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VOL 27 | NO. 41 | 905-727-3300

Aurora's Community Newspaper
TheAuroran.com

FREE

WEEK OF JULY 16, 2026



The inaugural Savy's Walk, founded in memory of aspiring Aurora pilot Savanna May Royes, took place at Lambert Willson Park this month, raising thousands for education grants established in her memory. Pictured here at the first-annual event is her sister Breanna, mother Loraine, father Tim, and brother Sam. The second-annual event is set for July 11, 2027.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Savy's Walk creates strong foundation for young pilot's legacy

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

More than 350 people came out to Lambert Willson Park on Sunday, July 5, to take part in Savy's 5K Memorial Walk – but it was much more than a walk; it was a chance to build the foundation of a lasting community legacy built in honour of Savanna May Royes.

The Memorial Walk honoured the memory of 20-year-old Aurora resident Royes, an aspiring pilot who lost her life

in a 2025 midair accident while training for her pilot's license in Manitoba.

This month's event raised more than \$22,000 to further the Savanna May Royes Aviation Safety Grant, established by the Royes family in their daughter's memory this past February to help “empower young, minority, female pilots” through the Urban Pilots Network.

“We were prepared for a big crowd, but the extent of seeing everybody, the community, it just blew us away. It was so emotional because Savy was very special

to so many people. She really left an imprint on people's hearts,” says Loraine Royes, Savy's mother.

The event was not just a walk – it was a gathering of community and a chance for participants to take in what they call “Savy's Spot,” a particularly picturesque oasis in the Aurora Community Arboretum at which they have placed a memorial bench in her name – a spot that has become a destination for all those who knew and loved Savanna.

Continued on page 16

Aurora looks to restore tree canopy after significant storm damage

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Aurora will begin re-planting trees lost in the violent storm that hit northwest Aurora on July 3.

More than 250 municipal trees sustained significant damage in the

Continued on page 6



STRIKE UP THE BAND

The Aurora-based sibling duo The Beresfords opened Aurora's popular Concerts in the Park summer series at Town Park on July 8, with their tribute to Sabrina Carpenter, Chappell Roan, and more. Concerts in the Park will take place each Wednesday evening from 7 – 9 p.m. For more, see Page 15.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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TOWN OF AURORA

NOTICE BOARD

July 16, 2026



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Week of July 20	No meetings		
Week of July 27	No meetings		
Week of August 3	No meetings		
Thursday, August 13	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



PRESENTS



AURORA'S 2026

CONCERTS
IN THE PARK

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

JULY 8, 15, 22, 29
AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26
SEPTEMBER 2

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Aurora Town Park • 49 Wells Street

Concerts are free

Licensed beverages and food options available
for purchase starting at 6 p.m.

aurora.ca/SummerConcerts

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

Spring & Summer 2026 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 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.



The Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has updated its terminology WSIB-Approved First Aid Training in Ontario. The widely known **Standard First Aid with CPR-C & AED** is now officially renamed **Intermediate First Aid with CPR-C & AED**.

What this means for participants:

Standard First Aid = Intermediate First Aid

Certification remains valid and recognized for workplace requirements

Training continues to include comprehensive first aid, CPR-C, and AED instruction

Current Standard First Aid certificate holders who are eligible for recertification can register for an Intermediate First Aid Recertification course to maintain their certification.

If you have questions about certification requirements, recertification eligibility, or upcoming courses, please contact the Town of Aurora's Aquatics Department at aquatics@aurora.ca or visit aurora.ca/AquaticLeadership.

File your nomination as a Candidate in Aurora's 2026 Municipal Election.

Deadline is August 21, 2026 at 2 p.m.

AURORA VOTES 2026

aurora.ca/Candidates

STRANGE ADVANCE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 8 P.M.

DON'T MISS STRANGE ADVANCE

DaVIDe De Simone Performance Hall

Tickets: \$43.50

aurora.ca/WhatsOn

ON TOUR YUK YUK'S STAND-UP COMEDY

FEATURING

DAN BRENNAN

CHRIS QUIQLEY HEADLINER

RONALD HAE

August 22, 8 p.m.

DaVIDe De Simone Performance Hall

Tickets - \$35: aurora.ca/WhatsOn

Roller Skating

DROP-IN

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

TUESDAYS

JUNE 23 to JULY 28

7:30P.M. to 9 P.M.

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THE DOOBIE BROTHERS, BOZ SKAGGS, STEELY DAN, PLAYER,
LITTLE RIVER BAND, AMBROSIA, TOTO, STYX & MORE

SEPTEMBER 26 | 7:30 P.M.

DAVIDE DE SIMONE
PERFORMANCE HALL

TICKET PRICE \$48.50

TICKETS: AURORA.CA/WHATSON

Aurora Town Hall

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YouTube

Aurora’s Royal Canadian Legion welcomes guests to its 100th birthday Open House on Saturday featuring free BBQ and live entertainment

BY JIM STEWART
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Major Stephen Boyne (RET) and his hospitality team are ready to receive members and visitors to a 100th Birthday Open House featuring free BBQ, entertainment, kids’ games, and door prizes on Saturday.

All is in readiness at Branch 385 for the four-hour event that starts at 1 p.m. with a flag-raising ceremony to kick off nationwide celebrations of the Legion’s 100th anniversary in Canada.

After the dignitaries acknowledge the historically-significant passage, visitors and members will be treated to a free BBQ from 1:30-3:30. Live entertainment will be provided by The Diamond Dogz who take the stage at 1:30 p.m. Kids’ games and door prizes will complement the proceedings of the day which will wrap up at 5 p.m.

Major Boyne’s invitation to enjoy the hospitality of Branch 385 was clear as we chatted amid the buzz of Sunday afternoon activities at the venerable service club.

“We’re encouraging members of the public to celebrate the Legion with the Legion and enjoy free BBQ and live entertainment on Saturday. I hope members of the community come by and see the Legion for what it is and what it isn’t.

“The Legion has been accepting non-veterans for a long time. As long as you support the idea of supporting veterans—that’s what we’re looking for from new members.”

Legion membership across Canada is up significantly and the newly-elected President of Branch 385 explained reasons for the surge.

“Part of the reason our numbers are rising is that new members in 2026 get their membership for free as part of a 100th Anniversary initiative. So many people who have participated in Legion sports or show up for dinners and euchre in the past are taking the plunge this year. They’ve decided that now is a good time to become a member.”

Other reasons were offered by Major Boyne to explain the jump in membership.

“Belonging to the Legion offers camaraderie, access to our facilities including our games room with its excellent snooker tables, and we have the largest darts facility in southwestern Ontario. We have 8 boards in our dart room, we can add four more upstairs, and can put up sixteen more boards in the Banquet Hall. We host professional-level darts tournaments here in Aurora.”

The recently-installed President attributed the steady growth of the Aurora Legion to a number of factors.

“Unfortunately, some of the smaller legions are no longer, but we’ve noted



Major Stephen Boyne (Retd), President of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385 in Aurora, and his hospitality staff are ready to receive guests on July 18 to celebrate the RCL’s 100th Birthday.
Auroran photo by Jim Stewart

that after the Pandemic, people wanted to come out and reconnect in community settings. This is a very active Legion to connect and every night there’s something going on—euchre nights, song circles, Friday night dinners and dancing, dart tournaments, snooker, World Cup Watch Parties—this Legion has more activities because the more members we have, the more kinds of entertainment and events we can run.”

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385 boasts 636 members in good standing and Major Boyne pointed to the steady upward swing in membership over the last five years.

“In 2021, we added 13 members. In 2022, 20 new members were welcomed. In 2023 and 2024, our membership started to jump upwards – with 38 and 34 members, respectively, joining Branch 385. In 2025, the number of new members jumped again by 45. We’ve always encouraged people to join and this year’s anniversary incentive—which offered free membership to the Legion’s facilities in 2026—led to 153 becoming new members of the Branch.”

Major Boyne expressed his satisfaction at seeing the Branch’s growth since 2021, at being the President during a special time in the Legion’s history, and providing service to his community.

“The best part of this weekend’s celebrations is being able to be involved in an historical event—it’s

such a significant day for the Legion, for our Branch, and for our country. As an Officer, I’m very much a proponent of ‘servant leadership.’ I’m here—as I was in active duty—to make it easier for people to do their job. As President of the Legion, supporting veterans and serving soldiers is our mission. There’s a significant parallel between those roles and it’s fulfilling to serve the needs of the community of Aurora and those that have served their country.”

Flag-raising Event in Town Park

Prior to the big party at 105 Industrial Parkway on Saturday afternoon, the President of RCL Branch 385 Major Stephen Boyne will take part in a flag-raising ceremony at Town Park at 11 a.m. during the Aurora Farmer’s Market to formally recognize the 100th anniversary of the Legion’s beginnings in Canada.

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SUMMER BBQ

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MP Costas Menegakis and MPP Michael Parsa of Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill



MP COSTAS MENEGAKIS



MPP MICHAEL PARSA





**SATURDAY
AUGUST 1, 2026**

**11:00 AM
to 2:00 PM**

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Aurora**

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and community together!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Coalition welcomes new Board of Directors

The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition elected a renewed Board of Directors following its Annual General Meeting, welcoming accomplished leaders from across the Lake Simcoe watershed and beyond as the organization continues a period of growth, renewal and increasing impact.

The appointments bring together expertise in public policy, environmental advocacy, municipal leadership, climate resilience and community engagement.

Newly elected directors include:

- Leah Taylor Roy (Aurora), former Member of Parliament for Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill. During her time in Parliament, she served on the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, as well as the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. Prior to entering politics, she built a successful career in business.
- Geoff McKnight (Markham), the recently retired Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury and a professional planner with decades of experience in municipal leadership, strategic planning and community development.
- Elizabeth Simpson Hillis (Bradford West Gwillimbury), a municipal sustainability professional and Vice-Chair of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury’s award-winning Green Initiatives Advisory Committee, with expertise in climate action, environmental policy and community resilience.
- Kumar Patel (Vaughan), a climate resilience researcher pursuing doctoral studies in hydrometeorology at the University of Waterloo and a former Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition summer student whose research has directly informed the Coalition’s policy and advocacy work.

Returning directors include:

- Jennie Ucar (Chair) – Innisfil/Toronto, a retired teacher and principal and long-time environmental advocate;
- Claire Malcolmson (Secretary) – Innisfil/Scarborough, environmental consultant and former Executive Director of Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition;
- MJ Hanley – Georgina, scientist, environmental consultant and community advocate; and
- Gail White – Oro-Medonte, retired community planner and long-time supporter of Lake Simcoe protection efforts.

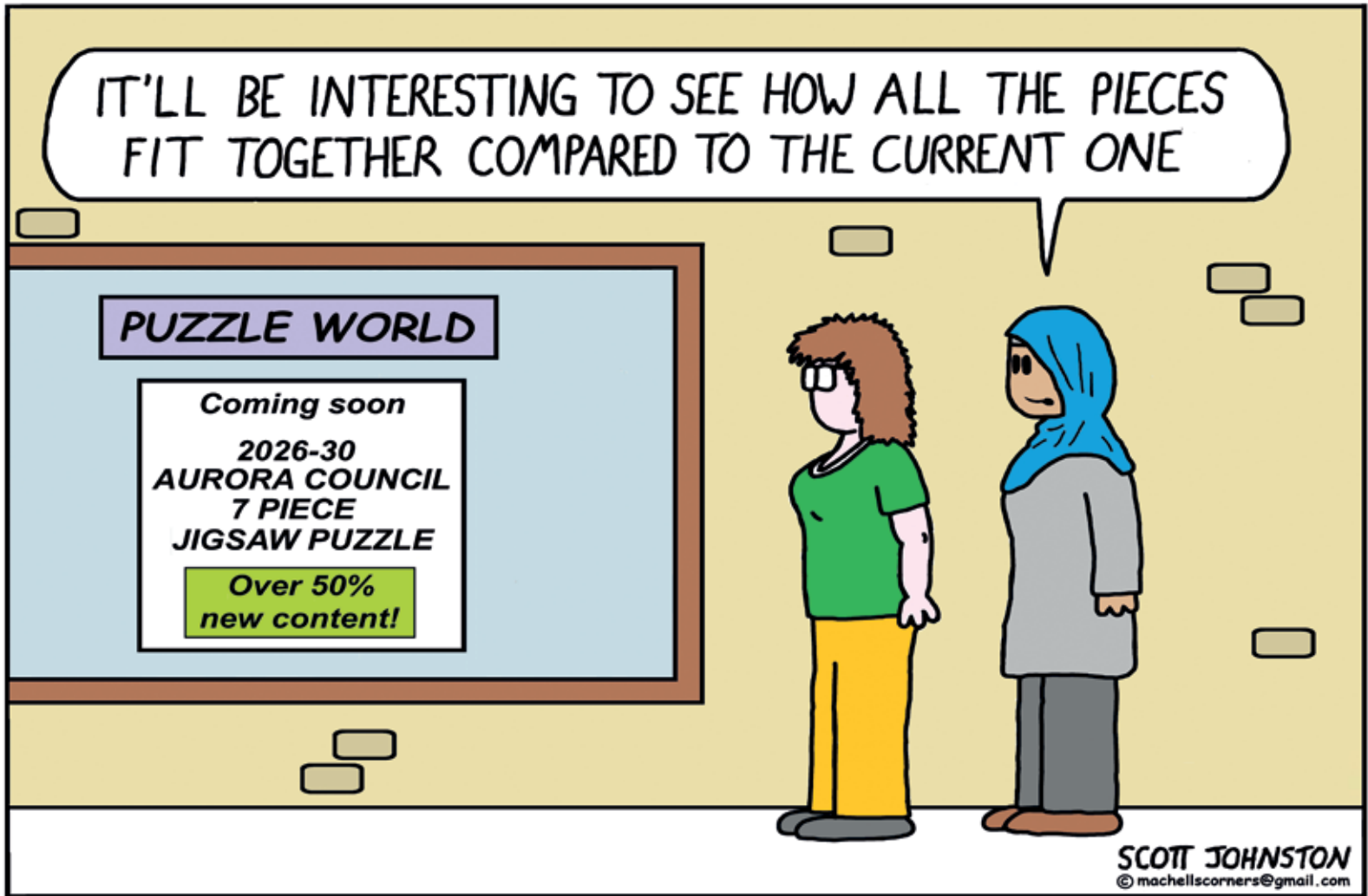
The appointments follow a transformative period for the organization.

During 2025 and 2026, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition released its landmark Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress report at Queen’s Park, launched a new visual identity and redesigned website, expanded its public profile, secured significant new funding commitments and began implementing governance reforms designed to support the organization’s continued growth.

Executive Director Jonathan Scott said the strengthened Board reflects both the growing complexity of the challenges facing Lake Simcoe and the Coalition’s ambition to meet them.

Continued on page 5

Machell’s Corners



Power of (Dogeared) Pages



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

bookseller over Instagram, might have been thwarted by the line-holders, but as far as missions go, it was still fruitful.

No matter what type of book each person was looking for, I think it’s fair to say that most of the people who were lined up Saturday morning were there for the thrill of the hunt. Myself included. But it was more than that; over my years of book collecting, I’ve found it’s never just about finding a deal.

It can be a matter of unwittingly stumbling into a world between the pages that open up new possibilities.

It can be a matter of finding a long-forgotten biography or memoir, by or about a long-forgotten person, whose life and contributions should be remembered.

It can be as simple as being a part a new chapter for the book itself, especially when you find one with signatures, inscriptions, or other indicators of where it’s been and whose fingers helped mellow the pages and turn down the dogears.

It can also simply be a matter of taking in that unique smell that comes only with a used book of a certain age.

In this era of e-Books, streamed audio books, and other media that can fall under this umbrella, there’s also something comforting about having a physical book in your hands that you can read and enjoy at your leisure – a definite selling point for this slower-but-deliberate reader – without having it snatched away at the whim of the publisher or other stakeholders.

This is a reality so many “collectors” of digital films, video games, and more are now living with as movies and shows get removed from streaming services and games get deleted or fall victim to expired licenses, thus putting the whole question of “ownership” into, well, question.

Another bonus of buying used books is supporting largely independent retailers and small businesses, while

keeping “previously enjoyed” volumes out of the landfill when readers are done with them – contributing to the circular economy in ways that are not always considered.

“When you choose between new and used books, you’re making a significant decision about your carbon footprint,” agrees Wolfman Home Repair. “Buying a new book typically results in about 7.5 kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions and consumes two kilowatt hours of fossil fuels, whereas opting for a used book reduces those emissions to less than one fifth of that amount. This stark difference highlights the carbon-saving power of book reuse, as it prevents books from ending up in landfills where they generate double the global warming emissions during decomposition.

“Buying used books supports bookstore sustainability and promotes a culture of reuse.... Since used books do not require new resources or manufacturing processes, they offer a nearly carbon-neutral option for readers. This approach to sustainable reading not only helps the environment but also fosters a sense of community through book exchanges and events at community-centred bookstores. By opting for pre-loved books, you contribute to a more eco-friendly lifestyle and help minimize the overall carbon footprint associated with reading.”

Our local libraries are a great place to check out the latest bestseller or the most up-to-date reference book on just about any topic under the sun, not to mention take advantage of the myriad programs and services they offer that make them true community hubs for all.

They are also, on the flipside, a great starting point in finding used books – volumes either donated for sale by patrons or discarded from the collection after not being checked out in a while – and the money raised in these sales, in turn, helps them buy new books to take their place.

Truth be told, however, it always pains me to see books “discarded” from library collections and strewn to the proverbial wind. Obviously libraries want to keep the newest and most up-to-date books on their shelves – space is, after all, at a premium – but once they’re out of the collection, there’s no turning back. It does, yes, lead to the thrill of the hunt, but a hunt that can feel unnecessary, especially when the hunt yields a former library book!

I’m so thankful that used book stores help give these volumes a new lease on life and firmly believe every community should have at least one.

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: admin@lpcmedia.ca

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada

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

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Time Travellers Diary

By **Jeremy Hood**
Museum Collections Technician
Aurora Museum & Archives

By-the-By-Laws

“Get that nag off the sidewalk!”

Startled, I poked my head from the alley. It was summer, 1886. An upset woman was yelling down the street at a man in a wide-brimmed hat, who was leading a slow, old mare just past the shop windows on Yonge. She had evidently found a surprise left by the animal as it passed by.

“There’s a law on the books for this! Who are you?”

The man kept his head down and picked up speed, his horse following suit, and they turned off down Mosley before the woman could catch up.

She yelled out, “Dash it! I wanted my half of the fine they’d levy against that.. that ninnyhammer!”

I approached; she was scraping her shoe off on a hitching post.

“See, stranger, I guess you’re not from around here, but I thought all the folk in this Village could abide by the by-law to keep their animals off the walk!”

She gestured firmly to the sidewalk and then to the muddy road.

“I have heard, and you shall too, now, that the most recent Municipal Act allows the Village of Aurora to restrict all kinds of behaviour. Tainted meat? Seized! Ringing of bells? Silenced! Telegraph poles? Not in my garden!”

A small group had gathered around us, so I slipped into the alleyway and then into my waiting time machine.

I found that By-Law number 243 (for the Village of Aurora, the numbers reset in 1888) indeed instituted a fine of \$1 to \$20 (from around \$35 up to \$800 today) for the simple act of “riding, driving, or leading horses or cattle on any of the sidewalks in the village.”

It also was clear that an informant would be eligible to receive half the fine amount – a substantial payout! No wonder the woman was so ardent to identify the man. As for the other powers she listed, it seemed that yes, the Village could levy fines or regulate those things, but no By-Laws on the books indicated they never became a local issue. But this animal By-Law had stuck for some reason.

I set the dials and jumped ahead a decade.

I materialized by the old Armoury and stepped out into Town Park to hear the gentle clanging of cowbells. Some unscrupulous scoundrel was using the park as a pasture! My immediate ire was matched when I heard echoing from a Wells Street porch, an older man was furiously dictating and scrawling down an angry letter, while looking up angrily at the herd in the park.

I walked close enough to hear “frequent destruction of our sidewalks” and saw he was writing about that very By-Law!

I didn’t interrupt; he went on, “I am not aware that there has been a single prosecution...so that law had better be scored from our statute book! Bah bah bah.. signed, FAIR PLAY.”

I snuck away, watching my step as I passed the herd in the park. I didn’t have the heart to tell Mr. Play that hooves on mud were going to stay part of his everyday for at least another 20 years.



Looking a little more like a drywall tool than something you'd find in your kitchen drawer, this Watson Products vegetable peeler (994.414) is a rather unusual example of a mid-century solution to an ancient culinary task. This peeler's design is based on a 1907 patent, but production must have continued through the middle of the century as a budget option against the more advanced “floating blade” style popularized by several Swiss manufacturers. The Watson brand and this style of peeler are almost completely unknown in the historical record, and the condition of our example here might be an indicator that it was made by a very small manufacturer, and even that this wasn't the most effective tool for the job! Now to clean out the sink!



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

Summer So Far

in northwest Aurora. Trees and power lines were knocked down, properties were damaged, there was an extended power outage, roads were blocked, and flooding occurred. Of course, the cleanup was extensive. Kudos to the Town staff, utility folks, contractors and residents who got things back to normal so quickly.

Heiniu

The unfortunate death of a dog while being restrained by Aurora animal control staff has been an emotional one. An investigation is underway, but questions about how this occurred remain unanswered to many people’s satisfaction and the situation has led to several peaceful protests.

The election

Still about six weeks from the nomination period closing, and without a ballot being cast, we already know that there will be more new faces than old ones around the Council table this fall. With incumbents not seeking reelection as Councillors in wards 1, 2, 3 and 5, change is coming. That doesn’t even include any upsets that may occur in the races for Wards 4 and 6 and the Mayor’s chair.

Town infrastructure

For years now when the budget has been finalized by Council, we’ve been assured

that setting aside an additional 1% in taxes every year dedicated to infrastructure upkeep will ensure that all our Town assets stay in good repair for years to come. Sadly, a report has come out stating that the gap between funding and the costs of maintaining assets is in fact growing rapidly and the Town is already seeing reduced service levels and delays on critical infrastructure projects. Unless the money set aside is doubled, the situation will continue to worsen.

Figuring this out will no doubt result in some interesting discussions prior to both the upcoming election, and next year’s budget.

This is not an extensive list, and as more issues will inevitably pop up over the next few months it promises to be an interesting summer in Town on a number of fronts.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From page 4

“Protecting Lake Simcoe requires scientific expertise, policy insight, governance experience and strong community relationships,” said Scott. “The calibre of individuals willing to lend their time and talent to this organization speaks to both the importance of this work and the momentum Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition has built. This Board brings together leaders from across sectors who share a commitment to practical, evidence-based solutions for the watershed, and I am excited to work alongside them in the years ahead.”

Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

OPINION

BY DAVID SUZUKI

We could be happier, healthier and more economically secure — if we were to act on the knowledge that many of our problems are related. For example, addressing the climate crisis will also help resolve issues around pollution, health and economic disparity.

But we’re not only up against a “polycrisis,” we’re also facing varying degrees of denial. At its most blatant, the United States president has labelled the clear and overwhelming scientific and observable evidence for human-caused climate disruption as a “hoax” and is promoting polluting, climate-altering fossil fuels over cleaner, more efficient renewable energy.

Denial in Canada may not be as blatant, but it’s still dangerous. Taking a page from former Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s playbook, Prime Minister Mark Carney is arguing that climate policies are “too expensive for Canadians.” His government is scrapping effective measures such as carbon pricing and oil and gas industry pollution caps and is going all in on increased fossil fuel development, including liquefied natural gas projects and bitumen pipelines.

Carney even boasted that Canada is

As the world burns, the powerful deny and delay

producing more oil than ever, overtaken only by the U.S. and Russia.

It’s absurd. Record high temperatures and humidity are killing hundreds of thousands of people a year worldwide and sending many more to hospitals. Recent heat and storms in Europe have killed thousands. Schools have been closed, productivity hindered, events cancelled and power grids strained. Some European countries have shut down nuclear power plants because river water has warmed too much to cool them.

In India, where soaring temperatures and humidity are killing tens of thousands, entire villages have been abandoned as droughts cause crop failures.

Insanely, many in the corporate class are even denying or downplaying the severity and reality of heat waves!

We’ve seen increasingly intense wildfires destroying entire towns, droughts drying up crops, water shortages causing disease and death, sea level rise threatening major cities. Ocean surface temperatures are higher than ever, bringing “consequences for weather patterns, global climate and marine ecosystems,” the Copernicus Climate Change Service says.

But short-term profit for the sake of constantly growing the economy and gross domestic product outweighs concerns

about the enormous costs of accelerating climate change. It’s suicidal.

Even though many effective solutions are being employed throughout the world — creating good jobs, making energy systems more efficient and reducing pollution and related health care costs — many governments, including Canada’s, are focusing on unproven measures that allow the fossil fuel industry to keep on profiting at our expense.

Some, such as carbon capture and storage, are based on misleading industry-sponsored research. A ProPublica investigation reveals that a widely cited 2004 Princeton University study promoting carbon capture and “natural” gas (which is mostly the potent greenhouse gas methane) as climate solutions “was significantly shaped by the British oil giant BP — one of the single global entities most responsible for causing climate change.”

“In 1997, BP abandoned climate change denial,” ProPublica reports. “Instead, the company quietly launched a far-reaching effort to intertwine oil company interests and climate science, in part by using its vast resources to shape the research that major universities undertook.”

Canadian taxpayers are sinking millions into carbon capture projects, subsidizing

Continued on page 19

Aurora looks to restore tree canopy after significant storm damage

From page 1

weather event, above and beyond the hundreds of trees damaged and uprooted on private properties.

Municipal workers continued the cleanup into this week, and the balance of the summer will be spent working on removing damaged or destroyed residential trees, consultation with residents on replacement tree species, and getting parks and trails back to normal service levels, according to a storm update issued by the Town on Friday.

“In just a matter of minutes, hundreds of mature trees that have stood in our community for decades were damaged or lost,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement on July 10. “The loss is heartbreaking and will take years to fully recuperate. However, rest assured, we will restore our tree canopy, rebuild our green spaces, and continue investing in the natural beauty that makes Aurora such a special place to call home.

“Since the storm, our crews have been working tirelessly to make our streets, neighbourhoods, parks, and

trails safe again. To date, more than 250 Town-owned trees have sustained significant storm damage, making this one of the largest tree recovery efforts Aurora has ever faced.”

In the statement, Mayor Mrakas shared a list of factors that “residents need to know.”

- If a municipally-owned tree came down on a private property, it is the responsibility of the Town of Aurora. “If it has been partially/fully cut down, but stumps or tree branches remain on site, don’t worry, Town crews will return with specialized chippers to remove the remaining wood and debris.”
- The Town is assessing all damaged trees before removal and those that cannot be saved will be marked with an “R.”

Continue to avoid using parks and trails until they are deemed safe. “Due to the scale of the damage, this work is expected to continue for several weeks,” said the Mayor.



Municipal workers are seen addressing on-street damage following this month's storm in Aurora's northwest. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

“While we are focused on today’s cleanup, we’re already planning for tomorrow’s recovery,” he said. “If a Town-owned street tree in front of your home was removed, staff will contact you to discuss replacement tree options. Tree stumps will be removed this fall, with new street trees being planted beginning in Spring 2027. Our parks and trails will

also be replanted as part of a long-term restoration plan, supported by Town staff and community partnerships.

“Aurora has weathered many storms over the years, and this community has always come back stronger. Thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your support as we continue this historic recovery effort.”

Police Service Board appoints Ahmad Salhia as new YRP Deputy Chief

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

York Regional Police Superintendent Ahmad Salhia is the force’s newest Deputy Chief following his appointment by the York Regional Police Services Board, effective Wednesday.

In a statement, the Board said Deputy Chief Designate Salhia comes into the role with nearly 25 years of policing

experience, most recently as the YRP’s Superintendent of Executive Services.

“He has provided strategic leadership overseeing the organization’s Strategic Services, Business Intelligence and Data Analytics, Quality Assurance, and Marketing, Communications and Brand functions, helping to advance innovation, organizational performance and public trust,” said the Board in a statement. “Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Designate Salhia has championed innovation, evidence-based policing and meaningful community engagement. While in command of the Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau, he oversaw complex investigations targeting firearms trafficking, organized crime and drug enforcement. He also played a key role in developing collaborative approaches to addressing substance use, gang prevention and community safety through partnerships with municipal, provincial and community organizations.”

Salhia’s appointment comes quick on the heels of Aurora’s Paulo Da Silva assuming the role of York Regional Police Chief last month following the retirement of Jim MacSween.

Following Salhia’s appointment, the new Chief saluted his new Deputy.

“I am pleased to welcome Deputy

Chief Designate Salhia to our Executive Leadership Team,” said Chief Da Silva. “Throughout his career, he has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, sound judgement, and an unwavering commitment to our members and the communities we serve.

“He is a respected and trusted leader who leads with integrity, builds trusted relationships, and inspires confidence through collaboration, professionalism, and accountability. His extensive investigative and operational experience, strategic perspective, and genuine commitment to service excellence will be invaluable as we continue to meet evolving needs of our growing and diverse communities.

“I have every confidence that he will make a significant contribution to our service as we continue delivering the exceptional policing our communities expect and deserve.”

In addition to his role as Superintendent, the Deputy Chief Designate has previously served as Inspector of the YRP’s #4 District (Vaughan).

“Under his leadership, the district implemented initiatives recognized both provincially and internationally, including strategies to combat auto theft and illegal car rallies,” said the

Board. “He currently serves as Senior Sponsor and Co-Chair of the York Regional Police Interfaith Council. He co-chairs the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police Substance Advisory Committee, where he has helped shape provincial approaches to substance use, diversion and prevention while strengthening partnerships with health, Indigenous and community organizations.”

He also serves as Vice Chair on the Board of the Aurora-based Addiction Services of Central Ontario.

“I am honoured by the opportunity to serve as Deputy Chief of York Regional Police,” said Deputy Chief Designate Salhia. “I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me by the Police Service Board. It is a privilege to support Chief Da Silva and to work alongside the Executive Leadership Team to ensure our members are supported, healthy, and prepared to protect York Region. I look forward to collaborating with our internal associations, our strong community partners, and our residents as we continue to build a safe, inclusive, and thriving community. Together, we will strengthen public trust, support our members, and deliver exceptional policing services.”



York Regional Police Deputy Chief-Designate Ahmad Salhia. **Photo courtesy of York Regional Police**



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BUSINESS & FINANCE



Young entrepreneurs display business prowess through Summer Company initiative

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

For some students, summer vacation is a time of relaxation. For others, it's a chance to get a job and earn some money for the future.

Aurora's Ryker Manherz, however, has used his summer to start his own business, Deck Doctors, using his skills with woodworking and tools to not only spruce up the decks of clients, but their fences and patios as well.

Manherz is one of more than a dozen York Region students who have put their entrepreneurial skills to the test through the 2026 Summer Company Program, an initiative of the York Small Business Enterprise Centre, which provides seed funding, mentorship, and more to help young entrepreneurs get their business ideas off the ground.

Deck Doctors was one of seven such Summer Company businesses showcased at Regional Headquarters last week, ahead of a second showcase this Friday, July 17, at Upper Canada Mall from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., where members of the public are invited to come out and engage with these innovative business leaders

of tomorrow and learn more about their initiatives of today.

"We got a lot of applications this year, which shows that young entrepreneurs are really looking into this as a career option," says Eva Lee, Small Business Consultant, with the York Small Business Enterprise Centre.

Lee says applications from interested students typically fall into one of two categories – traditional, such as window and car washing, deck cleaning, and landscaping, and a more creative stream, which has resulted in businesses as diverse as jewellery engraving and cake decorating.

"This program has been operating for a lot of years now and it is organized by the Ontario Government, which the York Small Business Enterprise Centre is helping to facilitate the program within the Northern Six communities of York Region," says Lee, referring to the communities of Aurora, King, Newmarket, Stouffville, East Gwillimbury and Georgina. "The support we provide includes workshops, and it covers a lot of hands-on and practical topics like marketing, how to use A.I. with your business, how to do your bookkeeping, how to set up your entrepreneurial mindset, and how to manage your risk. It's not like classes where you go to school; it's very practical things that you can use on your business directly."

In addition to last week's showcase at the Regional Office and what's in store for Upper Canada Mall this Friday, participating students also promoted their businesses at last month's Aurora Street Festival, hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. The benefit of these engagement opportunities for new



Ryker Manherz showcased Deck Doctors as part of the 2026 Summer Company program at York Regional Headquarters last week.
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

business owners is not only exposure but real-time lessons on how to engage with the public – and, thereby, potential customers and clients.

"Every time they do a showcase, they further polish their strategy and that helps build their entrepreneurial mindset," says Lee. "On top of that, we also have one-on-one mentorship, which connects students with a specific mentor where we see a good fit, and we also have online Mastermind classes, which is a group where everyone talks about the issues they are facing right now, and then we'll have mentors to talk in smaller groups to address issues as a group."

"They don't just learn from their mentor, they learn how others are solving problems as well."

Grants provided through this initiative can be as much as \$3,000 per successful applicant.

Manherz says the application process involved a bit of paperwork, but was well worth it.

"They give you so many opportunities to grow your business and it is just an amazing program," he says, adding he recently completed a big fence job through Deck Doctors. "The biggest lesson I've learned is that the hardest thing to do is just sales. Me and a couple of my friends go door to door and it's the hardest thing to do [but] I'm planning on growing my business into this summer, the next summer, and maybe the summer after that."

For more information about the Summer Company Program, including how to join a wait list for current opportunities and get ready for the next round of applications, visit yorklink.ca/smallbusiness/summer-company.



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MP appointed Shadow Minister for Treasury Board, Privy Council

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It's turning into an exceptionally busy summer for Newmarket-Aurora MP Sandra Cobena as she takes on a new challenge in the House of Commons,

in addition to preparing to welcome a baby daughter.

Cobena, who was first elected to the House of Commons last year, was appointed by Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre to the Official Opposition's Shadow Cabinet, with the portfolios of Shadow Minister for the Treasury Board and the King's Privy Council, on June 30.

The appointments are decidedly in the wheelhouse for Cobena who came to the House of Commons with a background in banking and has, since her election, put a particular emphasis on affordability.

"It's an incredible, incredible privilege to be able to take on this assignment," Cobena tells The Auroran. "Just looking

at the operations of the Treasury Board, it perfectly aligns with my background because the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat is responsible for the fiscal operations of the government and public service, administrative policy, and such. It is also at a critical time, of course, because our focus has been and continues to be around affordability, responsible government spending, and effective operations of the government. It lines up with [what] I've been fighting for, from the very beginning.

"It's an exciting time for me. But of course, it's a big responsibility too. This summer, I'll have two big, big responsibilities. One, of course, [is to] prepare for this important assignment,

Continued on page 17

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Local history in Focus” – but “unFRAMED” – in new photography exhibition

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

A bouquet of flowers, a bottle of a favourite libation, your signature dessert – there is no shortage of options these days on host gifts – but, more than a century ago, if you really wanted to wow your hosts and show that you were keeping up with the latest tech, the carte de visite was the way to go.

Cartes de visite were hardback photographic portraits people often left as a memento of their visit, or as a calling card for a visit-to-come.

It was one of the first forms of truly popular accessible photography and was embraced the world-over – including Aurora.

A selection of these cartes de visite are now in the spotlight at Aurora Town Square as the Aurora Museum and Archives hosts “Aurora Through the Archives: [un]Framed and In Focus,” part of the Ontario-wide CONTACT Photography Festival.

The Aurora Museum and Archives is a long-time participant in the Festival, and this year they decided to, quite literally, focus on a selection of images that might be small in number, but big on historical impact.

“Cartes de visite is a photography form that was devised in the 1860s, quite early in the history of photography, but didn’t really make it into Canada as a popular format until the 1870s,” says Jeremy Hood of the Aurora Museum &



Aurora Through the Archives: [un]Framed and In Focus is the Aurora Museum & Archives' contribution to this year's CONTACT Photography Festival – featuring local Victorian cartes de visite and a “Chair Hunt” challenge. Take it all in at Aurora Town Square through August 22.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Archives. “Because of the history we have with newspapers and other resources, we have been able to lock down when some of these photographers were performing this kind of photography and producing this form factor, which is about a two-and-

a-half inch by four-inch card on thickened cardstock, and sometimes stamped with the photographer’s name – and sometimes, if you’re lucky, hand-inscribed with the subject’s name later on.”

It’s on this front the Aurora Museum & Archives wasn’t so lucky as few sitters were so identified, but the information they were able to track down on the photographers themselves tell stories all their own.

Bogart & Robinson Photography was one such studio. Although Hood says they were only in business the better part of a year, they immortalized a clear “snapshot” in time for the Aurora community.

“Even just for the couple of years that these photographers were in business, there’s quite a large variety of stamps that appear on the front and the back of these cards,” says Hood. “Trying to track down the process by which these cards were produced ahead of their use by the photographer, or whether the photographer was perhaps printing them themselves in-house, even to the point of there being printing errors on them, has become kind of a little bit of an obsession.

“We also have something [in the exhibition] we’re calling ‘the Chair Hunt’ because we’ve discovered this one particular carved upholstered chair which appears in a really large number of these photographs – and not just Bogart & Robinson, but also some photographers outside of Aurora in Toronto, Brantford, Galt, and Newmarket. We’ve developed a little bit of an interest in whether or not this chair is part of a set, unique, or something that a number of photographers purchased out of a catalogue. We’ve encouraged viewers here to try and find the number of instances of this particular chair – it may sound a bit silly, but it’s really striking to see this chair in so many different photos, with so many different

sitters, in so many fantastic Victorian outfits. If anybody has anything that we don’t know, we are completely happy with saying, we don’t know, and please let us know. We’re always on the quest for knowledge, and we always start from our position of unknowing and move to the position of knowing, if we can. We’re completely happy to be educated on any topic that somebody has information on for us.”

While the Museum team’s collective eyes have been caught by the chair, they’ve also been dazzled by the Victorian fashions depicted on the cards, and what they’ve been able to piece together about some of the sitters.

“One [sitter] was Caleb Swayze. In looking him up, we discovered that he actually, later on, became an inventor,” says Hood. “He invented a thread-locking substance, which is not unlike the modern Loctite, but it had egg whites as its binder. He was granted a US patent in 1893 for this Loctite substance. It’s interesting to see that these people who were photographers, the amount of time that they would spend with chemicals, and with some of these more involved processes in the 1870s, in the 1880s especially, brought them into this interesting milieu, where they would have to have quite a great base of knowledge, and probably be rather curious and capable people. Caleb Swayze certainly exemplifies that.”

Aurora Through the Archives: [un] Framed and In Focus will be on display throughout Aurora Town Square until August 22. For more about the CONTACT Photography Festival and Aurora’s participation in it, visit contactphoto.com/festival/2026/open-call/aurora-through-the-archives-unframed-and-in-focus.

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WEEK OF JULY 16, 2026

U15 Aurora Diggers qualify for Tier 1 Canadian Fast Pitch championships in New Brunswick



Contributed photo

BY JIM STEWART

U15 Aurora Diggers Head Coach Pat Donevan scanned his team’s dynamic warmup in left field at Town Park on Thursday night and offered a succinct summation of their magical season: “It’s been fun.”

Indeed, the Diggers were having fun on the diamond, and they’ve been winning very big ball games in late-June and early-July.

Two recent wins in Windsor and Aurora qualified them for the U15 Women’s Canadian Fast Pitch Championships in Fredericton, New Brunswick from July 28 to August 2.

In his seventh season coaching the Diggers, Coach Donevan described the qualities of his national championship-calibre club: “They’re super hard-working—you can see they’re here early for practice. The way they’ve gelled is great to see—nobody sulks if they’re not starting and they’re at the fence cheering on their teammates during the games.

There’s a cohesive feeling which is very satisfying. It’s fun to watch them be them.”

One of the reasons for the team’s cohesiveness is that their veteran dugout boss has moved up divisional age groups with the current squad and has provided continuity and connection: “We’ve retained our core. Ten players have been with us for four years. [Catcher] Avery [Wilson] joined us last season as an important addition to the team. You can see her commitment—showing up an hour early for practice and getting in extra work with her dad.”

The combination of cohesion and talent contributed mightily to Diggers’ recent victories in Windsor and Aurora.

“We won our first game on our side of the draw versus London. It was a big win that qualified us for the Nationals. We were rained out in our next game and had to reschedule. We ended up hosting Halton in front of a big crowd at Town Park. Scot

Lewis—our ace—pitched a one-hitter. She lost her perfect game on a bloop single, but we stayed in control and won 8-0. She’s also had some big hits for us. In our two qualifying games in Windsor, Scot hit three homers: two against Stratford and one against London. They didn’t pitch to her after that. The win over Halton gave us the #1 seed in New Brunswick.”

Coach Donevan pointed to timely performances by his ballclub in Quebec, prior to the National playdowns, as significant highlights: “In the Quebec tournament semifinals, we went into the 7th tied 0-0 versus the top team from New Brunswick. Scot was pitching a shutout, but our D made great plays behind her when New Brunswick had two on and nobody out and we got out of it. Zoe Clark made a big catch in right field and made a great throw to third to hold the runner from advancing. Zoe ended up scoring the winning run at the bottom of the seventh and we won 1-0. I looked out at them celebrating and thought ‘These girls know what they’re doing.’ The semi-final walkoff created momentum into the Finals. We beat a club from the US—the Massachusetts Warriors—7-0.”

After Coach Donevan delineated his team’s timely victories in Quebec, he described the perfect little diamond in the heart of Aurora where the Diggers play home games: “It’s such a cool set up here. I wished we played more games here. We practiced here the other night when the bands were playing concerts in the Park. The coaches and the girls were singing to The Spoons. There’s

great energy here around the neighbourhood. People walk by the diamond and drop in to watch the game. You don’t get that experience at the parks on edges of towns where there’s no walk up crowd or houses surrounding the park—they’re just too far out of the way.”

As much as Coach Donevan praised his home diamond, playing at Town Park has been a comparative rarity and the U15 Diggers have had to be road warriors to play Tier 1 games in 2026.

There has been a price to pay for such success and it will continue as the team faces enormous travel costs to compete at the Nationals. The veteran Diggers coach explained the club’s solution: “We’re fundraising to help defray the big costs incurred by families to accommodate our players for six to seven nights. New Brunswick hotels this time of year are expensive. Our fundraising is going well so far through GoFundMe. The response from the community has been incredible and we appreciate it. So far, we’ve raised almost \$11,000 of our \$13,000 target. We’ll have two call-ups to augment our roster so we need to help those two families cover their travel costs, too—and we have to supply them with a Diggers uniform for the Nationals.”

If you’d like to support this superb softball team in their quest for a national championship, go to www.gofundme.com/f/help-send-the-aurora-diggers-u15-softball-team-to-nationals and make a donation to help the U15 Aurora Diggers come home with a Canadian title.

U15 Diggers’ Dazzling Data: Big Numbers by Aurora’s Diamond Divas

BY JIM STEWART

Scoty Lewis has been a one-woman wrecking crew as a batter and pitcher for the “local nine” in 2026.

She’s hitting .509, but has also accrued a miniscule 1.09 ERA and 0.78 WHIP, and amassed 327 K’s as the Diggers’ ace.

Other Diggers putting up team-leading offensive numbers are Zoe Clark, whose OBP is an impressive .569, and Catherine Stynes has provided speed and acumen on the basepaths with 15 steals.

Hard-hitting Isla Herce is making line drive contact during 24.66% of her at-bats. Perhaps Vlad Guerrero could review Herce’s approaches to shake out of his season-long power

outage. Methodical Diggers’ hitter London Connor knows how to work pitch counts. She induces opposing hurlers to throw 6+ pitches 22.77% of the time she’s in the batter’s box.

Defensive metrics reveal that the Diggers are terrific on both sides of the softball.

Not only is Catcher Avery Wilson a potent hitter, valuable receiver, and on-field general, but she’s also thrown out four base-stealers and picked off four baserunners.

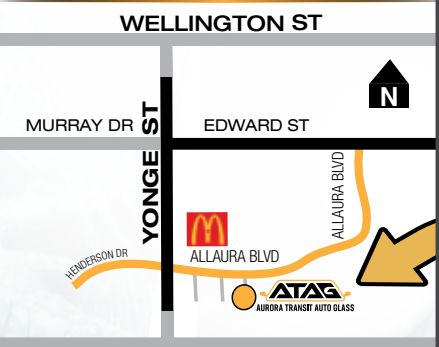
These kinds of numbers tell the story about a balanced ball club. It’s evident that Pat Donevan’s U15 Diggers are locked and loaded for the Canadian Championships starting July 28 and living up to their motto: “One team. One dream. Dig deep.”



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CHATS golf tourney raises more than \$200,000 to support respite programs for clients, caregivers

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It can sometimes be difficult to fully understand the realities of being a caregiver, unless you’ve walked the road yourself.

It’s a road that CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors) walks every day with their clients’, their caregivers, and families – and local golfers came together to help make that road a little smoother at the second-annual CHATS’ Swing for Seniors Tournament.

Held at Lebovic Golf Club in Aurora’s southeast, the event raised more than \$200,000 for CHATS’ CIBPA Place operations, providing essential respite care and support for seniors living with dementia and their caregivers.

“The incredible support we received at this year’s Swing for Seniors Golf Tournament demonstrates the strength and compassion of our community,” said Christina Bisanz, CEO of CHATS. “Reaching our \$200,000 goal is an extraordinary accomplishment that simply would not have been possible without our sponsors, golfers, donors, volunteers and community partners.”

Special thanks went out to Joanne Barnett and The Kerbel Group, who helped bring in the final dollars to help CHATS reach their ultimate goal.

“CIBPA Place is York Region’s first not-for-profit overnight respite care home for people with dementia,” Bisanz tells The Auroran. “It’s a short stay program for anything from two to 14 nights, and it is really designed to provide family members, caregivers, with an opportunity to have a loved one stay as a guest at CIBPA Place, while the family maybe takes some time for themselves, or goes away, and



Photo courtesy of CHATS

knows their loved one is going to be safe and engaged in a very, very home-like environment.”

CIBPA Place is operated in partnership with the not-for-profit Care As One, which owns the property and the heritage home at the heart of it all.

“Over the last few years, we have been doing an amazing capital-raise because the house was actually built in 1860 and the home was completely gutted and brought up to modern standards,” says Bisanz. “It has five bedrooms, a lovely kitchen, it will have a beautiful garden. All of the capital costs were covered, but what is not covered is the operating costs.

“CHATS’ role going forward is to operate the home. Unfortunately, at this time, we haven’t received any government funding for the operation, so that leaves it to us in the short term to raise funding for the operation costs – that’s things like staffing of our Personal Support Workers (PSWs) and that sort of thing in the house.

“The main objective is to provide an opportunity for respite for families who are caring for their loved ones who have dementia, are still living at home and are able to thrive at home, but their caregivers do, from time to time, need that relief so [as to not get] overwhelmed and feel they have some time to themselves because they devote so much time caring for their loved ones with dementia.”

Few organizations offer this type of short-term overnight respite care, she adds, making the need not just at the local level, but much more broadly, “tremendous.”

“There are a couple of others, but this is the first not-for-profit [model]. Our program accepts guests from across the Region and [services are] provided in a very cost-effective way,” she says. “The fee for our guests is \$100 a night and that includes their board and meals, and the meals are cooked fresh in the kitchen, [they can help] prepare food, if they’re interested in doing so, and keep them active while

they are staying at the house.”

The cause was close to the hearts of those who took part in last week’s tourney, and their generosity was, in turn, recognized by CHATS.

As part of the post-tournament celebration, the organization presented its 2026 Heart at Home award to The Kerbel Group, recognizing their efforts to improve the lives of older adults.

“At Appetito Canada, we always circle the calendar for CHATS events to support our Meals on Wheels partner of over 20 years and connect with their staff and community members,” said Jeff Gruchy, Commercial Manager, Appetito Canada, in a statement. “The Swing for Seniors event was a great day of golf and food and shined a light on the great work CHATS does every day. I will definitely be back at Lebovic to support again in September!”

For more on CHATS and the services they provide in York Region, South Simcoe, and beyond, visit www.chats.on.ca.

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Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Board of Governors expels inaugural inductee Frank Stronach

BY JIM STEWART
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Board of Governors revoked Frank Stronach’s Induction and cut ties with the convicted billionaire in a vote taken on Thursday.

Stronach was enshrined in the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame in 2013—a member of the organization’s inaugural group of eight inductees. The community sports advocate was inducted as a builder and contributor along with Alpine Skier Brian Stemmler, Olympic Equestrian Jim Elder, NCAA and Olympic Basketball star Carolin “Cal” Bouchard, and Canadian Tennis legend Robert Bedard. Three other inaugural inductees – Softball Coach Norm Stunden, Builder/Contributor Peter Miller, and four-time Stanley Cup-winning goaltender Harry “Hap” Holmes – were enshrined posthumously.

According to ASHOF’s Media Release, Stronach had been offered the opportunity “to voluntarily resign both his membership in the Corporation and his status as an Honoured Member” by midnight on July 8.

When the Board received no response from Stronach after issuing the request on July 3, ASHOF decision-makers enacted his expulsion in keeping with its community standards of behavior and a binding agreement with the Town of Aurora which contains a morality clause.

Consequently, the Board of Governors voted to “terminate his lifetime voting membership in the Corporation and revoke his status as an Honoured Member of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.”

ASHoF President and Chair Javed Khan and the Board were faced with a precedent-setting scenario in that no Inductee has been expelled in the organization’s 13-year history.

“It was quite a difficult decision. We went through this kind of test for the first time. We followed our by-laws, procedures, and processes to protect the integrity of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.”

When asked if the members of the Board felt conflicted between Stronach as a generous community builder and Stronach’s recent conviction, Khan said, “There were no differing opinions. It was very clear what we had to do and we followed processes as any organization

would. We’re in a democracy and everyone deserves a trial to determine innocence or guilt. After the verdict was delivered in court, we followed our democratic processes, too.”

The long-time President and Chair delineated the step-by-step process by which Stronach’s enshrinement was erased from the various manifestations of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame: “We also changed our contact point from SARC (Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex) to ARC in cooperation with the Town of Aurora.”

In ASHOF’s Media Release on Friday, the reason for Stronach’s expulsion was delivered: “Following the criminal convictions of Mr. Frank Stronach under the Criminal Code of Canada, the Board of Governors of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame has determined that these convictions are fundamentally inconsistent with the values, principles, and standards our organization exists to represent. . . .Our actions today are not intended to erase history. They are intended to protect the future of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame and ensure that the values we celebrate remain consistent with the values our community expects us to uphold. This decision was reached only after extensive governance review, consultation with legal counsel, and thoughtful deliberation with our Board of Governors.”

ASHoF’s precedent-setting decision to expel Stronach was reinforced by its partnership with the Town.

“Equally important, the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame is a party to a Funding Agreement with the Town of Aurora that contains a Morality Clause. That agreement requires our organization to conduct itself in a manner that protects and does not negatively affect the reputation of the Town of Aurora. . . .We recognize that some members of our community wished these actions could have occurred more quickly, and we understand and respect those perspectives. However, our responsibility as stewards of this institution is to ensure every decision is made responsibly, fairly, and in accordance with our governing documents, our legal obligations, and the principles upon which this organization was founded. . . .Together, we share a commitment to fostering a community built upon dignity, respect, accountability, and safety for all.”



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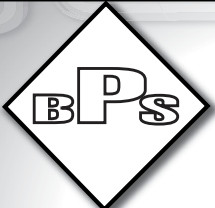
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A CELEBRATION OF 40 YEARS – The local business community recently came together to celebrate the milestone 40th anniversary of Allegra Printing. Owner Frank Patriarca, third from left, welcomed everyone to the celebration where cake, ice cream and more goodies sweetened the deal. Allegra Aurora & Newmarket is located at 305 Industrial Parkway South, Unit 21.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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J.E.H. MacDonald (1873–1932), *Sunflower Study, Tangled Garden Sketch* (detail), c. 1915, oil on paperboard, 25.4 x 20.2 cm, Gift of the Founders, Robert and Signe McMichael; Stephen Waddell (b. 1968), *Sunflowers* (detail), 2018, printed 2021, archival pigment print, 149.7 x 233.4 cm. All works McMichael Canadian Art Collection.

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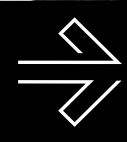
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Beresfords kick off Concerts in the Park season

Aurora's The Beresfords, a popular brother-and-sister duo, wowed hundreds at Town Park on Wednesday, July 8, as they kicked off the Town's Concerts in the Park Summer Series with their tributes to Sabrina Carpenter, Chappell Roan, and more. (Clockwise from Top Left) The Beresfords captivated the crowds from the bandshell. North Spectrum Baton provided a fiery show at intermission. Friends and family made an evening out of it, filling the Park in front of the band shell, as well as taking in the music from the patio of Slabtown Armoury. Coming up on Wednesday, July 22: History – A Tribute to Michael Jackson.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



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*Savy's Walk creates strong foundation
for young pilot's legacy*

From page 1

The funds raised through Savy's 5k Memorial Walk, coupled with money brought in during a GoFundMe campaign to raise the initial money to establish the grant, has not only secured the grant program for an estimated 10 years into the future, it has also allowed them to consider starting a foundation of their own in their daughter's name to ensure Savy's legacy goes even further.

“I think anything we do in her honour would be great, I think she’d be very happy,” says sister Breanna, noting her late sibling had a particular affinity for helping empower Black women.

Savy's interest in and passion for flying is something that came honestly to her.

Her father, Tim, a helicopter pilot



Mayor Tom Mrakas joined the Royes family at the start of Savy's Walk at Lambert Willson Park.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

himself, recalls taking his kids up for flights – and notes that Savy was the one child that especially took to it, getting a feel for the skies through Microsoft Flight Simulator before deciding to soar to the next level.

“On Father’s Day 2023 she announced to us that she wasn’t going to university; I figured she wanted a year off, but she said, no, she wanted to fly. That was a bit of a surprise to us,” says Tim. “At no point did I discourage her, but at no point did I push her into it. I let her know that it might seem glamorous, but it’s hard work.”

"I'm coming to the end of my career and she would be taking over. I said to her that I was handing the baton over to her because she would have been the fifth member of our family – cousins, my

elder brother – the fifth member would have been a commercial pilot, and the only woman – we’re very proud of her for that.”

Savy also took pride in funding her flight journey herself.

“She saved over \$20,000 working at The Keg and Sunset Grill because she wanted to pay for her initial licence,” says Loraine. “I think she wanted to do it just because if it didn’t work out... she didn’t want to waste her money.”

Adds Tim: “She studied very hard, she worked very hard, too. She had just about accomplished her private pilot’s license and she paid for all that part of it and was going to pay for the remainder of her training. She was exceptional that by 17 hours [training] she was allowed to solo flight. We brought back books that

she made notes in and I'm just amazed at the notes she had and what she had to cover. She worked very hard in a field that was relatively new to her."

The family's pride in Savy's accomplishments and the legacy they have been able to establish in her name is clear, and this pride is reflected in the community.

When she lost her life last year's tragic accident, more than 800 people attended her funeral, a true cross-section of the many people she touched during her short life.

The turnout at the July 5 walk is another testament to the impact she had during her time on this earth.

The second-annual Walk is set for July 11, 2027 – again, at Lambert Willson Park.

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The launch of the Seed Library has been a summer success for the Aurora Public Library. Photo by Lucy Frechette

Library is summer destination for kids and teens

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Local students and their families showed off their green thumbs last week as the Aurora Public Library hosted a summer launch for its new Seed Library.

Held on Wednesday, July 8, it was a chance for people to bring in their plants, swap them for others, borrow seeds to start a new seedling of their own, and bring some seeds into the collection to help pay it forward.

If young gardeners were able to show off what makes their garden grow, there are plenty more opportunities for personal growth – and memorable fun – as the Aurora Public Library becomes a summer destination for youth once again.

APL CEO Jodi Marr describes the Library as a “hip hub for teens and children now that school is out – and for all ages.” The fact that it’s air conditioned in what’s turned out to be a summer of heatwaves only sweetens the deal.

Summer is always a busy time at APL and the Library has a full range of activities and resources for people of all ages, including their Friendly Chess Tournament drop-in every Monday, traditional reading clubs, and even the opportunity to learn from the professionals how to make shawarma.

“Our main thing for summer for children is that it always be fun,” says Polly Ross-Tyrrell, Manager of Customer Opportunity for the Aurora Public Library. “Our menu of programs is fairly diverse. We have art, we have science, we have Maker activities, very hands-on activities – and, of course, we have book-focused activities.”

These activities vary from day to day, but some days of the week have specific themes to help guide patrons through all the Library has to offer.

Maker Mondays, for instance, is perennially popular – as are Fantastic Fridays.

“On Maker Mondays, they’ll get to go home with something they made just the way they wanted to,” says Ross-Tyrrell. “We have Fantastic Fridays, which is everything from monsters and dragons to fairy tales, but the most important thing is we want it to be fun for kids. We want to make it fun and enriching for their lives; whether they are coming to learn science or seek a fun explosion, they will learn things. If they are coming to our Reading Adventures, our book-focused program, they will learn some great books to check out on their way out.

“We want to meet children where they are. For teens, we meet them around volunteer hours, mostly. We know that’s

what teens want for the summer, so that’s what we’re here to give them. We have lots of opportunities; they can come help out with the children’s programs, they can come run the summer reading desk, and they can sign up for various other things.”

The Summer Reading desk is sure to be a busy spot through July, August, and into September, as reading programs for youth of all ages help them prepare for the school year ahead.

“We have a Teen Summer Challenge where they can participate in different activities, check out books, and earn tickets towards some really cool prizes, and we also have our TD Summer Reading Club for Children, and our Read and Bead,” says Ross-Tyrrell, noting they have added some “really, really fun prizes” into the mix.

“We launched Read and Bead about seven years ago where children read for an hour and they get a bead to put on their necklace. It’s a concrete way for them to see how many hours they’ve read and the really little kids like it – so do our older kids – and at 10 hours of reading they can pick a prize from our prize pack. At 20 hours of reading, they can pick a free book, and then the top three readers will get bigger prizes. The feedback from where we go into the schools in June is so positive, they’re so excited about it. Aurora really shows up for this program and I think it really makes a difference – we all love it, too. We have a staff version and we Read and Bead along with the kids and have a lot of fun.”

At the end of the day, APL’s summer programs aren’t simply focused on words on a page, but providing a “whole experience” for local youth, including a partnership with Ka-Ba-Ba, a restaurant on Yonge Street, just south of Wellington, where kids can register for a spot to learn how to make their own signature shawarma.

“We try so hard to offer a well-rounded experience for children,” says Ross-Tyrrell. “If they come to everything, I think they really will step forward a little in their development. If they read lots, they won’t get behind when they go back to school. That’s, of course, a huge part of summer reading club – preventing the fear of ‘summer slide,’ where you end up in Grade 3 reading when you were in Grade 4 reading when you left school. We want to help them explore the world. And if even five or 10 of the hundreds of children who come through our doors go, ‘Oh, that’s something I didn’t know,’ ‘That’s really cool,’ or ‘I want to learn more about that,’ that’s a reward for us.”

For a full roster of summer programs at the Aurora Public Library, visit aurorapl.ca.

MP appointed Shadow Minister for Treasury Board, Privy Council

From page 8

as the House will resume in the fall, and of course, my baby girl on the way.”

Being able to “celebrate and enjoy the gift of motherhood” while serving as Member of Parliament really underscores why she stood for election in the first place, she adds.

“When you take when you take a step back, and you look at my role in the work that I am doing, I am, of course, reminded that public service and serving as a Member of Parliament is not separate from family, it is inspired by it, because the work that we do is because we want Canada to be better. We want it to be better, of course, because we want a better future for our children and for the next generation. I view this to go beautifully hand in hand.”

In her new role within the Conservatives’ Shadow Cabinet, Cobena says affordability is the top – and most urgent – priority as families are struggling.

“Having to spend 120 per cent of your income on food and rent alone...leaves you with only one option: you’re going into debt. This is alarming because people live it every, every day,” she says. “In the House of Commons, the Prime Minister did stand up and say affordability is the best it has been in a decade. That was painful to hear, because I, of course, immediately think of the people that I talk to [at the door]. No, affordability is not the best it has been in the last decade. Or when you see the Prime Minister spending a million dollars in catering, that could feed a family for 55 years. So that irresponsible spending, amongst other bigger

Public service and serving as a Member of Parliament is not separate from family, it is inspired by it.

ticket items, of course, that is what we’re going to be fighting against.

“I said in [my first speech in the House] that we as Parliamentarians have to have the humility to recognize that every dollar that is spent was first earned by a hardworking Canadian. As I look to hold the President of the Treasury Board to account, and the government as a whole, in terms of overspending, that is at the heart of it. We cannot continue to rack up debt and the deficit now, close to \$70 billion with no plans to reduce it. It’s not something that we would teach our children, right? When you have big ideas, or you want something, that’s great. But how are you going to pay for it? I feel like that question of how is it going to be paid is often forgotten, because there is this... normalization that, well, it’s just going to go into the country’s credit card, the deficit will grow, and there will be no immediate consequences. But we know that there are consequences. All this debt and irresponsible spending will be inherited by our children.”



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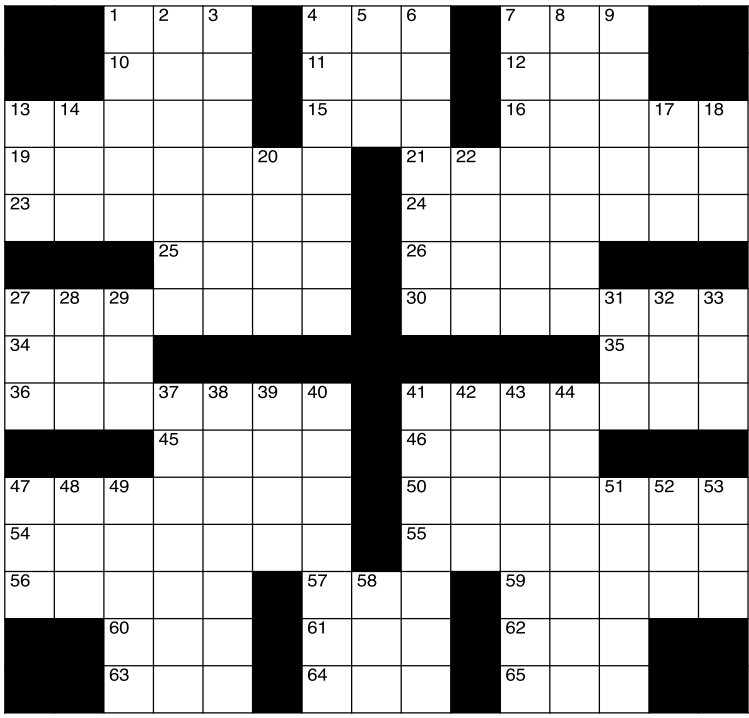
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Tire pressure measurement
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007’s creator
11. Adult male
12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
13. Cloths spread over a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Earl’s jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Withdrew from a union
30. Woman’s cloak
34. Spanish river



CLUES DOWN

1. Indoor plant
2. Marketable
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish hip-hop trio
7. Ageless
8. Course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV channel
14. They ___
17. Cooking material
18. Investment account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Small coin (French)
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Item to be addressed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature of something
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place for ships
44. One who sings holiday songs
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Scottish town
49. The most worthless parts
51. Sticky
52. Put to work
53. Precursor to the EU
58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

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THINGS... you ought to know

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15
Aurora’s Concerts in the Park Summer Series continues at Town Park this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. with Sheer Heart Attack – Tribute to Queen. Celebrating the music of Britain’s Royal Majesty, Sheer Heart Attack is dedicated to recreating the iconic sound and theatrical energy of Queen, that made them the unforgettable rock legends they are today. They will put on a show you’re sure to remember, because they will rock you! Concerts are free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. For your seating comfort, bring portable lawn chairs.

SATURDAY, JULY 18
The Aurora Farmers’ Market & Artisan Fair takes place today at Town Park from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22
Aurora’s Concerts in the Park Summer Series continues at Town Park this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. with History – A Tribute to Michael Jackson. “Relive the magic from ‘Smooth Criminal’ to ‘Man in the Mirror.’ This isn’t just a tribute; it’s a journey through history. Starring the incomparable George St. Kitts, it’s time to moonwalk down memory lane. Hold onto your glove – this Michael Jackson Tribute is a real Thriller!” Concerts are free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. For your seating comfort, bring portable lawn chairs.

Garden Aurora’s speakers Series continues with Leanne Sexton, speaking on the Truths and Myths of Growing Lavender. Join us for free at The Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Pkwy North (lower rear entrance) Doors open at 7 p.m. for second hand table, information exchange, exhibitions, coffee, and snacks. Speaker starts at 8 p.m., followed by our flower show. For more information, please visit www.gardenaurora.ca.

SATURDAY, JULY 25
The Aurora Farmers’ Market & Artisan Fair takes place today at Town Park from 8

a.m. to 1 p.m.

Movie Night at Hillary House: Silver Screammers & The Rug. Spend an evening at Hillary House with a screening of the award-winning documentary Silver Screammers and the short film The Rug - both filmed at our local National Historic Site. Enjoy an exclusive behind-the-scenes guided tour, fresh popcorn, and a live Q&A with director Sean Cisterna. Tickets: \$25/person. AHS Members receive 15% discount. For tickets visit www.aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
Aurora’s Concerts in the Park Summer Series continues at Town Park this evening from 7 – 9 p.m. with Abbamania – A Tribute to Abba. “Abbamania is the world’s number one production of Abba, with amazing vocals, iconic costumes and authentic stage presence. Abbamania matches every song done, note for note, exactly as the original recordings.” Concerts are free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. For your seating comfort, bring portable lawn chairs.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20
Aurora’s Movies in the Park Summer Series kicks off today at dusk at Aurora Town Park. The three-movie series lineup will be announced this month. Further movie dates will be Thursday, August 27, and Thursday, September 3. Movies are free to attend – and there will be free popcorn while supplies last. For your seating comfort, please bring your own portable lawn chairs. Food donations for the Aurora Food Pantry will be gratefully accepted.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
Victorian Flower Arranging: Tussie Mussie Workshop – Join the Aurora Historical Society and Garden Aurora for a Victorian Flower Arranging: Tussie Mussie Workshop at Hillary House National Historic Site. Discover the fascinating language of flowers while creating

your own traditional Victorian bouquet to take home. Perfect for beginners and flower enthusiasts alike. 2 – 4 p.m. Tickets are \$40pp/ AHS Members receive 15% discount. For tickets visit www.aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991.

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

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

OPINION

BY DAVID SUZUKI

From page 5

an obscenely profitable industry. We’re also subsidizing liquefied natural gas developments.

Research by ProPublica and Drilled concludes, however, that carbon capture technology “faces financial and technical hurdles and is unlikely to ever work at the scale needed to avert extreme warming.”

As for LNG, research by the David Suzuki Foundation and others shows that deadly, climate-altering methane emissions are underreported and that, with a predicted glut, major projects could enter an oversupplied market by the time they’re completed.

Meanwhile, the costs of renewable energy and storage technologies are dropping as efficiency improves, making them more cost-effective than fossil fuels.

Why do we stay on this destructive path, which leads to more pollution, extreme weather events, water shortages, health crises and wealth inequality?

It’s about power and profit. Centralized energy systems and the fuels to run them are easy to monopolize and control. Energy from sun and wind is readily available everywhere and advancing energy storage technologies are making it available at any time.

It’s past time to end the enormous power of the destructive fossil fuel industry. The survival of civilization and our species is at stake.

David Suzuki is a scientist, broadcaster, author and co-founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. Written with David Suzuki Foundation Senior Writer and Editor Ian Hanington. Learn more at davidсуzuki.org

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



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When it comes to our kitchen, we start with a simple rule: anytime we can make it ourselves, we do. It's an Italian thing—and frankly, it's just more delicious that way. From our signature house-made mozzarella, pasta, pizza, and focaccia, authenticity is at the heart of what we do. Food done right. Food with soul. Experience true Italian indulgence at SCADDABUSH. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

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