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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 18 No. 49 905-727-3300 **theauroran.com** FREE Week of September 20, 2018



TWO MONTHS IS A LONG TIME IN POLITICS – (LEFT) Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leona Alleslev is pictured speaking alongside Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at a Liberal Party fundraiser at the Royal Venetian Mansion on July 20. Fast forward (RIGHT) to September 17, when Ms. Alleslev crossed the floor to the Conservative Party. Pictured here with Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, she tells The Auroran she made the decision after seeing things hitting “a tipping point.” For her personal perspective on her decision, see Ms. Alleslev’s MP’s Report on Page 5.

“I need to know if I can look my constituents in the face”

Alleslev’s switch to Conservatives came at “tipping point”

By Brock Weir

She asked herself if she could look her constituents in the face, but also if she could look at herself in the mirror at the end of the day knowing she had done everything she could to represent the interests Aurora-Oak Ridges-

Richmond Hill.

That is what Member of Parliament Leona Alleslev says played a factor in her surprise decision to cross the floor of the House of Commons on Monday from the Liberal benches to the Conservative Party.

At the time, she said she stood in the House “deeply concerned for the future

of the country.”

The world, she said, has dramatically changed over the last three years, leading to “fundamental shifts in the global economy while trade relationships, international agreements, and defence structures are under threat” – a “perfect storm” of serious challenges that needs

Continued on page 24

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30th Hoedown raises \$538,000 for 20 community groups

By Brock Weir

Twenty community groups, serving thousands of people across York Region and beyond will have a share of over half a million dollars raised over the course of the milestone 30th Magna Hoedown.

This year’s two-day party, York Region’s largest, raised an impressive \$538,105 for charities.

Continued on page 10

Jim Cuddy of Blue Rodeo takes the stage Saturday evening, headlining the final night of the 2018 Magna Hoedown.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

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\$1,900,000



RE-ELECT

GEOFF DAWE

AURORA'S MAYOR

I care deeply and passionately for Aurora. I originally ran for public office in 2010 to give back to the community that has given so much to me and my family. I was honoured to provide years of volunteer service before serving as **Your Mayor**. Over the past eight years, it has been my privilege to serve and deliver on my promises to:

- ✔ Keep our property taxes low while delivering consistently reliable town services
- ✔ Build a successful strategic vision for a strong, caring and prosperous Aurora
- ✔ Provide effective leadership for Aurora at York Regional Council and at our world-class facility, Southlake Regional Health Centre

My passion for our community and our residents has always guided my efforts as **Your Mayor**. This passion still motivates me to continue the excellent work we have accomplished together to make Aurora a better place to live, work and play. Over the past eight years, we have succeeded in:

- ✔ Attracting more than 5,000 new jobs across all job sectors
- ✔ Achieving and sustaining one of the highest rates of job growth in York Region
- ✔ Attracting and developing two major hotel projects
- ✔ Balancing growth by adding four new parks, new trails and preserving 40% of Aurora as green space
- ✔ Building a community that is nationally recognized as one of the best places to live in Canada

As **Your Mayor**, my vision for Aurora over the next four years includes:

- ✔ Continuing my proven track record of keeping taxes and debt low
- ✔ Continuing to deliver quality services to our residents
- ✔ Continuing to advocate for a new interchange at Highway 404 and St. John's Sideroad
- ✔ Improving the intersection of Yonge Street and Wellington Street
- ✔ Successfully completing the Aurora Armoury project
- ✔ Developing Library Square into a vibrant community space

I believe in an Aurora where all residents are treated with respect, where our streets are safe and where everyone has the opportunity to prosper. If you share my vision for Aurora and support passionate, proven leadership, **vote Geoff Dawe for Your Mayor - Aurora's Mayor on October 22**. Vote to keep Aurora progressive and prosperous for our present and our future!

“Aurora has become one of the most desirable places to live in Canada, a community with low taxes, low debt and a wealth of services.”



“In my years of service as the Provincial Member of Parliament for Aurora, I came to recognize the need for and the benefit of strong leadership for our community. A strong leader is multi-dimensional. They are there when you need them, not just

when it is convenient to them. I believe that the Aurora community has benefited greatly from the stable and strong leadership Geoff Dawe has provided to Aurora and all of its residents over the past eight years.”

FRANK KLEES
Aurora Resident since 1985 MPP and Cabinet Minister
Newmarket - Aurora (1995 - 2014)

✔ **VOTING FOR PROVEN LEADERSHIP**



“My family and I have been residents in Aurora for over 20 years. I have known Geoff for many years and his support of The ABLE Network has been outstanding. At ABLE, we support adults with Intellectual Disabilities and Mayor Dawe has shown

amazing support for inclusivity of Aurora residents of all abilities. Geoff's openness to diversity is an important quality for the Mayor of Aurora to have going forward. Mayor Dawe has been a very positive influence on our town and has accomplished many things in the last four years. I strongly endorse Geoff to be our Mayor in the next municipal election.”

BARB ALLAN
Aurora Resident since 1998 Founding Director,
The ABLE Network

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Thursday’s Volunteer Fair kicks off busy season for Aurora’s youth

By Brock Weir

The 2018-2019 school year is now in full swing, and if you’re trying to figure out how to get a head start on the 40 hours of community service you need to put in to get your diploma, head over to the Aurora Family Leisure Complex this Thursday afternoon to learn all you need to know.

On Thursday, September 20, from 4 to 7 p.m., the Town of Aurora will host the annual Youth Volunteer Fair, which brings together over 20 community groups from within Aurora and from across York Region.

It is a chance to learn about current and upcoming volunteer opportunities in the area that might be that perfect fit for you and your interests.

“The aim of the fair is to let youth know about all the different

opportunities for them to not only get involved in their community, but to find ways of giving back,” says Julie Stephenson, Youth Programmer for the Town. “We know students usually have a minimum requirement of volunteer hours to graduate, but volunteering is also something that is really important to their own development so they can learn about their communities, get a sense of pride from giving back, and also develop some really great hands-on and interpersonal skills from engaging in that opportunity, as well.”

The Youth Program keeps teens informed on these opportunities throughout the year via their drop-in programs and through other avenues, but this is a chance for them to seek out several avenues all in one place.

“I think that every youth is all individual in terms of what their interests are and we do notice that

teens start out by going towards opportunities they are interested in,” says Ms. Stephenson. “They perhaps want a career in veterinary studies, so they might see an opportunity at the OSPCA. We often try and highlight opportunities they might not come across in their daily life. We know things like the Terry Fox Run they come across in school because a lot of fundraisers the teens and schools will run in the school setting, but we also try and pull in organizations that work with other service groups, whether it is older individuals or more marginalized individuals to give youth a chance to experience or to meet those people and learn about these other opportunities.”

Following the Youth Volunteer Fair, one of the next big events for local teens is the second annual Youth Innovation Fair.

A huge hit when it was launched last fall, this year’s Fair is set for November 14, and all youth in Grades 4 to 12 are invited to apply to become a part of the process.

“We are extending participation a little bit from last year, but there will still be a cap on how many can participate this year. We’re encouraging people to get their applications in early. Applications are due by November 1,” says Ms. Stephenson. “We are encouraging anyone who is in that Grade 4 – 12 range who has an interest in innovation or creating solutions for their community to put their thinking cap on and apply to the fair.”

For more information on the Volunteer Fair, the Youth Innovation Fair, or how to apply, contact Julie Stephenson at 905-727-3123 x3128 or email jstephenson@aurora.ca.

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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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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A “Treemendous” day for Aurora

It was recently announced that the Aurora Community Arboretum (ACA) is one of thirty-six recipients of funding, to purchase trees for the Arboretum. The funding, made available through Home Hardware and administered by Tree Canada, is awarded annually to individuals and community groups in pursuit of a greener, healthier environment.

ACA used the funds to create a unique planting of Native Conifer Trees of Ontario, within the Aurora Arboretum as part of the National Tree Day Celebrations.

The National Tree Day Celebration and dedication of the Conifers will take place on Friday, September 28 at 10 a.m. Parking and entrance will be at the south end of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex Parking Lot (Sports Dome parking area).

Follow the signs a short distance to the site.

Please come out to help us show our appreciation to Home Hardware and Tree Canada.

John Wilson and Marcia Wilson
Aurora Community Arboretum

Kind gesture renewed faith in human kindness

After finishing my lunch on Saturday, September 15, at the Breakfast All Day Café in Aurora, the waitress informed me that my bill was paid for by a very generous couple who had already left the restaurant.

I would like to thank you!

You certainly renewed my faith in human kindness.

Irene Watson
Aurora



Photography Contest

In *Strangers with the Same Dream*, the land itself becomes one of the characters in the book. Capture your relationship with the land in this year’s OBOA photography contest.

- SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:
- * Must be a minimum of 16 years of age
 - * Employees/Board members of APL and their immediate families are ineligible to win.
 - * Photos must be high-res for print

Please send submissions to: brock@auroran.com
Submission Deadline: Friday September 28

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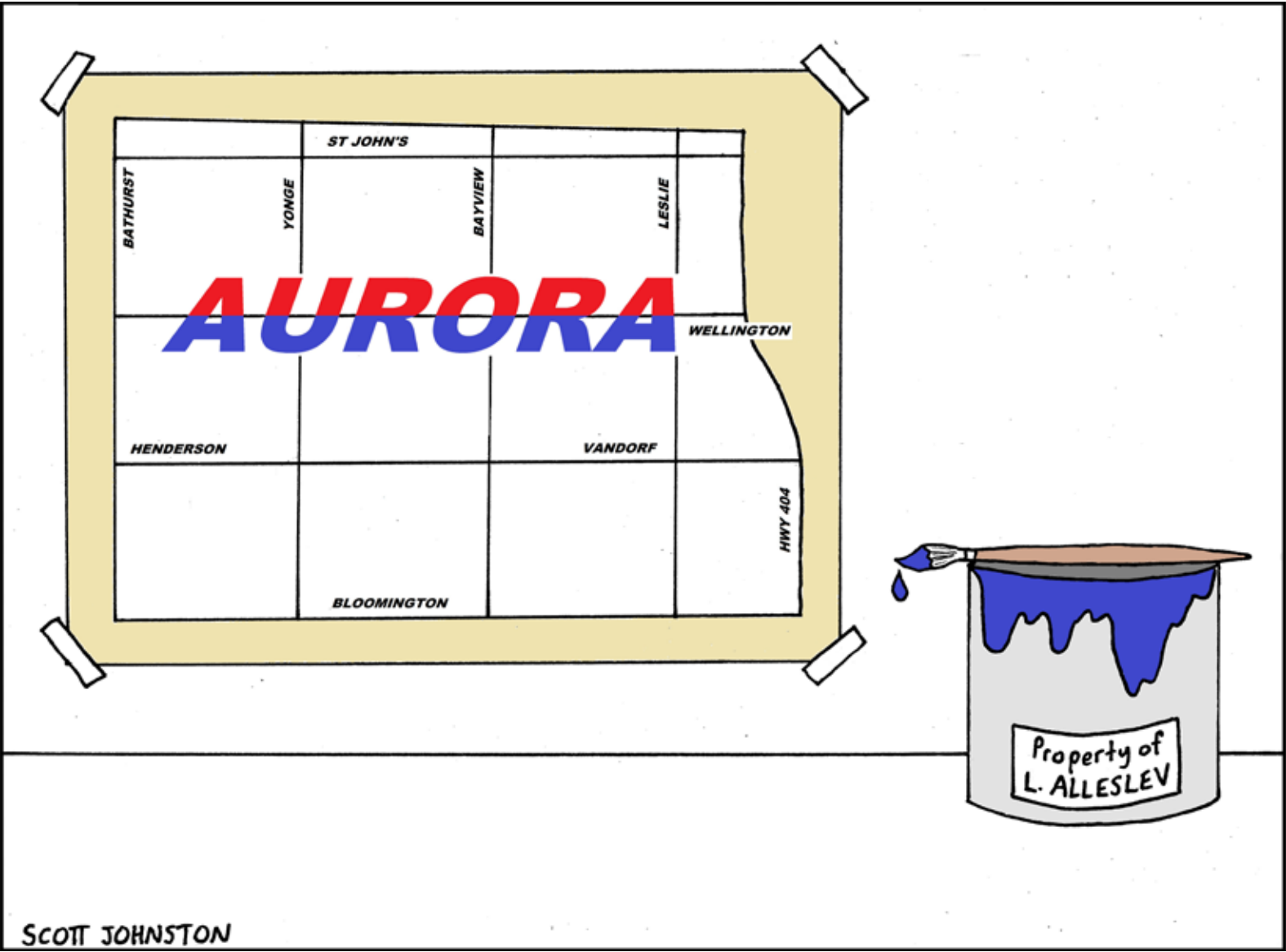
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Aurora’s Community Newspaper

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Putting the puzzle together



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

People say it’s weird, but I simply don’t understand such people.

When the opportunity presents itself, I am not ashamed to say I enjoy a stroll in the odd cemetery.

Those naysayers often cite some sort of “creepy” factor, as though they expect the hand of some long-since departed Sissy Spacek fan grappling through the dirt, reaching up and grabbing onto their ankle.

Others simply think its dangerous, as though a cemetery is some sort of magnet for all varieties of ne’er-do-wells.

But, I don’t think it’s particularly weird. On a nice day, perhaps best in the cooler early autumn, there are fewer places more relaxing for a walk. It’s not only a step back to nature, albeit nature that is manicured within an inch of its life, but it can, if done right, be a step back in time.

Each memorial is unique. Some are very generic markers of a life one hopes was well lived, but others can tell a pretty full story through a few well-placed details.

Some stones feature photos or engravings of those they are placed there to remember. Some have heraldic symbols that represent their family ties, or First Nations symbols reflective of their heritage. One example I saw over the weekend showed a boy taking aim at a net, evidently a permanent reminder of a passionate, promising young athlete whose life was cut far too short. In the end, however, his legacy lives on not only for his family and friends, but anyone who passes by.

At the end of the walk, I feel like I’ve satisfied an unusual sort of hunger, one for people’s stories, perhaps even a quest for truth, and I feel all the richer for it.

I was thinking about this on Sunday afternoon at the annual Aurora Legion Drumhead Service held at the Aurora Cemetery. This Tuesday, September 18, would have been the 100th birthday of my maternal grandfather, William Parr. Sadly, he got little more than a half century under his belt when he died suddenly at home just a few days after his 52nd birthday, so I never had the chance to know him. But, in some ways, I feel I already do.

Despite his death almost exactly 15 years before my birth, he has been a constant presence in my life.

Photos of him in his most dapper duds always abounded in our house, as well as that of my grandmother. Hardly a family occasion went by without someone bringing up a funny memory or simple anecdote about him. There were tales of

his youth, the child of two veterans of the First World War. It was a youth filled with no small share of struggle following his own father’s early death, but sometimes these instances of angst gave way to amusing, scrappy stories.

Through these stories I considered myself an expert on his exploits on his own field of battle, or, rather, in the air as a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, who was later taken Prisoner of War after being shot down over Norway in the first years of the Second World War.

Glamour shots of my grandmother, mother and aunt illustrated his post-war life as a fashion buyer for Eaton’s, letters sent back home on his international buying trips helped illustrate the man and help me decipher his voice, even if it is a voice I never had the chance to hear with my own ears.

Yet, despite his being lionized within the family, there has always been something that felt just out of reach, missing pieces to the puzzle that only he could share. Somehow I felt cheated and maybe even a bit jealous of those who actually knew him.

His memorial stone in Toronto’s Prospect Cemetery reveals very little about the man, aside from the vital stats, but the internet has, in some instances, helped fill in some of the gaps I’ve yearned for.

His wartime experiences, for example, were always told to me second hand, which added a certain mythological patina to what I had heard.

Enter the Flight Safety Foundation, who has dedicated a great deal of valuable time for preserving these kinds of stories. I was thrilled to find detailed accounts through their service, provided by the men who were in that plane flying over Scandinavia.

“As they flew up Trondheim fjord, the aircraft descended to 150 feet and entered Fattenfjord where the Tirpitz was moored. John Morrison, 1st Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, describes this as

entering what appeared to be the entrance to hell. The aircraft was in the German smoke screen and was being fired at by what seemed to be every single weapon in the immediate vicinity.

“Reg Williams shouted that Tirpitz had been swung round 90 degrees. The Canadian Pilot, Johnny Roe, calmly told his crew that they would go round again and have another go. Almost immediately there were sounds that indicated the aircraft had been badly hit in several places. Bill Parr, the Tail Gunner, shouted to Johnny the Pilot to try and make it to Sweden. However, Johnny Roe must have been aware that his aircraft would not make it that far and ordered the crew to make for the “rest” positions and prepare for a crash landing. At this, Reg Williams immediately jettisoned the mines that they were carrying. “The aircraft crash-landed in flames near the small farms, Elverum and Sørmo, just east of Lake Movatnet coming to rest in a small wood. The Canadian Pilot, Johnny Roe had escaped from the front of the aircraft, and had met up with Parr on the Starboard side of the aircraft. Both men were relatively unscathed after the crash and they set off together in an eastward direction hoping to reach Sweden. Two brothers, Gudmund and Petter Trætli from Trætli Farm recall assisting two airmen that night who had badly burnt hands. They helped to bandage the wounds and also gave the airmen food before giving them directions for the Swedish border. It’s most likely that the airmen assisted by the Trætli brothers were the Canadians, Johnny Roe and Bill Parr.”

What followed was a harrowing story of capture, years in POW camps, and the journey home. After that, I knew how to fill in most of the gaps, but these firsthand stories were invaluable in bringing this almost mythical figure back into my life and this resource put me in touch with some of the men who survived the crash, allowing me to hear their recollections in their own voices.

So, in a sense, finding this detailed account was something of a Welcome Back for my late grandfather, and he has been here to stay ever since. After 100 years, the puzzle is almost complete and I will still look for clues wherever I can.

For those of you still lucky to have your grandparents, do your damndest to make sure your puzzle pieces are all present and accounted for while you still have the chance.

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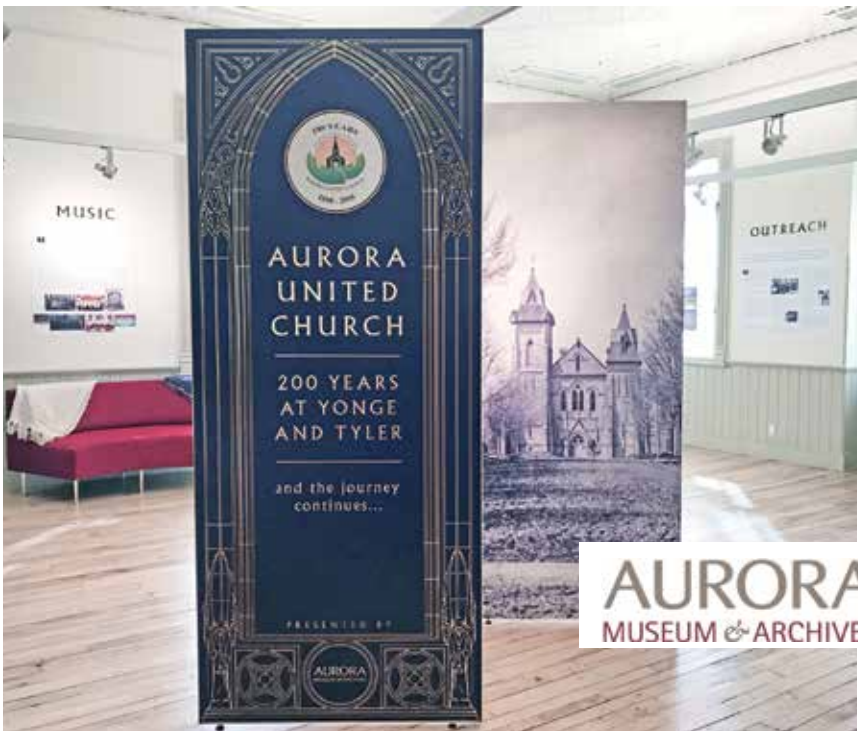
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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com.

Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



The Aurora Museum & Archives is reminding you...

To visit our current exhibit before it closes on October 1!

The lot at the corner of Yonge and Tyler stands empty today. Four years ago, a devastating fire destroyed the home of the congregation of Aurora Methodist/United Church. However, it was not the first fire that the members of the church had experienced. Nor was it the first struggle they had faced in their 200 year history. This exhibition, co-curated by the Aurora United Church 200th Anniversary Committee, offers a glimpse into the past and future of the congregation. Be sure to visit before it closes on October 1!



TIME TRAVELLER’S DIARY

By Rachel Dice
Summer Intern
Aurora Museum & Archives

A Series of Salacious Events

It is a common topic in any social scene: have you seen the latest episode of Outlander? What about Game of Thrones? Do you have any idea what’s going to happen? The culture around series publications, and the water cooler talk about the latest episode, might seem relatively modern, but it actually has deeper roots than most people think.

Before radios and talk shows became popular, books were the cultural medium that kept people on their toes, eagerly waiting and guessing to see what would befall their favorite characters next. Why wouldn’t they just read the whole book instead of waiting, you might ask? Well, it would be because they only had bits and pieces at a time.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, publishing books in various installments was the thing to do. Many famous authors like Arthur Conan Doyle, Charles Dickens, Alexandre Dumas and even Harriet Beecher Stowe published some of their books in various installments through magazines, newspapers, or independent serial publications called fascicles. The benefits of this were, for one, it was much cheaper than publishing full-sized novels. For another, publishing in bits and pieces allowed their work to reach a larger audience.

Aurora was no stranger to these serial publications. Starting around the 1880s, the Banner published a series of dramatic and even salacious novellas. A few chapters were published every week or so, and some included previous chapter summaries to remind the readers what had happened before. In true soap opera fashion, Aurorans could keep up with stories like An Egyptian Romance—A Story of Love and Wild Adventure, which ran in the Banner in 1886, or My Lady’s Secret, one of the first serials to run in 1880.

Other titles of note—with the juiciest stories—were The Red Witch: The Wooing of Constantia (1901-1902), Confusion of Caste: Identity vs. Nobility of Soul (1902), and The Mysterious Crime on the S. S. Neptune (1900). The creativity and passion put into these serials was no doubt enjoyed and appreciated by avid readers of the Banner, especially when checking in to see if Vassalla’s marriage was contested (S. S. Neptune) or whether or not Constantia had finally given in to her avid paramour (The Red Witch). When introducing a new serial at the conclusion of another, the Aurora Banner (February 14, 1902) claimed that “our readers will welcome our new story; its characters are well drawn and its plot unusual.” The simple introduction ends with one command: “Follow it.”

It appears that the last serial publication run by the Banner was Lady Betty: Across the Water, which ran from mid-1911 to 1912. As more and more space in the newspaper was given over to events unfolding overseas and increasing hostility between nations, the space for serials began to decrease. The serials shifted to small short stories or single publications and eventually faded from the Banner entirely by the outbreak of World War I. The publication of novellas became more popular and dramatic radio shows rose to the top as a favoured medium for pop culture consumption.

Despite the changes in media, the allure of the cliffhanger has stood the test of time.

My Duty, My Decision



MP’S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

than theirs. This is not a strong economy.

Beyond our borders, our position remains vastly diminished. Our foreign policy is disconnected from our trade relationships and our ability to deliver on our defence commitments is undermined by politics. And on the world stage Canada has yet to rise to the occasion. The world has changed, and Canada must change with it.

We don’t have the luxury of time. We must recognize that foreign policy, trade, defence, and our economy all depend on each other and can’t be viewed separately.

As a former Air Force Officer, a global business consultant at IBM, an aircraft manufacturing manager at Bombardier, and a small business owner, I understand the role and impact of government actions on Canada’s economy.

To have a strong economy and a strong country we need strong Federal leadership to rebuild our nation’s foundations; tax reform, employment reform, federal infrastructure, a comprehensive foreign policy, and a modernized military to reassure our allies and defend Canada’s interests at home and abroad.

Our parliamentary system consists of political parties. However, political parties are only made up of the people who are in them at the time and must also be judged by what the country needs

at the time. Today, we find ourselves at a tipping point in our country’s history.

It’s my duty to stand and be counted. Our country is at risk. My attempts to raise my concerns with this government were met with silence.

The government must be challenged openly and publicly. But for me to publicly criticize the government as a Liberal, would undermine the government and – according to my code of conduct be dishonourable.

After careful and deliberate consideration, I must withdraw from the government benches to take my seat among the ranks of my Conservative colleagues and join Her Majesty’s Loyal Opposition whose role it is to challenge and hold the government to account.

The Leader of Her Majesty’s opposition is committed to delivering foundational changes to strengthen Canada’s economy, and a comprehensive foreign and defence policy that ensures our global competitiveness and security.

I look forward to working with my Conservative colleagues who are unafraid to do the real work to tackle the priorities of our time.

I want to thank my Liberal colleagues for the opportunity to work with them and for their friendship, but my oath is to country, not party, and my sacred obligation is to serve my constituents. I look forward to working with my Liberal colleagues, across the aisle, to shape the future of the country for all Canadians.

Most importantly to you, my constituents, I want to re-assure you that I am the same person today that was elected on October 19, 2015. I believe in a strong, ethical Federal Government that unites us as Canadians. To achieve what you, my constituents demand of me, I must change political parties.

I must do what is right, not what is

Continued on page 24

Sign of the Times



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

For example, a sign can be no larger than 1.2 metres in dimension, cannot be placed within 7.5 metres of a traffic light, and there can only be one on each private property.

One location where election signs seem to mushroom up uncontrollably is at intersections, although that may be more due to the large number of candidates than to overzealous individual campaigners.

But even at intersections there are limits as to how many one can place at them.

For 37 specific intersections in Town (yes, they’re each spelled out in the bylaw, and no, I’m not going to list them here, although it would be a great way of quickly reaching my word count for this column), there can be no more than two signs per candidate, and only one on any one corner.

One location that is completely restricted according to the Region is Yonge and Wellington. At the most

significant intersection in Town, and the one where people probably spend the most time looking around while stuck idling in their cars waiting for the light to change, or for the 23 cars ahead of them to turn left, no signs are allowed at all due to various setbacks associated with bus shelters, driveways, hydrants, curbs and the intersection itself.

Perhaps the most interesting directions noted in the bylaws are the ones about installing signs. The Town suggests they only be installed between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm. The Region says people installing signs should wear reflective vests and safety footwear.

And what is the danger of running afoul of these bylaws? For those who dare to put up a sign larger than 1.2 metres, or at Yonge and Wellington, or within 7.5 metres of a traffic light, they risk the full wrath of the Town or Region in the form of ... confiscation of the offending sign, which they can get back after the election.

For those who don’t have signs removed by the local levels of government prior to October 22, they have 72 hours to do so after the election, by which time they should all be gone.

That’s a good thing, because Halloween’s the next week, and it’s scary enough without that visual reminder of who will be looking out for our interests in Town for the next four years.

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

We had a candidate for Council at our door last weekend.

Actually, this was a bit newsworthy in that to my knowledge, this is the first candidate to drop by our house since the 2006 election.

I guess we’re a bit off the beaten path.

Or maybe they’ve been scared off by our dog, who we’ve specially trained to bark ferociously whenever local politicians are in the vicinity.

Just kidding..

In any case, our recent visitor was the first real hint that the election is underway. Apart from the candidate articles that have been appearing each week in the paper (and is it just me, or do the candidates all sound eerily the same?), there hasn’t been much going on otherwise on the election front.

No debates. Not many ads. It’s been radio silence.

The most visible feature that shows an election is in full swing is the election sign. But with both Regional and Town bylaws restricting their placement until 28 days prior to the election, I guess we won’t be seeing them until next week.

Timing isn’t the only thing about election signs that these bylaws restrict. As has been demonstrated by all the recent angst over the Town’s sign bylaws, the world of local signage is full of rules and regulations, including those governing election signs.

THIS WEEK’S NEW POLL

Do you support MP Leona Alleslev’s decision to cross the floor to the Conservatives?

Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous poll results

Do you think the Premier is right to invoke the Notwithstanding Clause to reduce the size of Aurora’s Council?

RESULTS TO DATE SEPT. 18, 2018	YES	NO	UNSURE
	31%	69%	0%

Drumhead service marks start of milestone Legion Week

By Brock Weir

The Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion held a solemn drumhead service at the Aurora Cemetery on Sunday afternoon.

The annual Drumhead Service, which was attended by dozens of Legion and community members, Council members and candidates, bands, and cadets, is intended to be the start of Legion Week, but this year's ceremony had added poignancy as 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of The Armistice, the official end of the First World War.

"It is my privilege to represent the Town of Aurora here," said Mayor Geoff Dawe, who was joined at the ceremony by fellow Council members John Abel, Wendy Gaertner and Sandra Humfries. "It is very important...to continue to remember those who gave their lives for us, and especially in this year, the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. We are reminded once again how fragile peace is and, from the Town's perspective, we very much appreciate what you do for our Town."

Represented at this year's service were Aurora-Oak Ridges Richmond Hill MP Leona Alleslev and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Christine Elliott.

"It has been a privilege to send greetings to you coming together to honour our veterans for their courage and service at the Aurora Legion annual Drumhead Service," said Ms. Alleslev in a message read by Legion president Len Whines. "Today, we recognize the significant contributions our veterans have made throughout history to preserve and protect the values for which our nation stands.

"This marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One, the Great War, the war that was to have ended all wars, but, as we have seen on many occasions since 1918, peace is fragile and must never be taken for granted. Canada is a nation of peace, inclusion and acceptance. These values, our strength at home, and one of the greatest things we bring to the world. It is because of our veterans and their service to our country, that our Canadian values and principles endure.

"Our veterans from the Battle of Ridgeway to the Boer War, from World War One to World War Two and Korea, to the many peacekeeping engagements that have earned our utmost respect and gratitude.

Your continued effort to recognize and honour veterans in our community ensures their legacy and our legacy as Canadians live on."

Ms. Elliott, in her message read by her constituency manager Dawn Gallagher Murphy, added: "I am pleased to provide my best wishes to all who are taking part in the drumhead service, hosted by the Aurora Legion. This is an important event commemorating those who served our great country. This event is also significant as it commences Legion Week. The Royal Canadian Legion Branches across the country showcase their charitable and volunteer work and invite their communities to learn more about the Legion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Aurora Legion for its service to our community and for all the sacrifices made by its members."

To learn more about the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, as well as Legion week, visit auroral legion.ca.



The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion held its annual Drumhead Service at the Aurora Cemetery on Sunday afternoon.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

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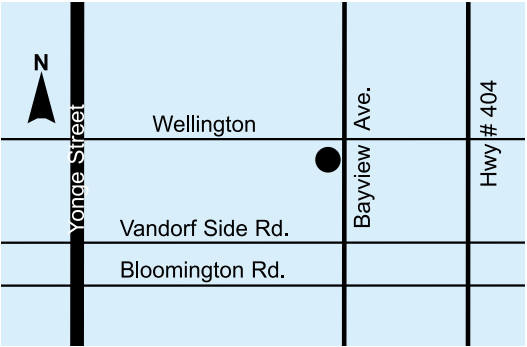
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Business Improvement Area clears first Council hurdle

By Brock Weir

A new Business Improvement Area, dedicated to preserving and attracting people back to Aurora’s historic downtown core cleared one of its last Council hurdles last week.

Sitting at the Committee level last Tuesday, Council members gave a tentative thumbs-up to establishing a Business Improvement Area (BIA), which would extend from Wellington Street East at the GO Tracks, heading west to Yonge Street, and extending south on Yonge Street from there to Mosley Streets.

It has been a long-time coming, this latest iteration being spearheaded by a group of downtown business persons, headed up by Joanne Russo.

Council is set to pass the bylaw establishing the BIA this week and, following its passage, it is full steam ahead.

As The Auroran reported last Thursday, the intent of the Aurora BIA is to “revitalize and beautify the downtown core and promote the area as a destination for residents to work, shop and play,” according to Nick Kazakoff, Economic Development Officer for the Town of Aurora. “The object of the BIA will be to oversee the improvement, beautification and maintenance of municipally-owned land, buildings and structures in the area when beyond Town standards. The BIA will also provide opportunities for area businesses to thrive through promotion and advertising.”

Ms. Russo made her initial pitch for the BIA at Council this past April and, since

then, the wheels have been in motion. According to Mr. Kazakoff, notices were sent to all area property and business owners in the BIA’s proposed catchment area, giving them a chance to object to the plan. Written objections were indeed received, according to Council reports, but these objections came from only six per cent of property owners.

Once established, the BIA Board of Management, as proposed, will consist of nine directors, with one of the nine appointed by Council and the balance selected by a vote of BIA members. These members will then need to be appointed by Council. The report recommends the Town Clerk be appointed as Council’s representative on the Board of Management to coordinate the creation of the Board and the Corporation.

Initiatives taken on by the BIA will be financed by levies collected by the BIA management from BIA members and there will be no direct financial implication for the Town as a whole.

The BIA will also be required to prepare an annual budget, reflecting the priority and needs of the BIA, as determined by its Board and Membership. Budgets will then be submitted to Council for discussion and approval.

At the first sweep over the recommendations last week, Council members heard from long-time downtown property owner Telly Spasopoulos, who has been involved in previous attempts at establishing a long-lasting BIA over the past two decades. He asked for a commitment of support from this Council towards the objectives and projects the BIA might bring forward.

“The lamp posts are still there [from the last] BIA, the flower pots and everything else is still there from the BIA, the Town Parking lot behind Aw, Shucks was paved by the BIA, and the Town at that time and Council did not give us the time of day,” he said. “I would like to know how far the Town of Aurora and this and future Councils are willing to go

ahead and support the BIA so the rest of us can join in and do something with it.”

This question, however, remained unanswered as lawmakers tackled instead the fine details in the recommendation, as well as the length of time it has taken to get to this point. Mayor Geoff Dawe, for instance, asked Marco Ramunno, Aurora’s Director of Planning, to elaborate on the steps carried out in this process so far.

“This has been going on for a number of years with respect to trying to establish some of the property owners and businesses as long as I have been here, for about 10 years, establish the BIA” said Mr. Ramunno. “It did get some traction a number of years ago and never really proceeded. I think this time around there was a lot of effort on behalf of the business owners who were interested, as well as staff, and it has really been driven by the business owners within that proposed BIA area. It has been going on for at least two or three years and the surveys conducted followed the latest presentation to Council this past April.”

A former chair of Aurora’s Economic Development Advisory Committee, a body which has seen been replaced with a framework for an Economic Development Board, Councillor Michael Thompson said he was pleased with the progress so far, but had concerns about impacted business owners being kept in the loop.

“My one concern is not with the BIA, but with communication with the business community,” he said. “When I first saw it on the agenda, I asked that the notice... be sent to business owners. While technically it fulfils the legal requirements necessary, all it does is refer business owners to the Municipal Act to learn more about a BIA and/or the ministry’s website for their handbook. It doesn’t talk about what the BIA was going to do for Aurora or really go into even more details.

Continued on page 27

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On Wednesday September 12th the brand new McDonalds in Oak Ridges at 13231 Yonge Street had a special event to celebrate the Grand Opening of this location. Pictured above is Peter Miller (owner), family, friends and staff enjoying food, music and a ribbon cutting to celebrate this new location. Peter also demonstrated his appreciation and commitment to the community by presenting a cheque to Mackenzie Health Hospital in Richmond Hill.

Auroran photo

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Consultant could provide “objective” solution to Stable Neighbourhoods fight

By Brock Weir

It’s a fight that has galvanized residents living in long-established neighbourhoods on both sides of the argument, and has spurred hours of debate from local lawmakers, but a consultant could provide an unbiased solution in the fight to preserve Aurora’s so-called Stable Neighbourhoods.

This is the hope of Councillor Wendy Gaertner this week when she brings forward a motion calling for an experienced expert to wade into and weigh in on the debate.

“Council will be holding another Public Planning meeting about Stable Neighbourhoods [and] it would be helpful to have any information that would contribute to the decision-making process,” said Councillor Gaertner in her motion.

She calls for, “a consultant, expert and experienced in development in mature residential neighbourhoods be hired to provide an information report for the public planning meeting.”

While the motion itself will be discussed at this week’s Council meeting, it received an early vote of confidence from Mayor Geoff Dawe when Council members at the Committee level last Tuesday.

“I like the idea of a consultant because I think that will bring the objectivity to this discussion that has been missing,” said Mayor Dawe. “I think the objectivity is the issue.”

The Mayor made his comments following an impassioned delegation to Council members from Peter Smith, a resident of one of the four areas identified by Council as a stable neighbourhood within Aurora.

Earlier this year, Council pinpointed the neighbourhoods of Regency Acres, Aurora Heights, the Heritage Conservation District, and the residential

neighbourhood around Town Park as part of the Stable Neighbourhoods Study. The study was tasked with looking into the issue of infill and now new builds within these established neighbourhoods conformed to the area around them.

The study was spurred by a several residents who came forward to express their opposition to what they described as large “Monster Homes” coming into their neighbourhood and demanding action.

A significant focus of the debate has been the discrepancy between the Town’s Official Plan, which provides protection to these stable neighbourhoods, and zoning bylaws, which do not.

“After consultation with many homeowners, we feel that it is important to bring this issue again to your attention,” said Peter Smith, a resident of the Regency Acres neighbourhood, who has been one of the most vocal proponents for action. “Several long-time residents feel both threatened and fearful as their way of life is being destroyed. Our older, established community has deep, caring roots and has fostered generations of families. We look after one another and enjoy the interaction with neighbours and the community as a whole. Stable neighbourhoods are part of Aurora’s heritage and charm and must be protected.

“The transition to larger houses in their immediate areas force residents to make the ultimate and often painful decisions – to sell and move away from the place they have come to appreciate and love, or to stay and suffer the indignity of these new monstrosities which will, and do, severely impact their lives and the enjoyment of their properties. Residents have the undeniable rights to privacy, sunlight and proper airflow, and supersized houses rob us of those rights. And for what? Profits for developers!”

Illustrating his point with photos of

new builds within his neighbourhood, he argued that the influx of large homes would make owning older properties “out of reach for most middle income families.”

Why are we not being protected in our stable neighbourhoods?” he continued. “This Council and Planning Department have lacked direction and political will to do so. To think that our elected representatives do not seem to care is both disgusting and shameful. We elected you to listen, represent and take care of us. Indeed, the Mayor was quoted as saying...that the whole issue of Stable Neighbourhoods is ‘much ado about nothing.’ Those of us who live in these affected areas strongly disagree and feel that Council’s failure to find a

legitimate solution is a cop out.”

Mr. Smith’s comments were received by Council members, but sparked pushback from Councillor Jeff Thom, who said Mr. Smith’s characterisation of some of the players in this debate, including Council, as “shameful” and “disgusting” went too far.

“From my perspective, I think there is a lot of well-meaning people on both sides of this debate,” said Councillor Thom. “I find it discouraging when people come to a public forum like this and throw around words like ‘shameful’ and ‘disgusting.’ I think there are a lot of people in the neighbourhood who are family-oriented people who mean well, who want to raise their families in

Continued on page 23

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Magna founder Frank Stronach, left, is joined on the Hoedown stage by York Regional Chair Wayne Emmerson, Magna CEO Don Walker, Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe, Mayors Tony Van Bynen (Newmarket), Dave Barrow (Richmond Hill), Virginia Hackson (East Gwillimbury), and Steve Pellegrini (King) for the formal cheque presentation. **Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan**

From page 1

The grand total was announced last Saturday night at the grand finale under the big top, which was headlined by the iconic Canadian band Blue Rodeo, with the cheque held aloft by Magna CEO Don

Walker, who was joined on stage by York Region Chair Wayne Emmerson, Aurora Mayor Geoff Dawe, Newmarket Mayor Tony Van Bynen, and East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson.

“The whole Hoedown event keeps on getting bigger and bigger,” Mr. Walker told The Auroran at the start of the weekend’s festivities – a special Hoedown held earlier on Friday for over 1,000 special needs students, their teachers and caregivers. “This is a great community event, and it is great that so many volunteers get involved and raise so much money.”

Now in its fourth year, the Student Hoedown was a joyful way to kick off the two day party, which continued later that evening with Friday headliners The Road Hammers, and the naming of this year’s winner of the Hoedown Showdown, whittled down from the Top 10 contestants who filled the tent with music that night.

Among the thousand having fun at the Student Hoedown was Alana Miragelia, a teacher at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, who accompanied several students to the festivities.

“This is a phenomenal event for our students,” she said. “It is an opportunity for

them to integrate with their peers from all other schools and to socialize and just have fun. We’re so appreciative to Magna and everyone who hosts it because we adore it. It is one of our absolute favourite annual events.

“The students all know to get out their cowboy hats, their bandanas, and they always support it. It is the highlight of our year. This morning and yesterday we practiced our line dancing, decorated some cowboy stuff, and we got everyone to bring in bandanas.”

Similar sentiments were shared by Hagh Joo, a teacher at Richmond Hill High School.

“I think this is so wonderful and we really appreciate it,” she said. “The kids absolutely love it. They look forward to the event every year and they really enjoy preparing for it. We look at pictures in preparation and have slide shows, and this really helps with our numeracy, literacy, and we really incorporate the event into our programs as well.”

The Student Hoedown is the brainchild of York Region teachers Derek Bunn and Dave Pilkey.

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A student smash – Special needs students from across York Region descended on the Hoedown Tent on Friday morning for the annual Student Hoedown. Over 1,000 students, plus teachers and caregivers, filled the tent for a few hours of live music courtesy of the Hoedown Showdown finalists, dancing, and giving back. Among the dignitaries attending were Councillor John Abel along with Accessibility Advisory Committee members Tyler Barker and James Hoyes.
Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Mr. Bunn said he was thrilled to see the momentum continue for another year.

“The momentum is there because we’re helping out people in the community,” said Mr. Bunn. “Each of our students and staff that are coming from the schools are each bringing in a charity donation for Magna’s 20 charities, and that makes you feel good when you’re helping people, it makes you feel good that you’ve done your part in the community and helping people like DeafBlind, Kerry’s Place Autism Services, and more.”

Also getting a sneak peek of the tent at the Student Hoedown was Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson, who has been a regular fixture at the event for over a decade.

Ahead of the nighttime parties, he said he was particularly excited to see Blue Rodeo, a band he has followed since he was “really young” take the stage once again, but he was also excited to see the wider-reaching annual impact of Hoedown.

“I most look forward to getting out and chatting with the people in the community, seeing all the charities and organizations that get involved, and it is great to see them out in the community promoting what they do and their activities at the same time,” said Mr. Peterson. “The Hoedown isn’t just the events themselves, but it is a weeks-long rollout before the event, which is always a great opportunity for organizations to get the message out in the area to learn what they are doing for the community.”

Partner charities this year include the Aurora Football Club (Aurora FC), the Aurora Tigers, Autism Ontario York Region with Epilepsy York Region, Big Brothers Big Sisters of York, DeafBlind Ontario Services, the Georgina Arts Centre and Gallery with The Training Centre, The Georgina Skating Club, Kerry’s Place Autism Services, Learning Disabilities Association of York Region, Marquee Theatrical Productions, Newmarket Food Pantry, Newmarket Stingrays Swim Club, The Optimist Clubs of York Region, Shenderey Gymnastics Institute, the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation, St. John Ambulance, The Peer Project, Victim Services of York Region, Welcoming Arms, and the Women’s Centre of York Region.



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9 in 10 Seniors Wish to Stay in Their Home While Retired – Poses Risk of Outliving Savings



Sharon King-Todd is a Certified Professional Consultant on Aging and Lifestyle Coach. Founder and Senior Advisor Consultant of The Elder's Advocate

In a recent article from Global News, Ipsos (one of the largest research firms in the world) surveyed Canadian homeowners of all ages. 93 per cent of those aged 65+ felt it was at least somewhat important to stay in their present home throughout retirement. “This may be the best choice for our current aging population and their families, and for good reasons,” says Sharon King-Todd, founder of The Elder’s Advocate and Certified Professional Consultant on Aging.

Unless planned correctly, retirement living can put a significant strain on cash flow and can pose a risk of outliving retirement savings. When the average life expectancy was around 75 years of age, private retirement residences were once an achievable option. With the advances of modern medicine and education, the average life expectancy is estimated to increase to 84 by 2030. In Ontario, depending on the individual level of care, the cost for private retirement residences can range between \$4,000 and \$8,000 per month. **Living another 9 years may require up to an additional \$864,000 of savings.** This has prompted many residents to re-evaluate the feasibility of their original financial plan.

Reliance on the public healthcare system may not be a viable option. Sharon states, “The Senior Tsunami is fast approaching and is expected to double from 5 to 10 million in the next twenty years. The

healthcare system is already in crisis with the current aging population. It lacks the needed budget, number of qualified physicians and nurses to meet today’s senior demands.” Ontario has the lowest number of acute care beds in Canada, with more than 4,500 people on waiting lists for publicly funded in-home personal support services, of which many are high-needs patients.

There is great news ahead for this dilemma and local senior residents of Aurora are turning the health care deficit into an opportunity for a whole new lifestyle approach. They are freeing up cash in their home to help achieve a comfortable retirement, providing a steady income stream and the ability to stay at home when they retire. Sharon, who is a dedicated activist for Aging-in-Home and a specialist in creating living plans, also states that planning ahead can minimize the emotional trauma and cost of crisis care.

With the current state of public healthcare and additional savings requirements for private retirement residences, “Aging-in-Home” looks to be a better option. It allows seniors to maintain their quality of independence, continue to grow the equity in their home, and ensure a nest egg for their children. The world has changed, and residents are recognizing the need to adapt now to ensure the options initially intended are still realistic and secure.

JOIN US for an educational evening and find out what you can do to safeguard a happy, healthy and financially bright retirement.

Event details:

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Where: 15140 Yonge Street, Unit 2, Aurora
Register Online Today - Limited seating, refreshments will be served.
<http://retireathome.eventbrite.ca>
Email: sharon@theeldersadvocate.ca
Call: 905-251-6661



HOEDOWN HIGHLIGHTS

It was two nights of non-stop music under the Big Top at the 2018 Magna Hoedown. Friday’s entertainment included Gord Bamford, the Road Hammers, and the Top 10 finalists of the Hoedown Showdown facing off for glory. Saturday night featured the Hoedown Showdown winner, Vicki Biersteker of Schomberg, before Blue Rodeo took the stage.

Auroran photos by
Diane Buchanan and Robin Taylor Smith



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Sports Hall of Fame recalls Aurora Hearts historic win



Members of the 2001 Ontario Cup-winning Aurora Hearts reunited last week as the latest feature in the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame’s “Moments in Sports” campaign on Saturday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

For those in the Aurora soccer community, the year 2001 stands out as a moment the town was put on the provincial soccer map.

After many years of being the bridesmaid, never the bride, the Aurora Hearts men’s soccer club finally tamed the beast and took home the coveted Ontario Cup.

“We kept making it three or four years in a row, but we were just never able to make it over that next hump,” said player-coach Ed McNally in a reunion of the team at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. “We went down to Markham to play Niagara Falls in the semis, and I knew when we hit the semis, we were going to win.”

“We had never gotten over that quarterfinal hump. It was just quarters, quarters, quarters, eliminated, eliminated, eliminated. That year felt different.”

After taking down Niagara Falls, the Hearts met with Hamilton in the Cup finals, a tough match for those who had experienced falling short year after year.

“Hamilton always had good teams,”

said McNally. “They were always in the finals.”

It was McNally, who entered the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 2014 class, who put home the tying goal in a hard-fought match to send it to extra time.

Down 1 – 0, McNally converted on a free kick before it took three penalties to earn the provincial title.

“(Keeper) Jon Cortese didn’t know we won... he saved three penalties, and then got up and was wondering ‘when’s the next one?’ while we’re all running at him. It was a moment to remember for sure.”

McNally and the rest of the 2001 Hearts team will have their story told and memory kept vivid by the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, who has chosen the Hearts as the latest to be featured in their “Moments in Sports.”

One of over sixty stories collected by the Hall of Fame committee for the “Canada 150 Moments” campaign back in July of 2017, the program has developed into an ongoing series to showcase the stories that have shaped the sporting history of Aurora.

“What started out as a Canada 150 special outreach project in 2017 is now an

ongoing program by the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and its partners, the Aurora Museum & Archives and Sport Aurora,” said project manager Karen Merk. “When the Moments in Sport initiative launched on Canada Day, audio clips of some of Aurora’s most significant sporting moments were available on the ASHOF website as well as on-air through the Hall’s radio partner, 105.9 The Region.”

Featuring mini exhibits across Aurora at the Aurora Community Centre, Town Hall, and the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Aurora Hearts are the

latest to have their accomplishments exhibited alongside articles and items from the team’s history.

The Hall is also gearing up for the annual induction dinner on November 8, a gala bringing the best in Aurora sport from past and present together to welcome in this year’s class of inductees.

Those getting the call to the Hall this year are triathlete Paolina Allan, pro golfer David Morland IV, NHL linesman Loring Doolittle, and York University men’s basketball coach Robert Bain.

For tickets, and more information, visit www.aurorashof.ca.

Communication is key in BIA: Thompson

From page 8

“We have a responsibility or a standard for engaging our community... There was lots of information. We could have directed them to our website, we had a wonderful presentation and it could have been posted on the Town’s website, directing the business owners to that presentation so they could have an understanding of what is being proposed, what some of the visions are. There are

numerous reports. I don’t think referring them to the municipal act fulfils our standards for engagement. I would think without a doubt, when this comes up at budget for the future Council, there will be business owners who come in and say, ‘I didn’t understand.’ I think we need to utilize the tools we have in our communications department to better communicate with our residents and our businesses.”

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Aurora Votes 2018: Aurora “deserves better,” says Ballard at Mayoral campaign kickoff

By Brock Weir

It’s time for change in Aurora, according to Chris Ballard.

The former MPP and municipal councillor formally kicked off his mayoral campaign Thursday night before a group of supporters at the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Mr. Ballard, who announced his intention to run for Mayor earlier this summer, making it a four-man race in a field that includes incumbent Geoff Dawe and Councillors John Abel and Tom Mrakas, used the event not only to outline why he thinks he’s the best man to bring about the change Aurora needs, but also to address criticisms that have been lobbed his way since he announced his intentions.

“People want to know, obviously, why they should vote for me; after all, I left Town Council to run provincially,” said Mr. Ballard. “I was MPP for Aurora, I was Minister of Housing, Minister of the Environment, and then I lost in the election, so why should I be supported in a return to Town Council? The answer is simply I never really left. My focus [at] Queen’s Park was always to serve the needs of my constituents in Aurora. I stepped away from Town politics because I wanted to fix a number of things at Queen’s Park that threatened our community.

“That is why I lobbied my government to ensure more protection for the Oak Ridges Moraine, and we did through the Green Belt. That’s why I lobbied hard with my government to bring all-day, two-way electrified, eventually 15-minute GO Train service to the Town of Aurora, and it is coming. That is why I fought to bring democracy to York Region Council with legislation that would give you and I the right to vote directly for the most powerful politician in York Region

– the Chair of the Regional Council. It is my Private Members’ Bill that got the ball rolling on that one and, you know, you’ll have to talk to your current MPPs [about] why they believe you and I don’t deserve the right to vote for the most powerful politician in York Region.

“I have always fought for what Aurora needs, whether it is around the Council table or in the corridors at Queen’s Park. I will always fight for what Aurora needs.”

What Aurora needs at this stage in the game, however, is a lengthy list.

Change, he said, needs to happen almost across the board, ranging from “better accountability” to “better environmental protection, better financial accountability, netter neighbourhood protections, especially in stable neighbourhoods, a better sports economy, a better high-tech economy, and better transit.”

“Most of all,” he continued, “you deserve to be heard. Public consultation should not be conducted on an as-needed basis; it needs to be constant, regular and with purpose. That is my fundamental pledge as the next Mayor of Aurora, that we will engage in this type of communication that puts the public first in gathering our information.”

As a former Aurora councillor, Mr. Ballard knows the inner workings of Town Hall, but that leads to another question Mr. Ballard said he has fielded from residents: “How can I criticize Council when I was a member of Council for four years?”

“People who are watching know how hard I fought,” he told supporters, making particular note of his support for the Aurora Cultural Centre, fighting to ensure the Aurora Promenade Plan is implemented, for better fiscal management of the Joint Operations Centre, efforts to protect environmental and heritage capital,



Chris Ballard formally launched his mayoral bid last Thursday at the Royal Canadian Legion.

Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

improved recreational programs, and the importance of Aurora having a Code of Conduct and an integrity commissioner.

“As a young kid growing up next door in King Township, I was always aware of this area’s very rich heritage,” said Mr. Ballard. “Aurora is really unlike any community I’ve come across. Our industries, from the Fleury Plough Works, to Magna today, our award-winning musicians, artists and performers, our award-winning sports figures, our future Nobel prize winner Lester B. Pearson, and it was here in Aurora that the Blake speech was given by a future Prime Minister. It outlined the future relationship between Canada and our Provinces; pretty heady stuff for a small town at the rail head. The point of all of

this, other than a wonderful recitation of why Aurora has wonderful, rich cultural heritage...is that where we live shapes who we are.

“A concern I hear time and again is we’re fast losing what has made Aurora unique, that we’re becoming just another bedroom community, a place to buy your first house before you move on. We have missed far too many opportunities in the past eight years to protect the Aurora brand, a brand that makes us unique, a brand that ensures the investments we have made in this Town, like our houses and businesses, are more valuable, whether it be the loss of heritage buildings, of good paying job opportunities, of a proper housing mix, of a downtown core that seems to have more empty buildings than ever before, I have too many examples. Dare I say though that Aurora has lost its aura when MoneySense magazine ranks our neighbours higher than us and we continue to fall? The biggest opportunity we have missed as a Town is the opportunity to talk to you, to better understand your hopes, your dreams, your concerns for Aurora. We learn from you.

“Aurora residents deserve a mayor who is committed to protect and grow the investment they have made in their home and businesses in this community. They want a mayor who will protect and enhance their quality of life, security and prosperity of our community. As mayor, I will work closely with Council to set this community back on the right course, financially, with balanced and appropriate development, with a jobs strategy and a housing strategy, and so much more. Most importantly, I will respect you, our citizens, by communicating and listening to you constantly, regularly and with purpose. Your input will help Councillors and Town Staff make the right choices for this Town.”



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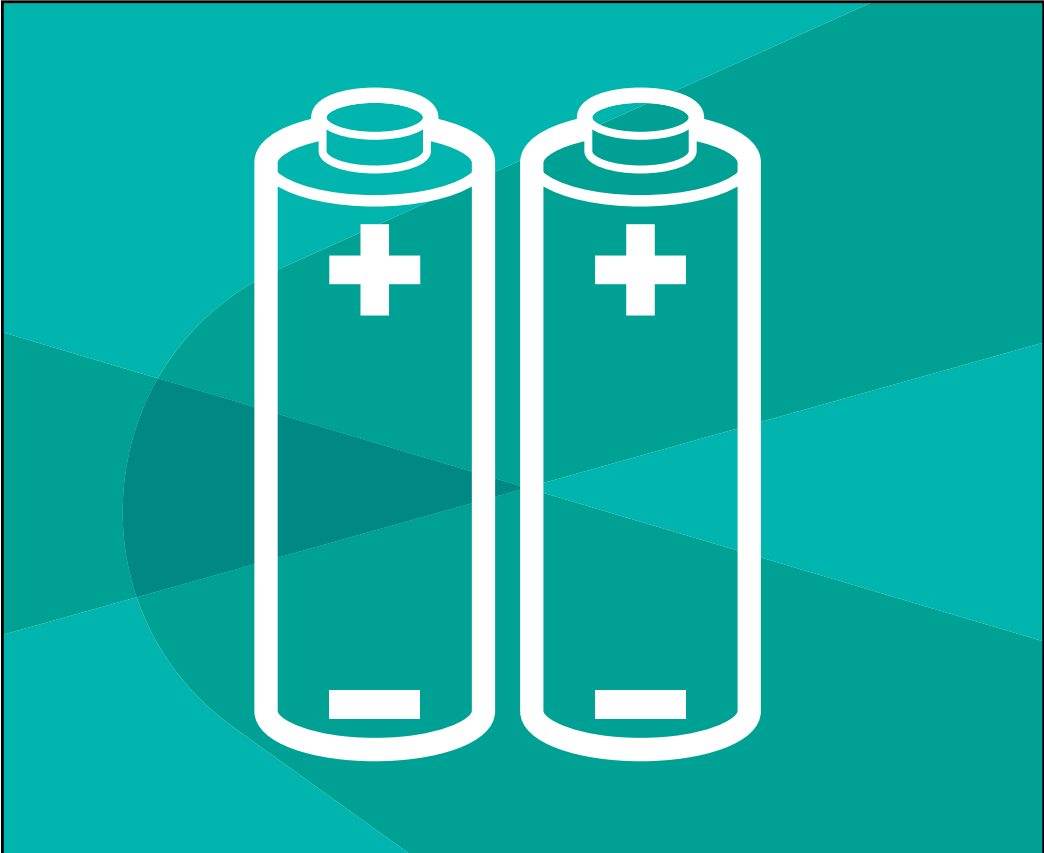
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Aurora Votes 2018: Lajeunesse wants to bring “Smart” principles to Council table



Council candidate Daniel Lajeunesse
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

As he worked towards his first Ironman triathlon this month, Daniel Lajeunesse set a challenge for himself: using only municipal facilities to train.

It was an “eye-opening experience,” he says, in that a lot of planning had to go into being able to use available resources at just the right time. The raw materials are there, he says, but it is a matter of planning

to make sure they work right for local residents.

Mr. Lajeunesse, a 12-year resident of Aurora, works in the field of efficient urban planning, and he hopes to bring this expertise to the table as a member of the 2018-2022 Aurora Council.

He is one of sixteen candidates vying for six Council seats.

“I have always had a little bit of a taste [for municipal politics] based on my family history, growing up in Ottawa with a father who was heavily involved in the beautification of the National Capital,” he says. “As time went on, I developed my own career and path, and over the last 10 years, my focus has been on intelligent urbanization.”

Since then, he has worked for an initiative that leverages technology and other advances to “make a city run efficiently, cheaper, but provide a mindset to move forward.”

“When I was working on the Federal Government’s \$300 million Smart Cities initiative, I realised that not only didn’t Aurora get shortlisted, they didn’t even compete,” he says. “I realised that was something I could do and support locally. I realised I could help my community by providing those services as part of being a Councillor.”

Mr. Lajeunesse is running on a three-prong platform. Intelligent urbanization is one, along with Health & Fitness, and business. They might seem like three desperate platform planks, but they are all interwoven, he says.

“Let’s look at the obstacles that are coming up,” he says. “We have that 15-minute train coming up shortly, relatively speaking, and if we don’t do this right, we’re going to end up with two towns because those gates go down for a minute or two every 15 minutes. That could be a horrible problem. One of the main issues I see as a sports fanatic – doing them, not watching them – is how we maintain our

roads and sidewalks. We still prioritize roads.

“You walk down a sidewalk, trees are at least four feet down, making it very difficult for anyone to use them and you will see people walking down the street when there is a sidewalk there unmaintained. Yonge Street takes two weeks to repair the sidewalks. Why do we not prioritize our pedestrians? If we want people to shop on Yonge Street, why do we make it so hard for people to talk on Combine that with parking, there are a lot of things we can do there.”

If elected on October 22, one of the items Mr. Lajeunesse would like to bring forward is a facilities management program that would see more free time access at municipal facilities such as pools and ice rinks. One hour here and there is insufficient, he says, and the Town needs to look at “why” people are using facilities as they are.

“If we want to increase that community of sports within the Region we have to understand what people are participating in,” he says. “If we can understand that, then we can support them. The same is true of other facility-based sports like hockey, basketball, etc. I believe what we need to understand is who is going to be using them. From everything I’ve read, we do want to understand what people are going to use, looking at age brackets and so forth, but we seem to be stuck in an evaluation.”

There is not a huge cost in adding 30 minutes of lifeguard duty here and there, he says, and it would be an investment that would pay dividends.

“When I talk to other individuals, they leave and go to other towns because they will have greater hours. Why do we allow that? We have great facilities here, but we’re forcing our residents to go elsewhere. That is because we don’t understand. We don’t need to make huge investments in research and so forth, it is simply an

understanding of what is being done, why people want to use the facilities and answer those questions.”

He does, of course, see Aurora residents leave town for a number of other reasons, whether it is up to Newmarket to take in its bustling Main Street, or down into Toronto on their morning commute. Both issues are a concern for Mr. Lajeunesse, and a key component to turning the tide will be creating a climate enticing for people to open up small businesses here at home.

“If we can get one in 10 families to have one individual work from home, that has a tremendous impact on the amount of traffic you see at peak hours, for instance,” he said. “All we need for that is to ensure companies like Bell and Rogers support us in terms of the connectivity they require. It is the mentality of thinking a few years down the road. We have done great. The Town is beautiful, it’s safe, it’s a nice place to buy a home, but I am just worried about the longer-term vision in that I want to stay here Friday nights, I want to shop at the Market and I want to participate in my sports programs.

“My main business is based out of Waterloo. One day a week I go to that office and the other four I spend in my home office. The concept of allowing people to work from home just makes sense. That doesn’t mean to turn a home into a storefront. Absolutely not, but an individual being able to spend maybe two or three days at home from time to time really helps the greater community. It helps us because it allows for more parking spots for the GO Train, less congestion on the onramps onto the highway, and allows for our small businesses to benefit.

“If you improve traffic, you improve health and wellness. If you improve health and wellness, you improve businesses. If you improve businesses, you improve the tax base. If you improve the tax base, we have more services. If you improve services, they are better maintained.”

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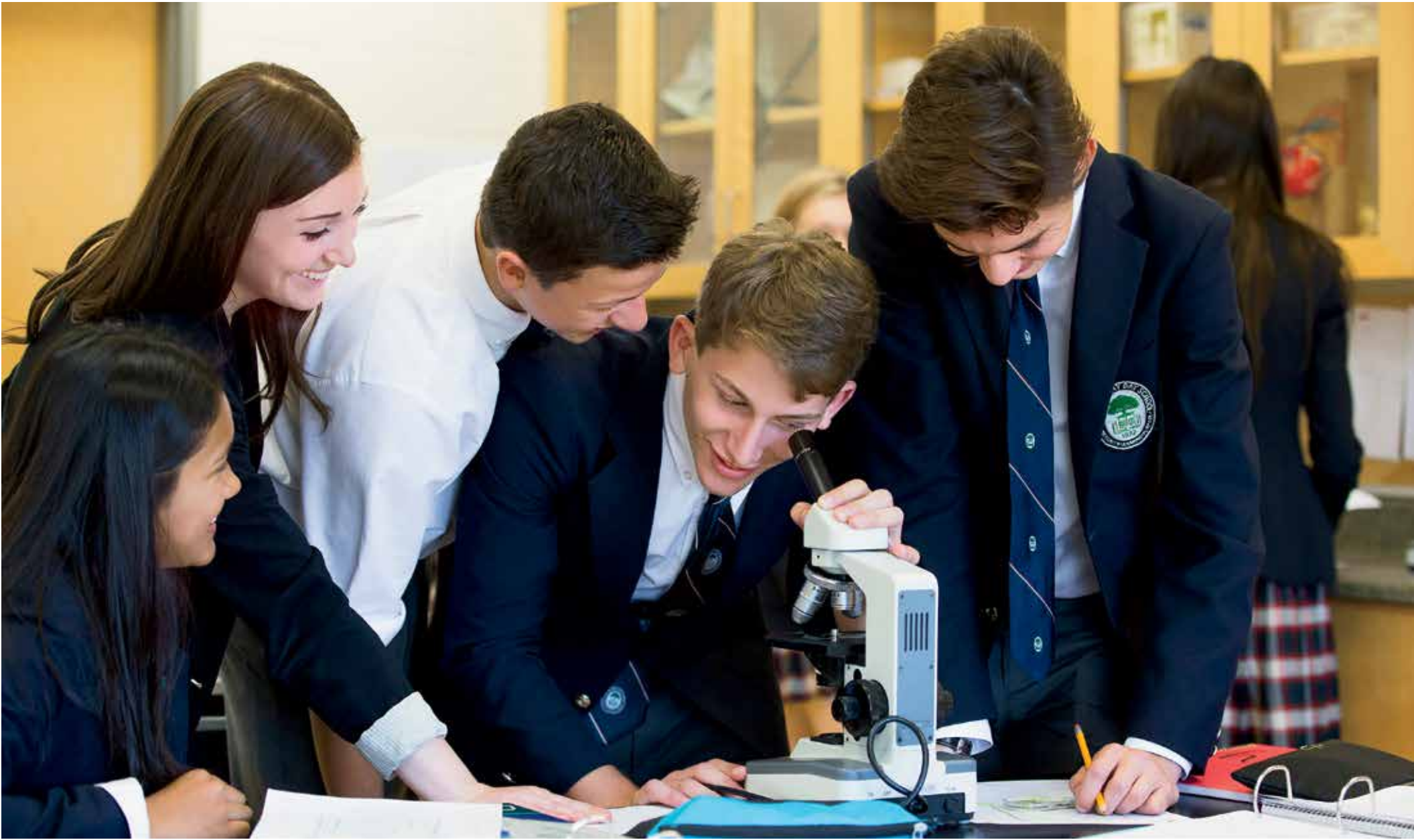
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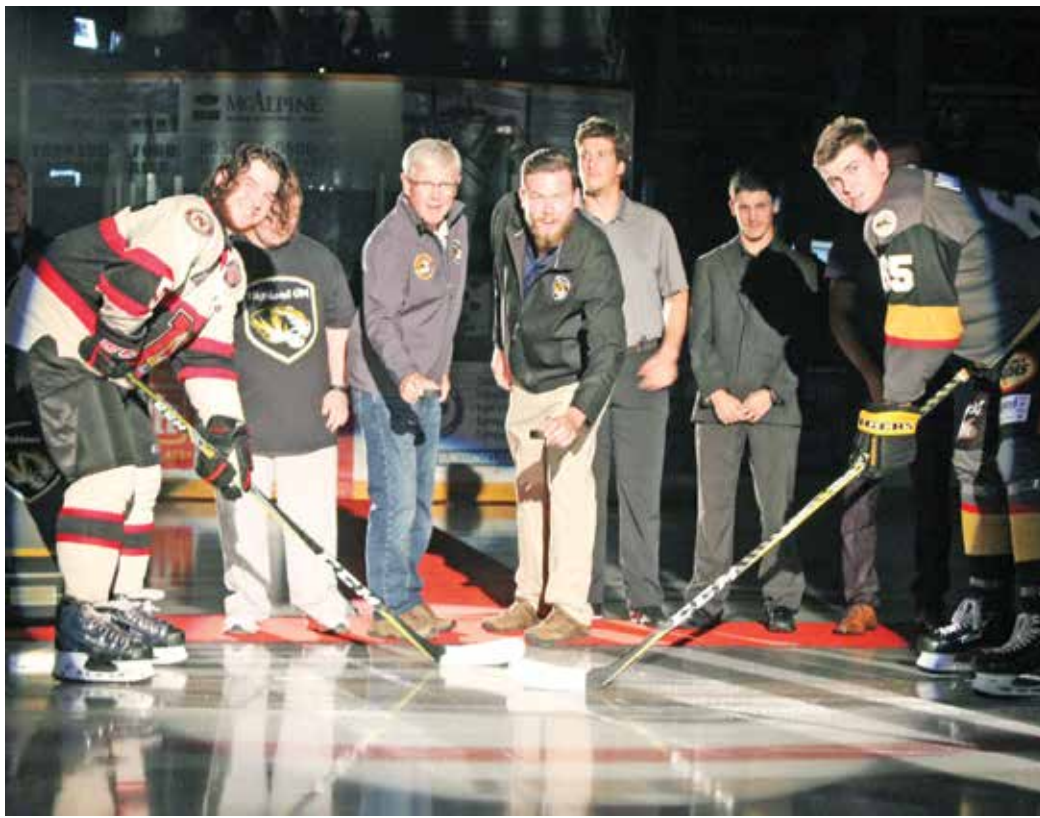
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Tigers drop the puck on perfect start to season



Aurora captain Steve MacLean (right) and Newmarket captain Sheldon Nolan line up for the ceremonial opening faceoff of the 2018-19 OJHL season last week.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

Same rivalry, new combatants.

The first leg of the 2018-19 Battle of Yonge Street has decidedly gone to the Aurora Tigers, who doubled up on the Newmarket Hurricanes in a home-and-home start to the new Ontario Junior Hockey League season.

In an odd twist, the term “home” did not necessarily apply for the Hurricanes who hosted the Tigers on Thursday, forced out of their own ice at the Ray Twinney Complex due to the installation of new dehumidification and air conditioning units.

Instead hosting at the Magna Centre’s main ice, the Aurora club seemed the more comfortable of the two when veteran Joseph Mizzi opened the season’s scoring just 39 seconds in, finishing off a centering pass from newly-minted captain Steve MacLean.

After Newmarket took the lead 2 – 1, Hollander Thompson made his OJHL debut one to remember by potting a Landis Antonic rebound to send the game to overtime.

It took just over twenty-three minutes of extra time for Mizzi to give the Tigers the two points, finishing off a back-and-forth passing play with Michael Palandra.

Both teams had to reset quickly for the Tigers home opener on Friday night, where despite the Magna Hoedown festivities just down the street, around 500 fans packed into the Aurora Community Centre.

A ceremonial opening faceoff featuring a number of faces from Tigers past set the tone for another grueling battle, featuring some heavy

defense in the first period.

With the score tied at zero late in the frame, MacLean showed why he earned the ‘C’ by catching up to a Newmarket forward on a breakaway and stripping the puck, before Jacob Ball went the other way and opened the scoring for the home team with eight seconds on the clock.

Both Mizzi and Palandra finished rebounds in the second period to give Aurora a 3 – 0 lead, with Spencer making it a four-goal game early in the third period.

Jack Irvine’s shutout bid was only broken with just under three minutes to play, when the Hurricanes scored shorthanded for a finals core of 4 – 1.

Wrapping up the week with a 3 – 2 win over the Oakville Blades at home on Saturday, Evan Spencer played the hero in potting the game winner with just under three minutes to play.

“They knocked off one hell of a hockey team,” said Tigers analyst Kevin Dean. “The Oakville Blades are a dynamite team...I’m sure we’ll see them again down the road.”

Head scout Jason Maslakow said this is “only the start.”

“With our third game in three nights, (we) persevered.”

Last year’s regular season conference champions are already playing up to their standards after being named just one of two Ontario teams named to the CJHL’s top twenty pre-season rankings list, along with the Wellington Dukes. Aurora remains the only team in the NorthWest Conference to stay undefeated, while across the lines, the Cobourg Cougars are 4 – 0 to start the season.

The more experienced Jack Irvine

got the call between the pipes for two of the Tigers three opening games, with 16-year old rookie Christian Filippetti getting the nod in game one. The 18-year old Irvine should shoulder the brunt of the load for the long and grueling season after seeing action in two dozen games with the Tigers last season.

The Tigers will hope to keep their perfect streak going when they return

to the ice on Friday, visiting the Pickering Panthers for the first match of the year between the divisional rivals.

The next home game is scheduled for Saturday when the Tigers host the Trenton Golden Hawks, with puck drop scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

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

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Aurora FC thumped by London in penultimate League1 match

By Jake Courtepatte


A crucial match for only one half

of the participants led to a blowout for the Aurora FC men in their second-to-last game of the season. With a spot in the playoffs on the

line, FC London brought their best game to the match on Saturday. Aurora keeper Sunny Dhaliwal was forced to make a diving tip just after kickoff to keep London at bay, sending a header nicking off the crossbar. Just minutes later, London opened the scoring by beating Dhaliwal in the top corner from inside the box, doubling the lead before the twenty-minute mark of the match. They added two more before the intermission to take a 4 – 0 lead at half, putting seven shots on target in the 45 minutes. Despite making some personnel

changes on the field after recess, Aurora failed to find the back of the net, while London tacked on two more goals for a 6 – 0 final. With the fate all but decided, Aurora will be looking to close out the season on the right foot when they host the OSU Force on Saturday, with a chance to jump the Force in the standings. A surge of offense in June and July led to a string of losses in the latter half of the season for Aurora, who bring a record of 2-10-3 into their final game of the season, sitting just above Windsor TFC in the league standings. Saturday’s kickoff is set for 4 p.m. at Stewart Burnett Park.





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Mayor’s Breakfast of Champions Spotlight



Storm Volleyball – Beach Volleyball U14 Boys

The Provincial Beach Volleyball Championships took place last August of 2017, which falls in the time period outlined in the criteria. The following team won the gold medal and provincial championship in the Tier 1 - 14u boys category (1st place in Ontario). They both play with Storm Volleyball in the winter. They both are York region residents. Beach Volleyball is a two-person sport: Arthur Bento and Markus Law-Heese. Their head coach is Adriana Bento, Arthur’s mom, also a York Region resident. “I assisted here and there as support if Adriana was busy with her role as a National Team coach (as I am their indoor coach during winter with Storm Volleyball).” Arthur Bento and Markus Law-Heese teamed up for the 2017 beach season with a goal to have some fun playing their favourite sport and to win a provincial and national championship. Their gold medal win at the provincial championships against season-long rivals and friends Punit Shah/ Kenneth Mann was a great way to finish off the Ontario Beach Tour season. Although they got bronze at Nationals (losing to Punit and Kenneth in a great battle in semis) they felt they had a season they could definitely be proud of.

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The Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair continues to be treated to beautiful summer weather as we march toward fall.

This has translated to busy, bustling days at the Market with people in great moods. There are so many reasons to include a visit to the Market on Saturday mornings, not the least of which is that Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

There's a lot to tell you about today so I'll launch right into an introduction of our next new vendor, Lisa Weagle, of Whiskey Jack Flowers. This is not only her first year at the Market, but is her first year in business.

Whiskey Jack Flowers is a small, independent flower studio that curates one-of-a-kind, seasonal arrangements using 100% locally grown flowers. They offer an array of plants, including cacti and succulents. Each week they have new floral offerings.

Starting this venture is a dream realized for owner and designer, Lisa. Using locally grown flowers is important to her as it reduces our environmental footprint. It also allows her to build relationships with others in the community and learn their unique story in the process.

Lisa was born in Montreal but grew up in Aurora, attending both elementary and high school here in Town. She did her post-secondary education in Fashion at both Humber College and Ryerson University in Toronto. After living and working in Toronto for many years, Lisa has settled back in Aurora. Since childhood, Lisa has always enjoyed expressing her creativity with her hands, including painting and pottery. A few years ago, Lisa began to experiment with flowers as the medium for her creativity and discovered a new passion.

Whiskey Jack Flowers curates a more organic, "from the garden" style of arrangement using only the freshest blooms. Each arrangement is handcrafted and unique. There is no



MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

store front—Lisa creates her beautiful floral designs in a small private studio that is as unique as she is. The studio backs onto a beautiful green space that is home to trees, birds and even some resident chickens.

Lisa plans to keep working hard and getting better each day, to think outside the box and to continue to look for creative ways to express herself. Her goal is to keep things fresh and new. She wants people to know that regardless of the day they visit her booth, they will discover something beautiful, colourful, unique and different, as well as local.

If you are interested in florals for a special occasion, you can contact Lisa at hello@whiskeyjackflowers.com or visit her at the Aurora Farmers' Market.

Our next Special Event is on Saturday, September 29 when the Market celebrates Culture Days with a Soup Fest. Five Market chefs will prepare soups using fresh ingredients from the Market for sampling to the public. Recipes will be available either at the Market or online. The tasting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and there will be a new chef at 30-minute intervals with the last chef starting at 11:30 a.m.

In addition, we are thrilled to announce that the wonderful musician, Glenn Marais, will be playing for us that day and will include some "djemba" drumming in keeping with the theme, "ON BEAT", of Culture Days.

As if that weren't enough, we are delighted to partner with New Roads Mazda to present our first annual "Stuff a Truck" Challenge. This Thanksgiving food drive aims to collect lots of food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry, so please come to the Market on September 29 with non-perishable food donations and tell your friends and neighbours to do the same. It promises to be a memorable day.

See you at the Market!

Terry Fox Run takes off in Aurora



A group of St. Andrew's College students hold up their banner before the Terry Fox Run at Aurora Town Hall on Sunday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

In what would have been his 61st year, Aurora residents are working hard to keep the legacy of Terry Fox alive.

Around one hundred participants gathered behind the Aurora Seniors' Centre early Sunday morning for the annual Terry Fox Run for Hope, walking, running, or cycling two or five

kilometer routes to raise both funds and awareness for cancer research.

Though official numbers are yet to come in, donations have exceeded the \$15,000 mark for the run site.

Local band Willin' and Abel provided the soundtrack for the day, as well as the national anthem. The organizers would like to thank all of the volunteers involved in making the day a success.



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Play #OnBeat at Aurora Public Library!

By Reccia Mandelcorn
Manager, Community Collaboration
Aurora Public Library

Immerse yourself in a symphony of artistic expression as APL plays #OnBeat this Culture Days with immersive experiences through music, writing, art and dance. On Saturday, September 29 from 1.30 – 4.15 p.m., enjoy performances, workshops and interactive activities that invite you to create, participate and share.

Music aficionados will delight in a concert performed by musicians from the York Chamber Ensemble. Entitled “Classical Beats; from Baroque to the Contemporary”, the concert will feature Ian Clarke, Michael Adamson, Susan Beth Barak and Barbara J. Dickson playing selections from the works of Mozart, Haydn, Handel and others. Capture the magic at this extraordinary

Culture Days partnership.

“Bring your own ghost” to an intimate writing workshop with Marnie Maguire. Participants will unearth a ghost of their former selves - an ancestor, family member, lover or imagined character - and use writing prompts and meditation techniques to unravel the plot that leads to the ghost’s departure. This unique opportunity is free, but advance registration is required as spots are limited. Ages 16+.

Join artists Judy Sherman and Eva Folks for “Drop-in and Draw”. Stay for a quick sketch or enjoy the full session. Judy and Eva always create a fun atmosphere in their workshops, so come by with the whole family. Bring your own supplies or use basic drawing materials (*conté, pencils and pastels*) supplied by the Library. Beginner or advanced – Just drop in!

It’s an extraordinary experience

To See, or Not to See “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [revised]”

A review by Scott Johnston

To see, or not to see? That is the question.

If the subject of that question is Theatre Aurora’s season opening “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]” then the answer is a resounding ‘yes’.

This highly entertaining play, written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, does exactly what the title says; summarizes all 37 of the Bard’s plays in less than two hours, including intermission.

Even more challenging, it uses only three actors to do so.

While they don’t perform all 1,122 roles, they do seem to cover a lot of them.

Shakespeare’s plays can be a bit slow at times, but this one is far from it. As can be expected, the pacing is frantic, with myriad costume changes and props, as the actors bounce between multiple characters both on and off the stage.

The plays themselves are presented in a number of original ways: as rap songs, sporting event play by plays, cooking shows, audience participation pieces, even performed backwards (don’t worry; that one will make sense when you see it).

There are lots of wonderful things to catch along the way: Romeo being played by a female lead and Juliet by a male cast member; characters doing their own sound effects, and many current event and pop culture references.

To pull this off, director Joey Ferguson has pulled together a terrific cast, including Elizabeth Coulter, Brian Fukuzawa and Andrew Pawarloo. Their ability to shift between characters, change costumes (not to mention keeping the unused props and costumes in the right places for their next appearance), maintain a hectic pace, improvise, and keep up with the sometimes complex wording and rapid-fire quips is impressive.

This is a play that never takes itself too seriously, and as such, it can be enjoyed by everyone, even if they’re not an English literature enthusiast.

Whether you actually learn something if you use this play is not guaranteed, but you will laugh a lot.

Evening performances of “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) [revised]” continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, September 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, with a matinee September 23. Information and tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.

Affordabilty “distraction” in stable neighbourhoods talks: Thom

From page 9

these neighbourhoods, who are building some of these homes. To cast them as undesirable...who are bent on profits and nothing else, I think misses the mark and it is unfair not only to these people who are moving into these neighbourhoods who just have a general disagreement with yourself and also members of this Council who are also doing what we think is best for the Town.”

Councillor Thom also took aim at the argument that new builds would limit purchasing opportunities for many middle-income families.

“I keep hearing the term from a lot of the people coming to the podium that the neighbourhood is ‘affordable’ and you mentioned that affordable is around \$800,000,” Councillor Thom continued.

“That doesn’t really fit with what the Region would call an affordable house, number one, but I think any reasonable definition, \$800,000 is more affordable than \$2.5 million, but I would disagree with saying \$800,000 is affordable for a middle income family.

“Truthfully, I think it is a bit of a distraction to focus on property values and the level of our values to keep them low and keeping them affordable as a reason to looking at Monster Homes. I just don’t think they are affordable now, so it doesn’t make any sense to me to look at that as a driving factor on whether or not we look at changing the zoning to stop these massive homes coming in. I think there are a lot of good reasons to look at the zoning, I just don’t think affordability is one of them.”

to watch the process of creation. Exhibiting artists, Sue Foerster and Archie Maghsoudloo, of the current exhibit “Tiny Dancer: fluidity in motion” will be sketching a ballerina model live. Watch, engage, learn and interact.

Bring comfortable shoes and get ready to dance with folk dance teacher, Riki Adivi. Bringing a multicultural flavour to the day, Riki will be teaching easy-to-learn dances from the Middle East and Persia. Folk dancing is usually about having the whole family dancing

together, so this fabulously fun closing activity is definitely all ages/family friendly.

Culture Days is a collaborative movement that welcomes your participation. Look for your Culture Days passport in The Auroran, visit any of the participating venues to have your passport stamped and be eligible to win great prizes.

For more information on APL’s Culture Days activities, including times of the individual activities, please visit the Library at aurorapl.ca.

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“I needed to exercise a sense of urgency”

From page 1

strong leadership.

That, she said, was not on offer in the Liberal Party.

“My attempts to raise my concerns with this government were met with silence,” said Ms. Alleslev. “The Government must be challenged openly, and for me to publicly criticize the government as a Liberal would undermine the government according to my code of conduct, [and would] be dishonourable. After careful and deliberate consideration, I announce today that I am withdrawing from the Government benches to take my seat among my Conservative colleagues under the strong leadership of Andrew Scheer.”

Speaking to The Auroran, Ms. Alleslev says that her primary focus is to represent constituents. During the course of the last Federal election campaign, Ms. Alleslev says she campaigned on structural changes around tax reform, employment reform, foreign policy, and defence. Her work in the House of Commons has included time as Parliamentary Secretary for Procurement with a defence on Defence Procurement, and chairing Canada’s delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Association, working on the Defence Committee.

“I have been working for three years inside the tent on all of those things to try and make sure that we honour the commitments we made in the campaign and to bring about some of the really structural and significant changes this country needs,” says Ms. Alleslev.

There was no one thing that made her think that her advice wasn’t being heeded, she adds. Rather, her decision was a cumulative decision based on a number of factors.

“It just builds over time to really you hit a tipping point,” says Ms. Alleslev. “It was a combination of the things going on in Canada, and we have

talked before on the unprecedented global instability and the significant changes going on around the world. What really happened was all these cumulative things I felt really needed to be addressed. At the same time, as the world [changes] almost rapidly around us, that came to a point where we don’t have the luxury of time. I needed to exercise a sense of urgency.

“Ever since I joined the military and I swore my oath to serve and defend the country, I actually ask myself every day if I am doing everything I can. More recently, I was really thinking, I may only have a year left before the next election, so I need to know if I can look my constituents in the face and look at myself in the mirror and know that while I was here, with that sacred obligation to represent them, did I do absolutely everything in my power to make the changes I committed to them, and that we believe are necessary for Canada at this point in time.”

As a Member of Parliament, Ms. Alleslev says she is the same person today that she was during the election campaign. It is her name on the ballot, she says, and she hopes voters look at the individuals to determine who is best to represent them in Ottawa.

“If that is not the case, then what is the role of a Member of Parliament, if not for an individual going there to represent constituents and do the job they are paid to do? The question is, what is their role as Member of Parliament.”

In joining the Conservative caucus, Ms. Alleslev forewent the option of sitting as an independent for the remainder of her current term in office. Joining the Official Opposition was a decision she says was based on “certain specific foundational changes that we believe are necessary for the country” including tax reform, employment reform, federal infrastructure, comprehensive foreign policy and defence.

Constituents said these are important issues to them, she says, and she feels the same way.

“I am excited to be part of a team under a leader that also prioritizes those things,” she says. “I had quite a significant conversation with him (Mr. Scheer) before I made this decision just to ensure that he really was focused on those priorities and I really would have the opportunity to represent my constituents in that way.”

As for the issue of timing, Ms.

Alleslev said she hit that tipping point “in the last couple of months” and she thought in her final year, “what can I do differently in the next year to make more of an impact.”

It was a “difficult decision” to change political parties by literally crossing the floor, and “it is definitely a test of your nerve to stand in the House of Commons and make your kind of speech,” she says, but it is the only way she says it could have been done.

“I believe in the structure of government, I believe in the institution of government, and I believe in the role of government almost independent of political party,” she says. “We live in a time where Canadians are actually losing confidence in the structure of government, not just the people, but the actual structure of government, to do the greatest good for the greatest number of Canadians, and do what is in the public interest. The role of an opposition is to publicly challenge the Government and hold them to account. The role of the Government is to govern. To tear down a government by criticizing them publicly from within would undermine the Government and would cause citizens to lose confidence in the institution, in democracy, in the structure of our government. That would be wrong.

“We have an incredible structure, so you honour that structure. When you come to a point, for me, as a Member of Parliament, where you need to have a public conversation around the future direction of the country and against the government, then you need to do that from an opposition perspective, not from within the government.”

When asked, however, whether this cycle would begin again should she be re-elected as a Conservative MP next year as a member of a Conservative government and their priorities diverge, she replied, “That is why I decided to join a leader and a team only after comprehensive conversation to ensure that we are aligned on the policies and the priorities of where we thought the country needed to go.”

HAVE YOUR SAY – Do you agree with Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leona Alleslev’s decision to cross the floor from the Liberals to Conservatives? Send your thoughts to letters@auroran.com.

MP’s Report

From page 5

easy.

I ask you, the citizens of Aurora - Oak Ridges - Richmond Hill, to continue to hold me to account as I serve you and work as part of a new team focused on the fundamental challenges facing our riding and our nation.

And to all Canadians across this country – I say:

Challenge your Member of Parliament. Demand that they work for you to strengthen our country’s foundations, foreign policy and global security. Do not accept the status quo.

This is a time in our nation’s history where we must act with urgency. We must all have the courage to do what is right not what is easy.

Our country is at stake.



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Guided Bird Walk for All Ages - Come to the Aurora Community Arboretum on Saturday, September 22nd, 8:00 a.m. for a stroll in the Arboretum. Observe and learn about local and migrating birds. Meet at the Gazebo (Sports Dome/Leisure Centre - 115 Industrial Parkway North). Please bring your binoculars if you have them. To pre-register, go to membersandvolunteers@auroraarboretum.ca.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Volunteer Information Open House – Come and find out about volunteering with hospice. Doane House Hospice and the Margaret Bahen Hospice are hosting a Volunteer Information Open House on Tuesday September 25, 2018, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Doane House Hospice, 17100 Yonge Street, Newmarket. Hospice supports people with life threatening illnesses from time of diagnosis to end of life. Please note, parking is available within walking distance at the York Regional Parking lot on Eagle Street. For further information contact volunteers@myhospice.ca or 905-967-0259.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

AHS Speaker Series: Amy Barron: Scugog's First Nations: A Living History. 7 – 9 p.m. at Hillary House. “Scugog's First Nations: A Living History” was an exhibit created by the Scugog Shores Museums in partnership with the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations. It explores the history of indigenous peoples around Lake Scugog from earliest archaeological times to the present inhabitants of Scugog Island. Join Dr. Amy Barron as she discusses the process of designing this exhibit, partnering with the Mississaugas, and the history of first peoples in the area. \$5 for Aurora Historical Society members. \$7 for non-members. For more information or to reserve your seat call (905) 727-8991 or community@aurorahs.com.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at Country Style Deli/Bistro, 14980 Yonge Street, from 3 – 4:30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from francophone to beginners) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez-fr.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Money Talk\$ -- This free, informal monthly education/conversation group shares unbiased knowledge about the investment environment and about financial planning. This month's theme: Investment Plans/Investment Environment: Sharing Our Collective Experience. Presentation followed by group conversation. No financial products or services will be offered or sold, directly or indirectly. People employed in the financial services industry are welcome to attend and contribute, but not to engage in the promotion of any products, companies or services. Presented by the Aurora Public Library. For more information, contact the Adult Information Desk at 905-727-9494 x275. 7 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at Country Style Deli/Bistro, 14980 Yonge Street, from 3 – 4:30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from francophone to beginners) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez-fr.

OCTOBER 21 – 22

The York Symphony Orchestra presents Hallowe'en At the Symphony – a performance of classic Hallowe'en Favourites with guest artist Yu Kai Sun on the violin. Saturday, October 20 at 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora. Sunday, October

21 at 3 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. For more information, including tickets, call 416-410-0860.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

AHS Speaker Series: Bob Dengler and Steven Dengler: The C150 Global Odyssey: Around the World by Helicopter. 7 – 9 p.m. at Hillary House. Join us at Hillary House as our speakers Bob and Steven Dengler discuss “The C150 Global Odyssey Around the World By Helicopter”. Departing on July 1 of 2017 to celebrate Canada 150 — 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation — the Canadian circumnavigators flew a Canadian-made Bell 429 helicopter around the world, visiting every Canadian province and territory, as well as some landmarks celebrating remarkable achievements and events from Canada's rich history. 15372 Yonge Street. \$5 for Aurora Historical Society members. \$7 for non-members. For more information or to reserve your seat call (905) 727-8991 or community@aurorahs.com.

Garden Aurora! – “Trees & Shrubs for Today's Smaller Gardens”, a presentation by Darren Heimbecker. Meeting of the Aurora Garden Club is held at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North at 8 p.m. Join us for refreshments and the opportunity to become a member. Further information at www.gardenauroara.com or by calling 905-713-6660.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at Country Style Deli/Bistro, 14980 Yonge Street, from 3 – 4:30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from francophone to beginners) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez-fr.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

GranAurora, an initiative of the Stephen Lewis Foundation in support of African Grandmothers, presents An Evening with Astronaut Dr. Dave Williams, tonight at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., the event begins at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Williams will present his book Defying Limits: Lessons from the Edge of the Universe. Light refreshments will be served. Books available for purchase courtesy of Blue Heron Books. Tickets are \$20 and available for purchase by email or phone: 905-727-9235, 905-751-1217, or granauroara4114@gmail.com. All proceeds support the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Chefs from across the region will participate in the 9th annual “Empty Bowls” fundraiser at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Proceeds from the day will be donated to Welcoming Arms, Aurora and Inn From The Cold, Newmarket. Patrons can enjoy gourmet soups and breads prepared by local chefs, served in some of the 500 hand made soup bowls created by members of Pine Tree Potters' Guild. After the meal, patrons will take home their chosen bowl. Early lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$50. Late lunch 1:30 – 3 p.m. \$50.

AHS Speaker Series: Bill Fleury and Fiona Smith: Aurora Diaspora? How J. Fleury's Sons (and Daughters) Took Aurora to the World at Hillary House from 7 – 9 p.m. Exploring the theme, “Aurora and the World”, how did late 19th century Aurora, a town of barely 2,000 people, make a name for itself in the world? Bill Fleury and Fiona Smith will address this question from two perspectives that shed light on Aurora's manufacturing history and on the history of women born in the Town. 15372 Yonge Street. \$5 for Aurora Historical Society members. \$7 for non-members. For more information or to reserve your seat call (905) 727-8991 or community@aurorahs.com.

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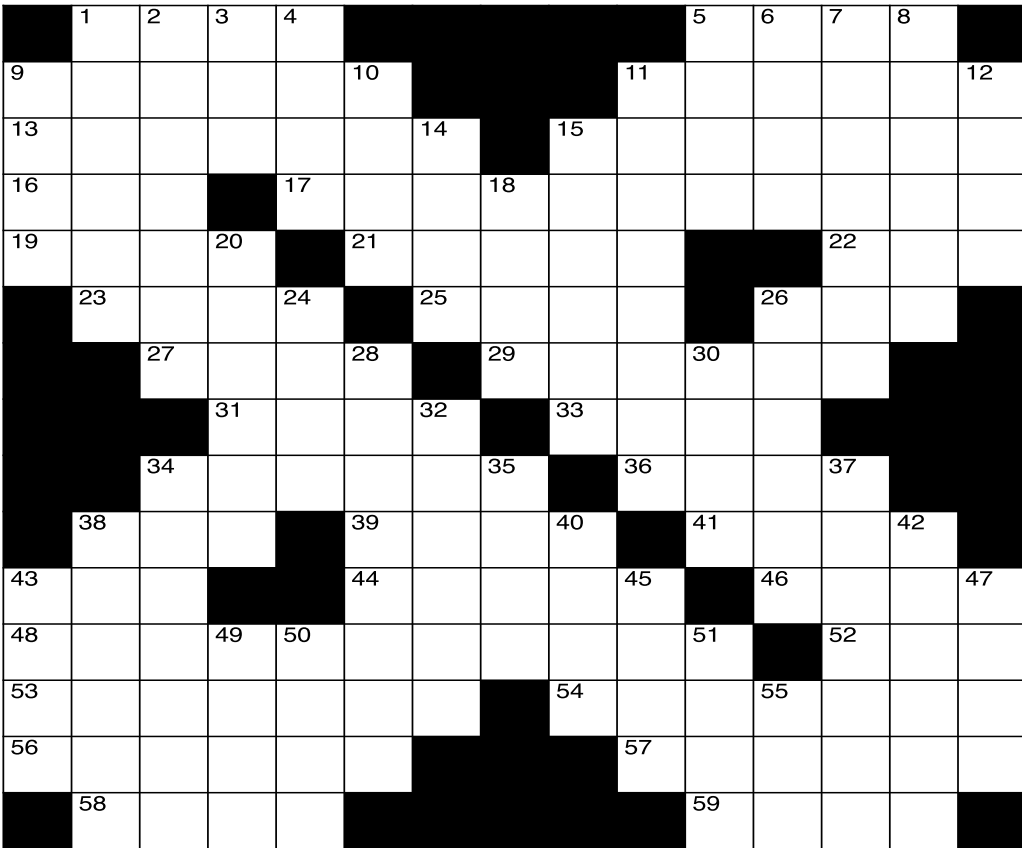
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CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- A greeting
- A type of hall
- Planes need one
- Wealth
- The act of exciting
- A movement downward
- Type of storage
- A funny and sad play
- After cinco
- Dry white Italian wine
- Where golfers begin
- Witnesses
- Relaxing places
- Of she
- Discontinued compact car
- Resulted
- Large Irish castle
- Offer for a price
- One type is Irish
- Free-swimming invertebrate
- A type of tale
- The middle of the month
- Christmas
- ‘__ death do us part
- Goes with Gomorrah
- Ethnic group of Thailand
- “Grown Ups” funnyman
- A type of index
- A mass of rocks
- Splashed
- Kids’ playground necessities
- Sears and London are two
- Strip of cloth
- Church

CLUES DOWN

- Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
- Deliberately contrary events
- Unit of mass
- Kiln
- Soybean paste
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Made the bed
- One who mails
- Bar bills
- Automotive vehicles
- Breaks
- Swelling of the eyelid
- Asian country
- Couches
- Stare with mouth wide open
- Member of U.S. Navy
- A sulk
- Greetings
- Craftsmen
- Mongolian city __ Bator
- Did again
- Sunrooms
- Start over
- Georgians love them
- Women
- “Snake Tales” cartoonist
- Pariahs
- Caps
- Gradually become less solid
- Goats
- French city Le __
- Exhale
- Homes have at least one
- Type of power cable

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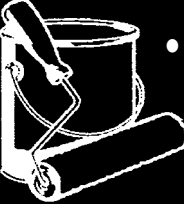
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SPEAKEASY

Jane Taylor & Reccia Mandelcorn

Millions of Canadians engage in thousands of free activities and performances hosted in communities across Canada as part of the national Culture Days celebrations. From Nunavut to New Brunswick, and from British Columbia to Baffin Island – and all points in between – Canadians share the inspiration, artistry, creativity and expression that reflect the mosaic of our diverse cultures.

Aurora is no stranger to innovative and participatory experiences, and this month's Speakeasy featured some of the wonderful artists who will be bringing the best of culture to our Town. "OnBeat" is the theme of Culture Days 2018 and participating organizations were encouraged to run with the tagline.

Aurora Public Library will be definitely be "OnBeat" with an afternoon of free participatory experiences in art, writing, dance and music – including a performance by a quartet of musicians from the York Chamber Ensemble.

Barbara Dickson, Marketing Director and cellist, stopped by The Speakeasy to give us a preview of the concert they are performing at the Library on Culture Days. Entitled "Classical Beats: from Baroque to the Contemporary", this concert will have young and old experiencing the passion and rhythm of cultural music. The concert will be enjoyed in the main living room, and we anticipate amazing acoustics in

APL's open and soaring facility. It's also a great way to introduce children to a lifelong relationship with classical music without worrying about attention span or wiggling bodies. The concert opens the Library's festivities at 1.30 p.m. – just drop in.

We placed a call to Phil Shaw, owner of Shaw Percussion in Georgina. There's something about the beat of a drum that speaks to the soul, stirring our ancient memories as our feet begin to tap and our bodies begin to sway.

The Aurora Cultural Centre invites you to The Global Beats Petting Zoo where you will discover how to create joyful percussion with a variety of rhythm instruments. From the djembe drum to the washboard, daf to marimba, participants of all ages will enjoy a collective musical experience through the opportunity to try out a huge variety of percussion instruments. The Global Beats Petting Zoo runs from 1 – 4 p.m. with special djembe group instruction at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. for all to enjoy. Bring your own, or use one of the drums on hand!

The Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair will be hosting their ever-popular annual Soup Fest that will be

"on beat" to the music of the fabulous sounds of Juno-nominee Glenn Marais. Be sure to get to the Market early (Soup Fest starts at 9.30 a.m.) as the tastings don't last for too long.

And the Aurora Historical Society takes three beats to the tune with free tours of Hilary House, walking tours of historic Aurora – ending up at on the lawn of the Aurora Cultural Centre with fun old-time games & crafts.

While we could only whet your appetites with some of the highlights of the day, we encourage everyone to plan their Culture Days itinerary by checking the national site at culturadays.ca.

Culture Days is a collaborative movement that welcomes your participation. Look for your Culture Days passport in The Auroran, visit any of the participating venues to have your passport stamped and be eligible to win great prizes.

Fall is a time of art openings, workshops, programs and events in Aurora where culture lives 365 days a year. Full listings for Aurora Public Library can be found at aurorapl.ca and for the Aurora Cultural Centre at auroraculturalcentre.ca.

Jane Taylor is Communications and Events Manager at the Aurora Cultural Centre and Reccia Mandelcorn is Manager of Community Collaboration at Aurora Public Library. They co-host The Speakeasy on the first Wednesday of each month on 102.7 CHOP-FM.

Tree planting planned to mark Arboretum funding win

It was recently announced the Aurora Community Arboretum is one of 36 national winners of funding to purchase trees for the Arboretum.

The funding, made available through Home Hardware and administered by Tree Canada, is awarded yearly to individuals and community groups in pursuit of a greener, healthier environment.

This year, Aurora Home Hardware applied for and won funding to help the Aurora Arboretum purchase trees.

"We are proud to be a part of such an important partnership between Home Hardware stores and Tree Canada," said John Barfitt of Aurora Home Hardware. "This partnership has been helping communities across Canada for more than 25 years." To date, Home Hardware has planted more than 24,000 trees worth over 1.2 million dollars."

"It is a real honour for the Aurora Community Arboretum to be recognised by an organization like Tree Canada and very generous of Home Hardware to provide funding," added John Wilson of the Arboretum. "This is a perfect example of a win-win arrangement; residents of Aurora and visitors to the Arboretum will be able to view and learn about native coniferous trees of Ontario."

A tree planting ceremony to celebrate the Arboretum's winning is scheduled for Friday, September 28 at 10 a.m.

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