest of Regional Council.

“We haven’t been advocating for an alternate all this time; we have been advocating for additional representation,” said Councillor Michael Thompson, adding he believed the motion on the table would establish the Deputy Mayor as the alternate well into the next Council term. “We might see it differently, but my perspective is we might have settled for an alternate because we couldn’t get additional representation, but that is something we can debate offline.

“I agree with the perspective that the timing isn’t right. There are only five Regional Council meetings left before the end of the term, so to speak. I would rather see it be set up for December 2018 or the next term of Council. I see this is let the next Council decide who that person is. For all we know, the deputy mayor of the next Council may or may not be able to attend meetings on Thursdays or have a conflict.”

This was a view shared by Councillor Tom Mrakas, who added, “In my opinion, it is a little bit of settling. It essentially kills

all chances of ending the conversation about us possibly getting that second seat.”

Also catching Councillor Thompson’s eye was the recommendation that the alternate receive \$100 extra a month to be prepared to sub in for the Mayor; plus a further \$100 for every meeting he or she might have to attend.

It is the responsibility of each Council member to “be informed” of the issues impacting Aurora from the Regional level and they shouldn’t be paid \$100 just to read the agenda.

This objection to the \$100 was enough to raise the eyebrows of Councillor Abel.

Councillor Abel, who has very often found himself in opposition to the majority in this Council term, said his fellow Councillors were making their decision based on personality rather than policy.

“I didn’t realise you would go to this level, but certainly the \$100 is as petty as you can get,” he contended. “The fact you want to decide who goes and represents doesn’t surprise me at all because that is the way we do things here now.”

At this point, Councillor Paul Pirri called a question of privilege.

“I think if the Councillor was listening to the debate around the table, I think we were talking strictly about what is right for the remainder of this term,” said Councillor Pirri. “Nobody was talking about him. It is inappropriate to talk about individuals being petty.”

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who chaired last week’s General Committee meeting, found in favour of Councillor Pirri’s objection and called on Councillor Abel to apologize. After he had done so, he continued.

“I would have considered it an honour and a privilege to represent as an alternate at the Regional level and I thank staff for making the recommendation. I feel that after seven years I have the confidence of the community and I think it would have just been a privilege. I will take the fact that it was even brought forward and recommended as a privilege and an honour.”



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# Queen's York Rangers heading to nationals



Queen's York Rangers' Master Corporal Daniel Rivera (middle left) and Corporal Kevin Chang (middle right) earned gold in the team relay portion of the regional biathlon competition in Sault Ste. Marie. Photo courtesy of David Kasper

By Jake Courtepatte

Six members of the Queen's York Rangers will be skiing and shooting their way into Nationals after a strong showing at the regional biathlon competition in Sault Ste. Marie last weekend.

Holding up their reputation as some of the best shooters across the province, the Rangers corps took home one gold, three silver, and three bronze across the competition that hosted over 140 male and female cadets.

Master Corporal Daniel Rivera and Corporal Kevin Chang earned their first place finish by beating the competition by a healthy four minutes and twenty-two seconds in the team relay race of the junior male category.

The open female team of Sergeant Jessica Matile and Master Corporal Vivian Mullins earned silver in their team relay final, edging out the third place competitors by a narrow five seconds.

Only two seconds separated Warrant Officer Adrian Poncelet and Warrant Officer Alex Bolduc from the third place team, picking up the corps second silver of the day in the open male category.

Mullins and Poncelet also went on to win silver and bronze respectively in the junior female individual, while Chang took home bronze in the junior male

individual.

Master Warrant Officer Yeonsu Choi rounded out the day's medal count with a bronze medal performance in the youth female category.

"Thank you to Warrant Officer Liv Ewart for coaching and hanging in the range all weekend running rifles to the competitors, and everything else she did throughout the weekend for the team," said team coach David Kasper.

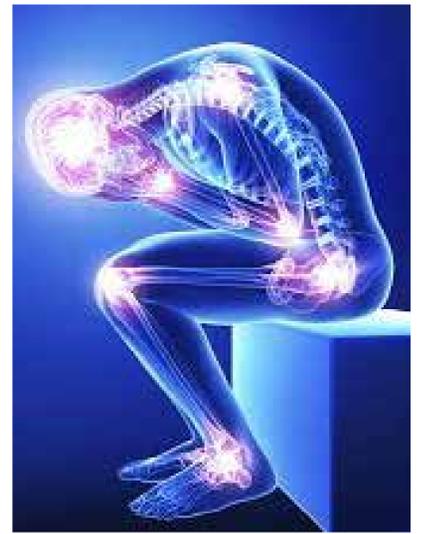
"I'd also like to give a special shoutout and thank you to Warrant Officer Stav Goldenberg and Warrant Officer Yuki Kwan for volunteering their time to stand in the cold all weekend... you both might be as crazy as us for wanting to ski and shoot in the cold. Thank you for jumping in last minute and making this competition happen!"

The six moving on to the national competition in Brookevale, Prince Edward Island, later this year make up a healthy portion of the twenty-member Team Ontario, sending more than any other corps across the province.

"We do not yet know which cadets will be advancing to Nationals as cadet coaches and cadet officials, so its possible 2799 could be further represented at the national level," said Kasper.

In the meantime, next up for the Aurora-based corps is the regional marksmanship championships in air rifle in Orangeville.

## Arthritis: New Approach Delivers Remarkable Results



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You may find that your pain or stiffness affects your work, housekeeping, leisure activities, exercise, sports or other activities. You go to the drug store or to your doctor and get pills to help relieve your pain. But you find the pain keeps returning. Alternatively, the doctor may refer you to a specialist who may tell you that surgery is needed or is an option for you.

However, many people are hesitant to have surgery given its invasive nature. It is important to know that although surgery is sometimes necessary, it is considered a last resort in most cases.

Also, you may have heard that there are serious health risks associated with chronic use (or overuse) of pain pills or anti-inflammatory drugs that include damage to the liver, kidneys and gut.

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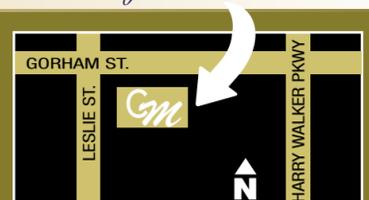
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## Townhouse development proposal goes to next phase

By Brock Weir

A plan to knock down three homes on Metcalfe Street to make way for a 15-unit townhouse development on three lots is set to take a step forward at Council this week.

Last Tuesday, Council agreed to accept a zoning bylaw application from

developers looking to purchase 103, 107 and 111 Metcalfe Streets with an eye to building 15 townhouse units sharing a condominium road.

If this approval is ratified at Council this Tuesday, the application for a zoning bylaw amendment can start proceeding through the normal planning channels and approvals and allow the applicant to purchase the properties in question.

It is a proposal that has been making its way through Town Hall for over the year and has been subject to some revisions following concerns raised by neighbours, but by the originally-proposed plan for 24 stacked townhouses was presented last week, it had been adjusted down to a 15 unit development of single dwellings.

“The rationale to accept the Zoning Bylaw Amendment application is that the proposal is an infill residential development within the Stable Residential designation and conforms to our use of the Official Plan,” said Heritage Planner Jeff Healey in his report to Council.

“Upon submission of a new complete zoning bylaw amendment application, staff will undertake a review of built form and compatibility of the proposed development to determine conformity to all policies [in the] Official Plan.”

Appearing at last week’s meeting on the developer’s behalf was John Beresford, who outlined the changes, and highlighted the need for this application to be approved before the land could change hands.

“At the time, the stacked townhouses could not comply with the maximum height limit in the Official Plan and would have required an official plan amendment,” he said. “This is one of the things the Committee members expressed concern. It is now a completely new proposal of three conventional townhouses. Three lots are for sale and my client has made an offer to purchase the three lots.”

Asked by Councillor Mrakas why, in a stable neighbourhood, the developer couldn’t just build three homes on the three lots, the representative replied, “If he gets approval to proceed with the rezoning application, he will close on the sale, but in today’s real estate market people want what they can get for their properties and that is virtually impossible with just three [houses].”

Following the delegations, Council members got down to business.

Councillor Michael Thompson, for instance, said that with the recent changes at the provincial level phasing out the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), he was satisfied with the application as Aurora will have more agency to determine the final planning outcome.

Although he agreed with the Councillor to a certain extent, Councillor Mrakas said he was still cautious as the final governance details were yet to be finalized.

“I am against what is being proposed,” he said. “I think it would set a precedent within our stable neighbourhoods, so without [that] finalised I will still be opposed to it.”

Councillor John Abel, on the other hand, was more on the fence. While Metcalfe Street is outside the specific stable neighbourhoods recently outlined in Aurora’s approved Interim Control Bylaw, he said he still had concerns over massing on the property.

“If you’re taking away three houses and massing 14 or 15 townhouses that is a significant change,” he said. “I think that is exactly what the moratorium was speaking to. I am hesitant understanding everything that is coming forward. On the surface, I am all for applications coming forward for intensification, but I am also very respectful of the stable neighbourhoods, especially in our heritage area. I am not comfortable at this time to be in favour of it.”

But, in Mayor Geoff Dawe’s view, all these concerns can be addressed once the formal application makes its way through the system.

“All we’re doing is authorizing staff to accept the application,” said Mayor Dawe. “We’re not approving anything else. It then goes through the public planning process, which is where we had these discussions where we invite members of the community to come and give us their thoughts, and that is where, in my opinion, it is properly handled.”

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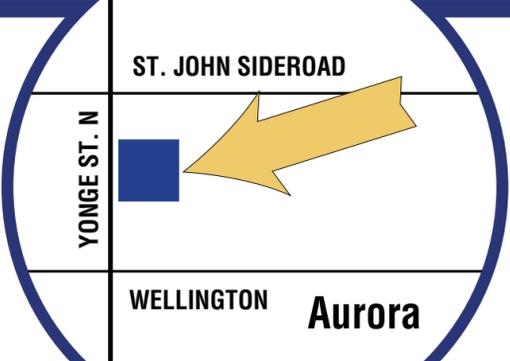
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# Strengthening property rights hits another snag at Council

By Brock Weir

Efforts to strengthen residential property rights when it comes to bylaw complaints once again hit a snag around Town Hall, amid calls for a stronger warrant system to address complaints.

Council, sitting at the Committee level last week, considered a number of changes to existing bylaw operations proposed by Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Corporate Services.

The review into the standard operating guideline (SOG) used by bylaw officers when entering – or preparing to enter – onto private property has been in the works for nearly 11 months, spurred by a Council motion to develop a notification process to private property owners where rights of entry will be exercised, along with a list of options bylaw officers might take if they are refused access by a property owner, including the option of requiring a warrant to ensure public health, safety and the environment.

The proposals up for Council's review at General Committee included further outlines of various risks that might require immediate entry onto a property, measures to evaluate and manage "frivolous and vexatious" complaints, and expanded protocols on how complaints and entries are handled.

These suggestions hit a snag almost immediately out of the gate, however, when Councillor Tom Mrakas said the measures did not go far enough.

He put a motion on the floor calling for an amendment to the proposals which would require a warrant be obtained by a bylaw officer before entering onto any premises.

"Fundamentally, I have issues with us just walking onto someone else's property, especially for some frivolous complaints as far as length of grass, or maybe they smell something," said Councillor Mrakas. "I think we can take the time to get a warrant and do

*I am no fan of people coming onto my property but at the same time I am not a fan of people doing things to their property that could potentially affect mine*

it properly. Just because [the Province] grants us those powers doesn't mean we should use them. Sometimes people abuse the power and I think we need to make sure our residents aren't being abused, at the end of the day. I do see there is an improvement, but I just don't think it goes far enough."

While this amendment was seconded by Councillor Sandra Humfries, it quickly became the focus of Mayor Geoff Dawe who said while he is very much "in favour of property rights" he had concerns that it would limit how bylaw officers could react in urgent situations.

"There have been flood warnings over the last couple of days and under the watershed guidelines you are not allowed to make any changes to your property that would either effect upstream or downstream," he said. "If, in this particular instance, someone had made alterations to their property which was causing serious flooding either upstream or downstream, with Councillor Mrakas' amendment, would we be able to react immediately or would we have to go through the process of getting a warrant?"

You would indeed have to go through the process of getting a warrant, said Ms. van Leeuwen of her interpretation of the motion.

This inspired no comfort in Mayor Dawe.

"I am no fan of people coming onto my property but at the same time I am not a fan of people doing things to their property that could potentially affect mine, such as flooding, or we have a bylaw that we potentially now render unenforceable," he said.

Councillor Jeff Thom also said it was "extremely important" to respect property rights, but he was hoping last year's motion would bring back a framework that would include more stringent framework as to how and when a bylaw officer could enter onto a property.

"I understand this is an improvement on what is currently the process, but for me, it doesn't go far enough," he said. "I am between a rock and a hard place and would probably err on the side of caution every single time. For me, if it is between what we have now and a warrant I would always err on a warrant [but] I was hoping staff would come back with a happy medium."

Others, however, argued that while the Province gives municipalities responsibility for bylaw enforcement, requiring officers to seek a warrant in each and every case was, in their view, abdicating responsibility back to the Province.

"I don't know why we would give this to a third party where instead we can say let's approve our own policies to

make sure we have something in place," said Councillor Pirri. "If Councillors around the table think that we need to strengthen this policy, maybe we take a little bit more time to do that but giving away our ability to enforce our bylaws, requiring us to go and get a warrant from a provincial body, I don't think is the right way to be doing this. If more work is required to get it right, we should be doing that."

Added Councillor Michael Thompson: "The purpose of this is to balance the town's right to enter and an individual's right to privacy. I would still like us to follow down that path. For me, the warrant is an extreme measure and I would like us to try and find a more stringent or detailed set of procedures to deal with these situations and make every attempt to find that balance before going this route.

"If we're taking this amendment to address those issues, I don't personally think that is the right step. Who better than us to address those issues? Rather than abdicating that responsibility to the Province, let's work with the policy to address those issues. If that is really at the heart of it, I think we can find a solution that still maintains that balance and addresses those issues without having to go to warrant."

With these questions still up in the air, and a happy medium still being sought, the matter was deferred for further consideration on March 20.

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## Aurora United Church's bicentennial in full swing

From page 1

Wednesday, February 21, marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Tyler exchanging an acre of his land at the corner of Yonge and Tyler Streets for the purposes of "a house of public worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Province of Upper Canada."

Within a month, a log cabin was on site and the congregation known as Aurora United Church was born.

Now through November, Aurora United Church will mark this unique milestone with a series of events designed not only to celebrate its storied history but showcase its future.

Celebrations are as varied as a Jesus Christ Superstar Movie Sing-A-Long next month to a reburial ceremony at Aurora Cemetery of nearly 20 unknown of the Aurora United Church's (AUC) earliest members whose graves were uncovered during recent excavation work on the original land.

This ceremony will be particularly poignant as, in many ways, it closes one chapter in the history of AUC, one that was all but finished with the church's devastating April 2014 fire and opens a new, as this forgotten parts of AUC's history were only found while laying the groundwork for a brand new spiritual home on-site.

"This church has been in flux many times before," says church historian Helen Roberts, a member of a committee tasked by AUC to steer the bicentennial commemorations. "2014 was not the first fire, nor the first building we lost. Over 200 years, we have gone through fires, depressions, and wars but [my focus is] how we have gone through all of these things and come out the other side, continuing to move forward."



Aurora United Church members Helen Roberts and Bob McRoberts display a book written to mark the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1968. In this, the 200<sup>th</sup> year, the church is republishing the volume with an extra 50 years of memories, triumphs, and indeed, tragedy, to share. The duo are pictured outside the once and future home of the church at Yonge and Tyler Streets. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

"Right now we're in a transition period again, but we're still working ahead and will move forward."

Since the fire, AUC has been renting space from Trinity Anglican Church, a stone's throw from Yonge and Tyler. This has made things tricky for the bicentennial committee as nothing can take place at their historic centre.

Some of the celebrations are taking place at Trinity, some in the Church Street School, and others at the Royal Canadian Legion. The closest the bicentennial celebration will get to the actual Yonge and Tyler site is a display being organized for the Aurora Street Festival on Sunday, June 3.

"It would be wonderful if we had a building and could celebrate a new church as well as a 200 year old church at the same time, but a new one will come soon enough," says life-long AUC

parishioner, and committee member, Bob McRoberts.

"I have been a member of the church all my life; I have been singing in the church choir since I was 12, so over 50 years. My wife and I were married in the church, my parents were regular attendees, my mom sang in the choir and grew up in the church, so there are a lot of memories growing up in the church." Some of these memories could soon be found in an ongoing project which will be a key legacy project of the bicentennial.

On the AUC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1968, a history of the church was compiled. The book itself is a rare commodity these days, but AUC is planning on republishing the book, along with a new section outlining its momentous last half-century.

"We've started a program called Telling Our Story," says Ms. Roberts on collecting 50 years' worth of new stories and anecdotes which will stand the test of time until their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary is celebrated in their new digs. "I am familiar with some of the [stories and stories of initiatives] that have come in, but I am really quite amazed by how much work has gone into this. When we get them printed, I think

people are going to be amazed at how much has gone on over those 50 years, so we're looking forward to doing that. Hopefully the book launch will go hand in hand with the exhibition that will run until the end of September."

When asked why the community as a whole should sit up and take notice of this milestone anniversary, both agree that its significance goes well beyond the faithful, whether residents have been most impacted by their worship, service programs that found a safe haven at AUC, or are one of the countless numbers of Aurora kids who have come up through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Aurora Scouts over the last 60 years.

"After the church fire, my next door neighbour came to my door in tears saying she was so sorry for my church," says Ms. Roberts. "I had never seen her at the church, but she said she got married there and it meant a lot to her that the church had burned down. [Another woman said] when she was a kid she used to visit her grandparents in Aurora by taking the bus up Yonge Street."

"When she saw the church's spire, that's where she knew to get off the bus. That meant something to her too - it was a landmark."

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

believe how you respond to this issue will demonstrate clearly to voters how well you understand this situation, and which side of the fence you sit on. Are you working for the best interests of Aurora residents? Or the best interests of developers.

If you cannot come to the February 28 public meeting on the matter, you may provide written and verbal comments - by email, and social media.

Make sure our Councilors know how you feel. Because this is an election year, you need to know your concerns will be heard and taken seriously.

Your voice counts. Let's all work together to make sure our stable older neighbourhoods are protected, and continue to be the nurturing, safe, friendly communities we know and love.

Janet Matthews  
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# TA's Next Fall: A review



Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

By Scott Johnston

Theatre Aurora takes another look at relationships with its latest play, "Next Fall."

The story by Geoffrey Nauffts revolves around Adam and Luke, a gay couple in a committed multi-year relationship.

Despite their obvious love for each other, they have experienced some challenges in their time together, many of which Adam has fixated over. These include such things as their age difference, their jobs, the fact that Luke has not come out to his family, and perhaps most important, their differing opinions on religion, with Luke having strong beliefs and Adam being an atheist.

When a crisis occurs that brings family and friends together, the history of these differences and how they have been overcome, or at least managed, is explored both via the interaction of the people who have come together, and through a series of flashbacks of key events in their lives.

Although there is a serious undertone throughout the play, the script contains a fair amount of humour and is very thoughtfully written.

The terrific story is supported by an equally great cast.

As Adam, Darren Fletcher is utterly

convincing as a man facing many challenges in his life, many of his own making. His excellent use of facial expressions and body language really helps the audience to see more deeply into his character.

Theatre Aurora veteran Joey Ferguson brings youthful enthusiasm and great energy to Adam's partner, Luke.

Chandra Pepper as best friend Holly ably and believably switches between scenes that are serious and ones that are more light-hearted.

Andrew Pawaroo as Brandon, keeps you guessing as this character's relationship to both Adam and Luke is slowly revealed as the play progresses.

As Luke's equally religious parents, Arlene and Butch, Lynn Oldershaw and Brian Fukuzawa bring reality and empathy to their characters in both their "present" and flashback scenes.

This is a very entertaining and well-acted play. As with many produced by our local theatre, it will keep you thinking well after the final curtain.

Evening performances of "Next Fall" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, March 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and 10, with a matinee March 4. Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.

For more on *Next Fall* and director *Melanie Hargan*, please see page 19,

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# Parents, students say you can't put a price on health

From page 1

get a Big Mac? In school, we're taught to do the right thing above all else and take on leadership roles and set a good example to others, which is why I am here today. We're asking you to take a leadership role and do the right thing."

The right thing, according to the residents who gathered at Town Hall, is to put "real food first" at all community recreation centres and arenas.

The group of concerned parents – spearheaded by five local moms – collected over 700 signatures of support from local citizens who say it is time to do away with "a junk food first" approach to concessions.

Their efforts led to Council laying the ground work for a new contract with potential concessions vendors that will require them to provide at least 55 per cent healthy food options at both the concession counters and in vending machines.

"The Town's vision talks about being leaders and seeking innovative approaches and effective solutions," said local mom Tracy Smith. "I truly hope we can put that vision into practice this evening."

Ms. Smith said the initially recommended 25 per cent requirement was a step in the right direction, but it didn't jive with the Town's goals to promote healthy living and make Aurora



From left: Kasie Savage, Tracy Smith, Spence Savage, Allison Boyd, Andrea Webb, and Elise Volpe.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

the "most active community" in Canada.

The current state of snack bar affairs, she said, consistently virtually all candy, chocolate bars, sugary drinks and otherwise processed foods, all located next to recreation centres where "families and children go to enhance their health and vitality."

"The statistics right now on obesity in Canada are staggering," said Ms. Smith. "I think we need to do better than what was suggested in this report. I know we can do better. Regardless of the fear of trying something new or losing money, I think we all know that making these changes and shifting our focus is the right thing to do – for our families, for our children, our athletes, our grandkids, and ourselves. We all need real, nutrient-rich food to thrive, participate and fuel our bodies. We're here tonight to help shape and create that vision with you and address some of the hesitations you may have and offer viable solutions, so together we can partner on transforming our current junk bars into a new type of snack bars."

Part of their solution was boosting that initial recommendation of 25 per cent healthy content to 55 per cent, along with removing at least half of the currently offered "treat food" and an effective communication strategy to get word out to residents.

Survey details were presented to Council in a staff report which indicated 81.5 per cent of residents thought it was important to have healthy food options, while 79 per cent were willing to put their money where their mouth is and buy healthy food items from concession stands in the future.

Yet, a recent pilot project to highlight a handful of healthy menu items was less than successful.

Concerned that Council members might not see healthy food items as a viable financial option, the parents said

previously floated food items were not easily visible, had limited availability depending on which recreation centre you went to, and, when they were there, were not presented in the most appetizing manner.

Other delegates spoke to the financial aspect, including Elise Volpe, who said they have reached out to marketing groups in Aurora who have offered to help at no charge.

"We recognize some of you will have concerns related to the viability of this change," said Ms. Volpe. "We have heard that healthy food won't sell, the Town won't receive responses to the RFP and that other communities have not been successful. We feel strongly healthy foods will sell. Examples include Freshii, which has opened 370 stores since 2005 and will have almost 800 by 2019. From our research, we understand the keys to success are proper display of the food. Subsidizing healthy food by increased cost to junk food is a strategy that could help and is worth exploring. We must stick with the change, even if there is short-term push-back because it is the right thing to do."

This was a sentiment shared by Spencer, who told Council, "If you can spend \$72,000 on the dog park so that dogs can run freely and enjoy fitness and recreation, why can't you consider the importance of people's health, too? I hope you do the right thing and choose people over profits."

Yet, this was the sentiment later expressed by Council.

"I don't know how you can put a price on the health of our kids and our residents," said Councillor Tom Mrakas. "I would prefer to see it go to 100 per cent, but I think 55 is a great start."

Agreed Councillor John Abel: "We shouldn't be looking to make a small profit at the expense of our children. It should be the other way around."

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# Council eyes 55% target for “real food” at concession stands

By Brock Weir

Aurora has upped the ante on getting healthy foods in the hands of young athletes and residents as a whole.

Following passionate appeals from local parents and kids, Council is poised to set the ball rolling next month transforming concession stands and vending machines in municipal facilities into hubs of healthy “real food” options.

If approved this week, Aurora will resume discussion on March 20 on sending out a request for bids on potential vendors looking to provide food and beverage options at local recreation centres on the stipulation they provide at least 55 per cent healthy food selections.

Going into last week’s Council meeting, Council faced a recommendation that the new contract, which will replace the current contract with Global Brand Food Service, set to expire on April 30, included a minimum 25 per cent of low-sugar and sugar-free products in cold beverage vending machines, a minimum of 20 per cent healthy snack foods in vending machines, 25% low-sugar and sugar free beverage options at concessions and at least five healthy food options on the counter.

But, for many Council members, these minimums didn’t go far enough.

“There is a tremendous amount of merit in what the delegates have spoken to, but it is our responsibility to do our part,” said Councillor Michael Thompson, speaking in favour of a motion put on the floor by Mayor Geoff Dawe to up these minimums to 55 per cent. “I’ve sat on the Mayor’s Task Force for physical activity and taken positions and participated in Healthy Kids Challenges, Activate Aurora, promoting the sense that we want Aurora to be the fittest community in Canada, so we take these principled stands. It falls upon us to take a leadership role.”

Previous efforts to move in this direction, however, have proven less than successful.

Aurora, in conjunction with the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, launched a pilot project last year dubbed the Healthy Boost menu program, which offered a limited selection of healthy options, such as smoothies and fresh fruit, at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex and Stronach Aurora Recreation Centre concession stands. According to the report before Council by John Firman, Aurora’s Manager of Business Support, only “one or two”

of these items were purchased beyond promotional coupons issued by the Town.

This factor gave some Council members pause in forging full speed ahead towards the 55 per cent target, asking for more information to come forward before a final decision was made.

“I am certainly very keen to see how we can move forward with this and get some different results, because certainly the results with the last one didn’t speak favourably to looking at that,” said Mayor Dawe.

For others, concern was less about past successes – or lack thereof – and more about how to process the ample information supplied by advocates at the start of the meeting.

“There are too many moving parts and new information,” said Councillor Harold Kim. “Frankly, this report was written weeks ago and most of the information that was brought forward to us by these various groups and stakeholders were provided within the last 10 days. I am not prepared to choose any option, nevermind the main motion or [the 55 per cent] motion.

“What I would prefer is to have staff go back armed with this new information and come back with more fulsome options we can actually vote on, and not just have a minimum or maximum.”

Taking time to process the information was a view shared by Councillor Jeff Thom, along with Councillor John Abel who said the matter seemed to be “rushed.”

“[The outgoing vending contract] was a 10 year term and now we have been told we have to make a decision tonight,” said Councillor Abel. “We didn’t have the opportunity to take in all the excellent work. There was so much that was stated today that I don’t think we can make good Terms of Reference to get a proper RFP (Request For Proposal) back from [potential vendors].

“If we’re going to provide leadership, vision and insight in what our community is engaging and telling us, it is important for us to bring this forward at the time of the RFP, that this is what we want, this is where the successes are in other places, and not because we’re rushed.”

Councillor Thompson, on the other hand, had a different viewpoint. It is important to get the ball rolling on the RFP now, he said, and the finer points can be developed at that time.

“It is our job to set policy and this amendment speaks to the policy that we’re saying healthy food is more important that what is currently provided,” he said. “We can ask staff on the implementation of it, we can ask staff to look at the merits of the presentation that was presented to us, and incorporate some of those different components, subsidies and so forth through the development while the RFP is out there.”

Added Councillor Mrakas: “We are just putting out an RFP and we were asked by residents to increase their choices from 20 per cent or five items to 55 per cent overall and that is just a simple RFP. We can get that information when the RFP comes back and [then we can decide] where to go from here.”

In the meantime, Lisa Warth, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, said the department will be working with a nutritionist from the Regional Health Department on low fat, low salt, low sugar and high fibre options, and they are ready to vet any additional products prospective vendors might suggest when the RFPs roll in.

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The Caroline Baile Team held a client appreciation night last week at Niche Décor – and it was all for a good cause. At the event, the team presented a cheque for \$1,200 to the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, which will support local women’s shelters and violence prevention programs. Pictured above, from left to right, are Eric Skillins, Natalie Svadjian, Amanda Bernardi, Erica Cho, Maryam Atri, Lorraine MacDonald, Michele Locke, Kerri Fillier and Caroline Baile. Right: The Niche Décor team.



Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



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(ages 8-11 and 12-14)

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- techniques to improve playing in game situations



**ARTS CAMP**

(ages 8-14)

Weeks #2, #4, #6

Campers will learn new techniques and skills while creating their own masterpieces each day. Activities will be focused in areas such as: painting, drawing and sketching, sculpting, and string and paper art.



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(ages 12-14)

Weeks #2, #3, #5

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**DRAMA CAMP**

(ages 9-14)

Weeks #1, #3, #5

Through fun and engaging experiences, this camp ultimately gives rise to the development of personal qualities that will benefit campers no matter where life takes them. Personal development includes self-awareness, communication skills, teamwork, leadership and confidence.



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- rules/scoring

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FREE Week of March 1, 2018

## Tigers draw Golden Hawks in OJHL first round



Aurora's Matthew Ferrari carries the puck up ice in the Tigers' 4-0 win over the Pickering Panthers at the Aurora Community Centre on Friday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

If the Aurora Tigers are to go deep in this year's postseason, they will have to first go through the most experienced team in recent Ontario Junior Hockey League history.

The Junior A season wrapped up over the weekend with a win and an overtime loss for the Tigers, a pair of meaningless games for the NorthEast Conference champs who clinched the title the week prior.

The Golden Hawks, meanwhile, were looking for a better draw in their final weekend, yet losses in four of their final five earned them a date with the red-hot Tigers.

Trying to catch the seventh-place Pickering Panthers in the standings, it was the Panthers that entered the Tigers' den on Friday in what could have been a potential first round matchup, turning vicious in the third period.

A 3 - 0 Aurora lead heading into the final frame quickly became one-sided, with Anthony Romano scoring just seven seconds into the third, before both benches blew up with pre-playoff tension.

Ten misconducts were handed out over a pair of scuffles, including Aurora's Luca Esposito, James Thomson, Zach Wilkie, Matthew Ferrari, and Christopher Giroday.

To the relief of the Tigers brass, the only additional punishment was

a one-game suspension to Ferrari for removing his helmet, who sat the final game of the season on Saturday hosting the Lindsay Muskies.

With the Tigers clinched and the Muskies eliminated from playoff contention, it was a much more timid affair in what ended as a 3 - 2 Muskies overtime win.

Bricknell notched a powerplay goal early in the third period to tie the game at one before Romano gave Aurora the lead just a few minutes later, though a late goal from Lindsay sent it to extra time.

Jack Irvine was beat just over two minutes into the overtime, just his fourth loss in his last six games backing up starter Bradley Van Schubert.

## Ex-Tiger Kelly signs with Anaheim Ducks

By Jake Courtepatte

Olympic medalist, Spengler Cup winner, and NHL athlete.

It has been a whirlwind 2018 for hockey player Chris Kelly, who seemed destined

to hang up his skates for good at the end of the last NHL season.

Yet now, with two medals around his neck, the 37-year-old is getting another

Continued on page 21



Ex-Aurora Tiger Chris Kelly has earned a contract with the Anaheim Ducks after a bronze medal-winning performance at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Photo courtesy of Hockey Canada

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# Ex-Tiger Kelly signs with Ducks

**From page 15**  
chance with the Anaheim Ducks.  
Kelly, who captained Canada to a bronze medal performance in the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics, said in a media

scrum he was "blown away" by what has come his way this calendar year.

"It's great to know that I still have it in me to compete with the best, and that I can be recognized for it as well," said Kelly. "This whole experience has been really amazing, and motivating, and I'm looking forward to getting back to the NHL."

A native of Bowmanville, ON, Kelly made his junior hockey debut with the junior A Aurora Tigers in 1996, helping the team to their second-ever league title with 34 points in 49 games.

After captaining the OHL's London Knights, a seven-year stint with the NHL's Ottawa Senators ended when he was dealt to the Boston Bruins in 2011, where he spent six more seasons before retiring from the NHL.

It was his spectacular play with Team Canada at the Spengler Cup in January, where he helped the team to their third straight gold medal winning performance, where he once again sparked interest from the professional hockey world.

With more than 800 NHL games under his belt, the most experienced player in the room was handed the 'C' heading into the Olympic Games, where he notched two goals and one assist in six games played.

Earning interest from a number of NHL teams, it was the Ducks that landed the Canadian captain with a one-year deal, a contract of just over one-million dollars signed on Sunday.

The Aurora Tigers tweeted out their congratulations to Kelly, adding "The Town of Aurora will be cheering for you."

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# Tigers forwards sign with UOIT Ridgebacks



UOIT Ridgebacks head coach Curtis Hodgins and Aurora Tigers GM Dermot Anderson flank Tigers forwards Austin Eastman and Jake Bricknell on their signing day on Monday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

Two major components of the Aurora Tigers success have found their new home for next season.

Both captain Jake Bricknell and fellow forward Austin Eastman signed on Monday with the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, committing to skate for the Ridgebacks in the 2018-19 season.

"Both these guys can play," said Ridgebacks head coach Curtis Hodgins. "Jake has the coveted right-hand shot that we're still looking for here to help our offence and be able to help our power play. Austin has terrific skill and can flat out fly. I think both are going to be very good U SPORTS players and great Ridgebacks for us."

Bricknell, who began the highly-successful 2017-18 season wearing the 'C' for the Tigers, came to Aurora after a league championship with the Cobourg Cougars the previous year.

Only one point shy of 100 to end the regular season, his leadership has helped the Tigers to a conference-best record.

According to Bricknell, his 35 goals, which were good for second-best in the entire OJHL, came thanks to the

commitment of the Tigers staff.

"They provided me with the right tools and opportunities that I've been seeking in my junior career to further my game that I've known I've always had in me."

Eastman, a native of Lindsay, ON, said the location of the school was a strong component of his signing.

"Landing in UOIT was big for me because it stays closer to home, which makes things easier," said Eastman, who also said he was impressed upon touring the campus.

"While I was there, it just gave me a home-like feel, and being that it's a smaller school everybody knows who is who, and it has a lot to offer when it comes to academic help to make my time more proactive."

Eastman joined the team midway through the 2017-18 season, having spent time with the major junior Quebec Remparts of the QMJHL. Since his debut as a Tiger, his 0.59 points-per-game trails only fellow forward Joseph Mizzi, accumulating 44 points in just 26 games.

The pair join fellow Tigers alumnus Kyle Locke, having skated for Aurora from 2014-16, who will be entering his junior year as a Ridgeback next season.

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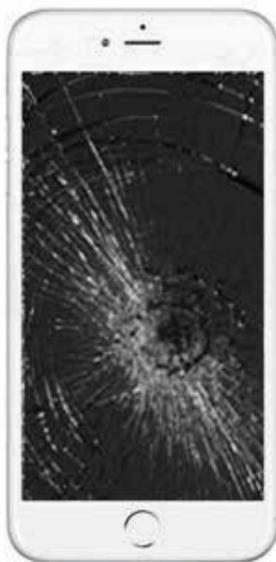
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# Walking a mile in their shoes: 360Kids helps students understand youth homelessness

By Brock Weir

“It must be really bad, but what can I do about it?”

This was the thought that went through Maryam M’s mind whenever she saw a homeless person.

The Grade 6 student simply thought there was nothing in her power to make a difference, even a loonie wouldn’t have much of an impact.

“I always thought in order for there to be big change, there has to be a big committee towards that topic,” she says. “I never thought I could do anything about homeless or homeless youth, and I would walk away like most people do. Boy, was I wrong to think that.”

Maryam, and her fellow grade six students at TMS Schools, had an eye opening experience on the Family Day weekend, walking in the shoes of homeless youth, in association with the 360 Kids Youth Shelter.

Over the past few months, students in Grades 4 through Six have been immersed in workshops with 360 Kids representatives learning about the needs of youth who use their services and resources, as well as exploring the issues of affordable housing, precarious employment and mental health.

The kids put this knowledge into action by participating in their first 360 Kids sleepover, which was designed to give youth the opportunity to experience the challenges and choices facing youth who aren’t as fortunate.

The overnight experience was hoped to not only raise money for 360 Kids, but foster an empathy while simulating a typical night for a homeless youth.

“Our students have been inspired to become engaged citizens and, in the meantime, contribute to this supportive organization in various ways,” said teacher Rachel Marks. “They are learning that

giving can come in many forms.”

When Milad M. saw homeless youth, he says he too felt a sense of sadness and the helplessness of not being able to lend a hand.

“This experience really opened up a new world of possibilities to help people and gave me a different perspective on homelessness,” he says. “When I was doing the experience we had to create a shelter with two things: cardboard boxes and a tarp. Some of us didn’t have a tarp at all. We only had one cardboard box per person and we could team up with others and this challenge was extremely challenging. Boxes kept falling because of wind and the tarps were flying through the air. Most of us were in teams, so we all thought, imagine doing this alone almost every day fixing a little shelter, uncomfortable as it was, and calling it home.

“There was also the cold wind chilling us up even though we had jackets, snow pants, gloves, hats, and scarves trying to warm us up. We imagined having old clothes unwashed and used, and knowing what I would really need if I find myself homeless helps me know what they need.”

The experience was not only an eye opener on the struggles homeless go through each and every day just to make it through the night, but it was also an eye opener that these struggles are being faced by homeless youth not that much older than themselves.

“When I saw that so many kids were homeless, I was very surprised,” says Kurtis Ng. “I knew that there were homeless people in York Region but I didn’t know that some of them were kids.”

Adds Milad: “You don’t see the people as they are usually portrayed. Homeless people look just like all of us in the way that they aren’t really dirty, their clothes aren’t always ripped or torn and they do have an education in public schools. All of the details I mentioned were once what

I thought of homeless people and since I didn’t see any of that I thought that there probably weren’t any homeless people. This is called invisible homelessness and it happens everywhere even when we can’t see it.”

But, this didn’t surprise Maryam. It is an issue many choose to ignore, she says, because people have that “unfortunate” mindset that there is nothing they can do to help.

“I think anyone can do anything to help: you could donate, you could go buy homes

for them, buy furniture, take them in with your family. There are many things we can do to help as individuals and as a group,” she says. “After this experience however I saw how caring 360 was, and how they took the time to come teach us how it felt and how we could make a change. After seeing this, I was very happy 360 kids supported these kinds of people. From now on, when I want to help, I would donate lots of money to homelessyouth organizations, and if I ever saw a homeless youth, I know where to call: 360 Kids.”



Photo courtesy of Ann Harvey/TMS

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# Aurora Winter Blues Festival



Aurora melted the winter blues over the weekend with the seventh annual Aurora Winter Blues Festival. Hosted at St. Andrew's College, the two-night event featured an impressive roster of talent, along with music workshops and pop-up performances to get everyone in the spirit of the occasion. Top Row: On Friday Night, The Journeymen Blues Show took over the Ketchum Auditorium, featuring Juno Award-winner Steve Strongman along with Jack De Keyzer and Michael Schatte. Second Row, Right: Performers in the Journeymen show take a bow. Second Row, Left: Saturday night's event in the Wirth Theatre was opened by The Dan McKinnon Band. (Third Row) Mad Dogs & Englishmen – a salute to the music of Joe Cocker and Leon Russell – closed out the Festival.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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# Director brings timely issues to Theatre Aurora with Next Fall

By Brock Weir

In bringing a play to life, Melanie Hargan set out to let the characters do the talking – and, as the curtain rises on Theatre Aurora’s production of next fall, the director will be measuring success by the conversations that take place among the audience members as they go back home.

Next Fall, written by Geoffrey Nauffts, is the story of Luke and Adam, a couple in a committed five year relationship. While Luke believes in God, Adam believes in everything else, and an accident serves as a catalyst for questions about commitment, love and faith, themes all explored with equal dashes of humour and honesty.

“Luke has not come out to his family yet, so it really transcends what is going on in the world and how hard it is for gays and lesbians to come out,” says Ms. Hargan. “It is a lot easier now, but when this play was written 10 or 15 years ago, it resonated with a lot of people. I have a lot of gay and lesbian friends and I saw their struggle growing up so, when

I read this play, I knew I just had to do it and tell their story.”

Her vision for the story was a simple one – a clean stage, with just walls and a couch. There is nothing to get in the way of the characters telling their stories, and that is very much by design.

So, the main story tellers here are Luke, played by Joey Ferguson, and Darren Fletcher as Adam.

The duo, Hargan says, came into the audition not knowing each other but auditioned together.

“I was looking for specific people who were comfortable with each other,” she says. “They had to have chemistry; it is terrible when a romantic couple on stage has no chemistry. As soon as they got up and did a scene, that was it. They were Luke and Adam.”

In addition to those questions about commitment, love and faith, Next Fall delves deep into the family dynamic, particularly in the form of Luke’s relationship with his strict father. Luke is afraid to tell his father he’s gay out of fear he would never see his little brother again. His father drilled into him that Luke was gay he would be cast out of

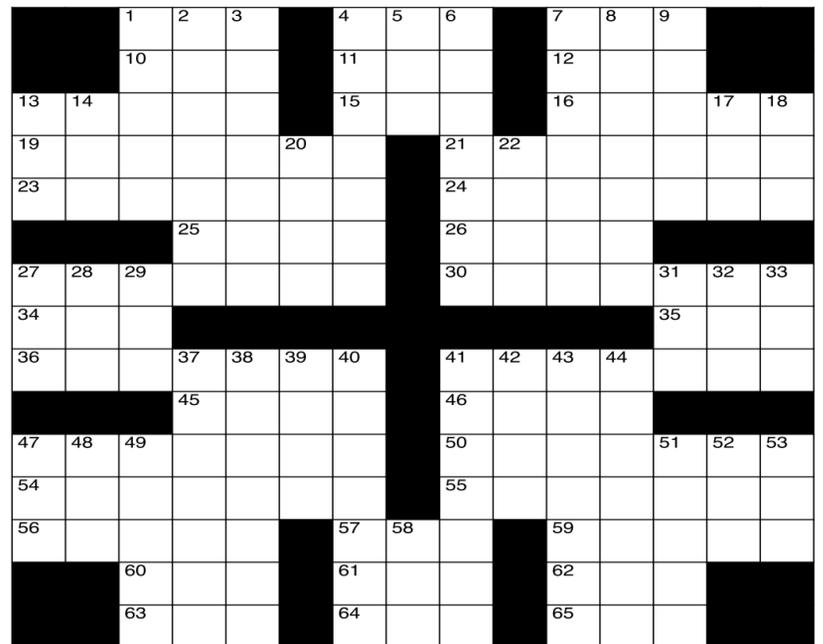
the family.

“If someone comes out of this play and has a conversation with their loved ones, if parents go home and have a conversation with their kids and talk about their sexuality and to know that those kids can come out to them if they need to, then this will be a success,” says Hargan. “Even if they are straight, talk to them about their relationships and be there for them. I want parents,

grandparents and friends just to come out and say, ‘You know what? I am going to be there for my loved ones.’”

Next Fall opens at Theatre Aurora this Thursday, March 1, and runs on select dates and times through Saturday, March 10. For more information, including tickets, visit [www.theatreaurora.ca](http://www.theatreaurora.ca) or call 905-727-3669.

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Chop or cut
- 4. Green veggie
- 7. Bar bill
- 10. Doctors’ group
- 11. One who buys and sells securities (slang)
- 12. Be in debt
- 13. Lively ballroom dance
- 15. Singer Charles
- 16. Polish city
- 19. Former
- 21. Dismissing from employment
- 23. Minerals
- 24. Plotted
- 25. Consult
- 26. After a prayer
- 27. Agents of one’s downfall
- 30. Leaseholders
- 34. Supervises flying
- 35. Voodoo god
- 36. Alfalfa
- 41. Apply another coat to
- 45. Witnesses
- 46. Jai \_\_, sport
- 47. Ones who proof
- 50. Recant
- 54. Small group with shared interests
- 55. Part of warming headgear
- 56. Woolen cloth
- 57. Snag
- 59. Central American fruit tree
- 60. Woman (French)
- 61. The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
- 62. Type of bed
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Consume
- 65. Japanese freight company (abbr.)

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Czech monetary unit
- 2. Able to arouse intense feeling
- 3. Elk
- 4. Muscular weaknesses
- 5. Geological time
- 6. Depths of the ocean
- 7. Burns to the ground
- 8. Becomes cognizant of
- 9. Cause to shade
- 13. US political party
- 14. Refers to some of a thing
- 17. Single
- 18. Type of beer
- 20. Ancient Iranian people
- 22. Grocery chain
- 27. Gridiron league
- 28. English river
- 29. \_\_ and cheese
- 31. Peyton’s younger brother
- 32. Long time
- 33. High schoolers’ test
- 37. Respects
- 38. Organize anew
- 39. Filippo \_\_, Saint
- 40. Intrinsic nature of something
- 41. Cheese dish
- 42. Ancient Greek City
- 43. Patron saint of Ireland
- 44. Produced by moving aircraft or vehicle
- 47. Shock treatment
- 48. \_\_ Jones
- 49. Things
- 51. Having wings
- 52. Panthers’ QB Newton
- 53. Third-party access
- 58. Satisfaction

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S	B	A	L	L	I	G	A	T	O	R	M	E		
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### Briefly

#### Applications now open for Give Back student bursary

If you are a student getting ready to graduate from a school in Aurora, King, Newmarket, or Georgina and think you have made a positive contribution to your community, Neighbourhood Network and Magna want to hear from you.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2018 Give Back Awards. A \$1,000 cash prize donated by Magna International, the Give Back Awards are presented each year to 20 students from area high schools who have demonstrated an outstanding dedication to community involvement.

To qualify, you must be a student who has shown “significant initiative and generosity” to your “community and fellow students”, and must be able to attend the Give Back Awards reception at Magna International’s Aurora head office on the evening of Thursday, April 19.

All nominations must include a letter of endorsement by a sponsor, a non-family-member, who “must be able to speak to the applicant’s community involvement and initiatives.”

Applications will be accepted by Neighbourhood Network through Thursday, March 29, at 4 p.m. They can be submitted by email ([erin.cerenzia@magna.com](mailto:erin.cerenzia@magna.com)), mail (Neighbourhood Network, c/o Erin Cerenzia, 14988 Yonge Street, Aurora, ON L4G 1M6), fax (905-727-9779), or online at [www.nnetwork.org/GiveBackAwards](http://www.nnetwork.org/GiveBackAwards).

You can also sponsor a volunteer who gives their time to your organization as well. If you can identify a student who will be graduating in this school gives a lot back to the world around them, consider putting their name forward for a Give Back Award.

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# THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

## FEBRUARY 3 – MARCH 3

The Mayor's Celebration of Youth Arts runs at the Aurora Cultural Centre. This month long gallery exhibition celebrates the talent of Grade 12 students from all of Aurora's high schools. February 7: A Visual Arts Night/Artists Reception at 7 p.m. February 9: Performance Arts Night from 7 p.m. featuring music, drama and spoken word.

## MARCH 1 – MARCH 10

Theatre Aurora is excited to bring to their stage "Next Fall" by Geoffrey Nauffts. Luke believes in God. Adam believes in everything else. Next Fall portrays the ups and downs of this unlikely couple's five-year relationship with sharp humor and unflinching honesty. And when an accident changes everything, Adam must turn to Luke's family and friends for support...and answers. For tickets and further information, visit [www.theatreaurora.com](http://www.theatreaurora.com) or call 905-727-3669.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 1

The Bond Lake Public School Concert Band invites you for two evenings of fun, food, and fundraising at Boston Pizza Aurora on Thursday, March 1 and Thursday, March 22 between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Come out and support the Band in their quest to attend the 2018 MusicFest Canada Nationals in Toronto this May! "Last year, our band achieved Gold Plus status at the York Region Music Alive Festival which also earned us an official invitation to perform at the 46th annual MusicFest Canada festival. This national

competition takes place at the University of Toronto in May, and it features bands from all over the country."

## SATURDAY, MARCH 3

Nature Aurora invites you to come out to their annual Open House today at the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Come out and learn more about the "Citizen Scientist" work Nature Aurora does around the community. Students are also welcome and volunteer hours can be accredited. [www.natureaurora.ca](http://www.natureaurora.ca).

## MONDAY, MARCH 8

The Aurora Film Circuit presents the British drama, God's Own Country, tonight at Cineplex Aurora from 7 – 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Aurora Public Library for \$10 For complete details please visit [aurorafilmcircuit.ca](http://aurorafilmcircuit.ca).

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

The Aurora Community Café is open today – and each Wednesday – from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Victoria and Mosley (Entrance off Victoria). Now serving lunch, along with fresh baked goods, lunch, coffee, tea, juice, a DJ and live music.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Amnesty International Aurora-Newmarket Group holds their monthly meeting to discuss

current human rights issues and write appeal letters. Held at Trinity Anglican Church (in The Rectory building behind the church), 79 Victoria St., Aurora – all welcome! Free. 7 – 8.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Canadian Federation of University Women (Aurora/Newmarket) will mark International Women's Day today with a special event from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at Newmarket's Trinity United Church (461 Park Avenue). Guest Speaker: Fiona Jack, Sex Trafficking Prevention Trainer from Covenant House, Toronto. She will enlighten the audience about Human Trafficking. Covenant House has been working with victims of sexual exploitations since they opened in 1982 (homeless youth are at a significantly increased risk for both trafficking and sexual abuse). She has travelled to York region to our schools and her focus of these talks are about luring techniques and warning signs. For more, visit [www.cfuwauroranewmarket.com](http://www.cfuwauroranewmarket.com).

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

The PROBUS Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora. This month's speakers is: Blair Dawson, he has written a couple

of illustrated books about the wilds of Canada. He is presenting his latest creation on the subject of "All about Bears Facts and Myths Stories". For more information on this month's speaker please call Cliff White at 905-841-2421. New Members Welcome! Call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849, or be our guest at the meeting.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 15

The Prostate Cancer Canada Network – Newmarket Support Group meets tonight from 6.30 – 9 p.m. at the Newmarket Seniors' Meeting Place. 474 Davis Drive. This is a peer-to-peer group session with open discussions regarding the disease, treatments and individual outcomes. Spouses are welcome. For more information, call 905-473-2688.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 22

The Bond Lake Public School Concert Band invites you for two evenings of fun, food, and fundraising at Boston Pizza Aurora on Thursday, March 1 and Thursday, March 22 between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Come out and support the Band in their quest to attend the 2018 MusicFest Canada Nationals in Toronto this May! "Last year, our band achieved Gold Plus status at the York Region Music Alive Festival which also earned us an official invitation to perform at the 46th annual MusicFest Canada festival. This national competition takes place at the University of Toronto in May, and it features bands from all over the country."

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- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

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- Diploma in journalism preferred
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- Excellent writing, editing and photography skills
  - Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle
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- An interest in local issues is a necessity, as the majority of the writing for this role will be local



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10:30-10:45 am	Break/Snack
10:45-11:30 am	Soccer Skills & Training
11:30-12:00 pm	Lunch (provided)
12:00-12:30 pm	Camp Songs/Camp Games
12:30-1:30 pm	Full Camp Game
1:30-2:30 pm	Soccer Skills & Training
2:30-2:45 pm	Break/Snack
2:45-4:00 pm	Soccer Game
4:00 pm	Pick-Up
4:00-5:30 pm	Extended Care Available

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