

COMPREHENSIVE Eye Exams \$85
FOR A LIMITED TIME!

2 PAIRS OF GLASSES FOR \$199

CALL: 905-503-4000 TO BOOK YOUR EYE EXAM TODAY!
AURORAOPTICAL.CA

NEW DEALS JUST DROPPED!
Check out the week's flyer to access all the savings.

AURORA Home buildingcentre
905-727-4751
289 Wellington St, East L4G 6H6

Monday - Friday: 6:30am - 8pm
Saturday: 8am - 5:30pm
Sunday: 10am - 4pm

CATERING
for all Occasions!

CATHARINA'S Kitchen
(905) 503-7797
41 Industrial Parkway South

THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

VOL 27 | NO. 28 | 905-727-3300

TheAuroran.com

FREE

WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2026



A WINNING COMMUNITY -The Aurora Football Club's U15 Girls Soccer Team celebrated their Provincial title in Council Chambers last week, presenting Mayor Tom Mrakas and members of Council with special jerseys to mark the occasion. Pictured here with Mayor Tom Mrakas and Councillors John Gallo, Ron Weese, Rachel Gilliland, Harold Kim, Michael Thompson, and Wendy Gaertner are Coach John Tzanis, Cristina, Eleni, Ella, Julian, Maci, Micaela S, Mikaela M, and Stefanie. For more on their win, see Page 18.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

A Trusted Name in Aurora Real Estate

Jeff Gordon
Sales Representative

Direct: 416-712-4071
jeffgordonproperties.com

OLIVER HEATING & COOLING
Service You Can Trust. Since 1924

DAIKIN
100 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
1924-2024
Energy Tech Report

905.727.4258 www.tholiver.com

omars
SHOES & CLOTHING EST. 1970

SKECHERS
HAND-FREE Slip-ins

15620 Bayview Ave, Aurora (905) 727-9391
Style. Service. Quality.

Red Dress Day Walking Vigil will honour Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit people

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of the community are invited to honour Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit individuals on Tuesday, May 5, as the Town of Aurora hosts its first Red Dress Day Walking Vigil.

Set to begin at 6.30 p.m. at Aurora Town Square, participants will be invited to gather at the Square before embarking on "a reflective, guided walk" to Aurora Town Park where a closing ceremony will be led by Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley, with the participation of speaker Sharon Rigby, a sacred fire tended by Firekeeper Raiden Levesque, and songs by the Cedar Singers.

Those taking part are encouraged to wear red in honour of MMIWG2S+.

Red Dress Day takes place annually each May 5 to honour these lives.

It's intended to recognize the families and communities forever impacted by the tragedy.

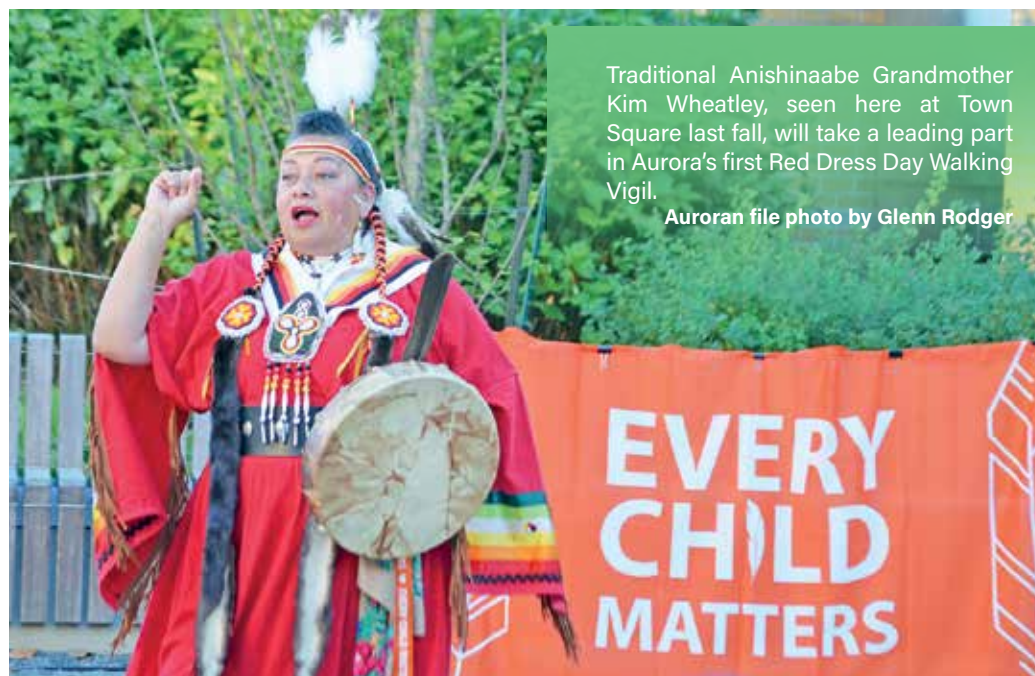
The symbolic empty red dress was first introduced by Metis artist Jaime

Black to symbolize loss, remembrance, and the need for change.

The Town's embrace of Red Dress Day is the latest step on the road to Reconciliation they have been travelling in recent years along with Wheatley and the event is one of the many initiatives that have come out of Aurora's Indigenous Relations Committee, which meets monthly with Wheatley and others.

"We work towards the path of Reconciliation under the Calls to Action for Truth and Reconciliation, so we're slowly building various initiatives towards that," says Nichole Campsall of the Town of Aurora. "Last year was the first year we officially recognized Red Dress Day. We had a film screening of Highway of Tears at Town Square in Brevik Hall which was very well-attended [and] it

Continued on page 11



BUY Canadian NEW KITCHENS
CABINET REFINISHING

BATHROOMS
STONE COUNTER-TOPS
BAR UNITS • CLOSETS

Cabinet Magic
905-954-0967
INFO@CABINETMAGIC.CA WWW.CABINETMAGIC.CA

Our Family Helping Yours

Paul Helen
J. Neophytou Broker 905-251-8130
Avraam Neophytou Realtor 416-587-3415

REMAX CONNECT REALTY
For Insider Tips Visit:
HelenandPaulHomes.com
CALL DIRECT: 416-587-3415
Helen@HelenandPaulHomes.com | Paul@HelenandPaulHomes.com

Now open!

McHappy Day. May 6

Support families one meal at a time!

ALLAURA BLVD & YONGE ST.

FREE SMALL PREMIUM ROAST COFFEE
March 30 - April 25

STOP BY TO CELEBRATE AND SEE THE NEW LOOK!

TOWN OF AURORA

NOTICE BOARD

April 23, 2026



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Tuesday, April 28	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session
Tuesday, April 28	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Week of May 4	No meetings		
Tuesday, May 12	5:45 p.m.	Holland Room	Council Closed Session (if required)
Tuesday, May 12	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, May 13	7 p.m.	Holland Room	Accessibility Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 14	7 p.m.	Video Conference	Committee of Adjustment

*Committee of the Whole, Public Planning and Council meetings are available to the public in-person and via live stream on the Town's YouTube channel.

What's Happening

Aurora PRIDE FESTIVAL

**May 31
1 to 5 p.m.**

Opening Ceremonies,
Interactive Displays,
Pride Inspired Concert
(\$20) & more!

AURORA.CA/WHATSON

JUST PEACHY

Presented by Aurora Pride Festival, York Pride & Aurora Town Square

Online Skylight Gallery Exhibition

Featured Artist: Roopa Makwana - Look Up

A message from the artist, Roopa Makwana: "Looking up in nature, with all its colours and vastness, has always fascinated me. It makes you reflect and encourages you to feel emotions and this exhibition inspires that. My style has evolved over my practice to produce with acrylics, images similar to digital flat illustration." View in-person at Aurora Town Hall in the Skylight Gallery. View online at aurora.ca/SkylightGallery. All work is for sale. Please contact Sarah Reynolds at sreynolds@aurora.ca if you are interested in investing and owning a beautiful piece of art.

TOWN OF AURORA'S
PET FOOD BANK
Bringing pet food and supplies to those in need.

aurora.ca/PetFoodBank

Spring & Summer Program Guide

The Spring & Summer 2026 Program Guide is available to view online at aurora.ca/ProgramGuide. Registration is open for Recreation and Aquatic programs. View our interactive guide and click on the code # to register online. Pay in-person at the A.F.L.C. or S.A.R.C.

2026 Summer Camps Guide now available!

The 2026 Summer Camps Program Guide is available to view online at aurora.ca/SummerCamps. Registration is open for Summer Camps programs. View the interactive guide and click on the code # to register online. Pay in-person at the A.F.L.C., S.A.R.C. or A.T.S.

Victoria Day Weekend Holiday Schedule

Have fun over the holidays! We have programs and activities for everyone to enjoy. Visit our Holidays Schedules webpage for full details at aurora.ca/HolidaySchedules.

62ND ANNUAL
AURORA ART SHOW & SALE

Experience the Aurora Art Show & Sale

Dates: **Saturday, May 2 & Sunday, May 3, 2026**
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Aurora Town Hall, 100 John West Way
Admission: Free

Delve into colour, creativity, and craftsmanship at the Aurora Art Show and Sale. Featuring more than 300 original two and three-dimensional artworks in a variety of media, this acclaimed event is presented in partnership with the Society of York Region Artists.

Now the longest-running art show in York Region, the GTA—and arguably Canada—this free event is a must-see for art lovers of all ages.

Details at aurora.ca/ArtShow.

PA DAY AT THE MUSEUM

History comes alive and you're the Curator!

Friday, June 5
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Town Square
Ages 6 to 12

REGISTER NOW

AURORA.CA/WHATSON

TOWN OF AURORA
YOUTH WEEK
MAY 1 TO 7

All events are FREE for teens ages 12 to 17*
*some exceptions apply

aurora.ca/YouthWeek

Stay connected to everything you need to know.

AURORA'S 2026 Municipal Election

AURORA VOTES 2026

SIGN UP FOR ELECTION NEWS

- Important dates and deadlines
- Voting information and locations
- How to participate in the election

aurora.ca/ElectionNews

RED DRESS DAY

Honouring lives, calling for justice.

RED DRESS DAY WALKING VIGIL
Tuesday, May 5 | 6:30 p.m.
Starting at Aurora Town Square (Outdoor Square)

aurora.ca/RedDressDay

Aurora Town Hall

100 John West Way, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1
905-727-1375 • info@aurora.ca • aurora.ca

Accessible Formats

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



Gaertner, Aurora's longest-serving Councillor, won't seek re-election this fall

Retiring Councillor makes endorsement for Ward 3 role



Long-time Aurora Councillor Wendy Gaertner announced her decision to step down from politics this week. **Contributed photo**

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Wendy Gaertner, currently Aurora's longest continually-serving member of Council, will not seek re-election this fall.

Gaertner, who was first elected in the 2004-2006 term of Council, and has represented Ward 3 since the adoption of a Ward System since the 2022 Municipal Election, confirms that municipal election was her last.

"I have done my best to support residents with their concerns and to make Council decisions with both their best interests and the Town's financial health in mind," she says. "It has been the most stressful and underpaid job

I have ever had, but also the most interesting. I have loved the privilege of being a Councillor in Aurora."

Councillor Gaertner has long considered her future on Council.

Just last week, she told The Auroran she was still weighing her options.

"I am trying to decide if I want to be on a future Council that may continue to have democratic decisions overturned by a Mayor, where money is spent on decisions that I do not consider in our taxpayers' best interests," she said, referencing Strong Mayor powers, the ability given by the Provincial Government to Heads of Council in dozens of Ontario municipalities to advance Provincial priorities. "I feel that I have a responsibility to my residents.

I would consider stepping down if someone steps forward who I believe is capable, who believes in transparent decision-making, and spending tax dollars as if this was their own money."

That person, she believes, is Aurora resident Nikki Alber, an educator and co-founder of the non-profit group Jewish Families Connected.

"I am confident that she would serve with integrity; and be a strong, effective voice at the Council table, always keeping the best interests of Aurora residents at heart."

The 2026 Municipal Election Campaign is expected to formally get underway on Friday, May 1, the first day in which eligible candidates are able to register for their place on the ballot.

Of the incumbent members of Council, only Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson has confirmed his intention to seek re-election, with the balance of Council stating they were either keeping their intentions close to the chest before registration opens, or still weighing their options.

Community members beyond the Council table, however, have also confirmed their runs.

In Ward 1, currently represented by Councillor Ron Weese, community builder Lauren Hanna says she intends to put herself forward as a candidate.

In Ward 2, Aurora community volunteer Connor Logan, a graduate of the University of Windsor, who previously stood as a Liberal Party of Ontario candidate for the Windsor area in the last Provincial election, and has worked for MPs Leah Taylor Roy and Rob Oliphant.

Wendy Gaertner, who holds a degree in Sociology and was first elected on the heels of her volunteer work with the

youth drop-in program Hot Spot, has seen many iterations of Council since that first campaign, told The Auroran when threw her hat back in the ring in 2022, she often found herself in the minority when it came to Council decisions.

These differing views were "just good for democracy."

"I don't think you get re-elected four times without people having a pretty good idea of what you stand for," she said. "My over-arching goal is to listen. We are elected to help our residents and our businesses to create the very best community we can."

NORTH YORK
HEATING, PLUMBING &
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

**We sell
all types of
Filters
Humidifiers
Air Cleaners
& Water Pumps**

Tel: 905-727-6401 8 Industrial Pkwy. S.
www.nyhp.on.ca Aurora, Ontario



Hello!

ALEXANDER MUIR
— Retirement Living —

**OPEN
HOUSE**

**Sunday, May 3
1pm-4pm**

**Live life
to the fullest,
everyday!**



Scan to learn more!

197 Prospect St, Newmarket
905-836-8399 • VenviAlexanderMuir.ca

VENVY by cogir

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Councillor Gaertner passes torch ahead of municipal election

By the next election, I will have served 23 years on Council.

Throughout that time, I have done my best to support residents with their concerns and to make Council decisions with both their best interests and the Town's financial health in mind.

It has been the most stressful and underpaid job I have ever had; but also the most interesting. I have loved the privilege of being a Councillor in Aurora.

I will not be seeking re-election, as I believe the right person has come forward to take my place. We share the same values, an understanding of the responsibility this role requires, and a commitment to transparent and thoughtful decision-making.

I wish Ms. Nikki Alber every success in her candidacy and offer her my full support.

I am confident that she will serve with integrity; and be a strong, effective voice at the Council table, always keeping the best interests of Aurora residents at heart.

**Councillor Wendy Gaertner
Ward 3, Aurora**

Ontario SPCA celebrates 1,000 volunteers during National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week takes place April 19-25, and the Ontario SPCA and Humane Society is celebrating more than 1,000 dedicated volunteers across Ontario who generously give their time to help animals in need.

This year is especially meaningful for the charity, which welcomed its 1,000th volunteer in 2026. At the Ontario SPCA, volunteers support a wide range of roles, including animal care, dog walking, enrichment, humane education, transportation, events, and administrative support.

"National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to recognize the incredible individuals who are the heart of our organization," says Kim Dooley, Provincial Manager of Volunteer Development, Ontario SPCA and Humane Society. "Through their time, skills, and compassion, volunteers strengthen every part of our work, helping animals, communities, and the people who love them."

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, the Ontario SPCA is inviting new volunteers to join its family across the province.

The Ontario SPCA is currently in need of foster volunteers who can provide temporary care for dogs, families of kittens and puppies, as well as orphaned animals who need bottle feeding. Fosters with veterinary experience and no other animals in their home are especially needed. The animal centre is also recruiting volunteers to assist local and long-distance driving, dog walking and enrichment, as well as cat care.

Interested in becoming a volunteer with the Ontario SPCA? Visit ontariospca.ca/volunteer to learn more and apply.

Ontario SPCA

CANCELLATION NOTICE

A Town of Aurora-hosted Rabies Vaccine and Microchip Clinic scheduled for Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Mount Albert has been cancelled. The event, which was promoted in last week's edition of The Auroran, was due to be hosted in conjunction with Vets Around the Corner.

Machell's Corners



A story still being written

I don't know what it says about me that one of the most exciting days of my life took place when I was just 11 years old, but it's a fact I can't deny.

As a youngster with a budding interest in the monarchy, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh's 1997 trip to Toronto, was a chance not to be missed.

After my mom agreed to take me into Toronto to see them at St. James' Cathedral as they attended Sunday services, I devised a game plan. Wanting to stand out from the crowd, I donned a near-neon tie-dyed Tasmanian Devil t-shirt and picked out flowers of a relatively unusual colour – a pinky peach somewhat incongruously labelled as "Oceana" – in the hopes of leaving an impression. Okay, that sartorial choice, which I still have nearly 30 years later, is one I might regret just a little bit, but you can't argue with results!

The excitement in the air was palpable when the couple arrived at the church around 11 a.m. The Queen was the first to emerge from the car, with Prince Philip following just a few steps behind. After greeting members of the clergy, they made their way towards the entrance of the cathedral, smiling at the hundreds who were waiting to catch a glimpse.

Unaware of the proper protocols, I reached out as far as I could over the crowd barrier to give the bouquet to our Head of State. She glanced over in my direction and made what I felt was eye contact before turning back to the path and entering the church.

My chance had passed. It was the first time I felt truly deflated.

But the feeling was only temporary. Moments later, a member of Her Majesty's entourage came back out of the church, made a bee-line for me and said in hushed tones that the Queen had asked him to come out to assure me she had seen me and promised she would come my way after the service after meeting members of the choir.

I guess the deflation showed on my face, but any such feelings evaporated instantly and was replaced with a nearly unbearable excitement.

The Queen emerged once again about an hour later to the toll of bells. The entourage-member was standing beside the monarch as he gestured with his arm for she and Prince Philip to walk through the line of choristers and then conduct a walkabout.

Without saying a word, I could see The Queen frown ever so slightly and firmly shake her head. The walkabout was to begin immediately and she walked directly over to my side of the



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

barricades.

The excitement was too much by the time she got to me and I have no recollection of any exchange we might have had – but the feeling was unforgettable, and I think it's a testament to her character that she made the time to make one little kid in the crowd feel just a little bit special that day.

Over the subsequent years, I was fortunate enough to meet The Queen on three more occasions, each time unique and special, but that very first time stands above the others. And, as they did in September 2022 when the second so-called Elizabethan Age came to an end with her death at the age of 96, they did so again at the start of this week when her memory was celebrated across the Commonwealth in a variety of ways to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth.

Much was said about Queen Elizabeth II during her lifetime, and much more has been said in the years immediately following her passing and the seamless succession of King Charles III.

As I wrote in this space the week of the succession, Elizabeth II never struck me as a public servant who was in it for herself or her own personal glory.

Many of her closest friends and acquaintances underscored the point that she much rather would have spent her life quietly on a farm with her beloved horses and dogs, far away from the pomp and circumstance that defined her life. But fate had other plans.

She had a destiny to fulfil and that destiny was a role she felt duty bound to take anything but lightly. She was conscious of her role as monarch, yes, and took the role extremely seriously, but there was also the fact that she was, above and beyond being Queen, a custodian of the Crown and a representation of something much larger than herself: a public servant like no other.

The subsequent three-and-a-half

years since her death have left plenty of time for reflection and, in that time, a fuller picture of the woman continues to emerge as more people within her circle feel more respectfully sharing their perspective.

Historian Anna Keay has been tasked by the King in penning his mother's official biography, it was announced last week. As is the case with official biographies of any public leader, the author will have access to a trove of private papers, diaries, and more to get further beneath the surface than any writer has before. Especially interesting to me is the chosen author is a person who can view one of the most remarkable female leaders of our time through anything but a male lens. A generation or two removed from the monarch's more prominent female biographers, she will undoubtedly have very different questions than her predecessors had in searching for answers and a different view on which key moments of her life are in need of greater evaluation.

"I said to a Private Secretary, 'I've spent some time with the Queen. She seems not quite the conservative do-as-you've-done-it-before restrained person she always appears to be in public. She seems quite radical at times,'" said another biographer, Gyles Brandreth, a personal friend of the Queen and Duke, who also served as a Conservative MP in the 1990s. "He said, 'That's deliberate.' I said, 'What do you mean that's deliberate?'" "She feels she ought to be conservative with a small C because her philosophy is that she should only go at the pace of the slowest person in the kingdom so that nobody in the kingdom should ever feel left behind."

Evidently it was a winning formula, but what other factors were part of that equation?

Perhaps it's a question on the mind of another woman wearing a crown.

"It must have been so difficult being surrounded by much older men," said Queen Camilla in a BBC documentary that aired Sunday night, watching newsreel footage of her young mother-in-law returning from Kenya as monarch aged just 25. "There weren't women prime ministers or women presidents. She was the only one, so I think she carved her own role."

Queen Elizabeth II's role as a female trailblazer is not one often explored, perhaps because the trail she blazed was the only one that was laid out before her, and perhaps because she did not view herself in those terms, but what an exciting facet to explore and help add to a remarkable chapter in a remarkable woman's story.

THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper

The Auroran Newspaper Company Ltd.
15213 Yonge Street, Suite 8, Aurora, L4G 1L8

Main number 905-727-3300
Fax number 905-727-2620

Founder: Ron Wallace | Publisher Emeritus: Rosentary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: administration@auroran.com

EDITOR Brock Weir brock@pcmedia.ca	GENERAL MANAGER Zach Shoub zach@pcmedia.ca	PRODUCTION MANAGER Cynthia Proctor cynthiap@pcmedia.ca	CLASSIFIEDS 905-727-3300 ex.102 cynthiap@pcmedia.ca
ADVERTISING Zach Shoub zach@pcmedia.ca	ADVERTISING Diane Buchanan diane@pcmedia.ca	TODAY'S NEW HOMES Zach Shoub zach@pcmedia.ca	PHOTOGRAPHY Glenn Rodger grodger@rogers.com
ADVERTISING Karen Nemet karen@pcmedia.ca	MOTORING Heather Erwin heather@caledoncitizen.com	DISTRIBUTION MANAGER Sheila Ogram sheila@pcmedia.ca	EDITORIAL POLICY Opinions expressed by columnists, contributors and letter writers are not necessarily those of The Auroran. Letters must include name and phone number, although number will not be published. Letters may be edited or refused. All contents protected by copyright.

ADVERTISING POLICY
Publisher is not liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of an advertisement. Disputes must be brought to the attention of the publisher prior to the following edition.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada

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

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

**INSIDE AURORA**

Scott Johnston

Spring Limericks

Let's take a look at some recent and upcoming events in Aurora through that well-known story telling device, the limerick.

Soccer Madness

Soon T.O. will come to a crawl
Over grown men chasing a ball
Congestion will soar
Crime, chaos and more
But here we're away from it all

Pending Election

Election time's here once again
With selfies and boasts without end
But one thing I know
This upcoming show
Will feel not like six months, but ten

Community Cleanup

Cleaning up all our Town's green space
Our volunteers set a mean pace
But far better still
Would see folks have the will
To not toss trash in the first place

Long Weekend To Do List

You mow, trim, paint, clean, put away
Repair and install without pay
Now why did you think
You'd sit with a drink
With your feet up for a few days?

Less Frequent Pickups

First less trash dates hit a nerve cell
Then blue bins went biweekly as well
If green bins go too
We'll likely scream "ew!"
In the summer because of the smell

A Visit to the Farmer's Market

In spring we enjoy going to
The Market to see what is new
And buy with a cheer
Produce that's grown here
Instead of The States or Peru

Street Festival Discovery

Wandering folks in sun or rain
That day on closed off Yonge lanes
May become aware
Of all the stores there
And come back to shop there again

Wildlife Encounters

It's fun to see wildlife in Town
Birds, rabbits and deer can be found
But getting too near
To a skunk, I fear
Will likely elicit a frown

Garage Sale Purchase

Your lucky stars must have aligned
To nab such a wonderful find
But once on your shelf
You might ask yourself
"Why'd I buy this?
I must've been blind!"

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

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

THE AUROREDAN

www.TheAuroran.com



@TheAuroranNews

**Following the Rules**

This little folding ruler came from the Aurora shop of one Eli Braund, sometime in the very earliest years of the 20th century. We expect, today, to see both centimeter AND inch measurements on many rulers, but this actually wasn't the case in Canada until the late 1970s. We fell just a few yards shy of full Metrication and still use a number of imperial remnants out of tradition or for convenience – or both!

**GETTING THINGS DONE**Mayor
Tom Mrakas

This project will improve safety, connectivity, and walkability, linking residents to trails, parks, and local businesses, while supporting active transportation in a growing part of our town.

And just as important, it's being funded the right way. The Region is

Last week, Council, by a 6-1 vote, approved awarding the tender for a long-needed infrastructure project on Yonge Street from the railway overpass south to Bloomington Sideroad — a new multi-use path (MUP) on the west side and a sidewalk on the east side. (Formal ratification at Council in two weeks)

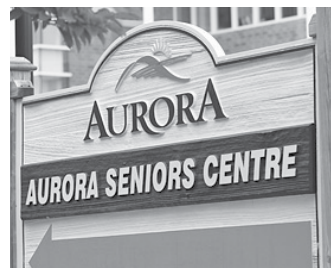
With growth in the south end, we're seeing more families, more seniors, and more residents trying to get around safely. Right now, that's not always possible and that's not acceptable. So, we're fixing it.

contributing up to \$2.8 million, and \$4.5 million is coming from Development Charges that were already collected from new home sales.

There's been a lot of discussion about DCs lately — this is exactly why they matter. Without those DCs, that \$4.5 million would fall directly onto existing taxpayers. That's not fair — and it's not how responsible municipalities operate.

This is an important infrastructure improvement, funded responsibly, that delivers real results for our residents.

Safer streets. Better connections. A stronger community.

**Senior Scape**

By Christina Doyle

*Release indoor stress and share
a loving embrace with Nature's
beauty and freedom.
God's gift to us all.*

– Erlinda and George Biondic

and after a 35-minute walk, I have come home feeling at peace and acceptance and sometimes making a mountain out of a molehill.

You don't have to be a morning person; your walk can begin right after lunch or just after dinner. You will know what time is best for you. While you are walking, no one needs to know that you have shut yourself from the world as you go out and meditate on nature. You will be truly surprised how restored you will feel even after 20 minutes in the outdoors.

So, start slowly, find a good comfortable pair of walking shoes and begin thinking of gratitude and connection to the earth. Whether it's walking your dog or your grandchild's stroller, you will experience a sense of calm and the negative emotions you may have been feeling will lessen greatly. You will have nurtured your body and spirit by this simple step.

A step into your fitness of the spirit, as you begin to lessen your thoughts of worry and distraction. Stress hits everyone at some time, especially after you have retired, or especially after moving away from your loved ones. You may also feel

How fitting it is to have two of our own here in Aurora to emphasize the notion of walking as not as an exercise but food for the spirit, for the body and soul.

Thank you, Erlinda and George, you inspire us all to at least begin this journey of walking.

The moment we start looking at walking as an exercise we will not even leave the front door.

However, many times, the world seems too heavy to bear, the anxieties we may carry, past disappointments, painful memories and sometimes unrealistic wishful thinking can get the better of us. Therefore, the moments you are experiencing these is the time to hit the pavement. It is a place of refuge as you walk along the neighbourhood and see the signs of spring before you.

The lavender-colored crocus and hyacinth, the golden sunshine of the forsythia and the early buds on the trees and, of course, the beautiful, sweet singing of the robins. This is what we have been waiting for all winter – the sounds of melting snow dribbling its way into the sewers and the promise that the last few traces of winter will be but a memory.

Breathing in the soft cool air, the gentle wind on your face, minutes spent where your body says thank you for caring and releasing all that has dragged your poor heart through. No drug comes even close that can boost your overall well-being as you slowly connect with nature as you begin this journey.

Today in this glorious month of April, I would like you to focus on the fitness of your spirit. Speaking from personal experience, I have walked out onto the sidewalk with the heaviest of burdens

sad after losing close friends or being unable to participate in your favorite activities.

This, my dear friends, is the perfect solution; its spring, albeit maybe a little cool, wear your sunglasses, get into comfortable pants and walking shoes and a hat and give yourself a wonderful gift. Breathe in life and breathe out the hurts, try and make it a habit of walking at your own pace.

Aurora is filled with beautiful trees and lovely neighbourhoods, just take your time and enjoy this beautiful season of spring. Let's try and follow our sister Erlinda and brother George into the fitness of the spirit. See you outside, friends.

**Aurora Seniors Centre
Annual Garage Sale!**

Drop in on Sunday, April 26, for this very popular event! Donations accepted on April 24 and 25 after 8 a.m. at the Centre located at 90 John West Way.

For all the exciting program, event and activity information please view the monthly bulletin on our website auroraseniors.ca.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. The monthly Seniors Association bulletin is posted on our web site so for all the details on Association activities, clubs, events, bistro lunches, sports, and movies to mention a few, and town programs, trips and other valuable information concerning the Aurora Seniors Association, take a look at www.auroraseniors.ca!

Charge up your EV for free as Aurora marks Earth Day

Anti-idling campaign will hand out tickets you'll actually want

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As Aurora gears up for Earth Day, you can get your electric vehicle (EV) into high gear for free.

Now through April 26, residents and visitors to the Town will be able to charge their EVs at stations located at municipal facilities like Town Hall.

“Timed to coincide with Earth Week,

the initiative celebrates environmental action while encouraging cleaner, more sustainable ways to get around,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement. “By offering free EV charging, we’re supporting residents who are already leading the way with sustainable transportation and inviting others to see just how easy and convenient it can be to drive.”

An aim of making charging stations

free for Earth Week is to “make sustainable transportation more accessible and highlight the role electric vehicles play in reducing emissions and protecting the environment.”

“The free charging event is part of Aurora’s broader commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action,” says the Town in a statement. “With a growing network of 20 EV charging stations at Town facilities, the Town continues to invest in infrastructure that supports reduced emissions, domestic jobs and economic development, and a healthier, more resilient community.”

Also coinciding with Earth Week is Aurora’s annual spring Community Cleanup day.

Set for this Saturday, April 25, participants are invited to grab their cleanup kits at Machell Park between 8 and 10 a.m., and take on one of several litter hot spots identified by the Town.

These locations include: John West Way; Alex Brodie Drive; Vandorf Sideroad; River Ridge Boulevard; Earl Stewart Drive; Issacson Court; Jack Wood Park; Henderson Drive (Yonge Street to Watts Meadow); Holladay Drive/Meadow Area; Stone Road, First Commerce Drive; Desjardins Way, William Graham Drive; Old Bloomington Road; St. John’s Sideroad; Industrial Parkway North and South; Bayview Avenue; Yonge Street; Wellington Street East and West; and all stormwater management ponds.

For more information, visit aurora.ca/cleanupday.

GET TICKETED (NO, REALLY)

In another boost to the environment, the Town of Aurora is in the midst of an anti-idling campaign.

Now through May 4, again to coincide with Earth Week, the “Get Ticketed!” campaign is billed as a fun way for residents to do the right thing and get ticketed for it in the best way.

“Returning by popular demand, Aurora’s Bylaw Services team will be out in the community looking for Anti-Idling Champions – drivers who choose to switch off their engines while waiting at schools, shopping areas, and other short-stop locations,” says the Town. “Residents who are spotted turning off their engines may be ‘ticketed’ but not in the traditional sense. Instead of a fine, drivers will receive a thank-you ticket that includes a coupon for a free beverage or snack from a participating Aurora business.”

Bylaw officers will be visiting schools, retail areas, and other high-traffic locations, spreading the message that “every moment counts when it comes to reducing emissions and improving local air quality.”

“This campaign proves that small actions can spark big change,” said Mayor Mrakas. “Choosing to turn off your engine helps improve air quality, supports local businesses, and sets a positive example across our community. It’s a simple step – and, yes, one you might even get ticketed for.”



You're Invited to...

The Meadows of Aurora

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE WITH A **TOUR** OF OUR INDEPENDENT LIVING SUITES & A **GARDEN PARTY!**

10 wonderful years of community, care, and connection!

Discover the charm of our independent living suites and experience the lifestyle that makes our community truly special.

When: **May 12, 2026, at 1:00 PM**

Where: **440 William Graham Drive | Aurora**
Space is limited, so reserve your spot early!

Email: sales@tmoa.ca

Call: **905-503-5560**

MORE THAN A HOME *Celebrating 10 Years!*



FIDDLES & FOLK MUSIC

The Fitzgeralds – siblings Tom, Kerry, and Julie – took over the Aurora Town Square performance hall on Saturday afternoon as the Aurora Cultural Centre presented them in concert. “This dynamic group has wowed audiences worldwide with their infectious energy, tight harmonies, and jaw-dropping synchronized dance routines,” said the Centre. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**



Cabinet Magic

CUSTOM NEW KITCHENS CABINET REFACING

BATHROOMS • STONE COUNTERTOPS
BAR UNITS • CLOSETS

PROUDLY SERVING THE GTA FOR OVER

30

Years

**PROMO
SAVE
THE TAX**

The bitterness of poor quality is remembered long after the sweetness of a low price has faded from memory.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

**1100 GORHAM ST. UNIT #20,
NEWMARKET, L3Y 8Y8**

905-954-0967

info@cabinetmagic.ca
www.cabinetmagic.ca



Follow us



New Roads Subaru Newmarket



2026 SUBARU CROSSTREK

SYMMETRICAL
AWD

X MODE

EyeSight
Driver Assist Technology

WEEKLY LEASE OF

\$83 AT

2.49% APR

FOR 36 MONTHS WITH \$1,950 DOWN
ON 2026 CROSSTREK CONVENIENCE

22
Crosstreks
in stock!

2026 SUBARU FORESTER

SYMMETRICAL
AWD

X MODE

EyeSight
Driver Assist Technology



WEEKLY LEASE OF

\$99 AT

2.99% APR

FOR 36 MONTHS WITH \$2,082 DOWN
ON 2026 FORESTER CONVENIENCE

Hybrid Model Also Available
15
in stock
to choose
from



New Roads Subaru Newmarket

17415 Yonge Street, Newmarket nrsubaru.ca



289.319.1060

Limited-time lease offer provided through Subaru Financial Services by TCCI on approved credit. Representative lease example based on a new and previously unregistered 2026 Crosstrek Convenience model (TXACP). Lease Vehicle Price is \$33,460, which includes: MSRP \$30,595; freight and PDI \$2,295; dealer administration fee \$549; Air Conditioning Surcharge \$100; OMVIC Fee \$22; Tire Resource Recovery Environmental Fee \$25; PPSA Fee \$24; PPSA Service Fee \$4; Security \$399; as well as all other applicable fees, levies and duties (all of which may vary by dealer). Applicable sales taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. Lease APR of 2.49% for 36 months. Lease payments of \$83 weekly with \$1,950 down payment. Total of 156 weekly lease payments required. Lease end value \$20,505.60 with \$3162.59 due on delivery. \$14,898 total lease obligation. Lease based on a maximum of 16,000 km per year for 36 months, with excess charged at \$0.10/km. Offer ends April 30, 2026. See NewRoads Subaru Newmarket for details.



BUSINESS & FINANCE



Windrow removal pilot could continue into winter of 2026 – 2027

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora’s windrow removal pilot project could resume in the winter ahead as Council continues to look for the right formula to make it work.

The pilot project, which just completed its third winter, was put in place by Council to give seniors and residents living with mobility challenges, the opportunity to have the ridge of snow left on the ends of driveways by passing snow plows removed for a nominal fee.

It’s a program that’s been beset with issues at the outset, including concerns related to cost and customer satisfaction, and municipal staff last week once again recommended it be discontinued.

But Council was not prepared to ditch the pilot altogether.

Instead, in an issue that will be up for final consideration at the April 28 Council meeting, members voted continue with the program into the 2026 – 2027 season with a \$200 fee per eligible household.

“I’m not supportive of discontinuing the program, especially at this point,” said Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland. “What this report is showing me is not that the service isn’t needed; it’s that the current model isn’t exactly

working in the way we intended. I think there’s clearly a need in the community for this type of service and the residents who physically can’t manage their windrows on their own, that doesn’t disappear, and we really need to ensure that we’re tackling this in a way that makes sense.”

The staff report noted the windrow removal program was deployed 12 times over the course of the 2025-2026 season, with 276 participants enrolled in the program.

In a survey of 174 survey respondents, 71 per cent said they were either “not satisfied at all” or “somewhat satisfied” with the service level.

The report states similar staff challenges were faced as in the previous season “including snow storage limitations, equipment limitations, and low customer satisfaction, despite maximum delivery optimization.”

In putting forward the “Status Quo” alternative to staff’s recommendations, Councillor Gilliland said she was buoyed by the investments made in the 2026 Budget to improve snow removal equipment and, thereby, the delivery.

“I know that we are at the end of the term and this service does directly impact vulnerable residents at this time in future budgets, so my position is to refine it, don’t remove it. Let’s allow the next Council to tackle this

and determine the long-term forward path.”

Councillor Wendy Gaertner’s support also noted the impact a cancellation would have on vulnerable residents.

“This does help some vulnerable people in our community and I would hate to see it just being thrown out,” she said.

While Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson said he was “concerned” with the survey results, he also pointed work being done to optimize snow clearing across Aurora, including the purchase of a new side blade for municipal equipment that will make it easier to clear tighter, more intensely-developed subdivisions.

A different perspective was offered by Ward 6 Councillor Harold Kim, who said continuing a program that doesn’t meet its intended needs is “misleading.”

“I want to acknowledge upfront that windrows’ a real challenge, especially for seniors and residents with disabilities and the intent of this program was right and it came from a place of compassion. However, after three years of piloting, it’s clear the program is not delivering reliable or satisfactory results even under the best-case scenarios,” he said, citing the poor survey results, including the fact many of those surveyed thought the \$200 fee wasn’t value for money.

“This puts the Town in a no-win situation because you have light

winters, it equals complaints about value. Heavy winters equals complaints about timing and quality. To materially fix these issues would require millions of dollars in new equipment and staffing, which is simply not realistic or responsible. Discontinuing this pilot does not mean abandoning vulnerable residents; it means acknowledging that this delivery model doesn’t work and shifting toward alternatives like grants or reimbursements that give residents control, faster service and dignity.

“This pilot showed us the limits of municipal delivery and we should learn from that. A control grant is more honest than a subsidized delivery service we can’t reliably deliver. I’m in favor of the staff recommendation, but certainly I don’t want the discussions for other options or solutions to come to an end. I think we keep the dialogue going because we have to find that happy medium. Like all things, there’s always compromise.”

Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese acknowledged the topic of windrows is “divisive” but said “throwing the baby out with the bathwater” wasn’t the solution.

“I don’t think this pilot is quite done yet,” he said, noting the new equipment in this year’s budget will position crews to get the job done right.

“It’s hard to identify whether it’s worth its value or not without doing it right,” he said. “Until we have a perfect model, we can’t really judge whether it’s feasible or isn’t feasible.”

Value of attending conferences should be reported by Council members: motion

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Members of Council attending conferences, seminars and other events at the expense of the Town could soon be required to report back on the trip’s value to the community.

Council, sitting at the Committee level last week, gave the tentative green light to a motion from Ward 5 Councillor John Gallo calling for staff to develop a written reporting framework for elected members to report back on “key topics, sessions, or discussions attended; summary of key learnings and takeaways; any relevant best practices or ideas that could be considered for implementation in the Town of Aurora,” and that the resulting reports be made public.

“Members of Council attend conferences, seminars, and external events at the expense of the Town of Aurora, either through direct funding, conference budgets, or reimbursements in accordance with the Compensation and Support for Members of Council policy,” said Councillor Gallo, in his motion, which is expected to formally pass at the April 28 Council meeting. “These events are intended to provide professional development, enhance municipal knowledge, and bring forward best practices that can benefit the Town and its residents.

“There is currently no formal, standardized requirement for Members of Council to report back publicly on the value, insights or outcomes of their attendance. Transparency and accountability in the use of public funds are essential to maintaining public trust and sharing knowledge gained from conferences can support informed decision-making and provide value to

the broader Council and community, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the value for taxpayer-funded conference attendance, while strengthening knowledge-sharing among Members of Council, is in the public interest.”

Speaking to his motion at last week’s Committee meeting, he said while all Council members attend sessions like these from time to time, “we’ve never really reported back, perhaps informally at times, and things that we’ve learned, maybe we’ve implemented without really expressing it to other Council members or the public.”

The motion passed Committee unanimously with Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland stating constituents want to know what their elected representatives do at these conferences.

“I always post key takeaways that I’ve learned at conferences and try to make sure that the constituents are aware of the things that we’re discussing. I think this is just providing that framework for us to provide,” she said.

Mayor Tom Mrakas, whose expenses in his role as Regional Councillor have come under scrutiny given his role as York’s representative on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, said it was “great” to make this reporting process formal.

“I’ll just say in my 12 years, I’ve constantly let the public know exactly where I am, what I’m doing, exactly what we’ve been talking about and what we’re bringing back to the Town of Aurora,” he said, asking whether the reporting framework would be ready by the time he and several Council members attend the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Edmonton, AB, this June.

Value beyond numbers

Partners in Your Business

Brian Roberts
CPA, CGA, LPA

ROBERTS & COMPANY
Chartered Professional Accountant

Call us at 905.727.8046 or visit www.robertscpa.ca

Yonge Street Active Transportation Corridor moves forward amid budget questions

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A multiuse path on the west side of Yonge Street in Aurora's south end is poised to move forward this month amid an increase in costs to make it happen.

Local lawmakers gave their tentative approval to adjust the budget for the Yonge Street Active Transportation Corridor by an additional \$2.53 million for a total of \$7.861 million.

The corridor will take the form of a multiuse path, accommodating pedestrians and cyclists, on the west side of Yonge from Bloomington Road northward to Industrial Parkway South, with a sidewalk running

parallel on the east side of the street.

The Region of York has committed to fund 50 per cent of the construction costs for the multi-use path, up to \$2.8 million, but the increase in budget remained a sticking point at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting.

"Most of us, when we first got the report, were quite surprised, at least I was, to see the increase in the overall budget," said Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson, asking staff to share a memo on the costs. "For the most part, I thought we would have had a good grasp on the linear cost of sidewalk installations, we do them every year."

Expanding on the memo, staff said the project has "a lot of moving parts," not the

least of which is the fact that Yonge Street is considered a Regional Road in this stretch.

"Unfortunately, we just don't have the real estate... on the east side, so we did the next best thing and moved forward with a sidewalk," staff said. "In order to be considered a multi-use path, you have to be four metres in width, so we do have room for that on the west side. We moved forward through a multi-criteria analysis and with input from the public through two picks to determine that that was the best use of funds to do a sidewalk on one side and a multiuse path on the west side.

"Right now, the multi-use path on the west side is a lot more technically difficult to construct. It's almost double the cost of the sidewalk. We also have to do some upgrades to the intersection, which is the Region intersection at Industrial Parkway South and Yonge because now we're going to have a crossing there... all these pieces are all movement. The extra complexity too is that once you tender [the project], it depends on who's available to bid, what the labour situation is at the time."

The Regional support of the project, replied Councillor Thompson, is a key factor in moving forward.

"From my perspective, it's important to move forward," he said. "I can tell you that I've had a number of residents from Delmanor specifically who have reached out to me over the last year or two, speaking to the fact that there is no sidewalk there. It's hard for them to traverse Yonge Street. They go north to the shopping plaza and they are eagerly waiting and anticipating a sidewalk – in this case, a multi-use path – being built because, for them, with their mobility challenges, it is extremely difficult sometimes to navigate. It's a longstanding piece in terms of our sidewalk policy to be able to do these connections. We have an opportunity to take advantage of the Region funding over and above it, so I support it."

Similarly, Ward 3 Councillor Wendy Gaertner said she has also had requests from residents for a navigable path in this area.

"I'm in full support for this program because active transportation is part of a connected community and every quality community is a connected community and the people in the south have not had the pedestrian opportunities that others have had, and it's growing there," agreed Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese. "I think we need to do something of this nature."

While Ward 5 Councillor John Gallo said he was in support of the project in and of itself, he said more scrutiny needs to be done on how estimates could have been so far off the mark.

"I need a better understanding of how this happened, considering the roads are there and how much could York Region or any unknowns have come up that we couldn't have figured out beforehand what the costing was, and how do we fix this? How do we get a better sense of... I've been here 14 years and it's happened time and time again that we budget and then we have to increase by many percentages," he said. "Although we have many, many capital projects and the vast majority we get right, these big ones come back, and we've built many, many sidewalks and roads in this Town, I fail to see how this is an anomaly in budgeting and then the reality is we're that far off."

In supporting this project, Mayor Tom Mrakas noted that \$4.5 million of the project's total cost will come from development charges earmarked for roads.

"That's exactly why we collect development charges," said Mayor Mrakas. "It is to build infrastructure in our community. This is much needed infrastructure in our community, so \$4.5 million from development charges and \$2.8 from the Region, I'll be in favour of moving forward."



PARSA'S PERSPECTIVE

Michael Parsa, MPP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

May is a wonderful time to come together and celebrate the people and moments that matter most.

Mother's Day is a great opportunity to recognize the important role that mothers and mother figures play in our lives. To all the moms, grandmothers, and caregivers in our community, thank you. Your support, care, and dedication make a big difference every single day.

Being a mother is not an easy responsibility, and much of what you do happens behind the scenes. From guiding and encouraging to showing up when it matters most, your impact is felt in ways that often go unspoken, but never unnoticed.

With the Victoria Day long weekend approaching, I also want to wish everyone celebrating a happy and safe holiday. Whether you are getting outdoors, hosting a barbecue, or

just taking some time to reflect, I hope you all have a chance to recharge and connect with the community.

As we head into these celebrations, I encourage everyone to take a moment to show their appreciation. Whether it is through a simple thank you, spending time together, or reaching out to someone who has made

a difference in your life, it goes a long way.

Wishing everyone a Happy Mother's Day and a Happy Victoria Day.

Create your own personal oasis with one of our tree-planting programs!

Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) Backyard Tree-Planting

- Do-it-yourself or full-service tree planting
- Consultation with a certified arborist
- Native trees and shrubs at a reduced price delivered to your home


 Book your consultation today!


Take Root Native Tree and Wildflower Sale

Native trees for ONLY **\$10**

Wildflower blooms for ONLY **\$15**

Two pick-up dates and locations to choose from.
Limited quantities available.

 **Sunday, May 31, 2026**
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
East Gwillimbury Operations Centre
19850 Woodbine Avenue,
Town of East Gwillimbury

 **Saturday, June 6, 2026**
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Markham Conservation Office
6 Princess Street,
City of Markham

 Registration is now open.

Learn more at york.ca/TreePlanting





Marquee Theatrical Productions celebrated their \$90,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation on Friday as they opened their latest production, Jesus Christ Superstar, at NewRoads Performing Arts Centre in Newmarket. Joining Marquee founder Sheryl Thomas, far right, for the occasion were Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas, Janice McGuigan of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

Marquee Theatrical Productions gets boost from the Province to increase accessibility, opportunities

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As the curtain lifted on Marquee Theatrical Productions' Jesus Christ Superstar on Friday evening, so too did it lift on an enhanced new future for the local theatre company.

Gallagher Murphy and Mayor Tom Mrakas joined Marquee members and representatives of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) on stage at Newmarket's NewRoads Performing Arts Centre to celebrate a Marquee's \$90,000 OTF grant.

The seed grant will support accessibility, inclusion and intergenerational

participation in the arts, according to the Industrial Parkway North-based organization, and enable them to bring on a production coordinator, music director, music theory instructor, videographer, and an American Sign Language interpreter.

"Tonight's recognition is truly about honouring the impact that you make every single day, because this \$90,000 seed grant [enables] Marquee to pilot new programs and enhance existing ones as well, all with the purpose of expanding accessibility, inclusion, and intergenerational participation in the arts," said MPP Gallagher Murphy. "The grant is also helping with rental costs, sheet music, royalties...this is a lot for a \$90,000 recovery. It reflects the government's continued commitment to support organizations that enrich our lives through the arts, culture, and heritage, and it ensures that more children, youth, adults, and seniors, all alike, really come together and have a meaningful community-based arts program, and it helps address a powerful need: the need for local spaces where people of all ages can create together, learn from one another, and have that sense of belonging."

Both MPP Gallagher Murphy and Mayor Mrakas thanked the Marquee team, and particularly its founder, Sheryl Thomas, on the impact they have had on the community.

"We're so grateful for everything that they do," said Mayor Mrakas. "For so many young people, especially young

people, Marquee is where they first fall in love with performing, where they build confidence, make new friends, and discover something new about themselves. Those experiences really do matter – not just for individuals, they shape confident, creative, and connected communities – and that's why support like this from the Province and the Ontario Trillium Foundation is so important.

"It helps Marquee keep doing what it does best, and that's creating opportunities and bringing people together through the arts."

The importance was also underscored by Janice McGuigan, a member of the OTF's Simcoe-York Grant Review Team.

"Usually, I speak a lot about the Trillium Foundation, but tonight I'm going to speak about this group, and what they do, and why they're so important. Three things. First of all, when you put on live stage productions, you give people something to which they can look forward. They pick a play, and they look forward to going to see it. Secondly, they go to see the play, and when they're there, they're transported to what's on stage, the people, the setting, and you can take on another life and enjoy yourself. Thirdly, what they do is they create a memory, so that you can say to your friends and family, remember the time we saw that play here? That's why this is so important," she said, leaving the audience with a quote from Julie Andrews: "The arts create a bridge across the world like nothing else."

VENDOR APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

ORANGEVILLE CITIZEN

HOLLY FEST

We're decking the halls once again and inviting unique, passionate vendors to join us in making HollyFest even more magical in its second year. After an incredible inaugural event, we're excited to welcome new businesses and continue growing Orangeville Citizen's signature holiday shopping experience.

If you're ready to showcase your products, connect with an engaged community, join a festive tradition in the making, we'd love to have you at HollyFest and share in the magic!

**Saturday, November 21, 2026 - 9am to 4pm; and
Sunday, November 22, 2026 - 10am to 3pm**

Indoors at the Orangeville Fairgrounds,
247090 Side Rd 5, Mono

orangevillehollyfest.ca

To apply to be a vendor at the show, scan the QR code, visit our website or email shows@ipcmedia.ca for a vendor application form. Apply before June 1, 2026 and be eligible for early acceptance on June 26.

Pine Tree Potters' Guild

Spring Pottery Sale

Large selection of handmade pottery

April 30 10am to 9pm
May 1 10am to 9pm
May 2 10am to 5pm
May 3 10am to 4pm

**Free Admission
Free Parking
Door Prize**

www.pinetreepotters.ca

NEWMARKET OLD TOWN HALL
460 Botsford St., Newmarket, ON

Red Dress Day Walking Vigil will honour Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit people



Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley has played a key role in the Town of Aurora's journey on the path to Reconciliation. **Auroran file photo by Brock Weir**

From page 1

showed us that this community is very much engaged in that. Under the guidance of Grandmother Kim Wheatley, she suggested a walking vigil [this year, and] from there, we began planning.”

Beginning at Town Square was a natural first step, and picking Town Park as the ultimate destination was suggested by Michelle Johnson of the Aurora Museum & Archives, who also serves on the Indigenous Relations Committee.

The park, says Campsall, is seen as a “grounding space” that lends itself well to the sacred fire, while the walking route along Yonge and Wellington was chosen to have a

maximum visual impact on the community.

“We’re really centering on the current tragedy that is still unfolding and the historic tragedy of those missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls,” says Johnson. “Sometimes when there are these big reports with many Calls to Action, progress can seem very slow and I think on this issue specifically it’s just very hard to understand why the progress is so slow with this and it’s heartbreaking. Just having that full understanding that this is part of our history and it’s part of our current reality, I don’t know that many people necessarily identify

this as an ongoing issue happening right here, right now.”

Adds Campsall: “Maybe some people think this is just historic, but it’s not – it’s ongoing, it’s still going, and these are real people, these are real lives that are being touched, affected and taken. It’s an incredible injustice, again, at how slow it’s moving. I think it’s important that everybody is aware of this and knows that it’s not just history – it’s still going, it’s something we need to continue to bring awareness to, we need to talk about and there needs to be more given to this for sure. It will be a reflective time to listen and learn.”

As they prepare for the May 5 event, both Johnson and Campsall underscore the importance of the relationship they, and the Town of Aurora as a whole, have developed with Wheatley.

“I find our relationship with Kim... is really integrated in so much that we do, especially from the Museum & Archives side,” says Johnson. “Kim has entrusted us with some of her items on loan and we’re able to bring them out and display Indigenous items alongside some of the items from our collection to help bring in different perspectives and show the community the different material culture and beliefs surrounding some of these items, as well as the different connections we’ve been able to make with many different Indigenous community members.”

For more information about the Red Dress Day Walking Vigil, visit aurora.ca/RedDressDay.

Indigenous Relations Committee projects set to transform landmarks

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As Aurora puts the finishing touches on plans for its Red Dress Day Walking Vigil on the evening of May 5, work is continuing on other initiatives of the Town’s Indigenous Relations Committee that are set to transform local landmarks.

This summer, residents will see work begin on Aurora’s new Community Reflection Space, which will be built outside of Town Hall in conjunction with long-scheduled plans to overhaul the building’s parking lot.

Featuring a showcase of native vegetation and a water feature, it’s intended to be a serene place for the community to gather in times of tragedy and reflection.

Design plans were approved by Council this past winter and Michelle Johnson of the Aurora Museum & Archives, a member of the Indigenous Relations Committee, says work will begin in the next few months – as will work on a memorial to Indigenous Veterans set to be constructed near the Cenotaph.

“The Indigenous lens has been, I think, instrumental in getting [the Reflection Space] approved, designed and eventually constructed,” says Johnson. “I think the events that we do and the different cultural programming opportunities that we are trying to develop for the community, and have been developing, are fantastic. It provides the community with that type of experience, but there’s also so much work that’s happening behind the scenes [with the guidance of Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley] that is helping us work towards meaningfully implementing the Calls to Action and figuring out where we can try to make a difference.”

The memorial to Indigenous Veterans is one more way the Town is honouring the Calls to Action stemming from the National Report into Truth & Reconciliation.

This Call for Designers on this memorial is open through April 26, says Johnson, and, from there, submissions will be evaluated.

THE HAPPINESS MAFIA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AURORA TOWN SQUARE PRESENTS

JEREMIE ALBINO



SAT, MAY 16
8 P.M.

DAVIDE DE SIMONE
PERFORMANCE HALL
TICKETS: \$50

TICKETS: AURORA.CA/WHATSON

Sports groups help celebrate Home & Active Living Show



The Aurora Chamber of Commerce's annual Home Show took place at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex April 11 – 12, but this time it was rebranded for a new area as the Chamber's "Home and Active Living Show." The "Active Living" rebrand came through a new partnership with Sport Aurora, an umbrella organization representing more than 30 local sporting groups, showcased several partner groups during the home show, and facilitated demonstrations tailored to inspire Home Show-goers to get their heart rates up. (Top Row) Laurie Mueller and Alan Dean helped fly the flag for Sport Aurora. Michael and Asif represented the Aurora Pickleplex. (Middle Row) Gianna demonstrated some gymnastic moves. The Aurora Barbarians Rugby Club was represented by Marco and John. (Third Row) Marcos, Jenn, and Brajen showed how the Aurora Tigers roar. John brought the Aurora Soccer Club into the spotlight. **Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger**

Answer the call.

Volunteer with Ontario Corps.

Sign up at
ontario.ca/OntarioCorps

Paid for by the Government of Ontario




Historian wants Aurora to get on board with 175th anniversary of R.A.I.L.

BY BROCK WEIR
 EDITOR
 LOCAL JOURNALISM
 INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora was formally incorporated as a village in 1863, but some historians argue that Aurora’s emergence really came a decade before with the arrival of the railroad.

The first locomotive steamed into what is now Aurora in 1853 and, with the 175th anniversary of its arrival on the horizon, a local historian says this is the chance to plan a party on which all residents can get aboard.

Historian David Heard is the driving force behind R.A.I.L., a concept he presented to Aurora’s Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) last week. With the anniversary just two years away, he said time was of the essence to build momentum.

The vision is a festival to take place between mid-May and mid-June 2028 with a rail-themed music festival, railway-themed historical exhibits, a mural, and more.

“This is a two-year process,” Heard told HAC last week. “This is bigger, I think, than Aurora’s 150th. Aurora is a great place, and it’s great to have

a 150th (celebration), but being that first destination north of Toronto on the first locomotive built in Canada is pretty powerful.”

Collaboration will be key in the success of R.A.I.L., he said, adding he’s in the process of exploring external grants to help fund the festivities.

“With entrepreneurship, with a great team put together, maybe working alongside the Aurora Historical Society, I can assure you through hard work and team work, getting a grant like the last one (for Aurora 150 in 2013) of \$250,000... I believe we can achieve that by working with the Town, the Historical Society, working as a team, and going after this funding. It’s not going to be on the taxpayers’ dime.

“I think we have to make it public – it’s the citizens that throw this all together and work together as a team. Teamwork is going to make this.”

In his pitch to HAC, Heard recalled his childhood on Ross Street, a residential road in Aurora that no longer exists due to the expansion of the Aurora GO Station and

Industrial Parkway, but ran roughly in alignment with the present surface entrance to the station of Wellington Street East.

“When I was a little boy, there wasn’t a lot to do in Aurora. There were parks and you hung out, you went home when the streetlights came on, and that was pretty much it,” he said. “Or, like me, you took a penny, put it on the rail line and waited for the train to come across and got yourself a big piece of copper.

“One of the things I noticed about Heritage Week (in February) was the inclusivity. My fascination with trains started because I was a little disabled kid. I couldn’t get out a lot. I believe this type of event will get a lot of people to come out of all shapes, sizes, cultures, creeds, everything. What I’m doing here is asking for assistance and launching this vision and dream because it’s the real deal.”

COMMUNITY SUPPORT INTEGRAL FOR HERITAGE WEEK

R.A.I.L. would be one way to build upon the momentum of Heritage Week, an initiative in which Aurora participated in February, according to Heard.

Coinciding with Family Day, the festivities included talks with notable local historians, self-guided tours, multiple interactive displays presented by Heard, and information booths.

While feedback was largely positive, community involvement will be key in its future, according to a report before HAC from Adam Robb, Heritage Planner for the Town of Aurora.

“Aurora was one of the only municipalities across the province to organize and host a dedicated

event for Heritage Week through its Heritage Advisory Committee and planning and development services staff,” said Robb in his report. “The majority of events or offerings across the province were organized/led by local libraries, dedicated committees, museums, historical societies or other independent cultural and non-profit groups. This matter is being raised, as despite the initial success of the 2026 Heritage Week Event, its organization was only made possible by the volunteerism and efforts of the organizing Committee members, the presenters, David Heard, and the redeployment of planning and development services

Continued on page 23



CHARTWELL ANNIVERSARY – Chartwell Hollandview Trail celebrated its 17th anniversary in the community last week with a special party at which Mayor Tom Mrakas stopped by to offer his congratulations on behalf of the Town. Pictured here with the Mayor are Ben, Laura, Natalie, Jodi, Susan, and Ayesha.
 Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



**DAMIR VRANCIC
 LAW OFFICE**

BUSINESS LAW,
 REAL ESTATE,
 WILLS & ESTATES

905-841-6411

Providing valued and trusted
 legal advice since 1983

For Students Who Want More

Senior School at Pickering College nurtures curiosity, collaboration, and creativity, helping students uncover their passions and make a difference. Learning goes beyond the classroom and every student is empowered to make an impact.

Inquire now to begin in September
www.pickeringcollege.on.ca/auroran



PICKERING COLLEGE

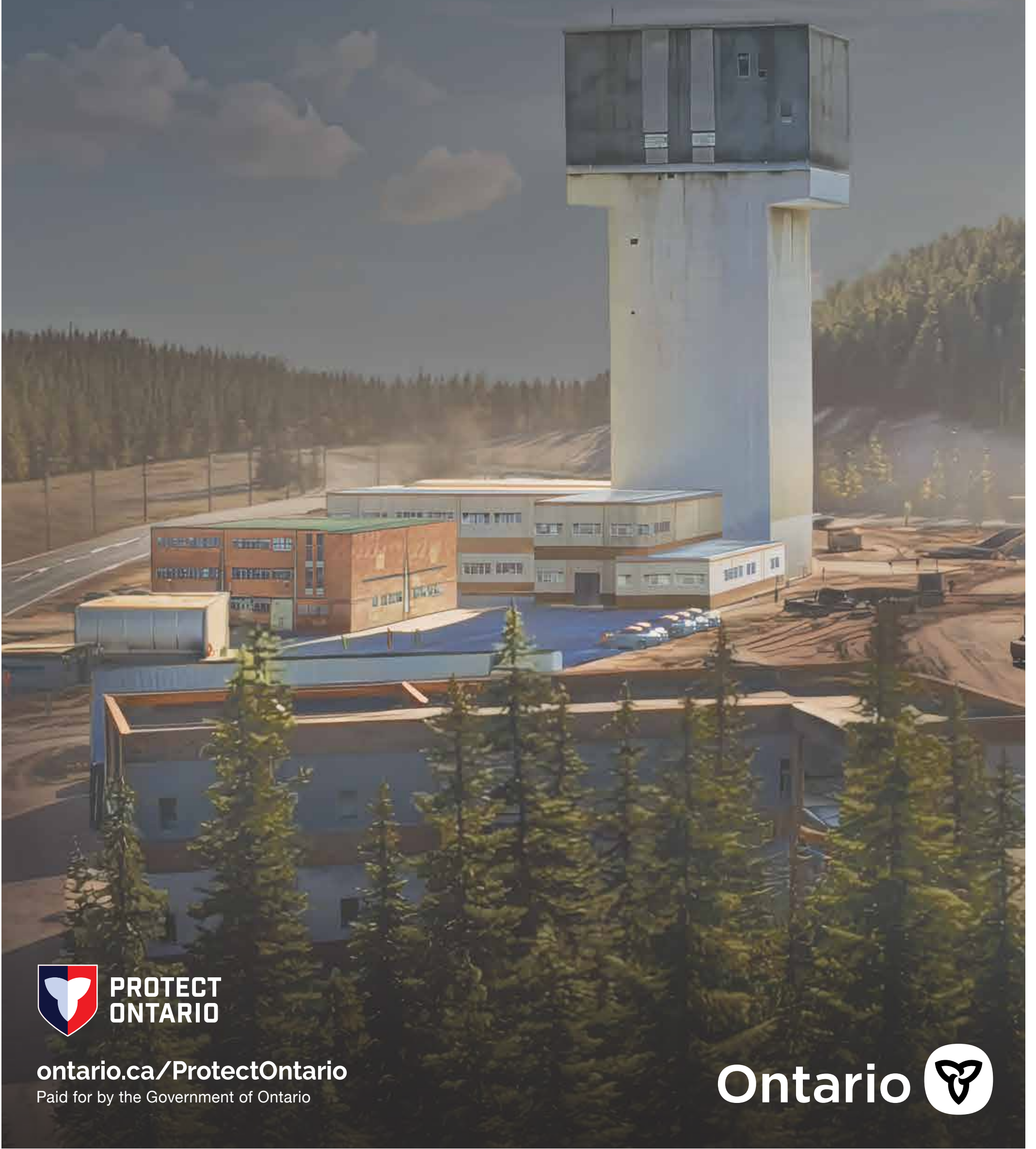
JK to Grade 12 | Co-ed Day & Boarding School | Newmarket, ON

Grade 9 Entry Year
 Limited space in other grades

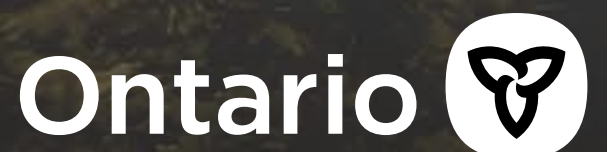
Our plan to protect Ontario is speeding up approvals for mines

As Canada stares down economic uncertainty, we're ready with a plan to protect Ontario. We're building mines to unlock the critical minerals the world needs.

That's how we protect Ontario.



ontario.ca/ProtectOntario
Paid for by the Government of Ontario



Spring Golf Excursion Travelogue

Our Eight-Day Adventure in The Algarve: Southern Portugal's challenging golf courses and its endearing coastal charms



Auroran sports reporter Jim Stewart, second from right, shares his annual golf travelogue this week – this time with a Portuguese perspective

Contributed photo

BY JIM STEWART COMMENT

Portugal has become a top trending tourist destination for Canadian travelers in 2026.

After nine days in the Edenic setting known as The Algarve, I am among the converted.

The decision to shift the traditional setting of our yearly golf vacation from the USA to Europe was based on collective loathing of the Trump administration's anti-Canadian policies. Consequently, the six current Senior Tour members rejected a 33 connection to Florida, North Carolina, Arizona, and California and embraced the progressive paradise of Portugal—specifically, the coastal town of Salema.

The core activity for eight days was golfing at local courses—three rounds at Espiche, two at Santo Antonio, and one at Boavista—but the trip was so much more due to southern Portugal's tourist treasures.

Should you be contemplating a golf vacation to Portugal, here's our highlight reel from April 7-15:

Day 1

Our Air Canada A330 Airbus departed on time at 22:50 from a virtually-deserted Terminal 1 at Pearson Airport on Tuesday, April 7.

The seven-hour, 10-minute overnight flight to Lisbon was without complication and Air Canada continued to up its game with complimentary in-flight meals and libations. The entrée included chicken in a mushroom sauce with mashed potatoes, a slab of cheddar cheese, a wee corn salad, a fresh roll and butter, and a moist brownie for dessert. The meal was complemented by glasses of Teramas Astrue 2024 white wine.

Prior to landing in Lisbon, we were served a continental breakfast of yogurt, a slice of fruit bread, and a glass of juice. Alas, turbulence over the Atlantic as we neared the coast of Portugal curtailed the serving of hot coffee or tea.

The process of arriving at Lisbon International, strolling through Customs, and golf bag pickup was easy-peasy.

JK, who enjoyed a family and friends vacation in Portugal, along with DC, JL, and RG prior to The Algarve Aces Golf Tour, met EH and yours truly at the Starbucks in Terminal 1. A four-Euro cappuccino helped me stay awake after the overnight flight that transitioned smoothly into a comfortable three-hour commute to The Algarve along Portugal's modernized, tolled highway system.

Our Ford Focus, picked up at the Tangerine Rent-a-Car company in Lisbon, ambled nimbly southbound and carried three passengers, three golf club travel bags, and our six pieces of carry-on luggage very well with one of the bench seats down.

One of special treats in Portugal is consuming freshly-squeezed orange juice, which we produced at an Intermarche grocery store in Lagos, just outside of Salema. A juicing machine pulverizes whole, locally-grown oranges in an upper chamber and pours the sunny nectar

into one-litre recyclable bottles for convenient consumption. Enjoying sweet Portuguese orange juice was a fun middle finger salute to Ron (“We don't need Canadians”) DeSantis.

Also pleasing was the effectiveness of my \$30 QUO 5-piece Converter/Adaptor Plug Set purchased at Shoppers Drug Mart prior to the trip. The multi-piece unit converted Portuguese electrical current so my two devices—Garmin Golf Watch and Samsung 21 Phone—could be recharged with the same ease as at home.

Also easy was the meal we prepared on Night 1 on the villa deck's gas BBQ. It featured cheeseburgers, French fries, and a salad that we rustled up from provisions secured at Intermarche. Inexpensive local wine complemented our first meal.

Our gorgeous oceanside six-bedroom villa in Salema had only one flaw—spotty Wi-Fi—but we were able to access good signal in the main floor living and dining area.

My comfortable basement writer's apartment, which opened up to the pool deck and afforded a spectacular view of the craggy coastline, suffered from poor signal, but late nights writing the travelogue at the huge dining room table overlooking the moonlit Atlantic compensated quite nicely for the tech shortcoming.

Day 2

After our Travel Day on April 8, the “Algarve Aces Golf Tour” commenced at Espiche Golf in Lagos on April 9.

The 18-hole layout played 5,009 metres (5478 yards) from the red blocks—a shorter but challenging enough distance given the prevailing breezy coastal conditions and undulating Bermuda grass fairways that slope and spill perilously into conifer and palm knolls and unforgiving dense rough. Greens fees at the beautifully-manicured course were 89 Euros including our “buggies” – the term in Portugal for golf carts.

Reception in the clubhouse was warm and welcoming. Staff members were helpful and fluent in English as well as German. A 16-member contingent from Germany comprised the foursomes behind us.

One of the distinctive visual features of Espiche was the use of field stone on fourteen of the eighteen holes and “paving” the buggy paths with cobblestone. Stone walls functioned as imposing lateral hazards—one of those walls spanned the first fairway and challenged not only your opening drive, but your approach shot down in the valley to an elevated green. The stone also functioned as decorative landscaping around tee blocks and as scenic but scary backdrops to greens as errant approaches ricocheted across Hell's half-acre....

A significant challenge for us at Espiche was the super slow condition of coarse, “grabby” greens created by a unique turf blend that fuses paspalum from Seaway Island with more traditional poa annua. The course's environmentally-sustainable verdant targets are virtually immune to ballmarks,

sledgehammer putting.

At the 19th hole, we enjoyed the post-round hospitality provided by our zesty clubhouse balcony hostess Mara. The native of Brazil served us grilled calamari and prawns set off by perfect French Fries and Sweet Potato Fries all washed down with pints of Sacres—Portugal's version of Budweiser.

After our 15-minute drive from Lagos to Salema, our oceanfront villa provided sanctuary after being “Espiche” on the links. JK's barbecued chicken, JL's tossed salad, multiple bottles of local wine, and vanilla ice cream topped with award-winning Aurora maple syrup capped off a home-cooked meal.

Day 3

As is the custom of our golf vacations, we play the first course a second time to improve our scores and dispositions. Alas, Hadrian's Wall on the first hole at Espiche intimidated most of us again at the first tee.

Even with our prior knowledge, our scores were virtually identical to Round 1, but it was truly another excellent golf experience in predominantly sunny, 19c conditions.

A post-round dip in our villa's heated swimming pool overlooking the rugged golden limestone coastline loosened up the tightened

Continued on page 21



A PLACE TO

live well.

Choose your lifestyle. Apartment Living, Independent and Assisted Living.

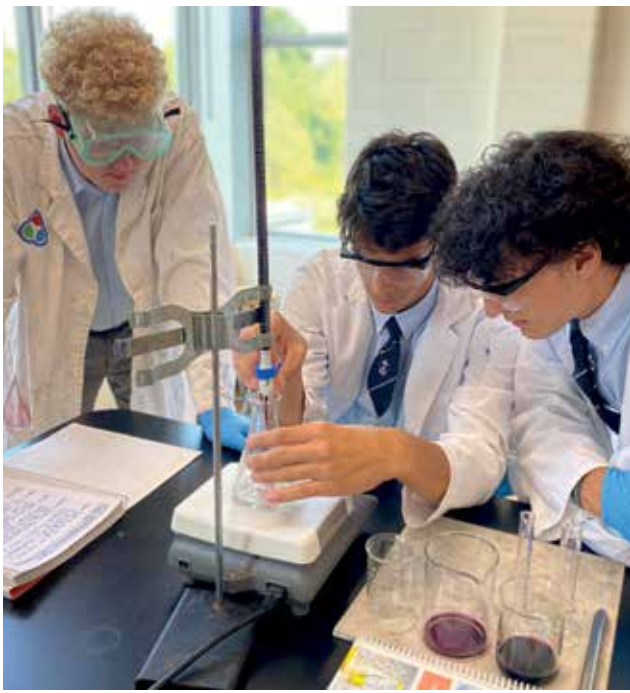
DELMANOR

Aurora

Inspired Retirement Living™

905-503-9505 | DelmanorAurora.com

25 BUTTERNUT RIDGE TRAIL, AURORA



VILLANOVA COLLEGE

GRADES 4-12 CO-ED • KING CITY, ON



STEM PROGRAM

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program at Villanova College is an exclusive, four-year academic enrichment program. Students will take an enriched math and science program in grades 9 and 10 to prepare them for the Advanced Placement (AP) program in grades 11 and 12.



ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Advanced Placement (AP) courses allow motivated students to study at a higher level and intensity in academic areas in which they have interests and strengths, preparing them for the most competitive academic programs at the top universities in Canada and worldwide.

YOU'RE INVITED

Villanova College is an independent Catholic Augustinian school committed to excellence and dedicated to the education of young people engaging them in their spiritual, intellectual, physical and social development.

We look forward to welcoming you to VC!

ATHLETICS

The VC athletics program is based on a philosophy of personal growth nurtured by skilled and caring coaches. Developing a spirit of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play is essential at all levels. Our student athletes enjoy state of the art facilities including a new turf field, indoor running track and 17,000 sq. foot triple gymnasium.



ARTS

Our comprehensive arts program includes Instrumental and Vocal Music, Musical Theatre, Fine Arts and Media Arts and is integral to our commitment to develop the whole person. Students have the opportunity to imagine, create, perform and develop self-worth. Participation in the arts serves to broaden the lens through which our students see the world.

SOCIAL OUTREACH & LEADERSHIP

One of the most important aspects of the Villanova experience is the opportunity to transform compassion into action through service activities. VC students share their own talents and resources with those in need in ways which have included overseas mission trips, weekly sandwich patrols, Habitat for Humanity builds and countless other social outreach projects.



REGISTER FOR OUR SPRING OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 - 9:30AM

905-833-1909 • admissions@villanovacollege.ca • www.villanovacollege.org

Aurora TOYOTA 669 WELLINGTON ST. E., AURORA (905) 727-1948 | 1-866-979-3635

Winter Stability You Can Count On

Alignment starting at **\$169.95**

4 Wheel Brake Service starting at **\$205.95**

www.auroratoyota.ca

THE AUROGAN

Sports • News • Coming Events
Classifieds • At Your Service

Flooring Superstore

OUR 8th YEAR IN A ROW!

READER FAVOURITE AWARDS

Your friendly local flooring experts

Floors Direct NORTH NEWMARKET SHOWROOM
105 Harry Walker Pkwy N.
Unit 1, Newmarket, ON L3Y 7B3
T: 905-235-4400 | Sales@floorsDirectnorth.ca
www.floorsdirectnorth.ca

VOL. 27 | NO. 28 | 905-727-3300

TheAuroran.com

FREE

WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2026

York Oldtimers Hockey League celebrates 50th year with season-ending tournament at ACC



The York Oldtimers Hockey League celebrated its 50th anniversary this past weekend – a celebration that included a ceremonial face-off with Mayor Tom Mrakas. Photo courtesy of YRHL

BY JIM STEWART
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The York Oldtimers Hockey League celebrated the end of its 50th year of operation with a spirited four-team, six-game tournament at the Aurora Community Centre on Saturday afternoon.

The four squads—comprised of a range of players from the League’s 70+, 60+, 50+, and 35+ divisions—played three 38-minute games in a display of skill, endurance, and sportsmanship.

Mayor Tom Mrakas presided over the ceremonial faceoff and applauded the indomitable spirit of the 45 skaters: “It was truly inspiring. Seeing these players lace up and compete in three games in one afternoon speaks to their passion for the game, and their commitment to staying active. It’s not just about hockey—it’s about community, friendship, and a lifelong love of sport.”

Mayor Mrakas also praised the YOHL for its decades-long positive impact on the Town.

“The York Oldtimers Hockey League’s 50-year legacy is incredibly important to Aurora. Few organizations can say they’ve been bringing residents together for half a century. It’s a testament to the strength of our community, the role sport plays in keeping people connected, and the traditions that make Aurora such a great place to live.”

YOHL Convenor and Secretary-Treasurer Stephen Forsey reinforced the importance of the connections and love of hockey to which Mayor Mrakas alluded: “Everybody’s having fun. That’s the objective. It’s also about celebrating that we’ve been around for 50 years. 375 players. 26 teams. I couldn’t think of a

better way to celebrate than to mix up the teams with teammates playing against teammates.”

Forsey, who has served on the League’s Executive for over 30 years, said he liked what he saw on the ice as we chatted behind the visitors’ bench.

He emphasized the significance of sportsmanship at the tournament and working with new teammates.

“I reminded everyone that these are exhibition games—if you can make the extra pass to a new teammate, do it.”

Forsey’s own team made the extra pass all afternoon en route to a pristine 3-0 record and the unofficial tournament championship. Skating as the Yellow squad and bedecked in classic Bruins colours of yellow, black, and white, the mix of players captured their first game of the tournament 4-2 over the Blue team sporting the traditional Oilers colours of blue, orange, and white.

In their second game, the Bruins defeated the White squad—sporting vintage St. Louis Blues jerseys sponsored by Smith Rogers Financial Inc—2-1 in a barn burner of a hockey game that was made even better by Yan’s world-famous popcorn procured in the lobby of ACC2.

Forward Paul Ruytenbeck finished a nifty passing play and backhanded a rebound past Blues goaltender Wayne Wong to stake the Bruins to a 1-0 lead nine minutes into the contest.

The Blues squad tied it on a nice individual effort by Russ Barfitt who took a pass between the circles, fired the puck, and tucked in his own rebound to deadlock the contest 1-1 at the 22:49 mark of the 38-minute run-time game.

With 1:05 left in the spirited tilt, Eric Grant snapped a puck from the blue line that was deftly deflected by Brad Kane

over the fallen tender and into the back of the cage for the game-winning tally.

With no rest for the wicked and only the time of an ice flood to catch their breath, the Bruins squad skated in the tournament’s next game versus the Blackhawks – a squad looking for its first win.

The surging Blackhawks struck first ten minutes into the match, but YOHL Convenor Forsey tapped in a bouncing puck at the left side of the crease—showing some silky mitts in the process—to tie it 1-1 at the midway point.

With 12 minutes left, Greg Ferguson rifled the puck past the Blackhawks’

keeper to stake the Bruins to a 2-1 lead. One minute later, Dan Bernardo lifted one over the Blackhawks defenders from the edge of the crease to extend the Bruins’ margin to 3-1.

The Blackhawks capitalized on a power play goal to narrow their deficit to 3-2, but Kane fired two goals in the waning moments. The high-scoring forward sniped a puck low glove side to restore the Bruins’ two-goal lead with 4:44 left.

With 3:15 on the clock, Kane’s wrist shot went bar down and bulged the twine to give the undefeated Bruins a commanding 5-2 lead.

The Blackhawks fought valiantly and slipped one past Bruins’ goaltender Brent Beard with 1:08 left to play to make it 5-3, but the hard-pressing team’s comeback attempt came up a little short.

The sixth and final game of the tournament pitted the white-clad Blues (1-1) versus the blue-clad Oilers (1-1). The Oilers were looking to build on their narrow 1-0 win over the Blackhawks earlier in the afternoon.

In the Oilers’ second game of the tournament, forward Bill Otton banged in a rebound on the power play with ten minutes on the clock to provide the knockout punch versus the Blackhawks.

However, in the Oilers’ third and final game versus the Blues, the evenly-matched teams skated to a 0-0 tie that was preserved by a sensational stack-the-pads save by Oilers’ netminder Brandon Mailhot with 2:30 left in regulation to send the squads to a shootout.

In the shootout, Mailhot repelled all three shooters he faced and Alain Boudreau fired the game-winner in the second round to give the Oilers their narrow 1-0 win to wrap up the tournament and the League’s fiftieth season of operation.

ATAG
AURORA TRANSIT AUTO GLASS

INSURANCE CLAIM SPECIALISTS
We do the paperwork!

WELLINGTON ST
MURRAY DR ST
YONGE ST
ALLAURA BLVD
BLOOMINGTON ST

Need Windshield Chip Repair or Replacement?
www.AuroraTransitAutoGlass.com

11 Allaura Blvd #10 Aurora On L4G 3N2
905-713-6420 1-888-728-4778

NewRoads Automotive Group™

Mazda Subaru Toyota Honda CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep Ram N3

Caring For Our Community newroads.ca

Aurora FC U15 Girls celebrated at Council after winning Provincial title



The team proudly showed off their trophy and medals when they were recognized by Mayor and Council at last week's Committee of the Whole meeting. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Aurora Football Club's U15 Soccer Team was celebrated by Mayor and Council last week after taking the Provincial title in indoor soccer in March.

The club took top honours at the Aurora Sports Dome earlier this spring after coming together under the guidance of coach John Tzanis, who said the team has been undefeated since the fall.

"We built a team from nothing," says Tzanis, referencing the team's foundations in September of 2025. "I was shocked and surprised at the quality of the practices. So intense, the most intense team I've ever seen."

"I was just this mentality, this faith, this hope. The girls started winning and winning and winning to a point where we haven't lost a league game now since October of last year.... Then, a few weeks ago, we won this thing. Part of it is a thank you to Council because without the facilities you've built, there's

no way we could have trained like we do, and so intensively and safely because of the fields you've built. These artificial turf fields allow us to play for hours and hours and repeat and not get injured. It's because of what you've done that we say thank you."

Council members, in turn, heaped praise on the team – and gave special congratulations on how far they have come in such a short period of time.

"I had the luxury of coming by and watching one of your practices on the weekend, a firsthand experience watching the girls play with a coach.... I was just going to stay a few minutes and just say 'congratulations,' and I ended up staying almost half-an-hour watching in intrigue and excitement, just to see the dedication that the girls had," said Ward 5 Councillor John Gallo.

"I was really interested in how the coach was organizing them and how they responded to it. I think that's probably one of the keys to success is how you take coaching and what you do with it. John, you're a perfect example of someone who elevates that role. It's no doubt they're successful as a result of your participation."

Added Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson: "It really is just a special moment. I hope you all cherish it very much and wish you congratulations, and it is truly a team approach."

Councillor Thompson also directed kudos to the girls' parents and their efforts to make the team a success as well – as did Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese.

"I can tell you that every team has a special set of parents as well because those parents support the kids," said Councillor Weese.

"It doesn't happen without you as well," added Mayor Tom Mrakas, addressing the parents. "Getting up in the mornings, taking them to practice, out at nights, or whatever, you're taking

that time to make sure that they have the ability to be able to go out and practice. Thank you for everything that you do, and each one of you girls, you should thank your parents for everything that they do for you to make sure you're able to be there and be the champions."

"Sometimes in sports, everything just comes together at the right time, and that's from the stories that I'm hearing is that's what's happened. You have an incredible coach, you have talented individuals that when you put them together with the right coach and the right parents, everything just gelled at the right time.... You guys did something that is so incredible that this entire Town will be proud of you for a long time."

Congratulations were also extended by Ward 6 Councillor Harold Kim who asked Tzanis share his "secret sauce" in helping the girls "gel as a team."

"In soccer, you're either really good at strategy and games, or you're good at tactic and teaching them how to play the technical side, so I think you've got both," Tzanis replied. "On the technical side, I know how to teach them to use both feet, how to score goals, and just to become a good soccer player. I also tell them to get private training once in a while. On the other side, the tactical side, I'm a problem solver. I see a problem and I look for a solution and I find the solution. I study it. I watch every game. Coaches share information with each other, and then if you can present that information to the girls and they buy in and they focus on that, that's how this happened because this should have never happened so quick and so fast because most of these girls were not the stars of their team..."

"It's the environment that you create for them, makes them winners, makes them champions."

Struggling with **TECH ISSUES** or need a **Professional WEB SITE** ?

Our services include:

- Flexible Tech Support:** Get help when you need it, with both on-site and remote support for Windows and Mac.
- Complete Web Services:** From reliable web hosting to custom website creation, we build your on-line home.
- Total Security:** Protect your data with our robust backup, anti-virus, and anti-spam solutions.
- Lower Your Costs:** Switch to our VoIP services and significantly reduce your monthly phone bill.

We offer special rates for not-for-profit organizations
Contact us today for a free consultation and see how we can simplify your technology.

aurora ONLINE *Rob SCHUETZE*

AURORA ONLINE INC.
20521 CENTRE STREET MOUNT ALBERT, ON LOG 1M0
T (905) 222-2022 F (866) 812-7442
AURORAONLINE.COM | ROB@AURORAONLINE.COM

YOUR WEEKENDS DESERVE BETTER

STOP WASTING TIME ON LADDERS AND STREAKY WINDOWS

Let M&M Professional Window Cleaners handle the hard work!

Since 2008, we've been trusted by homeowners and businesses to deliver spotless, streak-free windows—inside and out, including tracks and screens. We're a small, family-owned business and proud Readers' Choice Winners for over 10 years.



Michael
POLSKY
Founder of M&M
Professional Window Cleaners



647-409-8144
www.mmwindowcleaners.com
mike@mmwindowcleaners.com

Relax, stay safe, and enjoy sparkling windows without the hassle!

Chinese Calligraphy and Painting comes to life through workshop series

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A new workshop focusing on Chinese calligraphy and painting is being hailed as a “significant breakthrough for Aurora’s multicultural landscape.”

“Colour Your Life, Heals Through Heart” is a new community initiative led by the Federation of Literati and Artists of Canada.

Led by acclaimed artist Dr. Wang Shivong, the series kicked off on March 27 and filled up fast. It continues this Friday, April 24, and again on both May 22 and June 27. Its purpose is to promote traditional Chinese arts at the local level and inspire new artists ahead of what they describe as a “Grand Exhibition” of work at the Aurora Cultural Centre in September to coincide with the Town’s annual Multicultural Festival.

“National Federation of Literati and Artists of Canada is a federally registered non-profit organization. Its mission is to promote arts and culture, foster cross-cultural understanding, and support community well-being through accessible artistic programming, particularly for seniors and diverse communities,” says Anne Zheng, the organization’s Executive Director. “Dr. Shiyong Wang is a renowned Chinese painter, educator, and the founding president of the Federation. He has served as a professor and cultural leader, with extensive experience in both traditional Chinese painting and international art exchange. His work bridges classical techniques with contemporary expression, and he is dedicated to bringing Chinese

art into community settings.

“This workshop series introduces participants to the aesthetics and techniques of traditional Chinese ink painting. Each session includes one hour of guided appreciation of classical masterpieces, followed by two hours of live demonstration and hands-on practice. The program is designed to be inclusive, welcoming participants of all backgrounds and experience levels.”

Chinese ink painting is a traditional art form similar to calligraphy in that it uses brushes, ink, and water, applied to rice paper or silk in various ways to “achieve rich, flowing effects.”

“It reflects the artist’s inner state and philosophy, often drawing inspiration from nature—such as landscapes, flowers, and birds—to express harmony, balance, and spirit. Along with calligraphy and poetry as essential parts of the arts work, the use of an artist’s seal [stamp] is also a part of the composition, together forming a complete and distinctive work of art,” says Zheng. “The inaugural session was held successfully at Aurora Public Library, drawing a full house of 59 participants ranging in age from 6 to 88. Due to the high turnout, the library staff had to add extra tables and chairs several times. Among the attendees, 32 participants took part in hands-on painting. Participants engaged deeply with both the artistic appreciation segment and the practical session, creating a warm and inspiring atmosphere. The event clearly demonstrated the strong community interest in traditional arts and cultural learning.”

Central York Fire Services launches neighbourhood fire risk portal using real-time, local data

Central York Fire Services (CYFS) is proud to launch the new online Community Risk Public Portal, which offers real-time, neighbourhood-specific data on the causes of fires by community to enhance fire prevention efforts and give residents access to insights to help them take steps to be more fire-safe.

“CYFS is committed to helping residents of Aurora and Newmarket stay informed and protected,” says Deputy Fire Chief of Community Risk and Education, Lorianne Zwicker. “Understanding the most common fire risks in your community is an important step in keeping your household safe, along with knowing the actions you can take to reduce and prevent fires.”

The easy-to-use tool allows residents to enter their home address and view data showing the top three fire risks, based on causes of recent fires in their ward. Each risk links to safety tips, empowering residents with targeted information that can help reduce preventable fires.

Fire prevention staff have access to more robust data, which will help CYFS with targeted community outreach. In addition to fire causes, the data reveals that most fires occur between 4 p.m. and midnight; yet the most dangerous time for a fire incident is from midnight to 8 a.m., when occupants are sleeping—which is why smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are vital.

Leading causes of residential fires

Across Ontario cooking, smoking and electrical issues are the leading causes of residential fires. Locally, Aurora and Newmarket reflect similar patterns. In 2025, the top three causes of residential fires in these communities were:

- **Cooking:** often caused by unattended cooking, overheated oils, or distractions in the kitchen;
- **Electrical issues:** overloaded outlets, aging wiring, and improper use of extension cords or power bars;
- **Battery-related incidents:** involving lithium ion batteries that are damaged, improperly charged or used with incompatible chargers.

This past year, battery-related fires surpassed fires sparked by smoking, which had consistently been among the top three causes (alongside cooking and electrical issues) for four

years. Smoking and heating appliances are also currently top causes within the CYFS region.

Here are some simple actions residents can take today to significantly reduce the risk of a fire in their home based on the common causes of fires locally:

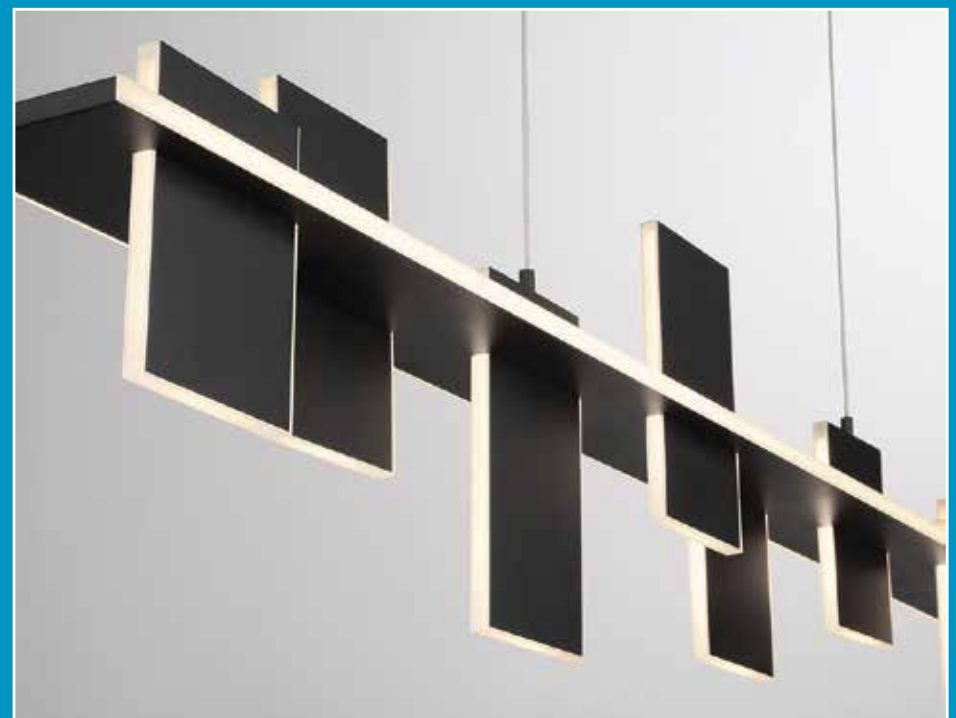
- **Cooking:** Stay focused when cooking by remaining in the kitchen, turning off the stove if you leave and smothering small fires with a lid while shutting off the heat;
- **Electrical:** Use electrical outlets safely by avoiding cords under rugs, checking for damage, replacing frayed cords immediately and plugging heavy appliances directly into their own outlet;
- **Batteries:** Charge and dispose of batteries properly. Be sure to use the correct charger and place devices on non-flammable surfaces. When batteries have reached their end of life, tape the terminals and recycle them through a battery recycling location, such as your local CYFS fire station. Never throw batteries in the trash or blue bin, as they can ignite a fire;
- **Smoking:** Smoking outside reduces the risk of unintentional fires. When butting out, use a deep, sturdy ashtray away from anything that can burn. Before throwing away butts and ashes, douse it in water or sand;

Heating Appliance: Conduct annual inspections of your furnace or wood-burning heating units to ensure proper maintenance and prevent carbon monoxide risks. Give portable and baseboard heaters space and always turn off portable heaters when leaving the home;

Early Warning: Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every storey of your home. Test them, replace batteries as needed, and replace the units as recommended to ensure they are always in working order.

Residents are invited to explore the Community Risk Public Portal to find the top fire risks in their neighbourhood and talk with their family about steps they can take to prevent fires.

Visit cyfs.ca and click on the Community Risk Assessment tab to check it out.



**LANDO
LIGHTING
GALLERIES**

210 Clarence Street, Brampton, Ontario

905.453.6403

www.landolighting.ca

THANK YOU HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS!

The difference you make is felt in every moment you share



VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR EVERYDAY HEROES

#POWERINVOLUNTEERING

#IGNITEVOLUNTEERISM

**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2026**

APRIL 19-25



Better Together



www.myhospice.ca/volunteer-with-us/

volunteers@myhospice.ca

Volunteer Training
Provided



Together, We hike - Because Hospice Care Matters!

Join our Hike for Hospice and take meaningful steps towards supporting both community and residential palliative care in our community!

Check-in starts at 1pm
Fairy Lake, Newmarket

For more information,
email events@myhospice.ca



Register or Donate today.

Scan the QR code or visit the link below:
<https://betterliving.akaraisin.com/ui/HikeforHospice>



653 Queen Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 2J1 | 17100 Yonge Street, Newmarket ON L3Y 8V3

Portugal's challenging golf courses and coastal charms

From page 15

cables and soothed the aching feet after the first two rounds of Spring golf.

Reading Jane Urquhart's Changing Heaven, with a salty breeze coming off the Atlantic Ocean and a refreshing Somersby Blackberry Cider washing away another a gritty high-90s round spent in most of Espiche's sandtraps, was a special multisensory experience.

RG's penne Bolognese, JL's Greek salad, and JK's garlic bread was savored with four bottles of Douro region wines: three red and one white.

A summary of our favourite local wines is appended to the travelogue.

Day 4

The next stop for our 2026 Golf Tour was a local club ten minutes from our coastal villa. Santo Antonio Villas, Golf, and Spa has risen phoenix-like from the financial ashes of Parques des Floresta which went into receivership after building an ambitious golf community. The name change is not complete because my Garmin golf watch located Parques des Floresta by satellite rather than Santo Antonio which was as confusing at the outset of the round as was translating the scorecard and all course markers from meters to yards.

Santo Antonio was experienced amid gale-like winds peaking at 70 km/h. Intermittent showers and cool conditions played havoc with all aspects of our game. The first two greens were topped with heavy morning dew that the coastal winds had not dried yet.

The hilly track—requiring perfectly-piped drives to take advantage of funneled valley fairways—was a challenge for us. No one broke the century mark and only periodic flashes of brilliance broke up a day of flopped shots. The course played 5,207 metres or 5,695 yards from the yellow blocks, but it felt longer.

Its elevated tees and greens make for a brand of target golf that is tough in windy conditions. We suffered Hamlet's "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" as the wind blew well-struck drives and approaches into the palms and greenside hazards. My score was as tragic as the fated Danish Prince and resembled quite closely my favorite classic FM rock radio station which starts with Q.

Despite shooting many strokes over my average score in Ontario, I enjoyed the camaraderie created by shared perils and the stunning vistas of Santo Antonio. The backdrop of the elevated 18th green looks like the cover of The Eagles' Hotel California as combos of white walls and orange-roofed villas in the foreground and palm trees in the background dominate the picturesque finishing hole.

The fourteenth fairway looked like home as the entire right side was bordered by a dense spruce forest—creating the vibe of courses in central Ontario where 60-foot conifers create the Canadian Shield aesthetics.

Although San Antonio was well-kept and most fairways were lined with tall palm trees, the Lagos course has fallen into some degree of disrepair since it fell into receivership. Much of the signage is weather-torn and the Portuguese and English words obliterated by coastal conditions. The damaged signs made for a wee bit of chaos on the buggy paths.

Unique to the course is turf damage inflicted by wild boars which is acknowledged on the score cards.

There were patches of torn grass designated by blue spray paint on many of the holes which invoked this local ground rule: "In the general area, areas of damage caused by Wild Boar are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b." We did not espy the porcine perpetrators which created the turf damage, but enjoyed the free lifts.

The greens at Santo Antonio were a little faster than at Espiche, but the grass was still on the "grabby" side and limited our putting efficacy. It became apparent that playing well at Santo Antonio required prior prayers to Saint Anthony for divine delivery from the evils of bad lies and wind-aided chaos.

The highlight of Day 5 took place off the golf course as the six limping linksters soothed their aching bones and iced their damaged egos at Restaurante Boia—a charming beachfront

eatery in Salema and a five-minute walk downhill from our villa. In addition to the outstanding service and hospitality experienced at Boia, the presentation and preparation of our freshly-caught Red Snapper was exquisite.

Complemented by roasted potatoes as well as a medley of diced cucumbers, tomatoes, lettuce, olives, and feta, the Snapper fed five of our party quite sufficiently (EH had the ribs and fries) and we enjoyed a bottle of white and three bottles of red. The cost of our dinner for six was 305 Euros. The coastal wind pushed us back up the hill to our villa where we enjoyed delayed coverage of Round 3 of the Masters.

Day 5

Our fourth round of golf was delayed by cool 10o temps and high morning winds that made the real-feel register in the 7-9o range. Our group opted for a leisurely in-house breakfast instead of usual grab-and-go from our well-stocked kitchen.

Sunday morning was originally designed for worship and our group held an impromptu "service" in the villa's entertainment room watching the tape-delayed final round of the Masters. This is a group tradition going back thirty years.

Working on the villa's sundrenched deck prior to our round, with every possible shade of blue on the sunlit rippling sea and sky, filled the soul with a kind of peace that served as an analgesic to these Trumpian-troubled times.

After a lazy morning in the villa, we teed off at Espiche at 1:00 but had to cut our round to nine holes due to even harsher windy conditions that blew in off the Atlantic. The heavy coastal breezes dried out the greens at Espiche—making them a bit faster than they had been during the two previous rounds—but the winds made for cool conditions and even layering seemed ineffective.

I had to pull my hoodie over my cap to keep it from being blown off. Admittedly, high winds rarely hamper my game since I keep the ball comparatively low off the tee and fairways. After paring three holes and shooting a 46 on the front nine at Espiche, I was willing to soldier through another nine.

However, we were worn out collectively by the blustery conditions and wisely called it a day.

Back at the villa, we savored plates of RG's penne smothered in beef and pork sauce accompanied by JL's Greek salad. An array of Douro region red wines satiated the wind-fatigued linksters.

Day 6

Our most expensive set of greens fees (\$125 Euros) was incurred at Boavista GC in Lagos.

The glittering clubhouse, spa, and championship course complex is surrounded by stacked white villas, but the wide, forgiving fairways kept most of the surrounding casas a safe distance from errant shots.

We enjoyed North American poa-infused greens that rolled more truly. My fifty-foot downhill/uphill chip from the apron rolled smoothly and steadily into the cup to save a par—a feat next to impossible with Espiche or San Antonio's grabby greens. We played a combination of yellow and red tees which clocked in at 5265 and 4728 meters (5758 and 5170 yards).

The brown sand bunkers were a pleasure to hit from and we enjoyed the excellent practice facilities including a chipping green, expansive putting green, and driving range.

We also relished the sunnier, less windy conditions and the thermometer peaked at 19o to elevate the spirits of The Algarve Aces.

The highlight of our round was being paired with an English-speaking husband and wife team from Denmark. Kristen and Henrik were delightful. Both were super-fit Danes who walked the undulating course at Boavista effortlessly and their lean athleticism reminded me of those cautionary "ParticipAction" commercials of the 1970s where the average 30-year-old Canadian was shown to be in worse shape than the average 60-year-old Swede.

The Scandinavians won another round of physical fitness at Boavista. While they walked, we rode to further reinforce some stereotypes.

On the links, JL and I carded a pair of 96s—satisfactory work on a challenging track that

included a picturesque double waterfall hazard and a fountain-guarded green on the 17th; a pretty yet intimidating Par 3 6th that involved flying a canyon tee to green which did not end well for 6 of our 8 golfers

Boavista is a heavily sand-trapped course—many greens were protected by four-to-six traps so packing a working sand wedge is a must at this pristine course.

After our round at Boavista, we travelled to an even more stunning vista—Sagres—which is the most southern tip of Europe.

The ocean views at Sagres are stunning. Rolling white and turquoise surf crashes against craggy cliffs comprised of limestone, fossil-rich calcarenite, and yellow-hued sandstone. The Fortress of Sagres—which dates back to the 1500s—is the point's defining landmark.

The area is a mecca for hikers, but the cliffs are incredibly dangerous with sheer 250-foot drops and nary a railing to keep self-indulgent selfie seekers from plummeting to their deaths. No nanny state here.

After taking in the rugged beauty of the cliffs at the most southern point of Europe, we enjoyed the comparatively manicured beauty of Augusta National on tape delay—watching Rory McIlroy win his second consecutive Master's championship. We're all Rory fans and reveled in his uneven, suspenseful victory that was not unlike his big win in 2025, which we celebrated together in Temecula, CA. Another brilliant home-cooked meal was chased by six bottles of red wine from the Douro region to top off a perfect day in Portugal.

Day 7

Our final full day in The Algarve featured a return to San Antonio GC—a less expensive course at 75 Euros. Our comparatively later 9:00/9:10 tee times provided relief from Monday night's gormandizing which included beef tenderloin grilled on charcoal briquettes by JK on the villa's classic brick barbecue.

Our mascot for the round was a full-sized Portuguese snail, affectionately christened Sid, who slithered from buggy windshield to dashboard to steering column to fender and repatriated himself to the turf of the 14th tee block while we cursed our errant drives off the deck. Clearly, Sid had had enough of our antics.

Our last round featured less wind, more warmth (21o), and much faster greens after the dew burned off.

Firing a 45 on Santo Antonio's tough back nine was a personal highlight for me to close off the 2026 Algarve Aces Golf Tour. I trudged up to the challenging 18th green, took my only double-bogey of the back nine in stride, and bought some nice swag in the pro shop.

After a relaxing swim and a few chapters of Changing Heaven in a deck chair, it was a distinct

pleasure to grill sausages over charcoals in the brick oven barbecue while enjoying a post-round glass of red wine—a peaceful and delectable way to close our last night in Salema.

Day 8

Our three-hour northbound commute from Salema to Lisbon revealed the progressive powerhouse that Portugal is becoming. Highways are well-designed with reasonable speed limits and well-appointed filling and rest stations. Portugal's commitment to clean energy is apparent along this route. Coastal wind turbines and massive solar farms have cut the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

We noted the blend of the natural (dozens of long-necked stork nests populate hydro towers just as ospreys build massive nests in our parks' light standards here in Ontario) and impressive infrastructure.

We noted acres dedicated to solar farms on the east side of the northbound highway and the white-cabled Vasco da Gama Bridge towering over the tidal Rio Tejo is a stunning gateway into Lisbon.

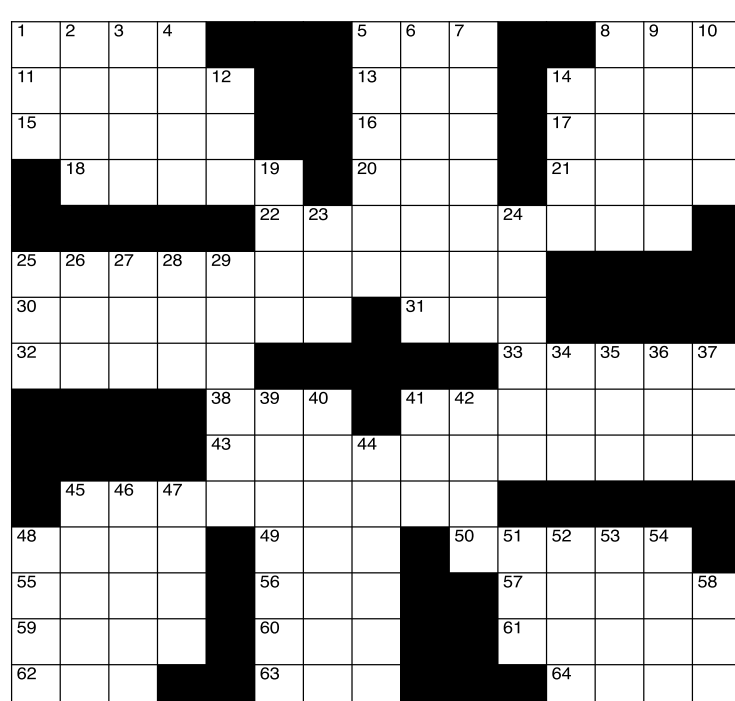
En route to the Aeroporto, we ran into a Wednesday morning northbound traffic jam outside of Lisbon due to multiple fender benders; we experienced a delay during the gassing up of our Ford Focus rental when the express pump rejected our Canadian credit cards; our transfer at the Tangerine Rental depot from Focus to airport shuttle was delayed by tourists badgering our driver about arrival times; the three-part process of checking in and going through customs was a cattle call, especially when our Gate's entrance to the Air Canada Airbus involved an unexpected trip in a crammed shuttle bus that that took us on a trek to the plane's exterior loading platform.

As Igor intoned in the famous Young Frankenstein grave-robbing scene, "It could be worse. It could be raining." Luckily for us, it stayed dry for our ascent up the aluminum stairway, our Air Canada jet departed late at 1:30 PM Lisbon time, and the Algarve Aces arrived in Toronto at 4:15 PM.

- Regional Wines to Savor in Portugal (Price Range: 3 Euros to 11 Euros per bottle)
- Favourite Whites
- Casa Ferreirinha 2024
- Planalto Douro Vinho Branco Seco Reserva 2024 and 2023
- Quinta De Choccpalha Family Estate Chardonnay 2024
- Favourite Reds
- Claustru's Douro 2024
- Porca de Murca Reserva Tinto 2022
- Vale D. Maria Douro Superior 2023
- Claustru's Vinho Tinto Douro 2023
- Cabriz Tinto Escolha 2019
- La Rose Douro 2022

CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. TAAPR2326 • Solution in Classifieds



CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull-god
5. Romanian monetary unit
8. Will Ferrell holiday film
11. "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
13. Error-related negativity
14. Volcanic crater
15. Boston Herald columnist Margery
16. True market value
17. Italian term for exchange rate
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Men's fashion accessory
21. Children's craft supply
22. Extra benefits
25. In an early way
30. A judge has one
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
32. Tractor unit
33. Defunct supercomputer developer

38. Promotional materials
41. A forgetful state
43. One who beheads
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. Clergy's vestment
50. Expressed pleasure
55. Abba __, Israeli politician
56. Zero
57. Ancient Greek word for "earless"
59. Nigerian governmental area
60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Places to hang things
62. Keyboard key
63. Make a mistake
64. One-time president of Republic of Korea

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky lizard
4. Romanian river
5. Communication
6. Stoats
7. Showcases
8. Bird of prey
9. King of Thebes
10. Cleaving tool
12. Large African antelope
14. Three are particularly notable
19. Meet one's needs
23. C. European river
24. Dictator
25. Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Consume food
28. Woman (French)
29. Scrape a surface
34. Green vegetable
35. Pacific Standard Time
36. Capital of Brazilian city
37. Paddle
39. Cause to become insane
40. Drier and flakier
41. Mimic
42. ESPN personality Kimes
44. One who moves slowly
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Sanctuary
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave by coating
54. North Carolina university
58. Midway between south and southeast



SUPPORT
LOCAL
SMALL
BUSINESS

AT YOUR Service



CENTRAL VACUUM

MAPLE VAC CENTRE
 † 2414 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan

CENTRAL VACUUM PROBLEMS?
We will come to you and fix it fast.

Are you experiencing any of the following?

- Low or no suction
- Loud or unusual noise
- Won't power on/off
- Burning or electrical smell

SCAN ME
 (905) 832-8227

✓ In-home service by trusted technicians
 ✓ All makes & models
 ✓ Family-owned and operated for 30+ years
 ✨ Proudly serving Vaughan • Aurora • King • Caledon

LANDSCAPING/RENOVATION

OUTDOOR LIVING SPACES

Landscape Construction • Interlock • Cabanas • Decks • Walkways • Driveways
 Patios • Pools • Retaining Walls • Rockery & Planting • Flagstone

SAVE 15%
 (ON ALL WORK)

LEONE 416-723-8093
 Landscape

PROPANE

PROPANE AND APPLIANCE SALES

- RESIDENTIAL
- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL

INSTALLATIONS
 SERVICE • DELIVERY

CARLING PROPANE INC.
 Toll Free 1-866-952-0146 www.carlingpropane.ca

RENOVATIONS/FENCES/DECKS

SUMMER RENOVATIONS INC.

Build/Repair Fences
 Build/Repair Decks

BIG OR SMALL GIVE US A CALL!
 (Free Estimates) 647-287-7168

CLEANERS

TOPMAX
 Cleaning Services
 RELIABLE PROVIDERS

FREE
 Estimate

Call for a **FREE ESTIMATE**
 Our Services: OFFICE • MEDICAL • DAYCARE
 COMMERCIAL • JANITORIAL
647 333 3760

SUNSET BEECH

TREE CARE

Pruning • Removals
 Consulting • Bracing • EAB

647-989-3509
 irbryant@gmail.com

LANDSCAPING HOME RENOVATION

CALL to make your appointment
 416-219-4530
 416-625-4441

ASA CONSTRUCTION INC.

RENOVATIONS/REMODELING/LANDSCAPE

A&A IDEAL RENOVATION

Home Remodeling • Electrical Plumbing
 Kitchen & Bathrooms • Finished Basement
 All Flooring Tiles • Hardwood Laminate
 Drywall • Painting • Deck & Fences

Fully licensed and insured. One year warranty on all labour. **NO JOB TOO SMALL!**
416-219-4530 Alex 416-625-4441

CONCRETE

DO YOU HAVE SUNKEN CONCRETE?

Liftec Slabjacking Inc.
 "We raise sunken concrete"

DO NOT REPLACE
 WE RAISE SUNKEN CONCRETE
 At A Fraction Of The Cost
 Of Replacement

Call Today For A Free Estimate!

www.liftec.ca ~ 1-866-280-7770

Zonta Landscaping
 & Renovating

Fencing
 Decking
 Interlocking
 Stone Work
 Kwik Kurb
 Basements
 Flooring
 Bathrooms
 Kitchens

(647) 668 4949
 zlr.ca

AD

If you are reading this ad, our advertising works!

TO ADVERTISE CALL
 905-727-3300 EXT 102

STUCCO EXTERIORS

PAD STUCCO EXTERIORS

• Custom Homes • Renovations
 • Repairs/Replacements
 • Licensed and Insured • 25+ Years Experience

Phone: 416-989-0417 Email: info@padexteriors.ca
 www.padexteriors.ca
 Servicing the GTA & Southern Ontario

CONSTRUCTION/HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Marc-Bilt CONSTRUCTION

Building your dreams, one project at a time!

SPRING SPECIAL + SENIOR DISCOUNT!

- FINISHED BASEMENTS - Includes a FREE 2-piece bathroom!
- TILES, FLOORING, PAINTING - Quality craftsmanship guaranteed.
- BATHROOM & KITCHEN REMODELING
- FENCES & DECKS - Perfect for outdoor living.
- HOME REPAIRS - No job too big or small!

Modern designs tailored to your style.
 Fully Licensed & Insured - Your peace of mind is our priority.
 Call or Text 416-414-1943 to book your free consultation!

CREMATION

Roadhouse & Rose FUNERAL HOME

Call us for more information

- Dignified
- Respectful
- Inexpensive

Affordable Cremation Services

www.roadhouseandrose.com | 905-895-6631

DRIVEWAY PAVING

ONTARIO & CHIP

Tar and Chip is an economical alternative to asphalt paving with a rustic country appearance, that also provides a solid surface and is a solution to ruts washout and potholes.

Country Driveways, Tar and Chip, Recycled Asphalt, Grading and Graveling, Free Quotes.

tarandchip.ca • info@tarandchip.ca • 647.456.2010

ELECTRICIAN

DANIEL'S ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION

Electrical Lights • Chandeliers
 Ceiling Fans • Tracklights • Repairs
 Cable Light • Clean Chandeliers, Etc.

Established 2001
 Cell: 416-456-5336 | dagwtw5@gmail.com

PAINTING

S & S PAINTING

TOP QUALITY GUARANTEED
 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE • AURORA RESIDENT
 416-520-6252

PAINTING/HOME IMPROVEMENTS

FOUR SEASONS PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENTS

2 professional hardworking guys
 15% OFF PAINTING PROJECTS

TILING • WASHROOM / KITCHEN RENO • INTERLOCK RELEVEL
 FENCES • ROOF REPAIRS/TROUGHS • FOUNDATION PARGING
 ELECTRICAL/PLUMBING • CONCRETE REPAIRS • LOCKS-INSTAL/REPAIR

Call Claudio 416-723-4860 or, 905-727-0862
 fourseasonsrenos@gmail.com

PEST CONTROL

GOT MICE?

PEST ZERRO.ca

Servicing All of Your Pest Control Needs, Call:
 647.200.2687.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
 905 727 3300 EXT 102

TREE SERVICE

BORA TREE SERVICE

CLEAN TREE REMOVAL & MORE
 CALL or TEXT: (416) 820-4050
 WILL BEAT ANY QUOTE

WATER

DOES YOUR WATER SMELL OR TASTE OF CHLORINE?
 OUR CHLORAMAX TWIN SOFTENS YOUR WATER AND REDUCES:

- Chlorine
- Chloramines
- THMs
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Taste & Odour

Water Depot UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!
 15483 Yonge St., Aurora
 905-751-0845 www.waterdepot.com

WATERPROOFING

GGC WATERPROOFING
 Since 1987

Excavation • Power-wash • Cracks
 Cement Parge • Rubber Membrane • Drainage Tiles
 Clear Gravel • Sump Pits • Re-sod

Guarantee & competitive Pricing WSIB & Liability Ins.
 Call Mark at 905-868-2605 or 905-868-2173

WINDOWS/EAVES/EXTERIOR

REX Exceptional window, eaves & exterior cleaning

(647) 393 7397
 info@rexwindows.ca
 Contact for a free quote

THINGS... you ought to know

MARCH 10 – APRIL 28

Memory Lane Home Living invites caregivers and their loved ones experiencing cognitive changes to join Art from the Heart, a creative arts program facilitated by an Art Therapist. This hands-on program offers an opportunity to explore art activities, spark creativity, and encourage connections with other families on the same journey. The program takes place each Tuesday from March 10 – April 28 at the Aurora Public Library. Free. To register and for more information, call 905-237-1419, or visit memorylanehomeliving.ca.

APRIL 23 – 25

The Country Day School in King City is excited to present Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR. from April 23-25 in its Performing Arts Centre. Join Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins as they bound onto the stage in the musical adventure of a lifetime. Based on the smash DreamWorks animated motion picture, Madagascar – A Musical Adventure JR. follows all of your favourite crack-a-lackin' friends as they escape

from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. We invite you to join us on this wild and wonderful adventure. Filled with outlandish characters, adventure galore, and an upbeat score, Madagascar JR. will leave audiences with no choice but to "Move It, Move It!" With a cast of 46 Grade 4-6 students, this is a show not to be missed and is guaranteed fun for the whole family. Showtimes are Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24 at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 25 at 1:00 p.m. Purchase your tickets today at www.cds.on.ca/tickets.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

The next Community Cleanup Day hosted by the Town of Aurora takes place today from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Pick up your cleanup kit, choose a spot, and help refresh our parks, trails, and streets. Students can earn volunteer hours too! Register by April 24. For more information, visit aurora.ca/cleanup.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will host its annual Garage and Bake Sale today from 8.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Aurora Seniors'

Centre is located at 90 John West Way.

MAY 9 & 10

The Aurora Historical Society will host its Mother's Day Afternoon Teas on Saturday, May 9, and Saturday, May 10, with two seatings each day at 12 noon and 2.30 p.m. Enjoy assorted teas, tea sandwiches, freshly-baked scones with jam and whipped cream, and a variety of desserts in the Hillary House Ballroom. Tickets are \$37.50 per person and must be purchased in advance. For more, call 905-727-8991, or visit aurorahs.com.

ONGOING

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

Historian wants Aurora to get on board with 175th anniversary of R.A.I.L.

From page 13

staff/resources. Planning and development services staff will be limited in the ability to continue to lead and manage such Special Events, particularly as other priority department projects are forecasted.

"While successful in its inaugural capacity, the Heritage Week Event runs the risk of potentially losing interest over time if not continually offering fresh/diverse programming and being given dedicated event management attention. Therefore, Planning staff will be requesting the assistance of other departments/divisions, community organizations or other groups to lead such special events moving forward. Otherwise, the Heritage Week Event may potentially have to be held biennially or in a limited capacity depending on other planning and development services department priorities from year to year."

AURORAN CLASSIFIEDS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Trusted Tree Maintenance & Removal



SHERWOOD
— MAINTENANCE GROUP —

- Aerial Pruning
- Canopy Maintenance
- Planting & Fertilizing
- Storm Risk Prevention
- Arborist Reports & Plans
- Tree & Shrub Appraisal
- Urban Tree Removal
- Storm Debris Clean-Up

Fully trained & insured with leading techniques & equipment

647-400-6998 | 647-338-8733
smgtrees@gmail.com www.smgtrees.com

HIGH SCHOOL MATH TUTOR
Teaching Math at all levels. Calculus advanced functions.
CALL 416-708-7454

EAGLE PROPERTY SERVICES
The best prices in town for:
• Pre-sale Home Staging
• Full House Cleaning
• Partial of house renovation
• Water & Electric - Plumbing Repair
24 HR HOME EMERGENCY REPAIR SERVICE!!!
(FREE ESTIMATES) 647-901-8168

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL CLEANER
Reliable Cleaning Services in Aurora. Weekly, bi-monthly, and monthly at good rates. Fourteen years experience. Call Kim for an appointment 647-739-2481

APT WANTED

APARTMENT WANTED TO RENT.
Good natured, quiet, retired man. Willing to help around the house. No Smoking/Pets please. Mike 647-395-7070.

SERVICES

HANDYMAN PROJECTS
INTERIOR • EXTERIOR
30 Years Experience
FREE ESTIMATES
Painting & Repair
John 647-671-5179

ALL JUNK REMOVAL
BASEMENTS • YARDS
GARAGES • GENERAL CLEAN-UPS
SMALL MOVES • ODD JOBS
Very Reasonable Rates
Call to enquire:
905-832-9655
or, text pictures to:
416-876-2219

HELP WANTED

Think you can sell?

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

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Sell advertising in our local community newspapers across numerous regions for maximum growth
- Be part of an ever growing team, developing new verticals and supplements for new revenue and income opportunities

EXPECTATIONS:

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

DESIRED SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:

- Sales Driven
- Great Personal Skills
- Some Sales Skills Preferred but would be willing to train the right candidate
- Works Well with Deadlines and Budgets
- Organized with an Intermediate Knowledge of Microsoft Excel

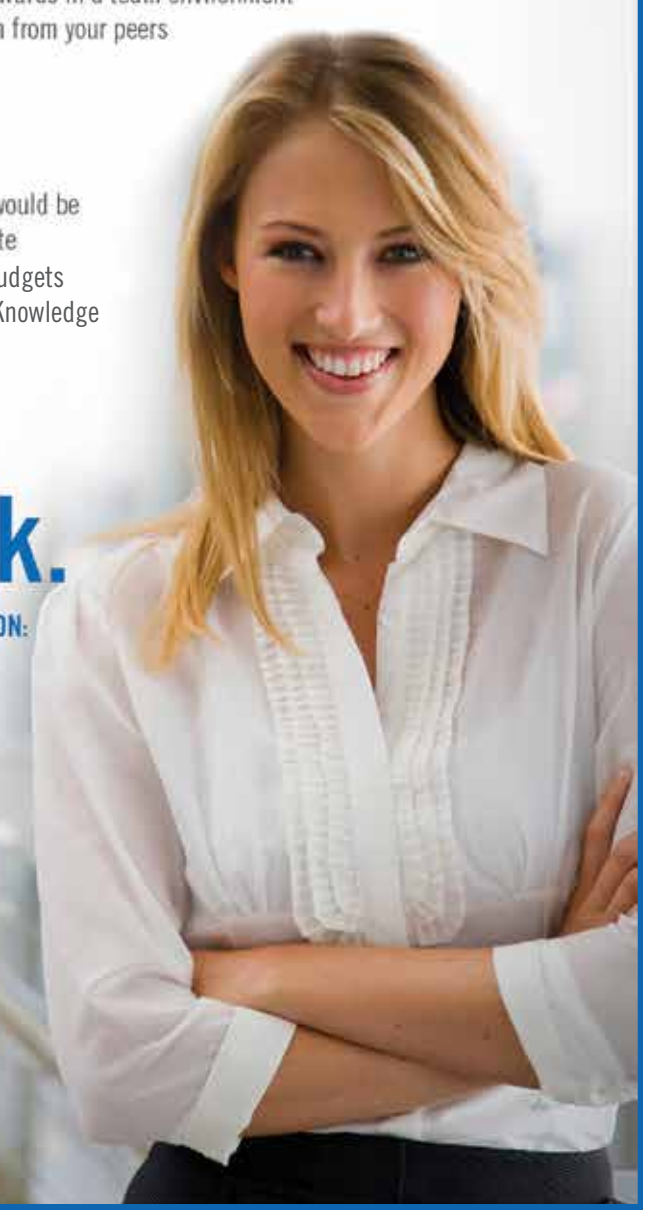
COMPENSATION:

Base + Commission

Let's Talk.

EMAIL RESUME FOR CONSIDERATION:

Zach Shoub
416-803-9940
zach@ipcmedia.ca



!!! WANTED !!!
WE PAY FOR GOLF BALLS
Pay \$0.15 to \$0.40 per ball
Year Round! Pick-up Available
416-889-9365. Peter
NO MIN QTY OR NO MAX!!

WE PAY CASH FOR SCRAP vehicles any size. We also buy construction and farm equipment. Open 7 days a week. Call 905-859-0817 (Peter).

AURORA CEMETERY CORP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
Take notice the Aurora Cemetery Corp will be holding a meeting for the purpose of election of board directors. All owners (Rights holders) are entitled to attend in person. Date: Tues May 12 at 7:30 pm Location: Aurora Cemetery Office 14253 Yonge St. For further information please contact the office 905-727-9321.

E	E	H	R		R	R	E		T	L	A
S	K	C	A	R		E	E	G	A	F	M
S	U	T	O	A		L	I	N	N	A	B
	D	E	H	A	A	B	L	A	A	B	B
				N	E	M	A	R	E	M	A
R	O	T	A	T	I	P	A	C	E	D	
A	I	S	E	N	M	A		S	D	A	
O	R	P	P	A				R	E	T	O
			R	S	S	R	E	B	M	A	H
			Y	L	E	R	U	T	A	M	R
	S	E	I	T	I	N	E	M	A		
E	U	L	G		E	I	T	S	U	S	S
O	I	G	A		V	M	T		N	A	G
R	A	A	M		N	R	E		G	G	E
F	L	E			U	E	L		A	T	A

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Advertise in The Auroran Classifieds & At Your Service Directory
Call 905-727-3300 ext 102

UP TO \$25 VALUE

FREE

WHEN YOU SPEND \$300 OR MORE

In a single transaction, in-store or through PC Express* online pickup or delivery

OFF-PERSONAL CARE INSECT REPELLENT MIXED VALUE PACK
483 G DTX790, 10342 G

Limited-time deals on PC home & more.

DEAL DROP

50% OFF OR MORE

\$15

PC SALAD SPINNER
2149723_EA

REAL CANADIAN SUPERSTORE

PROUDLY CANADIAN

WHOLE EYE OF ROUND ROAST
CRYOVAC, CUT FROM USDA CHOICE GRADE BEEF
21019179_KG

HOT DEAL

5.99

LB
13.21/KG

SAVE 40%

1.79

LB
3.95/KG

GREEN SEEDLESS GRAPES PRODUCT OF INDIA OR CHILE, NO.1 GRADE OR **RED SEEDLESS GRAPES** PRODUCT OF CHILE, NO.1 GRADE
20423775001_KG/201519199001_KG

CHICKEN LEGS QUARTERS
BACK ATTACHED FRESH
20193925_KG

SAVE UP TO 60%

1.99

LB
4.39/KG

INCLUDES HALAL **CLUB SIZE**

SAVE 49%

\$1

ENGLISH CUCUMBERS
PRODUCT OF ONTARIO
20070132001_EA

PRODUCT OF CANADA

MULTI SAVE

2/\$12
OR 7.00 EA

SEAQUEST FILLETS
400 G OR **PACIFIC WHITE SHRIMP** 300 G OR **HIGH LINER PACIFIC SALMON FILLETS** 400 G
SELECTED VARIETIES, FROZEN
21043887_EA/21093881_EA

SealQuest
16-20/1b
Pacific White Shrimp
Crevettes blanches du Pacifique

High Liner
Wild Caught Pacific Salmon
SAUMON SAUMON
SANTÉ • HEALTHY

SAVE 18%

4.88

BLACK DIAMOND CHEESE BARS 400 G OR **SHREDS** 320 G
SELECTED VARIETIES
21278845_EA/21279221_EA

Black Diamond
MARBLE • MARBRÉ
Cheddar Cheese Fromage cheddar

SALE

\$6

ACTIVIA 12X100 G OR **DRINKABLES** 8X9 3 ML **YOGURT**
SELECTED VARIETIES
20303412003_EA
21108456_EA

ACTIVIA
shot™
probiotique

PREPARED IN CANADA

SAVE UP TO 33%

\$2

CAMPBELL'S CHUNKY SOUP
SELECTED VARIETIES
515 ML
21480447_EA/21547142_EA

Campbell's
CHUNKY
CHICKEN NOODLE
POULET ET NOUILLES

Campbell's
CHUNKY
SPICY • ÉPICÉE
CHICKEN NOODLE
POULET ET NOUILLES

SALE

12.99

COCA-COLA OR PEPSI SOFT DRINKS 24X355 ML OR **FUZE ICED TEA** 20X341 ML
SELECTED VARIETIES
20306687002_C24/20308197001_C24

Pepsi **Pepsi** **Pepsi** **Pepsi** **Pepsi** **Pepsi**

24

SAVE UP TO 16%

12.99

FILIPPO BERIO OLIVE OIL
SELECTED VARIETIES,
750 ML
21893731_EA/21193747_EA

FILIPPO BERIO
CLASSIC TASTY
EXTRA VIRGIN
EXTRA VIRGIN

SAVE 3.99

\$20

PC ROAST AND GROUND COFFEE
SELECTED VARIETIES
800-930 G
21393374_EA/21393573_EA
*Open your PC Optimu™ app or visit pcoptimu.ca to get the offer.

PC
ROAST AND GROUND COFFEE
GOURMET WEST COAST DARK ROAST

APP EXCLUSIVE OFFER*

GET 3,000[®] back in points

GET 3,000[®] back in points when you buy 2

President's Choice

Great flavours start with great ingredients

Made with 100% Canadian dairy

SCOOP SHOP ICE CREAM 946 ML OR **SCOOP SHOP BARS** 6X55 ML
SELECTED VARIETIES, FROZEN
21393374_EA/21393573_EA
*Open your PC Optimu™ app or visit pcoptimu.ca to get the offer.

SCOOP SHOP
Vanilla

SCOOP SHOP
Rocky Road

APP EXCLUSIVE OFFER*

GET 3,000[®] back in points when you buy 2

SALE

\$5



VILLANOVA
COLLEGE

GRADES 4-12 CO-ED • KING CITY, ON

**You're
Invited!**



**JOIN US AT OUR
SPRING
OPEN
HOUSE**

**FRIDAY,
MAY 1
9:30 am**

- Visit our Brand New Theatre, Dining Hall and Specialty Classrooms
- STEM & AP Programs
- University Preparatory
- Catholic Tradition of Academic Excellence
- Tuition Assistance

Please register at
www.villanovacollege.org
or call 905-833-1909



VILLANOVA
COLLEGE

GRADES 4-12 CO-ED • KING CITY, ON

VC by the Numbers

6000

ENROLMENT

53
ACRE
CAMPUS

Grades
4-12



420+

UNIVERSITY ACCEPTANCE
OFFERS FOR CLASS OF 2025

&

\$3.1

MILLION IN
SCHOLARSHIPS

16:1



Average Student
Teacher Ratio

100 PERCENT

UNIVERSITY
PLACEMENT