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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 26 No.33 905-727-3300

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FREE

Week of May 29, 2025



Citizen of the Year Sandy Bundy is “Optimistic” about Aurora

BY BROCK WEIR

Sandy Bundy was hailed for her positive attitude and “unwavering dedication” to the Aurora community on Monday night as she was named Aurora’s 2025 Citizen of the Year.

The award was bestowed by Mayor Tom Mrakas on May 26 at the Town’s annual Community Recognition Awards.

The Citizen of the Year award is presented annually to one local citizen who has made “exceptional contributions” to the community, highlighting their “unwavering commitment, passion and dedication to their role as a volunteer in our local community.”

“Volunteers play a crucial role in creating stable communities and building connections,” said Mayor Mrakas, who served as the evening’s emcee. “They help

make a meaningful impact on the lives of their neighbours and the overall community. Many of our Town programs, services and events are supported by our volunteers; without their hard work and enthusiasm, some of these events would not come to fruition.”

Before Bundy’s name was revealed, the Mayor teased a few of her accomplishments

Continued on page 15

Fashion Through the Ages raises tens of thousands for men’s health

BY BROCK WEIR

The global pandemic might have prevented Omars Shoes from celebrating its first half-century in Aurora back in 2020, but they more than made up for it on May 20 when they celebrated their 55th anniversary with Fashion Through the Ages.

The fashion show, which featured

Continued on page 6



Omars Shoes co-owner Raz Khamissa, accompanied by wife and co-owner Mae Khamissa, receives a thunderous welcome to the Royal Venetian Mansion last Tuesday night as part of Fashion Thru the Ages.
Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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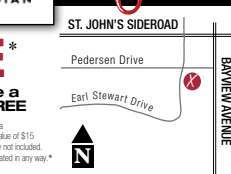
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Community Recognition Awards honour “constellation of stars” that keep Aurora bright

BY BROCK WEIR

There are many stars in the night sky that often go unseen, but together they form the constellations that have a profound impact on human culture.

While they don’t do it for the applause, the tireless work of our local volunteers can similarly go unheralded, but that was not the case on Monday night where these community stars found their place in the spotlight, even if reluctantly, as the Town of Aurora hosted the 2025 Community Recognition Awards.

Those honoured on May 26 represented hundreds of collective years of community dedication and giving back.

“We are so fortunate to live in a community where generosity is not an exception, but a way of life,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas, who served as the evening’s emcee. “Aurora is stronger, more compassionate and more vibrant because of the countless contributions of people like you, our volunteers.

“Whether you mentor youth, support charitable causes, coach sport teams, coordinate cultural programs, or lend a helping hand to those in need, your impact resonates far beyond what is seen. You help shape lives and build community in a way that is both profound and lasting.”

Hailing the evening’s recipients as Aurora’s “brightest stars,” Mayor Mrakas threaded the constellation metaphor.

“You may not always see them in the daylight, and sometimes their presence is quiet or subtle – but when we pause to look up, when we truly take time to notice, we realize that they’ve been guiding us all along,”

he said. “Constellations are made up of individual stars, each with their own unique brilliance. Yet, together, they form patterns that have guided explorers, inspired storytellers and connected generations across time.

“In the same way, each of you brings your own light – your time, talent, energy, and heart – and when combined with others, you form the guiding patterns of our community. You offer hope, direction, and a sense of belonging. You help people find their way, often without even realizing it. Just like those stars in the night sky, many of your efforts go unseen by the wider world. But the people you’ve helped – they see you. They feel your impact.”

**ARTS & CULTURE AWARD
SHADOWPATH THEATRE
PRODUCTIONS**

The Arts and Culture Award is presented each year to an individual or group that has enhanced the community through their support or promotion of culture, music, visual, performing or the literary arts. “Shadowpath Theatre has enriched Aurora’s cultural scene by creating unique site-specific performances in unexpected locations,” reads their citation. “From heritage homes, parks and cafes they have brought arts to the community and to life. They have a long history of partnering with local venues and artists, making theatre accessible and engaging for diverse audiences.

“Shadowpath is also a strong supporter of the local arts economy and champions female leadership within the industry. The impact of their innovative approach to storytelling and community engagement has been felt throughout

Aurora.”

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
AWARD
LAUREN HANNA**

Presented each year to an individual or organization that has “significantly enhanced the Town through their contribution, commitment and leadership in the areas of charitable giving, civic engagement, community events or community spirit,” this year’s recipient, Lauren Hanna, was described as a “dynamic community leader” in many ways. “She is the driving force behind popular community events such as the Easter Egg Hunt she designed for her local park, and the Cousins Street Party which brings neighbours together and has been a dedicated advocate for improvements to public spaces like Town Park. Her active participation in civic organizations such as the Aurora Public Library Board, [Ratepayers Associations] and her ability to inspire collective action have made a significant positive impact on the [our] community. Lauren makes everyone feel welcomed wherever she is. Lauren leads not just with vision, but with heart. Whether rolling up her sleeves at local events or rallying others with words of encouragement, she inspires action, fosters connections and turns ideas into impact. Her passion is contagious, and her dedication is unwavering, making her a community leader and cheerleader in equal measure.”

**GOOD BUSINESS AWARD
NEIGHBOUR MEDIA**

Each year, the Town honours a business that has shown its

commitment to corporate responsibility and corporate involvement “through its ongoing support of charitable causes, events and programs.” Neighbour Media was celebrated in its citation for its “remarkable commitment to supporting local charities and businesses by providing extensive coverage and promotional opportunities” across their platforms. “By attending countless local events and sharing the stories of our residents and organizations, Neighbour Media fosters a strong sense of connection and awareness throughout Aurora.”

**GOOD NEIGHBOUR AWARD
JIM JACKSON**

Jim Jackson is the recipient of this year’s Good Neighbour Award, which recognizes those who “embody what it means to be a good neighbour [in] the simple acts of kindness and compassion that helps create connected and vibrant neighbourhoods.” Jackson was hailed as an “all-encompassing good neighbour” in his community who goes above and beyond to assist those around him. “He’s the kind of neighbour who doesn’t wait to be asked; he sees a storefront buried in snow and grabs a shovel without hesitation. He welcomes everyone with a smile that says, ‘You belong here.’ Whether it’s lending a hand, offering a kind word, or quietly stepping in when someone needs support, Jim does it all without expecting recognition. He reminds us all that small, everyday acts of kindness are the foundation of a great community. His selfless actions, and support, create a stronger and more

Continued on page 3



TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

A Public Open House is being held to receive input on the Town’s Community Planning Permit System prior to any Official Plan Amendment and passing of the Community Planning Permit System By-law:

Thursday, June 19, 2025
6 to 8 p.m.
Aurora Town Hall,
100 John West Way

The Public Open House will have an initial brief presentation at 6 p.m. followed by an ongoing drop-in for the remainder of the session.

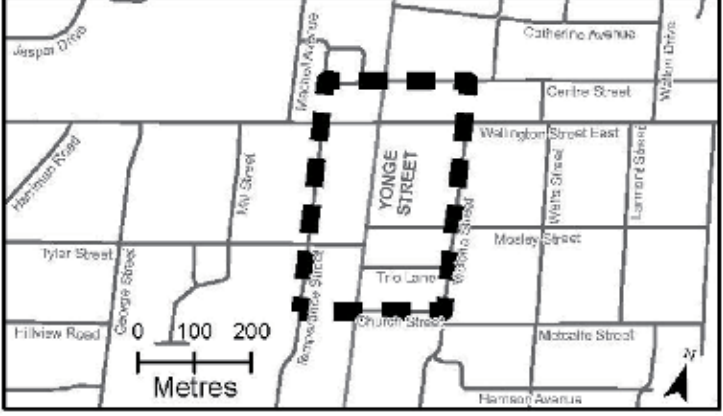
What is a Community Planning Permit System (CPPS)?

A Community Planning Permit System is a land use planning tool that combines Zoning By-law Amendments, Minor Variances, and Site Plan applications into a single application and approval process. This enables the Town to be proactive in setting the built form expectations for the downtown, while also streamlining the future development and revitalization of the area.

Purpose of the Public Open House:

The open house is an opportunity to gather feedback regarding the Community Planning Permit System proposed in the Downtown area prior to any Official Plan amendment and the passing of the Community Planning Permit System By-law. Residents are encouraged to attend and learn, ask questions, and provide feedback about the project.

Further details on the Community Planning Permit System are available at: engageaurora.ca/cpps.



Additional information

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact Adam Robb, Manager of Policy Planning and Heritage, at arobb@aurora.ca, or Dania Asahi Ogie, Policy Planner, at daogie@aurora.ca.

aurora.ca/publicnotices



TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION

The Town of Aurora is in receipt of the following Complete Application under the Planning Act:

APPLICATION: The purpose of the proposed Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment applications is to facilitate the construction of five (5) new residential lots, fronting onto Ridge Road and Glensteeple Trail. Additionally, a portion of the subject property is proposed to be rezoned to Environmental Protection.

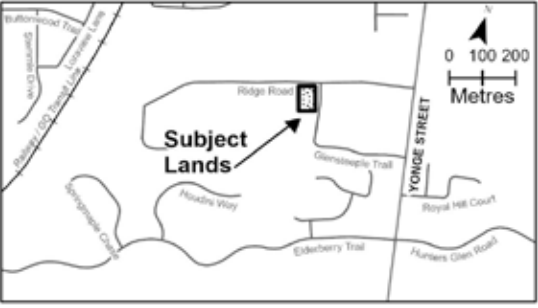
PROPERTY:
107 Ridge Road

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
PLAN 132 PT LOT 20

APPLICANT:
2693642 Ontario Inc.

FILE NUMBERS:
OPA-2025-02 & ZBA-2025-03

WARD: 4



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Any questions regarding the above noted applications should be directed to Katherine Gatzos, of the Planning and Development Services Department, at 365-500-3106 or at kgatzos@aurora.ca.

Comments may be provided by mail to the Planning and Development Services Department at 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, Ontario L4G 6J1, by fax to 905-726-4736 or by email to planning@aurora.ca. Please quote the File Name and Number.

As per Provincial Bill 23, a Statutory Public Meeting to obtain input on the proposal will also be scheduled in the future. Notice of the Public Meeting will be provided in accordance with the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13.

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.

Dated at the Town of Aurora, this 29th day of May, 2025.

aurora.ca/PublicNotices



Recipients of The Town of Aurora's 2025 Community Recognition Awards pose for a group shot with Mayor and Council following Monday night's ceremony in Council Chambers. For more on the event, see Page 14.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

From page 2

connected neighbourhood. Jim's genuine kindness and unwavering willingness to contribute make him a cherished presence in our community."

**GREEN AWARD
STEM MINDS**

Presented each year to an individual or group that supports the protection, preservation, sustainability or conservation of the natural environment, this year's honouree, STEM Minds, was celebrated for its efforts towards a sustainable future. "They are not just teaching sustainability, they are inspiring a mindset shift where innovation and environmental stewardship go hand in hand. By sparking curiosity, they empower young people with the knowledge and skills to understand and address environmental challenges through hands-on projects focused on AgriTech and sustainable practices. Their commitment to using eco-friendly materials and engaging the community in green initiatives is fostering a generation of environmentally conscious leaders. Their dedication to a greener Aurora makes them an outstanding recipient of the Green Award."

**INCLUSIVITY AWARD
ALISON HUGHES**

Alison Hughes, an advocate for making Aurora a more accessible and inclusive community for all, is this year's recipient of the Inclusivity Award. "Alison Hughes has been a tireless champion for accessibility and inclusion in Aurora, demonstrating exceptional leadership and dedication. Her efforts are creating not just physical spaces that are accessible, but a cultural shift toward equity and empathy that will benefit generations to come. Alison's voice is a guiding light in the conversation around inclusion, a voice that challenges assumptions, champions [change] and invites other to think differently. Her courage to speak up, paired with her determination to drive change, has opened doors both literally and figuratively for so many in our Town. Her advocacy was instrumental in bringing a fully accessible and barrier-free playground to Town Park, setting a new standard for inclusivity in our public spaces. Through sharing her lived experiences and her active role on the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Alison is fostering greater understanding and ensuring that accessibility remains a key priority in our Town. Alison's work is a testament to how one person's dedication can influence policy, reshape spaces and build a more welcoming community for all."

**OLDER ADULT VOLUNTEER
AWARD GLEN SHARP**

Honouring residents 55+ who make significant contributions to community volunteerism, this year's recipient, Glen Sharp, was recognized for his work in many areas, including the Aurora Seniors' Centre where he currently serves as president and an advocate for older adults. "His leadership on various committees encourages engagement and forward-thinking initiatives which benefit seniors in our community. Glen's dedication extends beyond the Seniors' Centre through his long-standing involvement with the Aurora Optimist Club...and Aurora Minor Hockey Association, to name a few. He inspires others to get involved and give back."

**YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD
ANGELA FANG,
HAILEY GRAHAM,
NAYA MUELLER**

For the first time, the Youth Volunteer Award was bestowed to three exceptional student leaders.

ANGELA FANG:

"Angela has made a significant impact on the Aurora Cultural Centre through her dedicated involvement over the past three years. As a youth member of the Outreach Committee, she has provided invaluable insights that have shaped youth engagement strategies and the successful Youth Artists on the Rise program. Angela just doesn't show up, she steps up demonstrating that age is not a barrier to making an impact. Her leadership and commitment have fostered a vibrant and inclusive environment for young artists in our community."

HAILEY GRAHAM:

"Throughout her high school journey, Hailey has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep commitment to creating inclusive communities. From organizing impactful school-wide events to contributing to contributing to the York Region District School Board's mental health initiatives and supporting global causes, her passion for making a difference is evident. Hailey's passion ignites possibility in others, empowering fellow youth to use their voices, take action, and shape the future of their community. She is driven by purpose, and not driven by recognition, but [by] a desire to make things better, kinder and more connected for everyone around her. Hailey's dedication to uplifting others and fostering a sense of belonging has positively impacted countless individuals."

NAYA MUELLER:

"In a short time since moving to Aurora, Naya has become an incredibly engaged and impactful youth volunteer. Naya's contributions have rippled outward, touching lives, and reminding us that youth leadership isn't the future, it's here now. Her leadership style has been a force for good, turning compassion into action and transforming ordinary moments into meaningful change. Her involvement spans mentorship, student government, arts, environmental initiatives, community safety programs, and the Town's Youth Engagement Committee. Naya's diverse contributions and her passion for creating a welcoming and inclusive community make her an exemplary young leader."

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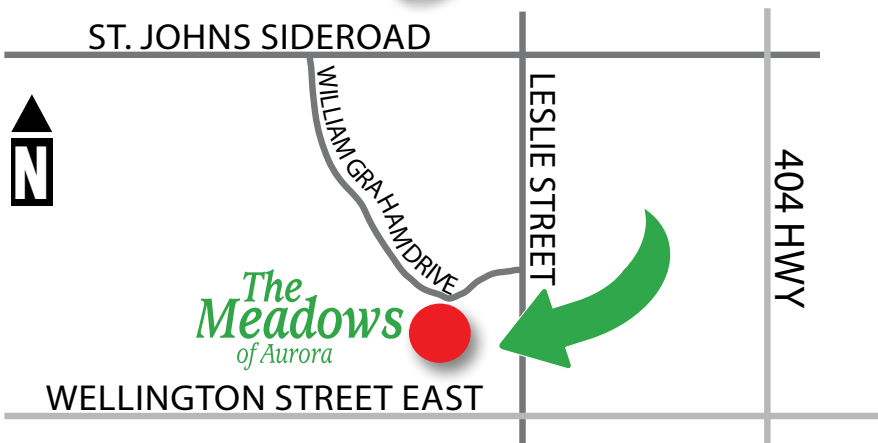
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Candidates in elections don’t always win: reader

On May 15, 2025, Leah Taylor Roy, our former MP, stated in an article by Brock Weir that “What was a shock, to me, was not that I lost; what was a shock was the extent of the loss.”

She claimed that she didn’t see Costas Menegakis even once, which should not be a surprise when our riding covers such a very large area of Aurora, Oak Ridges and Richmond Hill.

She stated with no evidence that “Clearly we saw they didn’t want to answer questions” yet Costas and his team left literature at the doors that provided his email, phone number and website.

Costas was always replying to emails and phone calls as well as knocking personally on thousands of doors, answering questions in person. I know because I volunteered in his campaign.

She stated that, “I didn’t feel like I was running against my Conservative opponent; I felt like I was running against disinformation and misinformation.”

Rather than default to false allegations of disinformation and misinformation, Leah would do well for herself to do some reflection on why her campaign could not convince many hard-working constituents to vote for her.

Speaking of disinformation and unethical practices, as well as a possible infringement of the Elections Act, I received Leah Taylor Roy’s March 2025 Member of Parliament flyer in the mail. She had included a hit piece on Pierre Poilievre with her title “Member of Parliament” under her name on the front.

Under the heading “What’s at Stake?” she listed programs at risk including Dental and Pharmacare, Early Learning and Child Care, National School Food Program, Housing Support, Canada Child benefit, and claimed, “Even Your Retirement is at RISK.”

Under all these ridiculous claims, she placed a picture of Pierre next to the statement, “Meanwhile, Pierre Poilievre wants to TAKE AN AXE to these programs.”

This is textbook disinformation as Pierre had not mentioned cutting any of the programs listed on the flyer. His plan was to reverse the disastrous Liberal record, cut the cost of food and housing, let you keep more of what you earn with tax breaks, including for seniors, and kill inflation so your dollar goes further.

The plan was to build homes, unleash the economy, reduce crime, bring immigration back under control, and actually put Canada First, for a change.

Community service should not be about the candidate, but about the people you are supposed to be representing. MP Costas Menegakis often talks about being the servant of the people and lived up to that in his position of Parliamentary Secretary - Citizenship & Immigration in the Harper Government.

There is no reason to believe that he won’t continue to serve the people of our riding, no matter who you voted for.

Shelley Wister
Aurora

THE AURORAN

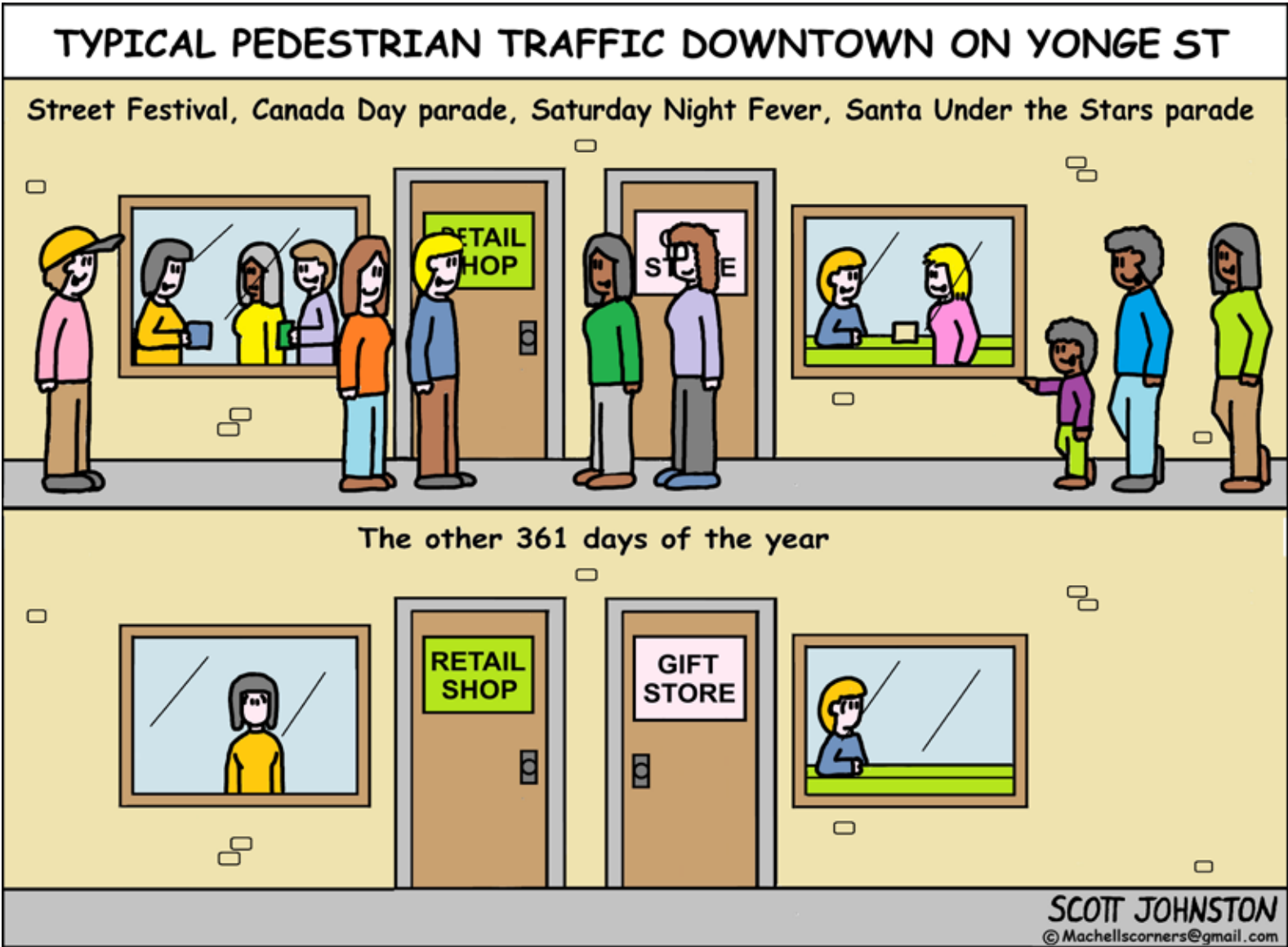
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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Machell's Corners



Deploying the Crown



BROCK’S BANTER

Brock Weir

maturity during her reign. I’m not sure how we fared on the unity and understanding front, but many of the contemporaries of her own children referred to in 1977 are eyeing retirement or even enjoying it as I write, the eldest is now in the role and preparing for a speech which, by the time you read this, could have been a reign-defining moment in his so-called “Maple Kingdom.”

But, who is the intended audience for the speech?

Speeches from the Throne, regardless of whether it is delivered by the Monarch in person, or by the Governor General, their day-to-day representative in the country, are not generally events that are all that exciting or chock full of surprises to those who actively follow politics.

Most Canadians, prior to Carney’s invitation to the King to deliver his government’s agenda, probably haven’t lost a whole lot of sleep over whose mouth the words ultimately come from.

The consensus of most pundits is the Prime Minister invited the King to open parliament for the first time in his reign in a bid to send a message to the United States President, who has been rattling his sabres on annexing the Great White North, to underscore Canada’s sovereignty by having the actual sovereign in place.

The Prime Minister’s words following the announcement the King would be doing just that, didn’t exactly throw cold water on this theory.

“This historic honour matches the weight of our times,” he said. “Canada has a steadfast defender in our sovereign.”

Indeed. As a long-time admirer of the King through the initiatives and causes he promoted prior to his ascension, and as one who sees the value of an institution such as the monarchy in Canadian life, I’m thrilled that the current government is taking advantage of the resources we have in the Crown and putting it to good use. After all,

as the saying goes, if you don’t use it, you lose it – and if the government of the day doesn’t utilize the monarchy to either of its advantage, the latter will wither in apathy.

I never quite expected the Crown to be used as a middle finger to our southern neighbours, though – but, as we’re constantly reminded, we do live in perpetually unprecedented times.

A May 24 piece by Benjamin Lopez Steven for the CBC quotes royal writer Patricia Treble with a particularly apt metaphor:

“King Charles is ‘not a foreign king. When he comes to Canada, he is the Canadian king. He’s invited by the government in Ottawa.’ Treble described the Canadian Crown as a fire extinguisher that gets dusty and is only used in an emergency. ‘It has been tested and it’s coming down off the wall,’ Treble said. ‘And we are going to see it on Monday and Tuesday.’”

The article offers another insight from Professor Philippe Lagassé: “We should also remember our institutions – whether we like them or not, whether or not we want to change them – for now, this is what they are and they are quite significant at this moment.”

But we should not simply think this event is being hosted for an audience of one. In this, his first significant act as King of Canada, it will also be an important milestone in the relationship between the monarch and the people, re-establishing a relationship he honed as heir to the throne, but now in a very different constitutional lens and level of service.

“In ten visits together to Canada, spread over a quarter of a century, seven in the last decade alone, Prince Philip and I have met many thousands of Canadians in all walks of life, of all ages, in every province and territory,” said our monarch of 48-years-ago and three-years-ago. “My happiest memories of our travels throughout Canada have been these individual contacts, which have revealed the enormous strength and astonishing diversity of this nation.

“I have always been full of admiration for what Canada is. The new generation fill me with confidence for what Canada can become.”

I’m not sure what she would make of our present situation, but, by my estimation the enormous strength and astonishing diversity of this nation endures and supports one another. Let’s hope this week’s visit is the first of many, and that the King has many official opportunities ahead to forge these bonds that strengthen the very institution within the country in which it will be dusted off and deployed this week.

THE AURORAN

Aurora’s Community Newspaper

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The Aurora Museum & Archives is honouring...



...National Indigenous History Month

On loan from Anishinaabe Traditional Grandmother and Ancestral Knowledge Keeper Kim Wheatley, who's also a member of Shawanaga First Nation, Turtle Clan, is a personal collection of handmade dolls. These dolls show traditional regalia on a grandmother and grandfather. The tiny floral-patterned fabric is typical of old-styled regalia, which is highly valued in ceremonial circles. The plant world is considered older than us and we receive their gifts of life through their sacrifice. The dolls are wearing a ribbon shirt and ribbon dress, which represent historical ceremonial dress. They are used by Wheatley to teach about culture from many angles. Come see them on display at Aurora Town Square!



Time Travellers Diary

By Jacqueline Stuart

The Other Grahams

Recently I had occasion to drive along Willow Farm Lane: more or less parallel with St. John's Sideroad and running from just west of Yonge to just east of Bathurst, ending at Treegrove Circle. I turned on to Treegrove and quickly came to the Graham Parkette. It is a small park, as the name suggests, largely hidden by surrounding trees.

Which Grahams are commemorated in this attractive little green spot? Not the family of Captain William Graham, one of Aurora's first settlers, who in 1798 was granted some 3,000 acres (about 1,200 hectares) in and around the future Aurora, but on the east side of Yonge.

The Grahams we are looking for did not arrive in Aurora until the later 1860s. The head of the family, George W. Graham (c1820–1893), was born in Ireland.

The Graham men tended to be carpenters. George himself had been a farmer but became a carpenter after moving into Aurora. His son William worked at the Fleury agricultural implement factory for fifty years, as a carpenter.

Fleury's plows and other implements included a surprising amount of woodwork. William's brother Thomas was a house carpenter or builder and his work is no doubt to be found in many an Aurora structure. (The remaining brother, John James, moved to Toronto and became an insurance broker – and alderman for sixteen terms.) In the third Aurora generation, one of Thomas's sons, Willard, also became a carpenter.

There were women in the family! George's three daughters went straight from being daughters to being wives and mothers, but in the next generation some women worked outside the home, including Thomas's daughters Muriel (a nurse) and Mildred (a bookkeeper).

How did that parkette come to be named for these Grahams?

Willow Farm originally stretched from Yonge to Bathurst, with the sideroad as its northern border. In 1872 the western end was sold to the Copson family. Two of our Grahams would marry Copsons and there came to be a certain marriage of land ownership, as well. After various changes in ownership within the families the farm came to be fully owned by the Grahams in 1972. It was farmed by non-carpenter George T. (1916–1991), a son of Thomas. In 1987 the land was sold for development.

A few days ago I took a trip back to that farm as it was about eighty years ago. Just in case there was anyone around I went back in the form of a robin!

It was a sunny day and I perched near a group of four women in short-sleeved dresses of 1940s vintage. Unfortunately, they were not wearing name tags! I think I might have been chirping around Mildred, one of her sisters, their mother, and an aunt on the Copson side. They were standing by a pond surrounded by lightly wooded land. Sadly, I don't think I can claim they were actually on the future parkette site: I have not found any old documents or images showing a pond in that precise location. But at least they were on the old farm. I left the ladies to their happy chatter and flew back to the present.

So, no pond today, but there are a few clumps of trees around Treegrove Circle that just might have been there in the days of the Graham farm.



GETTING THINGS DONE

Mayor Tom Mrakas

This week, we're thrilled to celebrate a remarkable achievement by one of our own. Congratulations to Andrew Saltes, a dedicated member of our Town staff, who was named Best Plow Operator in the Region at the recent AORS (Association of Ontario Road Supervisors) Truck Rodeo!

The AORS Truck Rodeo is a highly respected event that puts municipal equipment operators to the test through a series of challenges designed to assess skill, safety, and precision behind the wheel. Competing against some of the best drivers from across the region, Andrew's exceptional abilities and commitment to safe,

professional driving earned him the top spot—a proud moment for both him and the Town of Aurora.

As regional champion, Andrew will now advance to represent Aurora this September at the AORS Provincial Safety Truck Rodeo in Ottawa. This prestigious provincial competition brings together elite operators from municipalities across

Ontario, promoting excellence in public works and highlighting the critical role these skilled professionals play in maintaining safe and efficient roadways year-round.

Andrew's accomplishment is a testament not only to his talent and dedication but also to the high standards upheld by our Town's Operations team. We are incredibly proud to have someone of his caliber representing Aurora on the provincial stage.

Please join me in congratulating Andrew and wishing him the very best as he heads to Ottawa. Let's cheer him on — good luck, Andrew!



COSTAS' CORNER

MP Costas Menegakis

It was the third week of May in 1956 when my mother, Panagiota, a young woman in her mid-twenties boarded the Queen Frederica for a transatlantic trip to Canada from her native country of Greece. Born in the thirties in the midst of the great depression in a small village in the Spartan region of southern Greece in a poor family, opportunities were non-existent.

The inevitable hardship that followed as the country was embroiled in the Second World War was only compounded by the civil war that ensued in 1948. Like so many of her generation, my mother was deprived of an education. By the 1950s, it became evident to my mother that she did not have a future in her poor village.

It was then that a friend told her about a country called Canada. At the time, the Government of Canada had an immigration stream for Domestics. Today we call it the Live-in Caregiver Program. She applied and was one of 75 young women who courageously boarded the ship for Canada to work as a maid in a home. The Queen Frederica embarked on the 15-day journey landing at Pier 21 in

Halifax on June 6, 1956. My mom walked off the ship carrying a small suitcase containing just a few clothing items, not knowing a word of the English or French language. In truth though, she carried a lot more than that. She brought with her the dream that in this new country that she had chosen she would be welcomed and with hard work she would succeed. She dreamt that she would meet someone, get married, have children and grow a family in a country that promised every opportunity to educate her children, contribute to society and prosper.

My father, John, also chose Canada as his new home and landed with the same dream at the same pier one year later. They met in Montreal and were married the following year. Born in Montreal, my brothers and I grew up in a loving home guided by the values taught to us by our parents. It was in those early formative years

that I learned the importance of civic engagement and realized that in addition to my own personal career path I wanted to be of public service.

For the past 35 years, I have volunteered in my community and this ultimately led me to seeking an elected office. My election to Canada's Parliament in 2011 and then again in 2025 would not have ever been possible if my parents had not instilled in me a deep love for our great country. Canada is indeed a country where everything is possible, even for two very poor people who came here like so many others seeking a better life.

For my family, my election was a fulfillment of our Canadian dream. I am truly deeply humbled that the good people of Aurora and Richmond Hill have given me the opportunity to be their voice in Parliament. I know that the chair I sit in belongs to them and I will work tirelessly to prove worthy of the honour to represent them. While elections are political and campaigns are partisan, please know that I am your Member of Parliament irrespective of who you voted for. I am here to be of service and I will do everything within my purview to help.

Fashion show offers advice on men’s health

BY BROCK WEIR

Men aren’t always the best advocates when it comes to their own physical and mental health, but Dr. Jerome Green, a urology surgeon at Southlake Health, tried to turn the tide last week as a keynote speaker at Fashion Through the Ages, a local fashion show hosted by Omar’s Shoes to benefit men’s health programs at the local hospital.

It can even be as simple as going home to “check your nuts,” said Dr. Green, in his humour-laced speech before a packed crowd at the Royal Venetian Mansion on May 20.

“I play hockey, and it’s funny, as you go through the years, when you’re in the locker room in your 20s, you’re talking about different things – we won’t mention that – and then in your 30s, you start talking about your vasectomies. In your 50s, you start talking about your prostate,” he said.

Prostate cancer, he said, was a particularly important topic because PSA – prostate-specific antigen – tests aren’t part of regular screenings and it often won’t be part of the conversation when considering health options.

“Most family physicians and nurse practitioners will forego that talk because they’re told just to tell patients not to do it, but you have to stand up once you’re 50, or, if you have a family history, starting in your 40s, and ask for the test,” he said. “One in eight men in Canada will be diagnosed with prostate cancer... It’s a common condition, but not a common killer. There is good treatment out there, so it is not a death sentence.

“There’s a lot of men out there that we

do nothing for, we just watch them carefully, and the majority of those men can never be treated. And then there’s others you have to be aggressive for, and some of them, unfortunately, will develop that same disease. The key to doing the testing is to get them earlier, and then you can decide... what route to go on.”

The subject of prostate cancer was extra timely, he added, due to the recent diagnosis of former U.S. President Joe Biden with an aggressive form of prostate cancer that has since metastasized to his bones.

“PSA tests [are] not the be-all and the end-all. Most men that I see who’ve been diagnosed with prostate cancer, they say, ‘Well, I feel perfectly fine.’ You’re not going to have symptoms, and that’s the problem. If you don’t order the test, we don’t know what’s going on.... The other thing is the MRI. Now more and more men are getting MRIs even before they’re getting a biopsy, and some of the guidelines do recommend that. Thankfully, at Southlake, we have a new MRI machine that’s up and coming, and it’ll be running very shortly. It’ll allow more men to have MRIs screened at our site – leading edge, close to their home, that’s our motto – without having to send them elsewhere.... One of the reasons that we’re here today is to help fundraise for men’s health, and one of them is to help us purchase an MRI fusion software biopsy system.”

A diagnosis, he stressed, did not always mean treatment was necessary as “there’s no two patients in the world who have the exact same cancer” and various factors need to be taken into consideration before treatment is considered.

“In September, we’re starting a

multidisciplinary clinic. It’s about time; I’ve been pushing this for a while. We’re sitting down with the oncologists, and we’re going to run these prostate cancer clinics, so it’s like a one-stop shopping thing, and I think that’s very important,” he continued, noting that there are new tests coming out of the United Kingdom that involve a blood test or a mouth swab. “We’re hopeful that we’re not having to be as aggressive with our treatments down the road. But again, a lot of this has to do with early screening.

“You have to be growing advocates for your loved ones – brothers, fathers, sons, and so forth. For prostate cancer prevention, we recommend Vitamin D. That’s the only supplement we recommend. All that other stuff, you can throw it out to waste. Vitamin D is important. It prevents certain cancers,

including colon cancer, prostate cancer, breast cancer. It’s good for prevention of dementia – you’ve just got to remember to take the Vitamin D! – and it’s good for your overall health. Everyone is vitamin D deficient. Even if you looked at Arizona and Florida, they’re showing everyone’s vitamin D deficient, so much so that the government doesn’t pay for testing of it, because we know everyone’s going to be low.”

He further recommended exercise, an avoidance of red meat and an abundance of dairy products – “You can have cheese on your pizza, but don’t be guzzling gallons and gallons of milk!” – and adding Omega 3s (such as those found in fish and flaxseed), green tea, and lycopene from watermelon and cooked tomatoes into your diet.

Show marked 55th anniversary of Omars Shoes, benefiting Southlake

From page 1

several community leaders – including Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas and King Mayor Steve Pellegrini – as models was intended not only to celebrate the store’s milestone, but to also raise money for men’s health programs at Southlake Health.

The fashion show concept was first conceived by the Khamissa family, which has owned and operated Omar’s over three generations, as a way to benefit the local hospital, but co-owner Raz’s ongoing battle with prostate cancer made the event have an even more personal resonance.

Recovering from surgery earlier this month, and a minor “hiccup” that briefly sent him back to the hospital just a few days before the event, it was unclear until the eleventh hour whether Raz would be able to attend, but when he walked through the door just before models took to the catwalk, he was greeted with a loud and enthusiastic ovation.

“It was very overwhelming,” he told The Auroran following the event. “My original plan, I was hoping I’d be able to make it for part of the night, come in for the fashion show, and then disappear after, but there was no chance of my leaving after I got there. A lot of well-wishers were coming up, and it was just a very heartwarming and emotional night.

“The love in that room just felt incredible.”

Raz’s wife, store co-owner Mae Khamissa, said her husband’s appearance at The Royal Venetian Mansion that evening took her somewhat by surprise as things were still uncertain when she set out for the venue earlier in the day.

“I was going around from table to table and it just so happened I was walking past when I saw Raz in his blazer, and that just blew me away,” she

shared.

Looking back on the success of the evening, which included a live auction on the floor that raised an additional \$20,000 for the cause, Mae says they were left “totally blown away” by how it all came together.

“Southlake is our hospital, meaning everyone’s hospital,” she says. “I had my three kids there, (father-in-law and store founder) Omar was diagnosed there and spent a lot of time there on the cancer floor as a patient, and now with Raz, it really meant a lot – and I think it was key that everybody got a chance to be part of it.

“We picked a perfect bunch (of models) because we had different age groups that evening, including a couple of tables of young’uns in their 30s – all the kids and kids’ friends that just grew up in our home, so it was nice. We’re a family store and we wanted to show that part.”

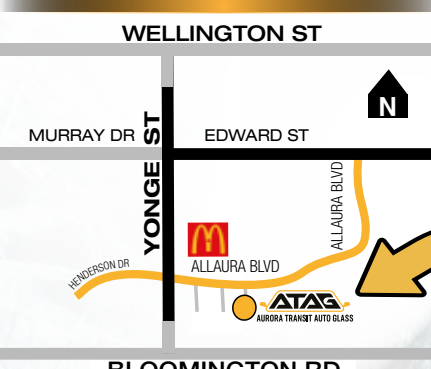
At the end of the day, however, despite their own personal journey, it was Southlake they really wanted to be the focus of the evening – a mission that was certainly accomplished.

“We generally just assume that hospitals get funding totally from the government and what we don’t realize is each department is basically fighting to get funding for new machines and new equipment,” says Mae. “We know various friends who are actually being diagnosed right now that have to go to Toronto to get tested on these machines, so it is key that whatever role we play that we look to support events like these.

“We just want to thank everybody [who participated]. We are so grateful and we thank them for coming to celebrate Omar’s 55 years with us, but we’re just grateful that they were there at the same time to support an incredible and meaningful cause to us, especially with what Raz is going through.”



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Omar's celebrates milestone with Fashion Through the Ages



(Top Row) Omar's co-owner Mae Khamissa receives congratulations from Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy. Music was provided by Soul Benefit. (Centre Row) Models included realtors Caroline Baile and Susie Strom, former Aurora Chamber of Commerce CEO Sandra Ferri, Julianne Goyette, Mikail and Saarah Khamissa, Myles Doak, Luke Sim, Jackie Playter, Marco Di Girolamo, King Mayor Steve Pellegrini and Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas. (Above Row) The Mayors had fun on the catwalk. Omars Shoes has been owned by the Khamissa family for three generations – and the fourth was also well-represented at the gala.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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BUSINESS & FINANCE



Fleury Park improvements intended to enhance park as community “destination”

BY BROCK WEIR

Nearly \$1 million will be needed to transform Fleury Park into a true community destination, according to a report before Council this week.

Fleury Park enhancements have been in the works for more than a year, but inflation and additional proposals to increase accessibility in the popular greenspace are behind staff’s recommendation to increase the project’s budget from \$1.5 million to \$2.44 million.

“The original approved budget authority for this project included an update of the park playground, a replacement shade structure, and additional pickleball courts, focusing primarily on asset rehabilitation,” said Matthew Volpintesta, Manager of Parks and Fleet, in the report to Council. “Through public consultation and review of the park redesign by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), as well as Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC), and in aligning these additional requests with recommendations from the 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP), staff are now seeking direction to proceed with a request for additional amenities and enhancement of existing amenities to elevate Fleury park for future

generations, as a cornerstone destination park within the northwest quadrant of Aurora for residents and visitors alike.

“In March 2025, Town staff hosted both an in-person and online information session to collect input on the enhancement and upgrades to Fleury Park, requesting feedback to help frame concept plans and include any newly proposed amenities, capturing any additional feedback that was most important to the local community. Through this engagement, over 100 survey responses were received, focusing heavily on improved accessibility, a new splashpad and detailing types of community use. Through the Engage Aurora platform, a series of questions were asked, to gather information on the age of park users, the types of uses that were most common in the current park layout, and the desire for possible additions.”

Recommended to proceed immediately is rubber playground surfacing to ensure the space is barrier-free; a full-sized splashpad; and accessible playgrounds.

Set to be phased in over 2026 and 2027, pending Council’s approval, are additional pickleball amenities, including covered player benches and shade structures for the eight courts and a paved pathway loop through the park.

“In consideration of funding constraints, staff have proposed that the recommended Pickle Ball Court additional features and paved pathway loop park enhancements at an estimated cost of \$334,400 be phased in over the coming two years beginning in 2026,” said Volpintesta. “The Town does not anticipate any substantial additional costs to arise should it defer these park enhancements over the proposed time period. As much as possible, staff will ‘future-ready’ the park to receive these deferred recommended enhancements.

“The deferral of the other proposed enhancements at Fleury Park is not recommended as it would require disruption and dismantling of newly erected features resulting in unnecessary additional cost to the Town. For example, should the proposed splashpad be deferred, it would require the removal of newly installed asphalt to accommodate below-grade plumbing, increasing the overall required budget for this enhancement substantially.”

The staff report was first considered at this month’s Committee of the Whole meeting where much of the discussion centred on details related to the pickleball courts.

Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland said there was a parkland deficit on the side of Aurora in question, and asked staff on the public input that came into play when deciding to make “a little more investment” in Fleury Park.

Director of Operations Sara Tienkamp said public meetings on Fleury Park’s future were well-attended and brought about “excellent feedback” from neighbours.

“They were quite passionate about the neighborhood and that part of Town.

This being a community park, it provided us some additional space and opportunity to put in some of the amenities that are lacking on the western portion of Town as illustrated in the Parks and Recreation Plan,” said Tienkamp.

“A splash pad is being recommended through the public and through staff, along with an accessible playground. Both of those are strongly recommended in the Parks and Recreation Plan for the western portion of Town. Because this is a community park [which] has all these other servicing amenities within the park of a washroom currently on site, a large capacity parking lot, the community centre’s there – it’s really an ideal location and there’s sports facilities already in the park as well. It’s an ideal location to locate these amenities within it.”

Concerns were also raised by Councillor Gilliland, as well as by Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese, to ensure there are enough swings to go around, as some have cited an apparent lack of swings at the new playground at Town Park.

“[The Accessibility Committee] had some excellent suggestions for the accessible playground, and something that I never thought of, we make the playgrounds accessible for the children that need the accommodation, but not for the parents who might have accessibility issues,” added Ward 3 Councillor Wendy Gaertner. “The example is, how do you push your child on the swing if you’re in a wheelchair? I think we also need in the future to be thinking this through, especially with an aging population who will be taking perhaps grandchildren to the parks, we need to try and think it through so that it can be accessible to the people who are accompanying the children to the playground.”

Southlake raises more than \$460,000 in record-breaking run

BY BROCK WEIR

It was a record-breaking year for the Nature’s Emporium Run for Southlake.

Held on Newmarket’s Davis Drive on April 27, participants in the Run helped the local hospital raise a best-ever \$460,000, which goes directly to ensuring the future of local healthcare.

Participation itself was another record-buster, bringing more than 1,660 people together for a common cause.

“We are so thrilled to see another year of incredible results,” said Joe D’Addario, co-founder and CEO of Nature’s Emporium, which has been title sponsor of the Run for the last 13 years, in a statement. “Our more than decade-long partnership is a key way that Nature’s Emporium gives back to the communities that support us and every year our team is inspired by the positive impact we all make together.”

Jennifer Ritter, CEO of the Southlake Health Foundation, noted this is the second-consecutive year the Run has broken previous records.

“To be able to say for two consecutive years that we’ve had the most successful Nature’s Emporium Run for Southlake is incredible,” she said. “I am so proud of our communities for uniting to show their support and commitment to Southlake Health and all the clinicians, staff, and volunteers who work tirelessly to provide leading edge care to our loved ones, friends, and families.

“From our dedicated group of volunteers, to our participants who fundraised so passionately, to our community leaders who provided support and insight, and sponsors whose generosity helped to deliver

the best experience for our participants, we couldn’t be more grateful for everyone coming together to achieve another best year in support of Southlake.”

More than 123 teams participated in the 2025 Run, and, with final numbers now being in at Southlake, there are some awards to go around.

The Town of East Gwillimbury secured the Mayor’s Challenge Winner from long-time defending champs at the Town of Aurora, being the top-fundraising municipally-sponsored team. Aurora Montessori School brought glory back to Aurora, the Town in which the Run has its roots, by securing the School Challenge.

Additional winners were Compass Food Sales (Corporate & Business Team Challenge), Fun-Raisers (Community Friends & Family Challenge), and Baby, We Were Born To Run!!! (Hospital Family Challenge Winners). The Town of Newmarket was bestowed the Community Spirit Award, which recognizes “the municipality that has over 60 per cent of Council members participate and largest per capita citizen registration.”

“Funds raised from this year’s event will support critical needs across Southlake, including the purchase of things like day-to-day equipment essential for patient comfort and care and advanced technology for clinicians across the hospital as they provide leading edge care to patients and families,” says the Foundation.

To learn more about the Foundation’s work, upcoming events, and how you can support the community hospital, visit southlakefoundation.ca.





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The WoxBox is a heartwarming way to express yourself to loved ones

BY BROCK WEIR

Love them or hate them, we’ve all had to deal with ice breakers.

It can be a great way to get to know someone, but can they also help change the trajectory of your career?

Well, the answer is a resounding yes from Aurora resident Carey Kirchmair who, along with fellow Auroran Cindy Iatan, have founded The WoxBox – Words of Kindness boxes filled with heartfelt messages, photos, thoughts, and more, lovingly curated as special gifts for that special someone in your life.

“We’re both entrepreneurial and thinking of business ideas we wanted to do something that was positive, putting a little good out into the world,” says Kirchmair. “When I was in sleepover camp around Grade 6, a counsellor had us all sit around in a circle, write our names on the top of a piece of paper, and you had to write something good about the person. At the end of the exercise, we all got a piece of paper with all these amazing things that people thought about us – people we didn’t even know that well, but it made you feel really good.

“Then, as an adult, there were things I had gone to, some funerals, and I heard people saying all these amazing things about people, but I thought, ‘These people should be hearing this stuff now while they’re alive!’ We should be sharing these things; we tell people we love them or we admire them, but we don’t actually articulate why.”

After sharing that particular memory with Iatan, they latched onto their idea, and started making the initial WoxBoxes for family and friends. Feedback was tremendous, they agree, but these initial boxes rolled out nearly a decade ago. They revived the idea about three years ago, looking for ways to streamline the creation and production processes.

They hired a developer and created their own e-commerce platform that allows clients to select personalized boxes for just about every occasion, from birthdays to



Aurora residents Carey Kirchmair and Cindy Iatan are co-founders of The Woxbox.

Contributed photo

memorials. They can create content for the boxes through the platform themselves, and they can also invite others to make contributions to the finished product.

If you’re a not a natural writer, the platform includes writing prompts.

If graphic design skills aren’t in your toolbelt, they have you covered as well.

The founders pride themselves on avoiding any forms of A.I. in the production process “because we want it to be authentic and it’s a very conscious decision.”

“It’s very easy to go on, start a project, you pick your occasion, and then you can write your message, and then it gets submitted,” says Kirchmair. “All of the collaborators, we call them the people that you’ve invited, and then the person that’s organizing the gift can see it all on their dashboard; it’s like a very user-friendly project dashboard for them to see the messages coming in, the

photos loaded, and then when they’re ready to buy, they can decide if they want a digital version, or a printed box, or both.”

Iatan says a printed WoxBox of up to 50 messages is \$89, with prices going up according to the number of messages in batches of 50. Digital boxes starting at \$19 can accommodate up to 150 messages. Packages of multiple digital boxes are also available.

“The digital format is kind of the same experience as printed because you get to flip the cards over as you go through – it’s that same enjoyment that you would get from the printed box, but it’s shareable,” says Iatan, adding that since their soft launch in October they have had very positive feedback. “One customer did it for her grandma and wrote all these beautiful, beautiful messages. A lot of the times people write quite a bit, the reasons why I love you,

respect you, appreciate you, or a funny story they share, but hers – some of them were basic, only one line long, but others were beautiful quotes, memories of what they shared together, like ‘We thought we were having fun, but we didn’t realize we were making such great memories.’”

Adds Kirchmair: “Not only is The Woxbox a joy to receive, it’s also a joy to give, but I think we’ve experienced that it’s also a joy for us to even see these projects coming through and to know the joy they are going to bring someone because they’re beautiful – and we’re excited for them. I think people need to be connecting with others, sharing their love and appreciation, more than ever and in the world we’re kind of in right now, with so much more social isolation, I just think it’s a really important thing to keep in mind the reason why we’re doing this and why it’s important for people to do it.”

For more on The WoxBox, visit thewoxbox.com.



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CYFS GETS THE JOB DONE – Members of the Central York Fire Services held their annual fundraising car wash on Saturday at The Ian Laing Headquarters on Earl Stewart Drive. All donations brought in through the event benefited the United Way, and St. John Ambulance was also on hand to offer safety tips. (Right) Pitching in were John Firman of the Town of Aurora and CYFS Chief Rocco Volpe. **Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger**

Who’s A Good Boy? New documentary explores Aurora’s love for furry friends

BY BROCK WEIR

The restoration and recognition of Aurora’s Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery has been a decades-long passion project for local historian David Heard.

A long-time volunteer at the south Aurora site as restoration work continues ahead of the heritage

property becoming accessible and fully open to the public, Heard has been recording reactions of his fellow volunteers as they’ve helped uncover all the secrets the property holds.

The results of these recordings are set to unspool next week in the Aurora Town Square Performance Hall as Heard presents Who’s a

Good Boy? on June 3 at 7.30 p.m.

Billed as a “journalistic-style documentary,” Heard, armed with a humble Flip video camera, documented a period of time, beginning around 2014, when volunteers first began clearing vegetation away from the overgrown plot of land.

“I was shocked at how the quality of the audio he was,” says Heard of trying out the Flip outdoors for the first time. “I decided to document the day. I had no idea it was going to turn out. I’ve never done something with the camera before other than my schooling. I guess driven by passion and my love for the project, I just ran with it. We got dirty clearing [the land] and when I heard a little excitement or saw an expression on their face [when volunteers had uncovered something], I thought, ‘I’m going to capture that.’”

Viewers don’t see Heard in the finished product. Instead, he’s off camera asking questions, and letting his subjects’ thoughts flow freely. In doing so, he says he found the authentic “magic” in people’s reactions.

“I am absolutely blessed to be able to record history,” says Heard.

Who’s a Good Boy? is the second documentary inspired by the Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery. Heard says while “Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery: Uncovering History” covers the technical aspects of the site’s discovery and restoration, this shows the flipside of what he hopes will become an “awesome, unique roadside attraction” in due course.

“I wanted something where we could share the journey. We can tell you a story until we’re blue in the face [but] people engage with pictures, connected pictures. When you show

them, they’re excited about it and want to go there, they’re going to want to tell their friends, and I think that’s exactly what this video is going to do: it’s going to be like another Pied Piper for what Aurora is going to have to offer moving forward.

“I think the message with the Pet Cemetery is when people see it, they’re going to see all these incredible ornate stones, chiseled faces in rock. A lot of money for the era. They spent so much money on their pets. I’ve heard stories of full-scale funerals with pallbearers and lucite caskets and music being played, and (original site owner) Victor Blochin literally when the grave was being built, it had to be perfect walls, the perfect depth. The respect for the pets was high, and I think the real message when people see it is we could also learn a little bit of a lesson that maybe we could spend a lot more care in caring for our families, our friends, our neighbors, because, like, they went the whole nine yards with the pets, it’s clear.

“When people go there, I think they’re going to find [the space] serene, peaceful and memorable. Now it’s just the waiting game. The [Pet Cemetery] is going to be something big for Aurora, and I think a lot of people know it, and people are chomping at the bit wanting to see it. It’s going to be worth waiting for. [With the documentary] people are going to see it with its raw, overgrown, vine-covered, nature covering up the history and protecting it to this stunning Oz-like oasis.”

For more on the screening of Who’s A Good Boy?, including tickets, visit www.aurora.ca/en/town-square/whats-on.aspx.

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FREE

Week of May 29, 2025

Shaolin earns 7 gold medals while hosting Martial Arts Provincial Championships at SARC's Desjardins Gym

BY JIM STEWART

Jessie Ke Xin Yuan, Aggam Bawa, Tyrus Liu, Casey Bynoe, Gwyn Skjonsby, Ron Piklas, and Daniel Wakefield of Aurora's Shaolin Martial Arts club used their "home court advantage" to capture gold medals at the 2025 Ontario Championships held at SARC's Desjardins Gym on Saturday and Sunday.

250 competitors from across the province displayed their combative prowess in Sanda and technical precision in Tao Lu in the Wushu Canada-sanctioned, two-day qualifier for the Junior Youth Olympics as well as the World University Games in 2026.

Master Tim Wakefield, Director of Shaolin Martial Arts in Aurora, outlined two of the Martial Arts featured at SARC on the weekend: "Sanda is a fusion of Kung Fu from China and North American kickboxing. We have athletes from eleven Sanda clubs across Ontario here for the championships. We also have four of the forms of Tao Lu being performed for the judges—all with compulsory components similar to figure skating: 'Dao' or Broad Sword, 'Jian' or Double-Edged Straight Sword, 'Guen' or Staff, and 'Qiang' or Spear."

The 9th degree Black Belt and 34th Generation Disciple of the Shaolin Temple in China expressed his satisfaction about the event: "This is the first time we've hosted the Ontario championships which is an honour, but it's really about watching young athletes develop and progress. Kids come in with a skills set and to watch them grow in the sport is most satisfying."

The development of Wakefield's young athletes—ranging from 9 to 18 years old—was evident over two days of competition as Shaolin visited the podium seventeen times at SARC.

In addition to Master Wakefield's seven gold medal winners, his Aurora-based Martial Arts club earned seven second-place finishes on the weekend with Chelsea Masucci, Christian Mann, Ricky Masucci, Nathaniel Mann, Albert Wu, Adam Piklas, and Kian Moosavi winning silver medals.

Aggrin Mousavian, Tom Shiskin, and Arvin Dadfar earned bronze at

Continued on page 12



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Public Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE
WATER AND WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN

About the Plan.

The Town of Aurora has initiated a review and analysis of water, and wastewater services throughout the Town, which will result in a Master Plan to support projected population and employment growth to year 2051. The overall objective of this infrastructure planning process is to ensure that the Town’s infrastructure (sewers, watermains and pumping stations) can accommodate Town growth while continuing to provide water and wastewater servicing to residents and businesses that is safe, cost effective and reliable.

Join us for a Public Information Centre- help us plan for the future!

Public consultation is a key component of the MCEA process. We will be holding two Public Information Centres (PIC) throughout the course of the study. PIC#1 will present the background and approach for the Water and Wastewater Master Plan and PIC#2 will present the study findings. PIC#1 will be held at the time and location noted below.

Public Information Centre #1

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Aurora Town Square (Aurora Public Library side)

2nd floor, Program Room 1

Drop-in style, no formal presentation. Comment sheets will be provided.

This study is being conducted in accordance with the requirements of Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA), which is an approved process under the Environmental Assessment Act.

Learn more at: engageaurora.ca/wwwmp

You can also email the project team at: Aurora.W-WW.MP@tylin.com

Consultant

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Email: Mateusz.Lewandowski@TYLin.com



Town of Aurora

Dan Vink, P. Eng

Town of Aurora

Phone: (365) 500-3114

Email: DVink@Aurora.ca



Please note that information related to these studies will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments received will become part of the public record. Thank you for your interest in these studies.

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Shaolin earns 7 gold medals while hosting Martial Arts Provincial Championships at SARC’s Desjardins Gym

From page 11

SARC to close out Shaolin’s medal performances.

Opening ceremonies in the new \$14M gymnasium in east Aurora on Saturday morning included a ribbon-cutting ceremony presided over by Head Judge Jennifer Gu of Wushu Canada, Executive President Sunny Tang from Wushu Canada, Deputy Consul Cheng Hongbo from the People’s Republic of China Consulate, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Ward 1 Councillor and Sport Aurora President Ron Weese, and Wakefield.

It was a special weekend for Shaolin Martial Arts. Not only was Wakefield’s venerable sports organization celebrating its thirtieth year of operation in Aurora, but it also had the distinction of hosting the first major event hosted at Desjardins Gym, which opened on April 5.

Hundreds of athletes—seated on the three blue training and competition mats arranged across the new gym—listened attentively during the Opening Ceremonies to Deputy Consul Hongbo who noted that “This competition is a platform for connection. Our athletes share our passion for the Martial Arts.”

Hongbo invited all participants to “enjoy the spirit and harmony of Wushu.”

Mayor Mrakas—a significant advocate of youth sports in Town—thanked Shaolin Martial Arts for hosting the event and praised its Director.

“Thanks to Tim Wakefield for his leadership over the last thirty years—shaping a generation of athletes in Aurora.”

Mayor Mrakas praised “the time invested, as well as the determination and persistence demonstrated by the athletes gathered here today. It’s a privilege to host this event.”

In his dual capacity as Ward 1 Councillor and President of Sport Aurora, Ron Weese noted the importance of the occasion and the significance of Wushu.

“We’re excited to celebrate the first sport tournament in this new facility. Welcome to Wushu Canada, the National Sports Organization responsible for selecting Canada’s National Team for international competitions and providing essential resources and opportunities for clubs, coaches, and athletes.”

The President of Aurora’s most influential sporting body expressed his “sincere appreciation to Club Director Tim Wakefield for his leadership and determination in bringing this historical event to our town.”

Councillor Weese wished the coaches and competitors “all great fortune and success this weekend as you pursue your worthy dreams.” He also addressed the hundreds of spectators by noting “I am confident you will be inspired by the exceptional skills demonstrated throughout this competition.”

Lubberts delivers timely “Green Thumb Wisdom” seminar to guide spring planting

BY JIM STEWART

Paul Lubberts, an Urban Agricultural Coordinator for the York Region Food Network, delivered an engaging “Green Thumb Wisdom” seminar to fifty Optimist Club dinner meeting attendees at the Aurora Soccer Club on Wednesday night.

Lubberts acknowledged the roomful of Optimists in his post-dinner presentation, mused about what it would mean to be an Optimist, and then described himself as a “content pessimist” much to the amusement of his audience.

After breaking the ice with the service club’s dinner guests, Lubberts showed his true colors as an ardent advocate of community gardens and composting—two items near and dear to his heart.

“I’ve had a lifelong fascination with plants and seeds, so much of my hope is tied to decay and decomposition.”

The ironically-humorous tone and insights delivered by the congenial community gardener were appreciated by his audience and Lubberts encouraged The Optimists “to compost in either bins or

heaps” to “encourage healthy plant growth and soil enrichment.”

He offered a refreshing fascination with the growth and rebirth connected with spring: “Seed sprouts are part of the deepest magic that we encounter in our natural world.”

Lubberts—resplendent in a warm red toque to combat the unseasonable cold conditions outside—delineated the benefits of composting as a key to healthy gardens and landscaping: “It only takes seventeen elements – a combination of micronutrients and macronutrients—to grow healthy plants. Compost is comprised of all the elements that plants need. It holds nutrients in their most natural form. It enlivens the soil, its organic materials increase water retention, and it improves catch and charge rates through root systems.”

He offered insights into the “Soil Food Web—a microbial soup that is both robust and self-regulating.”

“Every organism needs to eat and composting encourages the health of 30,000 species of bacteria that live in our healthy gardens. The Soil Food Web is robust and

self-regulating. The bacteria are custodians of the Soil Food Web and develop a symbiotic relationship with fungi.”

This balance is adversely affected by many kinds of chemical fertilizers and Lubberts cautioned the gardeners to use it sparingly, if at all.

“Some chemical fertilizers have harmful effects on the ecosystems that exist in the soil. Floods in fields used for agricultural production are often caused by improper fertilizing that has destroyed the water retention of soil. When we use compost more than fertilizers, we go beyond feeding the plants. We develop a vibrant, adaptive community that provides an environment for plants to thrive and survive.”

Lubberts also discussed a gardener’s connectivity to the land and to the natural world.

In an inspirational anecdote to close his presentation, the urban agriculturist, who coordinates 20,000 square feet of community gardens in Aurora, made a moving reference to his Opa from the Netherlands. He spoke of his grandparent’s essence floating through him and others as he, like all organisms, broke down and became one with the Earth again.

In a closing pitch, Lubberts implored his audience to “Mulch away,” to deploy “cover cropping to recharge and regenerate rich soil,” and encouraged gardeners to “manage greens and browns, including lawn clippings” to maximize the benefits of composting.

After receiving an Optimist Club cap and a bottle of organic maple syrup produced by

the award-winning Sugaring Aurora Project, Lubberts also expressed his gratitude for his role as the York Region Food Network’s Urban Agriculture Coordinator.

“It’s been a gift to find my way back into gardening. The community garden plots remove barriers for so many who want to garden and grow their own food. It’s great to create more and more spaces for passionate people who love gardening. It develops a deeper sense of community and connectivity, especially since there’s so much food insecurity. Our collective gardens donate so much to local food banks.”

Lubberts spoke glowingly of the community garden’s productivity in 2024.

“We were able to produce 160 kilograms of food from just one 200-square foot space in the garden for a not-for-profit. That garden generated various kinds of kale, carrots, beets, and scallions to help combat food insecurity. We also provided food for asylum seekers; specifically, vegetables that were connected to their heritage, including callaloo and African collards, which are staples for so many meals. Producing food that is specific to communities is very satisfying.”

The York Region Food Network rep also distributed an array of seed packages—corn, beets, onions, Stringless Green Pod Bush beans, Kentucky Wonder Pole beans; acorn, buttercup, and butternut squash; Grand Rapids and Early Curled Simpson lettuce; leeks, carrots, tomatoes—for attendees. It was another perk of membership in the vibrant Optimist Club which is celebrating its 40th year of service to the Town of Aurora.



SEEING RED AT PLANT SALE – Pollinators were well-represented this past weekend as Garden Aurora (formerly the Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society) held their annual Plant Sale in partnership with Aurora Home Hardware. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**



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Aurora's "Stars" Celebrated at Community Recognition Awards



Among the honourees in the spotlight at Monday night's Community Recognition Awards were: (Top Row) Alison Hughes, who received the Inclusivity Award from Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland; Glen Sharp, who received the Older Adult Volunteer Award from Ward 6 Councillor Harold Kim; (Second Row) Jim Jackson, who received the Good Neighbour Award from Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese; Lauren Hanna, who received the Community Leadership Award from Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson; (Third Row) The team at Neighbour Media received the Good Business Award from Ward 6 Councillor Harold Kim; Shadowpath's Jackie celebrates after accepting the Arts & Culture Award on behalf of the Theatre Company from Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland. (Fourth Row) The STEM Minds team accepted the Green Award from Ward 3 Councillor Wendy Gaertner. Citizen of the Year Sandy Bundy is pictured with husband Stu. (Fifth Row) The Youth Volunteer Award was presented to Angela Fang, Hailey Graham, and Naya Mueller by Ward 5 Councillor John Gallo.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



Citizen of the Year Sandy Bundy is “Optimistic” about Aurora

From page 1

while the unsuspecting recipient was seated in the audience.

“She has been an active member of the Aurora Optimist Club for more than eight years,” he said. “She has contributed her time towards organizing mentorships, scholarships and various community events for the Optimist Club. During COVID, she was the volunteer President of the Optimist Club, and she spearheaded the KIND Program (Kids in Need Delivered), addressing specific needs of local students. Despite limited resources for this program, she successfully wrote a grant proposal to the Canadian Children’s Optimist Foundation, securing much-needed funds to support the KIND program. She also took the initiative to purchase the much-needed items for students such as winter boots, coats, gloves, running shoes, paper, pens, and lunch boxes. She even personally hand delivered these essentials to the schools. She also collaborated with the Aurora Food Bank and the Optimist Club on the ‘Fill the Freezer’ initiative to raise awareness and ensures no one goes hungry.”

Also cited were her roles as a volunteer at Hillary House National Historic Site and the Royal Canadian Legion’s Aurora branch, and a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters of York.

“Thoughtful and supportive, she takes the time to write cards or notes for friends experiencing challenging times, embodying the friend everyone needs,” the Mayor continued. “Through her leadership, she encourages compassion, teamwork, empathy, and understanding in her peers. Her unwavering dedication and positive attitude have profoundly impacted our community. She consistently goes above and beyond expectations, willingly taking on additional responsibilities and actively seeking ways to improve existing initiatives. Her passion for service is evident in every task she undertakes, and her leadership skills have been instrumental in creating positive change. She is not only a dedicated and willing volunteer, but she is also a loving

wife and mother, and a beacon of support and inspiration for everyone around her.”

The Citizen of the Year is selected each year by a Committee organized by the Mayor’s office from nominations received from members of the public.

Some of those who nominated Bundy for this year’s Citizen of the Year award pointed to her tireless, quiet work behind-the-scenes.

“In essence, wherever the need, Sandy Bundy can be found,” said Rosalyn Gonsalves. “Her sense of community, compassion and genuine desire to help improve the lives of others is to be admired.”

Optimist Club past president Georgia Pottage expressed a similar sentiment, noting, “Sandy Bundy embodies the spirit of selflessness, compassion and community. Her impact extends far beyond the titles she holds; it resides in the smiles of children, the gratitude of families, and the stronger bonds within our Town.”

Bonnie Robertson, President of the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, summed it up by saying, “Everyone needs a Sandy Bundy in their lives.”

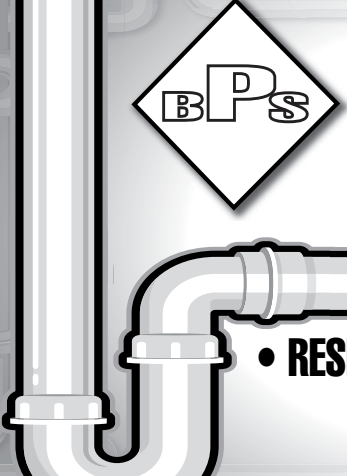
“Sandy is always the unsung hero,” said Robertson. “She is the one in the background getting things done. You can find her in the kitchen helping with food for a friend’s father’s celebration of life because they needed the help. I feel very fortunate to call Sandy a friend!”

As she accepted the honour, Bundy said it was “indeed a surprise” as she thought she was simply there to support her fellow Optimists honoured that night for their years of service, “and all the other wonderful people who have done so much in our community.”

“We landed here about 25 years ago. We started looking [for a home] in Toronto and kept moving out and out and ended up in Aurora,” she told her fellow award recipients. “I remember the day we were looking for our house I had an abscessed tooth, and we had been driving around the neighbourhood looking for houses. We had gone to Markham and to Richmond

Hill... and we walked into the house in Aurora and I just said, ‘Let’s just take it!’ I was in such pain. The next time I came in, I remember we were driving down Wellington and went past Magna and I thought, ‘What the heck is that?’ It was like a castle and I thought, where have we ended up?”

“The last 25 years have been amazing. There have been so many wonderful opportunities and I appreciate being allowed to volunteer in so many organizations and it truly is just wonderful. I have met wonderful people there, I have had the chance to do amazing things, and I absolutely love Aurora.”



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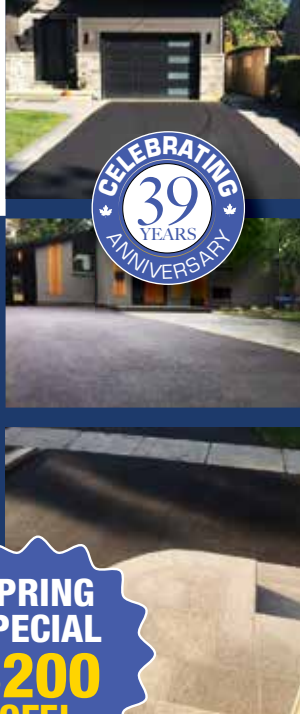
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THINGS... you ought to know

SATURDAY, MAY 31

The Aurora Farmers' Market returns to Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Aurora Community Band, in collaboration with York Pride and Aurora Town Square, proudly presents the first inaugural Aurora Pride Festival to kick off Pride Month in the Town of Aurora. The evening begins with the opening ceremonies at Aurora Town Square at 6:30 p.m. followed by interactive displays by York Pride and Aurora community organizations. At 8 p.m. the concert begins with Pride inspired performances from the Borealis Big Band and Aurora Community Band. This event celebrates the 2SLGBTQ+ community and marks the beginning of what we hope will become a destination for love, acceptance and solidarity in Aurora. For more, visit www.aurora.ca/en/town-square/whats-on.aspx.

York Symphony Orchestra Presents: A Night at the Opera tonight at 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St, Aurora. Be there to hear some of Canada's most acclaimed opera singers – Soprano Grace Quinsey, Tenor Romulo Delgado and Baritone John Holland – perform arias and duets by the giants of the opera stage, plus some of the greatest

orchestral music of opera from the likes of Bizet, Verdi and Rimsky-Korsakov. One night only! Tickets at Eventbrite.ca or at the door. FRIDAY, JUNE 6 Paint Night at Hillary House, tonight at 7 p.m., in-person at Hillary House. Tickets: \$30. Welcome to Paint Night! Unwind and join us at Hillary House National Historic Site for an evening of creative expression and good times. Guided by our partner Royal Rose Art Gallery, this program is designed to be a casual night of painting, socializing, and enjoying some light refreshments. It's like a combination of Bob Ross and comfort food. Register today through our website or by calling us. All materials will be provided. For tickets visit www.aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

The Aurora Farmers' Market returns to Town Park today from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Voices of Joy Community Choir presents "For The Beauty of the Earth", a spring concert this afternoon at 3 p.m. Bethel Church, 33 Davis Drive, Newmarket. For more information, visit sfccebook.com/vojmusic or email voicesofjoyvo@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

The Aurora Historical Society Speaker Series continues tonight at 7 p.m. with Kristen Den

Hartog, A hybrid presentation. Tickets: AHS Members \$10.50/ person, Non-Members \$12.50/ person. At the end of WW1, wounded soldiers were returning to Canada in huge numbers, and the country was scrambling to find spaces to treat them all. In 1919, near Christie and Dupont streets in Toronto, a military hospital opened in a renovated cash register factory. Kristen's book, The Roosting Box: Rebuilding the Body After the First World War, delves into the lives of this hospital's patients and staff. Using old letters, diaries, military service records, and newspaper archives, she explores how ordinary people dealt with the ways war had changed them, and how the medical community – and the country – grew by leaps and bounds in this fascinating period. For tickets visit www.aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991.

ONGOING

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



BELOVED TORONTO “BURGER JOINT” COMES TO AURORA

It was a big day for local burger lovers on May 17 when Rudy's, the beloved “burger joint” in Toronto, opened its doors at 35 First Commerce Drive, Unit One. This is the first Rudy's location in Aurora and the ninth in the Greater Toronto Area. Pictured here, left to right, are VP of Ops Stephen Barker, franchisee Marium Mahfoud, Rudy founder Luke, franchisee Nejm Mahfoud, Mayor Tom Mrakas, Interim Aurora Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Debra Wilson, and TJ Patel, Rudy's Director of Development.

Photo by Diane Buchanan

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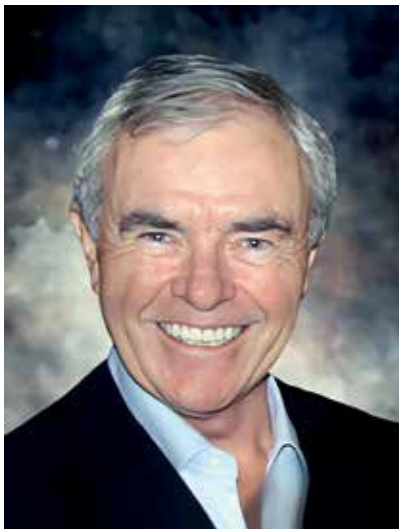
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NOTICE OF PASSING

William Robert (Bob) Dengler



Husband – Father – Grandfather – Brother
Mining Industry Pioneer – Record Setting Aviator – Unyielding Spirit
June 4, 1940 – May 15, 2025

Bob passed away peacefully on Thursday May 15, 2025, in Aurora, Ontario at the age of 84. He was born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario to William and Marion Dengler and is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Patricia; his children Steven (Bruna), Sandy, Heather (Stefan) and Andrea (Kevin); his grandchildren Raffaele, Samantha, Jayden, Beric, Dylan, Daniel and Nora; his brother Peter (Barb); and Patricia's siblings Lorraine (Bob), Elmer; and June.

Bob had a passion for travel that took him and Pat on many wonderful adventures together. They climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro when Bob was 74. A year later they walked the Camino de Santiago Trail in Spain. They visited Silverback Gorillas in Rwanda and went on many African safaris. Vacations with friends were always on the books, visiting New Zealand, golfing in South Africa, travel to Iceland, and most recently their holiday in Bora Bora. Most cherished was his trip to Disney where he took his entire family. They also enjoyed golfing with friends all over the world. Bob's love for golf was only surpassed by his passion for flying and fast cars. He managed to fit several lifetimes worth of exploits into his own, with never a dull moment.

From the depths of the Earth to the heights of the sky, Bob's indomitable spirit was legendary. In 2005, at the age of 66, he earned his helicopter pilot's license. In 2017, Bob and his son, Steven, flew the Canada 150 Global Odyssey, the first Canadian circumnavigation of the world by helicopter. Bob also had an affinity for beautiful cars. He particularly adored Ferraris and was a dedicated fan of the Ferrari Formula 1 Team.

Bob worked as a hard rock miner during his university years, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering from Queen's University in 1965. He joined Redpath Mining as

VP and General Manager, developing numerous projects around the world. In 1980 he founded a new firm with William (Bill) Shaver, Dynatec Mining Limited.

Bob and Bill grew Dynatec from a small startup into a truly international force. Under their leadership, Dynatec expanded into the U.S. and developed groundbreaking equipment and processes now widely used in the mining industry. Bob also lectured tirelessly on mining safety from university campuses to global conferences. His many contributions to the mining industry were recognized with an Honourary Doctorate from Queen's University in 1988 and the Canadian Institute of Mining Metallurgy and Petroleum's McParland Memorial Award in 1990. After first bringing the company public, he retired as CEO in 2005 and served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors and an officer of the company until 2007.

Bob lived a life of extraordinary breadth, making an indelible mark on everyone he encountered. He leaves behind a legacy of love, loyalty and laughter. He will be remembered always with affection.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to Dr. Rahim, Dr. Fenkell and the entire staff at Stronach Regional Cancer Centre at Southlake for their ongoing and compassionate care.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, from 1:00-4:00 at Magna Golf Club, 14780 Leslie Street, Aurora, ON, L4G 7C3.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Southlake Regional Cancer Centre through this link: Southlake.ca/BobDengler

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.thompsonFH-Aurora.com

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CHATEAU-INSPIRED LUXURY WITH POOL

Nestled on a premium lot in the prestigious Fontainebleau community of Oak Ridges/Lake Wilcox, this chateau-inspired executive home features a 3-car garage, 10-ft ceilings, and a gourmet kitchen. Enjoy a private backyard oasis with a heated saltwater pool. Luxurious finishes, expansive living spaces, and thoughtful upgrades make this home truly extraordinary.



LUXURY CUSTOM HOME ON 1.98 ACRES

Nestled on a private 1.98-acre lot with over 300 ft frontage, this stunning custom bungalow loft offers over 7,500 sq ft of luxurious living space. Surrounded by mature trees, it features soaring ceilings, a chef's kitchen, spa-like primary suite, renovated baths, heated 6-car garage, and a finished basement with bar, sauna, gym, movie room, and more.



CUSTOM HOME, PRIME WILCOX LOCATION

This brand-new custom home near Lake Wilcox showcases 10ft ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, a chef's kitchen with JennAir appliances, and a grand 20ft family room. Features include balconies, heated basement floors, stylish finishes, and exclusive lake access. Modern design and elegant craftsmanship define this luxurious, light-filled residence.



LUXURY LIVING IN THE HEART OF OAK RIDGES

Custom-built executive home on a premium 96' x 126' lot in Richmond Hill. Features include 10' ceilings, Bosch appliances, quartz counters, elegant finishes, spa-like ensuite, walk-in closets, double-height garage, main floor den, and a 38' wide side easement for added potential



LUXURY "GREEN & SMART" HOME

This 3,800 sqft "green & smart" executive home sits in South Aurora's prestigious Royal Hill community with lush trails and luxury living. Featuring 10' ceilings, hardwood floors, and oversized windows, a gourmet Wolf kitchen, and a spa-like primary suite. The walk-out lower level offers endless potential. Close to parks, trails, transit, and amenities.



DREAM RETREAT IN NOBLETON

Nestled in Nobleton's coveted enclave, this 4-bed, 4-bath home offers elegance and comfort on a rare 3/4-acre pie-shaped lot. Featuring soaring 18-ft ceilings, a chef's kitchen, private office, and cozy family room with fireplace, it's an entertainer's dream. Relax by the saltwater pool, unwind in the hot tub, or host in the charming cabana. A 3-car garage and separate basement entrance complete this exceptional home!



2 NEW CUSTOM HOMES IN RICHMOND HILL

Brand new custom executive home being built, proudly situated on a 150' lot in the sought-after Lake Wilcox community. Offering 4+1 bedrooms, 5 baths, and a chef's kitchen with quartz counters, custom cabinetry, Jennair appliances, plus a finished basement with gym, wine cellar, and more. Walk to Lake Wilcox Park & trails.



SERENE LIVING NEAR MUSSELMANS LAKE

Explore this sophisticated brick house in Ballantrae! Boasting 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, a double garage, and oversized windows, this home offers a bright, open layout. Enjoy a functional kitchen, spacious living areas, a cozy family room with a fireplace, and a landscaped yard with balcony views. Conveniently close to schools, parks, golf, and Musselmans Lake!



ELEGANT EXECUTIVE HOME IN PRIME LOCATION

Welcome to this immaculate executive home with a 3-car garage and EV port on a premium fenced lot. Enjoy a chef's kitchen, coffered-ceiling living room, main-floor office, and a spa-like primary suite. The finished walkout lower level features a gym, rec room with fireplace, second office, and ample storage. Prime location near top amenities!



YOUR PRIVATE ESCAPE IN AURORA ESTATES

Discover this elegant 3-storey home backing onto lush conservation! With 4+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, and 4,300+ sq ft of space, it's perfect for family life and entertaining. Enjoy a bright open foyer, hardwood floors, a chef's kitchen with built-ins and bar fridge, plus a sunroom with serene backyard views. Relax in the saltwater pool or work from home in the vaulted-ceiling office. Close to parks and schools!



YOUR URBAN OASIS IN BAYVIEW VILLAGE

Rare end-unit condo in Bayview Village with 1,200+ sq ft, large terrace & private balcony with city views. This 2-bed, 2-bath home offers 9ft ceilings, galley kitchen with granite counters, built-ins, bright living area with fireplace, and a master suite with walk-in closet & 4-piece ensuite. Enjoy 24-hour concierge, pool, gym & more. Includes parking & locker. Steps to shopping, dining, transit, parks & major highways!

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