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TheAuroran.com

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FREE

WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2025



SEASON'S GREETINGS, AURORA!

The Aurora community kept Santa extra busy this holiday season with multiple visits to Town, including the Aurora Historical Society's annual A Family Christmas event. Pictured here with Santa outside Hillary House National Historic Site at this year's party were Dave, Luc, Emily, Ben, Julie, and Jacob. The team here at The Auroran wishes you an extra-warm holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year ahead!

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Fresh beginnings for the York Region Food Network as it looks ahead to 40th anniversary

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Food insecurity has been a top-of-mind issue for far too many community members in recent years, but while needs have grown significantly in recent years, it's not a new issue – as the York Region Food Network

can attest.

The York Region Food Network (YRFN) is celebrating fresh beginnings as they look ahead to their 40th anniversary in 2026. Earlier this year, they moved from their long-time Aurora location on Industrial Parkway South to dedicated space in Newmarket and with more dedicated space

in their fresh digs, they're looking at fresh opportunities to make a difference.

"The YRFN started in 1986 and the initial efforts were really just to bring together all the local food banks and pantries in order to facilitate coordinated action going forward, so rather than having

Continued on page 23



Joanne Witt and Kate Greavette of the York Region Food Network, pictured here in their new Newmarket location with soups made in-house and ready for distribution last week, are looking forward to the organization's 40th anniversary in 2026.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir



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BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INSTITUTIONAL REPORTER

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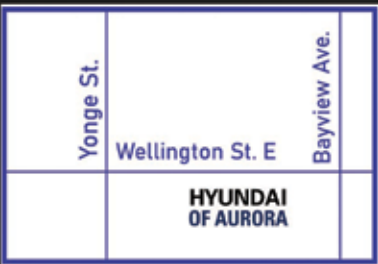


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Ring in the New Year with a series of firsts at Family First Night Community celebration set for December 31

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A fresh year is almost upon us and the Town of Aurora is planning a fresh way to ring in 2026.

Family First Night, the community’s traditional New Year’s Eve party, is set for 6 – 9 p.m. at Aurora Town Square.

The annual December 31 event is traditionally held at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, but the new location and new venue will allow for new experiences for the whole family.

“With the exciting new amenities that are available to us at Town Square, we’ve been able to keep some of the traditional favourite activities that we would have enjoyed at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, such as the reptile shows, the magic shows, and even the Mad Science demonstrations, but because of the additional amenities

we have to work with this year, we’ve been able to offer a silent dance party, as well as we’re going to do a DJ party outside in the Square,” says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora.

“We’re also going to offer two fire shows in the middle of the ice – one will be at 6.15, one will be at 8.15, and then fun activities like face painting, balloon twisting and such will be on the bridge overlooking the ice surface.”

If you’re looking to maintain the Family First Night tradition of a public swim and skate, that hasn’t been sacrificed for the new venue; both activities will take place earlier in the day at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, with public skates scheduled for 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., and again from 11.30 – 12.30 p.m., and the leisure swim scheduled from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m.

“At the Family Leisure Complex, the popularity of the activities definitely

outgrew the space,” says Ware. “We’ve moved the swimming and skating to the morning at the SARC and the SARC has bigger ice pads as well as a bigger pool, so it can provide more activities to more people. By having that earlier in the day, people essentially don’t have to choose between getting to do a free swim or seeing the reptile show, because people can now do the swimming and skating earlier in the day and then head to Town Square for the evening festivities.

“It’s a fresh, new atmosphere, which can also be symbolic of a fresh year ahead. This is what we consider to be our transition year and we hope for New Year’s Eve 2026 to be twice as big as this year’s plan – but this is a fresh new start for a fresh new year.”

For a full roster of Family First Night activities, as well as daytime programming, visit aurora.ca/familyfirstnight.

Aurora continues holiday tradition of Parking Relief this holiday season

Contributed by the Town of Aurora

The Town of Aurora is once again making holiday gatherings easier by continuing its long-standing tradition of lifting winter on-street overnight parking restrictions from December 20 to January 2.

During this time, residents and guests can park overnight on Town streets without a permit.

“This is something Aurora has proudly offered for years to help families and friends celebrate without added stress,” says Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas. “From December 20 to January 2, residents and visitors will not receive tickets for overnight parking or for exceeding the three-hour limit.”

Important Reminder: This temporary pause does not apply during winter weather events, such as heavy snowfall or storms. Please monitor forecasts and remove vehicles from the street when snow clearing is required so crews can keep roads safe and accessible.

All other parking rules remain in effect, including:

- Do not block sidewalks, driveways, or traffic;
- Keep at least 3 metres away from fire hydrants;
- Avoid parking within 9 metres of intersections;
- Do not park in “No Parking” or “No Stopping” zones;
- Do not park facing the wrong direction.

Regular winter parking restrictions resume January 3 through April 15, prohibiting on-street parking between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

“From all of us at Aurora Town Council, may your holidays be filled with peace, joy, and time well spent with those who matter most,” says Mayor Mrakas.

For details on parking by-laws, permits, and winter maintenance tips, visit aurora.ca/parking.



TOYS FOR TIX – It was another successful year for the Town of Aurora’s Toys for Tickets program, where not-so-lucky recipients of parking tickets were able to pay the fine with donations of toys and non-perishable foods for families in need. “Together, we raised \$3,570 in ticket donations, along with toys, food, and gift cards that will brighten the holidays for so many,” says the Town. “The toys and gift cards have been delivered to York Regional police Holiday Heroes campaign, ensuring children and families across Aurora and Newmarket feel the joy of the season. All food collected was delivered to the Aurora Food Pantry.” Pictured here at Town Hall loading up donations on December 15 are Alex, Steve, and Mario of the Town’s Bylaw Department.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

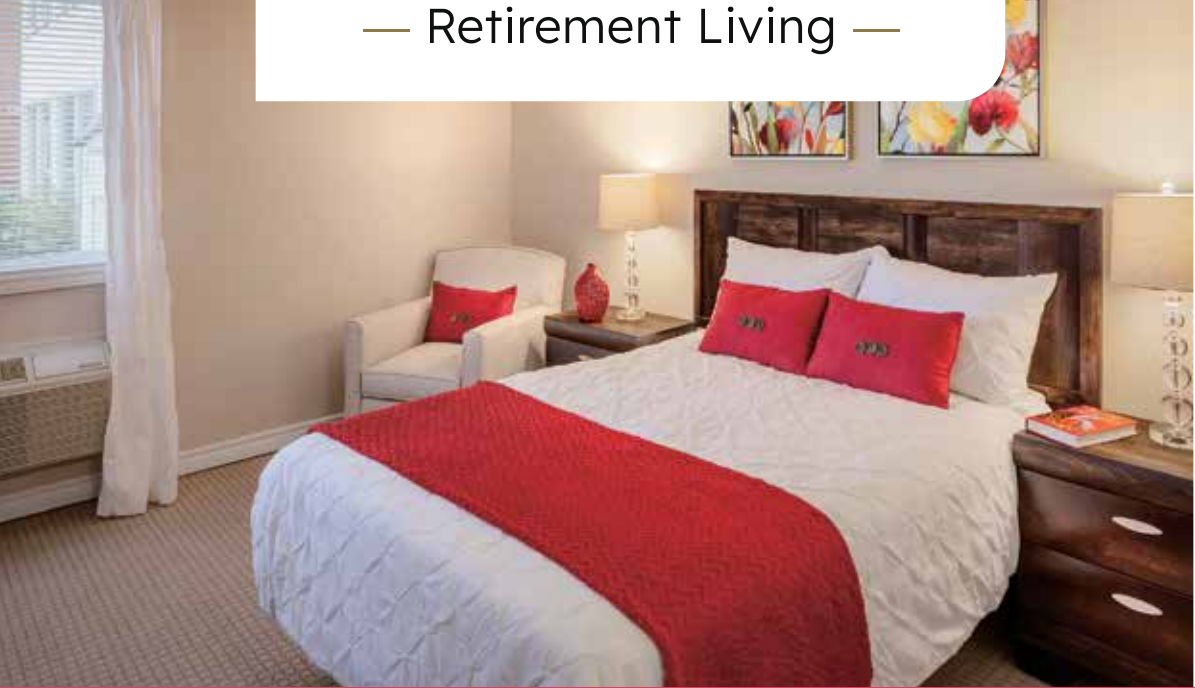
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Wonderful evening
of bygone years (1985
– 2006) in celebration
of Chamber’s 45th
anniversary

Even though the Aurora Chamber has been in Town since the early 1920s, it was in 1980 that the late Eric Smith and the late Omar Khamissa got together and decided to be serious about re-establishing a more permanent base.

In 1985, with the help of the late councillor Earl Stewart, a trailer donated by Lakeview Homes was set on the site of the present office and the rest is history.

On October 8 last, the staff of the period 1985-2006, decided to hold a reunion at The Shed, to re-acquaint ourselves with the many great people who helped to change the path and face of the Chamber in Aurora.

The first Home Show was held in 1987, the Street Sale, a new office building was built and opened in 2003, the Aurora Money programme, the introduction of the annual Business Awards, all in conjunction with our luncheons with notable speakers, networking events, golf tournaments and even a trip by hydrofoil to Niagara-On-The-Lake to see a play. None of this would have been possible without the support of so many who were at the reunion: Jamie Thompson, Caroline Rowan, Jim McAlpine, Ian Johnson, Megan Honsberger, Raz Khamissa, Ian Zimmerman, Mary Georgopoulous, Tim Jones, Larry Allison, Vern Cunningham, Steve Hinder, Trish LaPlante, Brian North, Russ and Sharon Culver, Phyllis Jackson and Jack Roeleveld to name a few.

Times have changed and life moves on. We would sincerely like to thank Lenard Lind of Lind Realty here in Aurora, for graciously offering to sponsor the food for this reunion. It was much appreciated.

Lenard has always been very supportive of the Aurora Chamber and we remember fondly, when he would sponsor high school students to attend our speaker series luncheons (Pinball Clemons, Ron MacLean and others) and several of our events, including the Aurora Home Show. Thank you, again, Lenard. It was much appreciated.

It was a wonderful evening re-kindling fond memories!
‘Til we meet again!

Mary Lynn, Kathy and Rosalyn
Aurora



Pictured here at the gathering are Mae Khamissa, Rosalyn Gonsalves, and Steve Hinder.

Contributed photo

Machell’s Corners



Communities of Care

Tradition, ritual, and custom – for many of us, they are an important part of holiday season, but, are these traditions, rituals, and customs three factors on which the spirit of your season depends, or do you ever find they bog you down?

At a recent holiday gathering, talk turned to what we had planned for our time off – if, of course, we were lucky enough to have some.

While a few of the players in this conversation had plans to get away somewhere warm, to decompress, or simply disconnect, others had much more active plans – and, truth be told, some of them were less than thrilled about it.

One of them was on turkey duty, rolling their eyes at what they insisted would be a “dry” meal – I resisted the temptation to offer they still had some time to get a few cooking tutorials under their belts before the big day to avoid that – arguing that ham or roast beef would be preferred.

Family tradition, however, dictated otherwise.

Another rattled off all the stops they had to hit before the end of Boxing Day, including at least three or four family dinners because, with a sigh, “that’s always how it’s been.”

Personally, I’m always grateful there are more than a few places we have to hit each year, but “have” isn’t the right word. Each stop brings me together with people I love, the familial warmth that is at its peak at this time of year, and, in all honesty, it’s an interesting challenge to figure out all the logistics ahead of time. Although I feel I might be in the minority on that last one.

Traditions have always been an important part of our family’s holiday, even down to the little things – including what to watch on the big day.

One particular 1962 episode of The Lucy Show is always in the rotation. In this installment, Lucy Carmichael (Lucille Ball) and Vivian Bagley (Vivian Vance) are two single moms sharing a house with their children and, for the first time, they’re spending the holiday together as a non-traditional blended family.

It’s all fun and games until Lucy and Viv realize their own respective traditions, ones they hold pretty dear, are almost completely incompatible. Viv’s family opened their presents on Christmas Eve with everyone taking turns, while Lucy’s family saved theirs for Christmas Day, the littlest child



BROCK’S
BANTER

Brock Weir

in the family getting the distribution honours. Lucy’s family always tucked into a turkey for the big meal, while Viv’s always had Christmas Goose – and let’s not even get into what each woman preferred to stuff their birds with. We’d be here until New Year’s.

It never fails to raise smiles as it underscores how many people can get about their traditions, but also how it usually pays off to have a bit of flexibility about them.

Another tradition that is an important part of our Christmas routine is holding off on getting the celebration truly underway until after the King’s Christmas Message.

It’s always provided an oasis of calm amid the chaos, but, more than that, I always find there’s always at least one kernel of wisdom to keep in mind as we prepare to welcome a New Year. In short, it often helps set the tone of what lies ahead – or, at least how to tackle it.

The King’s 2025 Christmas Message, of course, was still under wraps as we went to press this week, but the Monarch recently offered some particularly poignant – and potent – words of wisdom a few weeks ago in a special broadcast for Stand Up to Cancer.

The message was very personal, but evidently it struck a chord with many because, in the immediate days following the video’s release, cancer organizations in the United Kingdom, in particular, saw a significant uptick in the number of calls they had received from individuals looking to get tested.

As someone whose family was touched by cancer this year, it was hard not to feel encouraged by such a profound reaction, and I share his words below in case you missed them:

“I know from my own experience that a cancer diagnosis can feel overwhelming. Yet I

also know that early detection is the key that can transform treatment journeys, giving invaluable time to medical teams – and, to their patients, the precious gift of hope. These are gifts we can all help deliver. Throughout my own cancer journey, I have been profoundly moved by what I can only call the ‘community of care’ that surrounds every cancer patient – the specialists, the nurses, researchers and volunteers who work tirelessly to save and improve lives.

“But I have also learned something that troubles me deeply – at least nine million people in our country are not up to date with the cancer screenings available to them. That is at least nine million opportunities for early diagnosis being missed. The statistics speak with stark clarity. To take just one example: When bowel cancer is caught at the earliest stage, around nine in ten people survive for at least five years. When diagnosed late, that falls to just one in ten. Early diagnosis quite simply saves lives.

“Now, I have heard this message repeatedly during my visits to cancer centres across the country. I know, too, what a difference it has made in my own case, enabling me to continue leading a full and active life, even while undergoing treatment. Indeed, today I am able to share with you the good news that thanks to early diagnosis, effective intervention and adherence to ‘doctors’ orders’, my own schedule of cancer treatment can be reduced in the New Year. This milestone is both a personal blessing and a testimony to the remarkable advances that have been made in cancer care in recent years; testimony that I hope may give encouragement to the fifty per cent of us who will be diagnosed with the illness at some point in our lives.

“Yet too often, I am told, people avoid screening because they imagine it may be frightening, embarrassing or uncomfortable. If and when they do finally take up their invitation, they are glad they took part. A few moments of minor inconvenience are a small price to pay for the reassurance that comes for most people when they are either told either they don’t need further tests, or, for some, are given the chance to enable early detection, with the life-saving intervention that can follow.

“As I have observed before, the darkest moments of illness can be illuminated by the greatest compassion. But compassion must be paired with action. This December, as we gather to reflect on the year past, I pray that we can each pledge, as part of our resolutions for the year ahead, to play our part in helping to catch cancer early. Your life - or the life of someone you love - may depend upon it.”

I wish all of you, and especially those in our respective “communities of care,” a very warm and wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!

THE AURORAN

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Time Travellers Diary

By Jeremy Hood
Museum Collections Technician
Aurora Museum & Archives

Marketing Memories of Mistletoe

As the first real days of Winter settle in, and the fields, plucked of their fall fruits, are a lake of the slowest whitecaps, it is a time of noise in the pursuit of quiet.

Even with a mostly functional Time Machine at my disposal, I often find myself rushed at this time of year, trying to tie up all the loose ends I may have created across timelines. One such thread involved me flubbing a timely report on this particular event for its centenary. I winced, hoping that the repairs I made to the Machine would hold, and dialed in the year 1923.

I materialized on the same spot just off the tracks, cloaked my machine and stepped out into the drizzle. Mingling with the arriving train passengers to make my way to Yonge St., I paused just to grab a damp copy of the local paper left behind on a bench.

Leafing through, I should not have been surprised to see the commercialization of Christmas was already in full-swing – with pre-filled stockings for sale (just 50 cents!), gift ideas such as parasols (\$1.75) or boxed handkerchiefs (\$1.00), and a reminder that “Hosiery [was] a Suitable Gift”. Perhaps; some of those Cashmere socks (only 75 cents!) would be nice to wear inside the cold brass Time Machine. That same ad issued the imperative to “give your friends and relatives the kind of a Christmas morning they used to have”, hearkening back to, I supposed a pre-Great-War collective memory. There was still healing to do, and the Holidays seemed a most appropriate time for nostalgia and reflection.

But I was distracted from my real purpose – the Christmas Market. I had seen a poster advertising its coming when I was previously in 1923, and was determined to experience it myself, whatever the weather.

I walked along Yonge Street, past the new Post Office and the old Town Hall, there was a bustling crowd moving in and out of the old Club Hotel on the South side of Mosley. As I approached, the unmistakable aroma of farm animals dominated the air, followed by the pastoral pandemonium of barnyard sounds once I entered the building.

A man’s voice was calling out, “Heaviest turkey! First prize to Hy Webb, from right here in Aurora!” Applause erupted from the crowd, several hundred men and women, who were all watching the main floor and trying to hush both people and animals. I worked my way behind the crowd as the man announced further winners. “...also from Aurora!” he continued naming categories and winners, “Best 2 Cabbages... Largest Number of Geese... Best Box of Winter Apples! Now let’s move on to the Poultry Dressing demonstration!”

I let his voice fade in the background as I came upon a copy of the same poster that had brought me here. I now realized the “market” moniker indicated this was a true farmer’s event, to demonstrate and sell what they’ve grown through the year.

I thought how familiar, however inexpensive, Aurora’s 1923 Christmas had seemed just before entering this building, but the Market opened my eyes to a parallel tradition that honours those who provide for us all.

Happy Holidays from the Aurora Museum & Archives!

Going to [the Christmas] Market

The Aurora Christmas Market ran successfully from 1922 - 1924. It was held at the “Club Academy”, which was an indoor banquet hall operated at The Club Hotel, which stood at the corner of Yonge and Mosley until 1927. The purpose of the event was to entice farmers to bring their best produce and livestock into Town and compete for prizes. Aurora was still primarily an agricultural community at the time, and this poster (81.93.77) shows the Christmas Market was more akin to the Aurora Horse Show than the family-friendly events we now know. Even the animals got into the holiday spirit!



PARSA'S PERSPECTIVE

Michael Parsa, MPP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

I want to wish everyone a warm and joyful time with family and friends this holiday season. Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, or simply enjoying some well-deserved rest, this time of year is a chance to reconnect and appreciate the people who make life meaningful.

It has been a busy year, and I know many are looking forward to taking a break, catching up with loved ones, sharing meals, or just spending quiet time at home. The holidays can also be a time when some in our community face challenges, so let us remember to check in on neighbours and lend a hand when we can.

I want to acknowledge the

frontline workers who continue to serve the community during this season. Many spend long hours away from their families so the rest of us can enjoy the holidays safely and comfortably. Their dedication does not go unnoticed, and we are truly grateful.



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

‘Twas the Night Before Christmas in Aurora

‘Twas the night before Christmas,
by the window I stood
Hoping Santa would soon visit our
neighbourhood
Before long sleighbell rings and a
thud on the roof
Provided of his arrival
definitive proof

Stepping back from the window,
and turning around
A smiling St Nicholas appeared
with a bound
He reached in his pack, and
rummaged a while
“I have some presents,” he said,
“that should make you smile

“All these tariffs,” he shuddered,
“have filled me with dread
So I thought this year I’d try
something new instead
The best way, I thought, to spread
good Christmas cheer
Would be to ensure my gifts were all
local this year”

“For example,” he stated,
“a gift you may choose
From Barrons, Oakridge Fashions,
perhaps
Omar’s Shoes
Or you would look quite stylish,
I kindly declare
In a custom-made outfit from
MR Menswear

“If original presents you like most
of all
These hand-painted landscapes will
look good on your wall
From the artists of SOYRA,
and Royal Rose Gall’ry
And fired pottery from
the kilns of Pine Tree

“If live performance is what you’d
most like to see
Here are front row tickets to the
shows at Marquee,
The Cultural Centre,”
he said, not yet through
“And at Theatre Aurora on
Henderson, too.

“And surely this next present would
make anyone beam
A nice jersey or hat from
a local sports team
I’ve got choices galore,
back up in my sleigh
From the Tigers, Barbarians, Ducks
or the Jays

“We could use a break sometimes
from cooking,
you know,
So a future meal’s on me,
when next that you go
To any Town venue that
serves a great dish
Chose from noodles to burgers, and
chicken to fish

“For the folks who need a hand, with
no one to blame
I’ll make out a donation
to them in your name
To the Optimists, Lions,
Chats and Blue Door
Welcoming Arms, Food Bank, Yellow
Brick, and much more

I thought that by now I’d
seen all he was showing
But more packages appeared - he just
kept going
“If your house needs fixing, there’s no
problem there
I’ll give you a handy gift
card from Home Hardware

“If a tasty sweet munchy
is just what you lack
One of these should be perfect,” and
out from his sack
Chocolate and Co treats
were quickly dispersed
Followed by more goodies
from Catharina’s and Hurst

At last he was finished,
and was on his way
But as he packed up he’d
a last word to say
“These are just some ideas, there are
so many more
But I still must visit your
Aurora neighbours”

Then St Nick and his team left,
a long night ahead
With Rudolph leading the way, his
nose all a-red
But I heard Santa say,
his voice satisfied
“Please shop locally this year, you’ll
feel good inside”

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

Volunteers honoured for nearly 300 years of community service

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Volunteers help make a municipality a true community, and this year scores of volunteers were honoured by the Town for a combined 270 years of community service.

Aurora’s Community Recognition Awards took place at Town Hall this past May and, in addition to local residents honoured for their contributions to arts and culture, community safety, accessibility, and more, others were recognized for truly hâaving staying power for the organizations that drive them.

“It’s undeniable that the essence of any community lies in its people, especially the volunteers whose dedication and actions drive real impact,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas at the ceremony. “Tonight, we gather to honour the countless contributions of these volunteers whose dedication keeps Aurora vibrant and an extraordinary place. Each nomination was remarkable, showcasing just how extraordinary our community truly is. We are so fortunate to live in a community where generosity is not an exception, but a way of life. Aurora is stronger, more compassionate, and more vibrant because of the countless contributions of people like you – our volunteers.

“Whether you mentor youth, support charitable causes, coach sports teams, coordinate cultural programs, or lend a hand helping



Bobby Pandolfi, pictured here in Council Chambers with Mayor Tom Mrakas, was honoured for a half-century’s service to the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society, also known as Garden Aurora, at this year’s Community Recognition Awards.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

those in need, your impact resonates far beyond what is seen. You help shape lives and build community in a way that is both profound and lasting.... You don’t volunteer to

be recognized, but tonight we shine a spotlight on you because you deserve it. To those who nominated this year’s award-recipients, thank you. Thank you for your efforts to help bring well-deserved attention to those who might otherwise stay quietly in the background guiding us all the while.”

**GLEN SHARP – 20 YEARS
(Optimist Club of Aurora)**

“Glen has been a steadfast member of the Optimist Club of Aurora and has served in many leadership roles, including being president twice, also being the secretary and treasurer,” said Mayor Mrakas reading his citation. “He’s been active on the Board and has led several committees, also lending his energy, enthusiasm and time to key events like the Chamber’s Home Show, Mobile Kitchen, Chess Tournament, Aurora Minor Hockey Showcase, and marshalling at the Santa Under the Stars Parade.”

**LISA DiSERA – 25 YEARS
(Society of St. Vincent de Paul)**

“Lisa has attended countless meetings to gather crucial

information to better serve those in our Aurora community who are facing difficulties and are seeking their assistance. She has supported countless families through hundreds of home visits and valuable support in navigating access to essential social services, agencies, and programs. She has been instrumental in guiding numerous local projects focused on food security programs and led efforts like the North of 60 Project, where she serves on a committee that supports an isolated Inuit community. Lisa’s dedication in assisting her neighbors embodies community spirit.”

**TERRY SHERIN – 25 YEARS
(Optimist Club of Aurora)**

“Terry has served as the Optimist Club of Aurora as President and treasurer and is a driving force behind the Club’s mobile kitchen, bringing food and community spirit to numerous events around Town. He’s been dedicated to helping with events including the Chamber’s Home Show, Beer Tasting, Chess Tournament, Aurora Minor Hockey Showcase, and marshalling the Santa Under the Stars Parade.”

Continued on page 23

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BUSINESS & FINANCE



Regional Chair Eric Jolliffe, Newmarket Mayor John Taylor, Richmond Hill Mayor David West, East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson, and Regional Staff joined representatives of the Markham Inter-Church Committee of Affordable Housing, Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region, Trinity Coptic Foundation, the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto, and Crescent Village Seniors Housing Corporation at Friday's announcement at Regional Headquarters.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Region makes Community Housing Supply Grant permanent in 2025

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Efforts to increase affordable housing units in York Region will see renewed efforts in the year ahead as the Region of York makes its Community Housing Supply Grant permanent in 2026.

The decision to make the Grant program, which provides capital funding to non-profit and co-operative organizations to create affordable housing through new builds, redevelopments, and conversions of non-residential buildings, was announced Friday by Regional Chair Eric Jolliffe.

Dignitaries gathered at Regional Headquarters on Friday afternoon to announce five projects that successfully applied for grant funding in 2025, representing 536 new units, with 288 units below market rent. These include the Markham Inter-Church Committee of Affordable Housing, Sandgate Women's Shelter of York Region in Georgina, Trinity Coptic Foundation in Newmarket, the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto in Vaughan, and Crescent Village Seniors Housing Corporation in Richmond Hill.

"York Region is committed to building inclusive, sustainable communities

by expanding housing options and supporting partners through initiatives like the Community Housing Supply Grant," said Jolliffe. "Building on the success of this pilot program, York Region will make it permanent in 2026. These efforts are helping create a more resilient future for all residents by providing housing solutions for individuals of all abilities, incomes and life stages."

Making the Grant program permanent will "ensure sustained support for non-profit and co-operative partners to build more affordable housing across York Region," noted the Municipality.

Projects funded through the program must include at least 10 new affordable units, or a minimum of five units when an addition is undertaken, with rents at or below 100 per cent of average market rent and remain affordable for a minimum of 20 years.

Eligible applicants must meet specific evaluation criteria set out by the Region, including project details, development and operational qualifications, corporate viability, financial information and plans, project timeline, and development schedule.

"Increasing affordable housing in York Region requires shared commitment, and the Region is leading the way through innovative, locally-driven solutions and strong partnerships," said Newmarket Mayor John Taylor, who also serves as Chair of the Region's Housing and Homelessness Committee. "We know we can't do this on our own, however, supporting organizations with common goals can help advance these important

projects to provide more affordable housing units in all our communities."

The importance of realizing these units was only underscored by Lisa Gonsalves, the Region's Commissioner of Community and Health Services, who said in 2024, more than 18,000 households were on the Region's waiting list for affordable housing while, in that same year, only 436 households were able to secure housing units.

"Community and Health Services is people serving people. Together, we continue navigating forward with resilience and readiness by investing in safer communities and enabling growth in our communities," she said. "As we know, safe, secure and affordable housing is essential for everyone and housing remains foundational in these strong and caring communities. We also know that the community housing supply has not kept pace and more people are struggling to find a home they can afford."

"Stable, affordable housing can have health, social, and economic benefits and support people, individuals, families, and entire communities. When people lack safe, affordable housing, pressure grows across the health care system, emergency services, and social support systems, driving overall demand for human services and leading to higher costs over time, including more complex and costly interventions later. This is why investment in community is so critical."

"Affordable housing is one of the greatest challenges facing the Region today. We are committed to building complete communities with a full range of housing options and services to support residents at every stage of life."

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"TOP"-NOTCH PIZZA

Mayor Tom Mrakas joined members of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for the grand re-opening of the family-run Topper's Pizza on Yonge Street last week. "The owners may be new, but don't worry - the pizza is still just as delicious as ever," said the Mayor. Pictured here, from left to right, are (front row) Shayla from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Fr. Rony of Our Lady of Grace Parish, new owners Ray and Gladys Concon, Mayor Mrakas, and, representing Topper's head office, Michelle, (second row) Holly, Susan, Amanda, and Goran. Topper's Pizza is located at 15531 Yonge Street.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



Police Board makes significant investment in Mental Health centre



Rebecca Shields, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, is pictured accepting the donation from members of the York Regional Police Services Board – including King Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Work on York Region’s Mental Health Community Care Centre will continue in 2026, and plans gained additional momentum this month with a \$100,000 donation from the York Regional Police Services Board.

Following a decision made on October 28, the Board has formally presented the investment to the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, which will operate the Mental Health Community Care Centre out of a building currently under renovation on Yonge Street, across from the Regional Headquarters in Newmarket.

The Centre is expected to open in 2027 and be a leading-edge facility providing support for individuals ages twelve and up experiencing mental health and addiction crises. The YRP

has been a long-time supporter of the plans, as has the Provincial government. “The Board recognizes CMHA York Region and South Simcoe’s long-standing leadership in promoting mental wellness, community integration, and recovery from mental illness and addiction,” said King Township Mayor Steve Pellegrini, who also serves as Chair of the York Regional Police Services Board. “Serving more than 20,000 individuals last year alone, CMHA continues to improve access to care, reduce wait times, and bring vital, compassionate support to underserved communities. We are proud to contribute funding for this transformative new centre for our Region, which reflects our ongoing investment into building a healthier, more resilient community.” Added Rebecca Shields, CEO of the CMHA-YRSS: “We are grateful for the partnership and support of the York Regional Police Services Board as we

work with the community to develop and open the Centre. We know how important their role is in keeping individuals and the community safe, which is a huge asset to the Centre. Working together, we can truly ensure someone’s first mental health and/or addictions crisis is their last. We’re thrilled to have the York Regional Police Services Board’s support with this mission.” The York Region Mental Health Community Care Centre was announced by both the CMHA-YRSS and the Provincial Government in 2024 and work continues to transform the former Mission Thrift Store location on Yonge Street, just north of Eagle Street, into their vision. “The Centre will deliver a full spectrum of services, including specialized treatments, peer support,

clinical care, addiction and psychiatric services, and youth and family assistance to meet the diverse needs of the community,” said the CMHA-YRSS in a statement. “It is estimated that two-thirds of the Centre’s clients will be diverted from emergency departments, reducing system pressures, and improving overall healthcare accessibility in the Region. “York Region has seen a rising dependence on police mental health services, including an average of 17 calls a day related to mental health. Police received more than 6,000 mental health calls last year, including repeat calls from 350 people classified as ‘chronic users’ of the department’s services. Emergency room visits related to mental health and substance use in the Region are projected to rise by 63 per cent by 2029.”

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Giving Tuesday raises thousands for youth mental health with matching gift from resident

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Giving Tuesday was a boon for local youth mental health services as the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe saw donations doubled thanks to local Desjardins agent George Rappos. Rappos, an agent based out of Newmarket, has supported the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe (CMHA-YRSS) with donation matching for the last six years. While today’s economic climate meant that he couldn’t match to the level he has in recent years, his endeavour to match donations up to \$5,000 will make a significant impact on programs directly serving youth. “We are deeply grateful to George for his unwavering support of youth mental health in our community over the past six years,” said Catherine Matzig, Senior Director of Philanthropy, for the CMHA-YRSS. “Recent statistics show that more than 40% of Canadian youth report struggling with their mental health, with symptoms often emerging as early as 14. George’s ongoing commitment



George Rappos presented his donation to the CMHA last week at his Newmarket office.

to matching donations means every contribution goes twice as far, enabling us to provide vital, free services to youth facing urgent mental health challenges in York Region and South Simcoe.” This Giving Tuesday, York Region and South Simcoe residents were encouraged to make a direct investment in youth by supporting the CMHA-YRSS’ Insuring Our Future Campaign, which sees funds raised going straight to services like Mobile York South Simcoe (MOBYSS), the CMHA’s mobile mental health unit, and their Youth Wellness in Schools program, both of which means money directed by the community stays within the community.

Continued on page 23

Merry Christmas & Happy Chanukah

MICHAEL PARSA, MPP
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Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Gifting ceremony was “healing” experience for Indigenous Artist

“Stories Woven Through Fabric” show was way to reclaim identity

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A healing journey came full circle at the Aurora Cultural Centre recently as

Indigenous artist Sharon Rigby brought the curtain down on her first solo show, “Stories Woven Through Fabric.” The exhibition, which took pride of place throughout Aurora Town Square this fall, was centred on the medium of ribbon skirts, garments which hold “deep cultural significance” for many Indigenous communities across North America.

Rigby, a Mohawk/Ojibwe artist from the Akwesasne Reserve in Quebec, who now calls Peel Region home, says ribbon skirts are symbols of identity, connection to heritage and the land, as well as serving as tools for healing. The show was envisioned by Rigby as a way to “foster a sense of healing and understanding” around the time of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and choosing ribbon skirts as her artform not only allowed her to tell the stories of those who survived residential schools and the Sixties Scoop, but pick up threads of her own story, which has been impacted by both. “As an Indigenous individual who is also affected by residential schools in my family line, the Sixties Scoop, and being disconnected from community, a common thread through all of the individuals [represented in each ribbon skirt] and myself particularly is lack of sense of belonging and for healing. I guess the way I wanted to look at this is offering this huge hug, this embrace, for everyone to be able to come together and recognize the common thread, and to feel that love and acceptance. “Healing comes through the expression, through the creativity in art, it comes through the individuals willing to talk, allowing it to be public, and closure comes when they receive their skirts in ceremony and among likewise individuals who are sharing that journey with them.” Indeed, the Gifting Ceremony was the culmination of Stories Woven Through Fabric and paying tribute to the individuals whose stories were represented through every ribbon and stitch. “Many years ago, Indigenous people weren’t willing to talk and, as it was, no one else was ready to listen, but we’re coming up to a very interesting time now because Indigenous people are stepping forward, talking, and we have

people’s ears,” says Rigby. “It wasn’t unusual. There are many people in the community who still aren’t ready to talk, there’s a lot of trauma and grief, but the whole idea behind the exhibition was to have some closure on that. In my spiritual belief, it’s like the creator picked [the individual represented in the skirts]. I needed twelve, Creator gave me twelve. “When I was reading their submissions, which was no easy feat as it was difficult reading sometimes, all the markers for the individuals are also markers in my own family line. When I would read their story, I would jot down key elements in what they’re talking about. If there was a specific number they were talking about, if some individuals talked about harvesting on their land with their grandmother and what it was like to pick herbs, I would find a fabric that would represent that. All of the words, all of the stories that were shared, every one I read, it was writing down key details and forming this idea of what their skirt would look like.” Having them receive them at the end was just the icing on the cake – a necessary step, to be sure, but the icing on the cake. “It was so beautiful,” she shares. “Sometimes when you hear about people having like an out-of-body experience, although I was present at the Gift of Resilience ceremony, my spirit was soaring. All of the individuals who came there was a lot of emotion and you could just feel the energy in the room. There was laughter, there were tears and I think, for myself, there was just that little bit of closure for myself as well knowing that though my creations and through my artistry that I was able to listen and create something of such significance and important to each individual. “I really felt like I was a bridge. I was just the bridge-maker for these individuals and it was my honour to serve as that for them.”

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Tom Mrakas

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I hope you are able to slow down, spend time with loved ones, and enjoy the warmth and meaning this day brings — whether gathered together, connecting from afar, or taking a quiet moment to reflect. Christmas is a time that reminds us of the values that define our community: kindness, generosity, compassion, and looking out for one another. Across Aurora, these values are lived every day, and especially at this time of year, through simple acts of care, volunteerism, and neighbour helping neighbour. I also want to thank those who are working so that the rest of us can celebrate safely, our first responders, public works crews, healthcare professionals, and all essential workers. Your dedication and service are deeply appreciated. It is truly an honour to serve as your Mayor, and I remain grateful for the trust you place in me as we continue working together to keep Aurora a great place to live, work, and raise a family. From my family to yours, I wish you peace, warmth, and joy today, and all the very best in the year ahead. Merry Christmas.



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WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2025

Van Berkel’s four-goal weekend versus Aeros and Wildcats moves her into second in U22 scoring race



Windsor goaltender Isla Wilson keeps her eye on the puck as a Junior Panther slides headfirst into the net during OWHA action at the SARC on Sunday. The Panthers beat the Wildcats 5 – 1. Wilson made 30 saves in the second period to keep Windsor in the game. **Auroran photo by Jim Stewart**

BY JIM STEWART

The U22 Central York Panthers skated into the Christmas Break on a high note with a pair of impressive victories.

On Sunday afternoon at SARC, the Junior Panthers fired four goals over a nine-minute span in the first period and coasted to a 5-1 win over the Windsor Southwest Wildcats.

At the Vaughan Sports Village on Saturday night, Annabella Van Berkel’s three-goal performance paced the fourth-place Panthers to a 5-2 win over the Toronto Aeros.

Van Berkel was pleased with the team’s effort in Vaughan and at home.

“It’s been a six-point weekend for us. We were coming off some losses so we stepped it up this weekend. Everybody played their roles and nobody tried to do too much. That was a big part of our success today and yesterday.”

At SARC on Sunday, the red-clad Panthers got off to another strong start in the first period. Van Berkel credited her club’s productive first period as the key to victory over Windsor: “We can’t have slow starts. We played it simple today and made the right plays early in the game. We didn’t wait too long to take the game to them. We were making the first pass tape-to-tape to create scoring chances.”

The Panthers cashed in on those scoring chances to which Van Berkel referred. Central York defender Mackenzie Cotey skated over the Wildcats blue line and fired the puck from between the circles – beating Windsor goaltender Shannon Henshaw high blocker side. Cotey’s unassisted marker gave the Panthers a 1-0 lead before four minutes had elapsed.

Four minutes later, Cotey’s crisp forwarding pass found Van Berkel’s tape and the Panthers’ leading

scorer exploited the open ice on the power play. She cut into the Wildcats zone, and sniped a shot from above the left faceoff circle that flew over Henshaw’s shoulder glove side to extend Central York’s lead to 2-0.

The veteran Panther described her 28th of the season which turned out to be the game-winner.

“I saw that I had some space when I was looking for my scoring options. It was a good goal because it created momentum for us.”

The Panthers made it 3-0 less than two minutes later when Abby Pak finished off a passing play from Elizabeth Shapira and Van Berkel. Pak bulged the twine with a laser she fired between the circles that beat Henshaw cleanly. Central York’s third goal in six minutes compelled the Windsor coaching staff to use their timeout to steady the shellshocked Wildcats.

Ninety seconds after the timeout, “The Red Wave” was not impeded by the break. Cotey’s shot from the blue line was deflected by Elizabeth Janovski on to Anastasia Trifon’s tape whose shot clanged off the crossbar ricocheted off Henshaw’s back and dropped across the goal line. The combination of puck luck and diligence provided the Panthers with a 4-0 lead and forced Henshaw from the game.

The Windsor starter was replaced by Isla Wilson whose sparkling play for the balance of the period and during the middle frame kept the contest from becoming a laughter.

Van Berkel commented on Wilson’s play, especially in the second period when she made 30 saves:

“She’s an 18U from Whitby. We hadn’t seen her before. I think we were rushing our shots in the second period, but she played a good game.”

Wilson’s performance between the pipes re-instilled her teammates’ confidence. On an ensuing two-on-one generated by the Wildcats, Kiley

Couture finished a nice setup from Emma Holm and slid the puck past Panthers’ netminder Claire Hicks with 27 seconds left to narrow the visitors’ deficit to 4-1 heading into the first intermission.

The only puck to elude Wilson during the middle frame was fired by Janovski in the goalmouth who converted Ashley Minor’s skillful centering pass with 50.7 seconds left before second intermission.

Janovski’s shot was the 30th faced by Wilson.

On Saturday evening versus the Aeros, the script was remarkably similar. The Panthers took control of the game with a three-goal outburst in the first period. Three minutes into the opening frame, Van Berkel returned triumphantly from the injured list and made it 1-0 for the visitors when she converted Ella Frasca’s feed.

Central York’s leading points-getter added an unassisted goal at 10:56 to put the Panthers up 2-0.

Six minutes later, Minor completed a passing play from Briar Deckers and Lily Paisley to give the hard-pressing visitors a three-goal lead.

With 27 seconds left in the opening period, Aeros’ forward Dalyn Fairey narrowed Toronto’s deficit to 3-1.

However, Central York blueliner Cotey, set up by defensive partner Rachel Talesnik, restored the Panthers’ three-goal lead at 14:22 of the second period to stifle any prospective rally by the home side.

Van Berkel completed her hat trick—with assists earned by Pak and Minor—with 9:43 left in third period. Her 27th of the season moved her into second place in U22 Elite Division goal-scoring and gave the Panthers a commanding 5-1 lead.

Remarkably, Van Berkel has already surpassed her breakout 2024-25 season point totals when she garnered 20 goals and 6 assists in 46 games. This season, “Big Goal” Van Berkel has accrued 35 points in 28 games—good enough for 8th place in league’s scoring.

With the pair of victories to close out the 2025 portion of their regular season schedule, the Panthers improved their hold on fourth place in the 25-team league with a sterling 21-6-1-2 record. When asked what the Panthers’ New Year’s Resolution would be, Van Berkel contemplated the question and noted, “We need to be ready to go in the New Year. We need the points to get ahead in the standings. Getting off to good starts in all our games is something we need to do.”



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Tigers’ losing streak reaches nine in 6-1 loss to Buffalo Junior Sabres

BY JIM STEWART

The Buffalo Junior Sabres made their biennial trek to the ACC on Friday.

The only US-based team in the OJHL demonstrated its balanced scoring attack – getting goals from six different players en-route to a 6-1 win over the struggling Aurora Tigers.

Aurora’s Junior A hockey team remained winless in December. The Tigers’ last victory was a 6-2 romp over the Cobourg Cougars on November 17.

Despite the month-long malaise, the ninth-place Tigers got the jump on the visitors on Friday night.

Only 18 seconds into the contest, Cole Crawford took a crisp tape-to-tape pass through the neutral zone from Tigers’ defender Tommy Kut. After Kut delivered the perfect feed, Crawford swept over the blue line and unleashed a wrist shot from just inside the circle that beat Sabres’ goaltender Anthony Alessi cleanly—tickling the twine and providing hope for the Tigers and their 100 diehard fans. It was Crawford’s ninth of the season.

Exactly two minutes later, the Sabres pulled even when Cameron Przewozny rifled a low shot off the right wing that deflected off a defender’s stick and over the shoulder of Tigers’ ‘tender Lucas Carpino.

With 1:25 left in the opening frame, Jacob Brunton shoveled home a goal mouth pass from Carson Joy that was just out of the reach of a sprawling Carpino to stake Buffalo to a 2-1 lead.

The free-flowing, penalty-free, and entertaining game established in the first frame continued until 12:33 of the second period when Tigers’ forward Charlie Hoitles was sent to the sin bin for interference.

The opportunistic visitors seized on the first man-advantage of the game. Ninety seconds into the Hoitles’s infraction, Sabres’ Captain Ryan

Shuler slipped in from his QB position on the blue line, and sniped the puck past Carpino from inside the right faceoff circle to give Buffalo a two-goal lead.

Immediately after a very promising and persistent Tigers’ power play, Joy found open ice during a line change, stickhandled through the neutral zone, fired the puck from between the circles, and beat Carpino. Joy’s unassisted marker made it 4-1 heading into the second intermission.

At 11:29 of the third period, Buffalo built a four-goal margin when Sawyer Schmidt one-timed a nifty centering pass in the slot to put the Sabres up 5-1.

With 11 seconds remaining, Buffalo’s leading scorer Jaden Flora beat Carpino short side—just over the keeper’s glove—to provide the margin of victory.

Highlight of the Night

Other than Cole Crawford’s electrifying goal eighteen seconds into the game, Karla Lees’s fine delivery of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “O Canada” was a performance befitting a packed arena filled with exuberant fans.

Tigers and Sabres have a Long OJHL Rivalry

Almost twenty years ago in a packed arena filled with enthusiastic fans, the Tigers defeated the Buffalo Junior Sabres four games to one in the first round of the 2007 Buckland Cup playoffs. During that magical season, the Tigers went on to win the Buckland Cup, the Dudley Hewitt Cup, and, ultimately, the Royal Bank Cup as Canada’s Top Junior A Hockey team. It was the apex of Aurora’s Golden Era of Junior Hockey which included two national championships and three league championships in nine years.



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Aurorans Deck the Halls with dazzling displays



Aurora was certainly in the holiday spirit this season as more than two dozen homes and businesses were decked out in their Christmas Best for the Town of Aurora’s annual Deck the Halls Tour. A self-guided tour, Deck the Halls ran through Tuesday, December 23. The winners of the decorating contest hadn’t been announced at press time, but here’s an array of some of the participating locations: (Top Row) 7 Patrick Drive; 10 Billingham; 15 Catherine Avenue; (Second Row) 19 Minlow Way; 22 Watts Meadow; 24 Autumn Way; (Third Row) 30 Poplar Crescent; 34 Copeland Trail; 40 Carlyle Drive; (Fourth Row) 30 Gateway Drive; 54 Charing Crescent; 56 Spruce Street; (Fifth Row) 70 Allanvale Drive; 117 Hollandview Trail; 154 Ridge Road; (Sixth Row) 183 Dawlish Avenue; Loughheed Court; and 15520 Yonge Street – The Residences on Yonge.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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VOLUME 14, ISSUE 12

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Ways to give back to your community this season

(NC) The holiday season, with its longer, colder nights, often highlights the need in our communities.

With that awareness comes a desire to help, but it can be tough to know where to start. Here are some simple ways to spread kindness:

DONATE NEW, AS WELL AS USED ITEMS.
Odds are, you have things at home that aren't being used, and that could make a difference to someone else. Cleaning out your home and giving your things a second life is a great feeling. But you might also consider buying things to donate. Clothing drives often collect plenty of outerwear, but essentials like socks and underwear are typically in short supply. By purchasing new items to donate, you can help fill some critical gaps.

LOOK FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.
Volunteering can provide a sense of accomplishment and the chance to make a real impact in your community. Community organizations and charities offer support in a wide range of areas—from housing to food and medical support, among others. Some, like The Period Purse, make a difference both directly, by donating menstrual supplies to those who can't afford them, and indirectly, by providing free education to reduce period stigma. By looking around your community, you can find an organization that aligns with your values.

OFFER SUPPORT TO THOSE AROUND YOU.
Community organizations are one way to give back, but you can also make a difference even closer to home. Simple acts—clearing snow for a neighbour, helping someone to carry their groceries or simply listening to a friend going through a tough time—can foster a sense of belonging and strengthen community connections. Sometimes, all it takes is showing someone that they're not alone, and that it's safe to be open about what they're going through.

Small gestures of support can have a much greater impact than you might realize, even if you never see the outcome for yourself. Whether it's donating your time, your resources or simply offering a listening ear, you can make a real difference for someone in need. Learn more about making a community impact at theperiodpurse.com

www.newscanada.com

I open doors to your dreams... Together, we lift up the charities I proudly support. Sick Kids Hospital, Terry Fox Foundation, Royal LePage Shelter Foundation, Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers, The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, Alzheimer's Society.

— Monica Stohr

Project Warmth is a community-driven initiative in Aurora and Newmarket, run with @kitchentableceos, that provides new winter essentials (coats, boots, hats, etc.) and groceries to local kids and families in need.

— Meredith • Nichols, Refined Country Living

Throughout the year my team and I are so grateful to our wonderful clients for the privilege of working with them, and in return we like to give back a little to the community through the following charities that we donate to: 100 Women Who Care York Region, Children's Miracle Network for Sick Kids Foundation, Women's Centre of York Region, Water Ambassadors Canada, Holiday Heroes for the York Regional Police.

— Anita Kotsovos

The Key Advantage Team is once again leading its annual Key Needs Challenge, partnering with local businesses to create a ripple effect of kindness and make a meaningful impact in the community this holiday season. Rooted in our commitment to giving back, the initiative identifies a specific community need and works collectively to fulfill it—most recently supporting women and children through Yellow Brick House over the past three years. This year, by collaborating with local businesses, we are amplifying that impact at home and reinforcing our belief that no act of kindness is too small.

— Key Advantage

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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

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WHERE HOME MEANS THE MOST:
The heart of the holidays in King Township

As the year winds down and the first signs of winter settle across King Township, something special begins to happen. Lights go up, traditions return, and our community slows just enough to appreciate the small moments that often get lost in the busyness of everyday life. December has a way of reminding us that home is more than the place we live — it's where we gather, reconnect, and create the memories that carry us into a new year.

For many families, the holiday season is the one time when life pulls everyone back to the same table. Whether it's a lively gathering of loved ones, a quiet evening by the fireplace, or the simple comfort of familiar routines, home becomes the backdrop to the moments that matter most. As a real estate team, we're privileged to see firsthand how deeply these spaces shape people's lives. Every home tells a story — of new beginnings, of traditions passed down, and of the dreams families build within their walls.

King Township is uniquely suited to this season. The rolling landscapes, charming villages, and strong sense of community make it a place where the holidays feel especially meaningful. From local markets and festive events to the simple joy of walking through neighbourhoods lined with decorations, there is an undeniable warmth that brings residents closer together.

This time of year also inspires reflection. Many homeowners spend the winter months considering their next chapter — whether that's upsizing, downsizing, investing, or simply refreshing the space they already love. While the market tends to quiet in December, thoughtful planning now can set the stage for confident decisions in the new year. Understanding your

home's value, exploring future options, or preparing for a spring move are all smart steps that start well before the snow melts.

At the Michele Denniston Real Estate Group, we believe that real estate is ultimately about people — their stories, their goals, and the place they call home. The holidays are a reminder of why we do this work and why it matters. Helping families find a space where they feel safe, connected, and inspired is a privilege we never take for granted.

As we look ahead to a new year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to the King community. Your trust, your support, and your ongoing partnership mean the world to us. From our team to your family, we wish you a warm, peaceful, and joy-filled holiday season — and a home that continues to bring comfort and happiness all year long.

WRITTEN BY: The Michele Denniston Real Estate Team

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Barrie Family Dream Home \$988,000

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Scenic Richmond Hill Retreat \$4,690,000

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Ways to slow down this holiday season

(NC) The holidays can be a joyful but stressful time. It feels like there's always somewhere to be, something to do, pressure to do it all and not enough time to do it in. But sometimes the best thing to do is to stop, take a breath and take things slower. Here are some ways you and your family can ease up this season:

Take stock of your schedules. Everyone has commitments and activities that can fill up the entire week. While it's important to socialize and to have fulfilling experiences, a schedule that is too full can leave you feeling like there's no time left to breathe.

One way to reset is to sit down, preferably as a family, and go through everyone's commitments. Treat each item as already being off the schedule, and see

if it would be a benefit to add it back in. It can help make sure your family's schedules are serving them, and clear out some valuable time.

MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY ACTIVITIES.
Family time is an important way to reconnect. Finding the time amid busy schedules can be a real challenge—families often have to consciously make the time. But it's worth the commitment.

EVEN TV TIME CAN BE FAMILY TIME.
Watching thoughtful or inspiring programs together can turn a simple routine into a shared experience. Public broadcasters such as TVO offer community-focused storytelling and educational programming that reflect Ontario's diverse voices, helping families connect while learning something new together.

SIMPLE ACTIVITIES CAN HELP FAMILIES BOND, CONNECT AND UNWIND.
Consider having some family game nights, perhaps letting the winner of a game pick the next activity. Taking a neighbourhood walk as a family can help everyone slow down together, take in some fresh air and explore the community.

It's easy to get swept up in the rush—slowing down often takes effort. But it's also worth that effort. By making the time to do simple, fulfilling things together, you and your family can reset, recharge and reconnect. You can learn more at tvo.org.

www.newscanada.com

May the New Year bring you Peace, Joy and Happiness.

Wishing you and yours Health and Prosperity in the New Year!

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MARKET UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2025

AURORA	KING
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	AVERAGE SALES PRICE
\$1,285,894	\$3,030,957
AVERAGE 35 DAYS ON MARKET	AVERAGE 45 DAYS ON MARKET
NUMBER OF SALES	NUMBER OF SALES
50	23
131 NEW LISTINGS	71 NEW LISTINGS
SALE TO LIST RATIO	SALE TO LIST RATIO
95%	95%
YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE	YEAR OVER YEAR % CHANGE
-7.65%	-4.46%

*The statistics provided were obtained from the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board's Market Watch NOVEMBER 2025; Summary of Existing Home Transactions for All Home Types, NOVEMBER 2025 + Focus on the MLS Home Price Index for Composite, NOVEMBER 2025 for York Region's Aurora and King

As we closed out November, the activity in the market remained modest. Detached homes commanded a premium, while semi and townhomes and condo options all showed more affordable alternative pricing. With increased inventory and more choice there are more options for Buyers out shopping. Despite the favourable lowering of borrowing costs and increase in inventory, many Buyers are still exercising caution. For those thinking of investing, it might be a good time to secure a home in the slower holiday months, with less competition and more motivation and the potential for better pricing. Well priced and well appointed homes are still attracting attention. It all feels to be signs of a maturing market in Aurora, as things are balancing. In an evolving market, it is always imperative to work closely with your real estate advisor. Key Advantage is always here to connect and discuss strategy.

.....

– Provided by Key Advantage Team Royal LePage RCR Realty
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THE GREAT AURORA
Christmas Crisis
(and How I Ended Up Fixing It)



By Julien Laurion
Real Estate

You'd think that by now—after years of renovating houses, selling homes, rescuing kitchens that looked like they had personally given up on life, and convincing buyers that heated floors do, in fact, change your soul—I'd seen it all. But nothing, and I mean nothing, prepared me for the call I received last Tuesday morning.

It was Santa.

Not mall Santa. Not my dad in a red hat. I mean actual Santa. The big guy. The CEO of Christmas.

And he was calling from Aurora.

I was halfway through my coffee when my phone buzzed, and a panicked voice boomed: "Julien! I need help. It's an emergency. A Christmas emergency."

Naturally, I assumed this had something to do with someone wanting their house listed before the weekend, or maybe a last-minute reno request ("Julien, can you just add an ensuite before Christmas Eve?"). But no—this was bigger.

Santa had crash-landed in Aurora Heights, right between a beautifully renovated bungalow and a two-storey needing "a little love," as I would politely say on an MLS sheet.

Blitzen was fine. Cupid had eaten someone's bird feeder. Prancer was inspecting exterior grading like a seasoned contractor.

But the sleigh—oh boy—the sleigh was done. One ski was wedged into a snowbank, the runners were cracked, and the onboard gift-tracking system had

fallen off the dash and was blinking in Morse code like R2-D2 having a meltdown.

"Julien," Santa said, "I heard you're the guy in town who fixes... well... everything."

And honestly? Fair.

Between being a Realtor who can walk into a home and see potential instantly, and being a contractor who can literally turn a disaster into a "wow factor," I guess word had gotten all the way to the North Pole.

So I grabbed my tool bag, my branded toque, and headed over.

THE SCENE OF THE SLEIGH-CCIDENT

You could not miss it. Reindeer footprints everywhere. A faint jingling echoing through the neighbourhood. A crowd forming faster than at a Costco sample station.

Santa was pacing near the sleigh like a man who had just been told the kitchen backsplash he ordered was discontinued.

"Alright, big guy," I said. "Let's assess this."

I did what I do best: inspect the structural elements, check the joints, test the runner stability, and ask if Mrs. Claus had ever considered heated seats (he perked right up).

It wasn't pretty. The sleigh needed more than a patch job—it needed a mini renovation.

"Can you do it?" Santa asked, hope in his eyes.

"Santa," I said, "I renovate entire homes in less time than most people choose a paint colour. Let's get to work."

ALL ABOUT HOMES: NORTH POLE EDITION

I'll admit, repairing a centuries-old magical sleigh was not on my December schedule. But I've rebuilt decks, re-insulated entire homes, installed enough speakers to qualify for a part-time DJ job, and renovated basements that previously looked like crime scenes.

A sleigh? Why not.

I reinforced the runners, repaired the cracked joints,



polished the dash, recalibrated the gift-tracking system, and upgraded the LED under-glow lighting because—let's be honest—if Santa's coming to Aurora, he deserves to shine like a freshly staged living room.

The big guy was thrilled.

"Julien, how do I repay you?" he boomed.

I shrugged. "Just keep bringing joy to kids... and maybe mention me when someone up there wants to relocate."

He laughed so hard Dasher had to calm him down.

And What Does This Have To Do With Real Estate?

Well, everything, actually.

This time of year, people imagine real estate slows down. But the truth? It's busy. Families want to move before school starts again, buyers want to snag something before the spring rush, and sellers want their homes looking as magical as the Aurora tree-lighting ceremony.

And just like Santa's sleigh, sometimes homes need a little tune-up before they're ready for the big night.

That's where I come in—both versions of me:

The Renovator: Fixing, improving, upgrading—turning "almost there" into "wow, is this even the same place?"

The Realtor: Marketing, staging, pricing, negotiating—making sure the final result flies as smoothly as Santa after eating gluten-free cookies.

When those two sides work together? Magic. Literal Christmas-level magic.

A CHRISTMAS ENDING IN TRUE AURORA STYLE

Once the sleigh was repaired and the reindeer were fed (by a neighbour who just happened to have carrots—Aurora folks are legends), Santa climbed aboard.

He looked down and said: "Julien, if I ever leave the North Pole... I'm calling you to find me a place in Aurora."

With a jingle, a "ho ho ho," and a fresh LED glow I was very proud of, he took off into the sky, leaving the neighbourhood sparkling.

So if your home needs help before the holidays, or you're thinking of making a move in the new year, remember:

Even Santa calls All About Homes. And he trusts me to guide him home.

I would like to wish all my readers, clients and all residents a truly fantastic holiday season. From my family to yours. Julien, Stephanie, Olivia and Sydney.



Julien Laurion
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Next steps approved for 114 stacked townhouses on Wellington Street

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Plans for 114 new townhouses on Wellington Street West moved forward to the next level at Council this month as lawmakers approved Zoning and Official Plan amendments for 511, 521, 531, and 543 Wellington Street West.

The housing units, once built, will be back-to-back stacked townhomes divided over four blocks. Initially planned to be a 116-unit development when it first came before Council in

January, the plans had been somewhat reduced by the time a revised proposal was submitted at Town Hall in October.

“A total of 166 parking spaces – 137 for residents and 23 for visitors – are proposed to be underground,” noted staff in the report before Council. “Access to the underground parking area is proposed at the southerly boundary of the development limits.”

Proposed setback adjustments put forward are “designed to balance a compact, pedestrian-friendly townhouse form with adequate privacy, landscaping, and functional

space. The front yard setback is reduced from 7.5 metres to 2.2 metres along Wellington Street West. This creates a more engaging streetscape, encouraging walking and active transportation, while still providing space for landscaping.”

While Council ultimately approved the Zoning and Official Plan amendments, Ward 3 Councillor Wendy Gaertner stated that while the developer had made “changes for the good” since they were last before Council, it didn’t quite hit the mark.

“I think this is just too dense,” she said. “There’s no affordable housing included in this. Maybe that would be a saving grace. It says in the report

that the applicant will work with staff through the Site Plan process to explore options and strategies to support the Town’s affordable housing goals. That’s never worked in the past. We’ve had lots of opportunities with developers. We [even] had incentives at one point in the planning act.

“It’s too dense with respect to what their neighbours are. I think it’s too dense for the [Oak Ridges Moraine]. The Moraine is precious, and I think we have to err on the side of what would be best for it, and I don’t think a housing development this dense is appropriate, and I don’t think it’s appropriate for what we see in the neighbourhood at the moment.”



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LEGION CELEBRATION – Christmas came early at the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, when they hosted their traditional Christmas Luncheon on December 15. Pictured here enjoying the meal are Arlene, Lind, Bonnie, Sandy, Santa, Tracey, Steve, Kelly, Anthony, and Carol.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



Final Release

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Fresh beginnings for the York Region Food Network as it looks ahead to 40th anniversary



Pictured here in the new location of the York Region Food Network in Newmarket are Paul Lubberts, Urban Agricultural Coordinator, Morgan Sage, Food Policy Coordinator, Joanne Witt, Director of Fund Development, and Executive Director Kate Greavette.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

From page 1

every municipality work independently, the YRFN came to kind of be that leader to help drive forward things like fundraising and those coordinated actions,” says YRFN Executive Director Kate Greavette.

The Network’s focus, however, saw a slight shift in 1993 when they gained access to a plot of land and was able to get a community garden program off the proverbial ground.

“That was where we really kind of started to focus more on how we bring community out in order to provide fresh food access and have opportunities for folks to grow and do what they want with their own food, and it’s just spiralled from there,” says Greavette of the garden program, which is now operating in several York Region municipalities.

This shift saw community food banks, like the Aurora Food Pantry, operate more independently once again as the YRFN took different approaches to addressing a common problem. While providing food is key, they also focus on longer-term solutions to a problem that isn’t going away any time soon.

“As an organization, we are really trying to adjust the physical, mental, and social health impacts of food insecurity, so we do that through our immediate food access programs, our Affordable Markets, our Good Food Box and Meal programs that just provides that immediate relief for food,” she says. “What we’ve also really learned over the years is people who might be living with food insecurity, but also just different demographics, often it can be seniors, people living with disabilities, there’s a lot of loneliness, a lot of isolation, there’s also stress and worries as well. A lot of our other programs around gardens, around our community cooking classes, it’s really been about addressing those mental health and social health impacts so people can come in, they can reduce their stress for a few hours, they can feel more confident that they’re going to walk away with some food and have something to rely on, that they’re going to meet people, form friendships, and connect.”

The new space on Leslie Street, just north of Davis Drive, will not only allow them to continue programs York Region residents have come to rely upon, but expand their services as well.

While their old home in Aurora was in the former Aurora Cable building and shared by such organizations as the Aurora Food Pantry, Hope House Hospice, and Big Brothers Big Sisters Peel York, their new space is a former market and café, which

lends itself well to the YRFN’s vision.

It was an unexpected opportunity, says Greavette, noting they were hopeful they would be able to stay in Aurora, but it was the location that made the most sense.

“This was the only facility we found that had a kitchen; it meant that there was no interruption of our meal programs or any of our culinary programs,” she says. “It is also allowing us to expand our programming space. We just have a much better space up front to host community meals, our Affordable Fresh Food Market on a weekly basis, and it provides a little more potential for us to grow within the community as we were pretty maxed out at our previous location.”

One key program they’re eager to expand in the year ahead is their weekly Community Café, which is a lunch program for anyone who wants to come – no questions asked. It offers, she says, a hot meal, great company, and great service.

Their Cater Kitchen initiative is also expected to increase capacity. Held twice a month, participants prepare meals for caregivers, which are then distributed by Hope House.

Additionally, they’re aiming to increase what they’re able to offer on-site for their Affordable Fresh Food Market, which also operates out of 11 locations throughout York Region, including Aurora’s Northridge Community Church, including grains and more processed food options.

“This would be our pilot site to do that and see if we can take it elsewhere,” says Greavette. “We have quite a few other plans in the works for the next year, but we’re just waiting to secure some funds, so our aim is really to have this as a community hub, using food as that way to bring people in, bring them together, but be able to really focus on skills training and on the social connections that come out of our programs.”

In the immediate future, the YRFN is focused on making their upcoming anniversary year one to remember.

The celebrations will kick off on February 27 with their 11th Winterfresh fundraiser at Aurora’s Stonehaven Banquet Hall.

“We do 100 per cent of our own fundraising and we have a budget of \$1.4 million, and we raise 100 per cent of that,” says Joanne Witt, Director of Fund Development for the YRFN. “We apply for grants at various government levels, but we get no consistent funding at all.”

As the YRFN looks ahead to the next few years, including their half-century milestone 10 years from now, they hope that funding problem becomes a thing of the past.

“We want to feel very stable as an organization,” says Greavette on where she would like to see the YRFN at the end of their next decade. “We would love to get to the point where we don’t have to describe ourselves as ‘precariously funded’ or ‘precarious programs. We want to make sure that what we’re offering is very stable...and we would love to see a world where we’re able to focus on the food skills component of what we do, really working on getting people connected to the soil, growing food, cooking food, and being in a position where food insecurity rates are

better so that we don’t have to rely so much on that immediate food access side of things through the meals and the markets. We recognize that they play an important role and we want to keep them going, but we don’t necessarily want to keep expanding them just because the community is in such vulnerable places and struggling with that food access.”

For more on the York Region Food Network, including the upcoming Winterfresh event, visit yrfn.ca and check back for the January 8 edition of The Auroran.

Giving Tuesday raises thousands for youth mental health with matching gift from resident

From page 9

“All donations ensure our young people have access to the resources they need now to thrive in the future,” said the CMHA-YRSS.

Reflecting on this year’s Giving Tuesday initiative, Rappos said he estimates their matching efforts this year raised approximately \$13,000 for the organization while contributions over the last six years top \$120,000.

“Every year we’re going to do our best to try and generate as much as we can for youth mental health in York Region and South Simcoe, but these are tough economic times for a lot of small business owners, so I can understand why this year hasn’t been as impactful as we had last year,” he said. “There’s a lot of uncertainty out there with the economy and a lot of small business owners are either not in the business anymore, or they’re kind of holding onto their revenue as much as they can because we don’t know what’s going to happen next year.”

The cause, however, is no less important to him.

As a father of two children now aged 20 and 22, and a coach in local amateur sport, he really sat up and took notice of the issue of youth mental health when he saw the impact of the global pandemic.

“My biggest concern is the lack of support that the Provincial health care

system gives parents with respect to assessing their children at a young age,” he says. “Whether they can’t concentrate in grade school or they can’t concentrate while playing a sport or doing an activity, there’s something going on there. We need to get these kids assessed. If you’re a parent that has private health care or company benefits, you can get the assessments done and your benefits will cover that. There’s a lot of people in our society that don’t have that and to get some sort of assessment done for their child is quite costly. That’s where we need our government to step up and support these parents who don’t have the financial resources or means to get the assessments done. If we can get assessments done early, I think we’re going to make for a better, brighter future.”

The MOBYSS initiative is one area where the CMHA-YRSS is making that “better, brighter future” possible,” he says.

“They do a lot of good work with the MOBYSS and I had the chance to spend the day with folks that run the program, the counsellors, etc., and there’s still a lot more work to be done. It obviously takes dollars to keep that program going and if we can just help one teenager with their mental health, I’m happy.”

“There are a lot of moving parts here, I don’t have all the solutions, all I can do is play my small, small part in trying to make things better for young people,” he adds.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Light cavalry
- 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob
- 14. Central Japan city
- 15. Sandwiches
- 16. Shape produced by a curve
- 17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria
- 18. French modernist painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Mammary gland of cattle
- 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Secret plan
- 24. Songs to one's lover
- 27. More (Spanish)
- 30. Father
- 31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
- 32. Ballplayer's accessory
- 35. Together
- 37. A person's brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit
- 39. Monetary units

- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. About Sun
- 42. Group of like-minded people
- 43. After B
- 44. Seaside room
- 45. Recipe measurement
- 46. Partly digested food
- 47. Flat-faced dog
- 48. People of southern Africa
- 49. Salts
- 52. Beard lichens
- 55. Sanders is one
- 56. Fencing sword
- 60. Ethnic group of Albania
- 61. Metric weight unit
- 63. Italian seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry
- 66. Miami mascot
- 67. Mid-month day
- 68. Marked for omission
- 69. Body part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Fat from a pig's abdomen
- 3. Romanian city
- 4. Specifies
- 5. Rounded, glaciated valley
- 6. Spoke
- 7. Collection of sacred books
- 8. Extravagantly theatrical
- 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Forearm bones
- 11. Ancient kingdom
- 12. Legitimate: ___ fide
- 13. Semitransparent gemstone
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Head honcho
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Extract money via taxation
- 28. Dyes
- 29. Cloying sweetness
- 32. Sodas
- 33. Coastal village in Guam
- 34. Chemical ring
- 36. The bill in a restaurant
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. One-time presidential candidate Dole
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Wise persons
- 43. Passage with access at one end
- 44. Make a wound
- 46. America's spies
- 47. Roof of the mouth
- 49. Plants of the lily family
- 50. Pinkish-red color
- 51. Vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. A place to store garden tools
- 54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
- 57. Popular Hollywood pig
- 58. Musician Clapton
- 59. A move exposing one to danger
- 61. Historic Spanish soldier
- 62. CNN's founder



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From page 6

JUDY RYAN – 30 YEARS (Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society/Garden Aurora)

“Since joining in 1995, Judy has generously shared her time and leadership skills, serving as a dedicated Board member, including roles as Treasurer and Publicity Chair, and she was also instrumental in planning the Society’s annual public plant sales. Judy has held many Board roles and took on the significant role of being the Garden Tour Chair from 2009 to 2024. Her dedication and showcasing the skills of Aurora gardeners through these tours brought visitors from far and wide to admire our local horticultural talents. For her extensive contributions, Judy now holds a life membership in the Society.”

ALEX ANSELL – 40 YEARS (Optimist Club of Aurora)

“Alex is not just a long-standing member, he is a charter member, a founding pillar of the Optimist Club of Aurora, and over those four decades, he has been a steadfast champion for the youth of our town, serving in numerous leadership roles, including President twice, and he has also dedicated many years to the Board of Directors and currently holds the position of Secretary. Alex’s commitment extends beyond the local club. He is a past governor of the Central Ontario District and a Past Vice President of the Optimist International, demonstrating his dedication to the wider Optimist movement. Here in Aurora, Alex has been a driving force behind the annual Minor Hockey Optimist Showcase, and he has also been the long-time chair of the Aurora Home Show Pub and Grill Committee, and has been a constant presence with the club’s mobile kitchen at countless community events, the annual Chess Tournament, and marshalling the Santa Under the Stars Parade. Alex, your remarkable 40 years of continuous service, your leadership, and your profound dedication to the Optimist Club and the youth of Aurora are truly inspiring and deeply appreciated.”

KEN McISAAC – 40 YEARS (Optimist Club of Aurora)

“Ken is also a charter member and

for four decades he has been a constant supporter of our Town’s youth, serving as President twice and dedicating many years to the Board of Directors. Ken has been a powerful driving force behind the annual Book Sale, and Ken has also been an active participant in numerous Optimist Club events, including the Aurora Home Show Pub and Grill, the mobile kitchen at multiple Town events, the annual Chess Tournament, and the Minor Hockey Optimist Showcase Tournament.”

GRANT PERRY – 40 YEARS (Optimist Club of Aurora)

“We continue to celebrate the remarkable individuals who have shaped the Optimist Club of Aurora, and we now recognize Grant Perry for an incredible 40 years. Grant is also a charter member. For four decades, he has been a loyal presence, serving as President, and dedicating many years to the Board of Directors. Grant has been dedicated to a wide range of the Optimist Club’s vital initiatives. You’ll find him assisting with the Chamber Home Show, the Club’s mobile kitchen, at community events, the Santa Under the Stars Parade, the annual Chess Tournament, and the exciting Minor Hockey Optimist Showcase Tournament. Grant, your 40 years of continuous service and your foundational commitment to the Optimist Club and the youth of Aurora is appreciated. Thank you for your unwavering commitment.”

BOBBY PANDOLFI – 50 YEARS (Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society/Garden Aurora)

“Bobby has served in numerous leadership roles on the board, including Treasurer, Auditor, and as President. Bobby has also tirelessly headed up a wide array of vital committees, including those for awards, properties, the yearbook, creating the flower show, schedules, civic improvement, and publicity. Her dedication has resulted in an astounding number of volunteer hours, and she now holds a well-deserved life membership in the society. For many years, she undertook a special project at Billings Well on Yonge Street, creating stunning gardens for all Aurora. Now, her initiative secured grants to establish

Billings Wells as a teaching garden for water conservation, where she lovingly planted hundreds of plants and bulbs. Bobby, your passion for horticulture

and your remarkable 50 years of continuous service have profoundly enriched Garden Aurora and our community.”

THINGS...you ought to know

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Ring in the New Year at Aurora’s Family First Night, which will take place at Aurora Town Square tonight from 6 – 9 p.m. There will be a variety of free activities including magic shows, reptile shows and a silent dance party – in addition to outdoor fire performances, Mad Science, face painting and so much more! For a full schedule of the evening’s activities, visit aurora.ca/familyfirstnight.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

The Town of Aurora will host its Mayor & Council New Year’s Levee today from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Aurora Town Square. Levees date back prior to the 17th Century and are still a celebrated tradition today in a variety of formats. The traditional and historical purpose of a Levee was for the leaders (Kings or Queens of the time) to address their nation, providing a positive outlook at the year ahead. Today’s Levees are held in the form of an open house. Traditionally the Lieutenant Governor’s Levee is held in the morning, whereas a Mayor’s Levee in the afternoon. The intent of this tradition is to show the government’s commitment to providing the best service for the community with a note of good cheer either on January 1, or on any day during the month of January. For a full schedule of events at Town Square, visit aurora.ca/levee.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

The White Heather Pipes and Drums invites you to attend their Robbie Burns Night, an evening of bagpipes, Scottish music and dancing. Enjoy a delicious meal of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. Cocktails at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Tickets are \$70 and are available at the Legion or from band members. We hope you will join us for a great night of entertainment and fun.

ONGOING

Partagez le Francais: 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, visit www.meetup.com/partagez-le-francais.

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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STORAGE AVAILABLE: 20 yard sea can container for storage located in Nobleton. Safe location. For more information, please call 905-859-0817

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