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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 19 No. 3 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of October 25, 2018



Mayor-Elect Tom Mrakas is greeted by his wife, Alison Collins-Mrakas, at his victory party on Monday night after clinching Aurora's top job in the 2018 Municipal Election. With nearly 48 per cent of the vote, Mr. Mrakas unseated two-term Mayor Geoff Dawe.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Aurora picks Mrakas as next Mayor Voter turnout down from 2014

BY Brock Weir

It takes a whole community to move forward, according to Mayor-Elect Tom Mrakas.

Mr. Mrakas, a first-term Aurora Councillor, unseated two-term incumbent Geoff Dawe to be Aurora's next mayor Monday night, with 38.3 per cent of the vote, or 4,781 of a total 17,446 ballots cast.

Mr. Dawe placed second with 28.3 per cent of the vote (3,533), while former MPP and Aurora councillor

Chris Ballard placed third with 19.8 per cent (2,475), followed by incumbent Councillor John Abel in fourth with 13.5 per cent (1,684).

Voter turnout this year was, according to Town Clerk Mike de Rond, 32.1 per cent, down from 35.7 in 2014.

Mr. Mrakas will lead a Council with many familiar faces, including incumbents Harold Kim, Wendy Gaertner, Sandra Humfries and Michael Thompson. They will be joined by rookie candidate Rachel Gilliland, who placed fifth in her very first municipal election, as well as John

Gallo, the sixth place finisher, who returns to the table after serving on the 2010-2014 term of Council.

After the election results rolled in at Town Hall, Mayor-Elect Mrakas was greeted with a thunderous reception at Aw, Shucks, entering to chants of "Mayor Tom! Mayor Tom!"

Taking the stage, he thanked all those who made his win possible.

"I can't thank you enough from the bottom of my heart for all the hard work, all the volunteering, [and]

Continued on page 12

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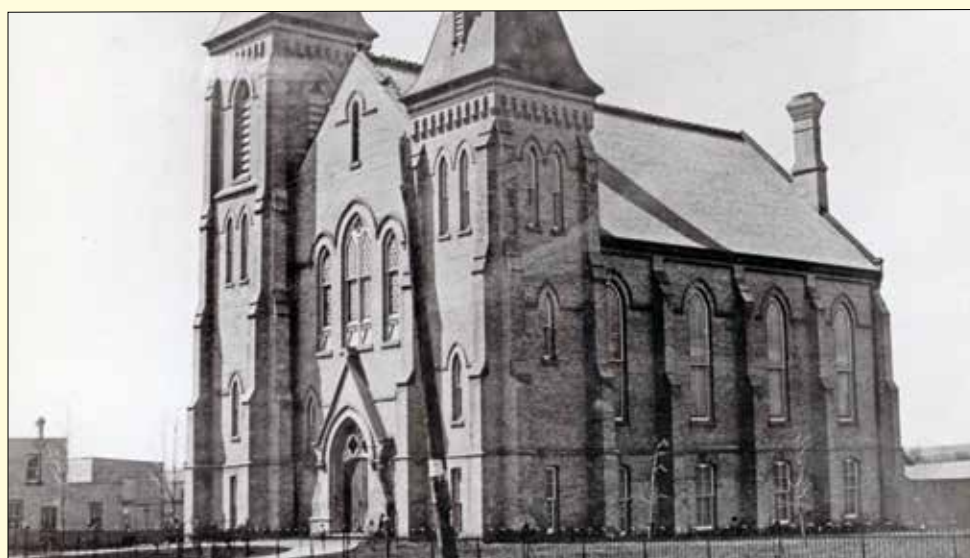
Aurora United Church 200th anniversary culminates Sunday with special service

By Brock Weir

53 years ago, Aurora resident Bob McRoberts first put on his choir robes.

Aged just 12, he had followed his mother's lead and decided to lend his voice to the group which sent theirs soaring

Continued on page 24



Aurora United Church, pictured above as it once stood at Yonge and Tyler Streets, officially marks its bicentennial this Sunday.

Photo courtesy of the Aurora Museum & Archives

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Celebrating 31 Years



TOWN OF AURORA

Notice Board



Council & Committee Meetings

Date	Time	Location	Meeting
Week of October 22 and October 29		No meetings	
November 5	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Committee of Adjustment

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting aurora.ca/gcstream

Council meetings are open to the public. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit aurora.ca.

Public Notices

Road closure for Haunted Forest event on October 27

Aurora's Haunted Forest event is taking place on **Saturday, October 27**. During the event, Mary Street from Industry Street to Industrial Parkway South will be temporarily closed from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will also be a lane restriction on the west side of Industrial Parkway South from the GO train parking lot entrance to Mary Street.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Notice of service disruptions

Please see below for the scheduled service disruption at the the Aurora Family Leisure Complex (AFLC):

- Please note that the Youth Open Gym drop-in program at the AFLC will be cancelled on **Saturday, October 27** from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

We apologize for any inconvenience. For more information, visit aurora.ca/news.

What's Happening



Never miss important Town news and events again! Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter now.

We'll share information on key projects, upcoming events and important reminders – all in one convenient spot: aurora.ca/auroramatters.

Tips to empty your pool and spa safely

With sweater season here, follow these tips on how to correctly empty your pool or spa.

For more details, visit aurora.ca/pools.

What's Happening

Club Aurora wellness seminar - An Ounce of Prevention

Register today for Club Aurora's *An Ounce of Prevention* on **Saturday, November 17** from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

For more details on this seminar, visit aurora.ca/fitness.

2019 Winter Community Services Program Guide is being delivered on Thursday, November 8

Coming soon! Look for your copy of the *2019 Winter Community Services Program Guide*, being delivered with The Banner Newspaper on **Thursday, November 8**. There are many programs and activities for the entire family to enjoy. Registration starts on November 12.

Upcoming Events at the Aurora Public Library (APL)

Join the APL for the grand finale of the **2018 One Book One Aurora** project on **Saturday, November 3** at 2 p.m. in the Library Living Room at the APL. Meet Alison Pick and enjoy a fascinating glimpse into the story behind the story. For a complete list of all OBOA events, please visit onebookoneaurora.com.

Are you passionate about technology? Explore new technologies with hands-on demonstrations and discuss the cultural, moral and existential impact of these technological changes on our day-to-day life. Classes are on the first Tuesday of the month from October to May. The November class is on **Tuesday, November 6** from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 905-727-9494 ext. 275 or email info@aurorapl.ca.

On **Saturday, November 10**, libraries all over the world will be hosting board games events. Come play your choice of a variety of games ranging from Settlers of Catan to Snakes & Ladders. Drop-in between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. All ages are welcome! For more information, call 905-727-9494 ext. 275 or email info@aurorapl.ca.

Visit aurorapl.ca for more information on all of these programs.

What's Happening

PLAY HARD, FIGHT HARD: SPORT AND THE CANADIAN MILITARY

ON VIEW
October 18, 2018 – January 23, 2019
Aurora Museum & Archives
22 Church Street, Aurora

OPENING RECEPTION
October 18, 2018
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. remarks

Play Hard, Fight Hard: Sport and the Canadian Military is a travelling exhibition that was produced by Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in partnership with the Military Museums. The exhibition explores the connection between sports and military service. The Aurora Museum & Archives has partnered with the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame to bring this exhibition to Aurora. A wide range of sports will be represented through artifacts and archival items – some of which date back to the late 19th century.

THE MILITARY MUSEUMS | AURORA MUSEUM & ARCHIVES | AURORA SPORTS HALL OF FAME | Canada

AURORA'S Haunted FOREST
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- Aurora Town Hall (100 John West Way)
- Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (1400 Wellington Street East)

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aurora.ca/hauntedforest • 905-726-4762
#AuroraHauntedForest

We reserve the right to cancel, amend or change activities.

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Wild West Haunted House brings spooky thrills close to home



Su, Jonathan and Paul Diana are putting the finishing touches on their Haunted House this week before they welcome visitors October 29 – 31. The family welcomes contributions to the Aurora Food Pantry.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

Once upon a time, in a dark, dark house, lived two little kids who steered clear of their garage.

Spooky things were happening in there, and they wanted to avoid it at all costs.

Now that Sabrina and Jonathan Diana are a little bit older, however, they can't wait to get in the thick of it and spread the thrills and chills to anyone who dares enter.

This year, the Diana family of 40 Carlyle Crescent, are pulling out all the stops for their Hallowe'en Haunt, Gargalese Gates of Terror. Each year, the Hallowe'en enthusiasts spend a month transforming their home into a haunted house, open to anyone in the community in exchange for a

simple donation to the Aurora Food Pantry.

Typically run over the course of two days, this year is a little bit different on two fronts: the Wild West Theme, and a third night of communal creeps.

"I have always been a big fan of the paranormal, Hallowe'en, and [husband] Paul is so creative," says Su Diana. "We started this over 10 years ago when we lived in Richmond Hill. We started with a little tombstone on the front lawn, and every year it gets bigger and better."

As the "haunting" grew, the Dianas incorporated their passion for giving back, choosing the Aurora Food Pantry as a beneficiary of their efforts.

Sue might be the big Hallowe'en **Continued on page 31**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ballard made real difference, readers contend

As the municipal election day approaches on Monday, October 22, we, the undersigned, would like to remind Aurora residents about how our Mayor and Town Council left the residents of the Highland Gate community to fight alone for the protection we quite reasonably expected from Aurora's Official Plan.

The Highland Gate Ratepayers Association was forced to defend the Town's Official Plan without the financial and expert support the Town could have provided. Through residents' generous support, over \$182,500 was raised to hire legal and planning expertise of our own.

Where were our elected officials?

The first Highland Community Ratepayers Association had succeeded on a previous occasion to limit redevelopment of the historic Aurora Highlands golf course. It secured what it believed were conditions and a commitment that would give the Town and neighbouring residents future influence over re-development of the course. Residents of the community have since learned how reliant they were on the Mayor and Town Council of the day being a faithful partner, and how vulnerable they would become – and remain – when it was not.

As golf course attendance declined and eagerness to develop land already in use grew, the owners of the course initiated a plan of development.

The 2014-2018 Council, which included three of the current mayoral candidates (John Abel, Geoff Dawe, and Tom Mrakas) and four other Councillors seeking re-election, did not respond to the developer's proposal by the legal deadline, providing an easy and fast track for appeal to the OMB.

The Council and Town staff did not uphold our Official Plan during the development proposal period and choose not to stand with residents during the OMB mediation session. Residents fought alone, without the support of the Council. Residents had to pay for the expensive legal and planning reviews themselves. The Council votes cast at the Mediation settlement were, by then, no longer decisive in the outcome.

Ask these Councillors and Mayoral Candidates: Why didn't they uphold our Official Plan when it counted during the public meetings and at the Highland Gate Development OMB hearing?

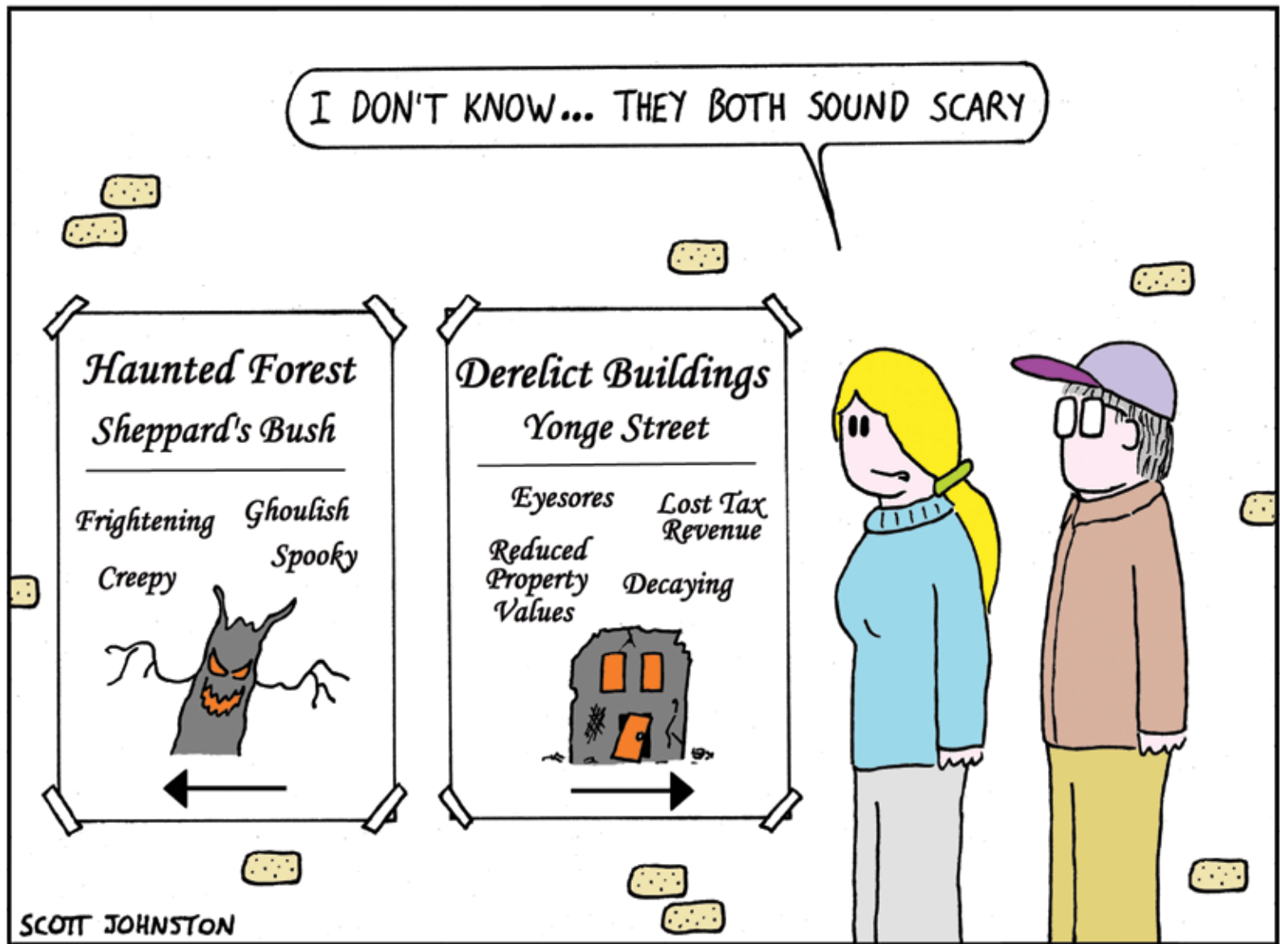
Our then-MPP, Chris Ballard said this at the time: "I believe the Town has the tools on hand to work constructively with whomever owns the property in the future." And "As a resident of Aurora, I look to Council to provide us with the leadership necessary to have responsible ownership in that area." (The Auroran, Nov 20, 2014 p 7). Mr. Ballard pushed for fair treatment of residents by the development company, and did not back down from that position.

After many years of complaints from many ratepayers groups, environmental groups and public officials across Ontario, the provincial government began studying changes to the OMB process. As part of the public review process, the HGRPA submitted comments to the Province of Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights Registry. The Association of Municipalities Ontario, (AMO) which represents all municipalities across the province, including Aurora, also submitted a proposal to the Province. And, as our MPP, Chris Ballard pushed this process forward to support his Aurora neighbours, constituents and environmental groups across the Oak Ridges Moraine.

Ted McMeekin, former Minister of Municipal Affairs for Ontario, has told us he was pressed publicly and privately by MPP Ballard to institute reforms. He says:

Letters continue on page 5

Machell's Corners Classic



It's all over but the shouting



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

Or, so said Geoff Dawe at Town Hall on Monday night before poll numbers started to roll in.

It has become something of a tradition in Aurora for candidates to gather at the place where local laws are minted to see how the next year is going to shape up, and this year was no exception.

The vast majority of men and women vying for a place at the table – Mayoral and Council candidates alike – congregated in the public galleries, some accompanied by their supporters, some accompanied by their families, some flying solo, to experience democracy in action.

There is always a unique energy in the air, a combination of excitement and nervousness that is palpable, and it is an energy that often gives way to dread when the inevitable disappointment sets in for a great many people in the room. After all, there are always more candidates than seats at the table.

"I always find this to be the most nerve-racking part of the whole process and it is a tough process to start within," said Mayor Dawe at the start of the evening. "It's all over but the shouting, so you just have to wait."

The waiting ultimately didn't pay off for Mayor Dawe, however, but I'm sure there will be plenty of shouting from some quarters as the next four years takes shape. If there weren't, it simply wouldn't be Aurora.

There shouldn't be a lot of shouting though. Everyone involved in this process did a wonderful job of putting their positions forward, stating their cases on why they are the best person for the position being applied for, and how they stood out from the crowd.

They should all be congratulated for having the grit and determination to throw themselves out there, hoping to be, as the saying goes, the change they want to see in the world. And we, in turn, should all be thankful for their efforts to put action into our democracy.

Unfortunately, this action and excitement, along with the introduction of internet voting, didn't ultimately set Aurora on fire as far as voter turnout

goes, but the 17,446 people who did cast their vote made their decision, and they made it pretty decisively.

Looking back over the past eight years, I think congratulations are certainly in order for the outgoing Mayor Dawe, as well as his two-term deputy Councillor John Abel. Although their relationship was far from harmonious, particularly over the last four years as both men jostled to either maintain or take over the Town's top job, they provided steady leadership in a rapidly growing and evolving community.

Congratulations are also in order to outgoing Council members Paul Pirri and Jeff Thom who, over the past eight and four years respectfully, also ably represented Aurora, while, in some cases, injecting a jolt of youthful vitality into some of the many issues facing the Town.

The next four years will be a time of significant change, particularly as Aurora addresses growth, continues the march towards build out, and tackles some pretty hefty big ticket items that are coming down the pipe, including the ongoing renovations at the historic Aurora Armoury and the continued development of both Library Square and the rest of the Cultural Precinct area.

Although he has been at the table for the past four years as a Councillor, it will be interesting to watch how Mayor-Elect Mrakas will handle these issues, all of which remain pretty divisive Town-wide.

Perhaps this time around it is a bit easier to predict how things will go. The top four vote-getters in the Council race are, after all, incumbents who have clearly expressed their views on each of these issues.

As has John Gallo, who returns to the Council table after a break from 2014-2018 following the loss of his mayoral bid to Mr. Dawe. The newcomer, Rachel Gilliland, has also been clear

on many of her views, but with Ms. Gilliland and Mr. Gallo occupying one third of the Council seats, it remains to be seen how these new (or, at the very least, refreshed) voices and perspectives will change the dynamic.

In the end, it will be up to the new Mayor, once the 2018 – 2022 term of Council is sworn in this December, to build Council cohesion.

In his victory speech on Monday night, Mr. Mrakas often referred to the sense of "community" that helped him along the way. He was referring to the community as a whole, but the Council table is a community unto itself, representing the wider one outside of Town Hall.

The strength of one, in my opinion, is often reflective of the other, and it is a tall order for anyone steering the ship.

"I am tired of screaming at the TV, first of all," Mr. Mrakas told The Auroran in 2014, when he first dipped his toe into municipal waters, running for a seat on the last term of Council, of why he decided to put himself forward. "Secondly, I figure I can't criticize unless I throw my name into the hat and decide to put myself in the positions to make decisions.

"My point of view is to just make a decision and stop referring it. Unless you have absolutely no idea what is going on, there is no reason to refer. You have the information in front of you to make a decision and I think that is what the people want – to have people there making decisions instead of letting staff do all the decision-making."

The people of Aurora made their decision on Monday night. It may not have been the decision that some people wanted, but the majority has had their say.

Like Mr. Mrakas and why he "threw his name into the hat in the first place," it's hard to criticize unless you cast your vote.

Now, Mr. Mrakas is a world away from "screaming at the TV" as he said he was four years ago. Now eyes will be on him as he prepares to take the helm.

THE AURORAN
Aurora's Community Newspaper

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

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

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To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to letters@auroran.com.
Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“Chris was a strong advocate for Ontario Municipal Board reform and his input was valued. I know he came to Queen’s Park after being an Aurora Town Councillor wanting to reform the OMB, and he was successful. Chris was a great advocate for the people of Aurora. It was clear he put their interests first.”

Claims are being made by the Mayor and Town Council members seeking re-election about their positive role in the Highland gate settlement agreement. Neither the incumbent Mayor nor Town Council members distinguished themselves by being especially influential in achieving OMB reform. Certainly none of them played the significant role of Chris Ballard, who as our MPP and member of the Ontario cabinet, advocated and voted for the passage of the new law. Chris Ballard was the one elected official from Aurora who made a meaningful difference.

Here in Town, it was residents working through the HGRPA, without the help of the incumbent Mayor or Town Councillors, who succeeded in negotiating:

- a community park with amenities
- public consultation with members of the residents group affected by the park plan
- additional natural areas throughout the proposed development, with trails increased by 72%
- all R1 and R2 bylaws regarding setbacks and building restrictions to adhere to town standards for our community
- buffer areas adjacent to the rear yards and roadways, and more

Due to its elevation and environmental features, the area now referred to as Community Park was never to be developed with housing, and, in any event, would have remained green space. Unfortunately, we had no choice with the changes to the ponds. It is Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Area’s policy to take all ponds in the region offline and return the stream flow to its natural course, restore and naturalize the stream shoreline for local species.

We want to set the record straight that the incumbent Mayor and Town Councillors did nothing at the most critical moment of the process – at the very beginning, they chose to do nothing.

We’d also like to remind our fellow residents that the journey to complete the Highland Gate development is far from over. In this Aurora election, residents, when they cast their votes, should consider carefully who is most likely to consider their interests and defend their rights in the years ahead.

Aurora residents should vote for someone who stood by them and has proven capable of achieving what they attempt, even when keeping that commitment is challenging and can come with consequences.

Chris Ballard has our vote!

**Catherine Marshall
Graham Batchelor
Susan Walmer
Paul Simpson
Laura-Mae & Robert Cook
Scott Parry
Patricia Parry
David Parry**

Letter above does not reflect views of Ratepayers, says former president

(Re: Ballard made real difference, readers contend. Letter published online Sunday, October 21)

My name is David LeClaire. I am, or rather was, the President

Continued on page 24

THIS WEEK’S NEW POLL

Given the results of the October 22 Municipal Election, are you optimistic about the next four years?

Yes No Unsure
Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

Previous poll results

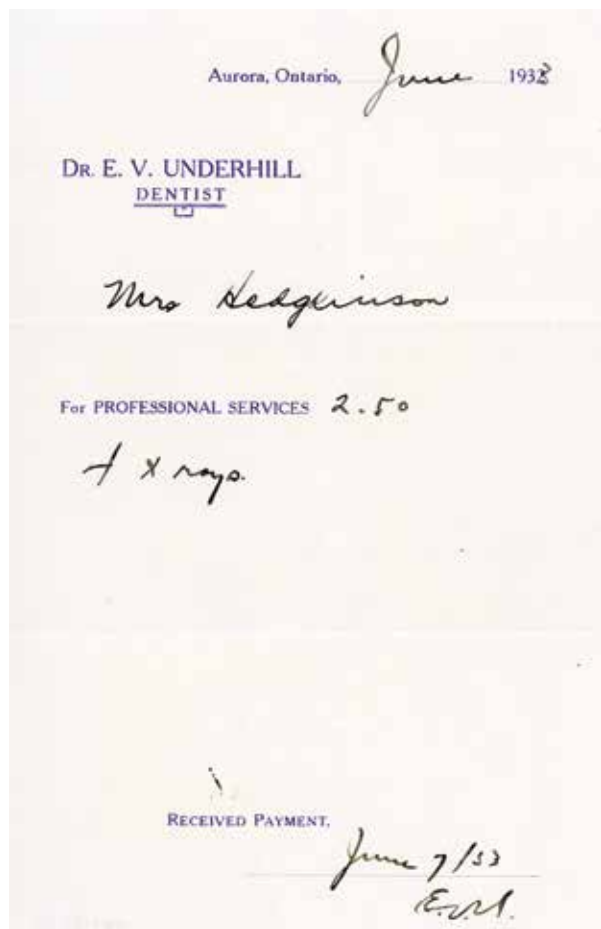
Do you agree with the Province’s decision to scrap the minimum wage increase?

RESULTS TO DATE OCT 23, 2018	YES	NO	UNSURE
	45%	55%	0%

The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

**Hallowe’en!
(October 31)**

Zombies, ghouls and witches...oh my! October certainly is the spookiest month of the year, but do you know what might be scarier? All the cavities that a Hallowe’en sugar frenzy can cause! This 85-year-old dental invoice (987.53.25) details the cost for Mrs. Hodgkinson to receive four x-rays from Dr. E.V. Underhill. In 1933, these x-rays cost \$2.50, which is the equivalent of approximately \$47 today. According to the invoice, Mrs. Hodgkinson was not treated for any cavities. Who knows if this remained true after October 31...



Your Monthly Update



CHRISTINE’S CHRONICLES

**Christine Elliott, MPP
Newmarket - Aurora**

Open for Business for over 100 Days
Since my last column, our government has been working hard to deliver on our commitments. I am proud to say within the first hundred days we’ve kept our promise and brought real, meaningful change to Ontario.

As the MPP of this wonderful community, I wanted to let you know our team in Newmarket and Aurora is here for you and has got straight to work to make sure your voices are heard.

Every day we make it a priority to meet with constituents, community groups and local businesses— groups like Terradyne, a global producer of armoured vehicles in Newmarket, and Thermogenics, a leading boiler equipment manufacturer in Aurora. It’s amazing to see the innovation and progress happening in our community.

We recently opened our permanent office, located at the corner of Yonge and Mulock in Newmarket. And as part of a new initiative, I am pleased to be hosting an exhibition of artwork provided by the Society of York Region Artists (SOYRA) in our office. As a proud supporter of the arts, I look forward

to the rotating exhibit throughout the year. The current exhibit features work by the SOYRA executive. I welcome all of you to visit and get to know me and your local, provincial team better. You can count on me to advocate for the issues that matter to you.

Throughout our campaign, I repeatedly heard the same message: life is simply unaffordable here in Ontario. That is why I am proud of the work we’ve done at Queen’s Park in the first hundred days. We have delivered on key initiatives that will help lower gas prices and reduce hydro bills, restore accountability and trust in government, and send a message to the world that Ontario is open for business. We are:

Scrapping the ineffective and costly cap-and-trade carbon tax

and introduced legislation that will save the average Ontario family \$260 a year and bring gas prices down by 4.3 cents per litre. We removed the carbon tax from natural gas bills, saving families \$480 a year and small businesses \$285 a year.

Cleaning up the hydro file by renewing the leadership of Hydro One and cancelling 758 expensive renewable energy contracts, generating \$790 million in savings for the ratepayer.

Protecting Ontario workers and jobs with respect to the new United States Mexico Canada Agreement.

Introducing efficiencies to tackle the \$15 billion deficit our province is facing, found in the line-by-line audit we conducted.

Increasing GO train service in the GTHA, the largest GO train service increase in five years.

Launching an education consultation with a digital survey on our school curriculum.

Each year during flu season, many hospitals across the province have a hard time managing higher patient volumes, causing more people to be treated in unconventional spaces. It is simply

Continued on page 6

2018 Municipal Election notebook

(Editor’s Note:

This column was filed October 12)

We are now in the closing stages of the municipal election campaign. For the volunteers of the respective candidates, it has been anything but calm; activity has been on-going for the past couple of months.

It will be a sprint to the October 22 finish for all the campaign teams.

Some musings and observations from the campaign trail:

You don’t need to read the papers, listen to the radio or watch your television to know when any election has begun; simply watch for the lawn signs.

Aurora is awash in political lawn signs.

The amount of signs that one sees doesn’t correlate exactly to a winning campaign, of course, but they do provide clues as to the organizational strength of the candidate, provide visibility and name recognition and, as the campaign moves along, the more signs shown popping up on people’s lawns, shows momentum.

Neighbours become intrigued as they watch a sign crew do their work. I love it as the neighbour cranes his neck to see what it is being put up. A sigh of relief comes what they realize it is not a “For Sale” sign.

The homeowner then sees the name of the candidate on the sign and they either smile or may even say something nice to you or they will immediately look away.

In some rare instances, I have seen these individuals looked stunned, thinking to themselves, “I thought my neighbour was a good guy – I shared a beer with him yesterday. It turns out that he is an idiot.”

I wish I had a digital camera to record some of the looks! Priceless!



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

I had the honour of moderating the All-Candidates debate on behalf of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce at the Royal Venetian Banquet Hall. A good crowd was on hand considering that the Leafs home opener was occurring at the same time.

Each of the four mayoralty candidates acquitted themselves very well in light of the tough questions that the Chamber had prepared.

We opened with ten rapid fire questions, in which the candidates were only allowed to answer using their ping pong paddle – green side for “yes” or red side for “no”.

My favourite three rapid fire questions:

Did you/Do you support the reduction of the size of council to 6?

Do you support a ward system moving forward?

Do you support the retail operation of cannabis in Aurora?

Each candidate was given two minutes to answer a question specifically directed at them and then each candidate had one minute to rebut/respond. There were no fireworks. However, the questions were quite detailed and of sufficient variety that I think those in attendance had

a good understanding of where the candidates stood on the issues.

Interspersed throughout breaks in the debate were two minute videos of all the council candidates. I am amazed by the quality of the candidates. Besides the passion shown through the screen was the amount of volunteerism that they have done in our community.

It is also interesting to see what each of the respective candidates chose to highlight during their two minutes. Some spoke about their business background, while others discussed their long history in Town.

A good idea was suggested to me that evening that I believe should be considered by the Town staff. The Town’s website lists all the candidates. I think they should take it a step further. They should have the candidate videos there, plus a one-page literature piece and a link to the respective candidates’ website.

That way, voters like me could do a one stop shop so that and be able to compare and contrast the candidates in an easy way. Trying to select six council candidates is not easy.

I was talking to a first-time council candidate at the debate and asking them how it was going. The lady said pretty well, but that it is hard trying to campaign all around Town. She said that for this very simple reason she is very much in favour of a ward system. I will have more to say about this topic in a future column.

We are fortunate to live in a community where so many enthusiastic and skilled people have come forward to represent us. Please make sure you go out and cast a ballot either in the advanced polls or on Election Day.

Stephen can be contacted at stephengsomerville@yahoo.com

Collaboration is key for new long-term care facilities, says Health Minister

Southlake subject to ongoing capacity review

By Brock Weir

Communities across Canada are

dealing with the impacts of an aging population, and York Region and Simcoe County are no exception, but, according to Christine Elliott, Ontario's Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, all three levels of government, along with community partnerships, need to work together to make sure we're ready to address the issue.

Ms. Elliott, MPP for Newmarket-

Aurora, made her comments at a recent lunch hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

Asked by moderator Brendan Black what municipal councils in light of this month's municipal election can do to attract and build long-term care facilities in York and Simcoe, Ms. Elliott says resources need to be in place so aging Ontarians, in turn, can age in place.

"I think one of the situations that we have right now is we're receiving applications from large builders that want to build 200 bed homes, but also from smaller municipalities that might have a long-term care home already [that needs updating]. Maybe it's not one that families want to go to. Maybe it is an older one, maybe there are four-bed rooms.

"We can encourage Councillors to work with those owners, whether public, private, municipal, whatever it happens to be, to encourage them to make an application for redevelopment of the existing facility to bring them up to a higher level. What tends to happen though is if you have a number of four-bed rooms, you end up with fewer beds by the time you modernize, so it is necessary to have a new build to go along with the renovations and that is really important.

"We need to make sure smaller communities also have good quality long-term care facilities because we know how important it is for seniors to

live in their own communities, where they have probably lived for most of their lives and where their family continues to live. We don't want them to be separated from their friends and family."

In her capacity as Health Minister, but also in her capacity as the local Member of Provincial Parliament, Ms. Elliott expanded upon a recent Provincial investment of \$90 million for additional health care beds in hospitals across the province.

Asked how this would impact Southlake Regional Health Centre, a Regional hub for many services including cardiac and cancer care, Ms. Elliott said those details would be forthcoming.

"I have toured Southlake and I know that it is very congested because it is also a Regional centre for varying services and we need to expand capacity," she said. "That is something we're working on right now: The Health System Capacity Plan. I can't give you an exact time that that is going to be happening, but it is certainly a priority because although we created this additional capacity of \$90 million to help us get through flu season, this is not a long-term solution and I intend to have a plan in place so that by this time next year we don't have to have intermediate capacity plans [and] we will have a plan in place where we will be able to ease some of the gridlock on Southlake as well as some of the other hospitals across Ontario."

CHRISTINE'S CHRONICLES

From page 5

unacceptable to see patients receiving treatment in hallways, storage rooms and boardrooms. That is why earlier this month, as the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, I announced this government is taking immediate action to reduce the strain on hospitals during this time of the year. This includes:

An additional \$90 million to support more than 1,100 beds and spaces across the province to alleviate the strain on the health care system during the flu season.

Moving forward with the first 6,075 new long-term care beds representing the first wave of more than 15,000 long-term care beds the government has committed to build over the next five years.

Hallway health care is a multi-faceted problem that will require real and innovative solutions. Our

government will continue to listen to the people who work on the front lines of our health care system as we develop a long-term, transformational strategy to address the pressures our system is facing.

These are just some of the reasons that make me so proud to be a part of a government that truly cares about the people of this province and how taxpayers' dollars are spent.

There are, no doubt, many challenges ahead of us, but also a significant number of opportunities – opportunities to work together to make this province more prosperous for us all.

Christine Elliott's community office is located at 16635 Yonge Street, Unit 22 in Newmarket. Her phone number is 905-853-9889 and she can also be reached at christine.elliottco@pc.ola.org. Please be in touch with any inquiries and concerns – we are ready to help.

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Top-rated Haunted Forest takes over Sheppard's Bush this Saturday



Witches are expected to be out in full force this Saturday as Aurora hosts the annual Haunted Forest.

By Brock Weir

Aurora's Haunted Forest has been a draw for tourists from around Aurora and beyond looking for thrills and chills under a starry sky, and this year organizers are planning on pulling out all the stops. After all, as a member of the Top 100 Festivals & Events in Ontario list, they have a reputation to maintain!

Thousands are expected to turn out at Sheppard's Bush this Saturday night, October 27, from 6 – 9 p.m. for the experience, which features not only a family-friendly trail, but one designed for bigger kids, weaving in bone-chilling sights and sounds.

Wrist-bands, your admission to the event, are on sale now at many locations across the community, including the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, Aurora Town Hall and the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex. They must be purchased in advance.

"This is one of the Top 100 Festivals & Events in Ontario and we have kept this position for a number of years, which is really an achievement to do and that is greatly attributed to the amount of effort that goes in to make the experience different," says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. "Even though we still have a family trail each year, we try our best each year to shake it up

and make it fresh so that people still want to come back year after year. This is one of those events where the entire family can age with the event because you can go when your children are small and still be going when they are in their teens or even older. It is not an event that caps off at a certain age in terms of appeal."

New this year, Theatre Aurora has joined the Haunted Forest team, along with volunteers from local Scouts, Marquee Theatrical Productions, and the Town of Aurora's Youth Engagement Committee.

"The event is getting stronger in terms of our partnerships," says Ms. Ware, adding that a returning favourite, Casper's Scare School, is taking a new form this year: a mini school built inside a shipping container.

The thrills and chills trail, she notes, will feature more displays this year than ever before – and you might encounter some "zombie children" along the way.

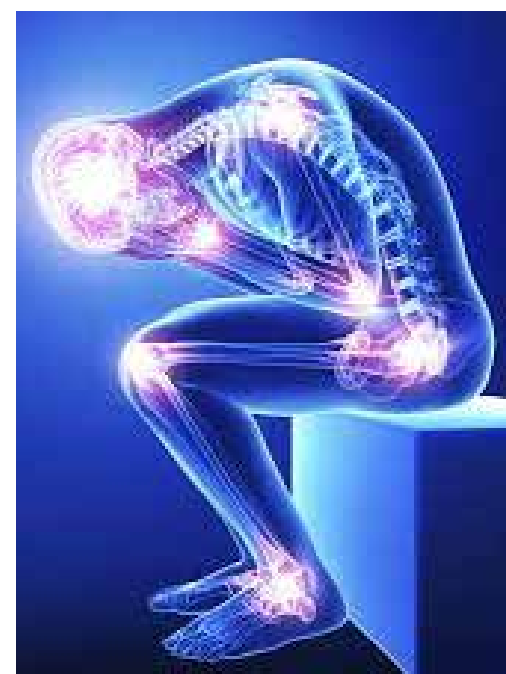
"When you're on the next trail that's not so scary, you still need to keep all your senses intact and always be on your guard because you never know when the next thrill is just around the next tree," she says. "If you still haven't made your decision on whether to come out on Saturday, don't make your decision based on the weather. If the weather appears to be unfavourable, it adds to the excitement of your experience."

For more on the 2018 Haunted Forest, visit www.aurora.ca/hauntedforest.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Arthritis:

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If you suffer from Arthritis you need to be aware of effective advancements that can eliminate years of pain, suffering, immobility and frustration.

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You may find that your pain or stiffness affects your work, housekeeping, leisure activities, exercise, sports or other activities. You go to the drug store or to your doctor and get pills to help relieve your pain. But you find the pain keeps returning. Alternatively, the doctor may refer you to a specialist who may tell you that surgery is needed or is an option for you.

However, many people are hesitant to have surgery given its invasive nature. It is important to know that although surgery is sometimes necessary, it is considered a last resort in most cases.

Also, you may have heard that there are serious health risks associated with chronic use (or overuse) of pain pills or anti-inflammatory drugs that include damage to the liver, kidneys and gut.

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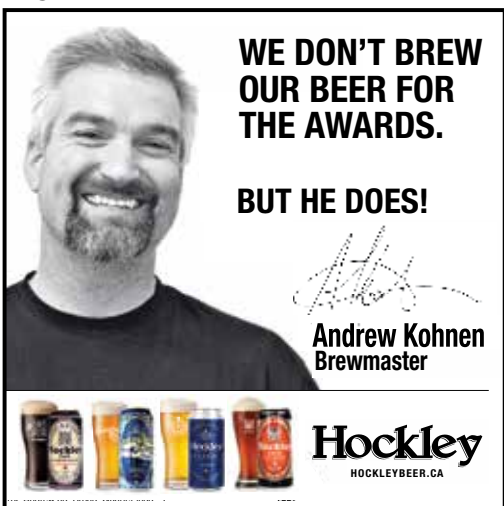
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Mobile app joins forces with businesses to reward cyclists for pedal power

By Brock Weir

A new app in York Region is joining forces with local businesses to reward cyclists for getting their bikes out to get where they need to go.

Biko, a free mobile app, has arrived in York Region with the aim of encouraging people to leave their cars at home for a little while and dust off their bikes to get around.

It's not an app, however, that just measures your kilometres or the number of calories burned over the course of your ride; for each kilometer you cycle, you get closer and closer to some rewards from local businesses and organizations,

including York Region Transit.

According to app developers, Biko's primary goal is to improve the quality of life in urban cities through three ways: improved mental and physical health, reduced pollution and better mobility and means of transportation.

Incentivizing biking through rewards has real benefits, they say, as, since its national launch in 2015, Biko users have collectively travelled 35,546,029 kilometres and reduced their carbon emissions by 4,620,984 kg.

"This is a free app that rewards cyclists for cycling around their city," says Molly Millar, Biko's Canadian manager. "Before you hop on your bike, you go into the app and click Start. You then peddle off to

your destination and the app is doing all its calculations behind the scenes. When you get to your destination, you press Stop and you will see for every kilometre you cycle, you will get a Biko. As you accumulate your Bikos, you can go into the Rewards tab...and see rewards from local businesses across York Region as well as national partners. You can exchange your Bikos on anything from coffee to yoga."

Biko arrived in York Region on September 23, first launched in the City of Markham. Since then, it has expanded northward. The app developers say they see York Region as a prime market with "huge potential" to encourage more cycling. The "urban cyclists" are out there, they say, but sometimes they need a boost.

"I am an urban cyclist myself and when I say that, I use my bike to come into work, to go and see friends and as a social activity," says Ms. Millar, who is based in Vancouver. "There has never been an app specifically for me. The competitive cyclists all have their apps, but this is an app for me and my target group of users. It encourages me to hop on my bike and earn rewards and then connects me with the local community of businesses."

In bringing businesses on board as partners, Ms. Millar says it all comes down to improving quality of life in the community.

"If you're encouraging people to cycle more and drive a little bit less, you're helping the environment because people are polluting a little bit less," she says. "If you're encouraging people to cycle, it has an excellent health benefit: exercise is great for the body and even better for the mind. By encouraging people to cycle, you're helping the mobility of your city. You're encouraging a better, more liveable city. On the business side of things, this app is a marketing tool. Businesses put

up to three rewards on the app and local residents can scroll through every day, and we drive business to our local partners."

Locally, Biko's partners include a number of restaurants, fitness studios and transportation bodies, such as York Region Transit and Green Storage. Newmarket's Balanced Body Breakthrough, for instance, offers \$10 off one hour of athletic therapy or massage therapy in exchange for 30 Bikos. York Region Transit offers 10 YRT/Viva Adult Passes for 120 Bikos, and Green Storage offers significant discounts on storage units and boxes.

"Essentially, in exchange for cycling, you're able to get a free bus ride and I think the synchronicity between public transportation and cycling is so amazing," says Ms. Millar. "It's what we want to encourage in our cities as we're trying to shift the mode a little bit away from the private vehicle into a more shared resource."

"What I would love to see one year from now is York Region residents, be they in Aurora or Newmarket, waking up on a Saturday morning and making decisions about what they are doing based around some fantastic rewards in the app, whether it is going to a museum during the day and getting discounted entry for Bikos and deciding to go out for dinner that evening because one of their favourite restaurants is on the app. I would love to see it incorporated into people's daily or weekly enjoyment of their lives."

Biko was founded by Enrique Cuellar, Emilio Pombo and Tomas Bleier in Colombia in 2015. Since then, it has spawned a network of over 300 companies throughout North and South America.

Biko can also be tailored for walking or running, and is available free through the App Store or through Google Play. For more information, visit bikoapp.com.

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REBATEROUNDTABLE—Federal Finance Minister Bill Moreau was at Aurora's Windfall Ecology Centre on Tuesday afternoon to meet with environmental leaders from across Ontario on initiatives that could be taken back to Ottawa. The Minister's visit coincided with an announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau earlier in the day that families would receive rebates as the feds clamp down on provinces without plans for carbon pricing. The Auroran's wide-ranging interview with the Minister on this and other programs will be featured in next week's edition.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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Empowerment and education the focus of Aurora Chamber Women's Summit

By Brock Weir

Local women in business will gather at the Royal Venetian this Thursday, October 25, for a summit designed to Empower, Educate and Elevate.

These are the three driving themes of the 2018 Aurora Chamber Women's Summit hosted by the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Tailored for "working women and entrepreneurs," the summit will feature keynote speakers Jazz Samra and Traci Melchor, presentations from Liz Scott, the Business Firestarter, Kirsten Martin and Anne-Marie Cabrini, co-founders of K&A Personal Concierge, Nikki Pett of Sigma Promotions, and Kelly Stacey and Anastasia Trutneva, co-owners of Artistica Ballroom Dance Studios.

"It is about empowering women to build their businesses, grow their businesses and, if you're working for a company as well, to grow your career," says Sandra Ferri, Executive Director of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. "We have Jazz Samra coming to us from Google to talk about what tools they have to help women grow their business, and we're also looking at mental health. Mental health is an issue everyone is talking about these days, so we have Traci Melchor from eTalk to talk about her life, her work, and mental illness in the workplace because this is something she has been dealing with over the last few years.

"I am hoping that people walk away from the summit with tools to bring back to their businesses and actually use them to help them grow and make a difference in their businesses. Whether it is talking to your customers and how to do that, or social media, it is the tools you need that aren't always readily available for you when you're sitting in your home office."

As an entrepreneur herself, one thing

Ms. Ferri says she struggled with was effective marketing. It's an area, she says, where entrepreneurs can spend a lot of money, but the desired results aren't always achieved.

"Social media is a way to do that, so we're focusing on digital as a big part of this summit and how to get your word out, how to tell your story," she says. "It really isn't just about selling your product, it is about telling your story and why they should buy from you. We're putting focus on that, as well as how you communicate with people and build relationships that will ultimately grow your business."

Woman or man, all entrepreneurs share similar challenges, Ms. Ferri adds. While women are the focus of this summit, the topics that are set to be discussed are relevant to all entrepreneurs.

"I don't know if there are huge differences between men and women when they start businesses," she says. "I think women sometimes need a little bit more support to empower them to do what they need to do to build their businesses and that is also part of what I am hoping this summit will do."

The Aurora Chamber Women's Summit is just one of a number of initiatives the Aurora Chamber of Commerce has to support women in business. They offer a monthly Women of Influence luncheon series, which has long-featured on Chamber calendars, but one that has a new spin this year.

"They used to be straight networking luncheons, but more we do some professional development at each of those luncheons," says Ms. Ferri, adding that, in addition to professional development, \$5 from every \$15 ticket goes to a women's charity. "People get to know each other really well through these conversations because you're understanding what things mean to their business and what is important to



eTalk's Traci Melchor, above, will speak at this week's Aurora Chamber Women's Summit.

Supplied photo

For more information on the Aurora Chamber Women's Summit, or the Women of Influence Luncheon series, visit www.aurorachamber.on.ca.

them as people, not just entrepreneurs. It is women supporting women in all senses, not just through the group, but with charity as well."

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* Please bring a nonperishable food item for the Richmond Hill Food Bank



INSPIRED SENIOR LIVING WITH Verve



Arts & CULTURE

Creativity comes together for Ontario Public Libraries week

By Brock Weir

Public libraries provide spaces for the community to “live and breathe,” according to Bruce Gorman, CEO of the Aurora Public Library, and this is

the message he brought to patrons and dignitaries last week to mark Ontario Public Library week.

But you first have to make take that all-important initial step through their doors to get to know the Aurora Public Library (APL).

Indeed, the theme for this year’s Ontario Public Library Week, which was marked October 14 – 20, was “A Visit Will Get You Thinking” and the APL’s Open House on October 15 provided plenty of food for thought.

“I have been in the library business for quite a while and events and opportunities like this are great for libraries, advocacy and telling people what we can do,” said Mr. Gorman to a crowd that included Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MPP Michael Parsa, up-and-coming local singer-songwriter Louisa Barbosa, who provided the evening’s entertainment, and representatives from the AIDS Committee of York Region, Pathway Community Services of York Region, the Women’s Centre of York Region, and the York Regional Police’s Diversity & Cultural Resources unit. “In the past, I think a lot of people do still have this old perception of Library, how you can’t talk in a library and how you can only come in and get books, but actually libraries are really agile. We move and change with the communities as they change, or we would become



(Top) Writing judges Sandra Leonard and Elizabeth Bishenden present John Thomson with recognition after his story, “Little Man”, took home top honours in the Aurora Public Library’s One Book One Aurora Writing Contest. (Above) Aurora singer-songwriter Louisa Barbosa entertained the audience with original music at the Library’s annual open house to mark Ontario Public Libraries week.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

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irrelevant.”

You didn’t have to look far to see this change in action. Renovations are currently underway at APL to provide new community spaces, which Mr. Gorman called “the spaces that people need to live and breathe.”

“Whatever capacity they can use the library, there are not many spaces like that where people can go to and make it their own space, whether it is a living room, or whether you’re coming in to discuss business with a colleague, whether you bring your family in to undertake some STEM programming in our children’s area, and a whole host of other things,” said Mr. Gorman. “That is my mission in my career to make sure everybody gets to know how great libraries are, how fast we move, how agile we are, and this is a great opportunity...to talk about this.”

In a lighthearted speech to the assembled, Mr. Parsa took a moment to acknowledge the agility of a public library.

“I used to use the public library for various reasons, to be honest with you, just going in there reading books and I went on a lot of dates at the public library,” he said. “It was a great way to meet people, not very expensive, and I could show off some of the books I had read! I used to take them to that section where I would know three or four of the books and say, ‘You ought to try that.’ It’s a little bit different for today’s generation!”

Switching gears, he added: “On behalf of the Government of Ontario, it is with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings and congratulations to the Aurora Public Library on the annual open house celebrating Ontario Library Week. A library is not just a building full of books, it is rather a gateway to thousands of worlds. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the importance of libraries and all the services they provide to communities all over the

Province.”

Local creativity in its many forms was recognized throughout the evening. Outside of Ms. Barbosa’s concert, which featured a Brazilian bossa-nova and original songs entitled “Good Kid” and “Circle” awards were handed out for the top place finishers in a photo contest co-hosted by Aurora Public Library and The Auroran, along with the winner of the Library’s Writing Contest, both of which were based around themes in this year’s One Book One Aurora reading selection.

University student Eric Shoemsmith took home top honours – and movie passes – with his beautiful photo that captured the assigned theme “Shoot The Land” while John Thompson’s story “Little Man” took home top literary honours.

“Every year, the Aurora Public Library selects one book we think everybody should read,” said Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager of Community Collaboration for the APL, explaining this year’s selection, Strangers with the Same Dream, whose opening line, “This story begins with a lie” formed the basis of the writing contest.

“This speech does not begin with a lie,” continued Elizabeth Bishenden, one of three community readers judging this year’s writing contest. “This begins with an honest truth: the stories that were offered were fantastic. They all started with a lovely spark of imagination and true craftsmanship to complete a story. I probably had the best three days of reading, of stories from my own community. It was a delight. Little Man is a story that just breaks your heart. Golly, it is such a well-imagined story!”

Eric Shoemsmith’s photo can be found in this week’s Auroran, on the opposite page, while Mr. Johnson’s story, “Little Man”, will be printed in the Aurora Public Library’s publication, Borealis, as well as in a future edition of this newspaper.

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Quick Lane

Aurora trail system a haven for ASHoF inductee Allan

By Jake Courtepatte

Competing in Ironman competitions across North America – from Wisconsin, to Lake Placid, to the athlete haven known as Kona, Hawaii, Paolina Allan now finds herself training on the extensive trails system that winds through Aurora.

One of Canada's most successful female triathletes and Ironman competitors, the Aurora resident has landed in the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2018.

"I love to run on these," said Ms. Allan. "Sheppard's Bush trail will take you all the way up to Fairy Lake.

"You can run walk , cycle... I have tried bring my cross country into the trail system."

A member of the Aurora Family Leisure Complex since moving to Aurora in 2005, Ms. Allan saw opportunity in working with the Aurora Ducks swimming program both as part of her training and as a leader and mentor.

"I was on deck at the pool as the tri swim coach for a few years," said Ms. Allan. "Since I have moved to Aurora I was always seeing the younger swimmers in the gym and would often talk to (Ducks founder Reg Chappell)."

She made the transition to work with the youth program in September of 2016.

"I absolutely love teaming up with the younger swimmers. Their energy is intoxicating. I work with them in the gym. Here we have a one year training plan designed for the swimmers which incorporates their races."

It is only fitting that Ms. Allan was on her way to train with the Aurora Ducks when she received the phone call about her induction.

"I was absolutely floored, shocked,

and laughed," said Ms. Allan. I wasn't quite sure they had the right person. It felt very surreal."

Consisting of a 3.8 kilometre swim, followed by a 180 kilometre cycle and a full marathon run, one would think a lifelong commitment to the sport would be necessary for success.

Ms. Allan, however, picked up the sport in 1999, transforming from regular gym-goer to super athlete.

The 48-year old competed in a number of Ironman competitions from 2005 to 2012, finishing second in the 2005 event. A three-time Ironman World Championship qualifier, Ms. Allan is a former Triathlon Canada and Triathlon Ontario Triathlete of the Year, as well as the winner of the 2014 Centurion Cycling Canada C100.

Despite her long list of accomplishments, the humble athlete still said she didn't feel "worthy" of such an honour.

"However the community felt I was worth it, so this will give me a chance to thank them, honour them and to show them that I will continue to help build and work in Aurora with our youth."

Ms. Allan is one of two athletes inducted into this year's Aurora Sports Hall of Fame class, alongside one member each into the "Coach" and "Builder" categories.

Joining Ms. Allan is ex-PGA Tour golfer David Morland IV, former NHL linesman Loring Doolittle, and longtime York University men's basketball coach Robert Bain.

The Auroran will highlight the career of Mr. Morland in next week's edition.

Held annually at St. Andrew's College, the ASHoF Induction dinner is one of the most spectacular nights of the year in the Aurora sports community. This year's dinner will be held on November 8, and more information can be found at www.aurorashof.ca.

One Book | One Aurora Photography Contest Winner



Over the summer, The Auroran, in conjunction with the Aurora Public Library (APL), has been holding a photography contest to coincide with the APL's One Book One Aurora campaign. The theme of this year's photography contest was "Shoot the Land" and university student Eric Shoesmith's submission, pictured above, captured during his first canoe trip at a national park in Nova Scotia, took home first prize. (Right) His parents, Jacky and David, accepted the prize from Auroran editor Brock Weir on behalf of their son who is away at school.



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MEET YOUR NEW COUNCIL

The voters have spoken and this is Aurora's new Council for 2018 – 2022. In addition to Mayor-Elect Tom Mrakas, members of Council will include (from left) Harold Kim, who, as top vote-getter in the Council race, will serve as Aurora's Deputy Mayor, Wendy Gaertner, Sandra Humfryes, Michael Thompson, Rachel Gilliland and John Gallo. **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**

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"It really does take a whole community to move forward," says Mrakas at victory party

From page 1

everything each and every one of you have done, whether it is contributing, donating, giving some time, going out [to deliver] signs. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every one of you."

He also took time to thank his parents, siblings, as well as his wife, former Aurora councillor Alison Collins-Mrakas, for their support along the way.

"Alison, we started this journey 15 years ago when we came to this community; they opened up their hearts to us and we opened our hearts to them," he said. "I love you and everything you have done for me and, together, with everyone here, we're all friends, we're a community, and we're going to make our community the greatest."

In addition to his family, Mr. Mrakas paid special thanks to three mentors who have helped him along his political journey: former Aurora councillors Bill Hogg and Steve Hinder, as well as former mayor Tim Jones.

"These are friends and family members to me," he said. "I appreciate everything they have done for my family and for myself, and for the advice they give me. I know they are always going to tell me the truth; they're not just going to pay lip service to me. I think that when you have three people such as this that you can talk to, talk in confidence and get the advice from them you need to move forward, I think not only is it great for myself, but it is great for our community moving forward that I have three inspirational people to be able to turn to and ask them for advice."

The Mayor-Elect offered congratulations to Mr. Dawe, Mr. Ballard and Mr. Abel for their service to the community.

In the end, he said it was all about community, and the next four years will be about building the community up from where it is today.

"It really does take a whole community to move forward," he said. "I think moving forward that is what we need in our community. I have been missing it for over twelve years and, to me, the job of the Mayor and Council is to be everyone's neighbour, everyone's friends, and that is how we keep a tight-knit community and how we grow as a community. I am looking forward to elevating our community over the next four years, not just myself, but with my colleagues, my new Council members."

THE COUNCIL RACE
In addition to Mayor-Elect Mrakas, the 2018-2022 Council term will be a mixture of the same, returning and new faces.

Change was the only certainty at the start of this Council race. With three incumbents running for Aurora's top job, two of them were guaranteed from returning to the table, while Councillors Paul Pirri and Jeff Thom decided not to seek re-election.

The new Council term will see Councillor Harold Kim take the helm of Aurora's Deputy Mayor, having

finished first in a field of 16 candidates.

Mr. Kim came out on top with 6,013 votes, followed by incumbents Wendy Gaertner with 5,875, Sandra Humfryes with 5,456, and Michael Thompson with 4,991, newcomer Rachel Gilliland with 4,800, and returning councillor John Gallo with 4,781.

This is Councillor Gaertner's fifth election victory, making her Aurora's longest-serving incumbent Councillor for the second term running.

"I'm overwhelmed," said Councillor Gaertner. "I am very grateful – I am very grateful to be in Aurora and in Canada. I ran a pretty lean campaign with a lot of volunteers. I have always believed you listen to the residents and try to help them. I think that's just what I do. I think people feel I address the issues fairly and I try to put myself in other people's places. It is just all about listening – and helping. I have helped a lot of residents over 15 years!"

While Councillor Gaertner will begin her fifth term, Rachel Gilliland is the proverbial new kid on the block, bringing home her first electoral victory in her first municipal campaign.

"I am just so honoured and so humbled by this entire experience and I really hope I can represent Aurora's voice over the next four years," said Councillor-Elect Gilliland. "I want to see some positive change and I really hope I can give that to them. It is just very humbling. I was watching [the results come in] and was just hoping and praying. I did a lot of hard work, had my feet to the pavement and I did the best I could do in my heart and just knew the results would show. Fortunately, it came true. I had some great competitors. Everyone was fantastic, I respect them all, and I am just grateful I am here."



Aurora's next mayor, Tom Mrakas, poses with Aurora's newest councillor-elect, Rachel Gilliland. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

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Mayoral candidates proud of the campaigns they led

By Brock Weir

There could only be one victor, but four men who threw their hats in the ring to be Aurora's next mayor say they are proud of the campaigns they led.

Three of the four mayoral candidates – Chris Ballard, Geoff Dawe, and Tom Mrakas – gathered at Town Hall with their families and supporters to watch the results roll in and shared their thoughts with The Auroran.

Mayoral candidate John Abel spent his election night with supporters at the Father's Moustache pub on Yonge Street.

"After the campaign, there is immediately some relief and some excitement about whether or not your message resonates with the residents of Aurora, whether or not what I was hearing about a strong desire for change is going to hold true and whether or not I represent that change," said Mr. Ballard when asked what was going through his mind waiting for the first polls to report back. "Really, it's as simple as that."

Looking back over his time hitting the pavement, he said, no matter how the chips fell, he was most proud of his debate performances in the three all-candidates meetings, hosted by the Aurora Public Library, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, and Sport Aurora respectively.

"What I heard from people was I did a really good job of differentiating myself from the other candidates and trying to look at innovative, outside-the-box solutions for the

problems Aurora faces."

As he waited for results to pop up on the three big screens set up in the Council Chambers, as well as in the lobby at Town Hall, Mr. Dawe said he was feeling the same butterflies he first felt when first elected in 2010.

"I always find this to be the most nerve-racking part of the whole process and it is a tough process to start with, although it is a really great way to lose weight!" Mr. Dawe joked. "It's all over but the shouting, so you just have to wait. We stayed positive all the time, although I can safely say there were times I wished to go to the dark side, but I was talked out of that because it is not about that, it is about moving forward."

Mr. Mrakas also highlighted positivity on the campaign trail as he too played the waiting game.

"Anxious, proud, I feel really good about the campaign my team has run and I think we have done an excellent job," said Mr. Mrakas. "I'm looking forward to the results and hopefully the residents of Aurora have chosen me with the honour of representing them as mayor."

Asked which element of his campaign of which he is most proud, he said, again, it was the positivity on the ground.

"I think it is how positive everyone was and how we kept everything at a high level and stayed with that positivity and talking about what changes I am going to bring to the municipality and how I am going to get them to the next level," said Mr. Dawe. "All the work the team has done to get us to the point where we are today."



(Top) Mayoral candidate John Abel marked election night at Father's Moustache with wife Tracey. (Above) Councillor Wendy Gaertner watched the results roll in at Town Hall with her son, daughter, and supporters. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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ELECTION RESULTS

(Official 2018 results)

MAYOR

ABEL, John	1684
BALLARD, Chris	2475
DAWE, Geoffrey	3533
MRAKAS, Tom	4781

Councillor

ABAS, Matthew	1627
CLARK, Ian	2406
GAERTNER, Wendy	5875
GALLO, John	4781
GILLILAND, Rachel	4800
HAMMETT, Derrek	1269
HEARD, David	2401
HOYES, James	2025
HUMFRYES, Sandra	5456
KIM, Harold	6013
KROEPLIN, Anna	2818
LAJEUNESSE, Daniel	1365
McGRATH, Vicky	4112
MOBBS, Adam	4082
THOMPSON, Michael	4991
Van DECKER, Denis	1913

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ADAMS-LUCHOWSKI, Peter	1242
McROBERTS, Bob	6112
TURRIFF, Ken	1303

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de ROOS, Paul	813

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Tweens and teens continue giving back through 100 Youth Who Care

By Brock Weir

Women might Care and Men might Give a Damn, but local youth are staking out their own claim in giving back through 100 Youth Who Care – York Region.

The local group, an offshoot of 100 Women Who Care and 100 Men Who Give A Damn, celebrates its second anniversary this week marking two years of bringing young York Region residents together four times a year, with \$10 in their pockets, looking for an opportunity for their buck to go the extra mile.

100 Youth Who Care has its foundations in 100 Kids Who Care. That early iteration provided a solid start for the current incarnation. 100 Youth Who Care was a natural evolution for young adults.

Each meeting sees the youth come together with their \$10 bill and selecting a quarterly recipient from the myriad

charities, non-profits and organizations in York Region is a process driven purely by the youth.

“Each youth who wants to present [on a charity] puts in the names of organizations they think deserves the money on a ballot and we put it in a box,” explains 13-year-old Sydney Cooper, a student at Aurora Grove Public School. “Two, sometimes three names are drawn and [the nominators] of those three groups make a presentation. All the youth, even if you didn’t put a name in the ballot, write out which charity they think deserves the money and the organization with the most voters gets the money. So far, we have donated to Welcoming Arms, Blue Door Shelters, CCAA, the Newmarket Food Pantry, Abuse Hurts, Autism Ontario, 360 Kids and the Starlight Children’s Foundation.

“We chose a \$10 minimum donation [per member instead of the \$100 required for each member of 100 Women Who Care and 100 Men Who Give A Damn] because no kid has that



Sydney Cooper, left, is a member of 100 Youth Who Care, while mom Jenny serves as a parent mentor to the group.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

amount of money to give four times a year. If you can’t get \$10, you can always sell lemonade or cut a neighbour’s lawn. We felt that was a reasonable amount and, when we have a lot of youth, it actually raises a lot of money.”

To date, they have raised a total of \$3,500 over eight meetings.

As the youth steer the meetings, parent mentors like Sydney’s mother Jenny look on with pride.

As a mom, giving back to the community is something Jenny has tried to instill in her family, as it was in her when she was growing up.

“Once I had children and they were at an age where they could understand that concept, I really felt inspired to do something where not only my children would have that opportunity to experience the joy of giving, but bring like-minded families and youth together,” says Jenny. “We are really proud of our members and we just feel really inspired by the youth. It is incredible to see not only their passionate hearts to give back, but they leadership skills they are developing as a result of 100 Youth Who Care.

“While there are parent mentors like myself, we’re simply here to help and provide some guidance. Our youth do a phenomenal job. They run the entire meeting, they do all the administration, the sign-ins, they have the presentations ready on a Power Point and we sit back. It has been incredible to see and we have certainly seen a ton of growth within

the group over the last couple of years; youth that were, at one point, literally unable to speak in front of people and not wanting to do it at all are now the first to be volunteering and up there speaking.”

Youth also learn a lot about the community in the process.

Once the \$10 contributions are tallied and the donation made to the lucky organization, representatives from the group come to the following meeting to show the youth where their money went, how it is being used, and how they are having their own positive impact on the world around them.

“I’ve learned it is really important to give back,” says Sydney. “Not everyone has the same amount of things that I do or my friends do because at school, at least at our school, it is really small, everybody has food, everybody has a home, but it has taught me that not everybody has that and there is a lot of people and kids who aren’t as fortunate as we are.”

This week, the 100 Youth will mark their anniversary with a presentation to the local chapter of 100 Women Who Care, celebrate with a cake, and brainstorm ways to spread the word. As they look towards their third anniversary, they are hoping to build their membership because, as Sydney says, the more people they have contributing, the bigger impact they can have on York Region.

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GranAurora and astronaut Williams come together to "Defy Limits"

By Brock Weir

Thinking locally and acting globally is a philosophy that is held close to the hearts of GranAurora, but this philosophy is set to go beyond global next week with an assist from astronaut Dr. Dave Williams.

GranAurora, the local chapter of Grandmothers to Grandmothers, an offshoot of the Stephen Lewis Foundation which links Canadian grandmothers to their counterparts in Africa, who are often left to look after their grandchildren and others orphaned by the AIDS pandemic, will host Dr. Williams, former President & CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre on Monday for their fourth annual Author Talk.

Dr. Williams will speak about his life and career as an astronaut and surgeon, as well as his new book *Defying Limits: Lessons from the Edge of the Universe*, at the event, which will take place October 29 at the Aurora Cultural Centre starting at 6.45 p.m.

"This is our fourth year doing our author event and we're hoping this will be as big a success as we've had before,"

says local Gran Linda LeGallais, who co-chairs this event alongside Nel Marshall.

Ms. LeGallais is a newer "gran" on the block, but no less enthusiastic on the mission at hand, which raises money to help grandmothers in Africa not only raise the next generation of their families but also to start new business ventures and plant firm roots for a sustainable future.

"One of our challenges is sometimes we're approached by people who say, 'We have needs at home. Why Africa?'" she says. "Having travelled to Africa, Central America and having seen true poverty the likes of which we don't understand, with the possible exception of our Native people, there is a lot of help in Canada. This is a wealthy country where there is support. The kinds of needs you see in these countries is so profound and I'm compelled to reach out. I can't imagine suddenly having the responsibility of these children with no resources, so I personally think this grandmother connection is just fabulous."

Fellow Gran Sharon Willan has also witnessed this level of poverty in a range of countries, including



GranAurora members Linda LeGallais, Sharon Willan and Lenore Pressley are pictured outside the Aurora Cultural Centre last week. This Monday, they welcome astronaut Dr. Dave Williams, who will speak at a special book talk benefiting the organization.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Malawi in southeast Africa. From her perspective, grandmothers in Africa face a double challenge of raising their grandchildren but also tackling a stigma that still exists in some areas of the continent surrounding AIDS. In some cases, individuals won't take in orphans because they believe the disease will spread throughout the home.

"I can remember every night being in one small town for about a week and you would just hear the keening, the funerals that they were having constantly for these people and you would just see these children hungry – it is something we just don't see here," says Ms. Willan, noting that Grandmothers to Grandmothers is a way to give back while seeing real results come about. "We were at a gathering near the beginning of the year and we were all talking about the impact the Stephen Lewis Foundation has had on the Grandmothers campaign."

"The grandmothers in Africa have started small businesses, farming co-ops and things like that that have helped their whole community and made the group more resilient. That resiliency is something that has almost been unheard of in other groups that have been doing funding for other groups. The Stephen Lewis Foundation's way of funding it, having it come from the grassroots so that the grandmothers in Africa can apply for the program and say, 'This is our idea, this is how much money we need,' and there is someone there to look [at their pitch], see if it is a good business venture, help them through it, and funding is given. For many of these things, it has remained sustainable and helped right through. That, to me, is something that is really important. People don't like to give money all the time, but when you know it is sustainable and you can go

I can remember every night being in one small town for about a week and you would just hear the keening, the funerals that they were having constantly for these people and you would just see these children hungry – it is something we just don't see here

to the next group and help them get started, then it makes a difference." Adds fellow Gran Lenore Pressley: "When grandmothers come here to speak, they are really moving and so thankful."

The women agree that that the core message of GranAurora – and Grandmothers to Grandmothers – is, in the words of Ms. Willan, "Think locally and globally and try to do both as much as possible," and it is a balm in a world today when, in the words of Ms. LeGallais, "you see so much of this 'closing-in' on the borders down south."

Now, with the help of Dr. Williams, who has seen the globe from the vantage point of the stars, they will be able to double down on their mission in the year ahead.

For more information on An Evening with Astronaut Dr. Dave Williams on October 29, the Gran Aurora organization, how to become involved, or any of their upcoming events and craft sales, call 905-727-9235 or email granaurora4114@gmail.com.

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Do you know someone between the ages of 6-17 who is making a difference within their community? Nominate them for an Ontario Junior Citizen Award today! The Ontario Community Newspapers Association, along with sponsor TD Bank Group, want to recognize youth for their outstanding achievements.

Nominees may:

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- demonstrate individual excellence,
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Autumn Peltier, 13
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Autumn feels very passionate about preserving the environment and creating awareness for the importance of clean drinking water. She was one of two youth advocates chosen to represent Canada during the 2015 Children's Climate Conference in Sweden. During the 2016 Winter Meeting of Canada's Premiers in Vancouver, she addressed her concerns directly to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

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Jan Freedman

MARKET MUSINGS

Outdoor Season wraps up Saturday

The Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair will reach the end of the season this Saturday, October 27, after a great market season that began in May.

While the last day isn't a "Special Event" day, it will be full of activities. Councillor John Abel and Music Aurora have planned a mini Music Fest with local musicians to help us end the season on an uplifting note. Also, students and some parents from Marquee Theatrical Productions will be performing the exciting and well-known Michael Jackson' Thriller dance twice—at 10 am and again at 12.15 pm. What a great way to end our outdoor season.

The talented woman who began Marquee is Sheryl Thomas. Originally from northern Ontario, Sheryl moved to Aurora in 1976 where she attended both elementary and high school. In Grade Nine she discovered musical theatre when she joined Theatre Aurora. She is now a lifetime member.

After having two children and operating her own hair salon, Sheryl soon realized that the Arts were her passion. When she learned that her church needed to raise funds to build a new church, she and four friends initiated a project to mount a production with all proceeds going to the church fund. It was here that Sheryl learned how many people in the community wanted to perform and join together to benefit local initiatives. After another successful fundraiser for the church, Sheryl decided it was time to branch out and she opened Marquee on Industrial Parkway north in 2001.

Marquee gained not-for-profit status in June of 2003 and started summer camps for children in addition to adult cast productions. Then there were 15 children in each of the two programs. Today, Marquee is well known in York Region for their educational youth programs for ages 4-18 and they serve over 750 children each year.

Marquee is now a charity and will be producing We Will Rock You in November and Mamma Mia in May of 2019 with their adult casts at the Newmarket Theatre. They welcome donations to sponsor less fortunate children to attend their educational programs. A tax receipt is available for the full amount of any donation upon request.

Also on our last Saturday of the season, The Royal Canadian Legion, Aurora Branch # 385, will be at the Market to bring awareness to the importance of continuing the tradition of Remembrance to honour the fallen and thank all who served for Canada. Every year the Legion invites all Canadians to show their recognition by proudly wearing the red Poppy, the sacred symbol of Remembrance. Legion members will have poppies (by donation) and "I will Remember" lawn signs for sale for \$10.00.

There are still some very important people to thank for their support of our Market. We wish to thank The Auroran for allowing us to have a column every two weeks during Market season which focuses on the Market and its vendors. In addition to thanking Brock for his generosity, we owe a debt of gratitude to Diane Buchanan for her creatively designed ads in the Auroran.

It is now time to let our sponsors know how incredibly grateful we are

for their generous support which enabled us to advertize, hire musicians for Special Events and in general, pay for the many expenses of running a 6 months Market.

At the Gold level, we thank Home Hardware and Linda Stephens of Keller Williams Realty for their generosity. We also thank both The Town of Aurora and The Auroran for their sponsorship-in-kind.


At the Silver level, many thanks to the Rotary Club of Aurora, the Optimist Club, Salomons Landscaping and Maintenance and "Dr. Dean" McClelland of Elevate Chiropractic for their support.

Before signing off for the season, I want to draw your attention to our Christmas Market on December 15 at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 9 am until 1 pm. Many of your favourite

vendors will be there and it will be a great occasion to complete your holiday shopping. Some of us will be taking orders for the holidays which can be collected at the indoor market.

The Farmers' Market AGM will be on Thursday evening, November 15 from 7-9 pm in the Leksand Room at Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

See you at the Indoor Market!




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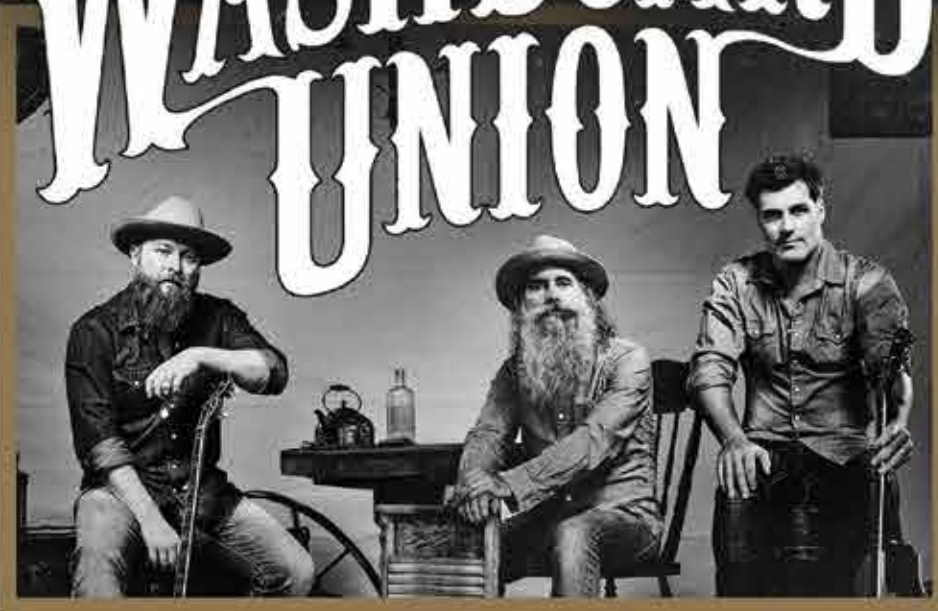
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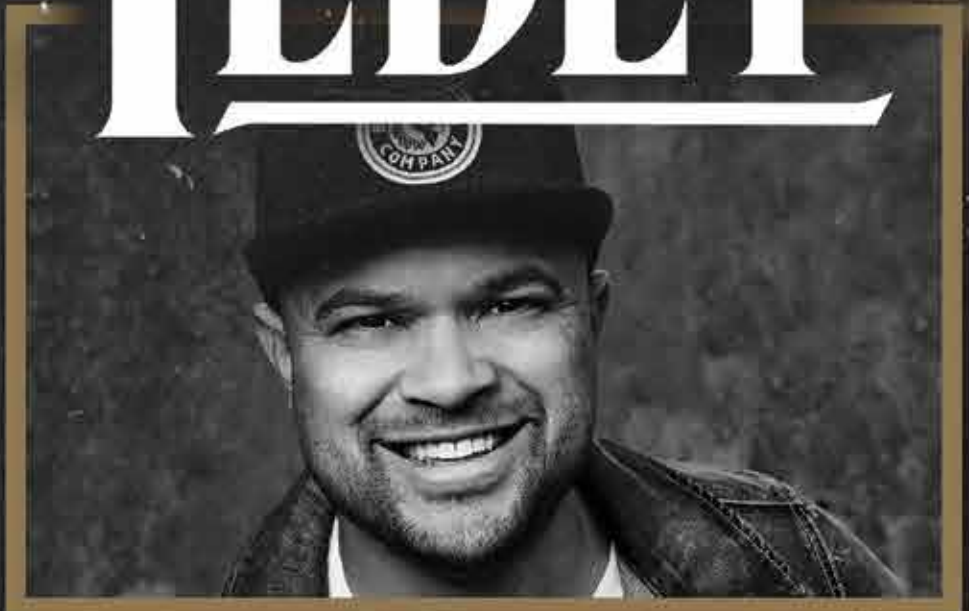
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I have to admit these past few months of a homeless lifestyle does take a toll on your strength.

No one wants this lifestyle and I certainly never imagined in a million years that this could ever happen to me, but I'm coping. I'm tired all the time more.

I guess aging with grace has become more of my norm with bigger stress wrinkles. I had a broken heart, now a few broken nails. My former indulgence of manicures and pedicures and occasional facials is now reduced to a nail file, hiding my feet in socks, and using up the remainder of my last really good moisturiser to smooth over my fears, which, to me, I feel anyone can see just by looking at me.

I catch up upon reading the AD Architectural Digest magazine at the Library and a multitude of creative interior design magazines that showcase stunning exteriors and interiors that I dream no longer about, but just enjoy.

Just having a roof over my head for the night is my hope and comfort.

If I close my eyes, I can still remember the smell of fresh sheets hanging on the clothesline and how I would help my mother fold them into the laundry basket.

I appreciated life way back then as I still do now. I pray a lot more, go to mass and enjoy other services in case God couldn't find me. I know my faith has been restored from the abyss I've presently been thrown into.

I'm lucky to hold onto my dreams and ambitions still.

You do know who your friends truly are at this moment.

Some have turned their backs and that's okay.

I never asked for anything but a prayer and maybe the odd car ride to a corner instead of walking thirty minutes just to get a bus.

On my walks I see new things: homes being built, gardens with the remaining colourful flowers clinging to the last moments of sunshine before winter sets in, and all kinds of interesting stuff during my walks to the unknown.

I wave to all and that makes me feel still welcomed in the community and not left alone.

I love the pet caregivers walking their furry friends. I suddenly get attention from them and a brief conversation with their owners that leave me with a feel-good moment, or a family reunion of sorts.

I used to be so strong in mind, body and spirit.

I was always imagining, creating and breathing life. Now it seems this lifestyle demands all of me just to survive against all odds.

I'm still homeless but happy.

Today I'm reinventing myself typing out this story to share and my resume.

I'm hopeful I will find work soon enough as I need to be able to maintain not just a lifestyle but keep my dignity and courage against everything in my fight to just live.

Theatre Aurora's "Never Swim Alone" and "This is a Play"

A Review by Scott Johnston

Theatre Aurora gives us two Daniel MacIvor plays for the price of one with "Never Swim Alone" and "This is a Play", now playing.

"Never Swim Alone" centres on frenemies Frank and Bill, two businessmen who are locked in a long-standing battle of one-upmanship. This is explored in a series of 13 formal rounds of increasingly intense dialogues, adjudicated by a mysterious woman referee. The winner of each round is allowed time to further insult his competitor.

As the unusual relationship is explored, many questions will be answered: Does this competition between two Type A personalities stem from an actual event? How is the woman involved? Does one of the men have a handgun in his briefcase as is suggested early on? What does swimming have to do with two men in suits? And will anyone come out on top?

After intermission, "This is a Play" follows three less than stellar actors as they struggle through performing a poorly written play. Most of the dialog consists of inner monologs where the

actors amusingly verbalize to themselves why they are performing the way they are, the issues they have with the set and direction, and what they think of their fellow actors.

Tim O'Connell as Frank and Jason Silzer as Bill have excellent pacing in the first play as much of their dialog is performed simultaneously. They, along with Moira-Kelly Steeves as the Referee, ably handle the edgier subject matter.

In the second play, Joey Ferguson as the male actor, Kirsty Campbell as the older actress, and Ms Steeves performing again, this time as the younger actress, all have fun with their lighter-hearted material, and obviously relish the opportunity to portray really bad acting.

The minimal set and excellent use of lighting helps in both plays to focus attention on the actors and dialog.

This is just what you want for the type of evening where the more you pay attention to the stories, the more you will get out of them.

Evening performances of "Never Swim Alone" and "This is a Play" continue at Theatre Aurora, 150 Henderson Drive, October 25, 26, and 27, and November 1, 2 and 3, with a matinee October 28. Details and tickets are available through the box office at 905-727-3669.

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FREE Week of October 25, 2018

Tigers snap first losing streak with back-to-back wins



Aurora's Michael Palandra chases down Newmarket's Derek Sweeney in the Tigers' 6 - 0 loss to the Hurricanes on Thursday.

By Jake Courtepatte

If the mark of a good team is the ability to rebound from adversity, the Junior A Aurora Tigers are doing just fine.

An atrocious 6 - 0 losing effort at the hands of the rival Newmarket Hurricanes on Thursday spelled the first two-game losing streak of the season for the Tigers, before a pair of big wins over the weekend put away any doubt that the cats are not the kings of the OJHL's North division.

Fresh off a surprise 4 - 2 loss at the hands of the Lindsay Muskies, the third edition of the 2018-19 Battle of Yonge Street Thursday saw Newmarket jump out to a 5 - 0 lead through forty minutes, chasing Jack Irvine from the game after making 18 stops on 23 shots.

Foegele carving out role with NHL's Hurricanes

By Jake Courtepatte

Four years after hearing his name called in the 2014 NHL Entry Draft, Warren Foegele is finally living his childhood dream.

The Markham native and ex-St. Andrew's Saints assistant captain officially earned himself a roster spot on the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes last week for the 2018-19 season, announced by Hurricanes head coach Rod Brind'Amour, who called Foegele "the perfect Carolina Hurricane" in a media scrum following the announcement.

"I just came to camp, just put my head down and tried to work hard and tried to make good plays," said Foegele. "I'm a hard-working player and I think I can fit anywhere in the lineup. I think I can grind, I think I can make plays, but I think the work ethic is what I really take a lot of pride in and that's what I

try to show."

Born in Markham, Foegele cut his teeth with both the Toronto Nationals and Markham Waxers AAA programs before taking on a varsity role at St. Andrew's College in Aurora, where he had attended since Grade 6.

Suiting up for a slew of games for the varsity Saints squad as just a sophomore, he led the junior varsity Saints in scoring in 2011-12, before joining the varsity squad in a full-time capacity the following season.

He once again led his team in scoring at over a point-per-game pace, with his scoring prowess and leadership skills combining to warrant an "A" on his chest in his senior season.

Leading the Saints to a CISAA title, Foegele put up an outstanding 87 points in 44 games to attract the attention of some of the American college hockey's top programs.

Continued on page 25

win over the Burlington Cougars, featuring back-and-forth action that saw Michael Palandra put home the winning goal on the power play in the final minute of regulation time.

With five assists between them in the contest, Bollers and Joseph Mizzi continued to pace the lead for the most helpers in the OJHL, while Mizzi's 29 points in just 16 games stands above the rest as well.

Things are looking up on the schedule for the home-friendly Tigers, who play host for their next five games stretching into mid-November. With an overall

record of 11-4-2-0, four points back of the conference lead, they will look to keep their home record solid after just one loss at the Aurora Community Centre so far this season.

The Tigers play host to the lowly Georgetown Raiders on Friday (5-6-1-1), before the Pickering Panthers (6-8-0-1) come to town on Saturday.

Both puck drops are scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com.



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THE AURORAN SPORTS

Aurora's Nembhard ready for freshman year of college hoops

By Jake Courtepatte

With great talent, comes great responsibility.

Projected as a first round draft pick in the 2019 NBA Draft, Andrew Nembhard is being thrust into a starting role on the varsity basketball squad at one of the NCAA's most prestigious schools, all at the age of 18.

The Aurora native, who attended Vaughan Secondary School through his first two years of high school, was chosen by coaching staff last week to run in the starting point guard position when the Florida Gators open their season against Florida State in a few weeks' time.

"I think I'm ready for the opportunity," said Nembhard in a call from campus. "When I was younger I used to play with all the older guys

and they were the scorers, so I just tried to give them the ball, win the games really."

Known for his slick passing, Nembhard's gift for assists should reward a shot-heavy Gators team that went 21 - 13 overall last year, making the second round of the NCAA March Madness tournament.

"My dad was a passer as well, so it's something he passed down to me," said Nembhard. "I think I just got his vision."

"He'll have a chance to be in the conversation to be one of the better passers in college basketball," said Gators head coach Mike White during the team's media day last week. "Who knows how many assists that means, how many highlights he produces, how many minutes he'll play. I'm not sure."

Putting aside the fact that he has spent the last three seasons with Florida's



Aurora's Andrew Nembhard, pictured with Florida's Montverde Academy.

Photo courtesy of Florida Gators Athletics

Montverde Academy, when asked why he chose the Gators over other schools he was highly recruited for, Nembhard said it was the coaching staff that stood out.

"It's just all great guys here," said Nembhard. "They push me, on and off the court. I just feel like it's a great environment...the staff, players, team is really good, we've got a great playing style, and it's a great school. A lot of things came together."

At six-foot-five, Nembhard stands

tall for a point guard, something he said should work to his advantage to be able to "see over the defense." As for being thrust into the spotlight as a freshman, he is taking it all in stride.

"I'm cool with the expectations I don't really feel any pressure," Nembhard said, having been on campus since June. "I'm just trying to come in and do whatever I can to help the team. I think we have a great group of guys and can go far this year."

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To find out more: bit.ly/Nov9Summit

IN THE NEWS...
Sport Aurora All Candidates meeting packs the Legion

Matters of sport and recreation were front and centre during Sport Aurora's All Candidates meeting on October 11th. The evening event, which drew roughly 200 to the Aurora Legion, included four Mayoral and 16 Council candidates, who answered questions on topics that spanned sport leadership, permit fees, sports tourism, and the need for new fields and facilities.

Council candidates also shared key elements from their platforms that related to the evening's theme.

Sport Aurora hosted and organized the event, which was the last all candidates meeting before election day. This is also the fourth time Sport Aurora has stepped up to bring prospective municipal leaders together to discuss issues that not only have social importance, but help Aurorans - of all ages - lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

IN THE NEWS...
Sport Aurora 'Athlete of the Year' announced

Sport Aurora's 2018 Athlete of the Year is 19-year-old Robert Thomas. A member of Hockey Canada's 2018 gold medal team (IIHF men's under-20 championships), Thomas is the third athlete to receive this title and will be honoured at the October 27 Mayor's Breakfast of Champions.

Thomas played minor hockey for York Simcoe Express, until being picked up by the London Knights in the 2015 Ontario Hockey League draft. From there, he played two seasons, and was then traded to Hamilton where he helped the Bulldogs win the OHL championship and a berth in the 100th Memorial Cup.

He was also among the league's leading scorers. In 2017-18, he logged 24 goals and 51 assists between the Knights and the Bulldogs during the regular season, and then led Hamilton in playoff scoring with 32 points.

WE HAVE SHOES TO FILL

Do you have an interest in **sport** and **physical activity**? If so, Sport Aurora and Activate Aurora need volunteers for a variety of interesting and challenging roles.

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Mayor's Breakfast of Champions Spotlight

Evolution Gymnastics Aurora

Ryleigh Smith - 1st place on beam Level 6 @ Ontario Provincial Championships

Last year Ryleigh had some difficult challenges with injuries to overcome. She never gave up on pursuing her goals and was able to work around her injuries and continue to improve her skill set. Her hard work paid off with some extraordinary event results at qualifiers and went to Championships full of confidence. Her dedication and hard work paid off when she came first in Ontario for her age group on beam. She proved to everyone that dedication and perseverance are keys to success and we hope for another great year to come.

Maryn Low - 3rd place on bars Level 8 @ Ontario Provincial Championships

Maryn has been an inspiration on bars for some time now having placed first and second at championships in the past. This year she moved up levels and was faced with some significant upgrades to her routines. She rose to the challenge as she always does and had some amazing results at qualifiers. Her all around performance both at training and at competition is consistently impressive and at championships this year she took third on bars even with her significantly more difficult routine. Her dedication to the sport is admirable and I am certain this year will bring more success for her.

Greg Thase - 1st all-around at Tour Championships and Eastern Canadian Champion on Pommel for Level 3

To put it simply, this was Greg's year. After years of working hard and watching his EGA peers place on the podium and travel the country, Greg got his turn to truly shine. He not only won almost every meet he attended, including in Calgary at the University of Calgary International Cup, he fought through injury and growing pains to place 2nd at Eastern Canadian Championships by only 1 tenth of a point and was also Eastern Canadian Champion on Pommel Horse. Throughout all of this, Greg has also started coaching and has served as a great roll model for our younger boys.

Andrew Nguyen - 1st on High Bar at Provincials and 1st on Rings at Eastern Canadian Championships

Drew had the competitive season of what is commonly called "ups and downs". He learned that sometimes things don't go as planned and how to learn from it for the next time, and learn he did. He not only placed 4th at Provincial Championships, but qualified to attend Eastern Canadian Championships with his EGA peer Greg. He was the first competitor on Rings that day, and set a score no one in the meet could touch and went home Eastern Canadian Champion on Rings.

Kieran Heaslip - 1st all-around at Provincials and 1st on Floor and Pommel

Kieran has had the distinct honor of being at the Breakfast of Champions every year since this wonderful event started. He has continued to be a solid competitor this year and became Provincial Champion with gold medals for Floor and Pommel Horse as well as the all-around. His hard work and leadership for the Men's program at EGA awarded him the Sarah Smith Memorial award this year.

Alex Nguyen - 3rd on Rings and 2nd on High Bar

Our Competitive team has been home to all three of the Nguyen children and Alex has big shoes to fill to follow in his older brother and sister's footsteps. This was Alex's first year competing at the Provincial level and walked away with several gold medals this year. His swings on Rings and High Bar got the attention of coaches from all over the province.

Bella Hong - 1st on beam, Level 3 Provincial Championships

This past season was only Bella's second year of gymnastics. Competing at qualifiers for the first time in her career she managed to place top 3 at every qualifier she attended, receiving special awards for her execution and mastery every step of the way. She maintained focus throughout the season and kept pushing for even higher levels of achievement. At Provincial Championships she went on

to receive yet another special award for her leaps and jumps on beam, place 4th all around, and earn a first-place finish on Beam with a score of 9.9 (only one tenth from perfect!).

Marisa Lansing - 3rd on beam, Level 4 Provincial Championships

Moving up a level in gymnastics is no easy feat, and this past season Marisa managed to move up, while at the same time moving up a level in her hockey career. Juggling two competitive sports, she put in extra time outside of regular practice to keep up in the pursuit of her goals. She shone at qualifying competitions proving to be a strong competitor all around, and receiving special awards for Vault along the way. Coping with some nerves at Provincial Championships she missed showing her usual powerful vault, but managed to re-focus and show an outstanding routine on Beam. Placing 3rd on Beam, she proved that she is not only a physically strong athlete, but mentally strong and ready to take on the challenges of this sport.

Nicole Matassini - 3rd on beam, Level 4 Provincial Championships

Last year Nicole had great achievements on Bars at every competition we attended, even placing first on Bars at Championships. This year she moved up to a higher level, stepping up to not only meet the requirements of the level but prove that she is not only an excellent athlete on bars, but a strong competitor all around. Placing top 3 at every qualifying competition, she earned 3rd place on Beam at Provincial Championships and placed 7th all around. She is an incredibly hard-working athlete, who is passionate about pursuing excellence in all aspects of this sport, and we can't wait to see what she will achieve this season.



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CANADA 150
1867-2017

Congregation marks milestone bicentennial celebration with gathering at temporary home

From page 1

through the vaulted ceilings of Aurora United Church.

Those vaulted ceilings may be a part of Aurora's history following the church's disastrous fire in the Spring of 2014, but the congregation itself remains and will formally celebrate its 200th anniversary with a special service this Sunday at their temporary home at Trinity Anglican Church.

And, as he has for just about every Sunday of his life, Mr. McRoberts will be there to once again lend his voice to the spiritual experience.

"When I started that September, one of the first outings that choir had was to go down and see The Sound of Music when it was first in theatres, and I have been an active member of the choir ever since," he says.

A history buff, Mr. McRoberts has been an active member of the committee steering the bicentennial celebrations, alongside, among others, Helen Roberts, the Aurora United Church community's long-time historian.

"Sunday will be an amazing service because they are bringing in all our music:

the choirs, all the bell [choirs] and there are going to be a couple of great guest musicians as well," Ms. Roberts tells The Auroran, noting long-time congregants will also receive a blast from the past when it comes time to take communion. If you have ever taken communion in a United Church in the past, you know it was served

in the pews from communion sets that have little tiny glasses and a platter. The platter was served first with the bits of bread and then the sets of glasses with grape juice would be served down and each person would get a tiny glass. We haven't served it that way for a number of years – now we usually serve from the altar – but those communion sets were one of the few things that survived the fire."

The communion sets, she explains, were stored in a different part of the church, apart from the main sanctuary that was levelled by the fire, but they survived in tact and will be pressed into service once again.

A highlight of the church service will be an address from Nora Sanders, Secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada which Ms. Roberts says promises to be a rousing talk.

"This is the big culmination of our year," she says. "It will be followed by the congregational turkey dinner in November which harkens back to years ago when we always used to have a turkey dinner, then we'll wind up the year."

It has been a year that has included not

only a service, but also an exhibition at the Aurora Museum & Archives celebrating the church's ongoing history at Yonge and Tyler Streets, as well as the revision and update of a book first published to mark the church's centenary, which will be on sale at Trinity this Sunday.

A lot has happened over the past 200 years, and a lot will happen in the century ahead as Aurora United Church inches towards breaking ground on a new church building at their spiritual centre on that small corner on Yonge Street.

"I think we have actually accomplished quite a bit," says Ms. Roberts of the 200th Anniversary year. "We were a small committee and it has been a good year. Everything that we have planned and hoped to do has worked so far and I think, with help from other people in the congregation, outside people like Shawna White and Michelle Johnson (at the Aurora Museum and Archives), it has just all come together very nicely. It has been a good year, but if we had a new building it would be an even better year!"

Mr. McRoberts shares similar sentiments.

"I am looking forward to having a new home," he says. "I am hoping that – and I think it probably will – a new building will help some of the members of the church to return. It is wonderful the Anglicans in Town have shared their sanctuary and building with us so that we can gather and sing, think and talk, and socialize, but I think having a new home [will be a hub] for community groups."

Aurora United Church's 200th anniversary service will take place this Sunday, October 28, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Anglican Church on Victoria Street. The service, featuring performances from the AUC Chancel Choir, Faith-A-Peal, EmBellished & Bellissimo Handbell Ensembles, the Alderbury Gardens Brass Quartet, and Wesley Bells on the violin, will be followed by a lunch following worship.



Photo courtesy of the Aurora Museum & Archives



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(Mount Albert United Church)
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Georgina Community Food Pantry
20849 Dalton Rd. (The Link)
W 9:30am-12:30pm

Newmarket Food Pantry
1251 Gorham St., Unit 9
M-F 9:30-11:30am, SAT 10:30am-12pm



TF: 1-855-870-4586
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nnetwork.org

Foegele carving out role with NHL's Hurricanes

From page 21

Originally slated to play junior hockey in the BCHL the following season, he instead chose to graduate and accept a scholarship to the University of New Hampshire, around the same time he was ranked the 66th skater for the upcoming 2014 NHL Draft. That June, the Hurricanes would take him 67th.

"That moment was just surreal to me," Foegele told The Auroran at the time. "It's something that I'll never forget."

Since then, Foegele's journey led him to an over point-per-game pace while with the OHL's Erie Otters and Kingston Frontenacs, before making the transition to professional hockey with the Charlotte Checkers last season, the Hurricanes' AHL club.

Foegele credits Saints coach David Manning for helping him flourish into a top-level player.

"He's a guy who dogs the puck," said Manning. "The engine that never stops."

With three goals and two assists through the first nine games of the NHL season, the 22-year old has seen plenty of playing time on a line with veterans Jordan Staal and Justin Williams, while also killing penalties.

Foegele said he's "fortunate to have two great linemates" that make his job pretty easy.

"They tell me what to do and how to improve and it's been a lot of fun playing with those two. A couple of times I'm like, 'Wow, this is pretty cool.'"

With November rapidly approaching we will soon be thinking of our Veterans. There is another group I believe deserves a kind thought. The animals who have served.

How many paintings do we see projecting the "glory" of War with mounted cavalry charging into battle? The horses depicted are immaculately groomed, and in full muscle; this sadly was rarely the case. Perhaps the Lord's charger was given special care, but like the ordinary foot soldier the horses usually died from wounds, neglect or starvation.

30,000 horses were used in the Battle of Waterloo alone, in what has been referred to as a "veritable meat grinder."

During the Boer War, the British lost 323,000 horses.

War Horses have endured much, from the butchery of the Medieval fields of war to the Mustard Gas, mangle and dysentery of WW1. From Comanche warriors to the Mongol horde the horse was a valued weapon. From draft horses pulling supplies and weaponry, to the all-important cavalry horse.

In the 16th century, Equestrian skills developed and specific moves were created such as the Pesade (horse reared to protect his rider), and the Piaffe, horse high steps in-place while his rider hacked at the Enemy. These moves are now seen only in the Dressage ring.

Although the treatment of these animals was often poor, there are countless stories of the extreme bond they had with their riders. Soldiers sharing their meagre supply of food and water with their horse and horses buried with full military honours. Blackfoot warriors cried openly when their horse died. In 1932, a group of American Cavalry men learned that 506 horses deemed "useless" were to be slaughtered. They rounded up the horses, risking court martial, and drove them from Texas to Canada. War brings out the worst and the best in us.

Similarly, dogs have proven their worth during War.

The Ancient world used large Mastiff type dogs, armed with spike collars and mail armour to fight. Napoleon, Attila



SENIOR SCAPE

Dave LeGallais

Forgotten Warriors

the Hun and the Spanish Conquistadors counted on dogs as part of their arsenal. The American Pit Bull was used during the American Civil War to protect and carry messages.

Dogs still serve as warriors; they carry messages, track, haul, sniff out bombs, act as sentinels, and maybe most importantly are mascots for troops.

The breeds have changed, from the Mastiffs and Wolfhounds to the German Shepherds of modern wars to the now more popular Belgian Malinois, a somewhat smaller, more agile working dog. Although faced with terrible conditions and danger, the dog historically was treated somewhat better than the horse and most of the dogs of WW1 & WW11 were adopted by soldiers. However, during the Vietnam War these service dogs were deemed "expendable" and were ordered to be euthanized after serving. After years of protest by ex-service people, a law was signed by President Clinton in 2000 reversing that policy.

Did you know that the Navy Seal Team who "took out" Bin Laden included a dog?

And while we remember the noble horses and dogs that have served bravely, other animal war veterans are often overlooked. When we speak of hauling cargo or mounts for warriors, ancient and new, we cannot forget the countless camels, elephants, donkeys and mules that have served throughout the world. Carrier Pigeons flew across battlefields carrying important military strategies and messages. Canaries and mice were used to detect the presence of lethal gasses. Cats were invaluable in keeping down the rat population in trenches, military encampments and ships, and as a source of comfort and amusement for soldiers in the field or the wounded in hospitals.

These animals may not elicit the same response as our beloved horses and dogs but their service was also important.

We cannot deny the important contribution animals have made to mankind's wars. When you pause to remember our brave soldiers, give a thought to them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From page 5

of the Highland Gate Ratepayers Association.

The letter above was not issued by the Highland Gate Ratepayers Association (HGRPA) nor does it reflect any positions taken by the HGRPA.

I resigned over the letter posted above. Not because I do or don't want Chris Ballard to be our Mayor. Each to his or her own conscience to cast their vote for Mayor.

I resigned because the letter was signed by two HGRPA directors after the HGRPA board voted in a democratic fashion not to make a political statement.

In my opinion, public dissent by a director of decisions taken by the HGRPA board, or any director of any board for that matter, is inappropriate, disloyal and lacks integrity unless the

director publicly resigns their post.

Neither director has chosen to resign and one who acts as an officer of the HGRPA has delayed a communication to the HGRPA membership as directed by the interim President for almost 24 hours now.

I have received a number of truly supportive messages from supporters of all mayoral candidates who feel as I do about these actions. Far more than the number of readers of "readers who contend" that Chris Ballard made a real difference during our struggle with the OMB. Strange that I never heard from Chris during my tenure as President of the HGRPA.

Thank-you all for your support during the past three years.

David LeClaire
Former President, Highland Gate Ratepayers Association
Received Online: Monday, October 22



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Victory all around as Hillary House Ball is seventh annual sell-out

By Brock Weir

Victory was in the air on Saturday night as the Aurora Historical Society hosted their seventh annual Hillary House Ball, a sell-out event at King Valley Golf Club.

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of The Armistice, the official end of the First World War, and the Aurora Historical Society (AHS) chose Victory as the event's theme.

"We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, but we'd also like tonight to celebrate your own personal victories in the past year," said Patricia Wallace, who co-chaired this year's Ball alongside Claire d'Aurore. "Victory can mean a lot of things to a lot of different people. We're celebrating our victory – celebrating a sold-out evening. We're also celebrating that local businesses realise the value of Hillary House as a gem in the heart of Aurora, as well as a draw for heritage business."

These points were also echoed by John Green, President of the Aurora Historical Society, who delivered remarks to the audience, a group which included Aurora's two Members of Parliament, Leona Alleslev and Kyle Peterson, Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MPP Michael Parsa, Mayor Geoff Dawe, almost a full Council compliment and several

dignitaries from Newmarket and King.

"Did you know that according to Trip Advisor, the AHS' Hillary House is a Number One destination in Aurora for tourism?" asked Mr. Greene. "Hillary House is attracting not only Aurora residents, but also visitors from all over Ontario. Our fame has spread as a museum and as a centre for historic programming. We have become a destination for heritage tourism and it all started through the foresight of Dr. Leslie Oliver 50-plus years ago. Your support here tonight helps us maintain the Hillary House facility, its property, and also to offer heritage programs.

"The funds generated go towards education programs, senior programs, and welcoming newcomers to Aurora. Upcoming projects include restoring a coach house that has been on the property now for a few years, and it has to be [put back into shape] and made usable again, a new safe parking lot at the bottom of our property which would allow school buses and many more people to park within walking distance of Hillary House, and to restore the summer kitchen which is at the back of Hillary House now back to when it was the good old days."

For more information on the Aurora Historical Society, including upcoming events and initiatives, visit aurorahs.com.



Dignitaries, lovers of history, and members of the public alike donned their best duds on Saturday night for the seventh annual Hillary House Ball, an event raising money for educational programs at, and maintenance of, Aurora's only National Historic Site. (Top Row) Councillor Michael Thompson, volunteer Jackie Playter, Mayor Geoff Dawe, and emcee Tim Jones. (Second Row) Newmarket-Aurora MP Kyle Peterson, Aurora Museum & Archives curator Shawna White with historian Jacqueline Stuart, event co-chair Patricia Wallace. (Middle Row) Aurora Historical Society president John Green and Lois Brown get the party started with some rousing singing. (Bottom Row) Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leona Alleslev with Pat Murray.

Auroran photos by Diane Buchanan and Robin Taylor Smith

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Keynote, Dr. John Cairney, University of Toronto:

The Journey does not end in childhood: The importance of developing physical literacy over the life-course.

Dr. Chris Fortier, Sports Medicine Centre of Excellence:

Exercise is Medicine – a pilot program in Aurora. Learn why engagement of health professionals is critical to increasing physical activity opportunities in older adults, and how this is accomplished in a community setting.

Brandy Tanenbaum, Office of Injury Prevention, Sunnybrook Hospital:

Building and deploying physical literacy assessment for older adults. This presentation will review current research to better understand the relationship between physical literacy and physical activity in older adults.

WORKSHOPS:

John M. Pendlebury, Bayview Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine Clinic:

Abilities Course: enhancing locomotion, stability, balance and object manipulation in a safe environment is key to improving the durability of older adults.

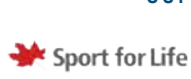
Drew Mitchell, Sport for Life and Ron Weese, Activate Aurora:

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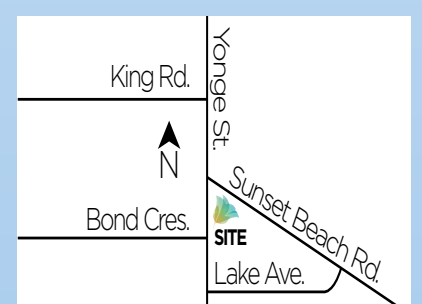


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THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 29

Pickleball for Parkinson's & Arthritis will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., and 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. at Northridge Community Church (15338 Leslie Street). Have you withdrawn from playing because of Parkinson's or Arthritis (P&A)? Play again with the P&A Program. As you are hitting against a ball machine you are only competing against yourself and your goals. Your focused drills are recorded in slow motion and reviewed by the trainer and your Player Buddies. Feedback is provided by slow motion video, trainer analysis, digital record of your progress and informed comment from your Player Buddies. Two courts for free play before and after drill sessions. The cost is \$60. To register, visit www.auroratennis.ca/Parkinsons-&Arthritis-Progra, or contact Brent MacKinnon at brentmack@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at Country Style Deli/Bistro, 14980 Yonge Street, from 3 – 4.30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from francophone to beginners) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez-fr.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

GranAurora, an initiative of the Stephen Lewis Foundation in support of African Grandmothers, presents An Evening with Astronaut Dr. Dave Williams, tonight at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. Doors open at 6.45 p.m., the event begins at 7.30 p.m. Dr. Williams will present his book *Defying Limits: Lessons from the Edge of the Universe*. Light refreshments will be served. Books available for purchase courtesy of Blue Heron Books. Tickets are \$20 and available for purchase by email or phone: 905-727-9235, 905-751-1217, or granaurora4114@gmail.com. All proceeds support the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

The Aurora Seniors' Centre hosts its annual Holiday Bazaar today from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. at 90 John West Way. Bake sale, art sale, local vendors, Senior Centre crafters, silent auction, coffee shop, and more. Don't miss out, come and join the fun!

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Mosley and Victoria Streets) hosts its Treasures & Treats Bazaar today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Delicious baked goods, handmade craft items, and an assortment of treasures to purchase. Come and enjoy a delicious muffin with tea or coffee for \$2.

The Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion will host their annual Remembrance Day dinner this evening. This will be a special

occasion in advance of the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day. Come out and enjoy a "walk through history". 100 years of events posted on the walls and a magnificent Prime Rib dinner. Cocktails at 5pm, Dinner @ 6pm, Dance by Soul Benefit @ 8 pm. Cost is \$35 p/p.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Money Talk\$ Series: A free, informal monthly education/conversation group to share unbiased knowledge about the investment environment and about financial planning. This month's topic: Investment Plans/Investment Environment: Sharing Our Collective Experience. Presentation followed by group conversation. No financial products or services will be offered or sold (directly or indirectly). People employed in the financial services industry are welcome to attend and contribute, but not to engage in the promotion of any products, companies or services. For more information, call the Aurora Public Library's Adult Information Desk at 905-727-9494 x275.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Amnesty International Aurora-Newmarket holds their monthly meeting tonight from 7 – 8.30 p.m. to discuss current human rights issues and write appeal letters. Trinity Anglican Church (Rectory behind the main church building), 79 Victoria Street. All are welcome. Free. For more information, call Renee at 9075-713-6713.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

REMEMBRANCE DAY – The Royal Canadian Legion will host Remembrance Day services at the Aurora Cenotaph this morning starting at approximately 10.30 a.m. This year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. A reception will follow at the Legion itself with food by the Ladies' Auxiliary and entertainment by the St. Andrew's College Orchestra.

PARTAGEZ LE FRANCAIS – A free French language conversation group will take place this afternoon at Country Style Deli/Bistro, 14980 Yonge Street, from 3 – 4.30 p.m. This free group welcomes adults (from francophone to beginners) looking to put their French-language conversation skills into action. Francophones and stronger speakers are encouraged to share their French language skills with less strong speakers. For more information, visit bit.ly/partagez-fr.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

The **PROBUS** Club of Aurora holds their monthly meeting today from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North, Aurora. The speaker is Mike Hurley from "Highway of Heroes Living Tribute - A living legacy for Canada's Fallen". For more information on this month's speaker please call Cliff White at 905-841-2421. New Members Welcome! Call Gary Gilbert at 905-895-2849 or be our guest at the meeting.

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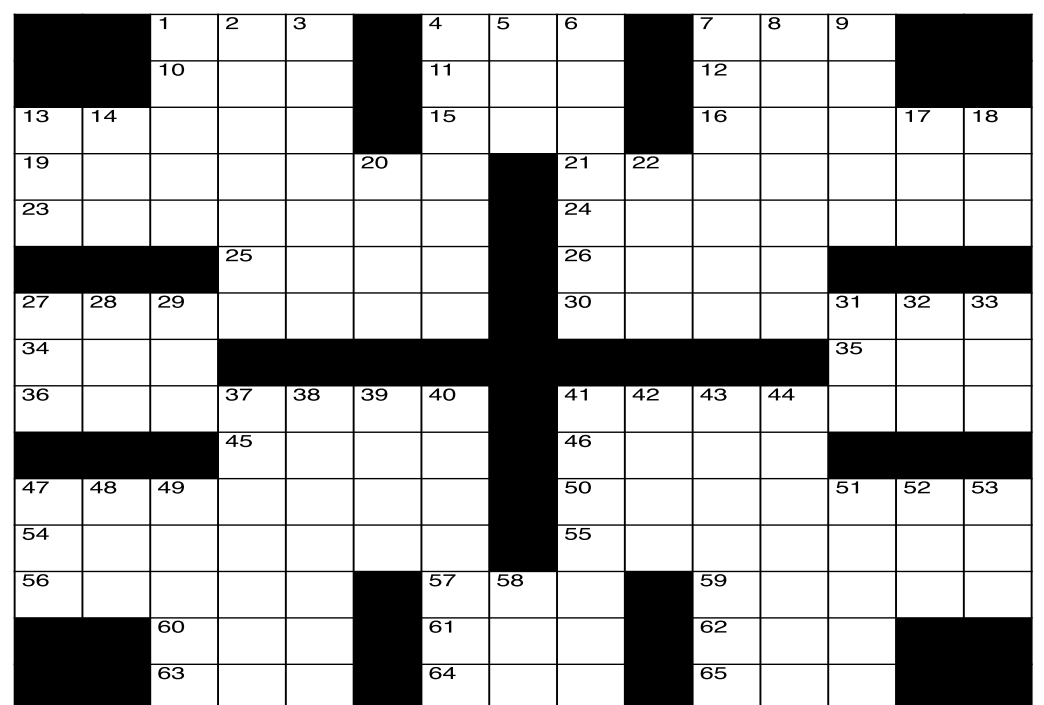
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CLUES ACROSS

- Expresses weights (abbr.)
- Pounds per square inch
- Central Time
- One who speaks for others
- Aussie TV station
- Swiss river
- A way to improve
- Awesome!
- Appeal to
- Satisfy
- The Emerald Isle
- Quick passages
- Love of humankind
- Fleshy beak covering
- Type of sword
- Basketball stat
- Makes unhappy
- The Princess can feel it
- Bar bill
- Of one
- Prom accessory
- Jai ___, sport
- Assist in wrongdoing
- Small hill
- Erases
- Fill with motivation
- Part of your face
- Novelist Coelho
- Francisco is one
- Narrow space between two buildings
- Soak
- Proofreading mark
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- Time zone
- Midway between northeast and east
- Baseball stat

CLUES DOWN

- Sharp mountain ridge
- Types of lenses
- Informs
- Partial paralysis
- Helps little firms
- Alphabetical lists
- Danced about
- Set out
- Trick's partner
- Second sight
- Disfigure
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Tooth caregiver
- Wrongful act
- ___ Nui, Easter Island
- Away from
- Member of Congress (abbr.)
- Car mechanics group
- When you plan to get there.
- Bother incessantly
- One point east of due south
- Small giveaways
- "MASH" actor Gould
- A type of habitat
- Refined delicacy
- Inflection of the voice
- Follow orders
- Discharge
- Of the stars
- Briefly place into
- Present in all living cells (abbr.)
- Take illegally by force
- Genus of moth
- Midway between east and southeast
- Bashful
- French river

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Hallowe'en Spooktacular on Carlyle Crescent benefits Food Pantry

From page 3

enthusiast in the family, but Paul is the builder.

He tells The Auroran that with each passing year, their collection of props grows, along with their arsenal of special effects, and he starts assembling the display in the middle of September. In those early days, it's an hour here and an hour there, but in the last two weeks leading up to October 31, they are in "full-blown build mode."

"Our neighbours are used to it by

now," says Su with a chuckle. "They walk by, they give us a lot of good feedback and say they are looking forward to it, and the kids start coming by in September because they know we do this and want to see where we're at. It's fantastic. Our neighbours do probably think we're a little crazy, but they come out and support us."

Also helping to support the Haunting for the first time this year are area schools Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School, where

the Diana children are students, as well as Highview Public School next door.

"Come out and experience something fun and something super-scary," says Su. "We have something for all ages and something that is close to home. People don't have to venture too far out of their community to have some fun on Hallowe'en night and on the night before. This is just a family thing that has grown over the years, and now our kids help out."

"For the first couple of years, they didn't even want to go through it, but now they just love it," adds Paul.

"It's all about the kids and having someplace closer to home to venture out," says Su. "We're here and we're doing something good for the Food Pantry as well, which is really near and dear to my heart."

The Haunted Wild West house is open nightly starting October 29, 30, and 31 from 6.30 – 9 p.m. at 40 Carlyle Court.

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