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Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 23 No. 37 905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of June 30, 2022



"CONSTELLATION" OF STARS AT THE BAND SHELL

Musician Wesli is seen on stage at Town Park on Saturday night at the inaugural Constellations Music Festival hosted by the Aurora Cultural Centre. This free event, which also featured performances from Okan and Tio Chorinho with Flavia Nascimento, was a celebration of Afro-Cuban, Brazilian and Haitian music. For more, see Page 16.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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U.S. court decision reminder to Canadians "work is not done," says local shelter

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Supreme Court of the United States' 5 – 4 decision last week to overturn Roe v. Wade, upending abortion rights in the U.S., is a reminder that "the work is not done" on our side of the border.

This is the view of Lorris Herenda, Executive Director of the Aurora-

based Yellow Brick House, a shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Women looking for help at Yellow Brick House seek their services for a variety of reasons, says Ms. Herenda, and unwanted pregnancies, although not a sole reason, can be "part of the mesh of issues" that a family can be dealing with.

"It's a whole combination of methods and controls that her

perpetrator uses to control her," says Ms. Herenda. "Sometimes unwanted pregnancies [are part of that]. Sometimes it's a tool that can be used to control the women, ensuring that there is a vast number of children that are in the family that are above and beyond their physical ability to manage."

When the Supreme Court of the United States' (SCOTUS) decision

Continued on page 18

Concerts in the Park opens 25th season July 6

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora's popular Concerts in the Park summer series will open its milestone 25th anniversary season on July 6, with a little music for the soul.

George St. Kitts will take over the Town Park band shell next Wednesday with a mix of soul and R&B which has earned him two Juno Award nominations.

Continued on page 6

TIME-HONOURED TRADITION – Max tries his hand at making a corn husk doll at Town Park as part of the Aurora's programming for National Indigenous History Month.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Proceed with caution this summer as COVID may be on the rise again, Public Health warns

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Summer is here and so are plans for holidays and get-togethers – but as the warmer weather settles in and the holiday weekend approaches, there are signs that COVID-19 may again be on the rise throughout the community.

This was the message delivered by Dr. Fareen Karachiwalla, Associate Medical Officer of Health for the Region of York, in the department's bi-weekly COVID update.

There has been a slight increase in COVID-19 in York Region when measuring signals in wastewater, she said, but it is too early to know what this means in terms of the impact on the community.

"We're continuing to monitor this early trend and will share any information as soon as we know more [but] regardless of increases or decreases we see in our wastewater, we do know that COVID-19 is still very present in York Region," said Dr. Karachiwalla. "Hospitals are experiencing capacity issues and staff absences are still a serious problem. While the hospital admissions are lower than they were earlier this

year, COVID-19 continues to strain our acute care system.

"This summer, in order to keep things at bay, there are a few important things you can do. Continue with your plans but proceed with caution. Don't forget that Omicron and its variants are more easily spread. Take things outside when you can for better ventilation, carry a mask with you so that if you do find yourself in one of the three Cs – confined spaces, crowds, or close contact with others – you can put it on."

It is also important, she added, to monitor yourself for symptoms and remain home if you're unwell.

"The single most important thing you can do at this time to ensure you and your family and friends stay safe during a summer where things are looking up and people are more comfortable to go on vacation, to family cottages and the rest, is to keep up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines," she said. "Immunization remains a very safe and effective way to help prevent becoming very ill from COVID-19 and York Region Public Health clinics are now accepting walk-ins for all doses. Remember, while COVID-19 vaccines are pretty good at preventing you from getting COVID, they're even better

at preventing you from getting very sick and needing hospital or ICU care if you do get the infection.

"For the most part, up to date means two doses if you're between five and 11, three doses if you're over 12, and four doses if you're over 60. People over the age of 60 have been eligible for their fourth dose for some time now, so if you haven't received it yet you should do so right away. Those people eligible for a fourth dose are more vulnerable to serious effects if they get COVID-19, like a higher chance of being hospitalized or getting very sick. Don't hesitate to get the extra protection immediately."

Even if you have already had the COVID-19 virus, there is still a risk of re-infection after "some time," she cautioned, and the protection

the vaccine offers is still needed.

"With every infection there is a risk that experts are still learning more about on developing what people are now calling 'Long COVID.' Interestingly, there's early evidence to suggest that people with two or more vaccine doses are actually at a lower risk of getting long COVID if they do get infected. Thank you to those who are up to date on the number of vaccines needed for the best protection. We know that many of you are eager to get your little ones under five vaccinated as soon as possible, given the news of an approved vaccine across the border. Details should be coming soon about the rollout in Canada and we will share any information for vaccinations for this age group as soon as it is available."

Police seek witnesses to accident

A 26-year-old Newmarket man is dead following a collision in Aurora on Thursday morning.

Police are searching for witnesses to the collision which took place at 10.05 a.m. in the neighbourhood of Yonge Street and Gilbert Avenue.

"On Thursday, June 23, 2022, at approximately 10:05 a.m., York Regional Police were called to the area of Yonge Street and Gilbert Avenue, for a report of a collision involving a Volvo and an EMMO electric bicycle (e-bike)," said York Regional Police Constable Laura Nicolle in a statement. "The rider of the e-bike, a 26-year-old

man from Newmarket, was sadly pronounced deceased in hospital. The driver of the Volvo was not injured.

"Investigators are appealing to any witnesses who have not yet spoken with police or anyone who may have dashcam footage of the collision, to please come forward."

York Regional Police is asking anyone with information to contact the Major Collision Investigation Unit by calling 1-866-876-5423, ext. 7704, or to call Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS, or leave an anonymous tip online at www.1800222tips.com.

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SARC gymnasium project set to move forward with \$11.1 million price tag

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The addition of a single gymnasium at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex is set to move forward this week with a price tag of \$11.125 million.

The project, with this most recent budget increase of \$2.295 million, was given the tentative approval by Council at last week's General Committee meeting.

The new gym space, once completed, will help meet the needs of the current population as well as future growth, but some Councillors were left questioning whether it will really make a big enough dent in the current deficit of recreation space.

"This particular journey to build a gymnasium at the SARC began almost five years ago and came out of the Parks & Recreation [Committee, and] through the process we have looked at various iterations and here we are tonight hoping to move forward," said Councillor Michael Thompson last week, summarizing the process, which began with a look on whether the SARC could accommodate one or two gymnasium spaces. "As we look at the revenue model going forward, we're fairly confident it will be well-utilized...and will address a service gap.

"In hindsight, it would have been good if we had the gym built in 2006. We know the costs would have been considerably less. We have seen year over year the cost increase and why the issue was brought forward five years ago. My preference would have been to build it then. It is what it is. We're here tonight, I think the need is there, it has been demonstrated over and over that we need to move forward with this gym."

Similar views were expressed by Councillor Harold Kim that the new gym, once approved, will be greatly used. "Our population is going to be increasing [to] 85,000 by 2051," he said. "The inflationary environment we have found ourselves in the last six months, costs are always rising and it is not a matter of whether we should build it; we should build it and I am in full support."

But not all members were in support of the proposal.

Councillor John Gallo said while he was "not debating the need" for the facility, he said he would not support it as the "costs are outrageous." He also questioned some of the tweaks that have been made along the way following consultation with sport user groups, which resulted in bleachers and showers being taken out of the equation.

Councillor Gallo said these features would be an "asset" if part of the rationale moving forward with the gym was to provide further opportunities for the Town to host tournaments.

"What they told us was that on a regular daily use they would not use them," said Recreation Manager Lisa Warth on the feedback she received on bleachers. "They come into the gym and they have their bags, they put them on the floor and they go and do their activity. For as special event, there may be a need for seating and we would bring in temporary seating. We would just set up rows of chairs that are already available in the facility and they told us that would suffice."

Sports groups said that rather than needing showers, the users would "come dressed, do their activity and leave," she added.

"We're putting a lot of emphasis on our user groups and I appreciate their input, don't get me wrong, but they may also have it wrong," said Councillor Gallo. "I don't think it is the right approach to simply take what they want or don't want. We're building for a community here and personally I would have [explored that] a lot more. We have to take a more global approach when we build these things."

The Councillor added if the gym was going forward, Council and the Town needs to work to "make it the best it can be" and not remove things from the budget "that may have value just for the sake of that."

Councillor Wendy Gaertner also opposed the gym plan, but for a different reason.

"I think we need two gyms for our population growth," she said. "To me, one gym is not going to solve the problem. We need to figure out where to put two gyms, even if it is one gym on top of another. One gym is not going to get us to where we want to go. We want to have sport tourism. We want to be able to service

our current and future populations, and the price tag is really high for one gym."

Adding two gyms to the SARC was previously ruled out by Council as doing so to the recreation centre's current footprint would result in encroachment onto environmentally sensitive areas and could disrupt the adjacent David

Tomlinson Nature Reserve.

Should this additional gym be approved by Council this week, it will stand at 8,000 square feet, include two changerooms at 620 total square feet, a storage area, a renovation to existing administrative and customer service areas at the SARC, and provide flexible space.



KINGSWAY HONOURED – On Friday, Kingsway Place Retirement Residence received the Consumer Choice Award for Business Excellence. The honour, which was presented to staff outside their Murray Drive building, honoured them as the best such residence in York Region.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stronger action needed to combat hate in schools: Pflag York Region, CAYR

Over the last year YRDSB has informed us of a number of anti-queer incidents and hate crimes from across the region. This month alone, two incidents involving the burning of a Pride Flag and damage to a flag pole flying a Pride Flag are amongst many incidents that have been reported to us.

Within the board, these acts of discrimination and bigotry can be reported into a tool available to all students and staff to ensure victims are supported and incidents investigated to hold perpetrators accountable. From behaviours of concern from students or trusted adults we encourage everyone within YRDSB to use this tool and report all incidents.

Some of these incidents are also reported to York Region Police and we continue to encourage the police charge perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law inclusive of adding hate crime charges when a crime has occurred.

There are many great individuals within York Region District School Board who tirelessly respond to these incidents throughout the year supporting students, families and educators alike and sharing the services of Pflag York Region and CAYR Community Connections. It is now time our Trustees consider stronger actions and protections enshrined in board policy to better protect all marginalized communities when celebrating culturally significant events and policy protections for educators in creating intersectional learning spaces across all subjects.

Pflag Canada York Region and CAYR Community Connections remain committed to supporting everyone impacted by these incidents, connecting them with the resources they need and encouraging everyone who are sickened by the vile acts of hate to stand up and align yourselves with all marginalized communities. It is up to all of us to stand up to hate each and every day and to show our families, friends, neighbours, and colleagues there is no place for hate in any space. From our homes to our schools, businesses and public spaces - hate, discrimination, violence and bigotry are never welcome and should be held accountable to the fullest extent.

Tristan Coolman
President
Pflag Canada York Region

Open letter to Mayor Tom Mrakas

I am resorting to open letter to editor, as my multiple attempts to gain a response from you via email or social media have gone unanswered.

Perhaps on this forum, you will finally reply to me.

Last week, at my child's school graduation we had the pleasure of welcoming you to the ceremony.

It was a celebration of our children's achievements over their school career. It was nice to see you come celebrate with the community.

Where I take offence is when you took it upon yourself to post pictures of minors on your various social media platforms, along with children's last names, school they attend and town they live in.

In a world we are constantly bombarded with stories of information hacking or the dangers lurking on the internet, I find it unconscionable that you would post this information out there for anyone who might follow you, especially without permission of the parents.

As a parent, I quickly reached out to you to ask you to remove this information and after multiple attempts and several days, you finally removed the information, but

Continued on page 19

Machell's Corners



Grasping unity before it slips away

Under sunny Toronto skies last week, Doug Ford was sworn in for a second term as Ontario's Premier alongside his new and returning cabinet.

There were many returning faces to the various portfolios that make this Province tick, including King-Vaughan MPP Stephen Lecce in the Education file, and other returning faces in new gigs.

Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, for instance, has traded her role as Solicitor General of Ontario for roles recently vacated by the former Newmarket-Aurora MPP Christine Elliott upon her decision to not seek re-election; Deputy Premier and Minister of Health.

It was a time for Ontarians to see its government in action and for the Premier to set the tone for the next four-or-so years ahead. In doing so, the Premier touched upon many of his key platform planks, including harnessing the power of Ontario's vast mineral supply, the perennially elusive topic of cutting red tape, and, for better or worse, reiterating his commitment to building Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass.

So far, so the same - but given the context of world events last week, I couldn't help but be struck by what the Premier termed the "Ontario Dream."

It's often joked that cultural trends in the United States take a few extra years to take root on the north side of the border, but I think we can all agree, even reluctantly, that there's some truth in the gag.

As our southern neighbours question just what the so-called "American Dream" now represents, and even what it truly represented in the first place, we've now been presented with an equally vague idea of what it means in an Ontario context.

"There's never been a more important time for our democracy to remain strong because now is the time to unite, now is the time to work together," said Ford from the steps of Queen's Park. "We're ready to unite behind a positive vision, ready to unite behind a plan for the future of Ontario. I truly believe, I feel it in the bottom of my heart, that this is a government that must represent everyone. As long as I am Premier, this government will strive every day to represent all of our great Province. Our blue-collar workers, our labour unions, entrepreneurs and innovators, drivers and transit riders, seniors and young families, newcomers looking for good work and the Ontario dream: urban, suburban and rural communities in every region of the Province.



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

"This is Team Ontario and now more than ever we need unity because the road ahead, it won't be easy. Big challenges lay on the horizon across Canada and around the world. Inflation is driving up the cost of living to levels we haven't seen in decades and with an uncertain global economic climate we're competing against other jurisdictions for every job and for every dollar of investment, but when we stand together, when we unite, we're absolutely unstoppable."

Here, Premier Ford has given himself a tall order.

In today's heated and fractured political landscape, it's admirable that he is, apparently, striving to form a government that represents everyone, but how realistic is that idea? It is going to take more than platform planks which garnered the Progressive Conservatives one of the lowest voter shares in Ontario history to bring people together. Ontarians have already had their say, the results were clear, and they were far from decisive.

While the so-called pocketbook issues offer some avenues for people across all political stripes to find common ground, the PC's plans for affordability, housing, the environment, and healthcare have proved rife with multiple roadblocks on the road to unity.

Another pitfall, sadly, is the very idea of "unity" itself.

While we all more or less agree on what the idea actually means, over the course of the pandemic, "unity" has in many ways been co-opted by certain groups who actively seek to divide and then call for people to acquiesce to their demands in the name of that "U" word.

"There has never been a more important time for our democracy to remain strong because now is a time to unite," said Ford in a statement that bears repeating in this column space, but we're going to need more than what was presented on the campaign trail to

make that a reality.

As last week demonstrated, the fundamental rights that we enjoy in Canada are, for our American cousins, now radically under threat.

The Supreme Court of the United States' decision to strike down Roe v. Wade is terrible in and of itself for the health, safety and security of women and, in turn, the rest of society. But the opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas removed almost all doubt that they're not stopping with stripping abortion rights. Equal marriage and contraception are firmly in his crosshairs.

You might say the same thing can't happen here - but, if this is indeed your perspective, you're not paying attention.

Just take a moment to ask just where your MPs and MPPs stand on these issues. The answers might surprise you.

We're sadly living in a time where all too many would like to roll back the clock, painting every advancement, move towards equity, and steps taken to broaden perspectives with the equally broad brush of "woke" when, once upon a time, these ideas were considered the result of education, seeing and accepting different perspectives, or simply taking stock of the realities of our complex world.

We're living in a time where some politicians in this country are feeding on this vitriol, taking notes from an American playbook that was rejected less than two years ago, and are all too eager to try and divide and conquer.

We're living in a time when these people are becoming ever-more emboldened and abandoning any attempts to hide what their true intentions are. For some, it's a stark warning but, for people on either side of an issue at hand, it's a call to action.

A key pillar of keeping our democracy strong and restoring unity is, in my view, a clear blueprint of what our governments at all levels, and their leaders, will do to ensure the rights of all Canadians are truly protected with existential threats coming from all corners.

"Big challenges" are indeed on the horizon "across Canada and around the world" but we need more than a single focus on pocketbook issues to tackle them, as the threat of another illegal occupation of our nation's capital this week just in time to celebrate the country we are on July 1 could illustrate.

It's time to broaden focus and "get it done."

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

Founder: Ron Wallace | Publisher Emeritus: Rosemary Schumaker

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada
Funded by the Government of Canada

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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



As early as the 1870s, tobacco companies were including small collectible items, "premiums," in their packaging. The inclusion of small, brilliantly-printed slips of a silk-like material became a fad in North America in the years leading up to the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. This pillow cover made of "cigarette silks" (80.12.3) was assembled by a local collector and represents a variety of the available sets: yacht club flags, flowers, military medals, Canadian Militia Regiments, and animals (sometimes National Animals alongside their flags). A fine example of early 20th-century marketing, but, don't smoke, kids!



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

Garage Sales Are Fun

Saturday and Sunday mornings driving through Aurora I, for the most part, have been blissfully unaware of the weekly special event that goes on around us. It is a rite of spring, just like the Toronto Maple Leafs being consigned to the golf course, the flowers are in full bloom and most people's grass allergies begin to kick in.

What's the event, you ask? Why, the garage sale of course.

The only time I ever really notice these is when a mess of cars have been lined up on a particular busy thoroughfare or when a street would be basically shut down as its residents collectively decided to have a giant garage sale.

In fact, the last time your scribe directly participated in one had to be over forty years ago. As I recall, my goods did not fetch much.

The reason that I now notice garage sales is that a couple of weeks back one of my nephews, Brock, reminded me how much he liked to attend these when he was a kid and the fun that he had in searching for bargains.

So, after a trip to the Super Store with my son Ryan to purchase a few items, I decided to look around for a garage sale and found one on Kemano Drive.

A lady was sitting there as we walked up the driveway so we said hello.

She had a ton of stuff for sale, including a canoe. I pre-empted my son by stating that the canoe was definitely not being purchased, nor was the television set for that matter.

My son went picking through all the various bins and he pulled out some sort of Transformer-like creature from a never before opened Lego box that probably had a value of twenty-five dollars when new. Of course, he wanted to buy the item.

I kind of knew the answer, but I had to ask the question anyway.

"Ryan – do you have the money for this?"

He looked at me kind of sheepishly; with the kind of the look I give my wife when she catches me polishing my black shoes with one of the white-colored towels.

He said, "No dad, I left my wallet at home".

I said that is all right. I then asked the lady the price. She said \$5.00.

Now that Ryan had something to take home, I was on my own unique quest, kind of like Indiana Jones searching for the Holy Grail; only my quest is a little different and far more important.

I am in search of the entire 1960s and early 1970s hockey card collection that my mother sold for \$1.50 at her garage sale between the hours of 9:23 am and 10:13 am on June 19, 1985.

According to the police report that I filed, the assailant was described as male, four feet six inches tall,

Continued on page 17

Aurora Museum & Archives is stitching up...

Kitschy Collectibles!



GETTING THINGS DONE

Mayor
Tom Mrakas

On behalf of the Town of Aurora and members of Council, I would like to congratulate and recognize the hard work of all graduates – elementary and high school.

As we emerge out of the pandemic, I wanted to let you know how proud I am of all the students in Aurora. I know the past few school years have been difficult and you have all had to pivot between in-class and virtual learning.

As you approach this final chapter of your elementary schooling or high school years, this graduation represents all the hard work each of you have accomplished. You and your peers have grown together, learned together, and

have found strength in the support of your family and friends.

Thank you to the teachers, administration, school boards, volunteer committees, parents and families of the students graduating this year.

Your support, commitment and dedication to these students is what helped them get to this point in their lives today, you should all be so proud! There is a lot of truth to the saying, it takes a village to raise and nurture children!

This year each of you will embark on a new journey, make new friends and

face new challenges that will make you grow stronger.

As you move on to this next chapter in your lives, I hope you take the opportunity to look back on the past years and what they have meant to you and your classmates. You have all positively contributed to your school community, provided support to your peers and made our Town a better place to live in.

I wish all Aurora students much success in your future endeavours. I know you are all ready to embark on your new journey.

Congratulations! I hope you have a fantastic summer!

The House of Commons is in recess for the summer, and like me, all Members of Parliament will return to their home ridings. This means I will be more available to meet with you at my office or at community events.

From Ottawa to Aurora

Our government has accomplished a lot over the past seven months, so I am looking forward to hearing from you about what you think of our government's progress.

Since the House came back in January, our government has

- Introduced a bill to strengthen our gun control laws with some of the strongest measures seen in a generation, including implementing a national freeze on the purchase of handguns.
- Put more money in the pockets of persons with disabilities by introducing the Canada Disability Benefit. This will reduce poverty and support the financial security of working-age persons with disabilities.
- Invested \$5.3 billion over five years in a new dental care plan to families earning less than \$90,000, and less than \$70,000 with no copays. This program has started with children 12 years and younger, and will increase to include 18 and under in 2023. The plan will come into full effect in 2025.
- Negotiated \$10-a-day childcare with all 13 provinces and territories, and new licensed early learning and childcare spaces. To date, the cost of childcare in Ontario had decreased by an outstanding 25%.
- Created a new position of Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia. The Special Representative will serve as a champion, an advisor, expert, and representative to the Canadian government. They



LEAH'S LETTER

Leah Taylor Roy, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

will collaborate with domestic partners, institutions and stakeholders to support Canada's efforts to combat Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hate, systemic racism, racial discrimination and religious intolerance.

- Approved Canadian Blood Services' submission, built on scientific evidence, to eliminate the ban that prevented men who have sex with men (MSM) from donating blood. This authorization marks a significant milestone toward a more inclusive blood donation system nationwide and builds on progress of scientific evidence from our government's research investments in recent years.
- Moved Bill C-11 through its third reading in the House of Commons. Once an act, it will require online streaming services to contribute to the creation and availability of Canadian content, and pay their fair share in supporting Canadian artists, just like traditional broadcasters. We are updating our laws so online streamers must contribute in a similar and equitable way. The bill does not apply to individual Canadians, but to streaming platforms that broadcast commercial programs.
- Introduced Regulations to prohibit

the manufacture, import, sale, and eventually export of six single-use plastic (SUP) items: plastic straws, plastic checkout bags, stir sticks, ring carriers, and foodservice ware.

- Passed Bill C-28 through the House of Commons and the Senate, and received Royal Assent. This Bill will amend the Criminal Code to ensure that individuals who consume drugs and/or alcohol by choice in a criminally negligent manner are held criminally responsible if they harm others while extremely intoxicated.

At Home in Aurora

Aurora is a vibrant community and there have been many events I have enjoyed being able to take part in.

- Aurora Chamber of Commerce Street Festival
- Queen's Jubilee event at the Aurora Town Park
- York Region Police Asian Heritage Month Kickoff at their headquarters in Aurora
- Tour of the construction of the newly renovated Aurora Library Square
- Our Coffee & Chats at Silver Stream Park and Larchmere Parkette in Richmond Hill

Keeping in Touch

I am eager to continue connecting with you. Our office is open for in-person visits. If you would like to have a meeting with me or a staff member, please email us at leah.taylorroy@parl.gc.ca or give us a call at 905-773-8358. If you would like me to promote or attend an event, please contact our office. You can also check out our website, leah.taylorroymp.ca, to look at some of the services our office provides.

To contact my constituency office, please send an email to: leah.taylorroy@parl.gc.ca or call 905-773-8358. Our office is located at 12820 Yonge St. Suite 202 (at the corner of Yonge St. and Estate Gardens Dr. in Richmond Hill).

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you plan to vacation outside of Canada this summer?

Yes No Unsure

www.theauroran.com

RESULTS TO DATE
June 28, 2022

YES
44%

NO
56%

UNSURE
0%

Concerts in the Park opens 25th season July 6

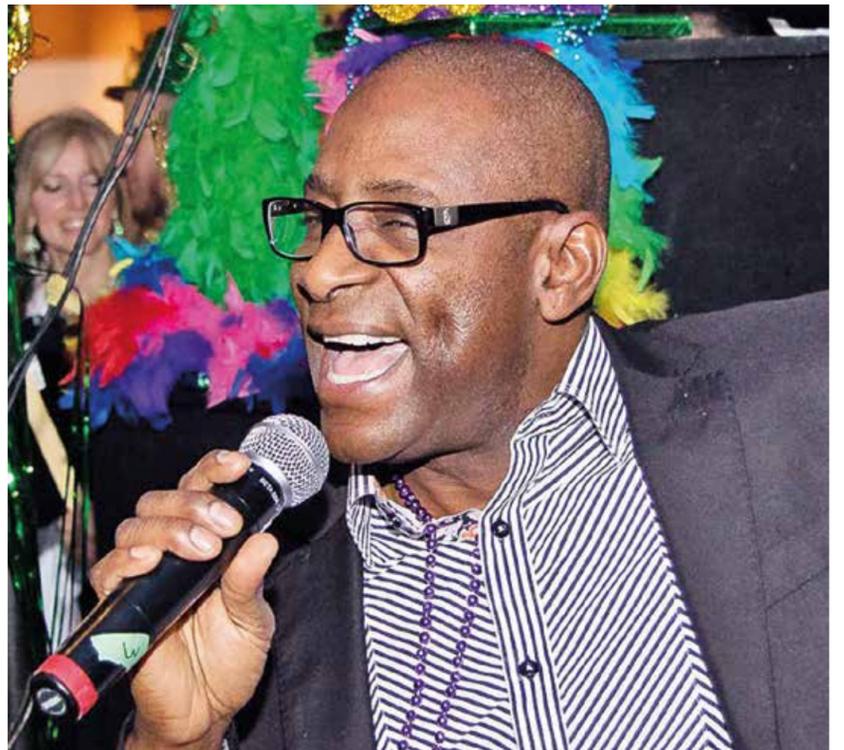
From page 1

“We are thrilled to be kicking off the series right out of the gate with George St. Kitts,” says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. “We are very eager and excited to be celebrating our 25th anniversary and we’re looking forward to producing the series without restrictions, such as audience size and pre-registration, and we’re back to how the concert series ran previous to COVID, which we are all excited for – as are our bands.

“Bands love performing in Aurora;

they love the park, they love the responsiveness of the audience, and just how intimate Town Park is. We’re also quite excited to have a lineup with a range of genres and we’re confident we will be able to meet the community’s expectations.

When Concerts in the Park began 25 years ago, it was first offered on summer Sunday evenings. But with many people out of town on weekends during the warmer months, the events were moved to the middle of the week and the concerts went from strength to strength.



Kicking off the Town’s Concerts in the Park Summer Series next week will be Juno nominee George St. Kitts. **Auroran file photo by Glenn Rodger**

Illustrating the wide range of music offered during the 2022 season, George St. Kitts and his band will be followed the next Wednesday by Sheer Heart Attack: A Tribute to Queen.

“They are phenomenal,” says Ms. Ware. “The costume changes, the lineup, the stories in between – this is really quite the experience and we’re looking forward to that.”

Next up on July 20 is Natural Elements, a tribute to the music of Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight and Chaka Khan.

The Travelling Wilburys, featuring the music from Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Jeff Lynn, Roy Orbison and Tom Petty, headline the July 26 concert, followed the next Wednesday by Ultimate Urban and Shania Twain.

“This tribute has all the rock-star swagger and fiery-energy Urban fans love and all the pure pop country made famous by Shania Twain. It features the closest look and sound to Keith and Shania in the world,” says the Town.

The music of Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Otis Redding and more will ring out from Town Park on August 10 with Soul on Top, with Desire: A Tribute to U2 taking over on August 17.

Celtic rock will have people up on their feet on August 24 with The Mudmen before the series closes August 31 with Epic Elton: A Tribute to Elton John.

“Epic Elton will be quite the finale and a great way to roll up our 25th anniversary,” says Ms. Ware.

This year’s concert series, as always, will be free of charge each Wednesday

night from 7 – 9 p.m. Although there is no cost to the series, the Town asks residents to consider something extra special for Concerts in the Park’s 25th.

“With this being our anniversary, we have a laser-focused goal of trying to collect 2,500 pieces of food donated to the Aurora Food Pantry,” says Ms. Ware. “This series is for the community, but as a result of the community coming to the series, we really want to be able to help other parts of the community through our partnership with the Aurora Food Pantry.

“Our Premium Concert Experience is also back and this is for folks who are able to provide a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry and get entered into a draw and there will be one draw for every single concert this summer. The winner, along with three guests, will be upgraded up to the front row and be able to sit in our green Muskoka-style chairs. It has been a delight in the past and for those who win it’s exciting because it is a change for their plans, especially if they are way up in the back row.”

As an added bonus to each concert, the evenings will be opened by the Top 8 Aurora Teen Idol Semi-Finalists, who recently battled for the title at the inaugural Aurora Performing Arts Festival, with local dance groups performing at the intermission, while each night will be emceed by representatives from community organizations.

For more information on the 2022 Concerts in the Park series, including the full lineup, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.



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MILLION



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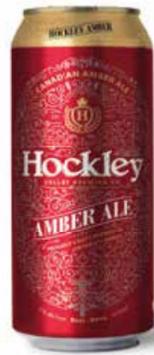
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Piramal expansion is beginning of new chapter for healthcare company in Aurora

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Piramal Pharma Solutions, which manufactures pharmaceutical products, formally opened its third plant in Aurora last Thursday.

The event, which was attended by Mayor Tom Mrakas, Councillor Rachel Gilliland, and other local dignitaries, was a long time coming after ground for the factory expansion was first broken in 2019. But it's just the beginning of an ever-growing chapter in the company's local story.

"A great deal has changed in the world since we did our ground-breaking just prior to COVID, but it's wonderful to see everyone out here [for a] nice opportunity to celebrate a wonderful achievement on behalf of Piramal, the Aurora site, and the Aurora community," said Piramal Executive Vice President Paolo Fiorino.

"The reactors we have installed here are of a larger capacity so they permit us to make larger batch sizes, serve our customer needs a little bit more effectively and a larger reactor stimulates better efficiency, [and] greater productivity."

The new plant will allow Piramal to handle larger orders and, as a result,



Joining the Piramal team for Thursday's grand opening were Seanna Murray of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Lisa Hausz, Manager of Economic Development and Policy for the Town, Councillor Rachel Gilliland and Mayor Tom Mrakas.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

be able to welcome larger customers.

Despite some early technical challenges, the new plant is running at "almost 100 per cent capacity."

"It didn't take long for us to get to a steady state, but we're trying to recoup a little bit of a backlog that was created with the initial delays," he said. "We're pleased with the project and we're already looking forward to the next installation."

The next installation will also happen on their Industrial Parkway North property.

The Aurora plant recently received approval for funding from their Board of Directors to begin master planning and concepts for their next phase "to really start thinking about what could be the long-range plan for this facility."

"Hopefully in the next four to five

months we will be in a position to have a better idea of what this place could look like in the future."

At Thursday's grand opening, Mayor Mrakas said it was an "exciting" day for the business community.

"This is very exciting not only for Piramal but the Town of Aurora," he said. "Ultimately, the growth that has happened and the expansion within our Town from an economic standpoint and we love to see businesses flourish in our community. I think Piramal is a great example of an extraordinary corporate citizen that has done so much in our community. By this expansion, it shows that we have a strong partnership and we will continue to see growth from Piramal."

"We're excited and we're happy to see you continue to grow and continue to be one of the top and premiere corporate citizens in our community."

Addressing nearly 200 employees who had gathered for the formal ribbon cutting, this excitement for future growth was shared by Stuart Needleman, Chief Commercial Officer for Piramal.

"This is just the first of a few more because there is a demand for the work that you do, so you guys should be proud of every single thing that you guys have been doing," he said. "We're a [on a] journey together and the journey is going to continue. There's a huge demand for what we do and we're dealing with space constraints, we're dealing with other challenges and we're all managing because we're all working together for the common goal again: patients."

From the perspective of Lisa Hausz, Economic Development Officer for the Town of Aurora, last week's Piramal expansion is a good example of the Town "supporting local businesses and helping them to expand, grow and add more employees."

"This one grew from 180 employees and we will end up with 250 by the time they finish hiring here, which is a huge coup for having expansion in the Town – in particular in healthcare and healthcare-related [fields], which is one of our target sectors."

Ms. Hausz added that her department is looking to underscore the importance of these healthcare sector businesses to Aurora's economy in the year ahead through the Emerging Aurora program, with one opportunity being a symposium bring together techpreneurs, with additional emphasis on the automotive, mobility and transportation sectors to follow.



Summer Fun!

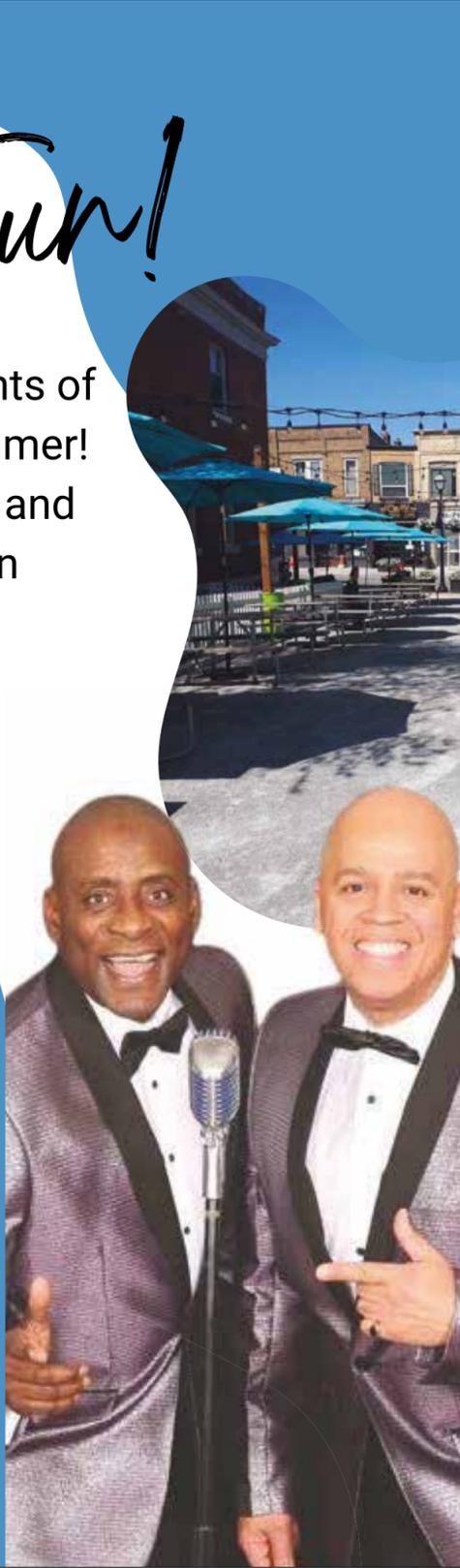
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Thursdays 7-9pm
(weather permitting)

- June 23 - Glenn Marais**
- June 30 - The Motown Boys featuring Juno nominated George St. Kitts**
- July 7 - Bernadette Connors**
- July 14 - Flailing Shalaleighs**
- July 21 - Dave Toms**
- July 28 - Lemon Pistols**

15217 Yonge Street, Aurora
For Details Visit:

ExploreAurora.ca/events-calendar





HAPPY CANADA DAY!

Warmest wishes to all residents of
Newmarket–Aurora on Canada’s 155th Birthday.



**Dawn
GALLAGHER MURPHY**
MPP for Newmarket–Aurora

My constituency office is here to serve the residents of Newmarket–Aurora, please contact us:

📞 905-853-9889 📠 905-853-6115
✉ Dawn.Gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org

CANADA DAY IN AURORA, FRIDAY, JULY 1st

The day commemorates the anniversary of the Constitution Act, which consolidated three territories into the single nation of Canada, way back in 1867.

🍁 Did you know that in 1969, Aurora officially became Canada’s Birthday Town?

Celebrate
Good Times!

DANCE IN THE PARK

Thursday, June 30, 2022 -- 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Aurora Town Park (49 Wells Street)

Bring out your dancing shoes and kick off the Canada Day festivities with the Dance in the Park! There will be fantastic live bands, great food and the Rotary Beer Garden. Celebrate the start of Canada Day by dancing up a storm!

CANADA DAY PARADE 10 a.m. Friday, July 2nd

Join us to enjoy marching bands, cultural performers, buskers, steel band and so much more travelling north on Yonge Street.

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It’s time to have some fun and celebrate Canada’s Birthday! Festivities include live entertainment, children’s activities, inflatables, mini-golf and so much more. There will also be a variety of food vendors to enjoy.

- 🍁 Passport Activities
- 🍁 Live Entertainment
- 🍁 Aurora Family Leisure Complex - Free Indoor Activities (Limited Space)

For more information,
please call TOWN OF AURORA
Special Events line 905-726-4762



This Canada Day

as we reflect on our past,
and the possibilities for the future,
let us do so with love,
compassion and understanding.
Let us embrace diversity, value culture,
celebrate our differences and respect
the vast mosaic that is Canada.
Together, we can make a difference.





TONY
Van Bynen

Member of Parliament Newmarket-Aurora

Constituency Office: 905-953-7515 • email: Tony.VanBynen@parl.gc.ca • website: vanbynen.ca



HAPPY CANADA DAY



MICHAEL PARSA, MPP
Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill

905-773-6250
michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org



Portraits of Giving honours community builders, looks to the future

BY BROCK WEIR
 EDITOR
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

For 13 years, Portraits of Giving has honoured through art the persons – adults, seniors and youth – who have given of



2022's Portraits of Giving honourees were welcomed to Pickering College last week for the exhibition's kick-off. Pictured here with photographer Karen Merk (back row, third from the left) are Linda Dennis (Lifetime Achievement), Helen Galanis (Paramedic), Sergeant Minha Rahravan and Susan Gibbs of the YRP, Peter Sturupp, Beth Cowper-Fung, Pamela and Harry Harakh, Susan Heslop-Porter, and Julia Suppa. **Contributed photo**



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themselves to make York Region a better place.

But this year, while the touring exhibition by Richmond Hill photographer Karen Merk is honouring these community builders, it is also casting its focus to the future, looking at how we can live “more fully” in a post-pandemic world.

The 2022 Portraits of Giving honourees were recognized last week at Newmarket's Pickering College.

Among this year's group of notable residents captured by Ms. Merk's lens

were Aurora honouree Marco Iacovetta, Richmond Hill's Pamela and Harry Harakh, Susan Heslop-Porter of King Township, Markham's Shanta Sundarason, Julia Suppa of Vaughan, Beth Cowper-Fung of Georgina, Dean and Karen Woods of Stouffville, Marjorie Niemi and Family representing East Gwillimbury, and Pickering College Head of School Peter Sturupp representing Newmarket.

Special recognition went to Lifetime Achievement honouree Linda Dennis, as well as Suraj Bansal, who has received

the Benson Kearley SMAI Young Adult recognition.

Sergeant Mina Rahravan and Susan Gibbs have been recognized for their work with the York Regional Police, and Helen Galanis for York Region's Fire and Paramedic Services, while Mitch Marner and his family have been recognized for their contributions to the sporting world.

“We have been pivoting during the pandemic, but we know that people are still giving back,” says Ms. Merk. “This year's group of honourees are more amazing people in York Region and have given back in the past and continue to do so throughout the pandemic. They keep giving back in different ways. Our theme this year is always to inspire people to start or keep giving back through their stories and portraits, but I also added a theme of how we can live more when we're pulling out of the pandemic.

“Common threads [amongst the honourees] are definitely giving back and doing so with perseverance, resilience and hope because it has still been challenging times for everyone. I think that all of them share those attributes and just keep going.”

Joia Restaurant owner Iacovetta has been recognized for how he and his business have contributed to the community over several years, including a golf tournament benefiting local charities.

“He does it quietly and humbly and I think he is a great person,” says Ms. Merk. “Especially in the restaurant industry that has been really hit hard over the years, he really cares about the community and gives back. It's not easy to organize a golf fundraiser. It takes a lot of time and commitment to do that, so Marco really inspires. He's a great representation of the kind of people we have in York Region who, through their kindness and generosity, help the community.”

One of the key things Ms. Merk has taken away from this year's honourees can be underscored by Pickering College's Peter Sturupp who cites a biography accompanying his portrait, “To Peter, leadership is not about personality, it's about character. It's not about skills, but actions – actions that collectively define our lives and that becomes our legacy.”

“I want people to leave [the exhibition] feeling inspired that despite the challenging times we have all had, there are many positive things that are happening in our community,” says Ms. Merk. “It is the perseverance, resilience and hope that our honourees have.”

The 2022 Portraits of Giving Photographic Exhibition is currently touring York Region.

It will have two showings in Aurora. The first exhibition will land at Aurora Town Hall from August 17 to 31, and again, this time at the York Regional Police headquarters on Don Hillcock Drive, from October 21 to November 4.

For more information on the tour and current and past honourees, visit www.merkphotography.com/portraits-of-giving.

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FREE Week of June 30, 2022



Indiana loves Canada: Pacers draft two Canadians in 2022 NBA Draft



Andrew Nembhard is pictured at home with Mayor Tom Mrakas earlier this month.

Contributed photo

By Robert Belardi

Not only did the Indiana Pacers marvel at the talent of all four Canadians available at this year's NBA Draft, the organization's front office stuck to their guns and brought a few of them on board.

With the sixth overall selection, the Pacers selected Montreal, QC native Benedict Mathurin and then with the No. 31 overall pick, the Pacers went on to select Aurora's own Andrew Nembhard.

For the fourth time in NBA Draft history, four or more Canadians were selected in a single year.

With the seventh overall selection the Portland Trail Blazers took London, ON, native Shaedon Sharpe and with the No. 32 pick, the Orlando Magic snagged Mississauga, ON, native Caleb Houston.

Mathurin, a 6-foot-7 guard out of Arizona is coming off an incredible season. Mathurin averaged 17.7 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game. He was named Pac-12 player of the year and even made the All-Pac-12 first-team at the end of the season.

The highly touted wing will surely be quite an impact player.

And the same goes for Andrew Nembhard. The 6-foot-5-point guard was named a Bob Cousy Point Guard Award finalist and helped lead the Gonzaga Bulldogs to the No. 1 ranked team in all of the NCAA last season.

When he transferred from the Florida Gators to the Gonzaga Bulldogs, it was seemingly the perfect fit for Nembhard. In 32 games this past season, Nembhard averaged 11.8 points, 3.4 rebounds and 5.8 assists.

With these draft picks, the Pacers will now house four Canadian players on their roster.

Both Mathurin and Nembhard, will

join Toronto native Oshae Brissett and Dominican Republic-born guard who was raised in Montreal, Chris Duarte.

So, what comes next for the Indiana Pacers?

According to reports ahead of the 2022 NBA Draft, the Pacers were testing the trade market involving star centre Myles Turner and guard Malcolm Brogdon.

After trading versatile forward Domantas Sabonis in a six-player deal with the Sacramento Kings at the trade deadline last year, it was clear to everyone the Pacers are interested in rebuilding.

The Pacers in the deal received key pieces including point-guard Tyrese Haliburton and shooting guard Buddy Hield.

Turner, who missed the second half of the regular season due to a stress fracture in his left foot, is heading into the final year of his four-year, \$80-million contract.

Brogdon, who suffered with a right-Achilles injury for most of this season, was expected to be on the move last week, as per ESPN senior NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski.

By selecting Nembhard, it looks more like a sure-fire decision Brogdon will be out on his way with Haliburton expected to run Rick Carlisle's offence and it might be safe to presume Andrew Nembhard will come off the bench to run the second unit.

But then again, anything can happen. If Brogdon ends up staying, it could be a lethal backcourt should he be able to stay healthy.

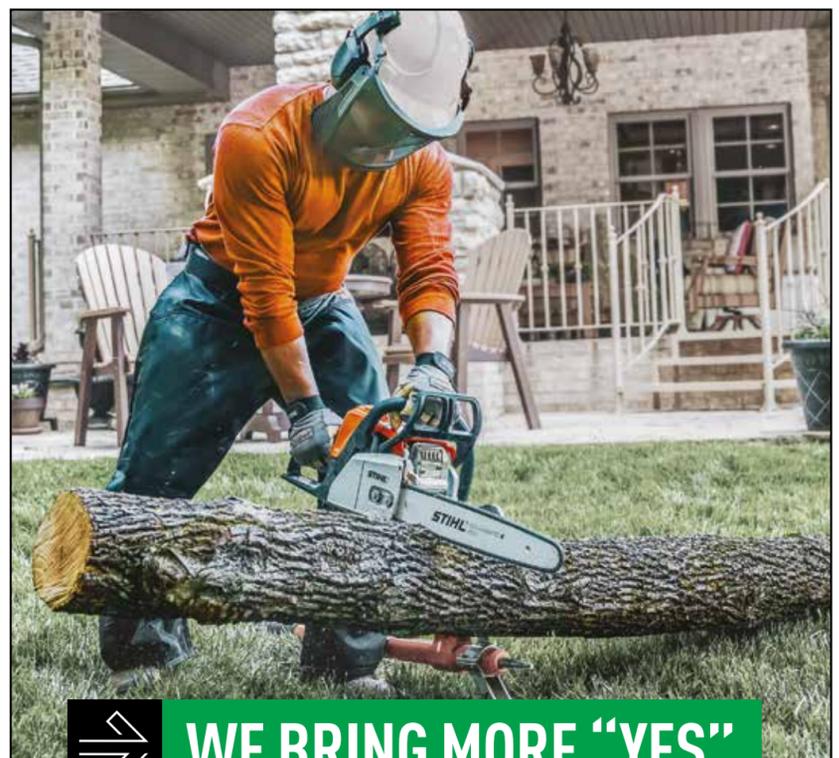
Nembhard would further enhance his game and he will be able to learn from two very gifted floor-generals.

Out of all of this, one thing is for sure: the Pacers love Canadian talent and it will be exciting to see all four of these players in action next season.

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York United: Not quite the right send-off for Abzi, hiccup against Valour

By Robert Belardi

York United fell 2-1 to the Vancouver Whitecaps in the Canadian Championship semifinals last week and returned home to York Lions Stadium over the weekend to fall 3-1 to Valour FC.

As reported last week, the Canadian Championship semi-final was the final match for York United fullback Diyaeddine Abzi.

Abzi is off to Ligue 2 to join Pau FC. The Nine Stripes put on a display of their defensive talents and abilities, however this game was all about the Vancouver Whitecaps.

The Whitecaps dominated the game entirely from start to finish. The club held 57 per cent possession throughout the match and put forth 17 shots towards goal with six of them on



Diyaeddine Abzi shrugs off Canadian international Lucas Cavallini in his final match in a York United uniform.

Photo by David Chant Photography

target.

It took the MLS side 53 minutes to finally get a goal on the scoreboard.

Ryan Gauld passed the ball out wide to Ryan Raposo. On the volley, Raposo's shot was tipped on to the bar by York goalkeeper Niko Giantsopoulos. The rebound fell to forward Brian White, who volleyed the ball in to open the scoring.

The 61st minute was York United's first real chance to score a goal and it was Abzi on the tail end of that chance. From a freekick, Abzi whipped the ball low around the wall, forcing Cody Cropper to make a good stop.

In the 73rd minute, Brian White found the back of the net this time on the half-volley from a cross into the box from Ryan Gauld to extend the lead.

In the 84th minute, a wonderful creative play from Isaiah Johnston put York United in striking distance.

But it was too little too late for the CPL side, as the Whitecaps will now square-off against Toronto FC for the Voyageurs Cup for the first time since 2018.

The final will be held at BC Place in Vancouver on Tuesday, July 26. Kick-off is at 10.30 p.m. EST.

Returning home to take on Winnipeg's Valour FC, York immediately began the match on the front foot.

A cross from Max Ferrari found Osaze De Rosario in the box and but Valour goalkeeper Jonathan Sirois came to the rescue early.

Similarly to the Vancouver game, it took over 50 minutes for the first breakthrough. Walter Ponce, from the right-hand side of the 18-yard area slid the ball across the face of goal to Alessandro Riggi who made no mistake and Valour took the lead.

Just a minute later, York United retaliated right off the kick off. Chrisnovic N'Sa's cross found the head of De Rosario who capitalized on his chance to tie things up.

But, since the equalizer, it seemed as if Valour had the edge and the visiting side took advantage of their chances moving forward. Moses Dyer and Sean Rea made it 3-1 by the end of the match.

For the second game in a row as well, York failed to uphold north of 50 per cent possession. The Nine Stripes also conceded 17 shots towards goal.

"I thought they were really preventable goals. As the game went on we looked tired. It was a tough game today. We've played four games in 12 days," said Head Coach Martin Nash in the post-game press conference.

In the press conference as well, Nash confirmed Giantsopoulos was playing the game with a bruise on his quad. The York goalkeeper, struggled to kick the ball and other players had to step in to boot the ball long from a goal kick.

Next up for York is a game on the road against FC Edmonton for Canada Day.

Kick-off is at 6 p.m. EST.



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Mental Health in Motion raises nearly \$175,000 for MOBYSS youth programs

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Running, walking or cycling, more than 400 community members in York Region and South Simcoe came together this month to raise much-needed funds for local mental health programs serving youth.

On Sunday, June 12, and with donations still rolling in through this Friday, July 1, the 2022 Mental Health in Motion, the premiere annual fundraiser for the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe raised \$174,000 for MOBYSS (Mobile York South Simcoe), a bus that has been

converted into an invaluable mobile mental health resource that comes to youth who need it the most.

“This year’s Mental Health in Motion was amazing experience to see the smiles, the families, the friends and the community that we’ve built around mental health,” said Rebecca Shields, CEO of CMHA York South Simcoe (CMHA-YRSS) in a statement of the first in-person event since 2019. “The community’s involvement in this event matters more than ever because we don’t know the lasting impact of the pandemic, but we know the solution is to access care through programs and services like MOBYSS.”

While the pandemic meant the CMHA-YRSS couldn’t welcome youth in need through the doors of the bus, the programs they offered carried on nearly seamlessly online and over the phone from the earliest days of COVID-19.

“The MOBYSS team never stopped working throughout the pandemic,” says Catherine Matzig, Senior Director of Philanthropy for the CMHA-YRSS. “We couldn’t have the bus on the road or invite young people to join us on the bus, but we were able [to have] virtual drop-in clinics, one-on-one counselling by phone or text, working with youth over Zoom – we have never stopped taking young people’s calls. Certainly post-pandemic, young people are, like the rest of us, experiencing quite an upheaval and they are coming on the bus and they’re accessing services in greater numbers than ever before.

“Our youth come to the bus for many reasons. Sometimes it’s healthcare. We recently saw a young woman who is a new immigrant who hadn’t seen a physician in almost a decade and through MOBYSS she was able to get her first medical appointment in 10 years. We have had individuals get on the bus because they were in an unsafe living situation and our MOBYSS team helped to guide them to



Contributed photo

better, safer living circumstances. We have youth who get on the bus because they are experiencing loneliness or suicidal thoughts, experiencing depression, or increased substance abuse that is affecting their family relationships, their peer relationships and potentially also their schoolwork. Kids get on the bus for more reasons than you could possibly imagine.”

Over the course of the Mental Health in Motion fundraiser, \$118,646 of the \$174,000 and counting was raised through individual and team fundraising with more than \$55,000 coming through sponsorships, silent auctions and registration fees.

Individually, top fundraisers were Team Jake with \$22,250, Judy Brunton with \$15,937, Giancarlo Trimarchi with \$9,475, and Susan Mendes de Franca with \$9,160.

18 corporate sponsors, with several more who made in-kind donations, helped make the event possible, including presenting sponsor Staples Canada.

“We were so pleased to be back in person after two years,” said Ms. Matzig. “The excitement and the enthusiasm of the participants on the day of the event

was palpable. The energy in the room was so very positive in support of mental health and we just want to thank everyone in our community who participated as someone who ran, walked, or rode, who made a donation, who volunteered or sponsored, or provided any goods or in-kind services. We are so grateful for the generosity of our community.

“Our website remains open to anyone who would like to make a donation.”

To make a last-minute donation to the CMHA-YRSS’ Mental Health in Motion campaign, visit CMHAINmotion.ca through July 1. To donate to the CMHA-YRSS’ overall programs and endeavours, visit CMHA-YR.on.ca.

The Canadian Mental Health Association was founded in 1918 and in the intervening years has become the most extensive community mental health organization in the country.

The CMHA-YRSS is one of the fastest growing branches of the group Canada-wide and last year served more than 170,000 clients through more than 30 mental health and addictions programs for youth, adults, family caregivers, local businesses and community organizations.

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All funds raised during the Hike will stay right here in the community allowing us to care for members of York Region when they need it most.

We are still accepting donations if you'd like to make a final contribution. You can make a donation today at www.myhospice.ca/hikeforhospice/.

HIKE FOR
HOSPICE
2022



CONSTELLATIONS SHINE



The Aurora Cultural Centre's inaugural Constellations Music Festival, a celebration of Afro-Cuban, Brazilian and Haitian music, had people up on their feet at Town Park on June 25. Performers included Flávia Nascimento (top) and (above) Okan.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

Future Hall-of-Famer wins second race of Formula 1600 at Canadian Grand Prix

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora Sports Hall of Fame “future hall-of-famer” Jake Cowden, came in first in the second race in Formula 1600, on the day of the Canadian Grand Prix on June 19.

The 18-year-old from Aurora, who joined Britain West Motorsport in 2021, had the pleasure of racing on the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve on multiple occasions over the course of the weekend.

After defeating teammate Tyler O'Connor by 0.046 seconds on Sunday, Cowden said he was relieved.

“It was a feeling of relief after what happened to me on Saturday with the electrical issue. I had one chance left to win. Considering it was the biggest opportunity in racing I ever had, I was just relieved to of won after such a tough race. It was just amazing,” Cowden said.

Previously on Saturday in the first race of the weekend, Cowden's car shut down due to an electrical issue during a safety car lap. He was able to restart the vehicle and take back first-place during the formation lap that followed.

At the end of the race, he was awarded a 28-second penalty for doing so, pushing Cowden back to 18th place.

With the final race of the weekend coming up, Cowden went toe-to-toe with his teammate O'Connor.

Cowden was able to pass O'Connor in the final straight in front of the checkered flag.

This victory capped off what has been a tough year for Cowden in racing.

Earlier this year, Cowden sprained his knee on a large chunk of ice ahead of

the Ontario Snowmobile Oval Racers championship for Sport F500.

In his racing journey, this was the moment he faced the most adversity.

“I was in a lot of pain with from my knee. I talked to my physiotherapist I see pretty regularly and she said since it's just a grade one, I should be okay to continue racing,” Cowden explained. “I was in a lot of pain. But, when I was on the snowmobile I had one thing in mind. Which was to win. I was in the lead of two championships for the OSOR and I ended up missing one of the races when I was in the hospital, which ended up costing me that championship.”

Although he ended up winning it all, it was a true test of character.

Cowden races snowmobiles in the winter to keep his racing mindset fresh for when the summer rolls around and he can get in the middle of a car.

Growing up, Cowden saw his father win medals go-karting. He loved all of his father's medals and kept them as a keepsake. When he was old enough to enroll, he begged his father John to get involved in go-karting and the rest is history.

For the past few years, Cowden has also been involved with the Alzheimer Society of York Region. His grandmother Joyce, who just turned 94 last week, lives with the disease and Cowden and his family want to continue to bring awareness to others. He does so through his racing.

In the future, Cowden says he would love to pursue something in racing on tracks and in cars.

We'll see what the future will continue to hold for the young Aurora Sports Hall of Fame “future hall-of-famer.”

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THINGS you Ought To Know

THROUGH JULY 15

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Backstories: The Researching Artist as Traveller and Interviewer. A solo exhibition and sale in the Centre's temporary gallery space at Town Hall, the exhibition is now online through July 15. Andrew Cheddie Sookrah's vast and varied practice is rooted in geographic exploration and spiritual expression. He is inspired by the essence of a place, the spirit of its peoples, and the inseparable connections they have to each other and the natural world. Backstories: The Researching Artist as Traveller & Interviewer exhibits paintings, drawings, and sculptures taken from Sookrah's life as both traveller and artist. Recognized for his bright and expressive technique, Sookrah takes us on a journey through rivers, lands, and into the intimate solitudes of his studio during a time of limited movement; The COVID-19 pandemic.

SATURDAY, JULY 9

The Aurora Historical Society will present Yoga at the Manor from 10-11 a.m. Relax your mind while strengthening your body on the serene Hillary House grounds. Suitable for ages 13 and up, beginner and intermediate fitness level. Today's theme: Chair Yoga. \$10 per class. Bring your own yoga mat. For more information, including reserving your spot, visit aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991.

JULY 18 - 22

The Aurora Historical Society presents Time Travellers Summer Camp from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hillary House National Historic Site. Suitable for ages 7 - 11. Jump in the time machine and get ready for a trip through the ages! Campers will travel around the world and explore the Middle Ages, Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, the Wild West, Early Settlers, and even the Roaring Twenties! Cost: \$150 per camper. For more information, visit 905-727-8991 or visit aurorahs.com.

FRIDAY, JULY 22

The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion celebrates Christmas in July today from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a special lunch. The traditional dinner will be prepared by Chef Michael from Zest Up Your Life. The luncheon will be served in the lounge or on our patio. Tickets are available now from the Legion Bar.

SATURDAY, JULY 23

The Aurora Historical Society will present Yoga at the Manor from 10-11 a.m. Relax your mind while strengthening your body on the serene Hillary House grounds. Suitable for ages 13 and up, beginner and intermediate fitness level. Today's theme: Yoga Movement & Meditation. \$10 per class. Bring your own yoga mat. For more information, including reserving your spot, visit aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991.

JULY 25 - SEPTEMBER 17

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Backwards and Forwards: Reflections in Porcupine Quills, a solo exhibition by Vanessa Dion Fletcher. Recent quillworks (2020-present), ranging from intimate pieces on paper to large mural installations, at the core is a negotiation between the artist's hands and porcupine quills. Vanessa Dion Fletcher is a Lenape and Potawatomi neurodiverse Artist. Her family is from Eelinaapēewii Lahkēewiit (displaced from Lenapehoking) and European settlers.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The Aurora Public Library, as part of the One Book One Aurora Program, presents An Evening with Jan Wong at 7 p.m. Jan Wong went to China as a starry-eyed Maoist in 1972 at the height of the Cultural Revolution. Learn about her experiences and how her love affair began to sour as she became aware of the harsh realities of Chinese communism. A talk followed by a Q&A period. Tickets are available beginning August 1. To register, visit bit.ly/3rFdZHL.

CONTINUING

Partagez le Français: Ce groupe accueille les ADULTES / 18+ (des francophones aux débutants capables de converser) - qui cherchent à mettre en pratique leurs compétences Conversationnelle en français. Over Zoom with a nominal fee of \$2.50. RSVP by visiting meetup.com/Partagez-le-francais. For more information, email partagez.york@outlook.com.

Support AbuseHurts' Delivering Hope Full Circle Program textile recycling and donation program. In the current COVID climate, a greater number of people are wanting to donate or get rid of unwanted items, increasing the need for more outlets being available to receive the items. This program will provide a convenient way for people to donate or get rid of used/unwanted clothing, blankets, linens and furniture and will help lessen the amount of items ending up in landfills. Materials that were previously perceived as waste will now be seen as a valuable resource further encouraging redistribution. The items will be recycled in the following ways: To be given to individuals who are survivors of violence and are transitioning from shelters into new homes; To be sold in our store; To be sold to a textile recycler, which makes for an ongoing source of funding for Abuse Hurts enabling them to provide their services to the thousands of people that require them each year. When and Where: Monday and Wednesday, every week, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with 30-minute time slots - only 1 drop off per time slot. If you do not have an appointment, we cannot accept your donation. The Abuse Hurts Warehouse is located at 1208 Gorham St, Unit 4, Newmarket - rear unloading dock. Visit AbuseHurts.ca to select your drop off time slot.

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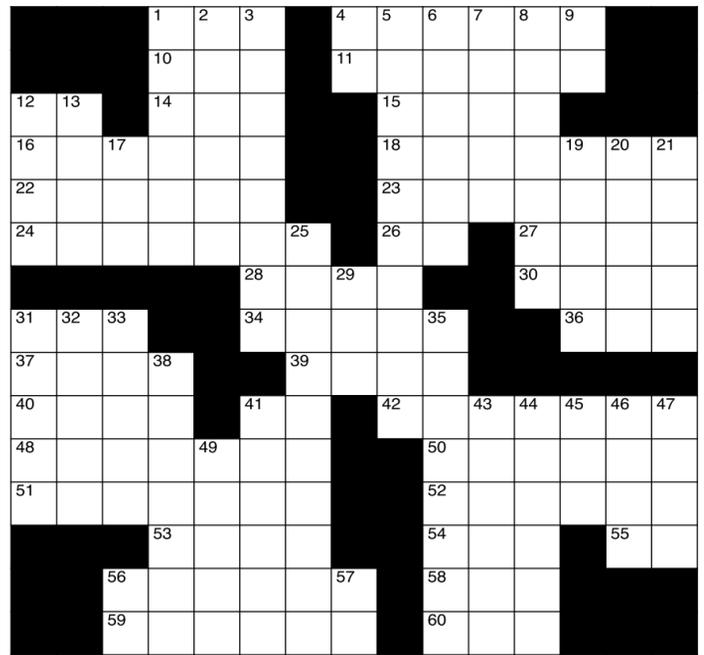
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. In a new way
10. ___ Paulo, city
11. Jailhouse
12. Expresses surprise
14. Trigraph
15. A small stream
16. Dissimilar
18. Promote
22. Gives a boost
23. Lawmaker
24. Orthodox Jews
26. Actor Harris
27. Wild cherry
28. Participate in democracy
30. Opposite of begins
31. A Brit's mother
34. Set of moral principles
36. Very fast airplane
37. Czech river
39. Private school in New York
40. Israeli dance
41. Electron volt
42. Adjusting
48. Duct by the bladder
50. Small burger
51. Begin again
52. Unstuck
53. Jai __, sport
54. Get free of
55. For instance
56. Hotel chain
58. A team's best pitcher
59. Extracts from various sources
60. Indefinite period of time

CLUES DOWN

1. St. Francis of ___
2. Supported
3. United in working
4. It cools your home
5. Predicting
6. Irritated
7. Popular talk show host
8. Fabric edge
9. A resource for employees
12. Broadway's Jackman
13. Small water buffalo
17. City of Angels: ___ Angeles
19. Asteroids
20. Tailless amphibians
21. German expressionist painter
29. N. Vietnamese ethnic group
31. Gold coin used in British India
32. Have deep affection for
33. Ponds
35. Breaks between words
38. Hairstyle
41. Print errors
43. Family of iron alloys
44. Sidelined in bed
45. Many couples say it
46. Brazilian hoopster
47. Allman Brothers late frontman
49. German city
56. One hundred grams (abbr.)
57. One billionth of a second (abbr.)

FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

From page 1

approximately sixty-five pounds, wearing a Quebec Nordiques baseball cap, and was heard laughing as he drove off on his dark, unknown model year tricycle. Any help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

I asked the lady if she had any hockey cards for sale. Alas, she said

no.

Any mothers out there who have children born between the years 1960 to 1965 and who are thinking about holding a garage sale are kindly asked to contact this writer.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



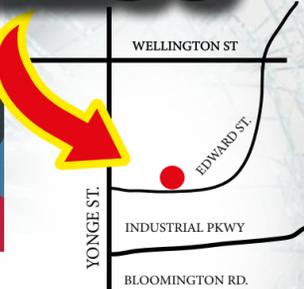
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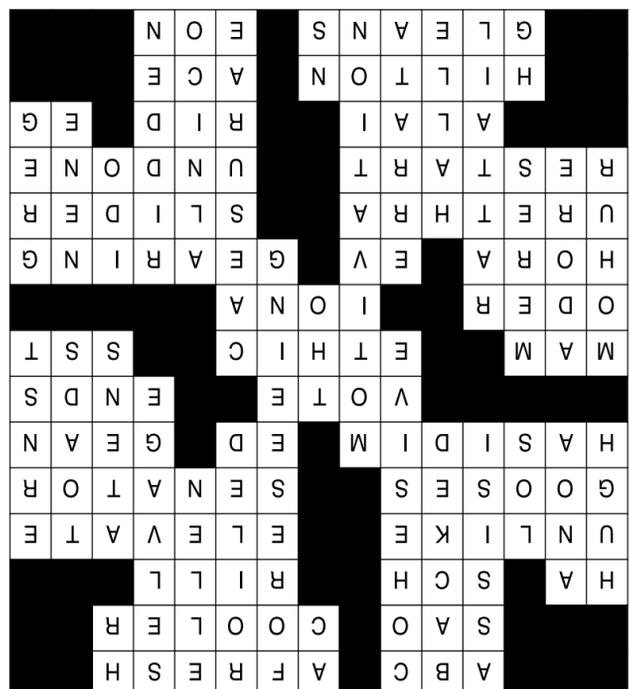
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PUZZLE SOLUTION

SCOTUS' abortion decision is reminder "the work is not done" in Canada: Yellow Brick House

From page 1
was released last week, Ms. Herenda says it was a "devastating setback for American women" and a setback to all advances on women's rights made over the last half-century.

A woman losing the right to make a decision that affects her own body "is an attack on our freedoms and rights."

"I don't want other people to make a decision about what I'm going to do with my body. It's degrading," she says. "We know it is going to impact marginalized women exponentially as they may not have access to certain privileges and benefits that other women might have."

"I think there is always a concern that [it] might have an impact on future laws in Canada. We know right now that women do have access to making that choice, although in some rural communities that access is definitely more difficult for women. This is a struggle we have had for centuries now, although we do know that at the Federal level we have the support of our Prime Minister who is continuing to advocate for abortion rights for women."

"The bottom line is...if, as a society, we go in the direction of making decisions for women you're treating us as less of a human being than the male counterpart. We will

not stand for that because it's her choice. It's a woman's choice to make a choice about her body."

"I would like to ask any man: would you like to have anybody make a choice about what to do with your body?"

Moving forward, Ms. Herenda says the issue needs to be on the agenda for all political parties as it is a non-partisan human rights issue.

They will continue to advocate at both the Federal and Provincial level for maintaining "current rights and increasing [the opportunities] for women to have access to make decisions about what happens with their bodies."

It's far from a "done deal," she adds.

"It's a reminder that the work is not done," she says. "We're not at a stage where we have equitable treatment without counterparts and we have to continue having our voices heard and engaged in the community. The community needs to be able to engage and have conversations about this and request from their elected politicians to represent women's rights."

"With respect to women's rights, what's on our continuous agenda is

to have sustainable support from our Provincial and Federal government to be able to provide sustainable services to women and children who are impacted by violence. We're not there yet. There are wait lists, there's lack of accessible services that women who are in a position to leave an abusive relationship are often stuck because they can't have access to services, especially in rural areas.

"We need to see bigger investments from our governments into ensuring that women and children have access to services. There has to be an investment in prevention programs so that we can start changing the numbers of devastating statistics we're hearing about to make or break the cycle of violence."

"That is not going to happen overnight. That requires commitment to prevention and investment in education programs... that educates young people about healthy relationships and how to identify risk factors and how to potentially avoid being in an abusive relationships - and educating men about the consequences of their behaviour and actions on women, children and society as a whole."

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GARAGE SALE

MARY LAKE
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GROUNDS

July 1, 2, 3 & 4,

July 9 & 10
10am-4pm

13760 Keele St.
and 15th Sideroad
North of King Road

JOB FAIR

CP Flexible, a manufacturer of flexible packaging in Aurora is looking for **new Team Members**

WEDNESDAY JULY 6, 2022

8:30 am to 6:00 pm

285 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, ON L4G 3V8 (front parking lot)

Phone or email for more information:

905-727-0121 X 316 or pkrawiec@cpflexpack.com

We will interview on the spot and you can start immediately.

We are hiring for all positions including:

- Machine Operators
- Packers
- Press Helpers

We offer:

- Competitive Wages
- Company Matched Pension Plan
- Profit Sharing
- Employer Paid Benefits

*Recently nominated by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce as one of the **"Best Places to Work - Company Culture"**



www.cpflexpack.com/careers

Think you can sell?

Come join a dynamic, fast paced, growing entrepreneurial company looking for young, enthusiastic sales representatives. A rewarding, lucrative opportunity for the right candidate.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Tour groups of students through houses and apartments to rent them out for the annual rental campaign.
- Plan, Prepare and Execute Advertising and Marketing Material for the annual rental campaign.
- Complete all necessary paperwork involved in lease signing and payment collection for newly rented units.
- Work with all current tenants in completing necessary paperwork for renewal units

EXPECTATIONS:

- Have a positive attitude
- Willing to work hard and enjoy rewards in a team environment
- Willing to take chances and learn from your peers

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- Sales Driven
- Work well in results based environment
- Goal Oriented
- Great Personal Skills
- Some Sales Skills Preferred but would be willing to train the right candidate
- Marketing and/or Communication education would be a great fit

COMPENSATION:

Base + Commission

Let's Talk.

EMAIL RESUME FOR CONSIDERATION:
employment@londonprop.com

London Property Corp.



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905.727.3300 ext. 102

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Whether it's been in the barn for 25 years, or your pride
and joy that is fully restored. I'll pay CASH.

**Call David
905-367-7217**

Freelance Reporter for Local Community Newspaper

Come join a dynamic, fast paced, growing entrepreneurial company looking for an energetic Freelance Reporter with a passion for community news. The ideal candidate will have a distinct willingness to cover local community events and issues.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

not once did you reply to any of my attempts to contact you.

I am both disappointed and angry at this grievous breach of my child's privacy. I find it difficult to believe you didn't think of the serious nature of your actions, since you seem to be well versed in the use of social media.

I invite you to reply to my emails so you can help me understand your reasons for posting the information and help me understand why you didn't feel I warranted a reply.

Thank you for your time,

Nathalie Schacher-Deviller
Aurora

(Editor's Note: Mayor Mrakas declined to comment on the letter)



Let's Talk.

Interested and qualified candidates should forward their cover letter and resume to brock@auroran.com



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<p>SHOP & SEPARATE IN-LAW SUITE ON 10+ ACRES!</p> <p>KING FOR SALE</p> <p>5-Bedroom Newly Renovated Estate!</p>	<p>FABULOUS FREEHOLD TOWNHOME!</p> <p>RICHMOND HILL FOR SALE</p> <p>Prime Richmond Hill Location!</p>	<p>4,500+ SQFT! 3-CAR GARAGE!</p> <p>NOBLETON FOR SALE</p> <p>Builder's Model Home on a Premium Corner Lot!</p>	<p>COUNTRY LIVING AT ITS BEST!</p> <p>EAST GWILLIMBURY FOR SALE</p> <p>2-Acre Partially Treed Lot in Great Location!</p>	<p>COMMERCIAL + RESIDENTIAL!</p> <p>MISSISSAUGA FOR SALE</p> <p>Includes 2 Rooftop Terraces!</p>	<p>10 ACRES WITH 650FT FRONTAGE!</p> <p>EAST GWILLIMBURY FOR SALE</p> <p>Prime East Gwillimbury Location!</p>
<p>RARE OPPORTUNITY!</p> <p>AURORA FOR LEASE</p> <p>Penthouse Corner Suite with Panoramic Views!</p>	<p>2.26 AC WITH 300 FT FRONTAGE!</p> <p>COLLINGWOOD FOR SALE</p> <p>Minutes to Town, Shopping, Beaches!</p>	<p>4-BEDROOM ESTATE HOME + WORKSHOP!</p> <p>KING FOR SALE</p> <p>Premium 10-Acre Lot in Prime Location!</p>	<p>GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!</p> <p>RICHMOND HILL FOR SALE</p> <p>End Unit! 6 Offices! Excellent Exposure!</p>	<p>FABULOUS 3-BED FREEHOLD!</p> <p>RICHMOND HILL FOR SALE</p> <p>Walking Distance to Yonge Street!</p>	<p>YOUR HOME DESERVES TO BE HERE</p>

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*As per REMAX stats for Large Residential Teams, March 2022. Not intended to solicit clients currently under contract with another Brokerage.