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ON PAGE 20

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 19 No. 37 905-727-3300 theauroran.com FREE Week of June 27, 2019



York Regional Police's Search & Rescue Unit was stationed at Town Hall on Tuesday afternoon continuing an investigation into a sexual assault on a female teen Monday morning. The incident took place in a forested area just to the west of Town Hall and police are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Suspect sought following sexual assault on teen

By Brock Weir

York Regional Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward after a female teen was sexually assaulted near Town Hall and taken to hospital on Monday morning.

The suspect is described as a male in his twenties with light brown skin tone, thin build, and wearing a black shirt, black pants, a red baseball cap, and possibly armed with a firearm.

"On Monday at 11.50 a.m., York

Regional Police were called to John West Way, north of Wellington Street, for a report that a teenage girl was injured and had been sexually assaulted," said York Regional Police Constable Laura Nicolle in a statement Monday. "The preliminary information officers received is that the female victim was walking in the trails west of John West Way when she was approached, assaulted, and sexually assaulted by a male suspect possibly armed with a firearm. The victim was taken to hospital for her injuries.

"Significant police resources attended the scene including Emergency Response Units and Canine Units, in an effort to locate the suspect. A police presence remains at the scene while the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information or anyone who may have seen or heard anything in the area are asked to contact police immediately. Investigators are also appealing to any nearby businesses or residences that may have video surveillance, or any drivers who may have dashcam footage

Continued on page 7

The Show Must Go On: Canada Day tradition salvaged at eleventh hour

By Brock Weir

For decades, Town Park has been Aurora's destination to get a head-start on Canada Day celebrations with the annual Dance in the Park.

But the yearly tradition was set to be consigned to the history books this year – until an eleventh-hour intervention by Council last Tuesday night gave the Rotary Club a cash sponsorship to keep the party going this Sunday evening,

Continued on page 14



BACK TO THE FUTURE – Unsuspecting visitors to Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area on Saturday afternoon may have done a double-take as War of 1812 re-enactors participated in a film shoot for the Aurora Museum & Archives. For more, please see Page 10.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Celebrating 31 Years

TOWN OF AURORA Notice Board



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Tuesday, July 2	9:30 a.m.	Holland Room	Joint Council Committee
Wednesday, July 10	7 p.m.	Aurora Cultural Centre	Aurora Cultural Centre Board
Thursday, July 11	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment
Tuesday, July 16	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, July 16	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	General Committee

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting aurora.ca/gcstream
Council meetings are open to the public. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit aurora.ca.

What's Happening

Notice of service disruptions

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

- The AFLC Pool will be closed from **July 2 to August 23** for refurbishment. Please review the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex pool schedule for available swim times during this pool closure. For more information, visit aurora.ca/aquatics.

- The parent and child drop-in on **Friday, June 28** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be cancelled.

We apologize for any inconvenience. For more information, visit aurora.ca/news.

What's Happening

Register for Summer Aquatics Programs & Summer Camp

Registration is now open for 2019 Summer Aquatics Programs and Summer Camps. Pick up a copy of the Community Services Program Guide at our recreation facilities, Town Hall, Aurora Public Library or Aurora Cultural Centre. You can also view the Program Guide online at aurora.ca/recguide.

Temporary Road Closures

Due to the Aurora Canada Day Parade there will be a road closure on **Monday, July 1**.

Roads to be temporarily closed are the following:

- 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Yonge Street from Wellington Street to Mosley Street.
- 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Yonge Street from Mosley Street to Allaura Boulevard/Henderson Drive.

What's Happening

AURORA'S CANADA DAY FESTIVITIES

DANCE IN THE PARK

SUNDAY, JUNE 30 • 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Town Park, 49 Wells Street
Enjoy great live music, food, and a licenced beer garden! In partnership with the Rotary club of Aurora.

CANADA DAY PARADE

MONDAY, JULY 1 • 10 a.m.
Parade travels south on Yonge Street from Mosley Street to Murray Drive. Kids can participate in pre-parade sidewalk chalking at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Aurora Public Library.

CANADA DAY FESTIVITIES

MONDAY, JULY 1 • 11 a.m to 10 p.m.
Lambert Willson Park, 135 Industrial Parkway North
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RECREATION AND PARKS MONTH

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Canada Day Service Schedule

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MUNICIPAL OFFICE • 100 John West Way

Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way) will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, July 1**. Town Hall will reopen on **Tuesday, July 2** at 8:30 a.m.

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

AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARY • 15145 Yonge Street

Aurora Public Library will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, July 1** and reopen on **Tuesday, July 2** at 9:30 a.m. For more information, visit aurorapl.ca or call 905-727-9494.

WASTE COLLECTION

Waste collection **will not** be affected during the Canada Day holiday. Please consult your 2019/2020 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar for more details.

RECREATION CENTRES

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

Aurora Seniors' Centre will be **CLOSED** for the Canada Day holiday on **Monday, July 1** and will reopen on **Tuesday, July 2** at 8:30 a.m.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

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

DESJARDINS DAYS

Every second Wednesday of the month enjoy these activities for **free!**

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ACTIVITIES

Public Skate*

Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex

May 16 | 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. (AFLC)
June 13 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
July 11 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
August 15 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Public Leisure Swim

Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex

May 8 | 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
June 12 | 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
July 10 | 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
August 14 | 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Family Open Gym Drop-in

Aurora Family Leisure Complex

May 8 | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
June 12 | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
July 10 | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
August 14 | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Youth Basketball Drop-in

Aurora Family Leisure Complex

May 8 | 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
June 12 | 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
July 10 | 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
August 14 | 8 p.m. - 10 p.m.

aurora.ca/desjardinsdays

*May to August - Public Skate will be held on the second or third Thursday of the month and will move to Wednesdays in September. We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

Aurora Town Hall

100 John West Way, P.O. Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6J1

905-727-1375 905-726-4732 info@aurora.ca aurora.ca

Accessible Formats

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

Skateboard park to get \$600K overhaul

By Brock Weir

The skateboard park at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex is set for a \$600,000 overhaul to correct mistakes stemming from its construction in 2015.

Council is set to approve the project this week after giving it the tentative green light at the Committee level last Tuesday.

According to a report by Sarah Tienkamp, Manager of Parks and Fleet for the Town of Aurora, problems with the skate park became apparent almost as soon as the facility opened, with concrete surfacing failing to withstand its first winter.

Significant cracking became apparent, she said, which was chalked up to the retention of water beneath the surface, drainage issues surfaced and grading issues were identified.

The Town hired external consultants last year to investigate the skate park's rapid deterioration with an eye towards replacement and after analysing the concrete and groundwater, and carrying out strength and construction tests, "critical deficiencies" were found.

"The skate park facility is highly utilized and will continue to pose a safety risk to users if not mitigated," said Ms. Tienkamp. "The cracking and delaminating of the concrete lend to an uneven and rough skate surface, increasing the risk of injury to users as skateboard wheels require a smooth level surface to travel. In addition, pooling water also poses a threat to patrons.

"Staff continue to patch and grind the concrete deficiencies, utilizing various measures and methods to help mitigate the ongoing problems and reduce risk to users. The concrete issues will persist from the frost till the water, drainage and concrete strength/reinforcement are rectified."

When the recommendations for the repairs and reconstruction were reviewed by Council members last week, the project received near-uniform support, but questions were posed on why it had taken so long to get to this point and whether the builders, Jasper Construction, could be held to account.

Councillor John Gallo led the questions, referring to earlier discussions during the 2019 Budget Process which led to this \$600,000 price tag receiving conditional approval, where talks centred on liability to engineers for the damage that has come up.

"There is not one word identifying whether we looked at [liability] in 2015 when [the issues] were identified after the first winter, if we could go back to the contractors, if we could go back to the engineers," said Councillor Gallo. "I just can't sit here and approve \$600,000 without someone telling me we tried to go after them, someone made a mistake, something I can tell the taxpayers that I am doing my job and being responsible to them – that at least we tried to recover something."

According to CAO Doug Nadorozny, some of these concerns were addressed in a confidential memo given to Councillors "to set the stage" for this item to come back to the Council table. Mr. Nadorozny noted that the contents of this memo are subject to solicitor-client privilege as legal advice was sought on pursuing damages, but the general conclusion was the Town was "outside any reasonable hope of successfully making a claim at this stage."

"We all received a memo outlining some of the issues, and as far as how we can move forward and the fact we can't really go after [the client]," added Mayor Tom Mrakas. "We lapsed the time when it comes to putting forward any type of claim. We did have some issues with the construction

company that did the work there. It was problematic, it led to a motion to add in liquidated damages because that was missing [from the contracts] and any contracts from the Town would also include liquidated damages unless specifically removed from Council.

"Things have changed. Last term, with these issues that cropped up, there have been changes in the Town. Our CAO has come in and has made some changes as well to ensure that things like this do not occur again. Council, I think, as a whole, is comfortable knowing that we have moved forward in a direction that allows us to make sure we are very responsible when it comes to taxpayer dollars and we ensure that every dollar that we do use in any project, it is done right and that is moving forward.

"Yes, what happened with this

Continued on page 15

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TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

AURORA

NOTICE OF COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO REMOVE A HOLDING 'H' SYMBOL

AURORA TOWN COUNCIL intends to consider an Amending By-law under section 36 of the Planning Act to Remove the "(H)" Holding Symbol on:

Tuesday, July 23, 2019
at
AURORA TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
100 JOHN WEST WAY, AURORA, ONTARIO

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of The Town of Aurora intends to consider an Amending By-law under section 36 of the Planning Act to remove the 'H' Holding Symbol for the lands described below:

1. An Application by **Shimvest Investments Ltd., Prato Estates Inc. and Preserve Homes Corp.**, File Number: **ZBA(H)-2017-09** has been submitted to Amend the Zoning By-law to Remove the 'H' Holding Symbol. The lands are located at **Block 156, Plan 65M-4485, Block 231, Plan 65M-3971 and Block 164, Plan 65M-3946**, municipally known as **323 River Ridge Boulevard**.

The conditions for Removal of 'H' Holding Symbol as set out in By-law **6160-19** have been fulfilled. The Removal of the 'H' Holding Symbol will allow for the development of the lands for residential uses. The Holding 'H' Symbol was established to ensure the development received servicing allocation and that the proposed development met the policy objectives of the Town of Aurora Official Plan Amendment Number 30 (OPA 30).

CONTACT:
Any inquiries should be directed to **Matthew Peverini** of the Planning and Development Services at 905-727-3123 extension **4350** weekdays, Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 4:30 pm. Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services at the same address, faxed to 905-726-4736 or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and Number.

Personal Information Collection Notice
The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees under the legal authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.P.13, as amended. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be a public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act. If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 905-727-3123.

Audio and Video Recording of Council and Committee Meetings
The Town audio and/or video records Public Planning Meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council or its Committees, you may be audio or video recorded. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be a public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act.

DATED at the Town of Aurora, this 27th day of June, 2019

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting residents in older neighbourhoods?

Councils have tried to protect older neighbourhoods in past years and failed. The difference this time is that Aurora has new Planning Policy in place since 2012 in our Official Plan (OP). It includes many protective Fundamental Principles and Development Policies.

The Ontario Planning Act mandates Councils to review all zoning by-laws for compliance with OP updates.

Although Aurora did a "Comprehensive Review", the Zoning By-laws for our older "Stable Neighbourhoods" were never included.

I brought this to Council's attention in October 2017. I thought we could correct this oversight quickly and easily before the new building season arrived. We had so many residents dismayed by the negative effects of the new very large homes. Their quality of life, including loss of privacy, sunlight, air flow, streetscape and mature trees, was at risk.

For over 18 months and 10 Meetings so many residents came to Council to keep asking for help. (For two of these Meetings residents very opposed to change came forward).

What protection did residents ask for? Reduce the allowed lot coverage to less than 35% so house size will be more in keeping with existing homes. Reduce allowed height so new homes will not tower over them and limit light and privacy. This is clearly in keeping with OP policies in Section 8. "All new development within the 'Stable Neighbourhoods' designation shall respect and reinforce the existing physical character and uses of the surrounding area, with particular attention to the following elements: the building type of nearby residential properties, the heights and scale of nearby residential properties, the setback of buildings from the street."

What did residents get? None of the protections they pleaded for.

What did Aurora lose? The character of mature neighbourhoods that make Aurora unique, less choice for residents who want to buy smaller homes; and a decrease in affordable rental housing so lacking in our community.

I could not vote for zoning changes that will not benefit the majority of my residents in these neighbourhoods and the wider Aurora community.

Councillor Wendy Gaertner
Aurora

Words matter when it comes to Pride: resident

Last weekend was #YorkPride and Aurora was #AuroraProud.

Aurora is always proud and has many reasons to be proud. When it comes to LGBTQ2 and celebrations, we should be proud.

Just one thing, if we want to be proud let's be accurate. The official word is PRIDE.

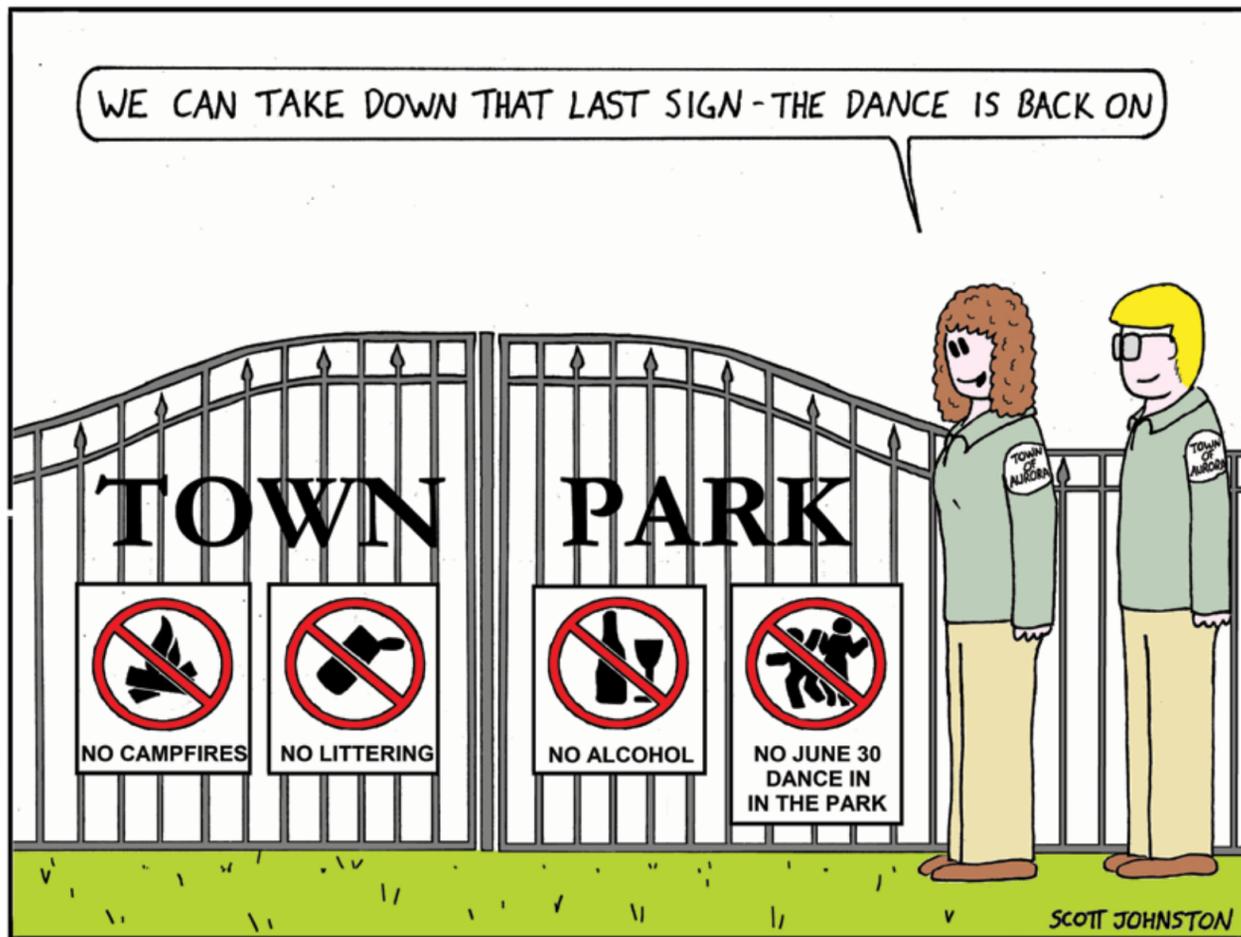
When I search #AuroraProud on social media, I see posts of everything from sporting events, local farmers markets, local political statements, pita sandwiches, to active participation challenges.

I see posts from our friends in Aurora, Colorado as well as our hometown. That makes us all proud and we should be.

When I search #AuroraPride, I see many posts from Aurora, Colorado celebrating PRIDE but not so many

Continued on page 6

Machell's Corners



The curse of being cute

Recent statistics pegging general human life expectancy at a decline or, at best, stagnating after a steep incline are alarming, to say the least.

It has been said by experts that, for a variety of reasons – the opioid crisis, environmental degradation, poor diet, etc. – the upcoming generation will be the first one with a shorter life expectancy than the previous.

Only time can say whether this forecast will bear withered fruit, but I guess some might take comfort in the fact that age, and what it means to be a senior – or, to get right to the point, "old" – continues to be on that strange and mystical sliding scale.

Not too long ago, Freedom 55 was an aspirational goal. It still is for many, but it seems from my armchair perspective that as people zero in on that arbitrarily-decided goalpost, that more and more individuals are balking at the idea.

Retirement sounds great on paper, some have told me, affording them the chance to travel with their loved ones, something they weren't really able to do working themselves to the bone with their eyes on this particular prize, but, once it arrives, the idea of packing it all in for a life of leisure is daunting. They feel they have, so much more to give, so much left still to accomplish in their careers, and the idea of sliding into a well-earned retirement is rather suffocating.

50 is the new 40, they said. Several years ago. Now, even that seems more of a long shot. Nowadays, people who have hit the mark insist that life begins at 50. You have a good decade or three under your belt to make a name for yourself in your chosen field, you've saved enough to buy a nice home and, thanks to the wonders of science or Mother Nature being in on this Dorian Gray-like pact, some on the cusp of the half-century mark are finding themselves with a young or new family to raise.

Yet, while our attitudes towards aging continue to evolve – and, in my opinion, evolve for the better – it doesn't appear that our attitudes towards the aged are following suit. I think it's a safe bet to say that many of us grew up with idealized visions of what our grandparents should be. Whether we were influenced by storybooks, depictions on film and television, or the grandparents of our peers, more often than not our shared



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

visions of what constituted being a grandmother as rather idealized: a bespectacled woman, shawl over her shoulders, snow white hair styled into a soft, tidy but manageable coif, possibly a cameo pinned to the neck, who lives for nothing more than whipping up home cooking in the off-chance her grandkids might pop by.

On the grandfatherly side of things, what kid didn't have a vision of an equally kindly gentleman who spent his mornings in a comfortable old armchair, half-moon reading glasses at the tip of his nose, ready to consume everything he could in the daily newspaper before starting his day – which, of course, was invariably spent woodworking, handing out hard candies to the kids, or relining a fishing pole before taking little Bobby or Suzie out for the morning catch?

Some of us might have lucked out in getting at least some of that in our respective genetic bargains, but it's probably safe to admit that the hand we were dealt was much more complex and interesting.

If we were fortunate enough to get to know our grandparents, we came to find that under the silver tresses, and the odd wrinkle here and there, were true individuals, each with their own life experiences, wisdom to impart and, regardless of age, their own goals for the future.

So, where along the line do people on the younger side of fifty take leave of our senses and begin treating them like children?

This came up in a conversation over the weekend when a discussion amongst a group of friends turned to four nonagenarians still very active in public life.

Now in their nineties, they have been in the public eye for the majority of their lives, making inroads into our public consciousness through various means, including media today that wasn't even a thought when they first

started out.

Throughout their work, they have been at the forefront of our modern life, embracing new technology as it came along, taking it over in a way which worked for their individual style, and mastering the art of communication.

For the majority of their careers, they were seen as driving forces in their field, the undisputed bosses in their profession, quick to respond, adapt as change demanded, and, ultimately, individuals not to be trifled with.

All of those things apply today – they still have a strong presence in what they do, are exemplars to newcomers in their fields, and still adept to the rapid pace of our modern world – but, to many people, they are seen as something more. Something that sounds nice on the surface, but when that surface is scratched, is rather more unsettling.

That something is: cute.

This whole "cute" thing seemed to happen overnight. As soon as they crossed a rather arbitrary age threshold, all of a sudden, they were increasingly victimized by volleys of, "Look at them. They are so cute," by people apparently keen to disregard the fact they are still vital, forward-thinking individuals, still at the top of their game. By invoking this word, those uttering it veer dangerously close to condescension, demoting a seasoned veteran of life into the same column as a precocious child.

In these particular cases, I've never really seen them as cute, appreciating them for what they still have to offer the world, which they thankfully do with a regularity that belies their years. In other cases, however, I am ashamed to say I have been guilty, trying to invoke memories of their past rather than giving them a hand, if needed, in being an active member of the present and future.

And, yes, suddenly finding myself viewing my once vital, active, engaged and present grandparents "cute."

With our rapidly aging population, I think we should all be mindful of this and make a concerted effort to catch ourselves before we fall in the trap, keeping in mind how we would feel if we were suddenly on the other side of that invisible, arbitrary line, and finding ourselves "cute" in the eyes of others. Personally, I would be mortified – and I'm bound and determined to do my utmost to avoid the pitfall.

THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8, Aurora, L4G 1L8
Main number 905-727-3300 • Fax number 905-727-2620

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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 celebrating... The 50th Anniversary of Canada's Birthday Town!

You may have heard that Aurora is Canada's Birthday Town, but do you know how that came to be? Officially, this title was established on June 9, 1969, when Town Council approved a proclamation declaring Aurora as Canada's Birthday Town. Many enduring traditions began, including parades, live music, races, competitions and games. The Merriken family captured these images during the 1979 festivities.

Skate Park



Getting Things Done

Mayor
Tom Mrakas

This past week at General Committee, Council addressed the ongoing issue of the Skateboard park over at the AFLC.

Anyone that has followed the issue of the renovations and upgrades that started during the end of the 2010-2014 term and finished at the beginning of last term are fully aware that there were some serious issues with the construction of that facility. The project was not only delayed but there were multiple deficiencies and attendant legal issues as a consequence.

The skateboard park was, unfortunately, part of a mismanaged project.

Last term, we – Council – worked hard to ensure that this type of project mismanagement would not happen again. First, I brought forward a motion to ensure that, moving forward, liquidated damages (penalty clause) are part of every contract.

This is to ensure that there are penalties should a contractor not fulfill the contract.

Second, our new CAO was brought on board and organizational changes made to ensure that future projects would not face the same management issues. As part of the organizational changes, our new Director of Finance will be looking to make some changes to our procurement processes - as awarding contracts to the lowest bidder is not always the most cost-effective way to do it.

Third, we set a policy to have a project manager in place for all future capital projects.

Does this mean that there will never be an issue with a future project? No. Unforeseen issues can and do arise in any

project. However, we – Council and staff – have put measures in place to limit the Town's – and taxpayers' – exposure to the risks that come from the deficiencies that arise due to mismanaged projects.

So, the bigger question then is, where does that leave the skate park? Well, the issues with the skate park began with a few concrete cracks (nothing serious). These cracks were identified and attended to. What no one knew about was what lay beneath the surface. After repeated attempts to fix the cracks, staff realized it was more than just expansion and contraction cracks. A hydrological test was done and it was found that the sub flooring, gravel and prep work before the pouring was not done properly or missing altogether.

Now the Town is facing \$600K in costs to fix the skateboard park!

I think I can speak for everyone when I say we are all very angry about the current situation. Council has asked the Town solicitor to look into what if anything can be done to recover our costs.

So, what are our options moving

forward? Well, we have two options: repair a Town amenity that is highly used by residents, or we could shut it down and not move forward in providing this service for our residents.

My choice is to move forward with providing this in-demand service, proceed to take whatever steps possible to recover costs incurred and know that moving forward we have processes in place to mitigate the impacts of any future occurrences.

Every member of Council works to ensure that taxpayer money is spent responsibly.

We are building on the hard work of our previous council that put a number of measures in place to make sure that projects did not take a turn for the worse like the AFLC.

I believe that it isn't enough to simply say you're "looking out for the taxpayer's money", frankly every politician will tell you that. But if you don't have anything to offer by way of a solution? Then it's just talk and just talking about it won't get things done.

That is why this Council is moving forward with new policies and new organizational changes to ensure that taxpayer money is well looked after.

Council was provided with all the information needed to make a decision.

And, as I said, the option at this point was simple: Repair the park or close it down. The vote to repair the Skate board park and continue to provide this high, in-demand service for our youth was 6-1 with Councillor Gallo opposed.

Help Wanted: Personable, Organized Person Needed at Shoppers Drug Mart

I first met Buster Flynn some twenty plus years ago in Aurora.

It was sometime between 1997 and 1999. I had become engaged to Julie and although I was still living in Mississauga at the time, I was regularly attending the Sunday morning church service at Our Lady of Grace Church.

The first person I met upon walking into the church that initial morning was Buster who was serving as a volunteer usher.

We have become friendly ever since.

I look forward to seeing Buster's smiling face every Sunday morning and talking to him before the church service about family, his grand kids or the current status of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

He has been involved in many facets of the church's life since 1975 and has worked with every leader, from the original parish priest, Father Lynett to the current pastor, Father Frank McDevitt.

I also would inevitably see Buster either at the local Shoppers Drug Mart or driving around town in his Shoppers Drug Mart vehicle delivering prescriptions and other goods to seniors.

Two weeks ago, Buster, who is now 74, let me know that he was retiring from this part time job.

Buster had already retired from North York Hydro 23 years ago and then started delivering prescriptions on a part-time basis for Doane Hall.

He said that his wife Betty and he decided it was the correct time to retire. They want to spend more time with their children and grandchildren.

He said that working for 53 years was "enough", but that he will miss meeting with the folks and striking up friendships over the years.

He said that it is a great job; "although I



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

was not doing it for the money, it was very rewarding meeting people..."

Shoppers therefore needs a replacement.

This is more than a job to Buster; it was a calling.

Buster worked three to five hours per day, five days per week. He would go into Shoppers twice per day, first at 9 a.m. and be done his morning deliveries by about 11:30 a.m. He would then go in again at 2 p.m. and be done by about 3:30 p.m.

He would usually perform about 15 to 20 deliveries per day, although he has done as many as 40.

Buster also looked after deliveries for the Shoppers Drug Mart on Yonge Street in the south part of Aurora.

Buster said that the owner would consider an applicant who wants to do one shift only, beginning at either noon or 1 p.m. and going to 4 p.m. or 5 p.m., instead of a split shift.

This job requires someone who is very much a "people person" and is very well-organized.

For many of the people that Buster visits, this is their only point of contact

with someone on a weekly or monthly basis and otherwise these people would have to take a cab or hire someone to bring them their prescriptions or other items.

This position requires someone who is trustworthy and honest.

Buster has had access to some senior's residences and if the person was not there he would either put the goods and medicine in their fridge or on the counter.

According to Buster, the position does take a bit of time to get organized and to become efficient. The driver wants to devise the best and shortest delivery route, so that they don't go back and forth.

It helps if the applicant know the streets around Town.

The delivery vehicle is provided by Shoppers. The applicant only need a clean driver abstract. The abstract can be obtained from the local license plate office. Shoppers will pay for the cost of the abstract.

If you are interested in this position, please go into the Shoppers Drug Mart at the corner of Yonge and Aurora Heights and either speak to Ken Mo, the Owner/Pharmacist or Rob the front store manager.

Also, please feel forward to pass this on to someone who you would think this opportunity would be a good fit.

The position is to be filled immediately. A special shout out and thanks to Buster for all the things that he has done in our community as a volunteer over the past fifty years. I hope Betty and Buster enjoy a long, fun and fulfilling retirement together.

Stephen can be contacted at
stephensomerville@yahoo.com



TIME TRAVELLER'S DIARY

Marilyn Merrikin
Community Time Traveller

A Great Time to be a Kid!

It was July 1, a widely anticipated day by children and adults alike in our little Town of Aurora; We were Canada's birthday town and it was parade day!

My best friend Kelly and I were (not so patiently) waiting with our Aurora Girl Guides group, along with about 30 other children brimming with excitement and eagerness to take part in the annual Kids Costume & Bike Parade.

We would assemble at the old Canadian Tire, or some years at Town Park, for the judging of our bikes and costumes.

It did not matter who won as all the ribbons and buttons were the same, and besides we were far more excited for the real prize – a complimentary bag of popcorn and candy at the finish line.

We would line up behind the Town Crier and Sparky the Police Car. Who could forget that? Followed by the big red roaring fire trucks. For all us kids in the 70s, it was our small moment in the spotlight together, a celebration of laughter and being a part of our close-knit community.

As the parade started, you could see the crowds who lined the streets grow larger, and the vendors with their overinflated balloons and cotton candy start to buzz. The cheers and excitement grew louder as the flags strolled by, held high by the men and women of the Aurora Legion Branch 385.

Yonge Street was filled with marching bands, clowns, mascots, decorated fancy floats and parents wildly snapping pictures of anything in sight!

Children began creeping closer to the edge of the curb, waving madly at passing floats in hope of snatching just a little more candy.

This was a great time to be a kid, the next best thing to the last day of school – this is when summer really began for us.

Parades have always been an important way of making communal bonds stronger and more visible, as it gives the Town a sense of pride.

I will forever be grateful for the wonderful memories that came with growing up in this once small town, which I have been lucky enough to share with my own children as they took part in the Canada 150, Aurora Kids Costume & Bike Parade.

Aurora, from one family to another, Happy Canada Day.



Image Courtesy of the Merrikin Family.

Pictured here are Marilyn and her best friend Kelly all dressed up for July 1st festivities during the late 1970s. That year, they walked in the parade as Sir John A. Macdonald and his wife, Agnes Macdonald.

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Would a national pharmare plan be a good investment?

Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous poll results
Should Canada ban single use plastics?

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
JUNE 25, 2019	78%	22%	0%

Canada's Birthday Town gearing up for celebration

By Brock Weir

Canada's Birthday Town is putting the finishing touches on Aurora's Canada Day celebrations.

This Monday, July 1, Yonge Street will be a sea of red and white as the traditional Canada Day Parade marches south on Yonge Street from Mosley Street in the north to Murray Drive beginning at 10 a.m.

Always a colourful spectacle, this

year's parade will see multicultural performers, marching bands and even mounted guards, according to Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora.

"This is one of our biggest party day celebrations, but it's a party where we really get to boast about what it means to be a Canadian, and how proud we are to be Canadians," says Ms. Ware, who has been spearheading Canada Day celebrations in Aurora for the past 16 years. "I can't imagine a different way



Revellers celebrate Canada Day at Lambert Willson Park last year. Once again, that green-space just off Industrial Parkway North behind the Aurora Family Leisure Complex will be party central this Monday, July 1.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

different groups of cultural performers as well [such as] Armenian, Brazilian and Mexican dancers." Following the parade, the festivities will take on a further patriotic tone at Lambert Willson Park, with a full-day of activities planned into the evening, including a citizenship re-affirmation ceremony.

The Lambert Willson Park party will kick off with a free pancake breakfast served up by the Optimist Club of Aurora, a "passport" activity with thirteen games, each inspired by one of Canada's 10 provinces and three territories, and interactive performances from Scientational Snakes, the Toronto Kite Fliers, Engineering for Kids, a craft workshop hosted by Home Depot and a horseshoe tournament.

On stage, entertainment includes the Pontune 5 Band, Big Shiny 90s Band, Louisa and the Planets, and the final round of the Aurora Teen Idol competition, which will see the Top 8 finalists in a sing-off for the top crown.

The evening will be closed out by Sheer Heart Attack: A Tribute to Queen, and a spectacular fireworks show around 10 p.m.

"Our citizenship reaffirmation ceremony is small, but, to me, it makes a big impact," says Ms. Ware. "There are many Canadians who are born into this privilege so we've never had to affirm our citizenship as it was granted to us. This is an opportunity for all of us Canadians to express that oath in unison and that has a huge impact."

"Last year, we were faced with extreme weather with the heat advisory we had, but I want to remind people that not everyone is aware we have indoor activities as well. In the nearby Aurora Family Leisure Complex, there is a free indoor family gym, skate and swim. Not everything is solely outside; there are definitely lots of options to stay physical and be able to do a family activity together indoors."

For more information on the 2019 Canada Day Celebrations, visit www.aurora.ca/CanadaDay or call the Town's Special Events Line at 905-726-4762.

to celebrate this day than to give every single ounce of energy to contribute in some way to make a great celebration for thousands of people. I think for those who were born in Canada, it wasn't a choice we made; we were born into this privilege and it is our responsibility to be aware of our privilege and be aware as to how we can be our best versions of our Canadian selves. There are many Canadians who weren't born here, who have chosen to come here, and I think this day is probably just as special to them as well.

"We're starting our day with a great cross-section of marching bands, including one of them being the Governor General's Horse Guards, along with our local White Heather Band and our Royal Canadian Legion as well with their Colour Party. In addition to having the marching bands and floats, we're also going to have

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

from Aurora, ON. This makes me not so proud.

Next year, Town of Aurora, let's get it right, raise the PRIDE flag, celebrate PRIDE, and use #AuroraPride. For decades LGBTQ2 people have fought and continue to fight for their rights in this country and around the world. For decades we have celebrated

PRIDE with rainbow flags, parades, demonstrations, quilts, and the word PRIDE, and of this, I am fundamentally proud. Next year, Town of Aurora, let's use #AuroraPride and leave the #AuroraProud for everything else.

When it comes to my rights and the celebration of them, words matter as much as deeds.

Neil Asselin
Aurora

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Teen hospitalized after assault

From page 1

to please come forward.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact the York Regional Police Sexual Assault Section at 1-866-876-5423 x7071 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS, or leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222TIPS.com.

A police presence continued to be on the scene into Tuesday afternoon, with the YRP's Search & Rescue unit setting up in front of Town Hall and fanning out into the nearby trails system, which connects to the municipal parking lot, to conduct an evidence search.

York Regional Police Constable Andy Pattenden told The Auroran the initial call was made at Town Hall.

“The investigation is still ongoing,” he said. “We’re still appealing for any witnesses, or anyone who might have been in that trail or pass system – cycling, biking or walking – prior to or after the assault who may have seen the suspect.”

The teen, he added, was “treated for minor injuries, but the psychological injuries are far more.”

“We will be providing any supports that she would need,” he said.

As The Auroran went to press, York Regional Police were anticipating the completion of a composite sketch of the suspect.

For further updates on the investigation, check back at theauroran.com.

Briefly

STONE ROAD FIRE

Central York Fire Services responded to a structural fire on Stone Road in the early hours of June 15. The CYFS received the call at 4.19 a.m. and upon arrival at the scene, crews found heavy smoke and fire coming from the basement of a two-storey detached home. The basement was heavily fire damaged with smoke damage throughout the residence. No cause has been determined and the investigation continues. No injuries were reported. CYFS had six fire crews on scene, while call back was initiated and mutual aid was requested from Richmond Hill and East Gwillimbury for coverage. In addition, York Regional Police, York Region EMS, Enbridge and Alectra were on the scene.

COLON CANCER TESTING

Getting checked for colon cancer just got easier with the introduction of the fecal immunochemical test (FIT) in Ontario. FIT is available freely across the province through Cancer Care Ontario's organized colon cancer screening program, ColonCancerCheck. Cancer Care Ontario and the Central Regional Cancer Program recommend that people who have no symptoms and are at average risk of getting colon cancer get checked using FIT every two years. Someone is at average risk for colon cancer if they are 50 to 74 years old with no first-degree relative (parent, brother, sister or child) who has been diagnosed with colon cancer. FIT is a simple, safe and accurate at-home test that checks someone's stool for tiny amounts of blood, which could be caused by colon cancer and/or pre-cancerous polyps (growths in the colon or rectum that can turn into cancer over time). FIT replaces the fecal occult blood test (FOBT) for people at average risk of getting colon cancer. People ages 50 to 74 can discuss their eligibility for ColonCancerCheck FIT screening with their family doctor or nurse practitioner. Anyone without a family doctor or nurse practitioner can call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-828-9213. People living in a First Nation community may visit a health centre or nursing station to discuss their eligibility for a FIT kit. LifeLabs will mail eligible people a FIT kit following a request from their family doctor or nurse practitioner. Once completed by the participant, the FIT can be mailed back to the lab or dropped off at a LifeLabs Patient Service Centre (<http://locations.lifelabs.com/>).



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* Source: Levy, Slade, Kunkel and Kasl. Attitudes and Social Cognition. "Longevity Increased by Positive Self-Perceptions of Aging." online: <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/psp-832261.pdf>

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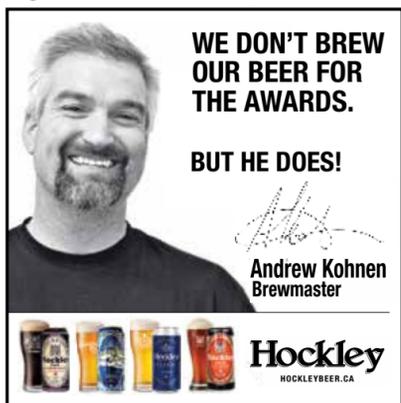


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We need to be jobs-focused, says Liberal hopeful Van Bynen



By Brock Weir

Canada needs to be jobs-focused and focused on social services, according to former Newmarket mayor Tony Van Bynen, who hopes to carry the Liberal banner for Aurora's north riding in this fall's Federal Election.

Mr. Van Bynen, who was the sole candidate to throw his hat into the nomination ring to replace Kyle Peterson, hopes to get the formal green light from Ottawa within days.

He is vying to replace incumbent MP Kyle Peterson as the party's candidate after Mr. Peterson announced his decision not to seek re-election in April.

Indeed, Mr. Van Bynen's decision to enter the race only came after talks with the MP.

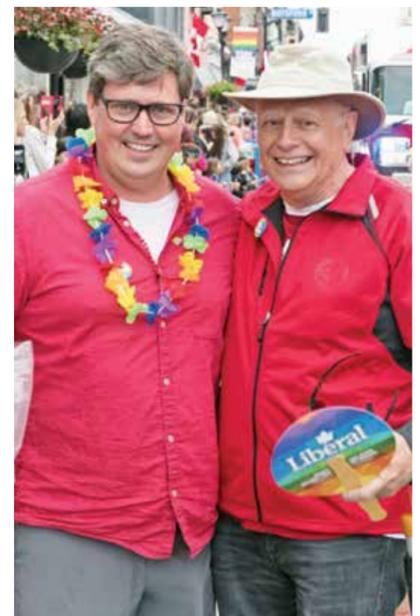
"I think Kyle has been a great representative for Newmarket-Aurora as far as the Liberal party goes and since he decided not to go forward – and, frankly, I feel he has some good reasons in his decision not to go forward – we had a conversation and I thought, 'We can't let Andrew Scheer and the Conservative Party lead this country.'"

When he first announced his decision to seek the candidacy last month, Mr. Van Bynen said his move might come as a surprise to residents of York Region as, over his 18-year municipal career, he made a concerted effort to be bipartisan. But recent decisions by the Conservatives both Federally and Provincially made him change his approach.

"I have been very conscious of being bipartisan in my role as a municipal official because throughout my twelve years as Mayor of Newmarket and eighteen years as an elected official, it was important to be able to deal with both the Provincial and Federal Liberals in government, to the extent we could best benefit our municipality and the needs of our municipality in relation to those relationships.

"I have been a grassroots person and the type of individual who takes the time to listen to constituents. I understand the degree to which Federal and Provincial decisions influence our municipality and those will be the determining issues I will take a stand on. The environment is huge and that is a responsibility of the Federal Government and I am not happy with the direction the Conservative party is taking. I think healthcare, jobs and the economy are the major issues. In very broad principles, we need to be jobs-focused, we need to be focused on social support services and when I see what Doug Ford has been doing to social programs, what he has been doing to the tax on pollution, and it is a double-barrelled concern because I am seeing the Conservative policy at the Provincial and Federal level and I think that would be a disaster for our community, for Ontario, and the country generally."

Given his role in municipal politics, Mr. Van Bynen is a very well-known figure in



Former Newmarket mayor Tony Van Bynen, right, marched in the recent York Pride Parade with incumbent MP Kyle Peterson.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

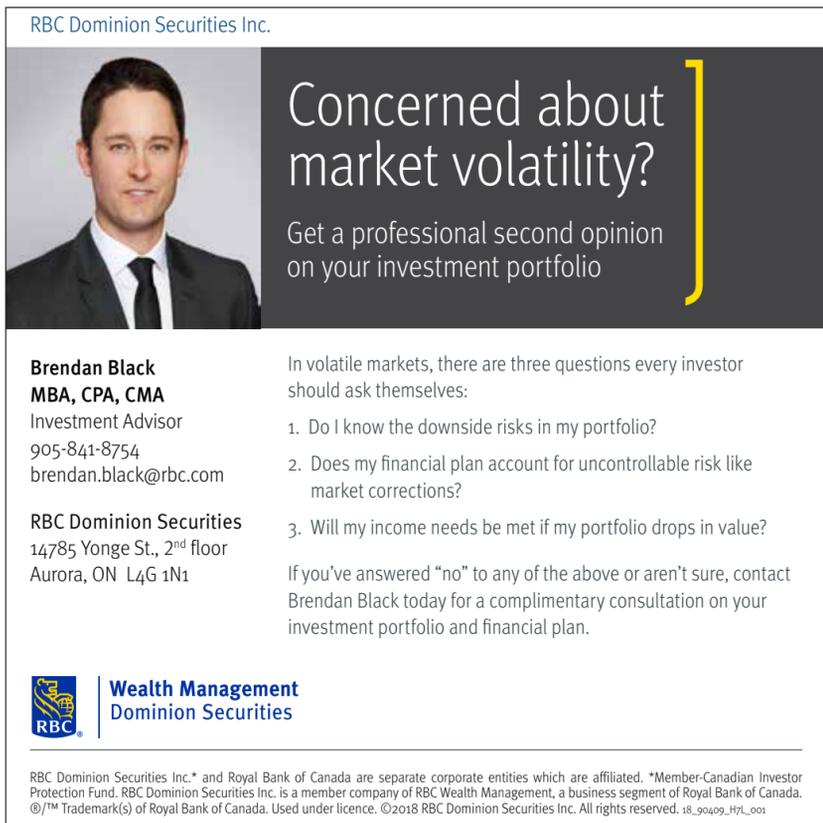
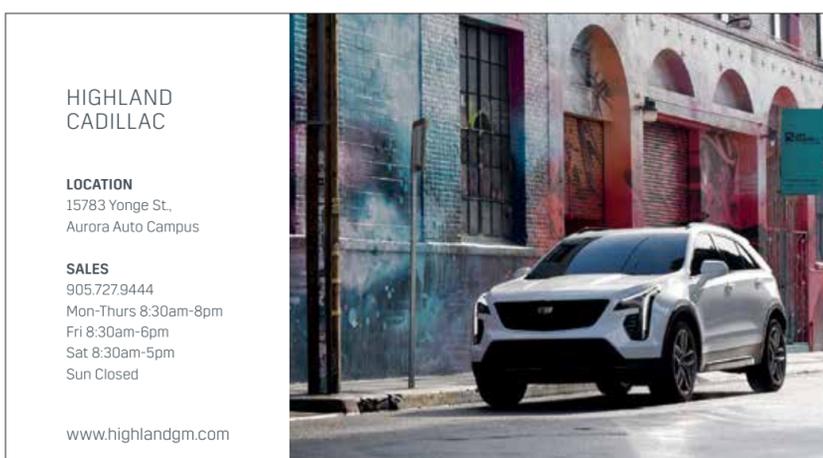
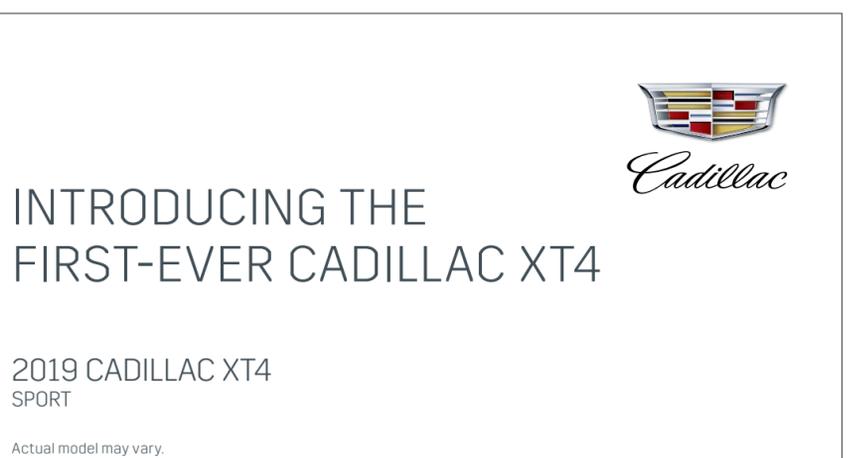
the northern portion of the riding, but here in Aurora he might be a less-known figure.

To that end, he says he will be making a concerted effort in the months leading up to October's election to get himself out there, meet as many of his potential future constituents as possible, and take note of their concerns.

"There is no question that every waking moment that is reasonable – and by 'reasonable' I mean from the residents' perspective – I will be knocking on doors," he says, of what he's most looking forward to for the campaign ahead. "Newmarket's Mayor in the Square (series of events at Riverwalk Commons) was very helpful to me in understanding issues and receiving suggestions, so I am happy to say there will be an MP in the Square where residents can sit down with me and chat informally about things that are important to people.

"I am a grassroots person. I am committed to community. I am committed to collaboration and I think there are a lot of good examples of how the collaboration between Aurora and Newmarket and the Northern Six municipalities (Aurora, Newmarket, King, Whitchurch-Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Georgina) has worked to the betterment of all communities. We have saved millions of dollars in having a joint waste management project. We have saved a lot of money in terms of having a shared insurance policy, we have shared animal control in a lot of areas, we share a fire unit. It is another example of how we can work together. I am excited to be back at doing something I really enjoy and that is meeting people and seeing what we can do to make, in the past, Newmarket even better, and now it is an opportunity to make Newmarket-Aurora even better."

Challengers in Newmarket-Aurora are expected to include former Member of Parliament Lois Brown for the Conservatives, and Yvonne Kelly for the NDP.

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Museum's film examines close ties between Aurora and Regiment

By Brock Weir

Muskets on their backs, they marched through what is now Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area prepared for enemy fire.

Their forest green uniforms contrasted against the sunlit leaves as they took their positions and waited until they got the signal.

In this case, however, the signal they were waiting for was not a sign from a commanding officer to draw their muskets; rather, it was the call of "Action!" as they relived key moments of the War of 1812.

Joggers and soccer players making use of Sheppard's Bush on Saturday afternoon could have been forgiven for thinking they fell through a wormhole into a bygone era as re-enactors took over portions of the green space to film sequences for a new short film examining the history of the Queen's York Rangers.

Commissioned by the Aurora Museum & Archives, the short will shed a new and innovative light on local links to the Aurora-based Regiment and explore stories that have remained in the background for generations.

The film, produced by Mountain Goat Film Company, has been commissioned to coincide with a new physical exhibition being mounted by the Museum this fall that takes a deep dive into the Queen's York Rangers' storied history – both here in Aurora and in conflicts around the world.

Saturday's shoot saw re-enactors breathe new life into the 1st York Militia, a precursor to today's Rangers and their service for King and Country during the War of 1812. Previous shoots have included walking in the footsteps of their forebears at the Battle of Stony Creek and the retreat from Fort George, but this past weekend "really homed in on the Aurora connection," said Michelle Johnson of the



Re-enactors filmed scenes at Sheppard's Bush on Saturday, part of a new short film on the Queen's York Rangers' regimental ties to Aurora.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Aurora Museum and Archives.

"We have been able to recover some names and some of the names are tied to different land grants from the late 1700s, so this is really helping us make that connection to actual people who were residing in this area, who went and served under General Brock during the war, and it is fantastic to know how this lineage ran," she explained ahead of the shoot. "Before, we weren't really sure about the specifics of people from this community who went and fought in 1812, but there were some documents where this was clearly spelled out." Production on the documentary began last year. Impressed by Mountain Goat's work with other museums, the Aurora Museum & Archives thought a short film would be the perfect accompaniment for their upcoming exhibition.

The Regiment is a topic they've long-considered worthy of a closer look as previous exhibitions – including those on the history of Town Park and Aurora's built history, both of which featured the historic Aurora Armoury – just touched upon the history that was available. Given the Armoury's ongoing restoration work, the Museum felt now was the perfect time to take that dive.

Helping them along the way has been the Queen's York Rangers Regimental Museum, which has opened up the archives for both records and artefacts – including a bugle presented to the Regiment following the Fenian Raids in the 1860s.

"The Museum's assistant curator has been a lifeline for us [in] just understanding the language and complexities of the

[Regiment and its name changes over the years], the ins and outs of military language and the right titles of uniforms," says Ms. Johnson. "We're really relying on a wider network to do that research, source locations and just bring it all together. There has been extensive research to get it right and we're vetting that at each level we can. The [filmmakers] have all of our research and all of the information available, and we're really trusting their vision of how they can bring this to fruition through the medium of film in a way that is compelling, intriguing, and makes best use of that medium."

"As a museum, we're constantly trying to go beyond our walls and reach people in different ways to advocate for these stories throughout Aurora's history. Last year, we used the medium of theatre with the re-staging of The Temple of Fame to draw people in and get some investment in Aurora's history and different narratives. This is just another example of how we're trying to use different media and be a bit innovative in going beyond our physical space to bring these stories out to the community and to residents and visitors alike."

"The Queen's York Rangers have an incredible history and they have very strong ties to Aurora. Being able to showcase that in an exhibit is fantastic, but not everybody can come and see it. Our hope is this little moment from Aurora's history can be accessed by people far and wide."

The Aurora Museum & Archives exhibition on the Queen's York Rangers, along with the associated documentary, will both be unveiled in September.



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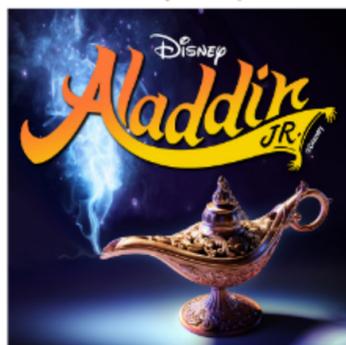
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Fashion show shines light on Elder Abuse

By Brock Weir

Local seniors have been hard at work this week getting catwalk-ready to raise awareness on a very important issue.

Hello Beautiful, a fashion show and silent auction in support of the Prevention of Elder Abuse Committee of York Region, will take place this Thursday, June 27, at Kingsway Place Retirement Residence.

Featuring a wine and cheese, silent auction, a 50/50 draw and more, the main event will be a fashion show modelled by residents, staff and the wider community of Kingsway Place.

Funds raised during the evening will help fund a new outreach position at the Committee, which aims to increase awareness and knowledge about resources with the aim of prevention and intervention of elder abuse.

“Statistics suggest that in Ontario there are between 32,000 and 160,000 older adults being abused,” says the Committee. “The abusers are frequently family members, friends, neighbours or care providers; in short, people that the abused person knows. Abuse often occurs within the seniors’ home or local community. It can also occur within institutional settings such as long-term care homes, retirement homes, seniors’ group homes, private facilities or other institutions including hospitals or specialty care settings.

“Elder abuse often occurs when the abuser uses their position of power in a way that frightens or distresses the older person. This happens because the abuser wants to intimidate (terrorize), isolate (separate the individual from friends or family members), dominate (control, restrain), or extract financial gain. Older adults are often dependent on the abuser for some assistance

such as grocery shopping, driving to appointments, helping with their banking, or general household duties. Dependency tends to increase the risk of being victimized.”

As a former personal support worker, Kingsway Place’s Valerie Bennett says she’s no stranger to seeing the impacts elder abuse can have on the wider community, noting she saw financial abuse as a particularly prevalent problem. In her role at Kingsway Place, she has brought in members of the York Regional Police to raise awareness around these issues, particularly fraud as cases like so-called “romance scams” continue running rampant on social media.

“It is not going away and seniors are growing older and the population of seniors is getting larger,” says Ms. Bennett. “Anybody I’ve mentioned Hello Beautiful to trying to sell tickets all say this is a really good cause – and our residents are getting a kick out of it. We plan to give them a framed picture of themselves in their outfits.”

On Monday, staff and volunteers were busy at work hand-crafting decorations for Thursday’s catwalk, including hanging decorations in Kingsway’s signature colours of purple and teal.

Energy is high, and now all people need to do is show up and support the cause.

Events get underway with a formal welcome from 5.30 – 6 p.m., followed from 6 – 7 p.m. with a wine and cheese and silent auction, before the fashion show itself kicks off at 7 p.m.

Tickers are \$25 per guest and available for purchase at Kingsway Place Residence (Murray Drive, Aurora – 905-841-2777 x229), from the Memories Plus Adult Program & Wellness Centre (905-270-2524) or online from eventbrite.ca/e/hello-beautiful-tickets-60428084026.



FASHION FORWARD – Preparing for this week’s Hello Beautiful fashion show benefiting the Elder Abuse Committee of York Region are Barbara Duketow, Katelin Horvath, Valerie Bennett, and Natalia Kogeniako.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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New rules could allow bylaw officers to enter properties without search warrant

By Brock Weir

Municipal bylaw officers could enter onto private property without a search warrant, if new rules are

passed by Council this week.

Sitting at the Committee level last Tuesday, local lawmakers approved a revised Private Property Protocol that will remove the requirement to obtain a search warrant for

investigative purposes, replacing this rule with a new notification process for property owners.

Bylaw officers characterize the process to obtain search warrants to conduct investigations as a “cumbersome and resourcefully strenuous process” and backed this claim with a number of examples, including one related to a dangerous dog incident this past spring.

“Recently, Animal Services Officers conducted a search warrant to seize a dangerous dog in relation to a charge under the Dog Owners Liability Act,” said Alexander Wray, Manager of Bylaw Services for the Town of Aurora, in his report to Council. “The process to obtain the warrant began in March 2019 and required multiple site visits, emails, telephone conversations and meetings with Regional prosecutors. Once the determination was made that a search warrant was the appropriate course of action, the investigating officer spent approximately five working days compiling all evidence, appendices and information to present to a Justice of the Peace for approval. After waiting for approximately three hours for the Justice of the Peace to review the evidence and information, the officer was granted permission to execute the warrant two days later.

“In order to execute the warrant to the requirements outlined, the Officer required the assistance of four York Regional Police officers, one veterinarian, one locksmith and two bylaw officers. During this time, staff resources were reallocated to ensure coverage and service standards were continued to be met. Additionally, staff encountered a cost of approximately \$1,000 to execute the warrant to pay for the services of the veterinarian and locksmith.”

The report notes that Power of Entry provisions do not infringe upon a person’s rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as “provisions found in the various legislation and in municipal bylaws have been held by the courts to be reasonable in that the legislation and bylaws state that entry onto the property is to be done at any reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.”

According to staff, a notification process and protocol will “balance the rights of residents, improve relations and maintain efficiencies with residents while ensuring public safety is not compromised.”

“The current process to notify residents that Bylaw Services has attended the property is to leave a door knocker indicating the nature of the visit (property standards, zoning, long grass, etc.) The process is informal and does not necessarily provide residents and/or property owners an official notification that Bylaw is requesting entry to property for the purpose of investigating a complaint.

“A formal notification process and protocol would be beneficial for many reasons, including balancing the privacy of residents and property owners with the Town’s rights to enter; allowing property owners to schedule appointments with the officers if they would like to be present for the inspection; promote initial conversations to occur that are not offensive and lead to better relations and improved cooperation for voluntary compliance, [and] provide a safer working environment for our officers.”

While the proposed changes received the widespread support of Council, Mayor Tom Mrakas had a different view.

“I fundamentally have an issue with someone just walking into a backyard,” said Mayor Mrakas. “To me, it speaks to privacy of those residents. I understand it has gone to court on previous occasions in other jurisdictions and municipalities and it has found they are allowed to have that right of entry power and it is not an invasion on their Charter rights, but it is just me. That’s the way I feel.

“I don’t expect everyone to feel that way, so I will be voting against this [but] staff did a tremendous job putting this together. I think if this was in front of us last term when we decided to move forward with the pilot to have warrants executed, I don’t think this would have happened. Whichever way this falls, I think as a Town and as staff, we’re going to do whatever we can to ensure the residents are done right by.”

The chips fell in favour of staff’s recommendations last Tuesday and this decision will be up for ratification this week.

“It seems to me, according to all of the appropriate plans and policies, that we can do what is suggested which basically is not making it more difficult for staff to properly investigate serious concerns on the part of residents,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. “I think that the compromise that has come through in this report is right on. We tried it a different way, it really didn’t work, so now we’re coming to move forward with this.”

Councillor Sandra Humfries, said she was more on the fence on the proposed changes, but saw the merits looking ahead.

“The process to get a warrant is time consuming and I think it costs a lot of manhours,” she said.

Added Councillor Harold Kim: “I am glad we came to this conclusion. It is a delicate balance between health and safety and privacy concerns and residents of this Town.”

Councillor Rachel Gilliland was of a similar mind, noting that property standards issues have proven to be a “real thorn in people’s sides” in issues such as long grass.

“The report has balance and you’re very specific on the procedure and I think that is what we’re all looking for – the procedure of entering a backyard when you are considering public health and safety and whether or not people are put at risk,” she said. “I think what you’ve presented today reflects what we’re looking for.”

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Sports field shortfall to rise by nearly 20 in “not too distant future”

By Brock Weir

Aurora has been short on sports fields for nearly a decade, and this shortfall is only expected to get worse in the “not too distant future,” according to Town Staff.

According to a report in front of Council this week, 19 sports fields on lands currently owned by the Stronach Group (otherwise known as the Magna Fields) will be lost to local sports groups in the coming years, pending the redevelopment of the property.

This will only make a bad situation worse, according to Town Staff, who are laying the groundwork for a new study looking at developing a field development strategy for the Town of Aurora.

“A comprehensive field development strategy is needed to help ensure that the Town is properly positioned to meet the existing and future outdoor sports field needs for the community,” said John Firman, Manager of Business Support for the Town. “This will help maximize opportunities with existing assets and provide informed recommendations for the acquisition/development of new assets. Thorough consultation with all stakeholders will ensure that all relevant input is considered in the development of this strategy.

“During Council deliberations and discussions with various sport field user groups regarding the development of the Hallmark Lands, Council identified the need for a comprehensive outdoor field development strategy. With conflicting information from user groups and extensive research required to properly develop a strategy, staff recommended an independent consultant be retained to conduct this research in [developing] a strategy.

“In addition to existing challenges in meeting community sports fields

needs, other contributing factors towards the need for a comprehensive strategy include the fact that almost half the sports fields are owned by third parties with no guarantee of the future availability to the Town. We also know that the 19 fields on the Stronach Group property will be lost in the not too distant future and will need to be replaced.”

The study will look at the inventory of existing fields and spaces, the needs of community user groups as well as future demographic projections. The results will make recommendations on repurposing some existing assets, possible land acquisition opportunities, “alternative strategies” for multiuse assets, and recommendations for the replacement of third-party fields expected to be lost down the road.

While Mr. Firman notes that recommendations in each of these areas will be coming forward to Council this fall, local lawmakers gave the tentative green light to beginning the outdoor field development strategy last week, along with signing off on \$55,000 earmarked for the project within the 2019 Budget.

“This was such a huge topic for us [and] a huge problem for us the last term,” said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. “When I was reading the report, I thought \$55,000 sounds like an okay amount of money to try and solve this.”

It is already clear Aurora doesn’t have enough land, said Councillor Gaertner, predicting that will be one of the report’s findings, but she questioned whether two-storey sports fields could be considered as part of the report.

While she said she has seen some examples of this for tennis, Robin McDougal, Director of Community Services, said she was not aware of two-tier developments that might meet Aurora’s needs.

“We acknowledge the fact that land is limited, so that is why [this study will look at] other partnership opportunities [like] school board relationships,” said Ms. McDougall. “We know from an

investment perspective replacing a natural turf with an artificial turf, we can significantly increase its usability and functionality. That is something we

Continued on page 21

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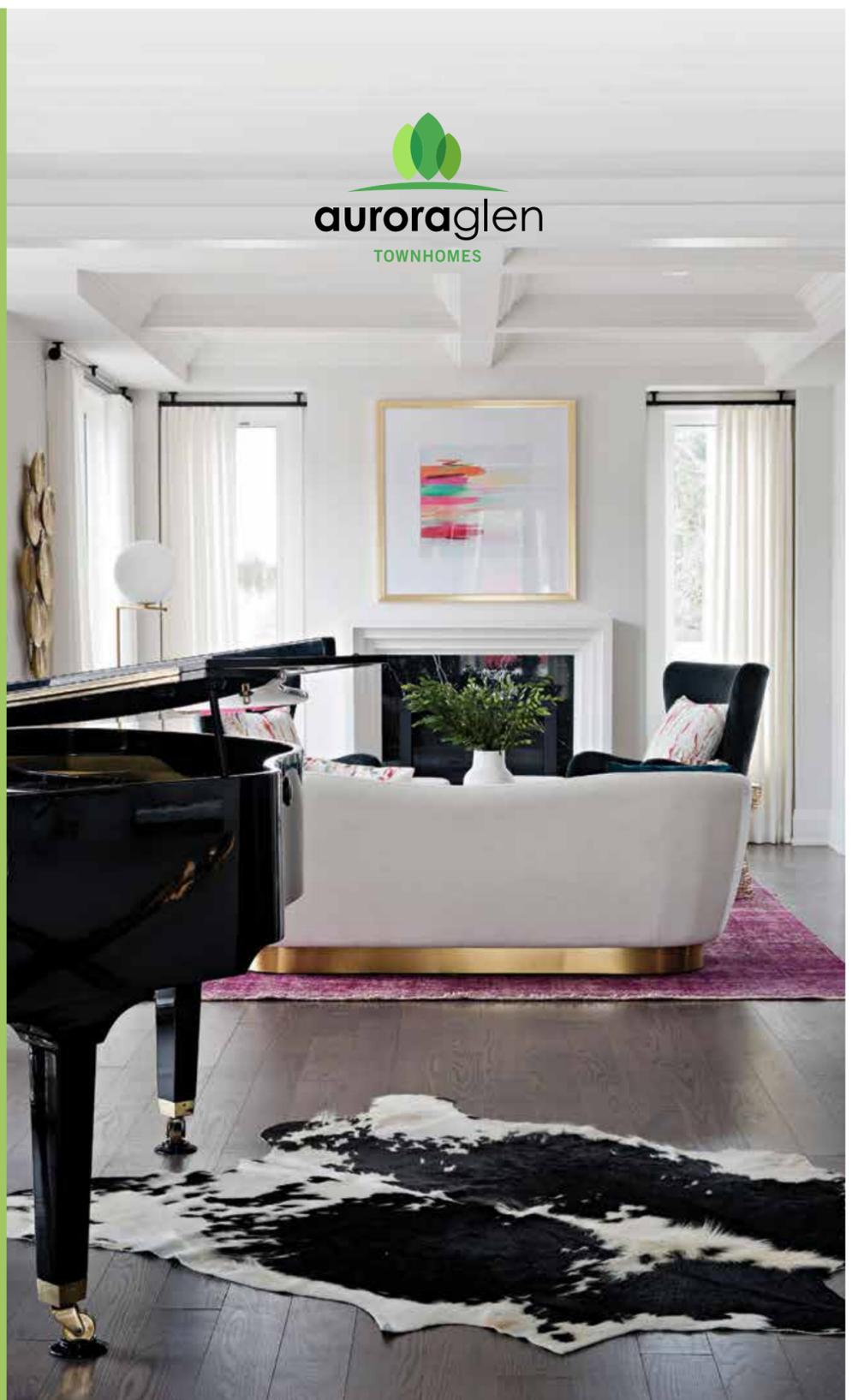
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 TOWNHOMES

Dance in the Park will continue following last-minute deal

From page 1

June 30.

Council agree to provide the Rotary Club with financial and in-kind support up to \$5,000 at last week's General Committee meeting, a decision which

will be ratified this week, following a motion from Councillor Sandra Humfryes.

"The challenge Rotary had is they are saving money for a contribution gift for Library Square...and they really need some financial support to keep this



Dance in the Park will take place this Sunday, June 30, at Town Park, hosted by the Rotary Club of Aurora. Entertainment includes Honey Jack, the Cara Lee Band, and the Glenn Marais Band. Free admission.

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ongoing tradition moving forward," Councillor Humfryes explained. "The Dance has been going on for probably over 50 years in Town Park and I would really love for us to continue the tradition. Staff have been meeting with Rotary and have determined that they can, in fact, pull it together.

"They know how to put it on, they are really excited about putting it on, they have all their volunteers lined up and even have a band. They really can't wait to do it, but they need some financial support from our side, particularly this year because they would like to present something pretty exciting to the Town. This has taken a secondary seat in their strategic budgeting."

Councillor Humfryes' motion received enthusiastic support from her colleagues.

"There are a lot of people in Aurora who get to go away for weekends and long weekends and holidays, and there are a lot of people who aren't able to go away," said Councillor Wendy Gaertner. "Those people, I found, [particularly]

love this event. I thank you very much and I think there will be a lot of people who are very appreciative because it is something they look forward to because that's how they celebrate: they don't go away, they stay in Town and they want to stay in Town Park."

Added Councillor Rachel Gilliland: "I am really big on tradition in this Town, and I think Aurora is really big on tradition in this Town. Residents will be really happy with this decision moving forward and I am glad the Town is going to be able to take this over."

Indeed, this event sponsorship was framed as the stepping stone for the Town taking this event over from the Rotary Club down the line, something which drew questions from Councillor Michael Thompson.

Councillor Thompson, a strong proponent of the Town's new sponsorship policy, which will see all community groups given equal footing in their asks for municipal dollars, however, questioned how this grant to Rotary would fit into that frame.

"We have talked about moving away from this type of situation and developing a sponsorship policy to fund all these kinds of requests, so why is [this money] coming out of the Council operating contingency budget and not the sponsorship budget we identified in the 2019 Budget as per our policy?"

The sponsorship policy, responded CAODoug Nadorozny, is an opportunity for staff to deal with requests that involve specific sponsorship activities, such as advertising, which is set forth in sponsorship guidelines. Councillor Humfryes' motion, he added, is a more unusual situation.

"This particular request is basically the funding of the entire project and would not fall within the guidelines of the sponsorship program," said Mr. Nadorozny. "This would be more than sponsorship. It would be funding the entire effort. We would need some council authority in order to fund what is a new, unbudgeted event."

Mayor Tom Mrakas said he shared concerns about providing sponsorship outside the policy as the Town is trying to move away from that, but agreed this is a very different situation.

"Instead of taking a one-year hiatus on this event that everyone looks forward to and has been a staple for such a long period of time, eventually we would either have to take this event over and have to run it in partnership with the Rotary Club or we would have to say we're giving up on this event and it isn't happening ever again," said Mayor Mrakas. "Instead of taking that one year off... this is a way of continuing it and not having that miss of the one year."

"I would prefer to see it go through Sponsorship, but I think this is different because we're going to end up taking this event over and working in partnership with the Rotary Club and the Optimists who come out and provide food services for this event. It would be a partnership, but it would be more of a Town event."

The Dance in the Park will take place at Town Park this Sunday, June 30, from 6 p.m. until midnight.

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Town tried to collect costs on faulty skate park construction

From page 3

project is unfortunate but we have moved forward, staff have learned, our CAO has learned, he has made changes, Council made changes last term... to ensure stuff like this does not happen again. At the end of the day, this is in front of us and our choice is either we have a skateboard park or we don't. So, I think my responsibility to the residents is a lot of them use the skateboard park, it is highly used, and my responsibility is to ensure they have that service they expect to have. We are in this unfortunate predicament but I think we need to move forward at this point."

Councillor Harold Kim, who was also on Council when the skatepark was completed, offered a similar viewpoint, stating that since the construction issues were identified, "we have processed a good understanding of what occurred and what lapses occurred in the process, even to what personnel and what variables contributed to having these deficiencies."

"I think there are certain things that

are not meant to be discussed in the public process out of respect and out of just common sense," said Councillor Kim. "I think it looks great to say, 'Hey, let's have more transparency' and so forth, but I don't think that's necessary. We are the proxy, the elected officials, and that's why we have things like closed session. I am not saying it is a closed session item because it is already out there in terms of why. This report states clearly in terms of the deficiencies, the materials, the techniques, the deficiencies of the contract."

Councillor Gallo, however, contended that the public needs more information.

"It is not comprehensive and it certainly doesn't give the nitty gritty of what Council has looked at, but I think it is important for the public to know that we, as their Council, hopefully watching their money, that we tried to go through a legal channel and we were not able to, for whatever reason," Councillor Gallo concluded on the report. "I think that is all they have to know, and it is a link that is missing here."



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Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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Urban design guidelines concerning for some Council members

By Brock Weir

Urban design guidelines, which could give planners a blueprint on the kinds of building materials and aesthetics that would be welcome in Aurora's stable neighbourhoods could be too restrictive, according to some Council members.

While much of the recent Stable Neighbourhood debate around the Council table centred on striking the right balance when it comes to the size of potential new builds in Aurora's established communities, some of the talks have focused on a set of Urban Design Guidelines that are due to be presented to Council at a later date.

"Urban Design Guidelines are

a place-making tool consisting of a set of written guidelines, illustrated plans, diagrams and images of buildings and places," said Andria Sallesse of the Town's Planning and Development Services Department in the report before Council. "The Stable Neighbourhood Urban Design Guidelines will be used as a tool to help ensure new development is compatible with, and respects and reinforces, the study area's existing stable neighbourhoods. The Guidelines will also promote the contextual response that supports architectural and streetscape continuity, while allowing for and encouraging flexibility and diversity.

Urban Design Guidelines were floated by Council as a means of steering the look and feel of new builds slated to go into stable neighbourhoods, but Councillor Michael Thompson said new policies could run the risk of being too restrictive.

Beginning the discussion at the Committee level, Councillor Thompson said he hasn't heard a lot of concerns from residents when it comes to building materials. Instead, much of the feedback has been around building size, massing and footprint.

"I do share some of the concerns and when I read through the proposed urban design guidelines, I am concerned they will be used ultimately as a means to restrict people's ability to build the home they want," said Councillor Thompson. "There will be choices they will not be allowed to pursue because of that determination will be made as to whether or not those are acceptable materials. I am concerned that once you put that into print it becomes an issue.

"Up to this point, I think the

Department has managed to do a fairly good job at approving plans and bringing forth for Council's approval, or through their own department, of managing that process and engaging the builders themselves and making suggestions to improve compatibility. To me, I am not sure we need the Urban Design Guidelines. I think it might create more issues for us than it resolves."

Councillor Thompson added he understood that the Guidelines were already being used on planning decisions despite them not being approved or finalized by Council. They are already guiding the decision-making process, he argued.

"At the end of the day, I don't want to stifle design; I want to encourage it."

Councillor Wendy Gaertner, on the other hand, said she believed that Urban Design Guidelines were needed, and what was also needed were these Guidelines coming back to Council for future discussion.

But Mayor Tom Mrakas supported Councillor Thompson's viewpoint, with caution, saying he didn't want to be "restrictive" because these Guidelines could ultimately end up policy.

"We don't know what is going to be in front of us once staff bring it to us," he said. "Let's see what [they] bring to us and make a decision at that point. I would at least like to see

us have that opportunity to see what staff are going to present us in those guidelines before we outright say no to them."

These sentiments continued into last week's Council meeting with members largely agreeing to wait to see what the guidelines are before making a decision, including Councillor Thompson who said following discussions with Town Planner David Waters he wanted to "reserve judgement" until the final report.

"What we need to do as Council today is decide on our reasonable zoning bylaw changes and focus on good site guidelines in these neighbourhoods separately," said Councillor Rachel Gilliland. "Good architecture matters and defines what neighbourhoods will become as they transition, especially in the Town Park area as their homes were not built as part of a subdivision."

Added Councillor John Gallo: "We have paid for this and it is basically finalizing the guidelines and it will be reported back and then we can make a decision at that point. At this point, I don't see why we would not move forward with that. We're not making any decisions, we have already paid for it, lets see what he comes up with and make a decision once we have it before us. I wasn't sure why some were not wanting that to move forward. You can disagree with it once you see it."



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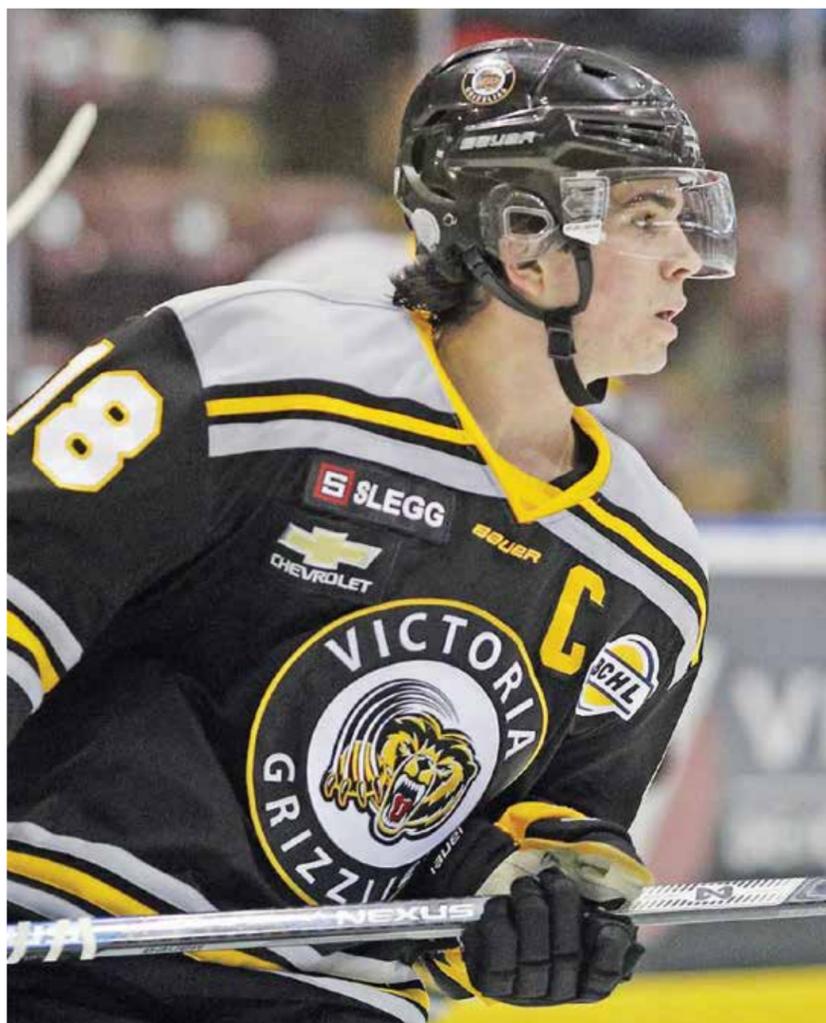
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FREE Week of June 27, 2019

SAC hockey alumni drafted into NHL



SAC alumni Alex Newhook, pictured with the BCHL's Victoria Grizzlies, was taken eleventh overall by the Colorado Avalanche in Friday's NHL Entry Draft.

Photo courtesy of Bill Sahers/Victoria Grizzlies

By Jake Courtepatte

Just a few short weeks ago, Matthew Steinburg walked across the stage for his high school graduation at St. Andrew's College.

On Saturday, he found himself walking across another stage in Vancouver; this time to put on the sweater of the NHL's Colorado Avalanche.

"I think they made the right decision," said Steinburg after the draft. "I'm just going to try to do my thing, and be a guy that they're happy they picked."

With a commitment to play for Cornell University next year of the NCAA, Steinburg has proudly worn the 'C' for the St. Andrew's College Saints over the past season, posting 75 points in just 56 games. He was also a key component in the Saints CISAA championship run, posting eight points in the playoffs en route to a title.

Steinburg said there were "a lot of reasons" why he took the Canadian prep school route to the NHL.

"From the moment I stepped on campus, it seemed like it was the right spot for me," said Steinburg, who sported his Old Boys tie on the day of the draft. "I want to represent them, and show some respect to the school.

They have done a lot for me, and I think it was a big step for my development, and one of the reasons I'm where I am now."

Chosen with the first pick in the third round of the 2019 NHL Entry Draft, Steinburg was the second SAC hockey alumni to take on the Avalanche logo over the weekend, after high-end prospect Alex Newhook was drafted with the sixteenth pick in the first round on Friday. A Newfoundland native, Newhook spent time in both the SAC and York-Simcoe Express programs before making his way to the Victoria Grizzlies of the British Columbia Hockey League.

Both Steinburg and Newhook share another similarity outside of playing at SAC and now the Avalanche together: both are east coasters, with Newhook from St. John's, and Steinburg from Halifax, making it even more of a thrill to be drafted by the Avalanche in joining Halifax native Nathan MacKinnon.

"Joining Nathan MacKinnon and Alex Newhook, they're all guys that I'm pretty familiar with," said Steinburg. "They're such high-end players. To be able to just tag along with them, and be sort of part of that journey, is really exciting."

Newhook, who was surrounded by media on Friday night following his first

round selection, said he was "on cloud nine" upon being such a high draft pick. "I've just always wanted to better

myself, always wanted to be the best that I can when I'm on the ice. I'm very fortunate to be here. It's unreal."

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Polo for Heart celebrates fortieth anniversary

By Jake Courtepatte

The scenic Toronto Polo Club was the venue for one of the Region's swankiest events on Saturday, hosting the annual Polo for Heart.

Raising funds for the Southlake Foundation, horses and humans alike reveled in a bright summer's day to come together for a good cause.

Equestrian enthusiasts from across Southern Ontario who converge on the grounds annually for a weekend of high-fashion, fine food, and the sport of kings are among the area's elite: though

at its core, the main focus of attendees and volunteers alike is charity.

In fact, an incredible \$6-million plus has been raised over the event's 39 years to help fund heart disease and stroke treatment and research.

"It's helped us do all kinds of innovative work," said Susan Mullin, President and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation, the beneficiary of the funds. "We've had a couple of 'world- firsts' at Southlake, thanks to Polo for Heart in part."

York Regional Police, the Canadian Cowgirls, and internationally renowned polo players entertained a packed house



Equestrian enthusiasts joined at the Toronto Polo Club in Richmond Hill on Saturday for the fortieth anniversary of Polo for Hearts, benefiting the Southlake Foundation.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

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of attendees, donned with the most audacious of hats and dressed to the nines.

"The money raised at Polo for Heart helps Heart & Stroke pursue our mission to prevent heart disease and stroke, save lives and promote recovery for everyone across the country," said Avril Goffredo, CEO Ontario & Nunavut, Heart & Stroke. "We know there's still much work to be done because every five minutes, someone in Canada is lost to heart disease, stroke and related conditions.

"We are grateful for the support of Polo For Heart over so many years as they help us fund research and promote awareness, and we've thrilled to join them to celebrate their 40th anniversary."

"Polo for Heart has been a long-time supporter of Southlake and over the years has made a tremendous impact for tens of thousands of patients served through our Regional Cardiac Care Program, the third largest in Ontario," said Mullin. "Southlake serves cardiac patients from York Region to as far north as Muskoka. We simply could not do it without this kind of support

that is crucial in helping us keep up with changing technology continue providing leading-edge care. We are excited and proud to be part of Polo for Heart once again this year, celebrating their 40th anniversary event."

Saturday's big day succeeded Thursday night's opener, dubbed "Polo Under the Stars", where guests took to the pitch for a gourmet dinner and a pair of international polo matches, all while serenaded by Juno nominee George St. Kitts.

Thursday's festivities also featured a best hat contest judged by CTV's The Social's Melissa Grello, and David Dunkley of David Dunkley Fine Millinery, who is the official milliner of Polo for Heart.

Every seven minutes, someone in Canada dies from heart disease and stroke. An estimated 1.6 million more are living with the devastating effects of these diseases, while nine in ten Canadians have at least one risk factor, such as high blood pressure, obesity, tobacco use, lack of physical activity, and diabetes.

Over 10,000 cardiac patients are treated at Southlake each year.

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Coyote problems increasing on Aurora's west side

By Brock Weir

Alyssa Perretta didn't expect to see anything unusual when she, accompanied by a friend, took her German Shephard for a walk in the Henderson Drive area last week.

But their ordinary Monday constitutional took an extraordinary turn when they stumbled across a cat's severed head lying in the grass – evidence, she says, of an increasing number of coyotes roaming hungrily through the neighbourhood.

"Once we got to the grass land, we noticed the most unnerving scene," said Ms. Perretta, 22. "We took a closer look and it seemed we stumbled onto a severed cat's head. This area is a very open and public space, not forest land. The cat's head was black with white fur down the middle of its head and towards the nose and mouth area.

"Then, upon scanning the area further we found a cat's front paw. This paw looked to belong to the same cat as it had white fur and black paddings on the bottom of the paw. There were no signs of blood around the area, there was no smell to the body part, there was no sign of struggle or fur

scattered around the scene. The head looked completely untouched. We also noticed a rabbit pelt and ripped off tail.

"We immediately contacted By Law Animal Control because of the news that the OSPCA is no longer taking animal abuse cases. Our only choice was either call 911 or bylaw. Luckily, Bylaw came within 45 minutes of the call. The officer was lovely in personality and told us how incidents like this have been reported all over Town. Stories about how dogs have been taken by coyotes, even large breeds such as a golden retriever. Everything from wildlife to family pets have been found in bad conditions.

"The Bylaw officer stated he truly thinks it is a coyote attack. Either way, it is a danger to the Town's pets and children. The community needs to understand what is at risk and what is dangerous."

Last week, The Auroran shared a story about increased coyote presence on Aurora's east side, particularly in the 2C development area adjacent to the Town's future wildlife park.

Area residents have reported a rise of increasingly brazen daylight coyote incidences and urged people to stay

alert and safe.

At the start of this month, the Town issued a notice about an increase in coyote sightings and interactions and urged residents to "exercise caution" and follow safety tips offered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry:

Make your environment less attractive for coyotes:

- Never feed coyotes or other wildlife
- Pick up your garbage. Garbage and litter attract wildlife.
- Use motion sensor lights around your property.

What to do if you encounter a coyote:

- Keep your distance and the animal will most likely avoid you

- Never approach or touch a wild animal
- Do not turn your back or run
- Back away while remaining calm
- Stand tall, wave your hands and make lots of noise
- Carry a flashlight at night
- If the coyote poses an immediate threat or danger to public safety, call 911

Keeping your dogs safe:

- Keep dogs inside at night
- Always keep your pets on a leash
- Do not leave your dog or pet food outside
- Clean up after your dog – coyotes are attracted to dog waste
- Spay and neuter your pet – coyotes are attracted to animals they can mate with

Sports field shortfall to rise by nearly 20 in "not too distant future"

From page 13

may be needing to look at, wherever there may be an investment in a soccer field, whether it be a partnership with a school or not, I think the artificial turf is a route we may need to consider. To replace those lands we're going to lose, particularly when Magna fields come offline."

To that end, Councillor Gaertner said she was "shocked" by the number

of fields Aurora is set to lose.

"This is really concerning," she said, before asking whether the Community Services Department had an idea on when this loss would come to pass.

"We haven't heard any particulars around the dates of when those lands will move forward for development," said Ms. McDougall. "We're just trying to be progressive and get ahead of it, if we can."

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GARDEN TOUR 2019

Garden Aurora (The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society) marked its 101st year with their annual Aurora Garden Tour. 10 local gardens were showcased this year, offering a cross-section of Aurora's gardening prowess including (top) backyard havens, gardens that line Tannery Creek, and green spaces perfect for a staycation.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



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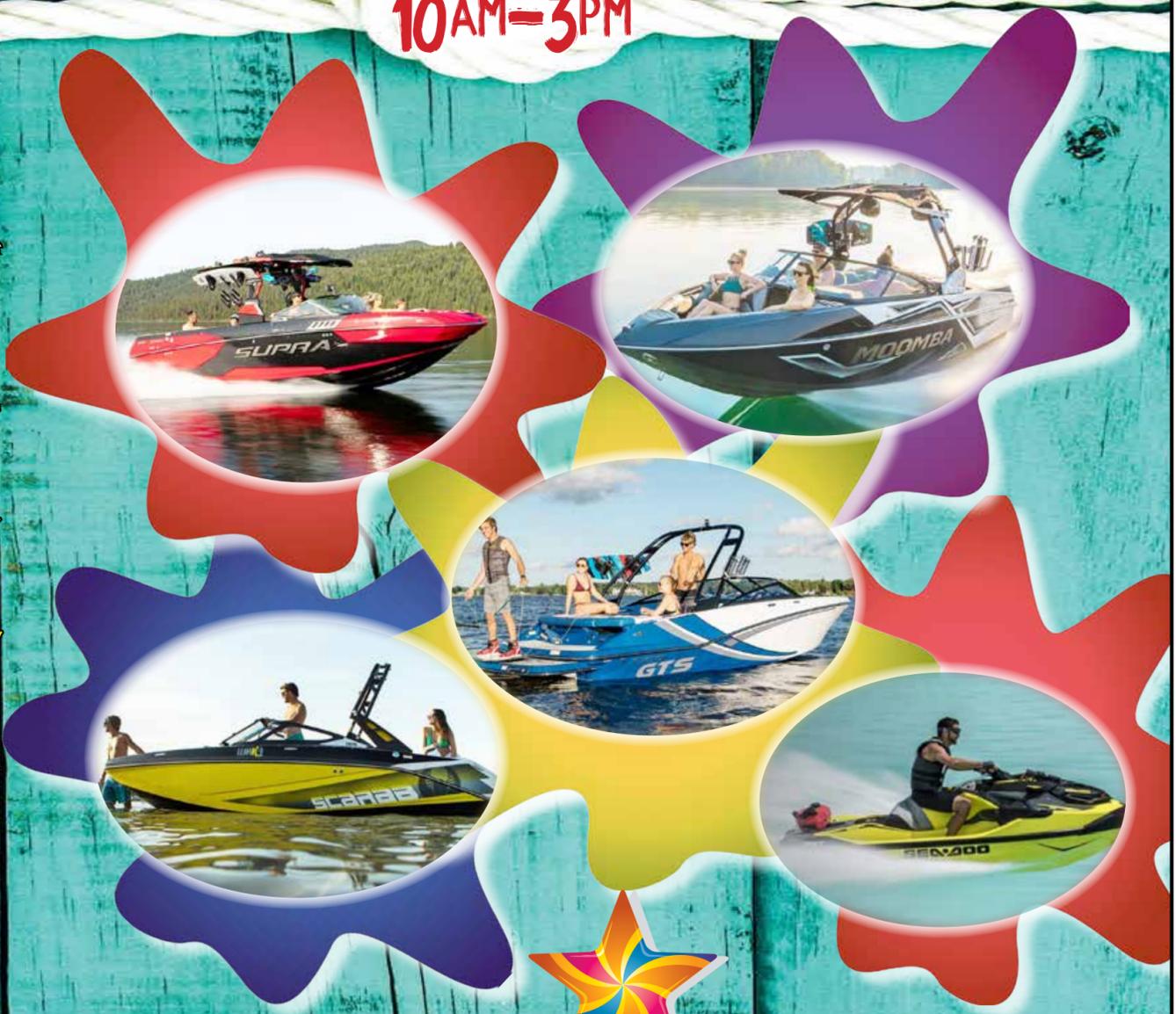
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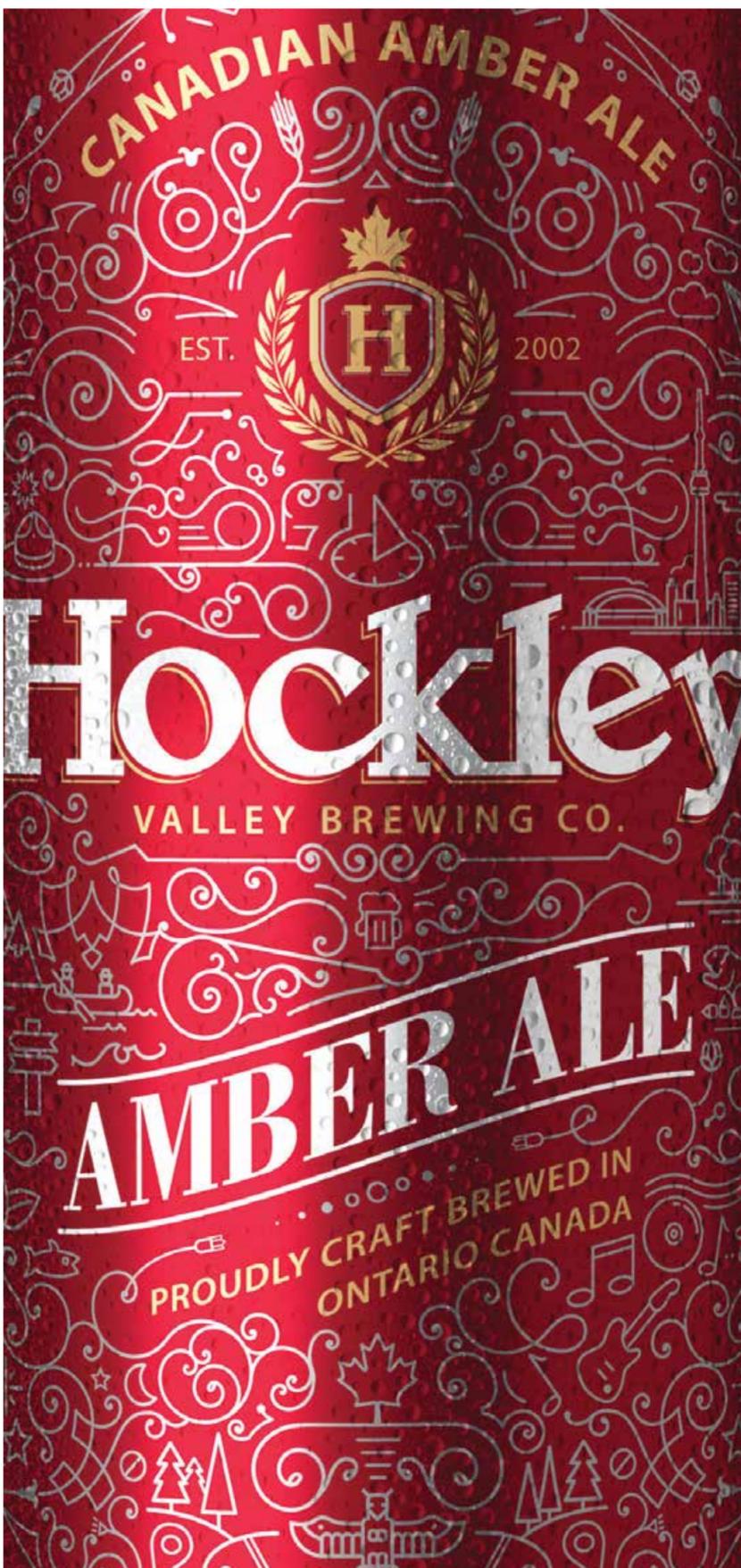
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Pride Month is drawing to a close and York Pride Fest closed local celebrations right. Before and following last weekend's Pride Parade in Newmarket, revellers were treated to a festival at nearby Riverwalk Commons. Billed as the "ultimate day of enjoyment, featuring a dazzling array of local and international entertainment," the event featured performances, food vendors, arts and crafts, face painting, animal shows, and a showcase for many local community organizations offering information on LGBTQ2+ services, service clubs, and cultural groups – including Theatre Aurora.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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60						61						62		
63						64				65				
66						67				68				

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Stores
- 6. Worthless entertainment
- 9. Where scientists work
- 13. Pretty flower
- 14. A way to act
- 15. Double-reed instrument
- 16. Type of acid
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Smooth, shiny fabric
- 19. Profited from
- 21. Secret clique
- 22. Infections
- 23. Crony
- 24. Teens go here every day (abbr.)
- 25. Suitable
- 28. Fresh Price of ___ Air
- 29. Ancient city of Egypt
- 31. Basketball move
- 33. Polished
- 36. There's a north and a south
- 38. Egg of a louse
- 39. Once-ubiquitous department store
- 41. Portray precisely
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Period between eclipses
- 46. Indicates near
- 48. Investment account
- 49. England, Scotland, N. Ireland, and Wales (abbr.)
- 51. Beak
- 52. Void of skill
- 54. Walked back and forth
- 56. A display of passion
- 60. Geological times
- 61. Type of restaurant
- 62. Spacious
- 63. Edible seaweed
- 64. Utah city
- 65. Tropical tree
- 66. Nervous tissue compound
- 67. Body part
- 68. Muscles and tendons

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Draw out wool
- 2. Give someone a job
- 3. Chemical and ammo manufacturer
- 4. Footsteps
- 5. The Palmetto State
- 6. Books have lots of them
- 7. Diverse Israeli city
- 8. It's mightier than the sword
- 9. Confines
- 10. First month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year
- 11. Idaho's highest peak
- 12. Prevents from seeing
- 14. Determine time
- 17. Father children
- 20. Tab on a key ring
- 21. Dog genus
- 23. Peter's last name
- 25. Request
- 26. Walk heavily
- 27. Allowances
- 29. English football squad
- 30. Fish-eating aquatic mammals
- 32. South Pacific island region
- 34. Unaccounted for
- 35. Small taste of whiskey
- 37. Ventilated
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. One of means
- 43. Fencing swords
- 47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 49. Turn upside down
- 50. S. African semi desert
- 52. Dutch names of Ypres
- 53. Instruct
- 55. Oily freshwater fish
- 56. Italian river
- 57. Sneaker giant
- 58. The men who man a ship
- 59. Some need glasses
- 61. Body part
- 65. Indicates position

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MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

Last Saturday was another lovely day at the Aurora Farmers' Market with blue skies and temperatures in the low 20s.

The only thing missing for us was the fact that it was designated as our annual Strawberry Festival but our farmers have no strawberries yet. The cold, wet spring has caused about a two-week delay in the usual ripening time. Nevertheless, we continued with our plans for a Special Event, minus the berries, with the Aurora Community Band playing and a draw for a market bag. We are eagerly anticipating the arrival of fresh, local strawberries soon but they may not have a dedicated day to celebrate them this season.

As I mentioned previously, we're going to tell you about some of our long-time vendors who haven't been described in several years.

So, the next vendor you haven't heard about in a while is Andre Flys of Pioneer Brand Honey.

It's been almost 90 years since Charles Sauriol began tending his first bee hive at the Forks of the Don River in Toronto. When he bottled honey in clay pots, "Pioneer Brand Honey", in honour of the Pioneers of the Don, was born.

They were saluting those who blazed the trails ahead of them and who brought "European" honey bees or Apis Melifera on the boats with them.

Until then honey bees did not exist in North America.

Today, Charles' grandson, Andre Flys, is the one who bottles honey under the "Pioneer Brand" name in Nobleton. Andre is inspired by his grandfather and his father, John, who share the passion for keeping bees.

Andre tells of spending the first Monday of each month with his Dad attending Toronto District Beekeepers Association meetings learning from their peers.

For almost 20 years, Andre and his dad were volunteers and organizers with the Royal Winter Fair Honey Bee education program.

Advocacy and education became more important to Andre as

environmental concerns began to seriously impact our pollinators.

He currently serves as President of the Ontario Beekeepers Association and teaches Apiary Management at Niagara College's commercial beekeeping program.

He also manages about 300 colonies of bees for their business, Pioneer Brand Honey. Beekeeping on that scale requires trips to almost 20 locations where they keep "bee yards".

Andre's wife, Kerrie, with daughter, Peyton, is managing their booth at the Aurora Farmers' Market this season. His dad, John, works at their farm gate store in Nobleton serving up honey samples and conversation.

Their products have expanded since Grampa Charles bottled one size years ago. Today they have pure Ontario Wildflower honey, Buckwheat honey, Blueberry blossom honey, skin cream, bug repellent, foot bars, deodorant and lip balms.

In addition, they carry dozens of different beeswax candles, bee pollen, royal jelly and propolis.

Today, beekeeping is a considerable challenge with fragmented forage space from development, highly intensive pesticide use in modern agriculture and an ever degrading natural environment.

While there might be easier ways to make a living, Andre is committed to carrying on for a few more generations.

His young children – 10-year-old Peyton; five-year-old Wesley; and three-year-old Breen all seem to have a keen interest in the bees. Andre feels that they will continue to be "bee farmers" and advocate for their honeybees and native pollinators for generations to come.

Do drop by their booth on Wells Street to see what they have and to talk to Kerrie about bees.

We're working on a plan to have Andre visit us with the bees and talk to us about the dangers that bees face today and what we can do to help. We'll let you know when that visit is scheduled.

See you at the Market!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



The strawberries might have been late to the party, but that didn't dampen the spirits of shoppers who came out Saturday for the Aurora Farmers' Market's annual Strawberry Festival. Under sunny skies, crowds came out to take part in a full morning of family friendly activities including offerings from the Aurora Historical Society, the Aurora Cultural Centre, Stories Under the Tent courtesy of the Aurora Public Library (above), face painting (right), Theatre Aurora, and more.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

Canadian Blood Services will hold a blood donation event today from 2 – 7 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion. (105 Industrial Parkway North). For more information, visit blood.ca.

York Singles – The York Singles Club, York Region's #1 social club for singles over 50, meets tonight from 7 – 9 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Legion (233 Centre Street East). The club engages in many activities and has a membership of approximately 110 people. Activities include dance, biking, euchre, bridge, bowling, media club, camping, hiking house parties, dinners, theatre and much, much more. For more information, visit yorksingles.ca or email yorksingles@gmail.com.

MONDAY, JULY 1

CANADA DAY FESTIVITIES – Aurora's Canada Day Festivities will start off with the Canada Day Parade at 10 a.m. which will travel along Yonge Street from Mosley to Murray Drive. After the parade, families can participate in many free activities to celebrate Canada's birthday at Lambert Willson Park starting at 11 a.m. There will be a lot to do including stage entertainment, food vendors, visit activities stations for all of the Provinces and Territories and much more! For more, visit aurora.ca/CanadaDay.

The Aurora Legion will host a Canada Day Barbecue, Open Mic and Karaoke Day today from 1 – 4 p.m. Celebrate Canada Day at the Legion after the Yonge Street Parade.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

SUNRISE YOGA – Set on the grounds of Hillary House National Historic Site join us for a morning Hatha yoga class from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., instructed by our friends at The Yoga Nest Aurora. After the session, enjoy a light breakfast and tour of Hillary House. \$20.00 per person. Participants are required to register prior to this program, and to bring their own yoga mat. For more information call 905-727-8991 or leigha.cooney@aurorahs.com

David and Dierdre Tomlinson invite you to visit their English flower garden, Merlin's Hollow, at 181 Centre Crescent which is open rain or shine today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This month's opening will feature summer flowering perennials, pond and water garden. Merlin's Hollow was designed by David, a landscape architect, to create a series of gardens within a garden. Enclosed by high cedar hedges, each garden has its own distinct

character and a series of arches invite visitors from one garden to the next. For further information, call 905-727-8979. The next open day is Sunday, July 14.

VEGAN EXPO – Curious about the veg-lifestyle or living a fully plant-based life? This event is for you. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Aurora Public Library. Includes everything from varieties of delicious ethical vegan cuisine, speakers, vegan vendors and more.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

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 with a good base) 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.

THURSDAY, JULY 25

The Aurora Historical Society's Speaker Series continues tonight with Ted Barris on "Dam Busters: Canadian Airmen and the Secret Raid Against Nazi Germany." It was a night that changed the Second World War. The secret raid against the hydro- electric dams of Germany's Ruhr River two years to plan, an untried bomb, and included the best aircrews Allied Bomber Command could muster – many of them Canadian. The raid marked the first time the Allies tactically took the war inside Nazi Germany. It was a mission that became legendary. Based on the personal accounts, flight logs, squadron war diaries, maps and photographs of the Canadians involved, Dam Busters recounts the dramatic story of these young Commonwealth bomber crews tasked with the high-risk operation against an enemy prepared to defend the Fatherland to the death. Special Venue: Aurora Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385 – 105 Industrial Pkwy N, Aurora, ON L4G 4C4. 7 – 9 p.m. \$5/Member, \$7/Non Member. For more information or to register call 905-727-8991 or leigha.cooney@aurorahs.com.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

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 with a good base) 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.

AURORAN CLASSIFIEDS

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- Freelance reporting work for weekly community newspapers and special projects
- Will produce stories and bylines for the events they cover
- Will be paid on a freelance/contract basis per project/story
 - Generate story ideas and follow up on news tips
 - Take photographs
- Work some evenings and weekends, as required

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
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- An interest in local issues is a necessity, as the majority of the writing for this role will be local

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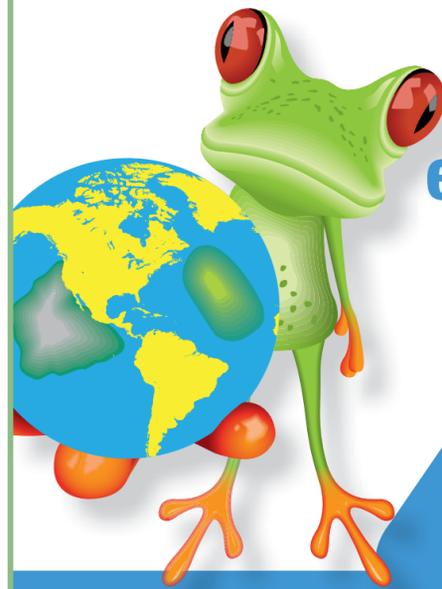
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