THE ROYAL WOOD SHOP
TRIM & DOOR SUPPLY
QUALITY, SERVICE & SELECTION.
NEW LOCATION: 404 & GREEN LANE
royalwoodshop.com

Beverley Varcoe 416-402-0002
Call for a SELLER or BUYER package
Highly Qualified to Handle Your Real Estate Needs with Over 30 years of Award-Winning Service!
ROYAL LEPAGE
RCR REALTY, BROKERAGE
THE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
SRES Senior's Real Estate Specialist
Life. On your terms.™



BROKER, FRI, CRES, SRES
MVA Market Value Appraiser
RCR REALTY, BROKERAGE
www.beverleyvarcoe.com
bvarcoe@royallepage.ca

BARRONS
CLOSING
IN DECEMBER
SALE ON NOW!
GREAT BARGAINS In-Stock
Best Prices Still on Keurig & Candles
Still Accepting Furniture Orders
905-751-0533 | 14-40 ENGLEHARD DR.
NW. CORNER OF INDUSTRIAL PKWY S.
www.barronshome.net

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

VOL 28 | NO. 5 | 905-727-3300 | TheAuroran.com | FREE | WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12, 2026



LEST WE FORGET – The Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard led veterans, dignitaries, community leaders and more to the Cenotaph on Sunday as the Aurora Legion hosted its annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service at the Peace Park. The first of two services hosted by the Legion, the second of which is set for Wednesday, November 11, at 10.30 a.m., the event included a poignant address from Legion President Stephen Boyne. For more on this year's commemorations, see Pages 12 and 13.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

13th Annual Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Induction Celebration enshrines Bentolila, Rosen, Biondic, Stevenson, and Aurora Church Dodgers

BY JIM STEWART
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Emcee Rod Black was in fine form on Thursday night at the 13th Annual Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Induction Celebration at the opulent Royal Venetian Mansion.

He promised humorously that "We're going to finish this thing before 2:30 AM," amused the audience with a string of abbreviations and acronyms he's worked for over the decades, and delineated the purpose of the evening: "We're highlighting the stars in the city of lights—in Aurora, named after the Northern Lights."

After his celestial allusions, the legendary broadcaster at TSN and CTV and current radio host on AM 640 welcomed hundreds of guests to the lavish proceedings during which four individuals—long-time AMHA President and coach Joe Bentolila; Paralympian Gold Medalist and TSN Broadcaster Paul Rosen; Ultramarathoner George Biondic; and former NHLer Shayne Stevenson—were enshrined in the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

The Hall's main event of the year—sponsored by Canadian Tire Aurora

Continued on page 16



HONOURED MEMBERS

Members of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2026 are pictured at their Induction Ceremony held at the Royal Venetian Mansion on Thursday, November 5. Pictured here, from left to right, are Shayne Stevenson (Athlete), Joe Bentolila (Builder), Paul Rosen, and George Biondic.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

Sell With The #1 Team
on the Toronto Real Estate Board*
SOLD
FARIS TEAM
REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE
Get an Instant Free Home Evaluation

WHO WILL THEY BECOME?
EXPLORE THE BENEFITS OF AN *EDUCATION WITH BALANCE*
CDS The Country Day School
EDUCATION WITH BALANCE
www.cds.ca

AURORA TIRE & WHEEL
We look forward to seeing you!
WINTER PACKAGES Now Available!
NEW LOCATION
SAME GREAT SERVICE!
ST. JOHN'S SDRD
IND PKWY N.
WELLINGTON ST E
IND PKWY S.
NEW LOCATION
South of Wellington 17 Industrial Pkwy South

GRCO GRILL
WE CATER
SERVING AUTHENTIC
Souvlaki & Gyro
223 EARL STEWART DR #12 | AURORA ONTARIO
905-841-5000
11AM–9 PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY | 12–8PM SUNDAY
ORDER ONLINE: WWW.GRCOGRILL.CA

YOUR FULL-SERVICE
GARAGE DOOR
& GARAGE DOOR OPENER
SPECIALISTS
AURORA OVERHEAD DOOR INC.
@AuroraOverheadDoor
905-727-1382 | 40 Industrial Pkwy. S
info@auroraoverheaddoor.ca
AuroraOverheadDoor.ca

GIFTS THAT GIVE Twice!
A gift for someone you love.
A gift that gives back to someone in need.
The Giving Shop of Oakridge's
2026
NOVEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 24
UNDER $50
Gifts & Stocking Stuffers
100% of Proceeds
Support Local
Charitable Organizations
905.726.4063 15195 Yonge Street Aurora
@oakridgefashions | oakridgefashions.com

HYUNDAI

Signature Certified Dealer

HYUNDAI OF AURORA

HYUNDAI OF AURORA

FREE WINTER TIRES

WITH THE PURCHASE OF ALL REMAINING IN-STOCK 2026 MODELS*

Only Until Nov 30th, 2026

NO GIMMICKS. JUST GREAT PRICES!

FAST, TRANSPARENT, FRIENDLY & HONEST SERVICE.

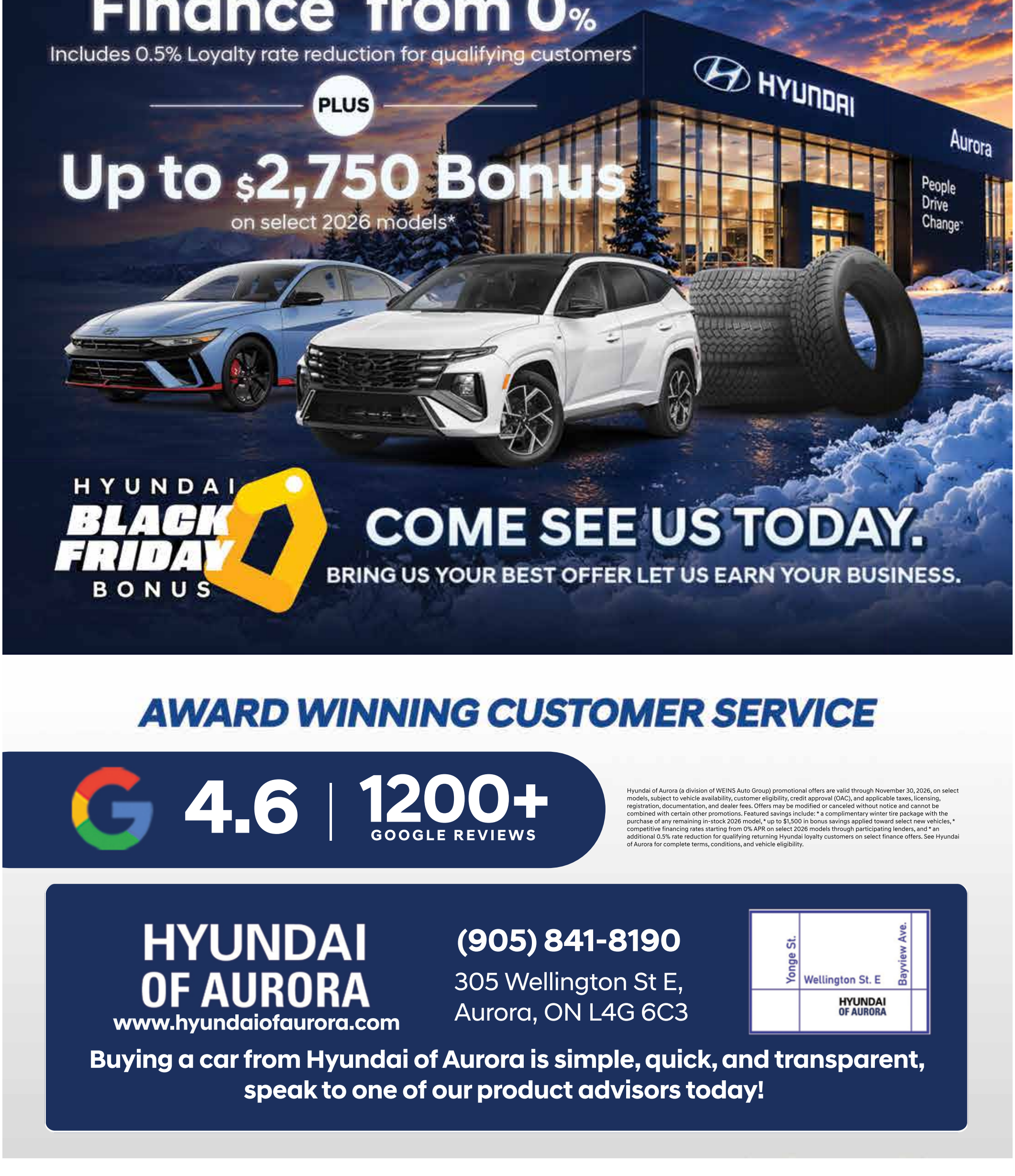
Finance* from 0%

Includes 0.5% Loyalty rate reduction for qualifying customers*

PLUS

Up to $2,750 Bonus

on select 2026 models*



HYUNDAI BLACK FRIDAY BONUS

COME SEE US TODAY.

BRING US YOUR BEST OFFER LET US EARN YOUR BUSINESS.

AWARD WINNING CUSTOMER SERVICE

4.6 | 1200+ GOOGLE REVIEWS

Hyundai of Aurora (a division of WEINS Auto Group) promotional offers are valid through November 30, 2026, on select models, subject to vehicle availability, customer eligibility, credit approval (OAC), and applicable taxes, licensing, registration, documentation, and dealer fees. Offers may be modified or canceled without notice and cannot be combined with certain other promotions. Featured savings include: * a complimentary winter tire package with the purchase of any remaining in-stock 2026 model, * up to $1,500 in bonus savings applied toward select new vehicles, * competitive financing rates starting from 0% APR on select 2026 models through participating lenders, and * an additional 0.5% rate reduction for qualifying returning Hyundai loyalty customers on select finance offers. See Hyundai of Aurora for complete terms, conditions, and vehicle eligibility.

HYUNDAI OF AURORA

www.hyundaiofaurora.com

(905) 841-8190

305 Wellington St E,
Aurora, ON L4G 6C3

Buying a car from Hyundai of Aurora is simple, quick, and transparent, speak to one of our product advisors today!

Community comes together to dedicate new Reflection Space



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP) MP Costas Menegakis, Mayor Tom Mrakas and Councillors-elect, and Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley joined local residents for a group photo at the dedication of Aurora's Community Reflection Space on Monday afternoon. Wheatley helped dedicate the space. Community members filled the forecourt of Town Hall for the ceremony. **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora residents came together on Monday afternoon to dedicate the Town's new Community Reflection Space.

The Community Reflection Space, which is located in the south forecourt of Town Hall, is designed as a place for residents to reflect and grieve together in times of tragedy and challenge, as well as for individual contemplation whenever it is needed.

The project was first proposed by Aurora's Indigenous Relations Committee in 2023 as a place for Truth and Reconciliation, but the vision was later expanded to be a dedicated space "for reflection and collective grief following tragic events."

"The space features two interconnected areas, the River Plaza and the Sky Ribbon Forest, designed to support peaceful gathering, contemplation, and community connection," says the Town. "In the centre, there is a circular gathering space with raised podium for seating or ceremonies, serving as the symbolic heart of the site. The Sky Ribbon, a shallow reflective water feature, mirrors the sky at ground level and draws on the cross-cultural significance of water as a symbol of reflection, continuity, and spiritual connection.

"The space also includes a Wind Phone, a private place where individuals can speak to and remember loved ones who have passed away, made possible through a partnership with Oasis Bereavement Services and the Aurora Seniors' Centre. Enhanced accessible pathways and thoughtful site integration further connect the Reflection Space with nearby amenities, including the Arboretum and Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park."

Monday's dedication was attended by Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Councillors-elect Lauren Hanna and Jessie Fraser, as well as Traditional Anishinaabe Grandmother Kim Wheatley.

In his remarks, Mayor Mrakas said the Reflection Space was the result of a "collective effort to create a true community space where people can come to reflect, meditate, or grieve, whether as a community following tragic events, or as individuals seeking a place for quiet contemplation."

"We live in a world where we're constantly moving from one thing to the next, and we don't always give ourselves time and space to pause, reflect, and process what we're feeling, and for those who are grieving, that can be especially difficult, particularly given the expectations our society has historically placed on how and when people should grieve," said Mayor Mrakas, before the crowd, which was huddled together keeping warm with soup provided by Catarina's Kitchen, and holding candles. "This new space sends a powerful message: reflection is something we value here in Aurora, and for those who are grieving, you are not alone. There is a community here to support you.

"Ultimately, what makes this space so meaningful is that everyone who comes here will bring their own experiences, memories, and emotions. One particularly special feature that speaks to this is the Wind Phone, where people can engage in one-way conversations with loved ones who have passed away. This particular phone was donated by a local woman who last used it to speak with her mother, just one hour before her mother passed away. I think that personal connection makes this donation especially meaningful. I want to extend a special thank you to Vern Cunningham and Brian North for their work creating the space that houses the wind phone, helping bring this meaningful feature to life."

In her remarks, Wheatley said the November 9 dedication ceremony coincided with Treaties Week, a time when students learn about treaties and agreements that are so important to relationships between First Nations and settlers.

"As you stand here now, I see my treaty partners. We are allies, we have a nation-to-nation agreement to hold each other up and to walk along the path of life in a good way with a good heart and a good mind," she said. "When we look at all of creation, we know we are a part of and not apart from, so I'm so glad to see so much green space honored and loved and carefully placed in ways that we can enjoy it, but we're not going to harm it, we can walk around it easily.





"Thank you so much to the Town of Aurora for inviting me and my dear friend, Pat Floody, whose mother was a residential school survivor. Thank you so much for thinking of what we needed and stepping up to make it happen, and thank you so much for lighting a candle in Remembrance. We move forward together. For those who aren't here, please tell them. For those that should be here, please invite them. If you are ever in need, please come to this space in a good way, with a good heart, and a good mind, knowing that you are welcome."

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

AURORA

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION
AND PUBLIC PLANNING MEETING

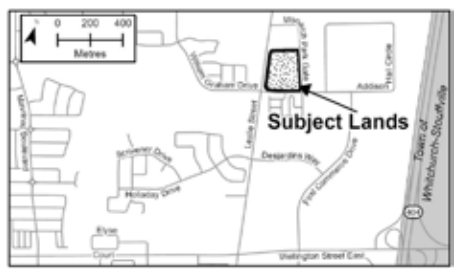
AURORA TOWN COUNCIL will hold a Public Meeting to receive input on a proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment:

Tuesday, December 1, 2026 at 7 p.m.

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

APPLICATION: The proposed Official Plan Amendment (OPA) is to facilitate an employment conversion from Employment uses to Residential. The proposed Zoning by-law Amendment (ZBA) is to change the permitted uses and other development standards such as setbacks, amenity area, and parking. The intent of the OPA and ZBA is to accommodate for a private townhouse development which comprises a total of 198 units, each townhouse units are 3 storeys in height with 2 vehicular access points off Monarch Park Gate.

PROPERTY: 85 Monarch Park Gate
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Block 28, Plan 65M-4650
APPLICANT: Aurora- Leslie Developments Ltd.
FILE NUMBERS: OPA-2026-02 & ZBA-2026-01
WARD: 6



PROCEDURAL INFORMATION:

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

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any questions regarding the proposed application can be directed to Felix Chau of the Planning and Development Services Department at 365-500-3105, or by email at fchau@aurora.ca.

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

PERSONAL INFORMATION COLLECTION NOTICE:

The Town of Aurora collects personal information in communications or presentations made to Town Council and/or its Committees under the legal authority of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter c.P.13, as amended. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act. If you are submitting letters, faxes, emails, presentations or other communications to the Town, you should be aware that your name and the fact that you communicated with the Town will become part of the public record and will appear on the Town's website. The Town will also make your communication and any personal information in it, such as your address and postal code or email address available to the public unless you expressly request the Town to remove it. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 905-727-3123.

AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

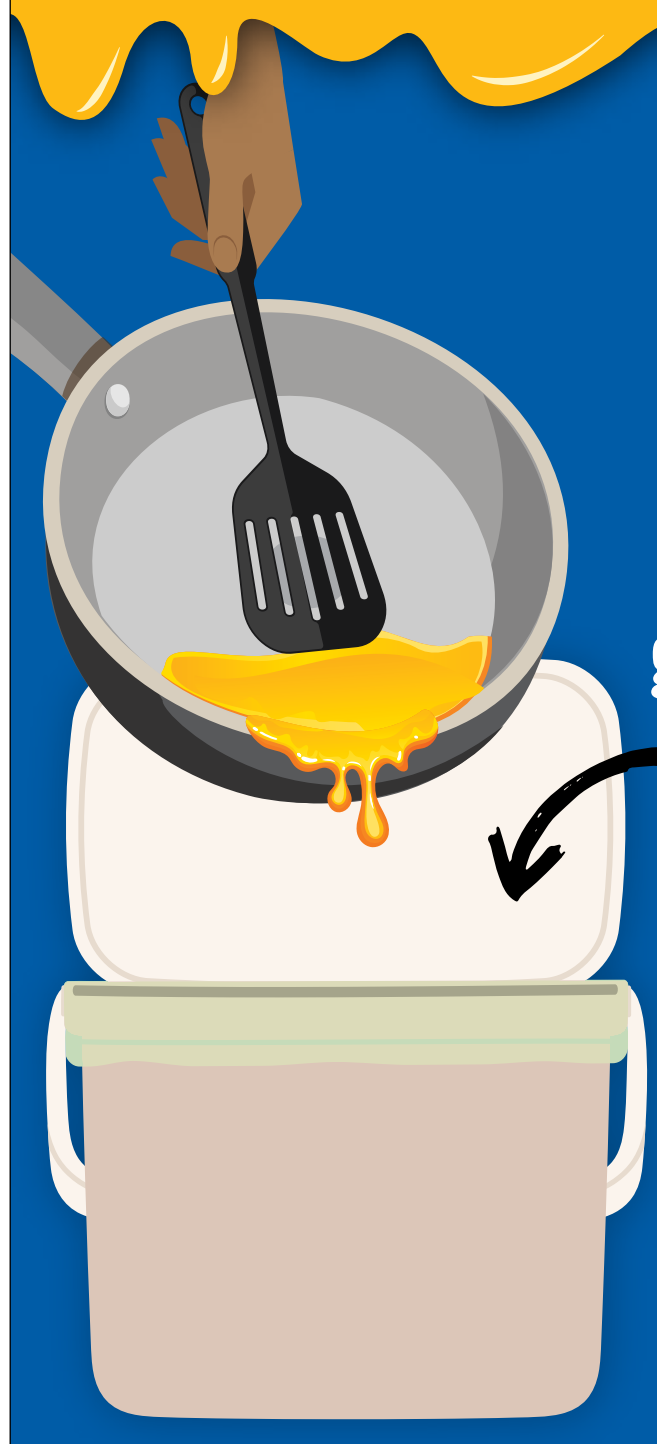
The Town audio and/or video records Public Planning Meetings. If you make a presentation to Town Council or its Committees, you may be audio or video recorded. Pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.56, as amended, (the "Act") public feedback to planning proposals is considered to be a public record and may be disclosed to any individual upon request in accordance with the Act.

DATED at the Town of Aurora, this 11th day of November, 2026.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
aurora.ca/publicnotices • 905-727-1375

STOP THE CLOG!

SAVE PIPES FROM FOG



Fats, Oils and Grease go in the green bin

york.ca/ProtectYourPipes

York Region

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remembrance Day: A Poem

Remembrance Day,
what does it mean to you?
Do you appreciate everything
our soldiers hadto go through?
To give us the opportunity
to live in a country
known as, the land of the free,
While sacrificing their lives, for people
like youand me.
When you see any of the men
and women who
fought in the war and still do,
Would it be enough to just shake their
hand and say, thank you?
Well, whether you're an adult,
or whetheryou're a kid,
Be sure to wear a poppy
as a sign of respect,
for everything they did.
And on November 11th at exactly
11am, take a moment to bow your
head and say, thank you,
to each and every one of them.
Also, if you want to honour them, in
your own special way,
Be sure to make a donation at,
–my poppy.ca.

Sandra Turcarolo
Received Online

Region marks Veterans Week

On behalf of York Regional Council and The Regional Municipality of York, I invite residents to join us in recognizing and honouring the courage, service and sacrifice of the women and men who have served Canada in times of war, conflict and peace. From those who served generations ago to those who continue to serve today, their dedication has helped protect the freedoms, rights and values we share.

As we recognize all who have served Canada, we also take time on November 8 – Indigenous Veterans Day – to honour the contributions and sacrifices of First Nations, Inuit and Métis veterans. During the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, more than 12,000 Indigenous People volunteered to serve Canada. Many answered the call despite facing discrimination and with no treaty obligation to serve. While their courage, sacrifice and devotion to their communities and country deserve our deepest respect, we must also acknowledge that many returned home to unequal treatment and were denied benefits and opportunities afforded to other veterans. Their service and experiences are an important part of Canada's history and must never be overlooked.

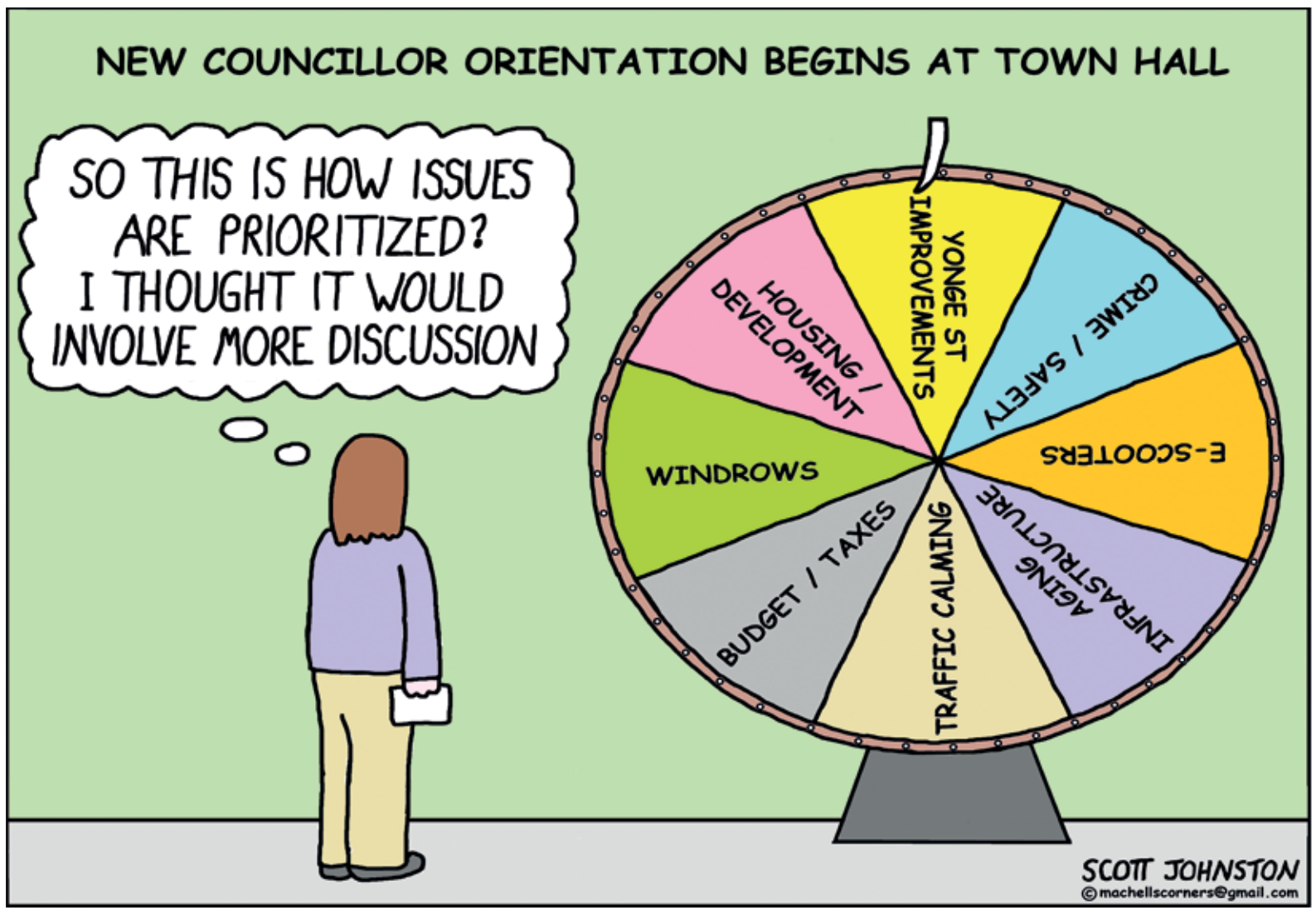
Throughout Veterans' Week, I encourage residents to take time to reflect on the contributions of all veterans, listen to their stories and show appreciation for the sacrifices made in service to our country. Their legacy is one of courage, resilience and an enduring commitment to others.

York Region will host an in-person Remembrance Day service at 10:25 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at the York Region Administrative Centre, located at 17250 Yonge Street in the Town of Newmarket. All members of the community are welcome to attend and join us in honouring those who have served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

On behalf of York Regional Council, I extend my sincere gratitude to all veterans, past and present, and to their families. We are forever grateful for your service and sacrifice.

Eric Jolliffe
York Region Chairman and CEO

Machell's Corners



Remembering and "Hope Scrolling"



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

It's often said a change is as good as a rest.

There's some truth to that, but wouldn't it be nice if the two could go hand-in-hand?

I don't mean change for the sake of change, of course – but change to bring about some much-needed perspective. Perhaps a chance to look at a situation through clearer eyes. Maybe even just an opportunity to tackle something ongoing with a more positive mindset.

I'd wager that when we take stock of our lives and the day-to-day that goes along with it, we can find at least one wellspring of negativity that is either in the forefront or percolating somewhere in the background.

Each person's individual wellspring, of course, can be different, but I'd wager a second guess: that for many of us a source of negativity can be found in the mire of social media – particularly doom scrolling.

We've lived with the concept of doom scrolling since the phrase was coined nearly a decade ago to encapsulate the compulsion that so many have to "scroll" almost endlessly from one piece of bad news, or general negativity, to the last, sometimes getting deeper and deeper into weeds you wish you hadn't – the metaphor of being unable to turn away from a train crash coming to life in the very palms of our hands.

"It's unclear what triggers the behaviour," said the University of Florida, summarizing its 2022 study on doom scrolling itself, which was published by the American Psychological Association's Technology, Mind and Behaviour Journal. "It's specific to the moment users are currently experiencing: between the pandemic, political issues in the world, and mass shootings, people can get sucked into seeking bad news. The study also found doom scrolling can be associated with a fear of missing out and constantly being connected online through smartphones.

"It remains unclear if doom scrolling causes anxiety or if anxiety leads to it. Although the study's authors believe that they feed off each other, establishing a cause and effect will require further research."

The study went on to note that when people realize they are doing it, they could take "proactive measures" to break the habit, if, of course, they recognize the consumption of such negativity is making them feel a certain way.

I'm guilty as just about everyone else with a phone of doom scrolling.

It's not a great habit to have by any stretch of the imagination. Whether I like it or not, it is often part and parcel of this job as we in this line of work have to keep our fingers on the pulse of the communities we cover.

That said, however, when I had last week off for some much-needed downtime, I made a concerted effort to stay as far away as I could from my phone and the ubiquitous social media channels that are connected to it. After a series of particularly fraught municipal elections where negativity was all too often the name of the game, it was a break that seemed less and less optional as the time to clock out inched closer.

I didn't go anywhere beyond a few day trips on my holiday, but it was nice to get away regardless.

Yet, last Tuesday, I felt the apps drawing me back in.

In spite of myself, and knowing what potential (certain) negativity there lay within, I couldn't help but plug into the results of the midterm elections in the United States.

While my time off was a great chance to recharge my own personal bandwidth, I don't think my less-threadbare internal battery had anything to do with the feeling I had surveying what was staring back at me on the screen.

It's a feeling that many experienced on Tuesday night and more than one person offered up a word for it: "Hope scrolling"

In a world where scrolling downward all too often feels like you're getting deeper and deeper into muck and mire, it was such a nice change to see – regardless of what your political affiliations and leanings might be – so many people suddenly hopeful again for the future, and the near-constant diet of foreboding and anonymous attacks set aside, at least for the time being.

It has been a long ten years since Donald Trump was first elected President of the United States.

That too, as we all remember, was a fraught campaign in and of itself.

The day after was an interesting one, and I know I certainly wasn't alone in tackling what needed to be done with a bit of a lower energy level – the impact of a long night awaiting the results, made extra-long by an extra couple of hours of slack-jawed disbelief.

My thoughts and feelings were more fully-processed the next day and when I set out to cover an event at a local recreation complex, I wore two poppies – one to remember the fallen, as we do each November, and the other to specifically remember the ideals the fallen fought for as I felt we were closer than ever before to having these once-vivid lessons on the brink of fading away and being forgotten.

This particular usage of a poppy may have raised an eyebrow or two by members of the Royal Canadian Legion – it certainly did from the Mayor at the time – but it felt very appropriate in the moment.

Canadians mark Remembrance Day this week, while our American cousins mark Veterans Day. Both observances mark the Armistice – the end of the First World War – but each has a slightly different context. Here, Remembrance Day honours those who made the ultimate sacrifice for King, Queen, and Country, with those fortunate enough to return home as veterans very firmly a part of the conversation. Veterans Day, on the other hand, honours veterans more specifically, while the fallen are honoured more fulsomely on Memorial Day in May.

Regardless of which occasion you mark on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, I know I'm personally going into these observances this year – both public and private – with infinitely more hope than at any point over the last decade; with hope, and certainly with greater assurance, that the freedoms that inspired countless men and women to put their lives on their line are appreciated and, of course, Remembered.

And Remembering is one of the best way to ensure the mistakes, wrongs, and troubles of the past are not repeated – as veterans of the Second World War reminded, and continue to remind us, at every opportunity, particularly as the fragility of democracy continues to be tested around the world.

But Remembering doesn't stop once we take off our poppies and place them on our local cenotaphs as the morning of November 11 winds down.

In the spirit of "Hope scrolling," let's flood our timelines – and, indeed, the pages of this paper – with the stories of our forebears who had the courage to join a fight they believed in, how you continue to honour their sacrifice, and what you will do in the future to further their invaluable legacies.

Lest we forget, indeed.

THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper

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

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

Founder Ron Wallace | Publisher Emeritus Rosemary Schumaker

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

EDITOR
Brock Weir
brock@lpcmedia.ca

ADVERTISING
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

ADVERTISING
Karen Nemet
karen@lpcmedia.ca

GENERAL MANAGER
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

ADVERTISING
Diane Buchanan
diane@lpcmedia.ca

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Cynthia Proctor
cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca

TODAYS NEW HOMES
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

MOTORING
Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

CLASSIFIEDS
905-727-3300 ex.102
cynthiap@lpcmedia.ca

PHOTOGRAPHY
Glenn Rodger
grodger@rogers.com

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Sheila Ogram
sheila@lpcmedia.ca

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

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

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

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.

AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

HISTORY THRIVES ON PAGE 5 WITH THE AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

AWESOME ARTIFACT ALERT





Major Medals

This Remembrance Day, we are looking at a hidden story from our collection. These World War One medals (2011.6.1) were issued to Auroran-born Major David Watson Megaffin, who enlisted immediately at the call to arms in 1914 with the 4th Battalion, travelling from Toronto to Valcartier, Quebec, where the earliest units were mustered. Starting from Lieutenant, he moved through the officer ranks and survived the war, although was sent home early with a variety of painful medical conditions. But, early in his service he formed a close bond with one Lieutenant Cameron D. Brant, the first member of the Six Nations to enlist, and also tragically, the first to die in the war. Brant's family kept a promise made to Major Megaffin, and after the war bestowed upon him the title of "Honorary Chief". In the early days of World War II, Major Megaffin was essential in establishing sports fields, facilities, and equipment for the thousands of soldiers who were training in Toronto. Remembrance Day is not only for recognizing those who lost their lives in war, but also for those who sacrificed and survived. Lest we forget.

Carney's Budget Leaves Canadian Families Behind



COSTAS' CORNER

MP Costas Menegakis
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

Mark Carney and his Liberal government had an opportunity to deliver a budget that put taxpayers first. Instead, families here in Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill are being asked to shoulder more debt and financial uncertainty at a time when the cost of living, housing and everyday expenses are already putting pressure on household budgets.

Across our community, parents are watching grocery bills climb, young Canadians are questioning whether they will ever afford a home, seniors are stretching fixed incomes further, and local businesses are struggling with rising costs. These are the people who should be at the centre of a federal budget. They need practical relief and policies that make it easier to get ahead.

The 2026 federal budget came with plenty of fanfare and promises of a stronger economy. Beneath the headlines and announcements, however, is a plan that continues to rely on heavy borrowing while leaving major affordability concerns unresolved.

The impact is clear in our own community. In York Region, 22.1 per cent of households experienced food insecurity in 2024, affecting approximately 91,700 households. A 2025 regional survey found that 41 per cent of residents had cut back on grocery spending because of financial pressure, while 76 per cent had made financial sacrifices to keep up with housing costs. In 2024, 878 people were counted as experiencing homelessness in York Region, more than double the number recorded in 2021. These figures are a reminder that the challenges facing Canadians are not abstract. They are affecting people and families right here in York Region.

While households are making difficult choices, the federal government continues to borrow at an extraordinary pace. The budget projects deficits totalling nearly $289 billion over the next five years. That borrowing comes with a cost. As interest payments grow, fewer public dollars are available for health care, infrastructure and other services Canadians depend on. Families are expected to live within their means and make responsible financial decisions. The federal government should be held to the same standard.

There are practical steps the government could take to provide meaningful relief. The temporary suspension of the federal fuel excise tax offers some savings at the pump, but it falls short of the lasting tax relief Canadians need. The tax is scheduled to return at half its regular rate in February and to its full rate in April 2027. Conservatives have called for the permanent removal of federal fuel taxes, which our proposal estimates would save a family of four up to $1,218 a year. Fuel costs affect more than drivers. They increase the cost of transporting groceries, building materials and everyday goods. Canadians need lasting relief, not another temporary measure.

The next generation is facing a difficult path of its own. Youth unemployment reached 13.7 per cent in October. Too many graduates are struggling to find work, while homeownership moves further out of reach. Young Canadians should be able to put their education and hard work toward building a future, not worry whether they can afford one here.

Those challenges make responsible population planning all the more important. Canada has a proud history of welcoming newcomers, and immigration has helped build our communities and economy. However, immigration planning must account for housing, health care, infrastructure and the availability of jobs. The budget sets annual targets of 380,000 permanent resident admissions and 370,000 temporary resident arrivals for each of the next three years. Population growth must be matched with the homes, services and economic opportunities needed to support it. That responsibility rests with the government.

Here in Aurora–Oak Ridges–Richmond Hill, people want to afford their homes, find good jobs, access the services they need and know their tax dollars are being spent responsibly. These are reasonable expectations. The federal budget should reflect them.

Canadians deserve a government that respects the money they earn and takes seriously the responsibility of spending it wisely. That means making affordability a priority, creating good jobs, planning growth responsibly and ensuring that future generations are not left paying for today's decisions.

Canada's best days can still lie ahead. Getting there starts with putting taxpayers, workers and communities first.

Last (Mail) Call



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

After years of speculation about when and if this will happen, Canada Post has finally announced the end of home mail delivery.

For Aurora and the rest of York Region, this will be in 2030.

That this is happening is not a big surprise. When I was growing up, all mail was delivered to your door, or the end of your driveway, or wherever your home mailbox was located.

But for many years now, the majority of mail delivery in Canada has been to centrally located super mailboxes. With Canada Post facing a reported annual deficit of about a billion dollars, shifting super mailbox delivery from "the majority of mail" to "all mail" is seen as a logical step to help cut costs.

So many people are used to getting their mail at a super mailbox that I expect many are surprised that there is still home delivery in Aurora. They may even think it slightly unfair that they're subsidizing those who still get a more personalized service.

Apparently, just under 4,800 homes in Aurora still get their mail hand delivered. With the number of residences here now at least 25,000 based on the last census update of 22,250 homes in 2021, that's roughly 20% of Town.

Just how handy or unhandy the slog down to the mailbox is is a matter of opinion. The amount of "real" mail anyone receives - letters, bills, statements, cheques, magazines, packages, etc - continues to decrease rapidly, as they're replaced by courier services and various forms of electronic financial transaction and communication.

Having arranged to stop flier and junk mail delivery, which has decreased the volume of our mail by about 90%, I find I only really need to visit our super mailbox once a week or so. That's based more on curiosity than on a fear our mailbox will be so wedged full of mail by the time I drop by that I'll need the jaws of life to extract it.

Since I either drive or walk by it a few times a day anyway, it's easy to drop by no matter how long an interval it is between visits.

Sure, it's slightly less fun to visit it in the dead of winter, when it's minus 40 degrees, but unless we're expecting something urgent, which is never the case, the mail, assuming there even is any, can wait a few days until it's nicer out.

As for the safety of the mail, the mailboxes are certainly more secure than the hundreds of packages that are delivered and left exposed to the weather on doorsteps every day in the porch pirate paradise that is our neighbourhood.

Part of the angst about eliminating home delivery is the effect on folks who may have a hard time going out to get their mail, even when the weather is pleasant. But to their credit, Canada Post does offer a service for home delivery to people with a temporary or permanent disability, mobility issue or health condition.

Even though it will impact only one in five homes in Aurora, I'm sure there will be much discussion, and no doubt many complaints, about this service change when that time comes. But that's four years from now – plenty of time for the people affected to brace themselves as required.

As for me, having used a super mailbox here in Town for 35 years, the only potential impact will be one of nostalgia, when we see photos of the last Canada Post worker walking up someone's steps to hand deliver their mail for the last time.

But I'm sure I'll get over it.

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



GETTING THINGS DONE

Mayor
Tom Mrakas

Exciting Times Ahead for Aurora - And We're Moving Forward!

It was great to see so many residents at the second public open house for Aurora's downtown streetscape design! There was a real sense of excitement in the room as neighbours explored the plans, asked questions and shared their ideas for the future of our downtown.

This is an exciting next step in our vision of transforming Aurora's historic downtown into an even more vibrant, welcoming and accessible destination — a place to shop, dine, connect and enjoy everything our community has to offer!

If you weren't able to attend the second Public Open House, don't worry! You can still see the plans! I encourage everyone to take a look and learn more about the exciting improvements being planned for our historic downtown.

So, what's included in the plan?

MAJOR TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS AT YONGE & WELLINGTON

One of the most important components of this project is the proposed redesign of the Yonge Street and Wellington Street intersection.

The improvements include dedicated LEFT and RIGHT turning lanes in all four directions, designed to help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion at one of Aurora's busiest intersections.

We all want to spend less time sitting in traffic, and improving this intersection has been a priority for our community!

ROADWAY AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed design includes one through lane in each direction along Yonge Street between Wellington Street and Church Street, creating opportunities for wider pedestrian areas, landscaping and dedicated parking spaces.

The plan includes 32 on-street parking spaces, compared to the current 44. However, existing peak-hour parking restrictions would be eliminated, meaning those spaces would be available throughout the day, providing more consistent parking opportunities for residents and customers visiting our downtown businesses.

A MORE WALKABLE AND ACCESSIBLE DOWNTOWN

The streetscape improvements include:

- Wider, accessible sidewalks to make it easier for everyone to get around;
- New pedestrian seating areas, benches and gathering spaces;
- Decorative brick paving, including heritage-inspired designs that complement our historic downtown;
- Improved pedestrian crossings and decorative crosswalks;
- Better connections between Yonge Street, Aurora Town Square and the Aurora Public Library.

MORE GREENERY AND BEAUTIFUL PUBLIC SPACES

We're looking at adding more shade trees, raised garden planters, seasonal flowers and beautiful landscaping throughout the Promenade.

The plans also explore improvements to Machell's Alley, creating a welcoming space with seating, landscaping and decorative lighting.

Continued on page 21

Southlake Gala raises more than $4.7 million for local health care

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER



Members of Southlake Health Foundation's Gala Steering Committee, with Co-Chairs Lina Bigioni and Lia Fidei, join Presenting Sponsor Treasure Hill's Nicholas Fidei, Jennifer Ritter, President and CEO, Southlake Health Foundation, Paul Woods, MD, President and CEO, Southlake Health, Mayor Margaret Quirk and Councillor Dave Neeson, Town of Georgina, and Host Paul Jones, on stage to celebrate $4.7 million raised at the 2026 Here and Beyond Southlake Gala.

Photo courtesy of the Southlake Health Foundation

It was a record-breaking night for supporting local healthcare close to home as the community came together for Southlake Health's 2026 Here & Beyond Gala.

Presented by Treasure Hill and co-chaired by Lina Bigioni and Lia Fidei, the evening raised a record $4.7 million for the Southlake Health Foundation, ensuring the local hospital has the resources it needs to keep pace with increased demand for services, with a particular focus this year on diagnostic imaging and image-guided intervention.

"When you are waiting for answers about your health, every day can feel like a year. That's why tonight, we aren't just fundraising for technology – we're fundraising for answers," said Jennifer Ritter, President and CEO of Southlake Health Foundation as she and Dr. Paul Woods, President and CEO of Southlake Health, addressed the more than 900 attendees at the October 27 event, held in the City of Vaughan.

"We are so grateful to every sponsor, donor, guest, and supporter who stood alongside Southlake so powerfully at the Here and Beyond Southlake Gala," said Ritter. "While the government funds many things for healthcare, it does not fund this critically needed technology, and put simply, if our clinical teams can't see it, they can't treat it. Together, our fundraising will shorten the distance between symptoms and answers, and between fear and hope for patients and families at Southlake Health. That is a profound impact that we can all be so proud of."

Ritter was joined on stage by Dr. Woods who underscored the importance of diagnostic imaging and image-guided intervention to the work Southlake provides.

"The equipment and technology supported by the 2026 Here & Beyond Southlake Gala will touch nearly every patient journey at Southlake Health," said Dr. Woods. "Growing alongside our community means also keeping pace with advancing and evolving technology needed to help our talented team continue to deliver leading edge care, close to home. We're incredibly grateful for the generosity and support."

The Southlake Health Foundation was established in 1980 to support the Newmarket-based hospital. Since then, more than $270 million has been raised to support and strengthen the work Southlake does for and with the community.

This community impact was touched upon by Nicholas Fidei, President of Treasure Hill, who said the company has always believed "that building communities is about much more than building homes."

"It's about building places where families can grow, where neighbours can come together, and where people can feel proud to call home," he said. "But a truly great community needs more than beautiful homes and neighbourhoods. It needs access to quality healthcare, because nothing is more important than the health and wellbeing of our families and the people we love."

Following the Gala, Southlake made another move to continue delivering health care close to home by joining HealthCareCAN, a national organization that will allow Southlake to have a greater advocacy voice within its catchment areas of northern York Region and southern Simcoe County.

"As we continue to grow alongside our communities in York Region and Simcoe County, joining HealthCareCAN gives us a stronger national voice to advocate for the support our patients and communities deserve," said Dr. Woods. "The challenges facing Canada's health system are real, but so is the talent, dedication and creative capacity within our hospitals. We're excited to bring Southlake's perspective to that national conversation."

The organization paid particular attention to Southlake's plan for the decade ahead, including its Distributed Health Network, connecting hospital sites, community-based services, digital health capabilities, and health care partners to best meet the needs of the growing population. The hospital's Population Health Management Advance will also help identify and respond to community health needs through data, evidence, and collaboration.

Michelle McLean, President & CEO of HealthCareCAN, added: "We are delighted to welcome Southlake Health into the HealthCareCAN community. For a century, Southlake has demonstrated what's possible when a hospital is deeply rooted in its community and unafraid to push boundaries. Southlake's innovative Distributed Health Network model and focus on Population Health Management are redefining what a hospital can be. Its commitment to innovation, patient-centred care and leading-edge treatment makes Southlake exactly the kind of voice we need at the national table as we advocate for a stronger, more resilient health system for all Canadians."



NewRoads Subaru Newmarket | SUBARU



2026 SUBARU FORESTER

QUALIFIED SUBARU OWNERS CAN LEASE FROM AS LOW AS

0.5%

24-MONTH LEASE RATES FROM 0.99%

$1,500 HOLIDAY BONUS
ON 2026 SUBARU FORESTERS @ NEWROADS SUBARU

FREE TIRE STORAGE
with every winter tire package purchased in November
@ NEWROADS SUBARU NEWMARKET

Winter Tire PRICE* MATCH GUARANTEE
Find a lower price – we'll match it!



NewRoads Subaru Newmarket

17415 Yonge Street, Newmarket nrsubaru.ca

SUBARU

289.319.1060

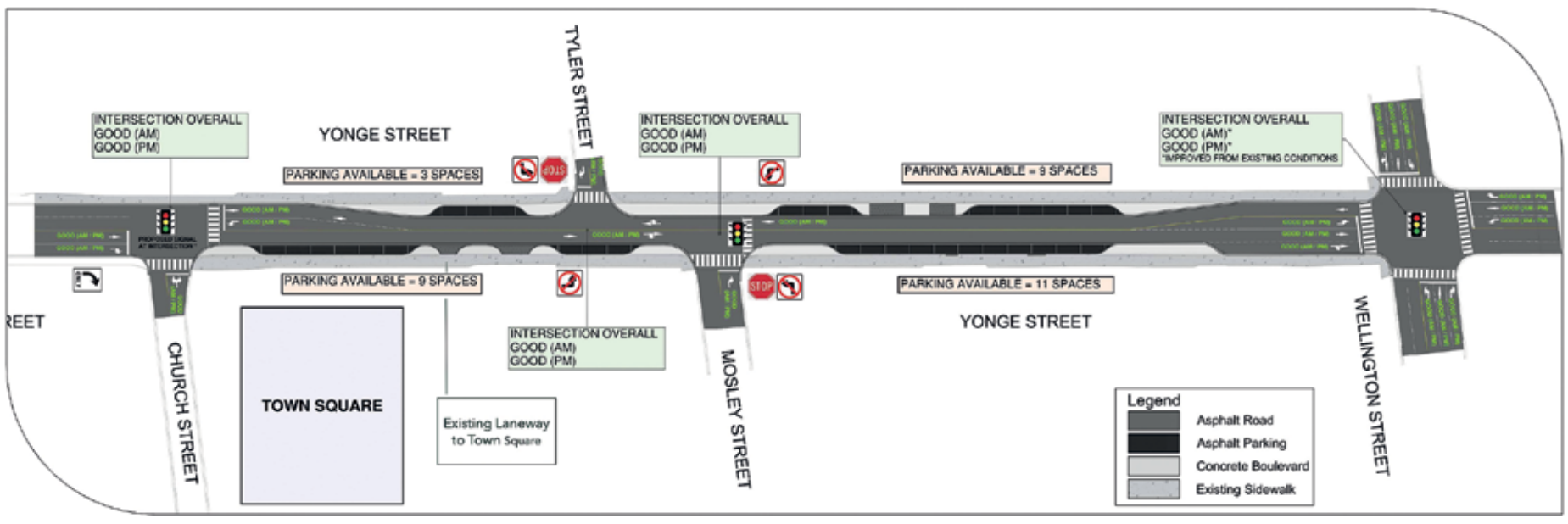
Limited time lease offer is provided through Subaru Canada, Inc.'s financial institution on approved credit. Holiday Bonus may be used towards eligible purchases on select new Subaru models and can be combined with Subaru Canada supported lease and finance rates through participating Subaru Canada Dealers. Winter Tire Price Match Guarantee: Should you find an advertised price within 30 days before or after purchasing qualifying tires from NewRoads Subaru Newmarket, bring our competitor's ad to us and we will match the price. Conditions apply. Call NewRoads Subaru Newmarket for full details.

SUPPORT Local BUSINESSES

BUSINESS & FINANCE



Downtown streetscape improvements eyed for March start



Traffic Improvement Roll Plan - Option 2 Signalization at Church Street and No Left Turns at Side Streets

Diagrams presented by the Town at last week's open house outline new traffic and parking patterns planned for the downtown core. **Image courtesy of the Town of Aurora**

Traffic realignment will be transformative for Yonge and Wellington, say staff

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Significant work to improve the Yonge Street streetscape in Aurora's historic downtown core could begin as early as March following a public open house last week.

The Town hosted an open house on the Aurora Promenade Streetscape at the Aurora Public Library on Wednesday, November 4, where staff shared their vision for the overhaul and took in public comment.

The plan will not only change the aesthetics of the streetscape but overhaul traffic patterns as well in a bid to improve flow.

Among the changes is a realignment of the Yonge and Wellington intersection to include dedicated left-turn lanes northbound, southbound, eastbound, and westbound, the removal of on-street parking north of Wellington on Yonge, the banning of left-hand turns onto or off of Yonge Street at both Tyler and Mosley Streets, and new traffic lights at Yonge and Church Streets.

Changes will also be coming to on-street parking with layby parking put into place. While this move will reduce the number of overall parking spaces in the downtown core, it is hoped to improve the number of available parking spaces overall and reduce confusion by eliminating a.m. and p.m. restrictions on where to park.

"The purpose of this project is to enhance the public space, integrate the downtown business core with the newly-constructed Aurora Town Square, and address required rehabilitation of existing infrastructure," says the Town, referencing the replacement of the existing 1932 sanitary sewer, which services the core and are reaching the end of their estimated service life.

Last week's public open house came as the project reached the 60 per cent design stage, and followed an earlier open house on September 25.

"We are at the point of 60 per cent design where things are started to be molded into what they are going to look like," says Nancy Fleming, Manager of Engineering and Capital Delivery for the Town of Aurora, noting design work has been carried out on light posts and landscaping to reinforce the area's heritage feel, along with on-street landscaping, places for waste receptacles, and more. "The feedback was really mostly positive [from the public] about looking at the heritage feel that extended in the community and the area. They wanted to make comments about wayfinding, making sure we have enough signage, and what that will look like, which we're working on now. They were very interested in the new traffic alignment at Wellington and Yonge, and it was nice to have the pictures [on site] to be able to walk people through that and the turning restrictions. It's one thing to hear it, but being able to explain it to people through the boards… there were some really productive and good conversations around that."

While residents had positive feedback about street trees adding shade and depth to the area, along with plans to have lights strung across Yonge Street near Wellington to add additional visual appeal, Fleming says traffic will prove to be the most transformative element of the plan.

"The traffic portion is very transformative because we'll be encouraging people to come more into the downtown that may be shying away from it because it is very difficult to get through that artery," says Fleming. "We're going to be losing a few parking spaces because we don't have additional room currently, but we're trying to just work with what we have. Although we're losing a few spaces we are gaining times in which you can park, so those lay-by lanes on both sides, you can park all-day every day rather than at certain restricted times like we have right now. It won't be as confusing for people driving down on where they can park and on which side at what time."

The next step in bringing the plan to fruition, she adds, is getting to the 90 per cent design stage, finalizing those details and getting the tender for construction ready.

The final plan will also need to be authorized by Council through the 2027 Budget process, she adds.

"We hope to start in March or April and then hopefully be done by December of next year," she says. "We're not going to be closing [Yonge] down for that whole time though. It will be through traffic. It will be slower, but there will be a traffic construction detour plan and traffic that will be allowed through, and we're going to do it in phases.

"We're working with the businesses to manage their impact too, but we appreciate everybody's patience during construction because we know it has an effect on everyone, but we hope the final product will be worth it in the end."

For detailed renderings of the Aurora Promenade Streetscape Plan and further documents, visit engageaurora.ca/streetscape.

NORTH YORK
HEATING, PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

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

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

Vaughan Mayor tapped by Province to lead Region of York

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Recently-re-elected Vaughan Mayor Steven Del Duca will lead York Region in the 2026-2030 term of Council.

Del Duca's appointment was announced Tuesday by Rob Flack, Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

He will replace Eric Jolliffe, former chair of the York Regional Police, in the role.

Jolliffe was appointed to the Chair by the Ontario Government in 2024 following the retirement of former Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emmerson from the position.

"Ontario stands at an important juncture," said Flack in a statement. "As we navigate geopolitical challenges and create the conditions for growth, strong leadership at the regional level is more important than ever."

Del Duca's appointment as York Regional Chair was announced along with the following positions:

- Kevin Ashe, Durham Regional Chair
- Ann Mulvale, Halton Regional Chair
- Frank Campion, Niagara Regional Chair
- Nando Iannicca, Peel Regional Chair
- Scott Davey, Waterloo Regional Chair
- Scott Aitchison, Muskoka District Chair
- Don McIsaac, Simcoe County Chair

"These appointments reflect our confidence in local leaders who bring a deep understanding of their municipalities and a proven record of performance and public service," Flack continued. "As Heads of Council, they will foster collaboration across municipalities, support responsible growth and ensure services are delivered efficiently, so that these communities remain great places to live, work and raise a family."

Del Duca's appointment was welcomed by Mayor Tom Mrakas, who serves as Aurora's lone voice at the Regional table.

"The Ontario Government's decision to appoint Vaughan Mayor Steven Del Duca as Chair of York Regional Council is one I strongly support," said Mrakas in a statement. "I believe Mayor Del Duca brings the experience, sound judgement and collaborative leadership needed to address the challenges facing York Region, while respecting the unique priorities and autonomy of our nine municipalities.

"I congratulate Steven on his appointment and look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen the services our residents rely on, advocate for our communities, and deliver meaningful results for everyone who calls York Region home."

2026
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION
An Evening of Distinction

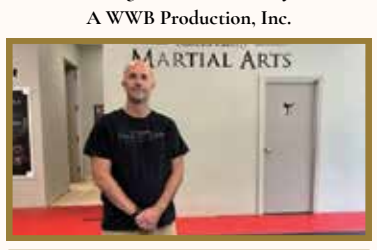
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS



RISE UP GRANT RECIPIENTS
Swingcore Golf Academy
A WWB Production, Inc.



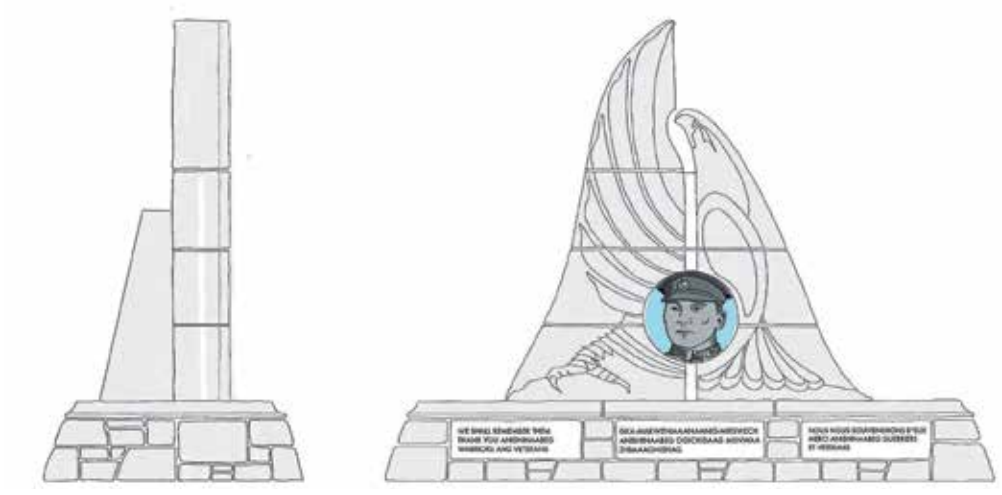
SCALE UP GRANT RECIPIENTS
Aizadfood
Attuned Relationships



MEDIA GRANT RECIPIENT
Aurora Family Martial Arts
(Sponsored by Addison Marketing Solutions)

TO READ MORE ABOUT OUR GRANT RECIPIENTS AND THE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE CELEBRATION, SCAN THE QR CODE

Aurora unveils designs for new memorial on Indigenous Veterans Day



An artist's rendering of Solomon King's design for Aurora's future Indigenous Veterans Memorial.

Image courtesy of the Town of Aurora

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Aurora has unveiled designs for the community's new Indigenous Veterans Memorial.

Concepts for the Indigenous Veterans Memorial were unveiled by the Town on November 6 to coincide with Indigenous Veterans Day on Sunday, November 8.

The memorial has been designed by Anishinaabe artist and master stone mason Solomon King and will "honour the service and sacrifice of Indigenous Veterans while creating a dedicated space for remembrance, reflection, and learning," said the Town.

"Following an open Call for Indigenous Designers and engagement with Indigenous partners and advisors, Anishinaabe designer and master stonemason Solomon King was selected to create the memorial."

Installation is anticipated in 2027.

King, says the Town, "brings a personal understanding of the courage and sacrifice demonstrated by Indigenous service members and the importance of preserving and sharing their stories.

"The memorial is designed to draw attention from a distance and inspire conversation from a distance and inspire conversation about Indigenous veterans and their contributions to Canada's military history. Moving beyond traditional monument forms, the concept honours Indigenous veterans through sculptural elements and nature-based iconography, creating a meaningful and reflective space for present and future generations."

Solomon is a member of the Chippewas of Nawash community and is described by Stone Artisan Studios, a company directed by Solomon and his partner Trinh, as a "red seal brick and stone mason with a BFA from OCAD University and has undergone specialized training in the visual and building arts."

"Using his passion for community, reverence for craftsmanship, and his own Indigenous heritage, Solomon dedicates his life to reviving and celebrating the rich culture of the Anishinaabe-Ojibwe people in his work," they say. "With decades of experience, Solomon has acquired multiple opportunities and jobs that utilize his unique skillsets – whether it be in the heart of Toronto's art scene or community restorations in his home community.

"Within the last ten years, Solomon and his partner Trinh have developed a rich portfolio in public arts; multitude of mixed media pieces created from stone, terra cotta, bronze, mosaic and wood. His most recent and prominent works are featured at Nathan Phillips Square, Spadina Station, and Bedaasige Park located within the University of Toronto and the city of Toronto. Solomon also teaches workshops in visual art, stone masonry, heritage trades and self-employment development. When teaching, Solomon ensures to emphasize the purpose and potential of art and trades in society. He sees these expertises as a pathway to creating beautiful, engaging communal spaces. Whether it is artwork that brings diversity into otherwise metropolitan public spaces or gathering places that promote inclusivity and community building, he strives to create dialogue between all people.

Once installed, Solomon's work will find its place in Aurora's Peace Park, dominated by the Cenotaph, paying tribute to those who lost their lives in the First World War, which marked its centennial last year. Additional memorials and monuments within the park include the Altar of Sacrifice, commemorating those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Second World War, the Korean War Memorial, and the tribute to veterans of the Afghanistan conflict, which takes the form of a decommissioned Light Armoured Vehicle.

"Indigenous Veterans Day is an important opportunity to recognize the contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis veterans whose service has helped shape our country and communities," said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement. "As we honour their legacy, we also acknowledge the responsibility we share to ensure these stories are visible, valued, and passed on to future generations."

Added Phil Rose, Aurora's Manager of Cultural Services and Chair of Aurora' Indigenous Relations Committee: "This memorial is an important opportunity to recognize and honour the service, sacrifice, and contributions of Indigenous Veterans. By creating a permanent place for reflection, learning, and remembrance, the project reflects the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 79, which encourages the recognition of Indigenous histories and contributions through public commemoration. We are proud to support this work and look forward to seeing the memorial become a lasting part of our community in 2027."

Indigenous Veterans Day this year coincided with Remembrance Day services conducted in the Peace Park by the Royal Canadian Legion's Branch 385 on Sunday morning.

Observed annually on November 8, Indigenous Veterans Day honours the courage, service, and sacrifice of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis veterans who have served Canada in times of war, conflict and peacekeeping.

"Indigenous Peoples have a long history of military service, contributing to conflicts and missions at home and abroad for more than two centuries," said the Town. "The day serves as an opportunity to recognize these contributions, reflect on the challenges and inequities many Indigenous veterans faced, and deepen understanding of their enduring legacy within communities across Canada."





Arts & Culture

Theatre Aurora's Over the River and Through the Woods: A Review

BY SCOTT JOHNSTON



Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

For better or for worse, there's nothing like family.

This is something the main character discovers in Theatre Aurora's current production of "Over the River and Through the Woods"

This comedy by Joe DiPietro is set in 1990s Hoboken, New Jersey. It tells the story of Nick, a 29-year-old man whose parents and sister have moved away, leaving him as the only local relative of his four family-oriented Italian-American grandparents.

They all greatly enjoy their weekly dinners together, but when Nick is offered a job in Seattle, the grandparents, not happy with this turn of events, hatch a scheme to keep him close to home.

But will the bonds of family, and some potential chemistry with a charming friend of the family, be strong enough to keep him on the east coast?

This well-written play is very much a story about family. As is true of all families, these relationships can uplift and inspire, or frustrate and stress you in equal measure.

Nicholas Jessup as grandson Nick has a great time navigating these extremes of emotion in dealing with his own evolving life, and his beloved – and often challenging – grandparents.

The cast members portraying the grandparents, Bob McNeely (Frank), Chris Cole (Nunzio), Barn Jones (Emma), and Donna Corbette (Aida) are just wonderful. Whether they're using rambling and circuitous logic to remember a fact, arguing that they're not too old to drive, or presenting food as the answer to everything, they bring humour and warmth to the stage. You will definitely recognize one of your own relatives in their words, actions and motives.

Rounding out the cast is Elmore-Teddy Bennett as nurse Caitlin. While having less time on stage, she easily shows her character's intelligence and positive nature.

This show is dedicated to the memory of recently passed long-time Theatre Aurora mainstay Kay Valentine, who successfully worked to get this play into the current season. Based on the efforts of everyone involved since then, I'm sure she would have been both pleased with and proud of the resulting production.

Evening performances of "Over the River and Through the Woods" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, November 13, 14, 19, 20 & 21, with matinees on November 14, 15 & 21. Tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.



DAMIR VRANCIC
LAW OFFICE

BUSINESS LAW,
REAL ESTATE,
WILLS & ESTATES

905-841-6411

Providing valued and trusted
legal advice since 1983

CULTURALLY speaking
by Derek Andrews

Aurora Cultural Centre
PERFORMING ARTS
GALLERIES
EDUCATION



Gold Circle News: Ron Sexsmith "An evening with…"

As the story begins, on an early UK tour, we find our hero already enjoying accolades as he has been recruited to be a support artist for the great UK band Squeeze as the British music media praise his songcraft. The winding road of the tour brings Ron in close proximity to the home of Paul McCartney, where an invitation to breakfast happens. Ron literally swapped songs at the kitchen table with the admiring Beatle in a three-hour session. Ron asked him about Wings to avoid any Beatle pandering and was treated to a couple yet to be released tunes. This begins the love affair with great talent that has recognized Ron Sexsmith, the love list includes Elton John, Elvis Costello, Rod Stewart, kd lang, Emmylou Harris, Michael Bublé, Feist and Stevie Nicks to name only a few.

Musician friend and early producer Kurt Swinghammer provides his perspective: "A mutual friend played me a tape of a 17-year-old Sexsmith and I was knocked out. A unique combination of influences and a voice soulful beyond his years. In '82 I caught a live gig and got chills when he sang and to this day still have that visceral reaction. He is his own genre. File under National Treasure."

Ron's latest 2025 release 'Hangover Terrace' is his 18th studio album. He has recently returned from a successful world tour, across 11 countries, with a new batch of songs and plans to record a forthcoming album in 2027. In the past few decades as a headlining artist, Ron has performed at some of the most prestigious

venues in the world, such as Massey Hall, Carnegie Hall, London's Royal Albert Hall, as well as The London Palladium.

A child of melody, his music has been described as a hybrid of Canadian folk heroes such as Gordon Lightfoot and Leonard Cohen mingled with that of The Kinks, Beatles and other British invasion acts of his formative years.

Few artists write songs that hold as much of the full range of being human as Ron Sexsmith. From tender ballads to witty social observations, his music gives space for both vulnerability and humour, melancholy and joy.

From his interview with the National Arts Centre Ron offers a secret: "A song like 'Secret Heart,' I don't know if I could write a song like that now because it was so direct and so straightforward. I wrote it when I was working as a courier in Toronto and I remember thinking at the time, I'm not really good at writing these songs that have like eight versus and lyrics, these sort of folk songs and stuff. So that was my intent at really simplifying everything and writing more in a kind of conversational manner. That song's become one of my most covered songs."

We asked influencer journalist (Globe & Mail / Slate) Carl Wilson for a comment and he didn't hold back: "Year in and out, Ron Sexsmith is always at his station creating songs that bear up to standards of melody, feeling, and humanity that make every algorithm and A.I. product look like swindles by comparison. His humble croon sounds like Canada."

Living in Stratford, ON, Ron recently had the opportunity to compose for the theatre and a production of William Shakespeare's "As You Like It". A novelist (Deer Life, A Fairy Tale), songwriter, singer and guitarist extraordinaire, Aurora is fortunate to host one of the world great musician creators as he draws songs from his vast catalogue.

The Ron Sexsmith concert on April 17 is the fourth Aurora Cultural Centre Gold Circle offering, recognizing the opportunity to match a great facility with great Canadian talent.

50 Victoria Street, Aurora Town Square | auroraculturalcentre.ca

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 L0G 1M0
T (905) 222-2022 F (866) 812-7442
AURORAONLINE.COM | ROB@AURORAONLINE.COM

SOYRA in the SQUARE
ART SHOW & SALE

AURORA
TOWN SQUARE
50 Victoria St.,
Aurora, ON

November 13
1pm – 9pm

November 14
10am – 5pm

November 15
10am – 4pm

SOYRA
SOCIETY OF YORK REGION ARTISTS

Learn more at soyra.org

Cards for Soldiers program continues momentum into holiday season



Aurora's Brian and Dianne Harrison are pictured with boxes of Christmas Cards for Canadian Soldiers that have been contributed to the cause so far.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dianne Harrison, an Aurora resident who has been galvanizing residents for more than 20 years to take a few minutes every year to write a Christmas card to a member of the Canadian Armed Forces serving at home or abroad, is always looking for new businesses, organizations, and even communities to join the cause.

When she and her husband Brian recently approached a local retirement home to house a drop box for card-writers to leave their messages for pickup, she didn't even need to explain how important it is for personnel to receive words of support when they are away from home in what is already often a lonely time of year.

The receptionist, said Harrison, has a son deployed overseas.

That may have been enough of an inroad, but her son was also deployed around this time last year as well and, come Christmas, was thrilled to open up a box with well-wishes from his hometown of Aurora.

As the Harrisons and area community groups, particularly the Optimist Club of Aurora, make the rounds distributing blank cards and collecting completed messages this year, they are already well on their way of reaching their goal of 10,000 cards.

This was a goal they held last year – and handily surpassed with a total of 12,400 – so while it might not be the most ambitious goal when viewed through that lens, each card received is a blessing as far as Harrison is concerned.

"Last year, we were overwhelmed when we hit 12,400 and that just boggled our minds," Harrison told The Auroran on Friday after receiving a donation earlier in the day of a whopping 2,100 cards completed by the residents of the Meadows of Aurora retirement community. "If we hit 10,000 this year, that would be great, but even if we don't, whatever we receive will be a blessing to the soldiers that receive them.

"A card means they care. The bottom line is they care. They want our soldiers to know that back home – we want them back home safely with their families. A lot of them probably have had family members that have been in the military and they know what military families go through when their loved ones are not with them."

That is at the core of how the Christmas Card campaign began.

It was initially spearheaded by the late Vhonda Harper, whose son Nicholas was serving at the time. Harper died 21 years ago, and the Harrisons took over the initiative from her, maintaining Harper's momentum.

The momentum has only grown with each passing year.

"I think she would be overwhelmed and she would be thrilled," says Harrison when asked what Vhonda might think to see where her initiative is today. "She was a very confident lady and I can just see her thrilled that this was continuing to honour the military."

Joining the drive this year are a number of local schools, including those in the York Catholic District School Board, additional schools in Caledon – with a local drop box in the offices of the Caledon Citizen at 30 Martha Street in Bolton – as well as Aurora-based business The Glitter Hub, which has donated a number of hand-made cards to the cause.

Last year's overwhelming response was distributed to members of the Canadian Forces serving in just about every part of the world, including Latvia, Norway, and Israel, as well as scores of Canadian bases. This year, cards will be distributed through CFB Trenton once again and it is hoped that a number of messages will be received at CFB Wainwright, which is still recovering from a devastating October fire which killed four service personnel and seriously injured dozens more.

"They've got to know that we care about what happened out there," says Harrison of the Alberta tragedy. "It's very difficult to have your family away at Christmastime or even at any time of the year. When children do the cards, people might say, 'Oh, I've only got a three- or four-year old at home,' but how do you know a card received overseas by a [soldier] doesn't have a three- or four-year-old at home? That card will touch their heart."

When you've completed your card, place it in a sealed envelope marked "To a Canadian Soldier."

Those completing their cards are encouraged to include their home, school, or church address on the envelope, along with their email addresses, should soldiers choose to respond.

No postage is required.

Cards will be collected through November 25 at several locations throughout the community, including The Aurora Legion, Aurora's Royal Rose Gallery, the office of Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, and the office of the Caledon Citizen, noted above.

For further information on the card initiative, contact Dianne and Brian Harrison at bdharrison2012@gmail.com.







Aurora Remembers













The community came together on Sunday, November 8, for the Aurora Legion's traditional Remembrance Day Parade and Service. The parade, led by the Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard and area veterans, made its way south on Yonge Street to the Aurora Peace Park for the traditional ceremony, at which Legion President Stephen Boyne delivered a poignant address to the crowd. (See Over) Among the participating dignitaries and individuals laying wreaths were MPs Sandra Cobena and Costas Menegakis, MPPs Dawn Gallagher Murphy and Michael Parsa, Mayor Tom Mrakas and members of Council, the York Regional Police and Central York Fire Services, Aurora Black Community Association, Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, Optimist Club of Aurora, Scouting groups and many more. **Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger**

WELLINGTON TOWERS APARTMENTS realstar



WALK-INS WELCOME OR BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

905.288.4999 147 Wellington St. W. realstar.ca

Spacious, Open-Concept* Layouts
Stainless Steel Fridge, Stove & OTR
Updated Bathrooms
Hard-Surface Flooring
In-Suite Storage*
Private Balcony or Terrace
Outdoor Swimming Pool
Fitness Centre
On-Site Laundry Facilities
Elevators
Secure FOB Entry
On-Site Management

UP TO ONE MONTH FREE RENT ON SELECT SUITES!*









RENOVATED 1, 2 & 3 BEDROOMS

Prices, incentives, availability and specifications are subject to change. Images may not reflect actual suite finishes. Pet restrictions may apply. E. & O.E.



More Than a Retirement Residence

A vibrant Christian seniors lifestyle in the heart of Aurora.



Enjoy meaningful connections, premium amenities, and 14 acres of protected natural beauty. Choose from **Independent Living**, **Assisted Living**, or **Memory Care**, all within a community designed to support every stage of life.

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

(905) 503-5560 | sales@tmoa.ca | www.tmoa.ca

440 William Graham Drive, Aurora, ON L4G 1X5

at Sunday Ceremony













A Remembrance Day message from Legion President

By Major Stephen Boyne, CD (Retired)
President, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 385

Comrades, we stand in this place that speaks of sacrifice, and on this day in an Act of Remembrance.

When people think of Remembrance Day, they most often think of the tens of thousands of Canadians who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. Remembrance Day is more than that, it honours the lives of all Canadian Armed Forces personnel who gave their lives in the service of their country. This includes the 158 Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan. It also includes the 130 Canadians who died on peace support operations in places like the Balkans, the Golan Heights, and Congo. As the events at CFB Wainwright last month have highlighted, it also includes the hundreds of Canadian soldiers who have given their lives in training accidents or have taken their own lives as a consequence of service-related operational stress injuries. Whether we are at war or at peace being a member of the Canadian Armed Forces is dangerous.

It may surprise some of you to learn that most on-duty trauma deaths in Canadian Forces Personnel since the end of the Korean war have not occurred in combat but due to accidents of various sorts or by suicide. It is widely acknowledged among veterans that the number of service personnel who died by suicide as a consequence of service in places like the Balkans, Somalia and Afghanistan dwarfs the number of personnel killed in combat there. During our time in the Balkans and Afghanistan over 1,000 veterans took their own lives, over double the total for the preceding 20 years.

The deaths of these people are no less traumatic to their friends and families than those who died on operations, but they are rarely acknowledged by the Canadian public. There is no Highway of Heroes for training deaths or suicides. Their names are rarely inscribed on monuments or memorials unless championed by those they left behind.

These deaths have a lasting effect on those left behind, not just families but also military colleagues. I personally have lost five friends to training accidents over the years, four of them in one year in two different accidents. Their names are Officer Cadets Dan Richardson, Scott MacMonagle, and Frank Jablonowski who all died in an aircraft accident in January 1988 while cadets at Royal Roads Military College. OCdt Kelly Gawne was killed in an explosives training accident in June 1988, and MCpl Matthew Cousins died May 2020 in a helicopter crash on a NATO exercise.

While Remembrance Day was originally established to remember the horrific numbers of casualties in the First World War and expanded in the public consciousness to include the tens of thousands who gave their lives in the Second World War I would remind you that the sacrifices of Canadian soldiers, sailors and aviators continue to this day.

Being a veteran is not limited to people who fought in long ago wars but includes everyone who has served in the Canadian Armed Forces. They all have one thing in common, every veteran, whether they've served overseas or not, have a chest full of medals or none, served one year or 40, has written a cheque, payable to the Government of Canada, for a value up to and including their life and most, if not all of them, know someone for whom the government has cashed that cheque.





Bloom Aurora

Retirement Community

Come Meet the Team!







24/7
24/7 staff

A host of activities

Delicious meals

Services provided by caring professionals

OCCUPANCY
SUMMER 2027

DISCOVER OUR COMMUNITY - COMING SOON!

Seniors' Apartments • Independent Living • Assisted Living

Book a meeting with Ann or Julie today and take the first step toward your new home!

416-668-3855 • BloomAurora.ca

Rental Office Address: 1 Kane Crescent

cogir
SENIOR LIVING
CogirSeniorLiving.ca

Making your life easier
Giving you the freedom to live life to the fullest
Being cared for by a dedicated team

That's priceless to us.



THE AURORAN

Sports ▪ News ▪ Coming Events
Classifieds ▪ At Your Service



VOL 28 | NO. 5 | 905-727-3300 TheAuroran.com FREE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12, 2026

Junior A Tigers fire four third-period goals in 5-3 comeback win over Lindsay Muskies



Sheamus Gunn's empty netter, Jackson Zinkie's first OJHL goal, Anrijs Bundzenieks' two goals, and Nic Ferrante's game-winner lifted the Junior Tigers to a thrilling 5 – 3 comeback victory versus the Lindsay Muskies on Saturday night. **Auroran photo by Jim Stewart**

BY JIM STEWART

The Aurora Tigers erased a 3-1 third period deficit with four unanswered goals—two by Max Skinner, the game-winner by Nic Ferrante, and an empty netter by Sheamus Gunn – to earn a thrilling 5-3 win over the Lindsay Muskies at the ACC.

The stirring comeback on Saturday night seemed light years away when Lindsay forward Kaden Koutroulides finished Jack Foley's centering pass, off an Aurora defensive coverage miscue, to give the Muskies a seemingly-comfortable 3-1 lead at 4:07 of the final frame.

However, the resilient home side turned to a sextet of Tigers to catalyze their dramatic comeback.

Tigers veteran forward Nic Ferrante fired the game-winning goal with 1:35 left on the scoreboard and gave much of the credit to speedy center Giancarlo Rosella.

"I saw Rosella carrying the puck down the left boards. I knew I had to get in position behind the net because no one was going to catch one of the fastest skaters in the league. I sat myself against the end boards, got Rosella's pass, tried to pass it out front, but it bounced back to me and I was lucky enough to put it in."

Ferrante also praised the goal-scoring prowess of Tigers' Max Skinner whose crucial tallies 95 seconds apart pulled Aurora to within one and then tied the game, respectively: "He's a guy that has such great finish and he's going to get his chances in a game. We can rely on him. As soon as Max got the tying goal, the game turned for us."

Another player who turned the game for the Tigers on Saturday night was goaltender Colby Booth-Housego. His spectacular stops down the stretch preserved the thrilling come-from-behind win. Ferrante was impressed by Booth-Housego's game-saving point-blank glove save with 2:06 left in the contest.

"That's Colby. He keeps us in it—day in and day out. He never hangs us out to dry. We knew this was going to be a dog fight tonight and there were so many scoring chances. Colby made big saves on their good scoring chances."

The Tigers capitalized on their final scoring chance when Sheamus Gunn stole the puck off a Lindsay defender, sniped the puck from the top of the right circle into the empty net, and completed the four-goal outburst by the home side.

Although Gunn's goal was the knockout punch, Ferrante applauded Davis Castle's dustup with Lindsay's Tavin MacDonald 2:43 into the final frame as a motivating factor for his hockey club. Castle landed a number of haymakers before his banishment from the game and Ferrante was impressed with his young teammate's courage.

"As an older guy, I've seen my fair share of fights in this league, but when you see the younger guys willing to sacrifice their faces for the team, that got us going. It created the biggest change of the game. It was the TSN turning point."

Before Castle conquered MacDonald in their fierce fracas, the Tigers were trailing 2-1. After Castle's spirit-lifting fight, Aurora outscored Lindsay 4-1 in the remaining fifteen minutes to roll to a key victory over a divisional rival. Ferrante described the importance of the comeback win.

"We're trying to climb in the standings. We're also trying to figure out how to play our top game more consistently. The boys were really going in the third. It was a matter of when we'd break through—not if. We have to win games like these against teams that are lower in the standings."

The tenth-place Muskies opened the scoring with 2:51 remaining in the first period when Mason Quinn corralled a rebound in the slot and snapped it home – low blocker side – past Booth-Housego.

Aurora's power play evened the score when Nick Frasca blasted the puck from the right point into Luka Gelinas's pads, but the juicy rebound yielded by Lindsay's netminder was slapped home by Jackson Zinkie at 2:50.

Zinkie's first OJHL goal elicited a big celly by the Tigers, but the elation was short-lived.

The visitors' oppressive forechecking and effective completion of checks created a turnover gobbled up by Blake Lalande who slid the puck to Christian Luciano in the slot. Luciano rifled it top right shelf at 5:33 to restore Lindsay's one-goal lead which they took into the second intermission.

Skinner's timely tallies at 4:41 and 6:16 of the third period—set up masterfully by Anrijs Bundzenieks and Javian Nei—moved him into first place among OJHL rookie goal scorers with 14. When Skinner generated Aurora's only goal in a narrow 3-1 loss to first-place Markham on Sunday afternoon, he moved into a five-way tie for fourth in the league's goal-scoring race with 15.

The seventh-place Tigers (9-10-0-0) will host the Caledon Admirals (7-13-2-0) on Friday, November 13 and the Toronto Warriors (3-17-1-1) on Saturday, November 14. Puck drop at the ACC for both games is 7 PM.

"Hockey Ends Hunger" and Junior Tigers collecting food donations on November 20

The Junior A Tigers have entered into a partnership with "Hockey Ends Hunger" and threw the OJHL franchise's support behind the local agency's efforts to battle food insecurity in the Aurora-Newmarket area. Representatives from "Hockey Ends Hunger" and the Tigers will be collecting food items for the Aurora Food Pantry at the North York-Aurora OJHL game on Friday, November 20 at the ACC.

Fans are encouraged to "bring food and support local. Be a game changer. Together, we can make a difference." The "Hockey Ends Hunger 4th Annual Charity Game and Fundraiser" takes place on Saturday, November 28 – also in support of the Aurora Food Pantry.

Please give generously this month to this pair of community initiatives.

YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE ONLINE.
ARE YOU?
LET US BUILD YOUR WEBSITE.
FOR FREE.
WWW.THEFWG.COM



Induction celebration enshrines Bentolila,



Representatives of the Aurora Church Dodgers, the first team inducted into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, are pictured at Thursday's Induction Ceremony. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

From page 1

and Jump Start Aurora—was filled with pomp and pageantry. A five-man Colour Guard from the venerable Aurora Legion led inductees and The Class of 2026 to the stage. The procession of Legion veterans and inductees were piped in solemnly by SAC student John Reid whose rendition of "Scotland the Brave" stirred the soul.

After the engaging introductory formalities were completed, Black invited newly-reelected Mayor Tom Mrakas to deliver a keynote address prior to the inductions.

Mayor Mrakas noted that "Every community has a history and tonight we honor those people who have made extraordinary contributions to our community."

After delineating concisely and reverently the inspirational achievements of The Class of 2026, Mayor Mrakas closed with a personal touch: "To all inductees—George, Joe, Paul, Shayne, and the Church Dodgers—the time has come for your achievements to be celebrated. You've provided examples to be followed. That's how a legacy lives. Aurora rises to celebrate you."

In addition to the enshrinement of local heroes like Bentolila, Rosen, Biondic, and Stevenson, attendees witnessed the first team to be immortalized in the Hall. In a nod to the rich history of Oldtimers' Recreation hockey in the area, a trailblazing team known for their charity work around Aurora and their international exhibition games was inducted. The term "Aurora Church Dodgers" was coined to describe the mischievous boys' propensity to miss religious services due to their Sunday morning ice times at the ACC.

Although they didn't darken many Church doors with their shadows, the Dodgers raised significant sums over decades of community service for the Rotary Club. Their international trip to Sweden in 1974 cemented their cultural status when the towns of Leksand and Aurora were twinned because of the team's fun-loving ways in Scandinavia versus myriad pro teams on the ice and during the post-game parties.

It was appropriate that the team's first captain, Tom McPherson, accepted the induction on behalf of the 13 Dodgers on stage. After teammate George Dell offered a series of humorous anecdotes about the Dodgers' capacity for carousing, the equally-amiable McPherson observed that between 1967 and 1998, the trailblazing, barnstorming team really enjoyed its exhibition tours.

"We played tournaments in Montreal, Sweden, Niagara Falls, New York—we didn't win many but we played. We were told by one opponent that 'You're better with beer openers than hockey sticks.' The fellowship we had was as important as the sport itself. It was a big part of my life. Thanks for having us here tonight."

As the community-spirited Dodgers departed the stage, Black reassured them that "God does love you—even though you didn't go to church."

The evening's festivities featured a heavy focus on hockey and reinforced the Town's strong hockey roots.

Current AMHA President Corby Saltzman was summoned to the stage by Emcee Black and slipped the maroon ASHOF jacket on to his predecessor Joe Bentolila.

Black noted the extent of Bentolila's impact: "Joe Bentolila is one of those great leaders—and he's had more arena coffee than anyone in the area. He's influenced so many kids, so many teams, and the greatest player to come out of the area: Connor McDavid."

The affable 25-year President of the AMHA was taken by the honor of enshrinement.

"Getting inducted into the Hall of Fame is something I never imagined," he said. "Over those 25 years, I had the opportunity to serve in several positions and as President, I had the ability to listen and to stand behind my decisions. The bigger picture was about the children. It was about much more than winning and losing—it was about making things better for the next generation."

As Black noted, Bentolila was instrumental in shaping a generational talent and offered his engaging story about providing six-year-old Connor McDavid with his first rep hockey playing opportunity as an Aurora Tiger—a connection that the Bentolila cherishes and was reinforced by the gifts that McDavid sent to Bentolila's surprise retirement party at the ACC in 2023.

Black invited another area NHLer to the stage and complimented Shayne Stevenson's connection to the Town. "From Aurora to the NHL, Shayne has never forgotten where he's come from," he said.

Stevenson offered his thanks to a pair of Aurora Sports Hall of Famers—his rep hockey coaches Lowell McClenny and Colin Graham.

"At this time, I'd like to thank Lowell and Colin—I first met them when I was 11. My dream—like many kids—was to play in the NHL. I didn't grasp the magnitude of what I signed up for. I was 15 when I left home for the OHL and 18 when I played in the NHL. My nickname when I started in the NHL was The Legend – given to me by Bruins veterans who told me, 'Shayne, you're a legend in your own mind.'"

Stevenson closed his speech with a humorous anecdote about one of his more notorious fights while playing for Boston.

"I wanted to offer a special thank you to Louis Debrusk for my new Colgate smile. Debrusk punched my buck teeth into place."

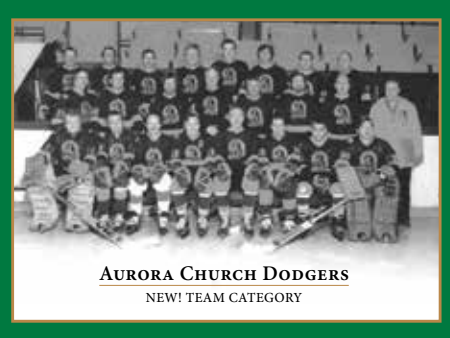
The Aurora-raised Stevenson charmed the audience with his stories about life in minor, junior, and professional hockey and equally charming were the anecdotes of ultramarathoner George Biondic.

Black referred to Biondic as "The Forrest Gump of Aurora" – alluding to the beloved character played by Tom Hanks who crisscrosses America in a show of superhuman endurance.

Continued on page 17

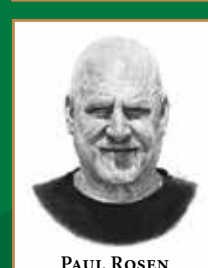
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
2026 CLASS OF INDUCTEES

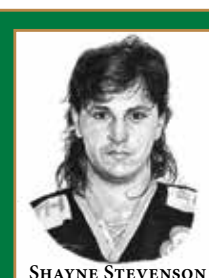
AURORA SPORTS HALL of FAME
EST. 2013
Their Legacy. Our Future.


AURORA CHURCH DODGERS
NEW! TEAM CATEGORY


JOE BENTOLILA
HOCKEY (BUILDER)


GEORGE BIONDIC
ULTRAMARATHON (ATHLETE)


PAUL ROSEN
HOCKEY (ATHLETE)


SHAYNE STEVENSON
HOCKEY (ATHLETE)

We thank the following individuals and organizations for making this night a success:

CHAMPION SPONSOR
CANADIAN TIRE
Jumpstart Bon départ

INDUCTEE PRESENTING SPONSORS
MultiTech — JOE BENTOLILA BUILDER | HOCKEY
Edward Jones Philip Comeau and Michael Comeau — GEORGE BIONDIC ATHLETE | ULTRAMARATHON
FLOW MARKETING — PAUL ROSEN ATHLETE | HOCKEY
OPTIMIZE ASSET MANAGEMENT | THE CIMINELLI GROUP — SHAYNE STEVENSON ATHLETE | HOCKEY
Highland GM — AURORA CHURCH DODGERS TEAM | HOCKEY

VIP MEET & GREET SPONSOR
THE UPS STORE

LEGACY HALL OF FAMERS SPONSOR
OSTOMY TORONTO

DYNASTY SPONSORS
NEWMARKET HYUNDAI LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
Bloom Aurora

SUPER FAN SPONSORS
RE/MAX | SOLD ON COWEN
ARMADALE Properties Limited
alectra

HALL OF FAME EVENT SPONSOR
DELMANOR Aurora Inspired Retirement Living™

EVENT SUPPORTER
AURORA You're in Good Company

FUTURE HALL OF FAMER SPONSOR
SMITH ROGERS financial

INDUCTEE JACKET SPONSOR
Compliments of the Di Girolamo Family

IN KIND SPONSORS
BUSHMILLS 1608
ALLEGRA MARKETING • PRINT • MAIL

FUTURE HALL OF FAMERS BURSARY PROVIDERS
Optimist INTERNATIONAL Optimist Club of Aurora, Ontario
K-1 KEY ADVANTAGE

LOCAL MEDIA PARTNERS
105.9 The Region
THE AURORAN
AURORA TODAY .ca

aurorashof.ca | Let's Get Social



Because Familiar Faces Make All the Difference
A more personal approach to Memory Care.
Smaller, familiar settings. Consistent caregivers. Meaningful connections. Care that honours each person.
the RESIDENCES ON YONGE
The Residences on Yonge | Schedule a tour! | www.theresidencesonyonge.ca | 905.724.3211

Rosen, Biondic, Stevenson, and Church Dodgers



(LEFT) Former Aurora Minor Hockey Association President Joe Bentolila is pictured with his page Benjamin Duchon. (CENTRE) Paul Rosen was joined on stage by his grandson Zach. (RIGHT) George Biondic dons the blazer symbolizing his enshrinement into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

Continued on page 16

Biondic took little time to acknowledge "The world's best partner in crime, Erlinda"—a shout-out to his wife and running partner who was inducted into ASHOF in 2025.

George remarked his initial training sessions on St. John's Sideroad to set up crossing the Appalachian Mountains, running through Death Valley, and competing in the "World 24-Hour Championship" were techniques "Rocky Balboa would have approved of."

The inspirational long-distance runner challenged audience members to take up ultramarathon running by "setting a goal, finding a confidante, and declaring "I Can Do This." Perhaps the most humorous part of the ultramarathoner's induction was his wife's video message: "Congratulations, Georgie—all your hard work has paid off, but none of it would have been possible without me."

George and Erlinda Biondic are the first husband and wife team to be inducted into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame.

In the final induction of the evening, Black called upon fellow broadcaster Paul Rosen to come to the stage and he added, "Out of darkness comes a great Northern Light—the oldest player to compete at the Paralympics—C'mon up Rosie!"

Rosen ascended the stage with his grandson Zach who was taking in the proud moment and wearing his grandfather's #57 Team Canada jersey from the Torino Olympics "which was washed in 2006 and not since" as Zach sniffed the armpits.

Following the pattern of the previous inductees, Rosen thanked his family members—especially his sister, "who was the most inspirational person in my life who's always been there to be help me. You're the best human being in the world that I've met."

The gold medal-winning goalie acknowledged, "My dad Ron Rosen was my true hero, he was one of a kind, a handshake and your word were everything to him, and I really miss him" and praised his brother for "giving me the love of sport and music."

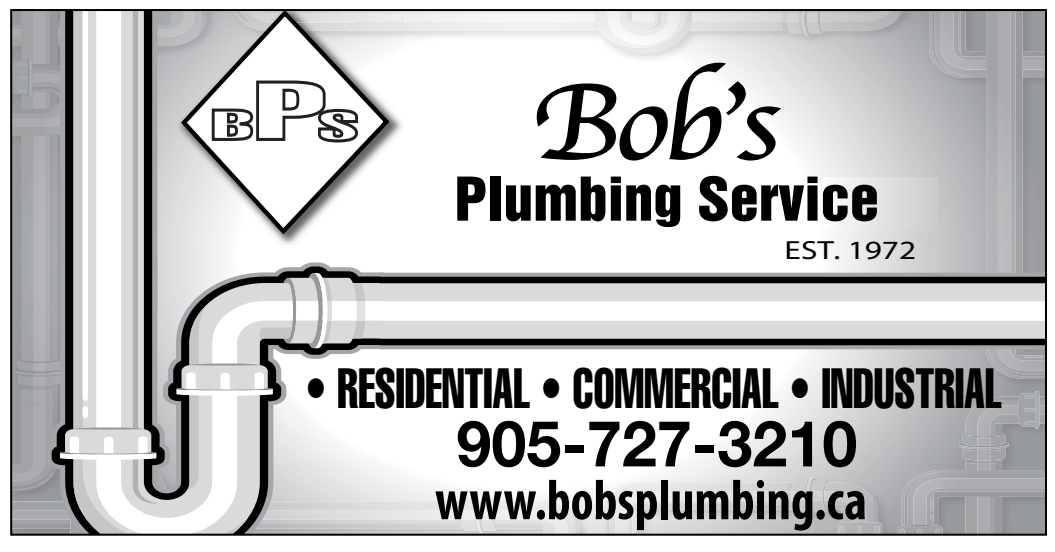
"He turned me into a really good hockey and baseball player and took me to Varsity Arena to a Chicago concert when I was 12. He gave me a lucky toonie that I wore in my boot at Torino when we won the gold medal."

A natural public speaker, Rosen proceeded without notes and riffed about the turning point for his goaltending career and Team Canada's fortunes in 2006, broke out into a Russian accent, and imitated his dad's gravelly voice—much to the delight of the audience.

As Rosen concluded his inspirational address with, "I am so honored to be inducted into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame. I am so honored to live in Aurora," the chant "Rosie, Rosie, Rosie," swept the ballroom.

In addition to the four individual inductions and the team induction, two Future Hall of Famers were invited to the stage by Black where Martial Artist Charisma Toupin and MMA fighter Aaron Khaykin were presented with $850 bursary checks by Royal LePage RCR Realty and the Optimist Clubs of Aurora, respectively.

For young and old, the 13th Annual Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony lived up to its billing as one of the Town's premier cultural events.



TWO DISTINCT ONTARIO COMMUNITIES

Detached All Brick Homes From

$549,990*

Discover Batavia Homes in **Hastings Estates** and **Muskoka Forest** — two communities built on the same promise: honestly priced detached homes you can grow into.

TRENT WATERWAY • HASTINGS

HASTINGS ESTATES



ALL-BRICK BUNGALOW & 2 STOREY DETACHED DESIGNS IN HASTINGS

Hastings Estates offers all-brick detached bungalows and two-storey homes on generous lots in a scenic Trent Waterway setting. Enjoy practical layouts, strong value, and a connected small-town lifestyle designed for everyday living.

NOW SELLING FROM $549,990*

myhastingsestates.ca or CALL 705-922-2040

HUNTSVILLE • MUSKOKA

MUSKOKA FOREST



ALL-BRICK BUNGALOW & 2 STOREY DETACHED DESIGNS IN HUNTSVILLE

Muskoka Forest offers all-brick detached homes in Huntsville, blending nature, refined home design, and the comfort of a growing community close to trails, parkland, and everyday amenities.

NOW SELLING FROM $649,990*

mymuskokaforest.ca or CALL 905-597-0466

Batavia HOMES

BUILDING STRONGER FOUNDATIONS

EXPLORE BOTH COMMUNITIES VISIT **BATAVIAHOMES.CA**

Prices shown include the Ontario HST rebate. Actual rebate and final purchase price may vary based on eligibility and CRA assessment. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. E.&O.E.

Junior Panthers split weekend homestand with 2-1 shootout loss to Waterloo and 8-0 win over Cambridge

BY JIM STEWART

The Junior Panthers—ranked 2nd in the 25-team OWHA U22 Elite Division—lost a 2-1 shootout to the Waterloo Ravens on Saturday, but rebounded from their offensive doldrums to defeat the Cambridge Rivulettes 8-0 in a display of the club's raw power at the Aurora Recreation Centre.

On Saturday, the narrow loss to the Ravens was an exceptional result for the Panthers. Prior to the shootout loss to Waterloo, Central York had rolled to an impressive 12-2-0-0 record.

However, the Ravens received stellar goaltending from Danica Averill who frustrated Central York shooters all afternoon. She turned aside 36 of 37 shots she faced in regulation to force the game into overtime.

The only Panther to beat Averill was Anastasia Trifon who finished a tidy two-on-one play with Elizabeth Shapira to pull Central York into a 1-1 tie. With two minutes remaining in the first period, the Panthers finally capitalized on numerous scoring chances when Shapira slid a perfect pass to Trifon—catching her teammate in stride towards the left edge of the crease. Trifon swept the puck in one motion between Averill's pads, through the five-hole, and into the back of the net.

Trifon described her tying goal: "We were caught on a line change and I saw her going down the right wing so I drove the net. I was hoping it was going to go into the net when it left my stick."

The Ravens—expressing their patriotism in off-white Remembrance Day jerseys with red poppies encircling their black sleeve stripes and Canadian soldiers as black silhouettes depicted beside a black cross below their black-trimmed gold numbers—struck nine minutes into the first frame.

Aoife Scase's shot from the right point flew through a maze of blue and white jerseys into the lower left corner of the net past Panthers' goaltender Claire Hicks to spot the visitors a 1-0 lead.

After a scoreless second period, the Panthers took the game to the Ravens, but Averill repelled two slot shots to preserve the tie. Hicks flashed the leather twice and surrounded another shot to keep the rollicking Ravens from securing the lead. The 18U Team Canada goaltender preserved the point for the Panthers with 1:46 remaining in another plus scoring opportunity by Waterloo.

Trifon praised Hicks's efforts versus Waterloo: "She definitely saved us in there. She was tracking well all game. She's been solid all year. We have lots of confidence in both our goalies—Claire and Kallee. They're always on their A-game."

Averill continued her A-game in the waning minutes of regulation. With 83 seconds left, the Panthers were awarded a power play and with eight seconds on the clock Central York generated two more scoring opportunities. However, Averill repelled the home side's furious final efforts to seal the deal and get a regulation three-point win.

Hicks made a pair of blocker saves at 3:23 and 2:23 of OT and Averill held the fort with 7.7 seconds left to force a shootout.

In the shootout, Averill surrounded the puck and made a stick save on Audrey Martone as the Panthers shot first. On the Ravens' first breakaway, Madelyn Davies deked Hicks and slid the puck five-hole for a 1-0 shootout lead. The goal held up as Averill repelled Lily Paisley's shot with a left pad save. Demi Lazarou's scoring attempt was foiled by Averill when the puck slid off the prodigious goal scorer's stick and past the left post.

Trifon offered insights into the tough loss: "I think we took the game to them today. We created way more scoring opportunities than they did, but we lacked finish out there. We need to focus on burying pucks."

On cue, the Panthers buried many pucks and capitalized on their chances on Sunday afternoon by erupting for eight goals in their shutout win over the Rivulettes.

In transitioning from shootout loss to shutout win, Central York built a 3-0 lead after one period of play. It was the defense corps who created offensive momentum against Cambridge. Panthers' defender Adela Fromova fired a pair of goals to stake the home side to an early 2-0 lead and fellow blueliner Mackenzie Coty scored in the final seconds of play to generate a three-goal lead over the Rivulettes.

Second period goals by Panthers' leading scorer Lazarou and the playmaking Shapira built a comfortable five-goal lead heading into the second intermission.

Teagan Gloyne made it 6-0 to open the third period and Lazarou and Shapira continued their strong offensive performance by firing their second goals of the game to close the scoring. Martone dished out three assists in the one-sided win while Zoe Ordanis and Lily Paisley earned two helpers each.

Trifon commented on her club's great start to the season: "Our mindset has been to pick up from last year when we were #4 in the province. We want to keep improving this year and bring our A-game every time."



CAPTURED BY THE ARTIST – Ahead of Thursday night's Aurora Sports Hall of Fame Induction Dinner, members of the Class of 2026 were celebrated with a reception at the Aurora Cultural Centre the previous evening where their portraits by artist Paul Riley were unveiled. Pictured here, from left to right, are George Biondic, Shayne Stevenson, Riley, Joe Bentolila, and Paul Rosen. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

LANDO
LIGHTING

LIGHT THAT
TRANFORMS
EVERY SPACE

Elevate your home with our exclusive collection of modern chandeliers. Timeless design. Exceptional quality. Unforgettable impact.

NEW COLLECTION





GLASS DROP

A dramatic statement of modern elegance.



ALABASTER GLOW

Soft. Sophisticated. Simply stunning.



CRYSTAL RAIN

Refined luxury that catches every eye.

PREMIUM QUALITY
Built to last. Designed to inspire.

MODERN DESIGN
Sophisticated styles for every space.

PERFECT FOR ANY ROOM
Dining rooms, foyers, living spaces & more.

EXPERT SERVICE
Lighting experts here to help.

BRIGHTEN YOUR WORLD
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
See the beauty. Feel the quality.
Find the perfect light for your home.

210 Clarence St., Brampton ON L6W 1T4
905.453.6403
www.landolighting.com
@landolighting

In Brampton LANDO LIGHTING GALLERIES

Johnson and Luebke capture Aurora High School's first OFSAA Tennis Championship



Contributed photo

BY JIM STEWART
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Grade 11 AHS student-athletes Dillon Johnson and Evan Luebke captured the Gold Medal in the Boys Doubles Division at the OFSAA Tennis Championships in Markham last Wednesday.

Johnson and Luebke's performance in Scarborough and Markham from October 26-28 was remarkable. The Aurora-born-and-raised dynamic duo swept through their five matches—including a dramatic quarterfinal upset of #1-seeded SAC – without dropping a set.

In addition to playing peerless tennis at the provincials as the #5-seeded team, Johnson and Luebke's trip to the top of the podium earned the first OFSAA tennis title in Aurora High School's storied athletic history.

Luebke described how capturing a YRAA championship against strong local competition not only stamped their ticket to OFSAA, but also created momentum for them in Scarborough and Markham.

"Throughout the tournaments and as we continuously won matches, it was a really good feeling that filled us with confidence. Since this has never been done before at our high school, I feel so accomplished and it's a good feeling to bring some glory to our athletics program. I hope it will inspire others to join the tennis team."

Johnson agreed with his teammate about the need to expand the school's tennis team: "It's not a sport that a lot of people play at the school—it sometimes falls into the background to the sports with longer seasons – so winning a tennis championship is a way to make it more prominent."

Both student-athletes gave credit to their Aurora Community Tennis Club Coach Jordan Master for his invaluable lessons and strategies.

Johnson applauded the local tennis pro's contributions to their provincial championship: "Justin's been my coach since I was five. He's basically the reason that I still play tennis. I work at the camps at the ACTC where he's our pro. It's also how I first connected on the court with Evan. We started playing together when we were 13 and started playing as a doubles team in 2023. We were so happy that Jordan came to watch us win in the OFSAA finals."

Luebke echoed his teammate's sentiments about Master's impact: "Jordan as a coach is an outlet of positivity. He's inspired a younger generation of players. He's helped us progress, especially through so many experiences at tournaments over the years."

Both gold medalists applauded the efforts of their high school coach, Michael Petinarelis, who has built the Eagles' tennis program. Johnson observed that "He's the main reason Aurora High School has a tennis team."

"He wanted it to happen and we were happy that he was able to take three days off school to support us at OFSAA.

Luebke added that "It was great to have our Coach there to celebrate our wins with us. Coach Petinarelis communicated to the school about our wins at tournaments through the school announcements. He's such an advocate for us and he told us after we won the gold medal that he's never been more nervous in his life."

Although Coach Petinarelis felt some nervous tension during the five OFSSA matches, his players performed with steely resolve and impressive efficiency. Johnson and Luebke made short work of their Round 1 opponents—Ethan McClellan and Rhys Tradell—by steamrolling them 4-1 and 4-0 on Monday morning at L'Amoreaux Community Rec Centre in Scarborough.

Three hours later, the indomitable AHS duo dispatched Windsor's Christone Tao and Owen Muldrew 4-1 and 4-0 to advance to the quarterfinals against #1-seeded St. Andrew's College.

In the all-Aurora playoff round at L'Amoreaux on Tuesday morning, Johnson and Luebke vanquished SAC's doubles team-- comprised of Eddie Duicu and Rian Yoshimi-- 4-0 and 4-0 and sent the favored Saints to the sideline.

After eliminating the top-seeded team, Aurora High School's doubles team toppled Holy Trinity 4-2 and 4-2 on Tuesday afternoon. The decisive semifinal victory over Anthony Bubanovich and Rodrigo Badillo Tovar moved Johnson and Luebke to the provincial championship match on Wednesday morning against Etobicoke Collegiate student-athletes Dylan Riach and Gareth Clark.

AHS's juggernaut was not to be denied in the Final at Mayfair East in Markham. Johnson and Luebke breezed through their first set 4-0, but Riach and Clark mounted more resistance in the second set before falling 4-3 to the gold medal-winning Eagles duo.

When asked if there was a turning point in their golden season, Luebke described the intensity of playing locally against so many strong players: "When we went to the Area tournament, I was a bit nervous but we won it without dropping a game. We knew we had a real chance to win gold because so many of the good players in Ontario are congregated here."

Johnson agreed that having to compete against strong and older teams in the Area and YRAA tournaments prepared them for the challenges at OFSSA, but he isolated the quarterfinal victory over SAC as the most significant milestone of the season.

"York Region has so many of the best players in the province and York Region teams did really well at OFSSA. But after we beat the #1 seed SAC 4-0 and 4-0 in the quarters, that really built our confidence."

OBITUARIES - FOREVER IN OUR *Hearts*

HELEN MOLLY KOGAN



29 December 1932 – 9 October 2026

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Helen Molly Kogan, who died quietly and without pain at Bradford Valley Care Community on 9 October 2026, aged 93.

Born in London, England (UK) on 29 December 1932. Helen grew up with her parents, Simon and Betsy Kogan and her younger brother, David, who was born in 1940.

Helen was always very much her own woman, with a wide range of interests and an independent spirit. She lived an extraordinary life defined by adventure, determination and a wonderful, witty sense of humour.

An accomplished athlete and sportswoman, Helen was an avid skier and figure skater, she travelled frequently to Switzerland to pursue her passions. A keen world traveller, she once journeyed around the world by steamship and spent summers at a friend's home by the sea in Spain. She also enjoyed an international teaching career, working as an elementary school teacher in England, Australia and New Zealand. A linguist, she spoke English, French, German and Spanish and embraced life with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Helen moved to Canada in the late 1970s to be a full-time figure-skating Coach. She was motivated to do this because a coach has a greater chance than a teacher to convince a child that they can achieve anything.

In 1982 aged 50, when Helen was driving home from the ice rink in Toronto, where she had been coaching, her life changed dramatically following a serious car accident. Her car was rear-ended at an icy intersection and she awoke from a coma six weeks later, which left her with a brain injury and significant physical disabilities. But she did not let her challenges define her, nor diminish her determination to live life to the fullest.

In many ways, Helen went on to live a second extraordinary life. She returned to education, earning a degree in Psychology from York University and a Therapy Certificate from Seneca College. She continued to pursue her sporting passions, practicing karate and achieving a third-degree black belt, embracing yoga and returning to skating with adaptations.

Despite being partially sighted and physically disabled, Helen continued to travel independently, regularly visiting her brother David and his family in the UK between the 1990s and 2012. During one visit to London, she was unfortunately mugged. Undeterred, she returned to Toronto and spent the following years training in Karate.

Helen also became a passionate advocate for others. A committed feminist and community volunteer, she served on numerous committees – at one point proudly recalling that she was involved in six simultaneously. These included the Town of Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee and the Brain Injury Association of York Region. She spoke to schoolchildren about brain injuries as part of a campaign encouraging bicycle helmet use, and volunteered in literacy programmes, helping people to learn to read and write. Having experienced first-hand the challenges of disability, she was determined to make life better and more accessible for others. Helen's influence extended far beyond the committees she served on. She was a mentor, a role model and a reminder that determination and strength of spirit can overcome challenges that might otherwise seem insurmountable.

Helen brought plenty of fun and mischief to family life. She loved family and friends' gatherings. Her colourful personality was reflected in her signature choice of purple, a colour she adopted after her accident affected her colour vision.

Helen lived in many places throughout her life, most recently at Caruso Gardens in Aurora; Buckingham Manor in Stouffville and, finally, Bradford Valley Care Community in Bradford, where she received wonderful care. We are deeply grateful to her martial art instructor Shifu Tim Wakefield of Shaolin Martial Arts Canada, the team at Aurora Village Co-op and the wonderful staff at Bradford Valley for their kindness, care and support, helping Helen to live as fully and independently as possible.

Helen lived 50 remarkable years before her accident and another 43 afterwards. Throughout both chapters of her life, she continued to contribute, inspire and make a difference to the people and communities around her. Her circumstances changed, but her determination, independence and wonderful sense of humour endured. She leaves behind a legacy of courage, generosity and a belief in what is possible, even in the face of life's greatest challenges. She didn't simply overcome adversity; she continued to live an extraordinary life beyond it.

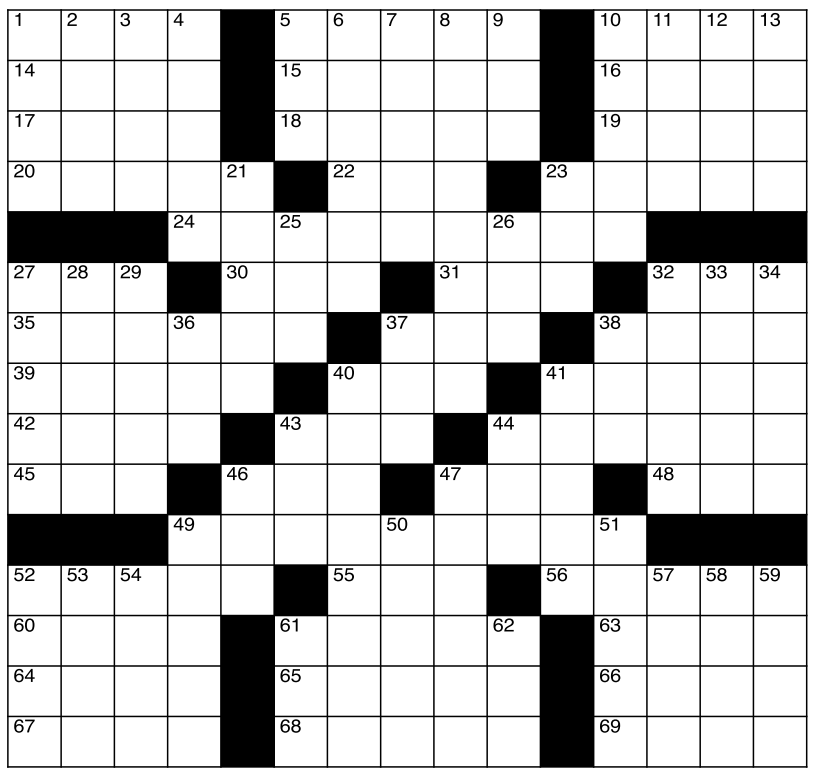
Helen will be deeply missed by her family and many friends, and remembered with enormous affection and admiration. Above all, she showed us how to keep living, keep laughing and never stop making a difference.

If you would like to donate in Helen Kogan's memory in aid of The Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA), please do so through the link below:

https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/ontario-brain-injury-association/

CROSSWORD

Puzzle No.TANOV1226 • *Solution in Classifieds*



CLUES ACROSS

1. Perceive a sound
5. Pretends to be
10. Type of guitar
14. Actor Idris
15. A citizen of Iran
16. Creative
17. Keep under control
18. Weight unit for precious stones
19. You better call him
20. Fanatical
22. Male cat
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. One who takes risks
27. A way to nail
30. Cool!
31. Progressive policy supporter
32. "Losing My Religion" rockers
35. Step-shaped recess
37. Round globular seed
38. Somewhat
39. Butterhead lettuces
40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn together
42. Dodgers great Hershiser
43. Floor covering
44. Traveled aimlessly
45. Rocker Stewart
46. Body art
47. Congressman (abbr.)
48. No seats available
49. Categorizes
52. Iraq-Syria border town
55. Ballplayer's tool
56. Type of sword
60. Baseball team
61. Upper bracts of grass
63. Italian seaport
64. Ancient city in Syria
65. Shoelace tube
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. South American nation
68. "Nebraska" director Alexander
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Skin care manufacturer
4. A long-legged frog
5. Photo
6. Delivered a speech
7. Lute in northern Indian music
8. Decorated
9. Take a seat
10. Bottom layer
11. Type of horse
12. Ticket part
13. Defunct currency of Guinea
21. Challenges
23. Popular BBQ food
25. Subway rodent
26. By way of
27. Shady garden alcove
28. City in Egypt
29. __ and flowed
32. Large quantities of paper
33. Eurasian wheat
34. Act incorrectly
36. Layer of water right above sediment (abbr.)
37. Al Bundy's wife
38. Ocean
40. Large, round root
41. Sound units
43. Knock
44. Soak in water
46. Hot drink
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny fini
49. Rumanian city
50. Come back from being down
51. Vaccine developer
52. Canadian law enforcers
53. Wings
54. "Perry Mason" actor Raymond
57. Small fry
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Gamble
61. Semi-liquid food
62. Consumed food

THiNGS... *you ought to know*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

The Aurora Community Band hosts its Annual Holiday Market today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 27 Victoria Street, Aurora. Free Entry. Music, food, gifts, and more. For more information, visit auroracommunityband.ca or email auroracommunityband@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 20 – 21

Alice in Wonderland JR. at The Country Day School – Fall down the rabbit hole into the wacky world of Wonderland! In this fast-paced, 60-minute musical adaptation of the Disney classic, young Alice finds herself in an upside-down world as she journeys toward self-discovery. Featuring iconic characters like the White Rabbit, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts—plus timeless songs like "The Unbirthday Song" and "Painting the Roses Red"—it's a magical theatrical adventure the whole family will love. Join us on Friday, November 20, at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday, November 21, at 1:00 p.m. for this delightful Grade 4-6 production in The Country Day School's Performing Arts Centre, 13415 Dufferin Street in King City. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased online at www.cds.on.ca/tickets.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

The Town of Aurora's Santa Under the Stars Parade returns to Yonge Street tonight from 6 – 8 p.m., travelling south from Orchard Heights Boulevard to Murray Drive. This night time parade is full of magic, with beautifully decorated floats, incredible marching bands and a few special guests including the Jolly man-in-red himself. Remember to bring your letters for Santa as Canada Post will be out collecting them before the parade begins. For more information, visit aurora.ca/santaparade.

* * * *

York Symphony Orchestra presents Brahms and Schuman tonight at 7.30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street. The soloist for YSO's next concert has just added co-winner (along with Christie Cheung) of YSO's inaugural concerto competition to his long list of awards. Oliver (Zihuan) Xu will play Brahms' only Violin Concerto, followed by the full orchestra in Schumann's Symphony No. 4. Please note that the Saturday night start time is earlier this season. Tickets at Eventbrite.ca or at the door.

NOVEMBER 27 – 29

The Town of Aurora will host the first of its two Christmas Market weekends at Aurora Town Square. Enjoy the holiday season at Aurora's Christmas Market - one of the Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario! This event is filled with good cheer, hands-on workshops and activities, fantastic seasonal vendors, food vendors and more. Check out different vendors on-site each night. The Market will be held each evening from 5 – 8.30 p.m. For more information, visit aurora.ca/christmasmarket.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

FIRESIDE HOLIDAY MARKET, second-annual event in support of mental health programs – today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Northridge Community Church, 15338 Leslie St, Aurora, ON. Shop local for gifts, crafts, jewelry & baked goods. Free admission, FREE parking & festive family fun. FREE photos with Santa! @sisterz_co_

DECEMBER 4 – 6

The Town of Aurora will host the second of its two Christmas Market weekends at Aurora Town Square. Enjoy the holiday season at Aurora's Christmas Market - one of the Top 100 Festivals and Events in Ontario! This event is filled with good cheer, hands-on workshops and activities, fantastic seasonal vendors, food vendors and more. Check out different vendors on-site each night. The Market will be held each evening from 5 – 8.30 p.m. For more information, visit aurora.ca/christmasmarket.

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 at occasional pop-up sales; 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, every week, 10:30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m., with 15-minute time slots, and Wednesdays from 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. with 15 minute timeslots. If you do not have an appointment, we cannot accept your donation. Visit AbuseHurts.ca to select your drop off time slot. Located at 120 Harry Walker Parkway North, Newmarket.

SUPPORT LOCAL SMALL BUSINESS

AT YOUR Service

CENTRAL VACUUM

MAPLE VAC CENTRE
30 Years
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

CLEANERS

TOPMAX Cleaning Services
RELIABLE PROVIDERS
FREE
Call for a FREE ESTIMATE
Our Services: OFFICE • MEDICAL • DAYCARE
COMMERCIAL • JANITORIAL
647 333 3760

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

CREMATION

RR 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 Gravelling, 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

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS

ABATE CONSTRUCTION LTD.
HOME RENOVATION CONTRACTOR
For Complete Interior & Exterior Projects
Bathrooms • Kitchens • Flooring • Home Upgrades
Full Service Renovations | Licensed & Insured
Reliable & Professional | Financing Options Available
Proudly Serving Aurora & The GTA
BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION
647.808.6644 | abateconstruction.ca

LANDSCAPING/RENOVATION

SUNSET BEECH TREE CARE
Pruning • Removals
Consulting • Bracing • EAB
647-989-3509
irbryant@gmail.com

AD
If you are reading this ad, our advertising works!
TO ADVERTISE CALL
905-727-3300 EXT 102

PAINTING

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

PAINTING/HOME IMPROVEMENTS

FOUR SEASONS PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENTS
Please Inquire About Our Senior Services & Discounts.
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.

PROPANE

PROPANE AND APPLIANCE SALES
• RESIDENTIAL
• COMMERCIAL
• INDUSTRIAL
INSTALLATIONS
SERVICE • DELIVERY
Carling Propane Inc. 24 HOUR SERVICE 866-952-0146
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

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

TREE SERVICE

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

WINDOWS/EAVES/EXTERIOR

REX WINDOWS & HOME
Exceptional window, eaves & exterior cleaning
(647) 393 7397
info@rexwindows.ca
Contact for a free quote

Thank You
FOR SUPPORTING A LOCAL BUSINESS

TO ADVERTISE, PLEASE CONTACT 905-727-3300 EXT 102

Jolliffe signs off as Chair of the Region of York

BY BROCK WEIR
EDITOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As newly-elected Councillors prepare to be sworn in across Ontario this month, outgoing Councillors are saying farewell.

Eric Jolliffe, who was appointed by the Ontario Government to the role of Chair of the Regional Municipality of York in 2024, is just one official who is preparing to start a new chapter after deciding not to reapply for the job.

Jolliffe, who will be succeeded in the role by Vaughan Mayor Steven Del Duca, presided over his final meeting of Regional Council on Thursday, November 5, looking over the accomplishments of the 2022-2026 Council term.

Jolliffe, who previously served as York Regional Police Chief, was appointed Chair at the end of 2024, replacing former Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emmerson in the role. His appointment, following Emmerson's retirement, came into effect January 1, 2025.

"It has been a privilege to serve our residents for over 40 years, including 10 years as Chief of Police and the past two years as Chairman and CEO," Jolliffe told his colleagues last week. "The role has given me an even greater appreciation for the many dedicated people it takes to keep York Region strong, caring, and safe. I have seen firsthand a Council and staff who genuinely care about the 1.3 million residents who call our communities home. To our staff, the senior leadership team, our CAO, the Office of the Regional Clerk, and all members of Council, thank you. Thank you for your support and commitment, and a very special thank you to my Chief of Staff, Lina Bigioni, for her guidance and support. I also think it important that I recognize former Chairman Wayne Emmerson for his leadership during the first two years of this term.

"Together, this Council has made important progress in the areas that matter most to our residents. We have heavily invested in community safety and well-being, significantly expanding police and paramedic resources by adding 391 sworn and civilian police staff and 140 paramedics and support staff to strengthen frontline capacity, emergency response, and community safety.

"We've also invested in housing solutions, opening Mosaic House in The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville with 97 new housing units and advancing the Queensway South project in Georgina, which will deliver 86 affordable housing units, including community transitional and emergency housing. These are important steps in addressing housing needs in our communities."

Jolliffe also highlighted the work of Council to address challenges related to a reduction in Development Charges while funding more than $21 billion in growth-related infrastructure projects through 2051, and advancing the North York Durham Sewage System, which will support 50,000 new homes and 150,000 future residents.

"These investments are essential in accommodating growth responsibly and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with our community's growth," he continued. "We have worked to keep people, goods, and information moving. We've advanced major road and transit infrastructure, continued to support the Yonge-North subway extension and expanded YorkNet broadband connectivity, bringing fibre-to-home service to approximately 1,300 homes and advancing access for thousands more. These investments help connect our communities, support our residents and businesses, and prepare York Region for the future. None of this happens without collaboration, sound decision-making, and a shared commitment to public service.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished together and excited to see York Region continue to evolve and meet the needs of our growing and diverse communities."

After paying tribute to outgoing members of Regional Council, including East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson and Georgina Mayor Margaret Quirk, members of Council in turn paid tribute to Jolliffe.

Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti in particular spoke to his long-standing relationship with Jolliffe, which was formed through the outgoing Chair's background in police services.

"I am extremely proud of the work that you did there in giving members of the service, both responsibility, but also accountability," said Scarpitti of Jolliffe's time at the helm of the YRP. "Back when you started [as Chair], I said, 'Welcome to the family and no sooner had I said that you began to chair what was a pretty interesting discussion on development charges. And again, like most of our discussions here, passionate about the perspectives that we bring, but recognizing that we have to make a decision and move forward collectively. You managed that meeting the best you could, that was brand new around the table. I think what's impressed me most is that in all of our discussions, you've allowed for everyone to present their perspective and that's not an easy thing to do – making sure that those perspectives are heard around the table. I'll tell you even times when I disagreed them, I understood why you were doing it because it's important to hear those different points of view. I'll just say it was always to get the best outcome, best decision. The other aspect, and I'm sure I'm not alone in this [is when I talked] to you about issues or I said, 'I know you don't agree with this, but could you look at this?' I never heard you say no, I always heard you say, 'Let me take that back. Let me think about this.' And in doing so you were able to advance a particular issue.

"While your short ride here has not been that long, I truly do understand why the Province tapped you on the shoulder to undertake this role for the remainder of this term. Certainly it was clear to me why they did it, and hopefully it's been clear to others that you brought that experience, that commitment to the people of York Region, and I think that's been evident all through your leadership here as the Chair of the Region."

GETTING THINGS DONE

From page 5

LIGHTING UP OUR DOWNTOWN!

Imagine walking through our historic downtown in the evening with beautiful decorative streetlights, hanging flower baskets and warm overhead lighting similar to what residents already enjoy at Aurora Town Square!

The designs also include opportunities for seasonal and holiday decorations, creating a downtown that looks incredible throughout the year.

IMPORTANT UNDERGROUND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

This project isn't just about making our downtown look better.

It also includes replacing aging sanitary sewers, improving stormwater drainage and upgrading underground infrastructure to support our downtown well into the future.

PROTECTING OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS

I also want to address some confusion surrounding conceptual renderings that have been circulating online.

This project is about STREETSCAPE improvements, NOT proposed building developments or the replacement of historic buildings.

Heritage is a significant part of Aurora's identity, and protecting the historic character of our downtown has always been a priority.

That's why we specifically put protections in place through our Community Planning Permit System (CPPS) to ensure our historic buildings are retained and preserved as future development occurs.

Our historic buildings are not intended to disappear!

We can create a modern, vibrant and thriving downtown while preserving the history and character that make Aurora so special.

WHAT'S NEXT? CONSTRUCTION IN SPRING 2027!

And here's the exciting part — we're getting closer to making this vision a reality!

With the second public open house now completed, we'll be moving forward with the tendering process in the new year.

Construction of the streetscape improvements is currently anticipated to begin in spring 2027, in accordance with the current Council's direction, with the goal of completing the work within one construction season.

An important part of the next steps will be working closely with our downtown businesses to minimize disruptions, maintain access and ensure residents continue supporting our local shops and restaurants throughout construction.

BUILDING ON THE MOMENTUM WE'VE CREATED!

With the opening of Aurora Town Square, the planned restoration of Victoria Hall and now the revitalization of our historic downtown streetscape, we're continuing to build on the incredible progress we've made.

These projects are all part of a larger vision — creating a downtown that celebrates our history, supports our local businesses, brings people together and becomes a true destination for residents and visitors alike.

I want to thank everyone who attended the open house, shared their thoughts and took the time to learn more about the plans. A special thank you as well to our Town staff and project team for their hard work and for answering residents' questions.

This is about more than new sidewalks, trees and lighting. It's about investing in the heart of our community and creating a downtown we can all be proud of for generations to come.

We've accomplished some incredible things together, Aurora, and there's so much more ahead!

We're not just talking about revitalizing our downtown — we're moving forward and getting it done!

The future of downtown Aurora is looking brighter than ever, and I can't wait to see this vision come to life!

AURORAN CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

TIRES FOR SALE 4 snow tires, on rims, for Hyundai Tucson SUV. $500.00. Very good condition. Aurora. 416-992-0873.

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).

!!! 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!!

ROOM FOR RENT

FURNISHED ROOM FOR RENT in Country Home on 10 acres, shared kitchen, $160 per week. References required, gentleman preferred. Call Donna at 647-209-6447 or John at 647-206-5930.

SERVICES

SUPPORT Local BUSINESSES

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

TO ADVERTISE CALL:
905-727-3300 EXT 102

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

ON NOW!

The Royal®
AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

LONGINES
FEI
JUMPING
WORLD CUP™
TORONTO

THE COUNTRY COMES TO THE CITY



EXPERIENCE WORLD-CLASS ATHLETES IN ACTION

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS NOW

OR VISIT **ROYALFAIR.ORG**

NOVEMBER 6 - 15, 2026

EXHIBITION PLACE, TORONTO

DAIRY FARMERS of ONTARIO Milk EST. 1965 · SEMEX® · LONGINES · UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH · ECCLESTONE HORSE TRANSPORT · Ford ONTARIO FORD DEALERS