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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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**FREE** 

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13, 2025



Aurorans, including these students from St. Andrew's College and St. Anne's School, braved the cold and snow and turned out in droves on Sunday morning to pay their respect to the fallen as the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion led Remembrance Sunday services at the Cenotaph. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger For more, see Page 11.

# Aurora Sports Hall of Fame welcomes Class of 2025

BY JIM STEWART LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

of Fame Induction Celebration Evening was enjoyed by over 230 attendees at the

veteran Kris King.

With David Bowie's "Heroes" playing in the background, the opening lineup of The 12th Annual Aurora Sports Hall Inductees strode into the Mansion's main dining room. Included in the star-studded, red-jacketed procession were Charles Royal Venetian Mansion on Thursday. Leeming (2023), Janice Jones (2022), Enshrined into the Hall of Fame Ryan Gardner (2019), Colin Graham assembled at the stage, the Royal Canadian were Ultra Runner Erlinda Biondic, (2021), Reg Chappell (2019), Paolina CFL tailback Robert Reid, Hockey Allan (2018), Mike Kitchen (2016), Lois

Wall (2017), Mike Murphy (2016), and Alex Ansell (2014).

As they gathered around fellow Inductee Lowell McClenny (2015), the esteemed group received a standing ovation by an appreciative audience

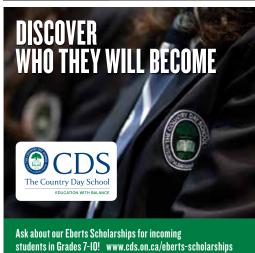
Once the red-jacketed brigade was Legion Honor Guard piped in the colours and the 2025 Inductees—Biondic, Reid,

Continued on page 22



HONOURED MEMBERS - The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 proudly don their distinctive red blazers following their formal induction ceremony on Thursday evening. Pictured here from left to right are Kris King, Erlinda Biondic, Heather Morning, and Robert Reid. Photo by Glenn Rodger Photography/Aurora Sports Hall of Fame















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# New recycling bins, rules causing fresh headaches for residents, business owners

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mayors of Aurora's Northern Six communities continue to advocate for options as new blue bins roll out amid resident pushback – and they are hoping solutions might be on the table as early as this week.

Area residents began receiving the new Blue Bins bins last week ahead of a switch in the New Year on how recycling is collected.

The new bins, which are significantly larger than the ones now used by residents, are upright, on wheels, and, according to many residents, unwieldy—both in the space they take up, and how residents wheel them to the ends of their driveways, particularly if they are experiencing mobility challenges.

The January 2026 switchover is the result in a Province-wide move away from the Province. a municipal collection service towards a Producer-Responsibility level. While it is argued the new model will result in some cost savings, many are questioning whether it is worth the headache.

In an update on Tuesday afternoon, Mayor Tom Mrakas said talks earlier in the day between the N6 mayors and Circular Materials, which is overseeing the program, were "not satisfactory," but indicated work continues to find a resolution.

"Unfortunately, the response from Circular Materials was not satisfactory when it came to questions about providing bin-size options beyond the 95-gallon carts delivered earlier this month," said Mayor Mrakas. "We made it clear that bin-size options are not an ask — they are a requirement. Our residents deserve flexibility, and one size does not fit all."

Tuesday afternoon's statement followed one issued last week where the Mayor asked residents to reach out to his office whether they were "in favour, against, or indifferent" towards the new recycling bins as the N6 mayors developed a formal response to the change-over.

"I understand that for many households the new bin feels too large or difficult to manage, and that this change has caused frustration," said Mayor Mrakas. "While the Town of Aurora is not responsible for managing or implementing this new program, I want you to know that your feedback has not gone unheard. Under Ontario's Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, the Province has shifted responsibility for the Blue Box Program from municipalities to the companies that produce products and packaging. For Aurora, this means the program is now overseen by Circular Materials, a not-forprofit organization representing producers and collection is now being handled by Green For Life (GLF). Other municipalities may have different service providers, which is why bin sizes and options can vary across

"Even though this program is out of the Town's direct control, Town staff and I have been advocating for more flexibility in bin size and collection options, especially to better meet the needs of seniors and those with limited storage space."

As concerns – and complaints – have mounted, Council members have sought to reassure their respective Ward constituents as well.

In a social media post, Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese says the rules set out by the Province on the switch-over specify that blue box receptacles provided must be "appropriate for the residence, including with respect to size," something he suggests doesn't fit the bill with what's been delivered.

"I think this should be vetted by our legal department and every effort to resolve this Blue Bin controversy should be made," he

Added Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland: "While this may be a 'producer' decision, who approved this one-size-fits-all approach? Were there no local guidelines or consultation before rolling it out? Aurora people actually live – not policies designed of the Yonge Street Promenade, and for the in a vacuum."

causing headaches to local businesses, a temporary measure – in January. particularly those that are located in the historic downtown core.

Under the Extended model, businesses will become responsible for the disposal of their own recycling, but this has created concerns expressed by only a very small number for businesses in the downtown where space is limited and the only ways to put out their unique complexities the downtown recycling collection is along the busy Yonge and Wellington corridors.

the collection of waste and organics in December 2024, staff have met with business owners, delivered letters, posted information and utilized mobile road signage to inform of the upcoming changes. including to recycling, while businesses have these impacted businesses, which would been working to secure private collection," said Amanda Cutler, Aurora's Coordinator of Waste and Recycling, in the report before central location for drop-offs – specifically Council this week.

"Staff has heard from a small number of business owners in the downtown core about the stop of waste collection by the location is not adjacent to the impacted Town effective January 1, 2026. The rationale behind the concerns is lack of storage/space constraints of large waste bins until collection day, higher costs/ difficulty securing service and negative cause potential concern for residential impact on downtown businesses. Parking spots in the rear lots are at a premium and utilizing them for waste storage would compound the issue. It's also not possible to utilize the frontage on Yonge Street; this is not an appropriate location as storefronts the Town continue to collect solid waste need to remain inviting for public and space needs to remain unconstrained to allow for adequate pedestrian flow and safety."

The recommendation, if approved by Council, would rescind Council direction to that collection continue "as a temporary explored and potentially considered."

deserves practical solutions that respect how measure" during the ongoing design process Town to provide area businesses a specific Changes to recycling methods are also location to dispose of recyclables – again, as

> Recycling collection, the report notes, is not feasible through the Town's current Producer contractor as part of a downtown collection

"While the concerns have been of businesses, staff understand the holds, including mixed residential and business blocks, storage constraints, "Since the approval to discontinue parking limitations, frontage aesthetics, and a desire to revitalize the area through the streetscape plan currently under progress."

> Options before Council include securing a private contractor to serve have an estimated annual cost of between \$125,000 and \$175,000, or providing a the Town's Joint Operations Centre on Industrial Parkway North.

> "Staff recognize that this drop-off businesses and that the recyclables will require transport; however, locating the bins in a parking lot in the downtown core would take up valuable parking spots, properties, and potentially promote dumping of other waste by the public and/or cross contamination.

"Due to the unique complexities of the downtown core, staff are recommending and organics for these small businesses, while providing a recycling drop location at the JOC. This service provision will be temporary and provided during the Yonge Street Downtown Promenade Detailed stop the collection of waste in the downtown Design project, in which the feasibility core, a decision made last December, of waste storage and collection will be

# **JOIN THE**

# **AURORA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD**

# Attention business leaders:

The Aurora Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), on behalf of Council, provides strategic leadership and coordination of community economic development to strengthen and diversify existing business, attract new business investment, while leading other strategic initiatives for the Town.

# Interested in being involved?

We're looking for an innovative and forward-thinking professional to join the Board for a 3-year term beginning in March 2026.

Preference will be given to candidates with industry experience in ICI (Industrial, Commercial, Institutional) Real Estate transactions, and Tourism and Hospitality.

Please read the Terms of Reference before applying.



**AURORA.CA/COMMITTEES** 



TOWN OF AURORA **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

AURORA TOWN COUNCIL will hold a Public Meeting to receive input on a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application:

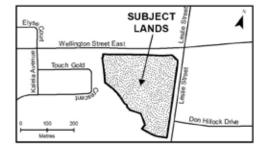
Tuesday, December 1, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Aurora Town Hall, Council Chambers, 100 John West Way, Aurora Ontario

APPLICATION: The purpose of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment is to rezone a portion of the subject lands to remove the apartment permissions and to add site specific development standards for 117 townhouses and 8 single detached dwellings while keeping the Environmental Protection Zone unchanged.

PROPERTY: 1289 Wellington Street East LEGAL DISCRIPTION: Part of Lot 20, CON 2, PART 10 on PLAN 65-36523 APPLICANT: 2697331 Ontario Inc FILE NUMBERS: ZBA-2025-07

**RELATED APPLICATION: SUB-2025-01** WARD: 4



# PROCEDURAL INFORMATION:

Parties interested in speaking during the public portion of the meeting may attend in person or electronically. To participate electronically, pre-registration is required. For more information, visit: aurora.ca/participation

The meeting will be live streamed at: youtube.com/TownofAurora

The Planning Report will be made available the Tuesday before the Public Planning Meeting date on the Town's website, by visiting the Agendas and Minutes section, located at: aurora.ca/agendas

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any questions regarding the proposed application can be directed to Peter Fan of the Planning and Development Services Department at 365-500-3098, or by email at pfan@aurora.ca.

Comments may also be mailed to the Planning and Development Services Department at 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON. L4G 6J1, faxed to 905-726-4736, or emailed to planning@aurora.ca prior to the meeting. Please quote the File Name and Number.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of the Town of Aurora on the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment application, you must make a written request to the Town to the attention of the Director of Planning and Development Services.

# 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  $of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O.\ 1990, c.\ M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public public$ feedback to planning proposals is considered to be 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 and the public unless you expressly request the Town in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town in it.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 13th day of November, 2025

### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# King Artisan Holiday Market brings festive cheer to community

Arts Society King invites the community to celebrate the holiday season at the first King Artisan Holiday Market, taking place Saturday, November 22 and Sunday, November 23 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road in King City.

Visitors are invited to step into the charm of the season and explore the beautifully restored heritage buildings on site — including the historic Church, Train Station, and Laskay Hall. The venue will be filled with the sights and sounds of the holidays, from a gallery of decorated trees and live carolers to delicious seasonal treats.

The market features the work of 16 talented artisans, each offering unique, handcrafted creations perfect for holiday gifting. Shoppers can discover everything from fine art and décor to one-of-a-kind treasures, all while supporting local makers and celebrating community creativity.

A special highlight on Sunday features Chris the Poet and his vintage typewriter. Guests can sit down, share a few words from the heart, and watch as he transforms them into a personalized poem keepsake to take home and treasure.

For an easy and festive shopping experience, visitors can enjoy Park Once Shop Twice. Park at either the King Township Municipal Centre (2585) King Rd.) to explore the One of a King Homemade Holiday Market or at the King Heritage & Cultural Centre for the King Artisan Holiday Market and take advantage of a free shuttle running frequently between both locations. With dozens of artisans across both markets, there's something for everyone on your holiday list.

Celebrate the spirit of art, history, and community this season at the Artisan Holiday Market. For more information, visit www. ArtsSocietyKing.ca/events.

Shop local. Celebrate art. Embrace the holiday spirit.

**Arts Society King** 

# Premier issues Remembrance Day message

November 11 is a day when our nation comes together to express our collective appreciation for the courageous men and women in uniform who gave their all to defend the values and freedoms that make Canada the best country in the world.

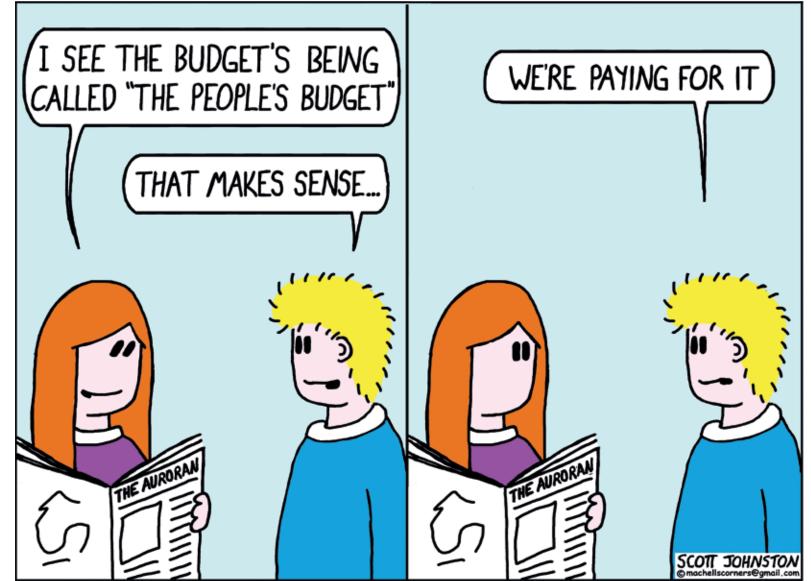
This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The actions of the Canadian Armed Forces in defence of democracy against tyranny aren't just remembered here, but in nations across the world where our veterans and flag are welcomed with open arms.

This Remembrance Day, as we observe a moment of silence, I urge the people of Ontario to reflect on the bravery of our Canadian Armed Forces, who left and continue to leave the comforts of home and family to put their lives on the line to protect our country and defend freedom abroad. We remember the more than 120,000 brave soldiers throughout our history who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our country and we think of their families and loved ones.

As we wear poppies and lay our wreaths, I encourage everyone to think of the individual acts of courage and selflessness that these powerful symbols represent. And to every veteran, service person and military family in our province thank you.

Lest we forget.

**Premier Doug Ford** 



# Remembering in Discomfort

Remembrance Day services are always, in my view, a spectacular sight.

I've been a life-long sucker for pomp and circumstance, so the bands and pipers (bag and otherwise) that participate each year, not to mention the associated parades, and uniforms that have been cleaned-up and buttons polished to levels only seen at this time of year, is a perfect storm.

But it's not just pomp and circumstance solely for the sake of pomp and circumstance; it's potent, poignant, and never fails to lose its power.

This sight, unchanged in so many ways since the end of the First World War, had extra power this year due to circumstances well beyond our control.

The sheer number of people who gave their all to attend ceremonies on Tuesday, and those held over the weekend, despite a deep freeze and snow blowing in all directions, was a testament to how proud we are of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for King, Queen and Country. It was also reflective of the pride we have in the men and women who served, experienced the horrors taken in by the fallen but, mercifully, came home to share their stories.

As impressive as the numbers were given the unseasonable weather of the past few days, however, I often wonder just how many more people might turn out if not for any number of circumstances.

Sure, there are those who are unable to get out and mark the occasion privately, or, if they're living on a congregate setting, in services ably spearheaded by residential staff to allow their residents to Remember - and a special shout out goes to teachers and education support staff who go above and beyond to help students Remember in-class as well.

But there are other circumstances, too.

Some might say such services glorify war and conflict; well, talk to anyone who has served and you'll likely say otherwise.

Some might argue that there aren't enough hours to take out of the workday to make the effort; first of all, the men and women who served might have learned a word we can't print in this newspaper to refute that, but, regardless, there are almost always ways to remember on the weekends.

Yet, for others, it's a matter of discomfort.

I know there are members of our communities who don't turn out for very personal reasons. Perhaps they had a beloved parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle, who served and the aforementioned power and potency of such ceremonies are simply too much for them.

Others still might find the music that so often accompanies such services too



# **BROCK'S BANTER**

**Brock Weir** 

evocative of events in their past, at funerals, for instance, and would prefer to ride out these emotions in privacy.

Fair enough.

While I respect each person's individual reasons for not coming out for such occasions, to me it invariably seems like such of 17 and 25 participated in the study. It also a missed opportunity.

many years ago when, as a loved one's life bearing in whether or not they were going to ebbed towards its close, some members of heed the warming. their family were reluctant to come and say their final farewells.

Saying goodbye is always difficult, and that goes without saying, but their reason for staying away often surprised me: they preferred to remember the loved one as they were in their prime, not as they were as their time came to an end. That certainly didn't help anybody and, when you can provide comfort at no cost to someone you love when they need it the most is, in my opinion, peak selfishness.

And, again, a missed opportunity.

There is some value in discomfort.

At last week's recent induction ceremony for the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2025, some of the honourees touched upon the lessons they learned in taking a loss on the field, on the rink, or whatever their arena, if you'll pardon the pun, happened

Losing is never a comfortable experience, but it's one that you learn from and, hopefully, propels you forward.

south of the border, and well-beyond have come together to inspire people who have never been engaged in politics before to step out of their comfort zones, put their opinions before the public – a hurdle that's difficult to clear in the best of circumstances.

hosted Saturday Night Live and certainly sparked a conversation. Her monologue, which touched upon several controversial

topics, made many people uncomfortable and brought about the inevitable online backlash, as most things do these days – but, if not laughing, it certainly got people talking. Maybe, however, there a shift in the offing.

An October 13 article in the UK newspaper, The Independent, delved into the topic of whether or not trigger warnings, such as those at the start of a movie or news article that contain scenes which could adversely impact its consumers, are effective.

In her article, Rebecca Whittaker, cited a study which found "flagging potentially distressing content may encourage people" to read or watch further.

"Almost 90 per vent of young people who saw a trigger warning still chose to view the content out of curiosity, whatever the source of the warnings, and irrespective of whether they suffered trauma. One person even told researchers: 'Sometimes my brain wants to be triggered, so it grabs my attention more."

More than 250 people between the ages found that whether or not the participant I'm also reminded of an experience I had had trauma history or PTSD had little

> "Although trigger warnings are there to signal care and consideration, the evidence suggests they do little to prevent exposure to distressing material. Instead, they may simply pique curiosity, leading users to engage with content they might otherwise have ignored."

> This is not to suggest in any way that people go and run roughshod over trigger warnings that might very well be relevant to their own experiences and their mental health, but simply to illustrate that comfort zones are highly individual and we are in control of whether or not we stay in them.

And how we Remember.

If you stay away from your local Cenotaph at this time of year solely because it might be an uncomfortable experience, perhaps 2026 is the year you step out of that comfort zone and take part in a remarkable example of community coming together for a common cause – something that is becoming increasingly rare in this day and

The men and women we gather to Political circumstances here at home, remember certainly stepped out of theirs to serve, and so-called creature comforts were barely a thought – aside, perhaps, from writing home about provisions and rations. Who knows, coming out next November forward and, if not in writing, speaking might provide a valuable moment of catharsis.

For those who gathered on Tuesday Just last week, comedian Nikki Glaser and in the days that preceded it, it certainly wasn't a comfortable experience, either. But it completed the Act of Remembrance, and, I think we were all the richer for it.

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**EDITOR** Brock Weir

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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to brock@lpcmedia.ca. Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m



### **AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES is...**

# VETERANS' CLUB.

Armistice Sunday Service Parade will line up at the Armouries at 1.30 p.m. Sunday, 8th, then proceed to the Memorial. After a short ceremony there, will reform and attend service in the Mechanics Hall at 3 p.m. prompt. Efforts are being made to try and obtain Rev. Charters, Chaplain of the Peel Regt. to again conduct the services. All societies and citizens are heartily invited, and a successful parade, in point numbers is hoped for.

# Remembering

100 years ago, for the first time in Aurora's history, its citizens would gather around the new Aurora War Memorial to commemorate the fallen of WWI from Aurora, King, and Whitchurch. Remembrance Day, then known as Armistice Day, was preceded by a parade from the Aurora Armoury to the Cenotaph, the start of a yearly tradition (Aurora Banner, November 6, 1925). This vulnerable moment in the Town's past is a link to our past and a tangible connection to shared emotions. Today we remember the fallen from WWII, the Korean War, the War in Afghanistan and peacekeeping missions. 100 years from now, we know that future Aurorans will continue this legacy of remembering our fallen. Lest We Forget.



# **Time Travellers Diary**

By Jacqueline Stuart

# Up at the Club

A few days ago, we observed Remembrance Day.

Back in 1919 Armistice Day was officially instituted in Canada as a day for marking the end of World War I and for honouring those who had died in the armed services during the war.

The name was changed to

Remembrance Day in 1931 and the emphasis shifted from the signing of the Armistice document to the honouring of those who had lost their lives. In the years since then there has also been a wider recognition of all the men and women who have served in our military forces.

The ending of the First World War, or the Great War as it was then known, saw the formation of organizations for those servicemen who had survived the war.

A Newmarket/Aurora branch of the Great War Veterans Association was established, with a club room in Newmarket. In Aurora a branch of the Grand Army of United Veterans was set up in 1920.

These organizations provided opportunities for veterans to share their experiences, to talk about on-going problems with roots in the war years, or just to socialize with their male friends. They often provided assistance, usually financial, to their members in need. The groups had a public presence on Remembrance Day, of course.

The Aurora veterans seceded from the Grand Army of United Veterans after only a few months and became an independent club. Formal meetings required larger gathering places but for casual evenings the members could drop in at the club room upstairs in the Wells Block, on the north side of Wellington Street just east of Yonge.

This now rather nondescript two-storey building from 1887 had two commercial units facing Wellington (the building stretches back toward Centre Street).

The Aurora Veterans Club had its room on the upper floor, above the eastern ground floor unit which at that time accommodated a moving picture theatre.

With veterans so much in mind at this time of year, the other day I took a trip back to 1925 to see what was going on in the veterans' club room. Definitely a time for "invisible" mode!

The club room was open every evening except Sundays; I went on a Wednesday. There were eight men there. Four of them were at the billiard tables at one end of the sizeable clubroom.

Two others were playing a card game about midway down the room.

For me the most appealing space was the "library," as far as possible away from the noisy billiards. There were comfortable armchairs. Some pictures on the wall. Curtains on the windows along the side wall. Shelves well laden with books.

The remaining two men were talking to each other in the library corner. Were they discussing horrific moments at the battlefront? No; they were complaining about some local plumber.

I decided to come back to the present. I felt happy about what I had seen, about this comfy meeting place for men who probably had all sorts of things in common but definitely that one huge, possibly terrifying, experience which they would never forget.

Eventually, in 1946, the Aurora war veterans would join the Canadian [later Royal Canadian] Legion, with the formation of Aurora Branch 385, which is with us still.

# **CORRECTIONS**

In last week's edition of The Auroran, the caption accompanying last week's story on the Aurora Tigers should have read, as was reflected in the article, that Luke Howard was a NCAA D1 commit, rather than NCAA D2. Additionally, in the article, "Preserving heritage while welcoming growth are public concerns as Council considers downtown's future," the last name of Rocco Morsillo was misspelled. We regret the errors.



# COSTAS' **CORNER**

**MP Costas Menegakis** Aurora-Oakridges-Richmond Hill

by \$10 million. Interest payments now exceed what the government transfers to provinces for healthcare and will surpass what it collects through all the GST across the entire country for the entire year. That means every dollar Canadians pay in GST goes to bankers and bondholders instead of doctors and nurses. The more this government Clearly, this is yet another example spends, the more everything costs, and the less Canadian families can afford.

> Here at home, the results are clear. Groceries at local supermarkets are more expensive every week. Home prices in York Region remain out of reach for many families. Small business owners face higher taxes and rising input costs that threaten jobs and livelihoods. And for too many residents, the dream of home ownership has turned into the fear of unmanageable rent costs.

> Food inflation in Canada has risen nearly 40 percent faster than in the United States. This is directly linked to the imposition of hidden food taxes, such as Mark Carney's new industrial carbon tax, which imposes taxes on the farmers that grow our food and the truckers that deliver it. Nationally, food banks are now reporting more than 2.2 million visits per month. This is the highest number in our history. One third of food bank visitors

are children. That is 24,000 children in Canada, today and every day, will walk into a food bank hungry.

This is not the Canada we know. Canadians deserve better. Conservatives called on the Prime Minister to work with us to restore hope and an affordable future for all Canadians. We offered clear, practical solutions to the Liberals so they could deliver an affordable budget for affordable lives.

First, we proposed bringing down the deficit to the level Liberals promised in their last fiscal update.

Second, we proposed scrapping hidden taxes on food, including the new industrial carbon tax on farmers, the food packaging tax that adds billions in costs, and the fuel standard tax that adds 17 cents per litre to diesel and gasoline for farmers.

Third, we proposed ending the inflation tax by bringing down the deficit instead of printing money.

Unfortunately, the Liberals rejected all these ideas and voted against them, but Conservatives won't stop fighting for families, seniors, and small business owners right here in Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill.

Canadians don't need higher taxes or more government debt. They need homes, jobs, and hope. Conservatives will deliver an affordable life by ensuring Canadians can once again afford to eat, heat, and house themselves. I will keep fighting for affordability for families in Aurora and Richmond Hill.

As our Town begins receiving new blue bins, I want to acknowledge the many comments and concerns I've heard from residents. I understand that for many households, the new bin feels too large or difficult to manage and that this change has caused frustration.

On November 4, the Liberal

It has been standard practice to

present the annual budget in Parliament,

by March or April of each year. This is

so because the federal fiscal year starts

on April 1 of the year and ends on

March 31 of the following year. The

unprecedented delay in producing

Budget 2025 has allowed the Liberals

to spend about \$343 billion (7 months

worth of the total budget of \$586 billion)

of taxpayer money prior to asking for

of the disrespect the Liberals have for

our highest of institutions, and more

in Canadian history outside of the

This budget is the most expensive

Families in Aurora and Richmond

Hill are already paying the price for

this government's reckless spending. I

keep hearing the same thing: their lives

are getting harder, and they're working

longer just to keep up with rising costs

for food, housing, fuel, and everyday

The Liberal Prime Minister promised

fiscal discipline but delivered the

opposite. Mark Carney said he would

spend less, but added \$90 billion in new

spending, adding an additional debt of

\$5,400 more for every Canadian family

Every hour, the federal debt grows

importantly our democratic process.

approval from Parliament to do so.

Government released its latest annual

budget.

pandemic.

essentials.

this year alone.

While the Town of Aurora is not responsible for managing or implementing this new program, I want you to know that your feedback has not gone unheard. Under Ontario's Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, the Province has shifted responsibility for the Blue Box Program from municipalities to the companies that produce products and packaging.

For Aurora, this means the program is now overseen by Circular Materials, a not-for-profit organization representing producers and collection is being handled by Green for Life (GFL).

Other municipalities may have different service providers, which is why



# **GETTING** THINGS DONE

Mayor **Tom Mrakas** 

bin sizes and options can vary across the

Even though this program is outside of the Town's direct control, Town staff and I have been advocating for more flexibility in bin size and collection options, especially to better meet the needs of seniors and those with limited storage space.

The Mayors of the Northern Six (N6) municipalities in York Region are meeting with executives to discuss the rollout of the new recycling bins. I want to make sure your voice is heard at that meeting.

Please email me at TMrakas@ aurora.ca to share whether you are in favour, against, or indifferent to the new recycling bin. Your feedback will help me present a clear picture, by the numbers of how our community feels.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit aurora.ca/BlueBin.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this transition together. Aurora remains committed to supporting our residents and ensuring your concerns are brought forward to the Province and GFL. I will continue to share your feedback with provincial representatives and push for adjustments that make sense for our community.

Mayor Tom Mrakas and Maureen Casey of the Aurora Food Pantry joined the Tim Hortons team at Wellington Street and John West Way – Drew, Anit, Romik ,Cristal, and Novneet – on Monday to launch the Holiday Smile Cookie initiative, which will kick off in the week ahead.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

# Holiday Smile Cookie sales will support Aurora Food Pantry





Everything" is now needed at organization: Director

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Sales of a favourite holiday treat that never fails to put a smile on your face will benefit local food insecurity this season.

Tim Hortons is set to launch its Holiday Smile Cookie Campaign, which will run from November 17 – 23, and proceeds from local sales will benefit the Aurora Food Pantry.

This is the third year the Pantry has been the recipient of Holiday Smile Cookie proceeds and Executive Director Sandra Seepaul says every dollar raised is vital to the community.

"In 2023, they raised \$7,308 and in 2024, they raised \$10,391 – now we're here at 2025 and we'll see what we can come up with! We're grateful for community businesses like Tim Hortons that continue to support the Pantry year after year, because our expenses have increased significantly with the number of our clients also increasing," says Seepaul.

At this time of year, so soon after Thanksgiving, a season where giving rises, shelves at the Aurora Food Pantry are typically well-stocked – in a typical year.

This, however, is not a typical year and Seepaul says the Pantry is in a position where they are purchasing 80 per cent of their food compared to the donations that have come in.

"We just went through Thanksgiving and you would think we would not have to purchase any of our food right now, but that is not the case," she says. "This type of support from the community is really helpful to us. It means that we can buy from suppliers, buying more for less. It also means, too, that we can continue to purchase healthier and quality foods for our clients.

"For instance, we continue to buy fresh produce. We're able to continue purchasing our milk, our eggs and margarine, cheese, yogurt, and that sort of thing so that people can have fresh items in their fridges as well. [But] I think people always forget that they can buy us produce like onions, potatoes, apples, carrots — we're always spending money on those. As far as food items go, we're buying everything across the board. Whatever anybody tries to give us, we're very appreciative because, right now we need it."

Some additional needs of the Aurora Food Pantry that might not be top of mind are egg cartons, which they reuse, and any extra reusable grocery bags you no longer need, as clients use when selecting food from their Industrial Parkway South shelves.

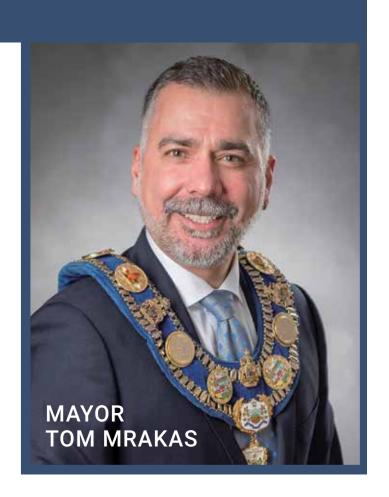
While they caution people to check the Best Before labels on what they intend to donate as anything past that expiration can't be distributed and disposing of them creates more work for Food Pantry volunteers, Seepaul says that literally anything else would be gratefully received.

"It's funny, usually every year we would put out a list of things that we do need and the things to not buy – I can't even say that this year."

For more on the Aurora Food Pantry, including how to donate and volunteer, visit aurorafoodpantry.ca.







Dear Aurora Residents,

As our Town begins receiving **new blue bins**, I want to acknowledge the many comments and concerns I've heard from residents. I understand that for many households, the new bin feels too large or difficult to manage and that this change has caused frustration.

While the Town of Aurora is **not** responsible for managing or implementing this new program, I want you to know that **your feedback has not gone unheard**. Under Ontario's Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016, the Province has shifted responsibility for the Blue Box Program from municipalities to the companies that produce products and packaging.

For Aurora, this means the program is now **overseen by Circular Materials**, a not-for-profit organization representing producers and **collection is being handled by Green for Life (GFL)**. Other municipalities may have different service providers, which is why bin sizes and options can vary across the province.

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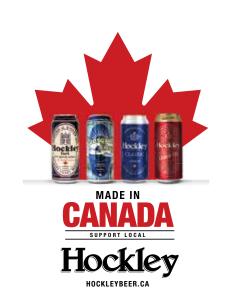
Sincerely,

Tom Mrakas Mayor

AURORA TOWN HA



# BUSINESS FINANCE



# MPs receive Federal Budget feedback at local conversation

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora's Members of Parliament Sandra Cobena and Costas Menegakis got feedback from residents on the 2025 Federal Budget at a forum hosted at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Saturday morning.

The forum was convened just days after the Federal Government presented its long-awaited financial blueprint in the House of Commons, one which was touted as an investment in the future and one that address uncertainties resulting from ongoing trade disputes with the United States.

The Budget, said Prime Minister Mark Carney, confronts the challenges of global trade "head on."

"Budget 2025 is about building Canada strong: investing in our people, our ideas, and our industries," he said in a statement. "We're ushering in a new economic strategy to supercharge growth and give businesses the confidence to invest. We will enable \$1 trillion in total investments in five years – to give ourselves more than any country could ever take away."

The budget includes \$280 billion in capital investments over the next five years, which the Government says will

Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis and Newmarket-Aurora MP Sandra Cobena are pictured Saturday at the Aurora Cultural Centre ahead of their Budget consultation event. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

"mobilize more than \$1 trillion in total investment from public, private, and institutional partners."

"As these investments are realized, they will drive creation, faster growth, and stronger revenues to sustain social

programs that help Canadians get ahead," said the Federal government.

Cobena, Newmarket-Aurora's what was presented last week.

community to bring the budget and also just be available for questions because, of discussion on finance.

"My concern, of course, is the deficit and hinging on a number of assumptions." and the debt. Those two numbers are big. We know now that the deficit is roughly \$78.3 billion, if all the assumptions come on budget clarity and for residents and to be. But we know already that is not businesses alike. going to be the case. The Prime Minister expected to cost about \$100 billion for the lives of the submarines and that was not included in the budget. When we look \$1.3 trillion. The number is so big. This budget adds \$324 billion of debt and that is particularly concerning because it is essentially handing every Canadian family a \$20,000 credit card and saying, implications for our youth."

Youth, she says, are "particularly to affordability, housing, opportunities.

Saturday by one attendee who said his daughter spent all summer trying to pin new idea, a new regulation, another one, down a job, but without any luck.

"I knew there was a lot of things going delays that we do."

through his mind because I could see it in his eyes. When we opened it up for a question-and-answer, he stood up and was Conservative MP, however, says Canada's very, very upset," she recalls. "He said, deficit and debt remain top of mind given 'I honestly just feel with this budget not presenting a clear path, a clear solution "We wanted to go out into the for them, I just want to tell my kids to go to another country. I'm just so frustrated.' [In the last election] there were a lot of course, this budget comes a year-and-a-people who were on the fence in terms half after the last one was tabled and there of who to support. They trusted that the has been so much anticipation," she says. Prime Minister and his experience would "Having the financial background, this lead to a budget that was more fiscally is right up my alley, so I was very excited responsible, but with actual opportunities to just have a roundtable and just have a for today to address the crisis that we have today - not so abstract and so long-term

> As she heads back to Ottawa next week, Cobena says she will continue to advocate

"Big businesses are important, but is looking to buy submarines that are when we talk about the economy, it's that mid-market, it's small and mediumsized enterprises that create the jobs that create the wealth, and they are not being at the deficit and the debt specifically, the exempt from the rules, clearly," she says, numbers are astronomical. The debt is referencing some rule exemptions for big projects. "There's not a real plan for them. With those businesses, they're not cash rich enough to be able to lobby the government, hire expensive lobbyists, expensive accountants to help them find 'Good luck, you pay for it.' That has direct loopholes in taxes so they can reduce their expenses....

"They are the ones that are being impacted" right now when it comes disproportionately impacted.... They're still struggling, they're still having to deal with mountains of regulation; some This was a point that was highlighted regulation is necessary, but the problem is you've got a government that just has a another one, and that's why we see the







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# Preventing "renovictions" could be tackled in future Aurora bylaw

**BY BROCK WEIR** EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

"renovictions" could soon be in the Ward 1, he adds.

Ron Weese which would, if formally adopted at the end of this month, task municipal staff with drafting bylaws questionable or demolitions, housing."

concern to the residents of Aurora," says Councillor Weese in his motion. community stability, and will protect "Rental housing is a major component of the affordable housing stock, and based on the 2024 Aurora Affordable Housing Action Plan, approximately 19 per cent of private households are rented.

"Eviction by renovation (sometimes landlords to evict tenants under the guise of major renovations but, in reality, are used to remove low-rentcosmetic renovations with the goal of renting out the space at a higher level."

The motion notes that "renovictions" have a negative impact on affordable housing stock and points to similar Ontario municipalities.

Speaking to The Auroran ahead of

rents for a long time" both within Aurora and across Ontario.

There have been a couple of Bylaws to prevent tenants from "instances" of this taking place within

"There are bylaws that have been Council this week will consider put together in other communities a motion from Ward 1 Councillor and these bylaws provide stronger safeguards for tenants who might eviction otherwise circumstances," to "protect tenants from unlawful or says. "It ensures landlords can't necessary evictions due to renovations, exploit renovation provisions in while the Residential Tenancy Act to balancing the rights of landlords to raise rents or to remove long-term maintain safe, healthy and habitable tenants without genuine renovation needs. I think the benefit overall is "Affordable housing is of great that it's going to reduce involuntary displacement of people, maintains affordable housing stock."

> Going forward with a bylaw such as this won't be without its challenges as he says it will be a matter of ensuring landlords are protected in the process

"Landlords have property rights termed 'renoviction') is used by and they have a right to get a return on their investment, so maybe this will cause additional permit requirements and additional costs for landlords paying tenants to be able to do some that will even increase the costs of rentals – particularly for...renovations that need to be done. It could delay building improvements or reduce investment in old rental housing, so I am concerned about that as well.

"There are other issues around "Renovation License and Relocation proof of the intent that a landlord has Bylaws" being implemented in other and some complexity of compliance as a bylaw. I've spoken to our Bylaw people about this [and] have been this week's Committee of the Whole working on it for maybe six months or

been "concerned about affordable and the opportunities - and they're prepared to come forward with a report, and I was buoyed by that.

> "Ithinkit's a municipal responsibility that could very well be implemented and being implemented properly. I have great faith that our Legal department and our Bylaw department will give a comprehensive report. When that comprehensive report comes back to Council, then we're going to see whether there's a real appetite to create the Bylaw and enforcement."

> **HAVE YOUR SAY** – Should Aurora pursue new bylaws to prevent "renovictions"? Send your thoughts to brock@lpcmedia.ca.

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# It's all hands-on deck this holiday season as Soldier Card initiative marks 20 years



This illustration, created by local artist Deborah Campo, will be included in each box of soldiers Image courtesy of Deborah Campo cards.

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM

Hundreds of writers and dozens of local businesses have come together in this season of Remembrance to make the holiday season ahead extra merry for serving Canadian soldiers.

This year marks the 20th year Aurora's Dianne and Brian Harrison have been mobilizing the Town and surrounding communities to pen Christmas and Holiday cards for Canadian servicepersons stationed overseas, or simply away from home.

This year, they have set a goal of collecting 10,000 cards, which will be delivered to CFB Trenton for distribution at the beginning of

last year, and handily surpassed it at for about a month. As they unloaded to fill the boxes and get them set for 11,767.

well underway thanks not only to those who have picked up the pen, but 30 locations across Aurora and Newmarket that serve as drop-off points for your simple, poignant

"So many different businesses have mention filling in hundreds of their countless shoeboxes for a cause where they are typically distributed year." by the appointed chaplain.

element of community collaboration as each chaplain is set to receive a card of their own created especially for purpose by local artist Deborah Campo.

"People have got compassion because we live in a safe country and our hearts go out to the military who are in other countries as we just don't know what they're seeing," says Harrison. "I think with what's going on, people know sort of more readily soldiers know that they care. We have and Mulock. to let them know that we care.

September. They had the same goal I'd been chatting to back and forth November 25 so there is enough time the van with all the boxes, I turned to Trenton. At press time this week, they were them and said, 'I'm a hugger. Would you mind if I gave you a hug?' These their email addresses on the cards four lovely officers gave me really because the soldiers seem to be able to sincere hugs, but the last soldier – it respond much quicker by email than was so warm and compassionate and, by land mail. A lot of schools and cub as he stood back, he looked at me groups don't want the kids' addresses with tears in his eyes.

stepped up to the plate this year," says was deployed in Egypt last year and great. Write something personal. Tell Dianne, making particular mention I received a card from back home. something about home. Tell people of the Optimist Club of Aurora for You have no idea what it meant to distributing cards for signing, not to me to receive a card back home from that is receiving those cards is from somebody who didn't know me, who own, and Omars Shoes for donating cared about me.' That one message If you've got grandchildren, get your from that soldier has made us really grandchildren to draw a little picture each of which is lovingly filled and propel this year to have even more because, again, you never know that decorated for the respective bases, people send boxes and cards this the person receiving the card overseas

As Harrison marks 20 years That, too, represents another spearheading this initiative, she's people to do is after you've had your proud that more businesses and organizations than ever before have there and all the cards go on sale signed up to be drop-off points.

of the public who have taken the in January, when you're warm and Kingsway Place, Park Place Manor, writing out some cards. By the time among others, while Newmarket we send out the messages next year in what's going on and they want to let and Concierge Realty at Bayview to go. I also remind people you don't

"Last year when we delivered the picked up November 18, with the put on the envelope, 'To a Canadian cards to Trenton, we met two soldiers second pickup slated to take place Soldier."

"We're encouraging people to put on it, but if you want to put a group "He said, 'Just to let you know, I leader's address on it, that would be where you're from. Maybe the soldier your hometown. You just never know. doesn't have a young child at home.

"One thing that I would really like joy at Christmas of your family being after Christmas, start scooping up all In addition to Town Hall and the the cards that are in the stores that Aurora Public Library, members are on sale and throughout the year, time to write can also drop them cozy, around your fireplace, enjoying off at Tina's Grill, Wicked Eats, your home, remember what our Bunchberry Diner, Chocolate & Co., soldiers are doing overseas and start locations include Southlake Village 2026, you'll have cards ready for us have to put postage on your cards. The first batches of cards will be It's postage-free [through us]. Just



Amica Aurora Promenade, brand-new senior lifestyles residence, is pleased to invite you to a unique event.

Drawing on the scientific literature and her research, **Dr. Gillian Mandich** explores how happiness supports resilience, health, and quality of life, especially through purpose, meaningful relationships, hobbies, and micro-moments. This session offers practical, evidence-based strategies to help cultivate well-being and fulfillment.

Before or after the presentation, enjoy a buffet lunch and enter to win exciting prizes.

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Lunch served at 12:00 p.m.

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# Aurora remembers on a Snowy Sunday















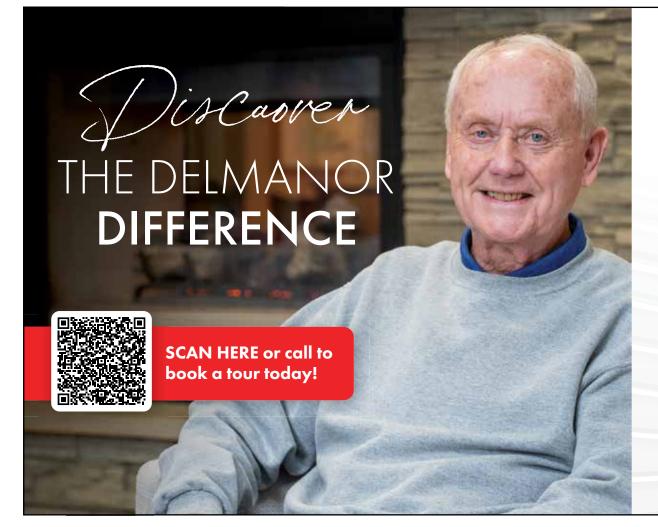






460 Botsford St., Newmarket, ON

An unseasonable cold snap and heavy snowfall couldn't keep residents from remembering the fallen on Sunday as the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion led the community in a solemn Remembrance Service on November 9. Dozens of wreaths were laid by dignitaries, community organizations, individuals and more, while residents at large – including Chris Cooper – paid tributes of their own by leaving poppies on the placed wreaths and on the Cenotaph itself. Participating individuals and groups included MPs Sandra Cobena and Costas Menegakis, MP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Central York Fire Services, Queen's York Rangers, the Aurora Black Community Association, and more.



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# ABC, NACCA to join forces for Newmarket-Aurora Black History gala

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Aurora Black Community Association and Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association are joining forces to make Black History Month 2026 extra impactful in the Newmarket-Aurora community.

The two organizations, which have become prominent changemakers in each of the municipalities they serve, are set to formally come together for the first time for a Black History Month Commemoration, which they describe as a "new intermunicipal collaboration," which also includes the Towns.

"This will bridge communities, amplify Black voices and celebrate

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people across both municipalities," said Jerisha Grant Hall, Executive Director of NACCA, and Phiona Durrant, President & Founder of the ABC, in a joint statement. "Although NACCA and ABC operate independently, our shared vision brings us together to celebrate our shared legacy.

"As we begin this collaborative journey of hosting Black History Month, we recognize that each year will bring new opportunities for reflection and growth. We remain committed to uplifting the voices and spirit of the African Canadian community.

February 7, 2026, at the Royal a better use. Venetian Mansion in Aurora. This formal evening will offer reflection and distinguished speakers, and moments of honouring the achievements and contributions of African Canadians. While the format has evolved from past community celebrations, our commitment to accessibility remains

Newmarket-Aurora Black History Month commemoration reflects the essence of Umoja (unity) and Ujima (collective work and responsibility). It stands as a testament to what we can achieve together, honouring our shared history, celebrating our collective strength, and carrying forward the promise of a future built on connection and Pan-African pride. We extend a heartfelt thanks to our funders, sponsors, and community members for your continued support and partnership."

Speaking to The Auroran this week, Durrant said this collaboration achieves part of her initial personal vision when

the collective achievements of our other's events in the process.

Coming together for an event such as this, she says, gives supporters a central focus in commemorating Black History rather than having to choose supporting one over the other.

"It brings us together because this is a shared legacy," she says. "This has great impact for unity and togetherness. We know that in our respective municipalities we have our own respective needs. Newmarket might not have the same needs as Aurora and viceversa, but this is about unity for me and that's an impact, that's a legacy. This collaboration is a legacy that we want. "At the heart of this collaboration I want to see us help to expand because is the Black History Month Gala, a we're stronger together, our resources ticketed event taking place on Saturday, are better used, our skillsets are put to

"You're also monitoring burnout sometimes these things can cause recognition through live performances, burnout, not because it's a burden, but because you're doing this with all your joy and all your passion, but you also want excellence. Somebody from one of the municipalities said to me, 'Sometimes municipalities don't work well together and this will really not only show unified support and oneness with you and NACCA, but also for Newmarket and Aurora.' That puts us in a position to be better in leadership, as a municipality, working together, collaborating. I just feel that I can't see any negative – I can't personally see any negative impact other than growth on this. I just see everything that's moving forward, growth, togetherness, legacy building."

Asked whether this united forward momentum could lead organizations eventually merging, Durrant says there is a need for independent municipalities to have independent voices when it comes to she founded the ABC of seeing greater advocacy. She doesn't, however, close collaboration of Black leaders within the door to the possibility down the and beyond Aurora, supporting each road, but stresses that while ABC and

NACCA have similar overall visions, their approaches and experiences might be different.

"I don't write off anything - I see an opportunity of coming in as one, but it takes growth, and it takes us also, as the individual leaders, to build that cohesion and relationship with ourselves and that takes time," she says. "It takes time to build because independent leaders are different. They build from their own values, their own pain, their own hurt, and from the place of healing.

"[This is a matter of] let's be an example to other organizations to say, 'We can do this, and we're still separated, we're still individuallyoperated organizations, but we share this big vision of Black history, which is our Canadian legacy and history."

### Winter overnight parking restrictions begin November 15

The Town of Aurora is reminding residents that winter overnight parking restrictions will be in effect from November 15, 2025, to April 15, 2026. During this period, on-street parking is not permitted between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. daily, regardless of weather conditions.

These seasonal restrictions are essential to ensure timely and effective snow clearing throughout the winter months. Parked vehicles on roadways can obstruct snowplows and other maintenance equipment, which can significantly delay snow removal efforts and compromise road

Bylaw officers will enforce these restrictions. A fine of \$50 will be issued to vehicles parked on the street during restricted hours. If a vehicle is found to be obstructing snow removal operations, a \$75 fine will apply.

To support residents who may occasionally need overnight parking, the Town offers up to 12 free on-street parking permits per vehicle, per year, during the winter restriction period. These permits can be requested online and allow for temporary overnight parking. However, they are not valid during active snow events or when plowing and salting operations are underway. Full details and the online application portal are available at aurora. ca/Parking.

In addition, the Town is once again participating in the Toys for Tickets campaign in partnership with York Regional Police. From November 19 to December 12, 2025, eligible parking tickets can be paid by donating a new, unwrapped toy, gift card or non-perishable food items. All donations will go to families in need within the community. Donations must be dropped off at the Access Aurora counter at Aurora Town Hall. Conditions and eligibility details are available at aurora.ca/Parking. Residents are encouraged to plan ahead, stay informed of weather events, and park responsibly during the winter season. For more information about winter parking restrictions, visit aurora.ca/WinterParking.





**Free Estimates** 

# CDS Students Shine at International Public **Speaking Competition**



Three Country Day School students just returned from the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition in Maine - Audrey Jiang, Aneesa Khan and Adhya Chandradat.

**Contributed photo** 

### **BY KIM SILLCOX**

Incredible memories were made when more than 120 high school students representing 37 schools from five countries gathered at Waynflete School in Portland, Maine, for the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition (IISPSC) held October 15–20.

Three CDS public speaking students — Adhya Chandradat, Aneesa Khan, and Audrey Jiang — had the remarkable opportunity to compete alongside their veteran coaches, taking part in three categories: persuasive speaking (a memorized 12-minute speech), interpretive reading, and impromptu speaking, where competitors are given a topic, have two minutes to prepare, and then must speak for three to five minutes.

Our students performed exceptionally well, placing among the top 10 Canadian schools and within the top

quarter overall in a very competitive international field.

A special congratulations goes to Adhya, who advanced to the finals in impromptu speaking with a compelling response to the Stephen King quote: "Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work." Drawing inspiration from motivational speaker Wayne Dyer and software engineering pioneer Margaret Hamilton, she delivered a powerful speech that earned her 9th place overall.

For her other events, Adhya performed an interpretive reading from A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini and delivered a persuasive speech on how the airline industry overlooks pilots' mental health, a threat to both safety and well-being.

"My favourite part about the IISPSC was making new friends and sharing my voice about things that mean a lot to me," said Adhya. "There were 77 students in the persuasive speaking category,

each talking about different global issues. Everyone was so impassioned about what they want to change. It was incredibly inspiring to watch."

For Aneesa, this was her first international tournament and she held her own impressively across all three events. Her persuasive speech addressed the mistreatment of women in the healthcare system, including issues of misdiagnosis and gender bias. In impromptu speaking, she was given the word "Sting" and interpreted it as failure and disappointment, weaving in the story of Australian Paralympic swimmer Alexa Leary, who triumphed at the 2024 Paris Paralympics with is optimistic they will once again two gold medals and a silver. Her interpretive reading was drawn from This Is Where It Ends, a poignant story about a school shooting.

"Goingin, I was worried people would be super competitive, but everyone was so friendly and supportive," said Aneesa. "It was such a relaxed and comfortable environment. Travelling with our veteran coaches, Ms. Wyndham-West, Mr. Robinson, and Mme Davidson, was an absolute privilege."

Audrey also competed in all three demonstrating thoughtful preparation and poise throughout the tournament. Her persuasive speech focused on the need for stronger protections for workers in the gig economy. For her interpretive reading, she performed an excerpt from Bee Sting by Demetri Martin, skillfully shifting between multiple voices - from the woman stung by a bee, to the bee itself, and even a cast of inanimate onlookers. One of Audrey's impromptu topics was a quote by Thomas Edison, "I have not failed. I just found 10,000 ways that won't work." At which she talked about the importance of trial and error and testing things.

"Getting to see all of these different

speakers covering all sorts of issues while representing their different countries, felt like a commentary on the importance of honest communication and how the depth of human thought can create so many perspectives," said Audrey.

Next up for the team are the National Oualifiers at Branksome Hall at the end of November. If CDS finishes in the top 10, the next stop will be the Senior National Public Speaking Championships at St. John's-Ravenscourt School in Winnipeg this

The CDS Speech & Debate Team qualify several students for the World Championships next April in Bristol, England.

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# Get "bowled over" to help community members in need with Pine Tree Potters Guild

Empty Bowls Fundraiser marks 16th year

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM

As the holiday season approaches, it's time to think about ways to help community members who might need a hand – and members of Aurora's Pine Tree Potters Guild are stepping up to the plate, or bowl, to take out a lot of the guesswork.

The Guild, which is based out of the Aurora Public Library, is set to host their 16th annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Thursday, November 20.

Set to be held at Newmarket's Old Town Hall, the Empty Bowls event brings together more than a dozen local restaurants serving up a variety of gourmet soups to ticketholders, each of whom is able to select a handmade bowl, crafted by the Guild, to take home with them.

Proceeds benefit Aurora's Welcoming Arms and Newmarket's Inn from the Cold, both of which provide vital supports to neighbours in need.

Although tickets for the meal itself sold out within 48 hours of going on sale, there are still opportunities to secure your bowl – and lend your support to the two organizations.

Empty Bowls is held in conjunction with the Guild's annual Fall Sale and from Friday, November 21 through Sunday, November 23, members of the public are invited to come to their "Empty Bowl Room" to buy a bowl or two of their own.

"We have close to 550 bowls made already and we're still not done yet, so it's really great," says Guild member and Empty Bowls chair Lisa-Marie Oliphant. "We have a lot of new members in the Guild and this is going to be their first exposure to what Empty Bowls is all about and what we've been doing all these years.

"We sold out in less than two days this year, which is pretty wild – it's just



Members of Aurora's Pine Tree Potters Guild are pictured in their Aurora Public Library studio during Doors Open this fall. The Guild has crafted more than 500 original bowls, which are up for grabs at this month's Empty Bowls initiative, which raises much-needed funds for Aurora's Welcoming Arms and Newmarket's Inn from the Cold. Auroran file photo by Glenn Rodger

notes the event has raised nearly \$286,000 for the two non-profits.

already sold, we know we're going to have a big donation, but the selling of the bowls on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday opens up awareness to anyone who is coming to the sale from far and wide."

As they head towards what's already a successful 2025 event, Oliphant says the all about community.

"We are very privileged to be able

money for the charities we're donating lost on us that we do this because it is you like, pick it up because if you don't to, Welcoming Arms and Inn from the helping those in need who struggle with there's heartbreak. Whatever your style food security," she says. "Sadly, the need choices – if you like vibrant, it's there. Since the event's inception, Oliphant has never gone away and it's never been Like monochrome? Easy, that's there! more present. We do this because we There's so many choices," she adds. know it is so needed and the community "This year, with all of the tickets knows it's so needed. I think that's why continuing to support this fundraiser people come in droves to try and get and supporting us as potters and artists tickets. They know we're doing this for who love to do this and bring our the communities and families all across creativity to it. We could not do this York Region who come into Inn from without our community. That's the the Cold and come into Welcoming reason why this is such a success and we

each and organizers promise a different Bowls does for Inn from the Cold and event endures year over year because it's array of bowls will be on sale each day Welcoming Arms." both hand-painted and carved.

so popular – and we're making that to purchase these tickets, and it's not in the room and you see a bowl that bowls-event-this-year.

"We thank the community for Arms for the assistance that they need." look forward to seeing so many people Bowls in the separate sale are \$40 come in to learn about what Empty

For more information about this year's "We advise people that when you're event, visit www.pinetreepotters.ca/empty-



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# Shifting Reality show is culmination of more than 25 years of collaboration

Artists Sherman and Folks shine their unique lenses on the world at Aurora Cultural Centre



Aurora artists Eva Folks and Judy Sherman displayed some of their work as they began installing their new exhibition, Shifting Realities, which is on now at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

They found a kinship through creativity and their unique outlooks on the world, and 25 years after their first meeting, they're letting respective "realities do the talking," in a new exhibition at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

featuring the work of local artists Eva Folks and Judy Sherman, opened October 30 in the Homeroom Galleries at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

"25-and-a-half-years," corrects Sherman as Folks explains how they first joined artistic forces at Chameleon Decorative Arts Studio, a store once run by Folks on the southeast corner of Yonge Street and Dunning Avenue.

and, before too long, Sherman became an instructor in the Studio, and their creative collaboration only went from strength to strength.

As artists they are very active in the community, including workshops so much the better. hosted by the Aurora Public Library. This exhibition at the Aurora Cultural Centre, however, is a first for them – first planned just before the global pandemic hit.

then, but their worldviews haven't, as viewers of Shifting Realities: Adventures in Portraiture will see.

"Presented as a double-solo shared flair for humour and characterbuilding through paint; Folks in acrylic, Sherman in oil. Blending realism with I think this show is really about how a touch of surrealism, their new works invite viewers down the rabbit hole into their two boldly-inventive and unfettered artistic minds," says the other. I think artists need each other to Aurora Cultural Centre.

has been a full-time artist since 2011 and has won numerous awards for her surreal work. An art teacher for more

her tongue-in-cheek paintings, mostly of animals that aren't as warm and fuzzy as they look on the surface.

If you look closer, a bird sitting on top of a cow's head might be wielding a knife – while a painting of a polar bear enjoying a tropical cocktail in front of a blazing orange sunset might just have something to say about climate change.

"For me, it's all surreal – it's always Shifting Realities, a gallery show surreal," laughs Folks. "Whether it's animals driving cars or people in odd surroundings - or just a little bit off, the show is called Shifting Realities and we've just shifted things a bit."

Adds Sherman on what inspires her, "It just kind of happens. I think for me, because they're narrative paintings, I realized that being in graphic design and marketing, my stuff has always been narrative through the years. Now They developed an instant rapport it's just with animals, what's going on in the world, and just making people aware of what's happening out there."

"They just tell stories; it's all about telling stories."

And, if you can make an impression,

While Shifting Realities began taking shape before she joined the Aurora Cultural Centre team, Gallery and a long-time coming since it was Manager Samantha Jones says she has vivid memories of seeing the works of both Sherman and Folks as a child The world may have changed since when her mother first took her to the Aurora Art Show & Sale.

"It's almost a shifted reality growing up now that I'm in the role of putting your art in the gallery that I manage,' exhibition, the show highlights their Jones told the artists as they began installing the work. "I think I've learned a lot about you two as a relationship and artists meet each other and how they kind of subtly or maybe subconsciously feed off each other and grow from each grow and exist. Imagine what you'd Folks, a long-time Aurora resident, be if you didn't have each other. It's probably still great work, but it helps you grow.

"This show kind of comes at a good than 15 years and a current instructor time because we need more comedy in at the McMichael Gallery for Canadian the world to handle those harder topics. Art, Sherman has become known for It's how you (Sherman) approach difficult issues like environmentalism too – a different view, a shifted reality, and animal rights – you do it in a way a different view, and let them take away that's very graceful but makes people something a little different, even if it is feel welcome to talk about those issues just for a little while." and be comfortable, so this is carving out a really good space for that. And Aurora Cultural Centre through with Eva's work, what's really powerful January 17, 2026. is, I think, when you become an adult artist, you almost get afraid to totally and its artists will be at the heart of unleash your imagination and go into a New Year's Art Jamboree from 11 those really weird corners of your a.m. to 1 p.m., an interactive workshop brain – and I like that you don't have where, on a first come first serve basis, that barrier."

Sherman agrees, offering: "I think are welcome. it's true we can change the world in very soft kind of ways, in different

Shifting Realities is on now at the

On Friday, January 2, the exhibition all materials will be provided. All ages

For more information, visit ways, and I want people to see that, auroraculturalcentre.ca/shifting-realities.



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# Santa's making his list, checking it twice before big night in Aurora

Santa Under the Stars set for November 22



BY BROCK WEIR EDITOR LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The perennial family favourite is sports from 6 - 8 p.m.

beautifully-decorated marching bands, and much more in Red himself.

at coming back.

ready for the big day?

to the Santa Under the Stars Parade. Garden Centers float twinkling lights and holiday joy!

ready? What are you hearing?

I must say Aurora's children have the Aurora community is. been extra nice this year, which is why the elves have been working even more overtime to accommodate my list, which is definitely growing! The true magic of this season is seeing because the weather can always neighbours come together, sharing be unpredictable. However, I am laughter, cocoa, and kindness. This secretly kind of hoping for a few is what makes the parade so special for me, and so I've been promised to add to the magic of the night. So that my sweet ride that night is all definitely dress warmly. I cannot, getting polished, all getting cleaned cannot stress this enough – although up from last year, so I'm excited they closed the road just for me and because I'm familiar with my chair, for all the floats, we really have to and it's the same parade route, keep every single family member, so again I'm excited because I've child, parent off the actual road. I mastered that down. However, I really want to see everybody's smiles want to preface that this parade isn't from the sidewalk curb. Because just about me; it's about bringing we are closing down the road for a families together under the stars to significant period of time, we need celebrate the spirit of giving, joy, and to ensure that emergency medical community. I might be giving of my services are able to access any route time that night, however, I'm the one they need. So please, please have benefiting because I actually get to encouraged families and whomever see all the children with their eyes you bring along with you to watch open, because as you can imagine, I the parade from the sidewalk only see them sleeping!

parade highlights getting the kids' so for anyone that requires to be in eyes all aglow?

every moment being designed to light up the community, to light up those watching the parade. It's going to

and of course I just love hearing the marching bands. As well, they will have some pretty innovative The countdown is on for Aurora's buskers this year and quite a nice annual Santa Under the Stars Parade. balance between community groups, organizations, marching set to make its way down Yonge Street bands, and performers. So, really, from Orchard Heights to Murray they're warming up the roads for Drive next Saturday, November 22, me, because I'm actually the very, very tail end of the parade. I only This night-time parade promises get to see it in the staging area, and floats, trust me, I do not want to give up my ride, but it would be neat to watch a including a visit from the Jolly Man couple of these floats go by me, such as the Optimist Club of Aurora. As he prepares for his trek to They always do an outstanding job Aurora, Santa Claus took some with their float. Then there's also time out of his busy Christmas the dance groups, they don't all have preparations to share his excitement floats, but they are coordinated to the exact beat of their music, which is wild to see. I enjoy seeing how **The Auroran:** What are you they pull it together, their rhythm, doing up at the North Pole to get it really, really makes for a smashing success. I'm very looking forward to Santa Claus: You know, it's seeing the Dynamic Dance Company always the most magical time of year, perform, as well as Spectrum North as well as my favourite time of year, Baton. Then of course, there's really and I always look forward to coming unique floats, such as the New Roots In preparation for our magical night always a strong one, and as well as on November 22, the elves have Green Infrastructure Partners is a been working overtime, the reindeer strong one. Then again, there's also are stretching their legs, and I'm the sports organizations, and they polishing my boots for a night of bring with their cheer, such as the Aurora Tigers. There's local martial arts groups involved. It really is a nice TA: What's Aurora doing to get balance of sports, including Central York Girls Hockey Association. It **SC:** I've been checking my list and truly is representative of how special

> **TA:** What should families lining the street bring to the table?

**SC:** I'll definitely dress in layers fun flakes to be floating down just curbside. I definitely always tip my hat and make sure I give an extra big **TA:** What will be some of the wave to the accessible viewing area, this section, reach out to Aurora's **SC:** It's not going to be a quiet Events Team now and I'm sure they parade! There's going to be so many will hop right to it and secure you a dazzling floats to merry music, with spot in a special accessible viewing location.

For more on this year's Santa Under the be an absolute sleigh-ful of wonder, Stars Parade, visit aurora.ca/santaparade.

# THiNGS... you ought to know

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

The Aurora Community Band will host its Annual Holiday Market today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. Free admission. The event features music, food, gifts and much more. For further information, visit auroracommunityband. ca or email auroracommunityband@gmail.com.

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

Chartwell Hollandview Trail at 200 John West Way will host its annual Holiday Market Bazaar today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Featuring more than 20 local vendors and artisans selling unique gifts and treats just in time for the holidays! Refreshments, raffle prizes, live music from David Pilkey, and more.

The Aurora Historical Society's Speaker Series continues this evening at 7 p.m. with Barn-Raising. Threshing, & Quilting Bees: The Stories that Farm Diaries Tell with Cathy Wilson. Held at Hillary House National Historic Site and virtually over Zoom. Tickets are \$10.50 for AHS members, or \$12.50 for nonmembers. "Cathy Wilson shares her recent book, Being Neighbours, about barn raisings and quilting bees in Ontario. She takes the audience into families' daily lives to uncover the subtle social politics of mutual dependency, the expectations neighbours had of each other, their relationships, and ways of managing conflict and crisis. Catharine Wilson is a Professor Emerita of History at the University of Guelph and Founder and Director of the Rural Diary Archive." Tickets can be purchased on at www. aurorahs.com or by calling 905-727-8991.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

Aurora's Santa Under the Stars Parade will take place this evening from 6 - 8 p.m., travelling south on Yonge Street from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive. This night time parade is full of magic, with beautifully decorated floats, incredible marching bands and a few special guests including the Jolly man-in-red himself. Remember to bring your letters for Santa as Canada Post will be out collecting them before the parade begins.

Hot Chocolate on the Verandah - Come to Hillary House National Historic Site before the Santa Under the Stars parade to enjoy a FREE cup of hot chocolate, generously donated by Tim Hortons (Wellington St E and John West Way).

### **NOVEMBER 28 - 30**

The first weekend of Aurora's two-weekend Christmas Market will take place at Aurora Town Square from 5 – 8.30 p.m. Admission is free. Enjoy the holiday season at Aurora's Christmas Market - one of the Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario! This event is filled with good cheer, hands-on workshops and activities, fantastic seasonal vendors, food vendors and more. Check out different vendors on-site each night.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

Holiday Wreath Workshop - Led by Garden Aurora, join the Aurora Historical Society at Hillary House National Historic Site to customize your own natural wreath to hang this holiday season. All materials provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own accessories too. See Hillary House NHS decorated for the festive winter season! Sessions: 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., or 4 p.m. Tickets are \$50 with supplies included. For more, including tickets, visit aurorahs.com.

# **DECEMBER 5 - 7**

The second weekend of Aurora's two-weekend Christmas Market will take place at Aurora Town Square from 5 – 8.30 p.m. Admission is free. Enjoy the holiday season at Aurora's Christmas Market one of the Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario!

This event is filled with good cheer, hands-on workshops and activities, fantastic seasonal vendors, food vendors and more. Check out different vendors on-site each night.

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

FIRESIDE HOLIDAY MARKET, hosted by Sisterz & Co. in support of the Aurora Food Pantry today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Northridge Community Church, 15338 Leslie St, Aurora, ON. Shop local for gifts, crafts, jewelry & treats. Free admission & festive family fun. Free photos with Santa!

Victorian Christmas Afternoon Tea at Hillary House National Historic Site. Step back in time and into the holiday spirit with afternoon tea at Hillary House National Historic Site. Enjoy the historic atmosphere and learn about Christmas traditions during the Victorian period. The catered tea menu includes a pot of tea or warm apple cider, sandwiches, scones, and a variety of holiday-themed desserts. Pick from two seatings: 12:00 noon or 2:30 pm. Tickets at \$35pp can be purchased on the AHS website www. aurorahs.com.

York Symphony Orchestra Presents: Má vlast: "My Country". Romantic Czech composer Bed ich Smetana's six symphonic poems honouring both the natural beauty and the history of his Bohemian homeland are rarely performed together as a cycle outside Czechia. However, YSO's music director Denis Mastromonaco, who has been a regular guest conductor for the West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, will bring it to life here in Aurora. Don't miss this rare event! 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican

### **SUNDAY. DECEMBER 14**

A Family Christmas at Hillary House National Historic Site – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hillary House is decorated for the Holidays! Bring the whole family to enjoy some festive treats, holiday crafts, and take a picture with Santa Claus. Tickets can be purchased through the Aurora Historical Society at aurorahs.com.

### **ONGOING**

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.

Support AbuseHurts' Delivering Hope Full Circle Program textile recycling and donation program. 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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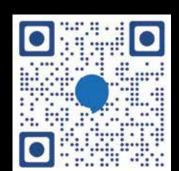
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The Auroran.com

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13, 2025

# Cole Crawford tallies two in Tigers' 7-4 win over Cobourg Cougars



Junior A Tiger Cole Crawford (16) scored two goals to lead Aurora to a 7 - 4 win over Egor Kozlov (41) and the Cobourg Cougars in OJHL action at the ACC. Auroran photo by Jim Stewart

# **BY JIM STEWART**

The Aurora Junior A Tigers won their third game in four starts with an impressive 7-4 clipping of the Cobourg Cougars on Saturday night at the ACC.

Cole Crawford scored two first period goals to help the Tigers jump out to a 5-1 lead after 20 minutes of play.

Crawford credited his team's quick start on Saturday night as a key to victory.

"Our coaches have been on us to get off to a good start. We got rolling in the first period. We didn't take Cobourg lightly. We knew they won last night and we lost in overtime last night. We had to put together a consistent effort and we were clicking as a team."

The Tigers' offence started clicking four minutes into the contest when the Howard brothers produced the game's opening goal. Assistant Captain Luke feathered his 14th assist of the season to Captain Simon who fired his eleventh past Cougars' goaltender Matteo Porporino.

Seventy-six seconds later, Crawford—with a helper from highscoring Assistant Captain Cayden Smith—beat Porporino to put the Tigers up 2-0 before the game was six minutes old. Crawford described the

momentum-producing marker.

"Smitty gave me a great pass right on my tape and I got off a quick shot to keep us rolling."

After Cobourg forward Mike Albert beat Aurora goaltender Finn Wilson two minutes later to narrow the visitors' deficit to 2-1, Crawford's second goal of the period stifled the Cougars' comeback plans.

The rookie Tigers' forward one-timed a perfect pass from Jamie Buscarini at 5:42 while Aurora was killing a penalty.

Crawford described the shortie that short-circuited the visitors' power play: "I saw the puck squirt out and the [Cougars] D was wandering. Jamie made a great pass as I got open. It was right on my tape, too."

After Crawford converted the second perfect delivery from a teammate during the opening frame, Marcus Carter deked Porporino past his left post and slid the puck through the crease to Kyle Butt who deposited the disc into the yawning cage to give the Tigers a 4-1 lead with less than three minutes to play.

On a brilliant individual effort, Anrijs Bundzenieks took Bode Pearson's lead pass and knifed his way to the net off the left wing – snapping a puck just under the crossbar that beat Porporino so cleanly that it ricocheted back out of

Bundzenieks's 6th of the season gave team's turnaround. the Tigers a commanding 5-1 lead with intermission.

Charlie Hotles-back in an Aurora coming together." uniform after a tour of duty with the sprawled Porporino to make it 6-1 for the home side.

leading 14th assist on Hotles's 4th of the season four minutes into the OJHL goal.

Kozlov's wrist shot from between Stouffville (16-5-0-0). the circles flipped over Finn Wilson's shoulder stick side to pull the Cougars together a strong effort. It was tough to within four before the second to lose, but we got a point and our team intermission.

Newly-acquired Tigers' forward Paul Mazanik—who arrived from the September 20 at the ACC so Friday's Collingwood Blues on November 7 provided the knockout punch with 7:22 the significant change in performance remaining in the third period when level by the Tigers to which Crawford he rifled one high under the bar past alluded. Porporino to restore the home side's five-goal lead.

Crawford, whose two-goal performance earned his Third Star of staff, credited the Tigers' management one game in hand. for acquiring players such as Mazanik Hurricanes), Mason

the last six weeks as a catalyst for the

"We're starting to click as a team. less than two minutes to before the first We made some big trades and our team has really improved. We're looking Eight minutes into the middle frame, to make the playoffs and we're really

The Tigers showed that new-found Flint Firebirds of the OHL—pounced cohesion on Friday night by putting on his own rebound, went to his forth a much-improved performance backhand, and lifted the puck over a against the high-flying Stouffville Spirit.

Although Aurora lost the game in Simon Howard earned his team- OT when Zach Corte scored his 16th extra period, Crawford was impressed With 3:38 left on the clock, Egor with the Tigers' play against first-place

"We kept it rolling and we put was clicking last night, too."

Stouffville stomped Aurora 7-2 on performance against the Spirit reflected

With its three-point weekend versus Stouffville and Cobourg, the ninthplace Tigers improved their record to 8-10-0-1 and trail eighth-place the Game honors as selected by OJHL Haliburton by only two points with

Aurora's five-game homestand at and Hotles (from the North York the ACC continues next week when the Rangers), along with Finn Wilson Tigers host the North York Rangers (1-(Trenton Golden Hawks), Nick Frasca 20-0-1) on Wednesday, November 12 Toronto Patriots), Sebastian Catalano for a rare matinee game commencing and Martin Maryanovsky (Newmarket at 12.30 p.m.; the Markham Royals (6-Dermastia 12-1-2) on Friday, November 14 at 7 (Stouffville Spirit), and Gianfranco p.m.; and the Wellington Dukes (7-8-2-Rosella (Mississauga Chargers) during 4) on Saturday, November 15 at 7 p.m.























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# U22 Panthers' slide continues in 3-2 home ice loss to Waterloo Ravens



Panthers' forward Audrey Martone, a Colgate University 2027 commit, scored a goal and an assist in the Panthers' 3 – 2 loss to Waterloo on Sunday at the SARC. Contributed photo

### **BY JIM STEWART**

ranked Devilettes in London on Saturday, the Junior Panthers were looking to break out of a slump on Sunday at SARC.

to London, Etobicoke, and Cambridge constitutes a significant downturn in Panthers (14-2-0-2).

14th-ranked Waterloo seemed like the kind of antidote the Panthers needed. A spirited two-point performance by the U22 squad, but the feisty Ravens with a 3-2 road win.

The Panthers' offence remained as the period." cold as the autumn snow that fell on

at SARC during the opening period especially during a power play sequence Coming off a 3-1 loss to the 17th- at 8:42 during which the Panthers prowled and prodded but could not score with the man-advantage.

However, there was a shaft of light Three losses over their last four games when Martone staked the home side to a 1-0 lead at 7:27.

The talented Central York forward performance for the second-place received a pass from Keira Johnson in the slot and rifled a wrist shot top shelf stick A Sunday home ice matinee with side that bulged the twine behind Raven netminder Teagan Mason.

Martone described her tenth of the season: "Kudos to my teammate Keira Audrey Martone provided hope for Johnson on winning the face off so cleanly. I was able to skate to the front extended Central York's November woes of the net and I got a great pass from Kiera. It was a really promising start to

Less than two minutes later, the Ravens Central Ontario on Sunday morning, replied with a picturesque goal of their Plagued by bad puck luck in London own by Madelyn Davies who corralled on Saturday, the same affliction set in a lead pass from Allison Gauley, burst

puck in the lower right corner.

With 2:09 left in the first period and Waterloo to a 2-1 lead.

at the outset of the second period as she repelled a breakaway and stood tall on a series of fine saves by Sanford, Davies tallied her second goal of the game for the Ravens when she picked the lower left corner from between the circles—ringing at 6:41 of the middle frame.

surrender and the veteran Panthers' she faced.

period as the Panthers' lack of finish in In their last five games, the Panthers have tallied only nine goals after scoring 76 goals in their first eleven games.

final frame with a timely goal by Rachel Telesnik.

tallied her second of the season from strong passing sequence by Martone and Elizabeth Janovski. Martone described the Panthers' second goal: "It was a great 3-high. Jano did a great job to work the great job with the puck."

and the Panthers' closing push. With an is 1:25 p.m.

off the right wing, fended off a Panthers upcoming power play and an offensive defender, pulled Panthers goalie Jamie zone faceoff looming, Central York Head Sanford from left to right, and tucked the Coach Steve Dempsey called a timeout with 2:52 on the clock and drew up a play.

The Panthers' lack of puck luck was during a goalmouth scramble, Ravens' on display during the man-advantage forward Alexa Tout tapped the puck and the final stand by the Ravens was into the lower left corner behind Sanford the turning point of the game. Coach from the left edge of the crease to stake Dempsey pulled Sanford for the extra attacker with just over a minute to play, The heroics of Sanford were evident but there was no last-minute hero on Sunday at SARC.

Mason made 29 saves to earn the slot opportunities by Waterloo. Despite win and, much like Poe's famous black bird, the Ravens' goaltender declared 'Nevermore' to the Panthers' closing onslaught.

Martone acknowledged that the the pipe just behind the acrobatic goalie Panthers will be challenged after serious injuries on the weekend to goal scorers It was the last goal that Sanford would Demi Lazarou (12) and Lily Paisley (9).

"They're two huge players for us. This goaltender turned back 28 of the 31 shots will be a great time for us to figure out how to win without them until they come The Ravens fended off three Central back. This is like family—it's tough not York power plays during the second to have members of your family in the lineup—but we're going to support them, the offensive zone manifested itself again. they're going to support us while they're out, and we need to win games for them."

When asked to posit the solution to the Panthers' slump, Martone took Central York created suspense in the a philosophical stance: "One of the key parts of our hockey culture is not forgetting about our core values and to 7:15 into the third period, Telesnik remember what our team has done so well and how we've committed to the just inside the left faceoff circle and beat core values that our coaching staff has Mason high stick side to finish off a taught. We'll win our way out of this slump with hard work—we'll stick to the team's strengths and be ready to play [three big games next week]."

The 3rd-place Panthers travel to puck low. Rachel took my pass and did a Barrie to take on the 5th-place Sharks on Thursday night and to Durham West Martone just missed the equalizer to take on the 6th-place Lightning on while working on the PK, but her shot Saturday afternoon. Central York hosts flew over Mason and the crossbar at the 24th-ranked North York Storm on 5:09. The Ravens dodged that bullet Sunday afternoon. Puck drop at SARC



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### Evangeline (Eva) Shih

Eva is a high-achieving student and multi-talented athlete currently attending St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, where she maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA. New to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and second-degree black belt in Shotokan Karate, Eva has earned multiple accolades in martial arts, including a gold medal at the 2025 Canadian Jiu Jitsu National Championship, as well as podium finishes at the Durham Classic and the 2023 Elite Karate Ontario Provincials. Beyond the dojo, Eva is a dedicated member of her school's golf and badminton teams, demonstrating her versatility and commitment to excellence across disciplines. She actively participates in HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), reflecting her passion for health sciences, and serves as Vice-President of

KLAW, a Catholic leadership initiative that fosters faith-driven service and community engagement. Eva's blend of academic rigor, athletic achievement, and leadership makes her a standout among her peers and a rising force in both scholastic and extracurricular arenas.

### Neve Marshall

Neve is a rising star in Canadian martial arts and a dedicated student at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. With a string of elite-level accomplishments, Neve has quickly established herself as one of the country's top competitors in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. She captured gold at both the 2024 Ontario Provincial Championship and the 2025 Canadian Jiu Jitsu National Championship, and earned back-to-back silver medals at the prestigious IBJJF Pan American Championships in 2024 and 2025. Her dominance continued with a gold medal performance at the 2025 Abu Dhabi Combat Club (ADCC) Toronto Open, solidifying her reputation on the international stage. Neve's exceptional skill and dedication have earned her a coveted spot on Team Canada, representing the nation under the Canadian Jiu Jitsu Association. She is set to compete at the JJIF World Championship in Thailand later this year. With her relentless drive and competitive spirit, Neve Marshall is not just chasing medals—she's shaping the future of Canadian Jiu-Jitsu.





Final Release

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(LEFT) Erlinda Biondic is flanked by pages Bridget and Grace Malcolm, running champs and students at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School, and representatives of presenting sponsors St. Andrew's College and St. Anne's School, Dave and Natascia Stewart. (RIGHT) Robert Reid is joined by page Kash Peterson of the York Region Lions football club and Greg Grant, representing presenting sponsor Highland GM. Photos by Glenn Rodger Photography/Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

# **Aurora Sports Hall of Fame**

From page 1

Morning, and King—made their entrance to the rhythmic clapping of the guests.

Piper Clinton Lau of St. Andrew's College delivered a brilliant performance as he led the honored quartet to the Mansion's stage.

Black—the event's long-time Emceeintroduced the blue-jacketed President models." and Chair Javed Khan as well as cohost Alexandra Bonham who delivered greetings from the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

to the assembly.

Mayor Mrakas noted, "It was truly wonderful to be here." He thanked Black for his "energy and humor" and observed that the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame "is more than just a list of [honored athletes and builders]. It's a reflection of who The amiable and engaging Rod we are as a Town—a community that produces great athletes and great role

Mayor Mrakas spoke soaringly about the "four inducted individuals—Erlinda, Kris, Heather, and Robert" and praised each of the inductees as "hometown After the rules of engagement were heroes." He concluded his address by delineated, emcee Black introduced noting that the ceremony was "more than Mayor Tom Mrakas to deliver a keynote a tribute of the past—it's a promise of the

future as generations are born into these He's an inspirational athlete, coach, traditions."

He reminded Aurorans that "we raise champions together and they represent our shared pride in our community."

"I associate this event with the seasons—there's Winter, Spring, Summer, and then there's the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Celebration Evening," said Black, picking up the thread.

Black marveled at recent athletic feats including the Blue Jays' heartbreaking loss in the World Series - "So close," the Stouffville resident intoned—and praised the team's esprit de corps and their profound impact on the nation.

in abject amazement at recent sporting achievements such as a "68-yard field goal in the NFL," and "8-foot NBA players big run and 'Ahh—there was no pain..." making 3's from the logo."

lovingly of the Town's sports shrine-Character, Courage, Community, and Canada" associated with one of the best physique." Sports Hall of Fame in the province.

accolades and high-quality production pearls of wisdom in her closing words: videos introduced each inductee. Upon "You're never too late to follow your arrival on stage, each inductee was greeted dreams.... Dare to be your best...and as by a sponsor, an athlete in the community Barack Obama said back in 2008, 'Yes, playing the sport of the honoree, and we can.' I say to you, 'Yes, you can!" President and Chair Khan, which created The inspirational octogenarian, who a smooth-flowing event and efficient took up trekking and long distance photo ops.

was the Belle of the Ball—Erlinda Biondic—who stole the hearts and stirred the souls of the audience with inspirational images and imparted wisdom that only an octogenarian could deliver.

self-effacing moment when she observed, drowsy by 8:00."

Her admission earned an amused and appreciative round of applause and she added, "Before I have a senior's moment, I want to thank so many." She praised "the special people in my life" and saved her most poignant moments for her husband, long-distance runner extraordinaire George Biondic: "Without him, I wouldn't have done these things.

masseuse, spokesman...."

George—as he tends to do with perfectly-timed insights and humor-interjected from the front row: "Don't forget 'cook'."

His bride gently chastised him for having problems "boiling water." The love birds' spat ended when Erlinda looked at her hubby and steeped the moment in sentimentality: "I am forever grateful to you, Georgie."

After this public display of affection, she joked about some miscues she's committed on the road, including mistaking foot creams during one particularly painful The long-time TSN broadcaster spoke trek. Erlinda admitted to applying vast amounts of "Ibuprofen cream to her feet accidently instead of Vaseline prior to a

Biondic charmed the audience with In the context of these high-flying feats her trekking missteps and anecdotes and of contemporary athleticism, he spoke showed her eternally- youthful side by describing the highlight of a recent rec "This is a special place—the Aurora centre workout: "For six hours daily, I look Sports Hall of Fame" and Black ran at pickleballers and kids playing basketball through a series of "C-words" with positive and—if I'm lucky—a good-looking guy connotations including "Connection, on the pool deck. Little does he know that there's an 85-year-old female admiring his

Biondic brought the house down with A combination of emcee-delivered her admission and she proffered some

running at 74, received a thunderous The first arrival on this bustling stage standing ovation complemented with much hooting from the tables of boisterous and fun-loving female hockey players buttressing the back of the room.

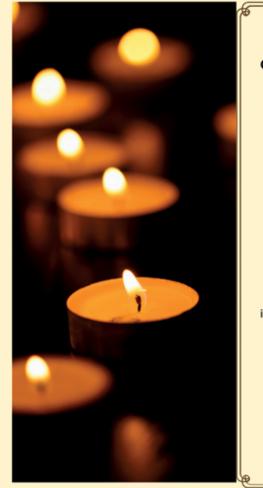
Black was so taken by Biondic's performance that he proclaimed, "That's Biondic, 85, opened with a charming one of the best speeches I've heard" and added admiringly: "Erlinda, you're going "I am glad I'm the first speaker—I get to enjoy hosting this event for the next five years."

> Black switched gears seamlessly from admiring the boundless energy of Biondic to describing the foot speed of rapid Robert Reid who, according to the Emcee, was "Faster than Wi-Fi."

> The England-born Reid was renowned for his speed as a track athlete and tailback at Newtonbrook Secondary School in

Continued on page 23





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(LEFT) Heather Morning is joined by page Sarah Martin of the Central York Panthers, and Phiona Durrant, representing presenting sponsor Aurora Black Community Association. (RIGHT) Kris King is joined by page Avery Grant of the Aurora Tigers and representatives of presenting sponsors NewRoads Automotive Group.

Photos by Glenn Rodger Photography/Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

# welcomes Class of 2025

### From page 22

in British Columbia. Reid wowed the SFU coaching staff into offering him a scholarship after showing off his acceleration and strength during training great coach in his own right and such a camp.

He described his progress as football player from "a walk-on at SFU's training camp to being selected 9th in the first round of the 1984 Draft by the Saskatchewan Roughriders."

out at Vic Tanny's Gym" which elicited sighs of recognition and reflection from all the boomers assembled as much of the room flashed back to 1970s Toronto.

Reid added "That's where I put ten pounds on to my 150-pound frame."

Reid spoke glowingly and warmly of his days at Newtonbrook ("In Grade 13, we won the only Toronto football championship in the school's history."), Simon Fraser University where he triumphed "in track and field and football" and, finally, in the CFL with both Saskatchewan and Ottawa in the 1980s when he played against such league greats as "Matt Dunnigan, Damon Allen, and Pinball Clemons."

The charming football playerturned-actor thanked friends and family, "especially Charlotte with whom I've been married for thirty-eight years."

Reid reflected on a goal he set as a determined young man at Newtonbrook: that "No one makes the journey alone."

the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame."

The retired tailback exited the stage propelled him from professional football in Regina and Ottawa to a career in commercials, television shows, and movies in Toronto-the kind of warmth and radiance that lights up every room that he

Emitting their own special brand of radiance was a pair of Future Hall of Famers honored on Thursday evening.

Black introduced Team Ontario field and box lacrosse player Taylor Thornley. The Grade 10 Bill Crothers Secondary School student in the Elite Athlete program and "lax phenom" was presented with an \$850 cheque by Bursary Sponsor Lindsay Strom of Royal LePage.

The second honoree was former Aurora Junior A Tiger and current NCAA D1 commit Andreas "Mikro" Mikrogianakis who is playing for the Brooks Bandits of the British Columbia Hockey League prior to joining the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers in September, 2026.

Mikrogianakis—a graduate Cardinal Carter Catholic High School delivered a video message from BC. His sister, Talia, accepted an \$850 cheque on his behalf from Bursary Sponsor Stu Bundy, President of the Aurora Optimist Club.

Black moved effortlessly from the future stars to the present stars assembled looked like he could still lace 'em up and and praised Heather Morning as "the heartbeat of Girls' Hockey."

The Emcee added that Coach Morning "lifted an entire generation of players and 'Tonight is all about the Morning."

The back tables at the Mansion were populated by a generation of Central York Panthers players and "Never Too Late" Hockey Program enthusiasts who commingled and offered booming bouts of applause and enthusiastic bench shrieking to support their beloved mentor. discovering there was a second Toronto

Toronto and at Simon Fraser University the outset of her address that she "was surprised and honored to be inducted into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame."

> She thanked her "husband John-a great dad to our three children."

> She also thanked her many coaches and acknowledged Reid's prior insight.

> "As Robert mentioned earlier, 'No one makes the journey alone."

Coach Morning reflected on "My Part of Reid's regimen was "Working summer mornings of working out at the baseball diamond with my dad hitting me groundballs and flyballs for hours at the park" and "My mom driving me everywhere for hockey before GPS and us getting lost or going down the wrong way of a one-way street or running late and having to put on my hockey equipment in the back of a Volkswagen Bug.'

> She also reflected fondly on the early days of her daughters playing hockey and how "they insisted on wearing dresses to their practices."

> "I put the rule in place that the dresses had to be short enough to tuck in their hockey pants."

> Morning applauded "The 'Never Too Late' participants who are a family of sorts" which was met with hearty applause from the 40-60-year-olds who have taken up the game later in life and have developed a heightened appreciation for the game.

Morning mentioned in jest that one of "I had a dream and passion to play the benefits of the program is that "the professional football" and acknowledged new players don't scream as many things at the hockey rink now that they know "It's truly an honor to be inducted into how the game is played and how hard it is to play."

Morning closed her upbeat and with the million-watt smile that has energetic address by expressing her love of the game and noted that she "hoped to continue to coach for many years to come."

> Her concluding sentiments elicited enthusiastic applause, especially from the dozens assembled who have been so profoundly impacted by the legendary coach and skills instructor.

> After Morning's poignant performance, Black referred to the fourth Inductee as "The King" and noted how appropriate it was that "Kris won the King Clancy Trophy in 1996 for significant contributions to community."

> Black noted that King—in his executive capacity as the NHL's Senior Vice President of Operations—has "watched more hockey than anyone alive" and he closed his introduction of the rugged, 14-year NHL veteran with, "Tonight, we put Kris King in the spotlight: Warrior, Leader, Gentleman, and to offer the best words a guy can hear—A Great Dude."

> King thanked "Blackie or Big Rod but for those of us who know him, it's Wee

> After smuggling in that phallic jibe much to the delight of the assembly, King marveled at his red jacket and noted "44 Regular still fits me."

> Indeed, the 59-year-old NHL executive the former Winnipeg Jets captain shifted to some humorous barbs directed towards his daughter, Danielle, who submitted his nomination papers to the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

He stared down at her and said lovingly, "Danielle, you little turd."

King reflected with great fondness about setting up "a hockey house with Paula to raise our three kids in Aurora."

He expressed his surprise upon

Coach Morning admitted humbly at Maple Leaf family living on their new street.

> Unfortunately, Murph got fired in my first year with the Leafs—he shouldn't have played me on the fourth line so much."

King and the other former NHLer so Heals and I had lots of time to talk inductees in the audience— Murphy, Mike Kitchen, and Bob Wall—was

King's amusing and often ribald anecdotes brought down the house and his acceptance speech served as a insights. climactic performance for the evening.

series of good luck and big breaks.

Petes, I met Paula. When Paula first met on the line. At a stadium that has my teammates, she referred to us as the undergone a \$350 Million renovation, idiots. But she finally agreed to go out on a date with me. We're so happy to the bottom of an outfield wall?" be grandparents. Paula has been the rock behind my career. She was always especially "for their love of sports" positive, even when things weren't going and encouraged the audience and the well."

King saved some special fun-loving invective for his former teammate and HNIC commentator Glenn Healy.

After Heals dropped in a few goodnatured and sardonic gems about the "As it turned out, we bought on the Inductee during the video introduction, same street as my Coach Mike Murphy. it was King's turn to even the score. He chuckled about his times in the NHL with Healy and didn't mince words: "He was such an as\*\*\*\*. Cujo played all the time and he didn't. And I was The easy-going relationship between stuck on the bench on the fourth line together at the end of the Leafs bench."

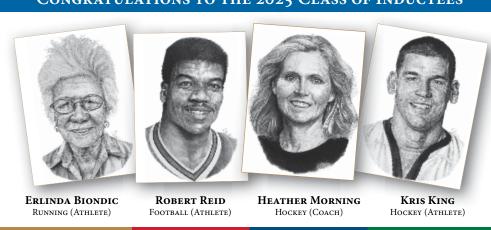
A rousing and hearty round of applause greeted King as he exited the stage and Black closed the show with contemporary observations and

The renowned broadcaster praised He reflected on "Hockey careers as a the Toronto Blue Jays World Series squad and "their love for one another. In Peterborough, when I was with the We saw all of these players lay it all who knew that a ball could get stuck in

> Black praised the four Inductees, Inductees to "Celebrate tonight. Those red coats will look great at Tom and Jerry's....It's clear that Aurora does build champions."



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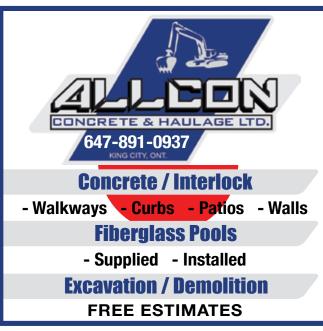


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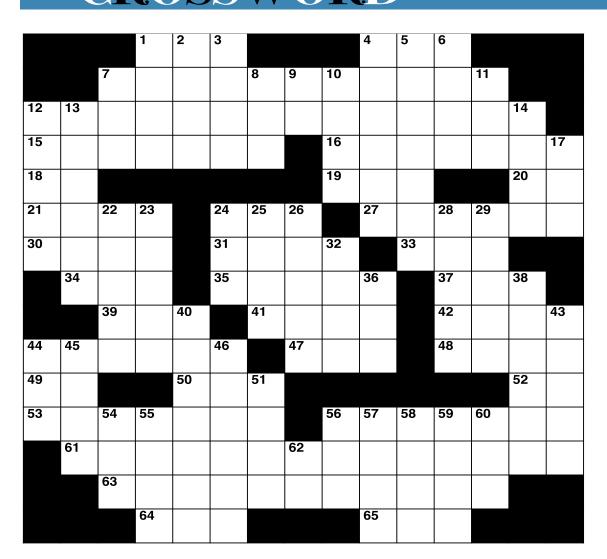
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39. Paddle

47. Seize

49. Greeting

53. Let go

52. Atomic #22

Canadians 63. Hostilities

64. Speak aloud

37. Fifth note of a major scale

42. American classical pianist

41. Monetary unit of Italy

44. Shuts down for the day

48. Soluble ribonucleic acid

50. Some cars still need it

61. U.S. residents, Mexicans and

56. Marched in public

65. River in NE Scotland

### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Expression of surprise
- 4. Keyboard key7. One who works on lights
- 12. Notable children's story
- 15. Fall back into a bad pattern 16. Eye parts
- 18. Atomic #18
- 19. Of she
- 20. Farm state 21 One point south of southeast
- 24. British media entity 27. Asian garment
- 30. Drench
- 31. Expressions of pleasure
- 33. Turf
- 34. UK trade union (abbr.)
- 35. Bleated

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Razorbill genus 2. Longtime Baltimore tight end
- 3. Performs on stage 4. Supports a sentiment
- 5. Rugged mountain ranges
- 6. Broadway songwriter Sammy 7. Snakelike fish
- 8. Men's fashion ac 9. Hospital worker 10. Something to scratch
- 11. No (Scottish)
- 12. Volcanic ash 13. Of this
- 14. American jazz drummer Watts
- 17. Drop down 22. English dialect
- 23. Predatory seabirds 24. Imams' deputies
- 25. Fertility god 26. Fence material
- 28. Parks and DeLauro are two 29. Distinctive smell (Brit.)
- 32. Protein-rich liquids 36. Touch lightly
- 38. Season for Catholics
- 40. Boat race 43. Police actions
- 44. Chinese river
- 45. Waterfall (Scottish) 46. Walk ostentatiously
- 51. Type of carpet
- 54. Mauna \_\_\_, Hawaiian volcano 55. Sea eagles
- 56. An enclosure for confining
- livestock
- 57. Dry
- 58. An increase in price or value 59. The highest point of something
- 60. Government lawyers 62. Larry and Curly's pal

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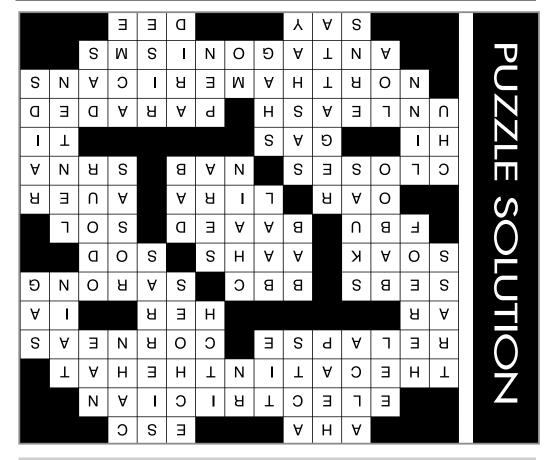
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# **ENDS SUNDAY!**



AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

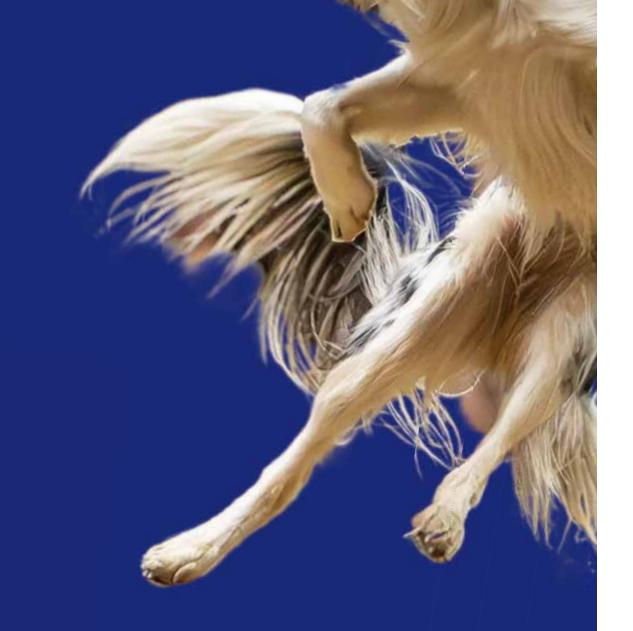
# EXPERIENCE THE COUNTRY

THE SOARING DOGS ARE HERE



SCAN THE QR **CODE TO BUY TICKETS NOW** 

OR VISIT ROYALFAIR.ORG



NOVEMBER 7-16, 2025 EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO









