

Doors Open Aurora arrives this Saturday, August 18

Planning Department
Town of Aurora

The 13th annual Doors Open Aurora event takes place this Saturday, August 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year, Doors Open Aurora features fourteen (14) participating sites of natural, architectural and historical significance. Made possible with the help of dedicated community volunteers, Doors Open Aurora offers local residents and visitors the opportunity to experience Aurora's unique history and cultural heritage.

Since Doors Open Aurora began in 2006, more than 33,000 site visits have been recorded to some of the community's most notable and significant historic buildings, cultural landmarks and natural sites. Doors Open Aurora is part of the Doors Open Ontario initiative, a community-based celebration that showcases Ontario's built and natural heritage for residents and visitors alike.

New additions to Doors Open Aurora 2018 include the Pine Orchard Meeting House and the Hillary House Barn. The Pine Orchard Meeting house was built in the 1820s and is the oldest building in Aurora. The building was used previously by the Aurora Gospel Tabernacle and is now home to MaMi's bakery. Hillary House Barn was built in 1862 and is the barn where Dr. Hillary stored the horses and sleigh he used to travel as a physician serving the community.

The wood-framed barn, with bargeboard trim and three-over-three sash windows, is one of the best preserved in Aurora.

Many of this year's Doors Open Aurora participating sites are featured in the vicinity of the Southeast Old Aurora community. This area is bordered to the north by Wellington Street East, to the West by Yonge Street, and to the East by the Railway/GO Transit Line. Heritage sites within this historical area include the Church Street School, Victoria Hall and the Rising Sun Masonic Lodge. Many of these properties are within walking distance from one another in the Southeast Old Aurora community and are in the vicinity of the Doors Open Aurora headquarters at Town Park.

The Southeast Old Aurora community is the first residential subdivision in Aurora, historically known as "Machell's Corners". The anticipated arrival of the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron Railway in 1853 inspired the original property owner, John Mosley, to subdivide his farmland into lots to incorporate new growth. These lots were thoughtfully arranged, with most being the same size and rectangular in shape. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, homes were constructed in various architectural styles, creating a unique and aesthetically pleasing landscape. Today, the Southeast Old Aurora community is known by many local residents as the "heart" of the Town.

Join us at this year's event and experience many more featured sites such as the Aurora Readiness Centre, Hillary House and Koffler Museum of Medicine, The Patrick House Art Studio & Gallery, Theatre Aurora, Aurora Public Library, Trinity Anglican Church, Merlin's Hollow and Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair. The Church Street School will also be featuring the Scarborough Model Railroaders onsite, with the model railway club displaying an exhibit representative of train activity you might have seen in southern Ontario in the late 1950's.

Please note that The White House (Campo Arts Studio & Gallery) will no longer be available to tour for the 2018 Doors Open event. For additional information about Doors Open Aurora and to print a copy of the Doors Open Aurora 2018 Map Guide, please visit www.aurora.ca. Map Guides will also be available at the Doors Open Aurora headquarters booth at Town Park, located at Mosley Street and Wells Street, and at other Doors Open Aurora participating sites on the day of the event.

Come celebrate Doors Open Aurora 2018 and have an experience that you won't get any other day!