

Easter Bunny hopping excited for Saturday's Easterpalooza

Petch House is ready to welcome the Easter Bunny this weekend as the Town of Aurora puts the finishing touches on its Easterpalooza celebration.

Set for this Saturday, April 4, at the Aurora Seniors' Centre from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., Easterpalooza offers a morning of Easter-themed family fun with the rabbit of the hour ready to hold court and take photos in the newly-renovated Petch House.

Ahead of their Aurora trip, just a few hours before their international eggcellent adventure that evening, The Auroran sat down with the Easter Bunny for the inside scoop on what to expect.

The Auroran: Easter is a bit early this year. What are you doing to get prepared so quickly?

Easter Bunny: There's lots; there's my physical prep, but then there's also the space prep. Physically, I'm still in my training game because that day is a pretty big day for me. I'm still doing my warm-ups, my stretches, and really, really exercising. For the space in Aurora ? oh, my gosh, this year I'm absolutely tickled pink because I'm going to be, as I always am in Aurora, in the Petch House, but it's all been redone and I'm going to feel like such a super rock star in there. I'm very excited to see the kids come in to meet and take photos with me! I'm just enamoured with how great Petch House looks!

TA: Do you prefer an early Easter or one later on?

EB: Maybe the later one because I'm getting older every year, so I need the extra time to exercise and get in shape for it. If it's later, the chances of weather being more favourable is also on my side. It might be more favourable, but I'm always super, super egg-cited for the day.

TA: What does it mean to you that, for many people, Easterpalooza is the unofficial kick-off to spring in Aurora?

EB: It's a huge catalyst kick-off! I've already seen in some of my spy-scope technology that the birds are out now. It's a whole new spring, it's a whole rebirth, and I get to be, I think, the one that leads the way in officiating the real start of the spring season!

TA: I saw you got a bit of a sneak peek meeting with Mayor Mrakas in his office last week.

EB: I had to give him really positive feedback about how gorgeous Petch House is and also, as Easter is a little bit earlier, I wanted to see if he had any ability to impact the weather, because that would be really, really appreciated!

TA: Regardless of weather, what sorts of activities do you hear they have planned for outside Petch House and inside the Seniors' Centre?

EB: I've heard that there's a minimum of at least 10 outdoor activities, including a hopstacle course. There's going to be bocce ball, all Easter-themed, as well as some egg drops, some egg tosses, some would-you-rathers, and some amazing photo ops!

TA: How about inside?

EB: Inside, there will be live bunnies and baby chicks, which are always very cool to see. I wish they were with me in the Petch House, but I've been told that's not possible! Inside, there's going to be a big, huge inflatable. There's going to be mock egg fishing, craft stations, face painting stations, bunny bowling. There's just so much being offered. I think some of the big highlights is going to be the really cool Easter Basket bouncy castle that's coming in. Kids like to bounce, and after all, being a bunny, I have to agree with them. I mean, who doesn't like to hop and bounce around? I also love it when the kids do the crafts first and the face painting, because by the time they come to see me, they already got their bunny band ears on, their faces all painted up. It's really enjoyable

for me to see.

TA: Do you have any idea what the turnout will be?

EB: Well, when I was talking to the amazing Access Aurora staff, they told me there's about 200 wristbands sold already. So, oh my gosh, I get to see 200 kids. I'm hoping the sales will still increase, but when I heard that, my countdown started, my tail started wiggling and the excitement really grew because, I mean, in a few days, this is all going to be happening again.

TA: We understand wristbands are still for sale through Friday at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Aurora Town Hall, Aurora Town Square, Joint Operations Centre, and the SARC through end-of-day Friday, but will any be for sale on Saturday morning?

EB: Not at the Seniors' Centre, but there will be wristband sales at Aurora Town Hall across the parking lot. Wristbands are \$5 for kids aged 2 ? 12, and admission is free for those under two and those 13 and over. It's always an indoor and outdoor event. Sometimes families will wait to see what the weather's going to be on the day of, but regardless of how the weather is, the event is guaranteed to be egg-cellent, so get your wristbands in advance!

For more information on Saturday's Easterpalooza, including wristband sales and if you and your family have any accessibility requirements, visit aurora.ca/easter or call the Town's Special Events line at 905-726-4762.

By Brock WeirEditorLocal Journalism Initiative Reporter