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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

For the Big Picture see page 25

Vol. 19 No. 6 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of November 15, 2018



LEST WE FORGET – (MAIN) Mike Smith, a student at the Royal Military College, approaches the Cenotaph on Sunday to lay a wreath in memory of his great-grandfather, Aurora veteran Frank Young, who died the previous Sunday. (LEFT) Members of the Queen's York Rangers march in the parade. (RIGHT) Veterans gather at the war memorial. For pictorial coverage of Aurora's 2018 Remembrance Day service, please see Page 22.

Our task was to serve. Your task is to Remember.

Thousands mark 100th anniversary of Armistice

By Brock Weir

They came by candlelight.
 They came bundled up against the daytime chill.
 They came to remember.
 Over one-thousand people descended on the Aurora Cenotaph on Sunday morning to mark not only Remembrance

Day, but the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, the formal end of the First World War.

Sunday's service followed just hours after residents, including a number of local cadets, stood vigil at the historic monument paying tribute to the fallen with little more than the flame at the end of their taper to keep them warm.

Under the mix of sun and cloud

the following morning, the Peace Park was filled with people young and old as dignitaries laid wreaths of Remembrance, alongside those placed by families in memory of those no longer with us. Whether those wreaths were laid in honour of those who fell on the Western front over a century ago, or, in the case of one young man, by Mike Smith, a student

Continued on page 21

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 **Based on gross commission for Royal LePage Canada 2017

Community connections celebrated at Armistice event

By Brock Weir

Dressed from head to toe in black bombazine, Jane Campbell struck a lonely figure as she stood over her son's grave.
 Master Corporal Ken Campbell was one of twenty-four Aurora residents killed in the First World War and Mrs. Campbell was one of the first local mothers able to make the trip overseas to pay tribute to a son who gave his life

Continued on page 23

A MOTHER'S TRIBUTE – Aurora's Jane Campbell, left, is pictured with her uniformed son Kenneth, and Marguerite Fleury, early in the First World War. The Campbells' story was remembered at a special event last week to mark the 100th anniversary of Armistice.

Photo courtesy of the Fleury Family

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Family, charity the focus in Aurora Sports



The family of the late Loring Doolittle, left, join other members of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2018 – Robert Bain, Paolina Allan, and David Morland IV.

Auroran photo by Glen Rodger

By Jake Courtepatte

Add four more names to the growing list of Aurora sporting icons.

Paolina Allan, David Morland IV, Loring Doolittle, and Robert Bain were welcomed into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame on Thursday as this year's inductees, a pair of athletes and a coach and a builder who reached the pinnacle of their sports.

St. Andrew's College was the host venue for the fourth year in a row, where close to 300 guests packed into Cole Hall to see the class don the traditional green sweater now worn by a total of 29 members.

"Nights like this prove how rich the sports heritage is of this community," said founding Chair of Sport Aurora Ron Weese. "And how much it's valued. There are so many people that helped

put this together over the past year."

Calling himself "James Duthie's replacement," it was TSN personality Rod Black that got the crowd roaring in a similar style to the usual host Duthie, after his daughter Sienna opened the festivities with the national anthem.

"James is doing hockey tonight, and if I was doing basketball, (fellow TSN personality) Jennifer Hedger would have been your host...so you guys really missed out."

Guests were also treated to a live fantasy auction after dinner, where bidders competed for once-in-a-lifetime opportunities like a round of golf in Muskoka with Mr. Black: a top prize garnering over a thousand dollars more after Mr. Morland IV decided to join the round.

"I probably should have told you I'll be flying the plane myself," joked Mr. Black when the pro golfer joined in the

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Hall of Fame induction

fun.

Mr. Morland, whose fantasy donations did not end there in also auctioning out a local round with himself, is well-versed in the courses of the area. He recounted his days between 1987 and 1994 spending his summers back home in Aurora between college semesters, working the grounds of the local courses.

Now, a quarter century later, he's working to earn his card to the PGA's Champions Tour.

"Qualifying school is literally in five days," said Mr. Morland in his speech. "So we've got an early flight out back to Florida tomorrow morning to prepare for that, but right now I'm very happy to be standing where I am here."

The ex-PGA pro said it was his "big heart", despite his size, that got him to that podium.

"At five-six, you never know how big someone's heart is," he said. "When you set goals, set them high, and then break them down. It comes down to how much you want it...it's a mental game, as I'm sure my fellow inductee Ms. Allan can attest to."

With a nod of approval, Ms. Allan brought up the mental aspect in her acceptance, something she said is made much simpler with the help of her husband and coach, Stephen.

"Triathlon is an individual sport, but along the way, I've had the most incredible help," said Ms. Allan, who pointed to her table, who she refers to as

her "tribe." "My mom came over from Scotland to share this with me, and it was Stephen who helped me to be the athlete I was, he saw potential in me.

Yet despite her dozens of accolades in the sport of triathlon, she was still humbled by the honour.

"I kind of laughed when I got off the phone," said Ms. Allan. "I thought, 'I don't really know if that was real. But here I am today, and it is very real.'"

This year's inductees will see their photos and bios brandished on the walls of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame at the SARC for a full calendar year, where the public is also free to see their collections of equipment, medals, and other memorabilia.

Also inducted into the Hall were a pair of rising stars in Holly Biasi and Andrew Nembhard, part of Sport Aurora's Future Hall of Famers initiative. Biasi's commitment to the volleyball court has earned her numerous provincial and national titles over the last year, while also owning nine provincial medals in the swimming pool.

Nembhard, a University of Florida basketball player, has been tagged as a prominent up-and-comer in the Canadian national basketball team as a point guard. While unable to make the long trip himself, his parents were on hand to accept the honour.

Next week, The Auroran will focus on the induction of Mr. Bain and Mr. Doolittle.



Paolina Allen and David Morland IV receive their awards from sponsors.

Auroran photo by Glen Rodger

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest pursuant to the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended.

136 Wellington Street East
"The Railroad Hotel" Lots 1, 2 and 3 1st Range South of Centre Street East of Railroad on Plan 107, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, being all of PIN 03641-0819 (LT)

Constructed circa 1855, the Railroad Hotel is a two-storey, mid-19th century building inspired by Georgian and Gothic Revival influences. The building features a distinctive keyhole window, gable roof, and historic window and door openings. It is one of the oldest buildings in Aurora and the last remaining railroad hotel in Town.

The hotel was a prominent community landmark and gathering place for both local Aurorans and travellers who rode on the 'Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Union Railroad' - the province's earliest fare-paying steam train journey. In response to the railroad's opening and anticipation of population growth, John Mosley and Richard Machell subdivided their land holdings on the property, and in 1854 "Machell's Corners" was renamed "Aurora", after the Grecian goddess of dawn, to enthusiastically mark the turning point in direction - symbolically and actually - of the community. The Railroad Hotel represents the growth of commercial life as part of this new era for the Town.

Prominent Aurora and area business people including John Kersopp and the Button family from Markham also owned the property for periods of time. Since the present railroad station (built c.1900) is not the original terminal, the hotel stands as the last vestige from the mid-19th century for the area surrounding the railroad crossing.

DETAILED REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE UNDERSIGNED.

Pursuant to Section 29(5) of the Ontario Heritage Act, any person may, before 4:30 p.m. on the **17th** day of **December** 2018, (within 30 days of the publication of this notice) send by registered mail or deliver to the Town Clerk, Notice of Objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement setting out the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts. If a Notice of Objection is received, the Council of the Town of Aurora will refer the matter to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing and a report.

Further information respecting the proposed designation is available from the Town Clerk's Office upon request.
DATED at Aurora this November 15th, 2018
Michael De Rond, Town Clerk, Town of Aurora, 100 John West Way, Box 1000, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1

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TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Aurora intends to designate the following property as a property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest pursuant to the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as amended.

124 Wellington Street East
"Baldwin's Restaurant"

Lot 109 on Plan 246, Part of Lot 102 on Plan 246 being Part 1 on Plan 65R18213, Part of Lot 1 1st Range South of Centre Street West of Railroad on Plan 107 as in R559458 except Part 3 on Plan 65R21186, Town of Aurora, Regional Municipality of York, being all of PIN 03641-1648 (LT)

Constructed circa 1920, Baldwin's Restaurant is a three-storey brick building with pre-World War II Georgian Revival and Industrial architectural influence. The building features a flat roof, numerous sash windows and decorative brickwork. Historically, the building operated as a flour mill and was built by William Baldwin after the original mill further west on Wellington Street was destroyed by fire. The Baldwin building is located distinctively on the west side of the railroad tracks, which was a prime location to easily transport goods and made the building an early community landmark at the busy Wellington Street railroad intersection.

The prominent Baldwin family owned the property and operated the mill. William Baldwin and his son George Baldwin both served separate terms as Mayor of Aurora. George Baldwin was also the first Chairman of the Aurora Hydro-Electric Commission. The Baldwin building is an important community landmark featuring a high degree of craftsmanship in its build. It is one of the last pre-World War II industrial buildings remaining in Town, was owned by one of Aurora's more prominent historical families, and its presence serves as a visual reminder of the early industrial and commercial growth of Aurora around the railroad tracks.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Henderson Forest fight continues

After initially questioning the environmental impacts, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) recently reversed course and gave its blessing to the destruction of protected Woodland and Endangered Species Habitat on Henderson Drive in order to make way for two large estate homes. This, in itself, represents a shocking move by an agency funded by our tax dollars and mandated to protect these precise environmental features on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Moreover, equally troubling is that the decision was made despite the fact that major issues previously raised by LSRCA have still not been addressed by the Applicant. The good news is that LSRCA is simply one part of the process, with the Town's appointed Committee of Adjustment ultimately deciding on these applications. However, since LSRCA's opinion plays a pivotal role in the process, we're asking this – why has the Conservation Authority suddenly gone against its own mandate to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine and why is no one talking?

Up until August of this year, it seemed that LSRCA was correctly holding the Applicant accountable in having to demonstrate that the ecological integrity of the Oak Ridges Moraine would be unharmed, as is required by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP). We welcomed the fact that LSRCA appeared to be pushing back, insisting the Applicant describe the damage in detail so that it could be properly assessed. Due to the number of key natural heritage features on the lands and the huge impacts already documented by the Applicant, the expectation was that LSRCA would ultimately use its powers to put the brakes on a development that clearly should not be happening for a multitude of sound environmental and legal reasons. This includes the existence of four Town By-laws that are aligned with the ORMCP and which currently prohibit any development or site alteration. Yet LSRCA's latest move defies all logic, suddenly concluding that its "comments have been addressed" by the Applicant when, in fact, they most certainly have not.

LSRCA had previously asked the Applicant to "clearly demonstrate that no negative impact will be afforded to observed and candidate significant wildlife habitat", including the Snapping Turtle. This has not been demonstrated. The impacts to Significant Woodland remain "inconclusive", with the Applicant unable to demonstrate that there will be "no negative or adverse impact" to its ecological integrity, including microhabitat. A tree inventory was requested by the Town to enable LSRCA, the Town and the Committee of Adjustment to assess, with more accuracy, the extent of environmental damage.

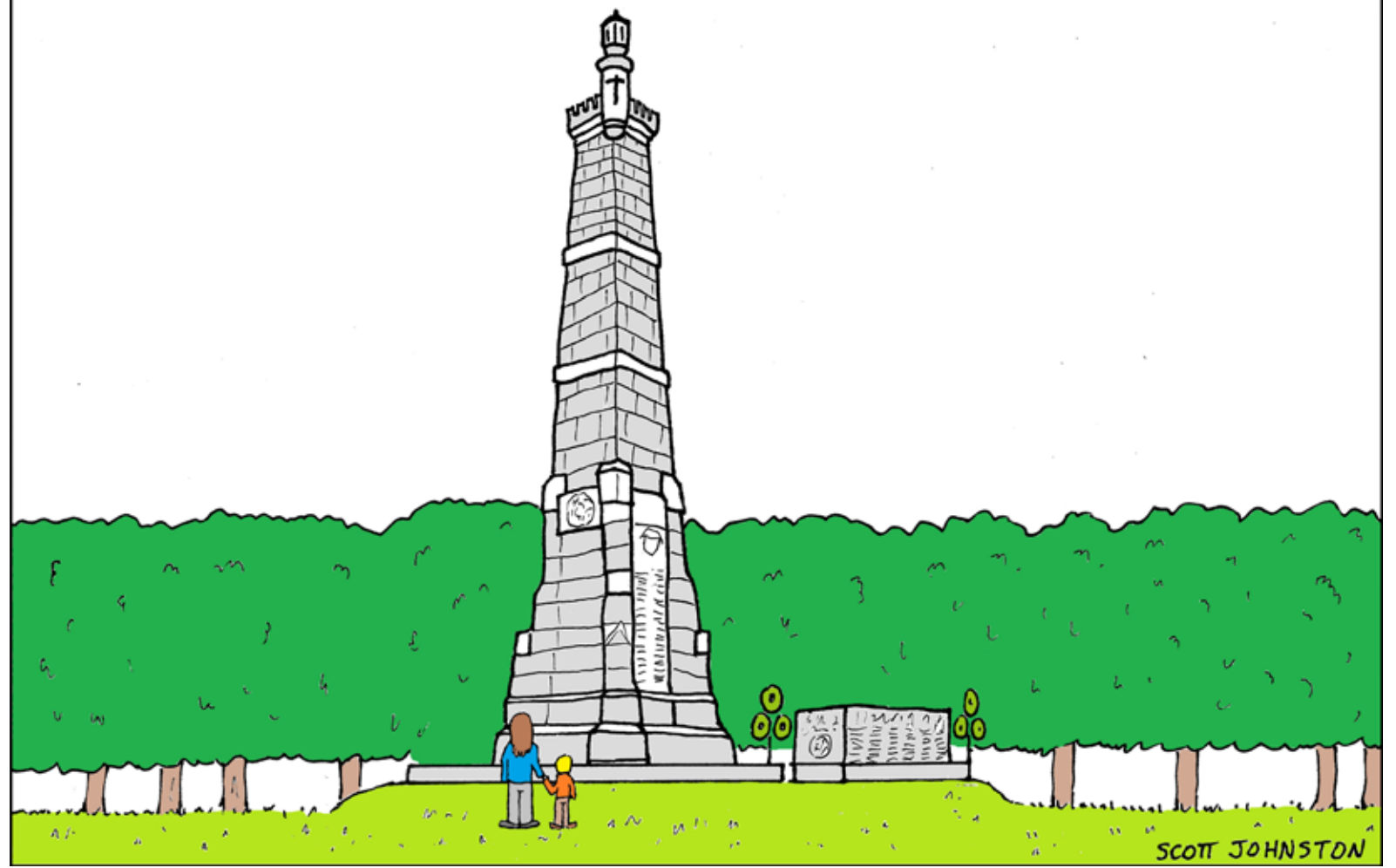
Several months later the Applicant has still not complied. Impacts to Significant Valleyland have also not been adequately addressed. Instead of insisting on all this information, LSRCA has given a premature and inexplicable green light, subject to minimal conditions that fail to justify the environmental carnage that this agency has now endorsed.

On September 13th we reached out to LSRCA's CAO, Mike Walters, presenting the multiple issues that remain unaddressed and requesting an explanation for LSRCA's decision. He asked for our patience while he reviewed the document with his staff. Over seven weeks later, we are still awaiting that detailed response and our patience has been overly tested. So what should we gauge from this? If a sound basis exists, it should not be this difficult to share the

Continued on page 5

Machell's Corners

A reminder: this park is open 364 days other than November 11



Passing the Baton



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

Wherever you stand in silence on November 11, it is hard not to be moved by the ceremony.

It is a very individual experience and while the main purpose is to come out and Remember, each person stands for their own reasons. Perhaps they come to their respective cenotaphs to pay tribute to their parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents who served. Perhaps they themselves are parents of sons and daughters who have answered the call and are presently serving at home or abroad. Others too might come out of no personal connection to conflict or service, other than the freedoms we enjoy today and to give thanks for the same.

For an increasingly rare group who attend the services each year, they saw conflict first hand. They saw their brothers in arms fall in the service of Monarch and Country and they personally know the all-too-real costs of war.

Unless we ourselves served in more recent conflicts, we couldn't begin to understand what goes through their minds on such occasions, but thankfully there are still a number of people from that generation who still give so generously of their time to help us do so.

As I stood at Sunday's ceremony, I watched this ever-smaller band of veterans make their way to their vaunted places just to the side of the memorial and wondered how the "face" of these services – and, indeed, how Remembrance Day itself – will change once this generation is unable to participate and help us Remember.

It was a sobering thought given the tumult in the world around us.

This year, of course, marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. When war first broke out in the summer of 1914, many of the young men signing up viewed it as a bit of adventure and a way of seeing the world, the price of admission being fighting in a short conflict that was sure to be over by Christmas.

That, of course, didn't turn out to be the case and before too long, and certainly within four short years, it was popularly known as "The War to End All Wars."

When that term was coined, no one could have envisaged that "The War to End All Wars" was anything but; and only a precursor to decades of conflict that followed, culminating in the unthinkable: a Second World War.

his opinion on the rise of nationalism and what that might mean for the future. "I don't know and it is hard to judge," he said. "The progression towards the far right is frightening to me. It seems so typical of what happened in Germany in the late 1930s, so similar that it really does worry me. I know I talk to other people my age and they feel the same way. I don't know where this leads."

Few of us know where it leads, but it is hauntingly easy to imagine.

Amidst these sobering thoughts on Sunday, I was heartened by the sight of a young man in a scarlet tunic making his way through the crowds to place a wreath at the Cenotaph.

The wreath bore the name of Frank Young, a local veteran of the Second World War, who had died exactly a week before, who just happened to be the young man's great-grandfather.

Back in 2014, I met Mr. Young for the first of many times at the same service in the same location. At the time, he was overjoyed to be accompanied by five of his great-grandchildren. Then, he said recent events had driven home the importance of Remembrance Day to up-and-coming generations.

Those "recent events" were the murders of servicemen Cpl. Nathan Cirillo in Ottawa and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu.

"I think what happened, and the Afghan war, did a heck of a lot to our guys because it brought back memories of three generations ago," said Mr. Young, who served in Normandy, the Netherlands, and Belgium among other locations, driving supply trucks during the Second World War. "I have been back to Holland three or four times and they get bigger crowds every year. Nowadays the kids here are getting a lot better; they are teaching more in schools, and it is very nice. It feels great [that my family] has been able to come here for years. I feel a sense of pride and a sense of sorrow too. I was a very lucky man to get back and have a big family and enjoy life."

Judging by the reflective pride evident on his great-grandson's face as he paid tribute to his forebear on Sunday, he was a lucky man indeed. And, if he was able to share some of this wisdom while passing the torch to him – and I suspect he was – we too are lucky.

Let's hope it bodes well for the future.

The First World War was still a relatively fresh wound for all those who lived through it, including the countless servicemen and women who enlisted in the conflict, some of whom were still active service personnel, but conflict, as we now realise, was an inevitability.

Yes, the thought of Remembrance Day without the poignant participation of these Second World War veterans was a sobering one, but sobering still was trying to imagine what this solemn commemoration will look like 27 years from now on the centenary of that conflict's end.

I vividly remember the celebrations that took place in this country and abroad on the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe, including the excitement of turning on the TV before heading off to school on May 8, 1995. There before me was euphoria direct from London, UK; Dame Vera Lynn sang outside Buckingham Palace as the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret came out onto the balcony, recreating the iconic scene from 1945, standing on the same spot to the jubilation of people celebrating the end of a long six-year war.

The world on May 8, 1995 was very different than the world of May 8, 1945, but, thanks to the participation of those who were there, the lightning captured in a bottle at war's end was released and recaptured half a century later.

That, in my opinion, will be next to impossible in 2045, no matter how concerted the effort we give.

Earlier this month, Second World War Naval Veteran Carl Bedal, now in his 95th year, welcomed me into his home to discuss his wartime service and what Remembrance Day means to him. Settling into his comfortable living room, I noticed he had his muted TV turned to a particular news network which was reporting on continuing disheartening news from Washington, D.C.

Given the state of the world, I asked

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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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

information that was used in order to justify such a crucial decision.

Please join us in this continued fight to protect Aurora's trees, waterways and species at risk. Contact Mike Walters, CAO of LSRCA (905-895-1281 or m.walters@lsrca.on.ca) and ask him to explain LSRCA's premature decision on the Henderson Drive applications. Urge him to uphold the mandate to "protect, enhance and restore nature", which was publicized so enthusiastically at LSRCA's 2018 Annual General Meeting. The fight to protect the Henderson Drive forest is important, not just for the community in the Henderson Drive vicinity, but for everyone who lives in Aurora and beyond. Why? Because this fight is not just about preserving an area of outstanding beauty with its trees and at-risk wildlife nor is it just about protecting the stream, Tannery Creek, that runs from the properties northwards through the Town. It is about what these lands represent - a legacy to our children who must learn the importance of preserving the environment. It's a fight that involves us all because, unless we speak out, the woodlands around you today are not necessarily going to be there tomorrow.

Save the Henderson Drive Forest Group
Aurora

"Address all issues or do not go there"

(Re: Making Room for Love, November 1)

I read with interest your editorial in last week's issue of The Auroran. I am glad you address the terrible attack on innocent people.

Now, having said this, I like to remind you that one year ago on Tuesday November 7, 2017, 27 people lost their lives in Sutherland Springs, TX.

This was the biggest church shooting in the US history!

Brock, I do not recall reading an editorial in your paper mentioning this also very tragic incident. Please correct me if I missed it.

Now, to me all lives matter; Jewish, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, etc. etc. and I also include people of all races and backgrounds.

I think in the future you address all issues or do not go there. I do not think you do any community a favor by addressing their issues, while ignoring the same issues in different communities.

Horst Wizemann
Aurora

(Editor's Note: Having been in Texas on the day of the tragedy, I am well aware of its impact. However, as noted in the column "Making Room for Love," last week was also Holocaust Education Week. The Auroran will continue to address issues as they arise, as will I, personally, in my own column. - BW)

A thanks from Aurora United Church

On behalf of the Aurora United Church 200th Anniversary Committee, I would like to thank The Auroran Newspaper for its on-going support of our special events throughout this past year, be it the exhibit opening at the Aurora Cultural Centre, the publishing of our church history book, or the music and guests at the anniversary service.

We value the contribution of The Auroran to the citizens of our Town. Thank you for recognizing the importance of the Aurora United Church's outreach to the community. Much appreciated!

Bob McRoberts
Committee Chair

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Should the provincial government continue its rollback on labour reforms?

Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.ca to vote!

Previous poll results

Should Remembrance Day be a national statutory holiday?

RESULTS TO DATE Nov 13, 2018	YES	NO	UNSURE
	75%	20%	5%

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



The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

The 50th Anniversary of the public school on Wellington Street West

This photo (2002.19.624) was taken on November 20, 1968 at the Grand Opening of Aurora Senior Public School, which was home to Grade 7 and 8 students. Just down the road (and around the corner) from Aurora Senior Public School was George Street School, which was home to students in the lower grades. In 2015, the students and staff from these two schools joined to create the new Wellington Public School - in the old Aurora Senior Public School building. Aside from the obvious physical connection to Wellington Street, the new name was also selected to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and the Duke of Wellington's role in its success.

We Remember, 100th Anniversary of Armistice



MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

Remembrance Day serves as a reminder of the solemn responsibility we have to recognize the significant contributions our veterans have made throughout history to preserve and protect the values for which our nation stands.

Canada is a nation of peace, inclusion and acceptance. It's these values which are our strength at home, and one of the greatest things we bring to the world. It is because of our veterans, their service and their sacrifice, that this vision of Canada endures.

The responsibility for defending Canadian values is something I take very personally. My grandfather was a veteran, my dad was a veteran, and both my husband and I served as officers in the Air Force.

I know the critical importance of a country's values and I understand how quickly they can be taken away when we are not paying attention. Defending the values of our nation and service to country is who I am at my core.

This year 2018 marks the 100th

anniversary of the end of WWI, the Great War. At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, Armistice was declared ending WWI. A war that was to have ended all wars. But as we have seen on many occasions since then, peace is fragile and must never be taken for granted.

We are in a time of unprecedented global instability. We are witnessing fundamental shifts in our economic and financial frameworks, our trade relationships, our defence and security structures, and maybe even our concept of nation states and current international agreements and laws. As we navigate this time and envision the future, values will and do matter.

Canada with our NATO allies, have committed to: defending the values of democracy, individual liberty and the

rule of law, to promoting stability and the well-being of all peoples, and to be united in the preservation of peace and security.

The power of John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" is not only the honouring of the sacrifice of those who gave their lives on the battlefield - but also in the command that he issues to us...

"Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw - the torch: Be yours to hold it high" And also in the consequence of our failure to abide by that command, "If ye break faith with us who die - we shall not sleep though poppies grow in flanders fields."

Our veterans have passed us the torch. We must honour their sacrifice and we must not break faith with them. We must be vigilant in the defence of the peace and security and values for which our nation stands.

Our veterans, have earned our utmost respect and gratitude. To those who serve and have served, we thank you. Lest We Forget.

Face It & Embrace It



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

this month. I know from experience that if you try to pick up some specific bulbs in early December, you're likely to find the supply already completely sold out with no more expected in until October 2019.

You snooze, you lose.

Although on-line shopping has taken some of the physical running around out of the gift giving season, at least one trip to the mall this time of year is inevitable.

Making this trek in November makes it much easier to get there on the more lightly travelled and less snowy roads. When you do get there, you're much more likely to find a parking spot, or at least, one within sight of the mall.

Once inside, there are fewer jostling crowds, smaller lines at the stores, and the general levels of anxiety and panic amongst shoppers are at a lower ebb.

Similarly to the availability of decorations noted above, the shelves in all stores are full of product, whether they be clothing, jewelry, tech items, sporting goods, or anything else you may be looking for.

I'm afraid, Aurora, that it's time to face and embrace the inevitable: it's now Christmas season.

I know it's barely mid-November and we just got through Remembrance Day. In fact, you're probably still finishing off the last of the leftover Halloween candy.

But with six weeks to go and no other major holidays or other events in sight to slow down the momentum, there's no stopping the oncoming festive juggernaut.

As much as most people want it to be at least December before digging out the ornaments, or discovering that most radio stations are playing Christmas music 24/7, there are some advantages to getting into the spirit early.

After all, it's much nicer to put up the outside lights and decorations on a sunny fall November day. It doesn't mean you need to light them up every night to much eye rolling from your neighbours, but at least they'll be ready to go.

The alternative is to perch precariously on a slippery ladder on a windy, dark, sub-zero December day.

And when you're outside setting this up, if you do find that you need a new string of lights, you're likely to find them at your local hardware store

Late firefighter's legacy lives on with award for new recruits

By Brock Weir

Firefighter Chris Lowe's sudden death last year sent shockwaves through the Central York Fire Services a year ago this Saturday, but his legacy will live on in an award for new recruits who follow his example.

Lowe's wife, Rebecca, and young daughters Julie and Payton, joined Central York Fire Chief Ian Laing and Council members from both Aurora and Newmarket at the Edward Street fire station Tuesday morning for the official unveiling of the Chris Lowe Memorial Award.

Mr. Lowe joined Central York Fire Services in March of 2016. Having first cut his teeth as a member of the

Blue Mountains Fire Department near Collingwood, he led by example, and this award will recognize rookie firefighters who do the same.

"It is an important day for Chris' family and an important day for everyone who becomes firefighters for Central York because they have the opportunity to be presented with this very award, that they can be considered to have the same type of qualities that Chris brought to the job," said Chief Laing. "Chris joined us in March, 2016, as a recruit firefighter. In his short time at Central York, Chris did an amazing job. He was well-educated, he was motivated and he made a great impression on everyone that he worked with.

"We wanted to recognize his efforts, his contributions, his dedication and



The family of late firefighter Chris Lowe – wife Rebecca and daughters Julie and Payton – are flanked by members of his platoon as the Central York Fire Services unveil an award in his memory.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

his positive attitude and establish this award because he exemplified all those behaviours. Each year when we have a recruit class, we will award this plaque

to the recruit that demonstrates those outstanding skills, academic proficiency, teamwork and dedication, because that is what Chris was all about."

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Support for York Region LGBTQ2 community set to double with Aurora coffee nights



Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager of Community Collaboration at the Aurora Public Library (APL) is pictured with Michael Blackburn, President of Pflag York Region, at APL's all-gender washroom, one of the many initiatives the Library has pursued to meet the needs of the local LGBTQ+ community.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

By Brock Weir

They come to tell their stories. They come to have a good cry. They come to lend a hand, ear, or a shoulder. There is no one reason that LGBTQ2 residents of all ages come together to create safe spaces, but opportunities to do so in York Region are set to double next month thanks to Pflag and the Aurora Public Library.

Eight months ago, Pflag, York Region's LGBTQ2 support, resource and education network, has been hosting a series of coffee nights in Richmond Hill. The series of monthly coffee nights has experienced exceptional growth over the last few months now, in response to demand, the program is expanding northward to Aurora on the second Monday of every month starting this December.

"This brings two very significant things to both the Aurora Public Library and Pflag York Region," says Pflag York Region President Michael Blackburn. "We have always been fairly southern-centric and we have received requests from

the community to expand somewhere more north to make it accessible to our northern communities. We're making our services to vulnerable communities way more accessible and more frequent."

Over the past two years, Pflag has been focused on removing barriers wherever they can find them. Members of the LGBTQ2 community have said they don't have a place like Toronto's Church Street to connect on a non-support basis, and Pflag has responded with these Coffee Nights.

They are intended to be accessible, says Mr. Blackburn, and address the needs of those in attendance – without any pre-set agenda.

"These meetings are like a Choose Your Own Adventure," he says. "You can sit there and say nothing, you can grab a box of tissues and have a good cry, or you can come just to connect, or give back and help people by telling your story. Most people expect something a little daunting and it is really quite the opposite. I was completely out when I went to my first Pflag meeting and I still felt the anxiety of

being the newbie, the anxiety of everyone looking at me and wondering, 'What do I say?' We're a very safe space where we set the intent of our meeting, we identify with our pronouns, and it is kind of like that plug-and-play Choose Your Own Adventure. You can tell your story or just sit there and listen.

"People are on all different parts of the journey and it is a really beautiful, authentic space. As a volunteer for Pflag, every month I go to a coffee night and it re-energizes me and reminds me why I do what I do because you're at the grassroots providing support to a community. When you see someone go from crisis mode to turning around and providing support to someone else in the community, it is one of the most powerful things you'll ever see.

"This is a safe space, it is an authentic space, it is a welcoming space. You can come for support, you can come for social, and it is a place where you can be authentic. There is zero judgement in this space, which is also what makes it so powerful. It is like the world stops around you and you are in this loving space where the LGBTQ2 community transcends any culture, ability, gender. It allows you to open your eyes and understand other people's lived experiences as well. Everybody's lived experience is very different."

This is one of the myriad areas in which Pflag and the Aurora Public Library (APL) have found common ground in forming this collaboration. According to Reccia Mandelcorn, APL's Manager of Community Collaboration, the Library prides itself on being community-led, conscious of the fact they "can't make assumptions about what people want."

Intent on listening and creating a platform, APL has been carrying out a

series of outreach opportunities. Before beginning this process, they realised they weren't serving the local LGBTQ2 communities "appropriately."

"There were definitely barriers," says Ms. Mandelcorn, noting one such barrier was not having a gender-free washroom on site – a barrier that has since been torn down. "We realized we had to clear barriers and we had to listen to what the community wanted and we had to find out how to facilitate that."

The starting off point was hosting two focus groups – one for teens that identified as members of the LGBTQ2 community, and one for adults. They took stock of the feedback and set out to provide identified services.

They listened, she says, and when APL learned that Pflag was looking for a place to expand, it was a golden opportunity.

"Being a community hub is really important and that is one reason why I am so happy Pflag is coming here because we are central, we're on transit, not everybody has a car or may want their parents to drop them off," she says. "We are a community hub and I think this is a perfect tie-in."

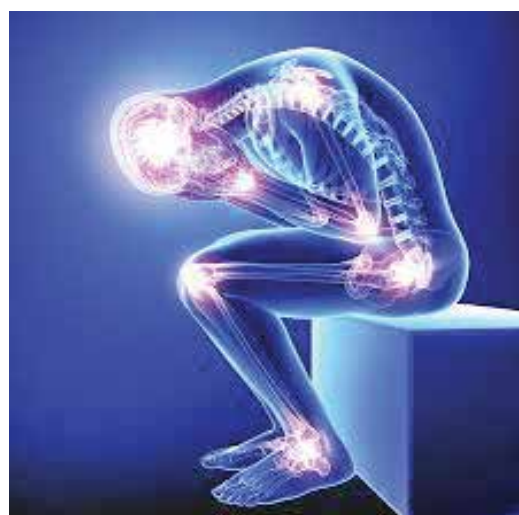
Mr. Blackburn agrees: "We needed a space that inherently is community. Libraries are a space where you can grow, where you can learn, where you can let your imagination run wild and you can be who you want to be. I think that works really nicely with Pflag's mission."

The first Coffee Night Aurora event will take place Monday, December 10 at the Aurora Public Library starting at 7.15 p.m. in the Magna Room. The series will continue the second Monday of each month. Additional Coffee Nights are held in Richmond Hill at 10909 Yonge Street (Unit 203) on the fourth Wednesday or every month. For more information, visit pflagyork.ca or call 1-866-YR-PFLAG.

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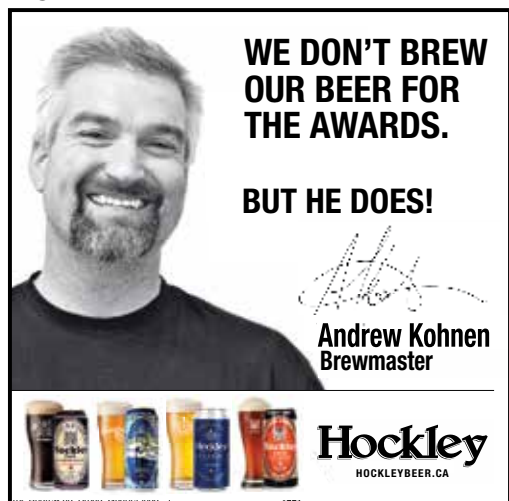
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Abel ready to step back after eight years on Council

By Brock Weir

After a heated municipal election, which followed a contentious second term around the Council table, John Abel is ready to step back and “let others do what they were elected to do.”

The two-term Councillor, who was first elected Aurora’s Deputy Mayor in 2010, is preparing to say farewell later this month at the final meeting of the 2014-2018 Council term on November 27.

It will be a chance to wrap up unfinished business, say goodbye and provide best wishes to those who will be returning in the 2018-2022 term set to begin next month, but it will also be the close of a chapter during which Councillor Abel often found

himself at odds with his colleagues.

“It’s about respecting one another and appreciating that people can have different opinions – and that’s good,” Councillor Abel tells The Auroran when asked to reflect back on this most recent Council term. “It allows for intelligent decision-making when you consider all those things and people didn’t agree with mine. It was a different Council [from his first] and each Council is different. I would have preferred we work together, but I was kind of on my own in much of the things going on, which isn’t great. I stood for what I believed in and what was going on in the community. I was that voice.”

But Councillor Abel took his views door to door, forming a platform, and throwing himself into the running to be Aurora’s next Mayor.

Needless to say finishing fourth in a field of four candidates left him feeling “a bit disappointed in the results,” but outside of hitting the ground earlier with his platform and being more vocal with his concerns sooner in the process, he has few regrets on how things panned out.

“If I had started earlier and if I had raised my concerns at Council, specifically in the last two years with some of the issues, I think those would have helped me get my message out there,” he says. “I don’t think this election was done on issues; I think it was who best managed their campaigns. I haven’t really considered what I would have done differently except get my message out sooner and clearer so people would have been alarmed at some of the things I was trying to raise and provide solutions for.”

“Apart from the issues that we spent more than we had to on certain capital projects, I thought addressing the seniors’ needs, windrow plowing, I thought I had a very good solution to some of the parking issues at the GO Station. I thought the Revolving Investment Fund was a very good approach to addressing the revitalization of the downtown on some major projects, one being the Howard Johnson’s. With trying to attract business, I thought the incubator hub and a medical campus on the Hallmark lands was a good idea and those are some of the issues I thought were good coming forward that I put in my platform.”

But, it was not to be.

Looking back over the last eight years, Councillor Abel says he will look back with particular pride on his involvement in the community.

“I basically came in from volunteer coaching in the Little League and, by the end of it, I was involved in several aspects of the community, whether it is cultural, supporting organizations or supporting youth,” he says. “I am proud to be on the board of the Aurora Seniors’ Association, the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, the Aurora Cultural Centre, and all of these things.”



Councillor John Abel

Particular initiatives he is proud of range from Mavrinac Park (formally known as Thomas Coates Park), advocacy which ultimately led to the York Region District School Board making a decision to move Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School to a new building on Bayview Avenue at Borealis, and the Town’s acquisition of the historic Aurora Armoury – although the Councillor was at odds with the majority of Council on just how the Armoury would ultimately be used.

Advocating for a new Cultural Services agreement between the Town and the Aurora Cultural Centre during his time on Council is something he also looks back on with pride because it is the issue on which he “cut his teeth” and made him realise “I could stand up to people who oppose me and stand there for what I believed.”

“I was proud that I was able to do that with the Cultural Services Agreement, knowing now that the relationship is just fantastic,” he says. “I am not saying it wasn’t because it was very good before with Mayor Morris setting it up, but we

Continued on page 25

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How do you measure a year? Margaret Bahen Hospice, it's in the number of families touched



Deputy Premier – and Minister of Health & Long-Term Care – Christine Elliott was among the special guests at the first anniversary celebration at Margaret Bahen Hospice. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

By Brock Weir

Heather R.'s family was emotionally drained when their mother was admitted to hospice care.

Her cancer had spread quicker than any of her doctors anticipated and it was a stressful time for all concerned. But their spirits were lifted as soon as they walked through the doors of Margaret Bahen Hospice, York Region's newest 10-bed residential hospice, which opened one year ago in Newmarket.

Located adjacent to Southlake Regional Health Centre, the hospice embraced their family in kindness, allowing their matriarch to spend her last days living on her own terms.

Heather shared her family's moving story last week as the Margaret Bahen Hospice formally marked its first anniversary of care.

"Mum enjoyed having everyone around for visits, especially her four grandchildren," Heather told the audience of volunteers, donors, supports and dignitaries at the anniversary celebration. "We are a large and energetic family and it meant so much to her to have all 14 of us visiting during Christmas without having to worry about bothering a roommate. She also appreciated having her own space to decorate the way she pleased and watch what television programs she wanted. She enjoyed being treated like a queen when she was at Margaret Bahen.

"It's hard to put into words how much our experience at Margaret Bahen meant to my family. It gave us a sense of calm and ease in the face of a cruel, indiscriminate illness. It gave my mother a sense of dignity and peace and allowed her to enjoy her family in a way we never would have thought possible either at home or in a hospital room. We're forever grateful for the team at Margaret Bahen and consider them a part of our large, energetic, loud family."

This was music to the ears of Sonya Murray, Executive Director of Margaret Bahen.

Founded on the legacy of Margaret and John Bahen, the hospice has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months. Now part of Better Living Health & Community Services, it provides 24 hour palliative care services to individuals with life-limiting illness in a home-like environment, at no cost to the resident.

A year of success can be measured in many different ways, said Ms. Murray. It might be measured by the 152 residents and families served since its opening, in the 150 volunteers that have given of

their time within its walls, in the 10,000 collective volunteer hours the hospice itself has received, or in the 21,900 homemade cookies that have been eaten in the hospital's comfortable kitchen over the past 12 months – all valid statistics.

"They are impressive numbers and certain to paint a picture of what happens here [but] it's the hospice moments that really capture what we do," said Ms. Murray. "It is having Christmas in November. It is playing the guitar while a mother holds her daughter in her arms and dances with her for the very last time.

It is our nurse Lisa and her family gifting us with the Tree of Life that has a hand-knitted heart for each of the families served. It is Trish, our Director of Care, bringing a pony into the hospice to cheer up a resident who had spent a lifetime on horses. It is family supporting families at our harvest table. It is our PSW Holly sitting at the table explaining death to an eleven-year-old who is about to lose a family member over milk and cookies. It's Debbie, our Director of Development, spending hours holding a six-year-old whose mother has just died, and it is our PSW Mark running in on his break to get one of our residents chips and watching a late night sports game with him. It is about family.

"365 days isn't all that we've accomplished and I can't properly quantify it. What we value here are all those moments that make up the 365 days. What we value here is the quality of life. On our first year anniversary, we're thankful for the opportunity to be a part of these moments. It is a true privilege to join this journey with the individuals and families who have chosen Margaret Bahen hospice to be their final home."

These sentiments were echoed by Deputy Premier Christine Elliott, the MPP for Newmarket-Aurora who also serves as Ontario's Minister of Health & Long-Term Care.

"Since Margaret Bahen opened last year, 152 residents and families have experienced the comfort, compassion, quality and life care that the hospice provides," said Ms. Elliott. "I have had the opportunity to spend a few hours here to understand completely everything that is being done here and it is a beautiful building, of course, but it is what goes on inside here and the compassion people show, the extent to which you try to make people smile, and make days comfortable and happy and make families feel they are in good hands and that they're being well-cared for. That is truly remarkable and this hospice is an absolute treasure for this Region."

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Support Your Local Artist: 2018 Aurora Studio Tour gearing up for weekend show

By Brock Weir

We know the importance of buying local when it comes to fruits, veggies, meat, and anything else that might need to go on your shopping list – but, what about art?

If you're looking to check a few names off your gift-buying list this holiday season, local artists encourage you to come out next weekend for the 2018 Aurora Artists Studio Tour.

Twelve local artists will fan out to five different studio locations around Aurora



Members of the Aurora Studio Tour provide a sneak peek of their work.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

on Saturday, November 24 and Sunday, November 25, inviting you in to not only see their creativity in full bloom, but also see the best of what area artists have to offer.

"This is a cultural event," says tour organizer Deborah Campo, who will be displaying a variety of her original pieces, along with seven other artists, at The Patrick House Gallery on Temperance Street. "This year, we have new art from new artists and it is exciting for us to be able to showcase their work. I am thrilled that in addition to painters, we have photographers and ceramicists. Each year we grow more experienced with our styles and with our work as artists. We mature and it is a reflection of our lives, styles and presentations."

Among the artists participating in the

Artists Studio Tour this year is Campbell Sampson, who took up painting just a few years ago as a hobby and has been amassing a steady following ever since.

"It started off as a hobby and I never expected to be part of something like this," says Mr. Sampson. "I am a rookie, self-employed in the fire protection industry, and this is something I just happened upon. When you're self-employed, you get bogged down in the same old same old, so I thought I would try painting. My wife said sure and we put up space in the basement."

"I've been to flea markets with my work and got a good reaction from people. Deborah liked my stuff and introduced me to this group of people. Now I am part of this. [As an artist] it is one small step at a time, and it is a fun thing. I don't look at it as a way to make money; I just want to have fun."

Mr. Sampson, an Aurora resident, hails from the United Kingdom and has called Canada home for the last 25 years. His experiences are reflected in his art and, in turn, he wants viewers to find something "interesting and different" in his work.

"I just want people to have fun with it too," he says with a laugh. "There is no pressure to sell this piece to pay the mortgage. That part is gone, and I think it is better if you're having fun!"

Another first-timer on the tour is Vikki Mikkola, who was introduced to the tour through its participation in the Aurora Historical Society's series of "Art at the Manor" exhibitions at Hillary House. A member of SOYRA (Society of York Region Artists), Ms. Mikkola describes her style as abstract landscapes.

"I never thought of myself as an artist, so I have to start thinking that might be the direction I'm in," she says. "My friends and family tell me I'm an artist, but I never thought of it. Ever. That's just too daunting; I just paint whatever comes out – I can't explain it any differently."

Her first sale, she said, happened shortly before the photograph accompanying this article was taken, a factor she said "gives me a little bit of enthusiasm to produce more."

Artists on the 2018 Artist Studio Tour, a self-directed tour that is free to all patrons, include Carol Beaver, Judy Bobsin, Deborah Campo, Claire d'Aurora, Colin Emsley, Philippa Hajdu, Jim Jackson, Amy McNeill, Vikki Mikkola, Willo Rodrigues, Campbell Sampson, and Christine Valentini.

For more information on the tour, including times and studio locations, visit www.aurorastudiotour.com.

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TIME TRAVELLER'S DIARY

Jacqueline Stuart

The Other Plow Company

It was a relatively mild November evening back in 1882 when the Time Traveller set out to enjoy a supper being provided by the Wilkinson plow company for their employees and some invited guests.

The event took place not in the fine dining room of the Queen's Hotel, but in a new moulding shop just completed for the plow works. The brick building was on the north side of Wellington Street, just west of the stream which crosses the street west of Machell Avenue. (Wilkinson's arch-rival, Fleury's, was on the south side of Wellington and east of the stream.) The utilitarian surroundings had been disguised by the use of evergreens, flags, and mottoes such as "Speed the Plow." Examples of the prize-winning plows, road scrapers, and other implements manufactured by Wilkinson were on display.

The dinner may have been free for the employees, but they had collected enough money to present gifts to Mr. George Wilkinson and to the other two partners in the firm: Walter H. Perram, manager of the local Federal Bank, and Robert St. B. Young, a brother-in-law of Mr. Perram.

Later, as the after-dinner speeches droned on, the traveller thought back to 1869, when Mr. Wilkinson, an ambitious blacksmith, moved from Whitchurch township into Aurora and set up his first plow works at the south corner of Yonge and Church.

It was said that his wife, Asenath, helped him construct the very first plow. In July of 1876 the workshop was destroyed by fire but before the end of the month the property on Wellington Street, formerly a woollen mill, had been purchased. Now, six years later, this large new building had been added to that site.

And the time traveller also looked forward. In 1889 the plow company would leave Aurora and move to West Toronto Junction. It was a serious blow to Aurora, removing about fifty jobs, and a number of the men affected packed up their families and households and followed the plow. Despite the tax and water rate concessions provided by the

Junction, in 1894 Wilkinsons had to close down for a while. Just before the turn of the century George Wilkinson and other family members withdrew from the company.

Wilkinson Plough carried on in the Junction but suffered another near-fatal financial setback in 1911. The company was saved by an American firm and survived as Bateman-Wilkinson into the 1930s, producing construction equipment in its later

years.

Asenath Wilkinson died in 1907. George Wilkinson died in Brantford in 1927; he had been living in a fairly modest home with one of his sons and his family.

Meanwhile, the Wellington Street site eventually came into the hands of the Fleury foundry, Wilkinsons' old rival, and later still the moulding shop, new in 1882, housed the Town's works

department. In the mid-1970s the old workshop came down to make way for a new building which would accommodate, initially, the municipal offices and the region's public school board.

Today, 136 years after that celebratory supper, the school board occupies the whole of the modern building at 60 Wellington Street West, and working plows in Aurora are few and far between.

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Christmas Market returns for three-day holiday extravaganza

By Brock Weir

Get ready for the start of a new local tradition as the Town of Aurora gets ready to launch a new three-day outdoor Christmas Market on November 30.

Outdoor Christmas markets, particularly in Toronto's Distillery District, have been traditional destinations for local families for many years. Aurorans got an appetizer of what a Christmas Market might look like here in Town at last year's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and such was the success of the appetizer, the Aurora is ready to enjoy a full-blown banquet.

"The overwhelmingly positive response to last year's mini-market gave us the encouragement to take that event and transition it into a three-day, 27-hour event," says Shelley Ware, Special Events

Coordinator for the Town of Aurora, of the first Christmas Market, which was approved by Council last year after a motion from Councillor Tom Mrakas. "The whole event supported a festive feeling regardless of anyone's holiday backgrounds and I think everyone walked away with a little more spirit inside. We are optimistic that our lineup of entertainment and market features this year will certainly attract people and encourage them to come all three days. It's impossible to go just one day and be able to see it all!"

Each market day – afternoon and evening – offers something different.

It kicks off November 30 from 6 – 9 p.m. with the Town's Official Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in the forecourt of Town Hall. While the tree itself will be a focal point, the Marketplace will be well underway on the other side of the parking lot at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

"Between the Tree Lighting, there will be live reindeer and 18 outdoor market vendors, eleven indoor vendors, in addition to Mrs. Claus doing her readings and Marquee Theatrical Productions, which will be doing a theatre performance called The Elf Named Buddy," Ms. Ware explains. "As well, there will be kids' make-and-take crafts in one of the rooms and we're also fortunate to have the Salvation Army Kettle Band performing."

Market vendors on this first night include Knit'n'Noggins, which provides a crafty spin on ways to keep warm during the winter months, Caterina's Kitchen, which is a firm favourite at the Aurora Farmers' Market, and local artisan Bill Hack, who will be selling all sorts of unique tools made out of hockey sticks. And that's just a teaser.

"We will have a Holiday Bingo concept to motivate you to circulate through all the vendors," says Ms. Ware. "Everyone will be given a Bingo card and, as you tour around to the different vendors, you can have it stamped. Once you have two lines made on your Bingo card, we will be raffling off

a prize package of vendors every hour on the hour.

"We want you to experience firsthand an event that quickly became one of the most talked about events in our community. There's so much offered for all stages and ages of your family, whether they are into live theatre, whether they are of the age to be mesmerized to meet Mrs. Claus, where they have the curiosity to see live reindeer, a fire-juggling show, the magic of the tree lighting, there are just so many features."

And the experience continues well beyond this three-hour window.

The Christmas Market will be back the next day – Saturday, December 1 – from 12 noon to 9 p.m., with a full Busker theme. Five different buskers will be performing throughout the day, and the Duffle Bag Theatre Company will offer two live performances of A Christmas Carol. The Borealis Big Band will also be on hand for two one-hour concerts while families looking for hands-on fare will be able to take part in free cookie-decorating activities.

The next day – Sunday, December 2 – the Market will run from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

The day's activities will feature live performances from the Aurora United Church choir, Spectrum Baton Club with their fire baton presentation, a pancake breakfast between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m., and performances from the Aurora Community Band.

Hands-on activities will once again be the order of the day with gingerbread house workshops for \$5 where all materials will be supplied, as well as a festive planter-building workshop facilitated by the Town's horticulturalists, or \$25 per planter.

"We'll be ending the whole experience with a nativity narrative put on by Northridge Community Church," says Ms. Ware.

For more information on the Aurora Christmas Market, visit www.aurora.ca/christmasmarket.

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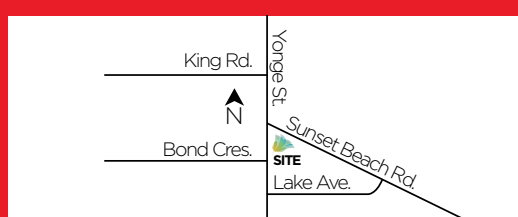
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SPEAKEASY

Jane Taylor & Reccia Mandelcorn

Images and sounds from the 1920s rifted through our broadcast when this week's Speakeasy featured Theatre Aurora's upcoming musical "The Drowsy Chaperone". Guest host Shelagh Carlini, subbing for Jane, joined me in a high-energy interview with Heather Nutt-Christensen, stage manager and Dave Kouhi, cast member making his debut performance as a pastry chef with a nod to humour and choreography. We hope you get a feel for the energy we experienced in this print edition of The Speakeasy.

The Drowsy Chaperone, winner of five Tony Awards, is a loving send-up of the Jazz Age musical, featuring one show-stopping song and dance number after another. The show has enjoyed major productions in Toronto, Los Angeles, New York, London, Melbourne and Japan. Bringing it to Theatre Aurora has allowed our local, award-winning theatre company to put its own stamp on what's already become a Canadian classic in musical theatre.

The Drowsy Chaperone is a story within a story. With the houselights down, a man in a chair appears on stage and puts on his favourite record: the cast recording of a fictitious 1928 musical. The recording comes to life and the Drowsy Chaperone begins as the man in the chair looks on. Mix in two lovers

on the eve of their wedding, a bumbling best man, a desperate theatre producer, a misguided Don Juan and an intoxicated chaperone, and you have the basic ingredients for an evening of madcap delight. No wonder Heather and Dave were so full of laughter and anecdotes about the play – and after meeting Dave and hearing how he stumbled into the role because he dropped by a Theatre Aurora party dressed in a Halloween costume and subsequently became part of the cast – well we definitely have to check him out!

Tickets are available at theatreaurora.com. Matinees are sold out but you should definitely book for opening night when cupcakes will be part of the theatrical experience.

While the Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival may be over in Toronto, film buffs can continue their love affair with outspoken filmmaking at Aurora Public Library's documentary film festival. Hannah Dugas, who programs and coordinates the festival for APL, stopped by to whet our appetites for this fabulous cinematographic experience.

Hannah currently has APL's dream job of selecting the docs to be screened in the festival. Partnering with Hot Docs, the largest documentary festival in North America, Hannah chose the eight films for the festival, including four that were Canadian-produced. Some are serious and powerful; others are more light and fun – but as Hannah says, all eight films are simply wonderful.

Hannah also gave us a preview to a new direction in film screenings by APL. The Library has purchased a license to Criterion Films, enabling you to watch fabulous films at your public library. From new releases to holiday films

to classic movies, there's so much to experience together on APL's big screen. And there's always freshly made popcorn on hand to enhance the total experience.

Check out the Doc Film Festival – as well as other fabulous free movie offerings at aurorapl.ca. There's definitely something for everyone's tastes.

November is a happening month in Aurora, with the Aurora Studio Tour on November 24 and 25; Philippa Hajdu's acrylic/mixed media exhibit on view in the APL's Colleen Abbott Gallery; and the great sounds of the Heather Bambrick Jazz Quartet at the

Aurora Cultural Centre on November 16.

No need to travel for your cultural fix – Aurora has it all right in your own backyard! From The Speakeasy ... see you next month!

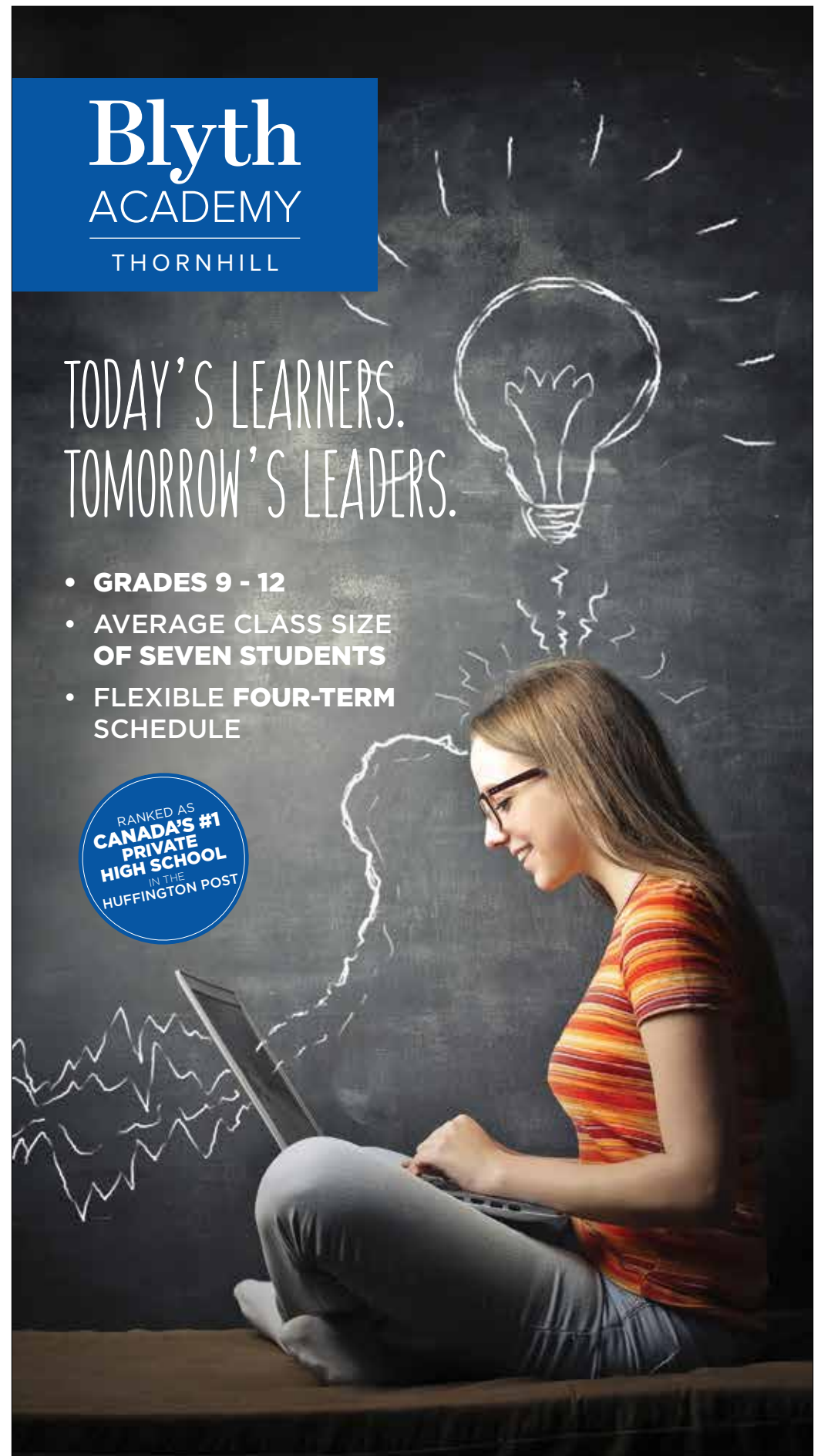
Jane Taylor is Communications and Events Manager at the Aurora Cultural Centre and Reccia Mandelcorn is Manager of Community Collaboration at Aurora Public Library. They co-host The Speakeasy on the first Wednesday of each month on 102.7 CHOP-FM. Subbing for Jane this month was Shelagh Carlini, Sales Director, Theatre Aurora.

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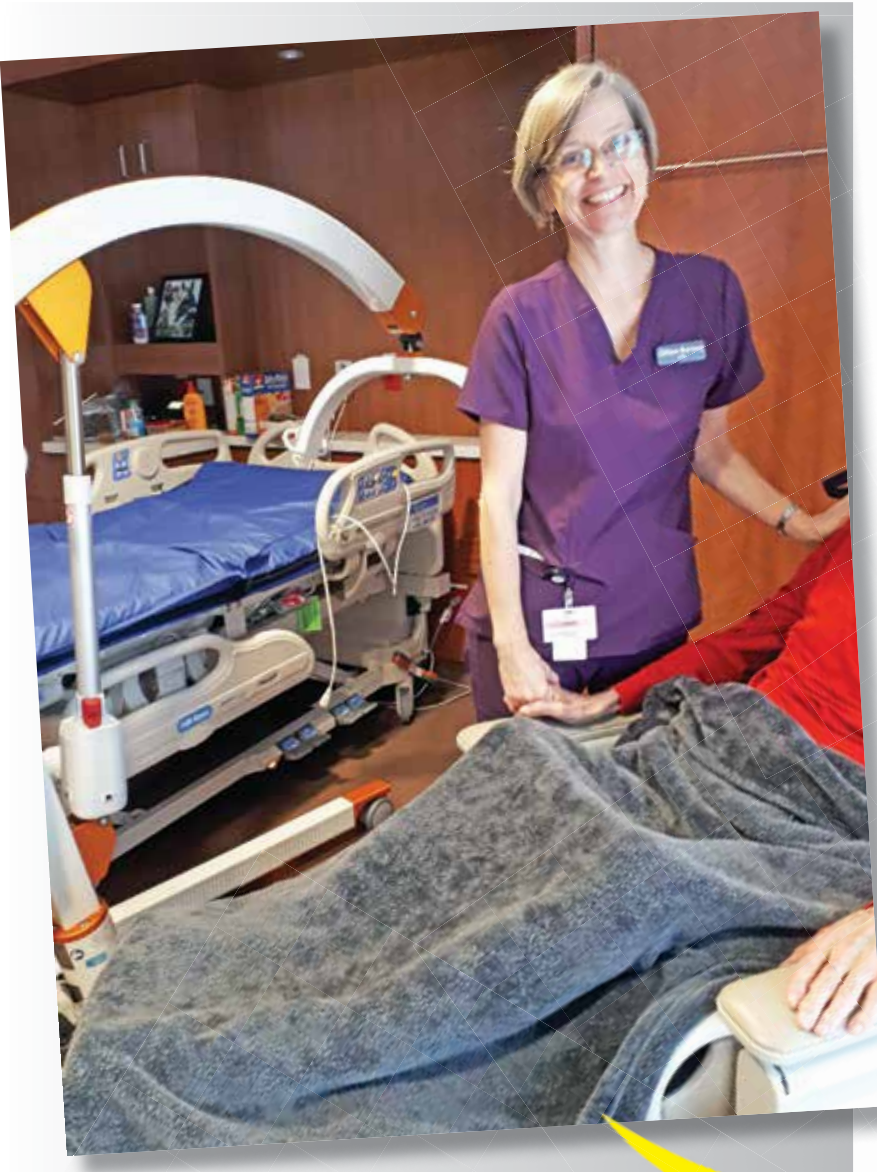
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FREE Week of November 15, 2018

Tigers fall to Cougars in powerhouse battle



Aurora's Tyler Davis notched his first hat trick of the year in the Tigers' 6-4 win over the Toronto Jr. Patriots on Saturday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

Give round one of the cat fight to the Cougars.

In the only regular season meeting of the Junior A Aurora Tigers and Cobourg Cougars, the Cougars came out on top in a 4-1 final Friday night at the Aurora Community Centre.

Each the top team in their respective OJHL divisions, the offensive weapons of the Cougars got to work early in beating Aurora keeper Christian Filippetti just over a minute in, doubling their lead before the first break.

Filippetti settled in in the second period, allowing just one of the nine shots he faced to get passed, though Aurora struggled to find the answer to Cobourg keeper Dershahn Stewart in maintaining a 3-0 score.

Tyler Davis finally got Aurora on the board early in the third with his tenth of the year, though it was too little too

late, as Cobourg added a late powerplay marker.

Losing in regulation for just the sixth time this season, it was Davis who got the Tigers back on track the following night in a match with the Toronto Jr. Patriots, in on four of the six Aurora goals of a 6-4 victory.

Up 2-0 early in the second period, Davis put home a rebound on a Joseph Mizzi shot, while his second came with the Tigers up 4-3 in the third period on a nice cross-ice feed from Mizzi.

He wrapped up his first hat trick of the season just over three minutes later on a side-of-the-net powerplay goal.

Mizzi wrapped up the week with a three-point effort of his own, extending his lead atop the league's scoring race by two with 38 points on the season.

Not lost in the win is the first appearance of the season for Cale McWilliams between the Aurora pipes, a veteran of a handful of games last season at just sixteen years old. He goes

to a perfect 1-0 record in stopping 31 of 35 shots faced.

The Tigers are bracing for a busy week ahead with three games in four nights on the schedule, paying a visit to the basement-dwelling Stouffville Spirit (3-14-0-1) on Thursday.

Aurora has beaten up on the Spirit in their prior two meetings this season, winning 8-0 and 5-1 respectively.

The Tigers then host the Spirit in the second half of a back-to-back on Friday at the Aurora Community Centre, with puck drop set for 7:30 p.m.

They wrap up the weekend Sunday in Brantford to get their first look at the new 99ers, formerly the Milton Icehawks.

With wins in six of their last eight games, the Tigers continue to pace the PJHL's North division by a healthy nine-point margin over the Markham Royals.

They sit eight points back of the Oakville Blades for tops in the NorthWest conference.

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

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PANTHERS BRING HOME GOLD – The Aurora Panthers Peewee AA team won Gold in the Buffalo Inferno tournament this month. They successfully eliminated Philadelphia in the semis and St. Louis in the finals.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Mayor's Breakfast of Champions Spotlight



Special Olympics Ontario-Aurora Nathan Kim – 2018 Special Olympics National Games champion. Gold medal in swimming – 25 breaststroke, Division M1, with a time of 18.34. With his first trip to the National Games, Nathan set 5 personal best times, and also came home with silver medals in the 100 breaststroke and 50 freestyle events. Held in Nova Scotia, 1,000 athletes with an intellectual disability competed in nine different sports. The Games were a qualifier for the 2019 World Games in Abu Dhabi.

Gary Freeman – 2018 Special Olympics National Games champion. Gary came home with gold medals in two individual events – 25 breaststroke, Division M2, with a time of 21.76; 400 freestyle Division M2, with a time of 8:41.44. This was Gary's first trip to the Special Olympics National Games. Held in Nova Scotia, 1,000 athletes with an intellectual disability competed in nine different sports. The Games were a qualifier for the 2019 World Games in Abu Dhabi.



Ex-Saint Newhook shortlisted for NHL draft



Alex Newhook, pictured with the OJHL's Aurora Tigers, was one of twenty CJHLers shortlisted on the NHL's Central Scouting list on Sunday for the 2019 NHL Entry Draft.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

By Jake Courtepatte

At just seventeen years of age, Alex Newhook is well-travelled playing the game he loves.

Going coast-to-coast from his hometown of St. John's, Newfoundland, to Aurora, and now landing in Victoria, British Columbia, the speedy centremen may soon find himself on an NHL roster.

The NHL released on Sunday their first official Central Scouting list of the season looking forward to next June's Entry Draft, with Newhook's name high on the list as a projected first round pick.

After putting up close to two points a game in his hometown St. John's AAA program at the age of fourteen, Newhook moved to Aurora in 2015 to attend St. Andrew's College, putting in a few short stints with the varsity Saints squad.

There, he put up an astounding 43 goals and 31 assists in 33 games with the York-Simcoe Express AA Minor Midgets, while also suiting up in a short number of games with the Junior A Aurora Tigers.

Newhook led all award recipients in OMHA points, and was the first Express player to win the award since Nik Coric in the 2012 season.

Despite putting up a scoring pass similar to past OMHA East players like Steven Stamkos and Taylor Hall, Newhook and the Minor Midget Express were bounced from the OHL Cup in the play-in round in early March, and last season made the commitment to join the Victoria Grizzlies of the BCHL.

In a phone interview, Newhook said it was "tough" to leave the Express organization, saying the team had "unfinished business."

"It was a good year, a good team," said Newhook. "A lot of talent. A lot of guys that are going somewhere in hockey, whether it's the pros, or college."

The talented forward announced his commitment to Boston College in November, at the age of just fifteen. The Eagles, one of the most storied teams in NCAA division I hockey, will add Newhook to their roster in two years' time.

The lone Junior A player to receive an A-rating on the scouting list, both Sportsnet and ISS Hockey have Newhook projected for the first round at eleventh overall, The Hockey News at thirteenth, and Bob McKenzie of TSN at fifteenth. Draft.Site.com has him going sixteenth overall to the Colorado Avalanche.

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Remembrance services underscore fragility of democracy

From page 1

of the Royal Military College, placed in memory of his great-grandfather, Aurora-based Second World War veteran Frank Young who died the previous Sunday, each was viewed with the same reverence.

Sunday's service at the Cenotaph was the culmination of Remembrance Week which in this, the centenary of Armistice, had added significance.

Following the Remembrance Dinner hosted by the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion on Saturday, November 3, a series of events were held across the community to underscore the theme of Remembrance.

Rick Hansen Public School, for instance, covered its lawn in small Canadian flags on November 9 to represent fallen soldiers while, inside, Second World War veterans Seaman First Class Jack Crone and Able Seaman Carl Bedal were given heroes' welcomes in the classrooms they visited.

"We two veterans had an interesting and exciting trip through several classrooms where students greeted us, shook our hands, thanked us for our service, and even asked to hug us," Mr. Bedal shared with The Auroran after attending the school's assembly with Mr. Crone, an event which paid tribute to veterans of both World Wars, First Nations' Soldiers, and soldiers serving today.

Earlier in the day, Cardinal Carter Catholic High School hosted its own poignant Remembrance Day assembly where cadets stood vigil as they welcomed Master Corporal Dean Turner who served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 22 years.

Mr. Turner, who described himself as the middle child of eleven kids, told students that when he was growing up in Windsor, ON, there was not a lot to be had, including when it came to finding a job. He ventured off to Vancouver looking for work on pipeline projects, but when that didn't pan out, and finding himself without direction, he happened into a recruiting centre.

"I joined the infantry, not really realizing what the infantry was about," he said, harkening back to a speech made at the event by history teacher John Hebert on the experiences of soldiers in the First World War. "When John was talking about the soldiers in World War One, the infantry was on the frontline. These are the soldiers that lived in the ditches and fought from town to town to take the hills. They are the toughest and the strongest,

the baddest that are in the military."

While the men in the infantry during the First World War might have been the "baddest," Mr. Hebert took the opportunity to highlight how vulnerable each man was at the front, reminiscing about some of his own experiences interviewing these veterans firsthand, conscious of the fact that each and every person who served in this particular conflict is now gone.

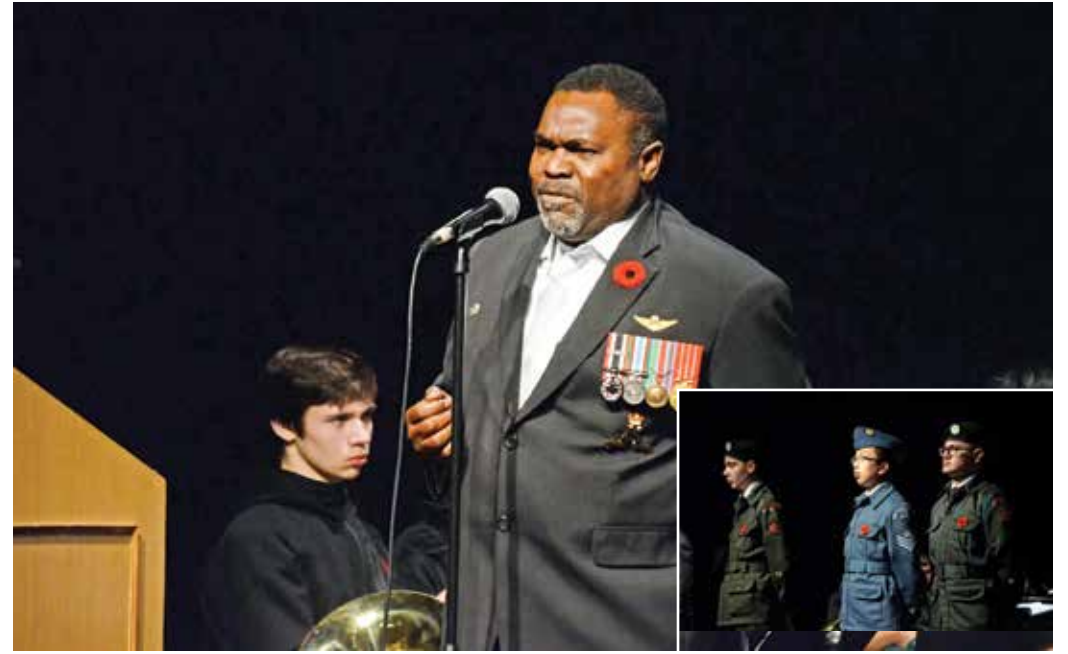
"[In Flanders Fields] is a very stirring poem because it speaks to us of Flanders and the gas attacks," said Mr. Hebert. "It was written, of course, after 6,000 Canadians choked to death on the content of their own lungs. You see, they didn't have gas masks in April 1916 at Ypres. Our enemy knew that, and they gassed us. Rather than flee, our boys held the line. They urinated on a piece of their uniform, stuffed it in their mouths and bit down, knowing that their own urine might counteract the chlorine gas and prevent it from boiling their lugs.

"John McCrae wrote this poem to honour them, yes, for their courage, for holding the line, but also so that we can remember what they did then. There, poppies grow in ditches and fields. Every spring, the poppy is everywhere and it is much like the dandelion in Canada. The poppy is a beautiful flower. Like democracy, the poppy is strong and it is also fragile."

This fragility, he told students, is very much in evidence today.

"Yes, the poppy symbolizes the blood that was spilled for our freedom. Yes, when you wear a poppy today, I am hoping that you will throughout this weekend do the most Canadian thing you can do and wear a poppy over your heart, to say, 'I remember. I have not had to serve. I have not had to risk my life. I remember those who did 100 years ago, 50 years ago, and the women and men who serve our country proudly today.' We think of them all, but when we put that poppy on, think of what they fought for. Why their blood was spilled among the poppies in Flanders. They fought for democracy and it is an ongoing struggle for democracy.

"When you wear the poppies, certainly think of the women and men who have served and continue to serve, but think about what they fought for so you can be free so that you have the right to vote, so you have the right not to be discriminated against, so that you have the freedom of choice to go anywhere you want in our wonderful country; so that you are not



Students across Aurora took time to Remember on Friday, welcoming veterans and service personnel into their schools. Master Corporal Dean Turner shared his experiences with students at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School while (inset) local cadets stood vigil on stage.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

fearful when you get out of bed, you are not fearful on the streets, that you feel safe. This is what they fought for. So, when you hear some people yell 'fake news', when you hear some people challenge freedom of speech and freedom of the press, remember – and Hitler taught us this lesson – democracy is fragile. So is the poppy. It can be gone as quickly as it arose. Don't take your freedoms for granted; wear a poppy; say to all the women and men who serve today, 'I appreciate what you're doing.'"

While there is not a single First World War veteran alive today, Mr. Hebert told students that one such veteran, Vincent Goodman, told him in 1981, when he was already in his 80s, "We didn't want to be heroes, we were just boys doing our job, but please tell your students that we would be so honoured that when we're gone, they remember us. Tell your students we didn't fight for glory, we just fought so they might be free – our children and grandchildren. Our task was to serve; your task is to remember."



Veterans Carl Bedal and Jack Crone were greeted warmly at Rick Hansen Public School where (inset) the assembly included performances from the York Regional Police Male Choir.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

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- iPhone 8 Plus Screen/LCD \$ 180

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The night before Remembrance Day, local cadets held a candlelight vigil at the Aurora Peace Park. The Royal Canadian Legion Colour Guard led the parade down Yonge Street to the Cenotaph. Dignitaries in the parade included Mayor Geoff Dawe, MP Leona Alleslev and Mayor-Elect Tom Mrakas. Veteran Cliff Davies presents a wreath; as did MPP Michael Parsa. (Second) Cadets from St. Andrew's College, the Royal Canadian Airforce squadron and others provided pomp and circumstance. (Third) Families remembered the fallen. (Fourth) Over 1,000 people looked on, surrounding the Cenotaph at all four sides as the ceremony progressed. (Bottom) Following the service, the Royal Canadian Legion welcomed everyone back to lunch, where live entertainment was provided by members of the St. Andrew's College band.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Brock Weir

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(Left) Entertainment was provided by Suzi Wesson, who was accompanied on the piano by Paul Balfour. (Centre) Canada's military history was on full display. (Right) Cadets were among those offering readings.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

Personal connections shared at milestone commemoration

From page 1

for King & Country.

It is an image that might have receded from Aurora's collective consciousness in the 97 years since the photograph was taken, but it will live on in the memories of many residents who turned out last Wednesday for Armistice: 100 Years of Remembrance.

Held at the Aurora Cultural Centre and produced by the Centre, the Aurora Museum & Archives and the Aurora Historical Society, Armistice Day: 100 Years of Remembrance drew community connections through primary documents like letters and postcards sent home from the front to contemporary newspaper articles.

The event was attended by Mayor Geoff Dawe and Mayor-Elect Tom Mrakas, along with Councillor John Abel and Councillor-Elect Rachel Gilliland, and featured these stories brought to life by members of the Queen's York Rangers Army Cadets, live patriotic music performed by Suzi Wesson and Doug Balfour, and artefacts from the Museum and Historical Society's collections.

In addition, Mrs. Campbell's story was highlighted by Bill Fleury,

a descendant of one of Aurora's founding families, whose great uncle Herbert Fleury accompanied Jane to Europe – three years before The Great War broke out.

"In the years just before World War One, Herbert Fleury travelled to Europe every year, specifically for Paris, where his wife Lela and daughter Marguerite lived while Marguerite was studying music," Bill recalled. "On May 21, 1911, Herbert was standing at the top of the Eiffel Tower with Lela's cousin Jane Campbell who lived with them in Aurora and had travelled with them. As they were about to return to Aurora, Herbert wrote to his brother's wife in Toronto about these happy times:

"Jane and I are at the summit of the Eiffel Tower. She enjoying the view greatly. Have had cloudy and cold weather for days but just at this minute it is brighter than for days, there being some sunshine. Jane wears her new Navy suit and new hat and is really a swell. My time grows short and there is much to see and do. Last evening, we dined with friends of Lela's and had a delightful time, a good dinner, and most vivacious people. One more Sunday here. The next on the sea and the following at home. Love to you all, Herbert."

In July of 1914, Herbert was once

again on his way to France to visit his wife and daughter. Shortly after he set sail, his itinerary was reported in the Aurora Banner, which noted the well-known resident wasn't expected to return until October.

That, of course, all changed in August of that year when war was officially declared. The Fleurys heard the news while travelling south together en route to Switzerland and they hastily returned to Paris.

The patriarch was able to secure passage back home to Canada from France by August 28, but his wife and daughter had to take a more circuitous route, first heading to England, travelling northward to Scotland and then catching a ship back to Canada at Glasgow.

At war's end, Mr. Fleury's regular trips across the Atlantic resumed. This time these trips were not merely to see his family or conduct business; they were also missions on behalf of Aurora residents who lost a loved one in the war who were unable, for whatever reason, to make the arduous journey themselves.

"Early in the 1920s, he served as kind of a personal witness for some Aurora families visiting the graves of their soldier sons buried in the cemeteries of Flanders," said Bill Fleury. "A total of 24 men from Aurora, a town of well under 2,000 residents had died. Tragically, Major Ken Campbell MC, the son of Jane Campbell, who had spent much of his youth in Herbert's own household was one. In 1921, Jane accompanied Herbert to Ken's gravesite. There's a photo of her stricken and dressed in black mourning clothes laying a wreath of flowers at his rough wooden cross, a cross surrounded by many others in the devastated landscape.

"Upon his return to Aurora in the fall of 1921, Herbert gave a personal talk with illustrations on the Flanders battlefields. In 1924 and again in 1925, he visited some of the graves of Aurora boys. To the family of Private Ernest Rose, Herbert brought back some earth, a flower and a photograph from their son's grave."

The names of both Kenneth Campbell and Ernest Rose are immortalized on the stone cenotaph at which over 1,000 people gathered Sunday morning to pay tribute to the fallen.



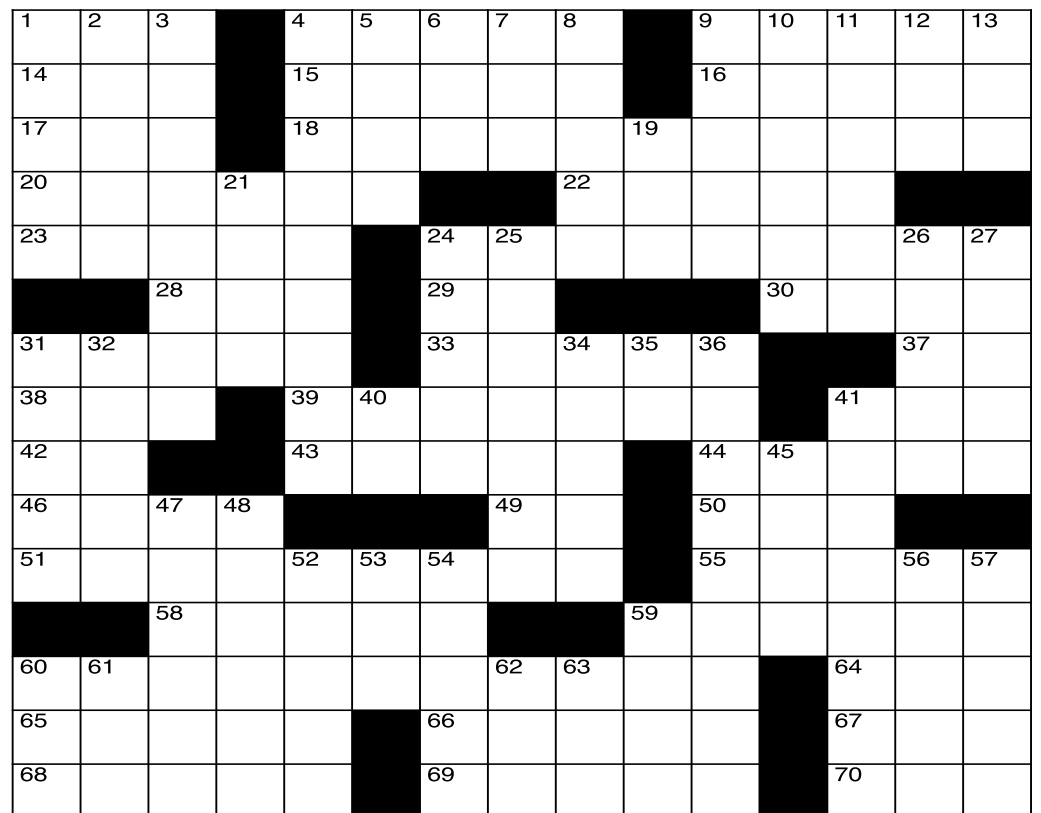
Jane Campbell visits the grave of her son Kenneth following the First World War.

Photo courtesy of the Fleury Family



The Grade 1 & Grade 2 class at Aurora Preparatory Academy hosted Major Charles Grenier-Chalifoux to their Remembrance Day assembly. Supplied photo

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Taxi
- 4. Long periods of time
- 9. Boiled cow or sheep
- 14. Ottoman military commander
- 15. Pig
- 16. Don't go near
- 17. Benin inhabitants
- 18. Pop star
- 20. Removes
- 22. Your sibling's daughter
- 23. Trade
- 24. Dabbled
- 28. Tax collector
- 29. Atomic number 73
- 30. Russian emperor
- 31. Broad-winged bird of prey
- 33. Pale brownish yellow
- 37. A type of bill
- 38. One or a sum of things
- 39. Stiff, untanned leather
- 41. Naturally occurring solid material
- 42. Promotional material
- 43. Beer mug
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Very rich
- 49. Atomic number 10
- 50. Not even
- 51. Pulls apart
- 55. City in western Finland
- 58. Wing shaped
- 59. Paddling
- 60. Player
- 64. Japanese classical theater
- 65. S-shaped lines
- 66. Coined for one occasion
- 67. Pitching stat
- 68. "M" actor
- 69. Some are noble
- 70. Lair

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Places to eat
- 2. Marketplace
- 3. Unoriginality
- 4. Administrative officials
- 5. Female sheep and a loch in Scotland
- 6. Something to drill for
- 7. Midway between north and northeast
- 8. Cassia tree
- 9. Founder of medical pathology
- 10. Long-legged wading bird
- 11. ___ and goes
- 12. Go quickly
- 13. Used to cut and shape wood
- 19. Small island (British)
- 21. Dry or withered
- 24. "Last of the Mohicans" actress
- 25. Manufacturers need one
- 26. Tidal bore
- 27. Makes free of moisture
- 31. Semitic titles
- 32. Inappropriate
- 34. Gregory __, US dancer
- 35. ___, denotes past
- 36. Makes nicer
- 40. Indicates position
- 41. Made a priest
- 45. Sixth month of Jewish calendar
- 47. One who refrains
- 48. Type of top
- 52. Pay increase
- 53. Curved shape
- 54. Keeping down
- 56. Sleep sound
- 57. Tiny Iranian village
- 59. Only one time
- 60. Elected official
- 61. Before the present
- 62. Genus of grasses
- 63. Autonomic nervous system

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



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Abel served eight years as Aurora's Deputy Mayor

From page 8

wanted to have a little more oversight and being involved like the other organizations by bringing a budget forward and that sort of thing. I think that relationship was really improved."

As the new Council prepares to take office, Councillor Abel says the incoming body of lawmakers will face challenges and it is important to get up to speed. Among them, he says, is GO Transit and the revitalization of downtown.

While he is stepping away from politics and advocacy, he plans to stay involved in many projects he views as important to his legacy, like the establishment of Music

Aurora and giving a hand-up to young budding musicians in our community.

"I am really proud of what I have done and I am looking forward and wishing the best of luck to the Council at hand," he says. "I feel I have done my commitment and my duty. I can easily step away out of the spotlight knowing through my experience that Council will address and look after the major challenges they have – and there are many. It's like what we see across the Province and Region. We all have very similar issues and that is the financing and the business and community involvement. They are in good hands; they have good Council members and staff."



THE BIG PICTURE – The last contingent to go to the Great War from Aurora. October, 1917 (165-2006.1.1)

Photo courtesy of the Aurora Museum & Archives

THINGS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

NOVEMBER 15 – 17

The Country Day School's upcoming production of 'The Diary of Anne Frank' taking place on Thursday and Friday, November 15 - 16 at 7:00 pm and Saturday, November 17 at 1:30 am in the school's Performing Arts Centre at 13415 Dufferin Street in King. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.cdson.ca/tickets or at the door in advance of the performance.

NOVEMBER 15 – 18

The Pine Tree Potters' Guild Fall Pottery sale will be held Thursday, November 15 - Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the beautiful Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, Aurora. The hours are Thursday 10 am to 9 pm, Friday and Saturday 10 am to 6 pm and Sunday 11 am to 4 pm. There is free parking, free admission and a unique door prize. A great selection of holiday gift ideas! Visa, MasterCard and Interac accepted. Please call 905-727-1278 for further information or visit www.pinetreepotters.ca.

NOVEMBER 16 – 25

Kingcrafts Annual Studio Sale will take place November 16 from 1 - 7 p.m., November 17 from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and November 18, 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 12936 Keele Street, King City. For more information, including previews of the art, visit www.kingcrafts.ca, or call 905-833-1897 for more.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Chefs from across the region will participate in the 9th annual "Empty Bowls" fundraiser at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Proceeds from the day will be donated to Welcoming Arms, Aurora and Inn From The Cold, Newmarket. Patrons can enjoy gourmet soups and breads prepared by local chefs, served in some of the 500 hand-made soup bowls created by members of Pine Tree Potters' Guild. After the meal, patrons will take home their chosen bowl. Early lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$50. Late lunch 1:30 - 3 p.m. \$50.

AHS Speaker Series: Bill Fleury and Fiona Smith: Aurora Diaspora? How J. Fleury's Sons (and Daughters) Took Aurora to the World at Hillary House from 7 - 9 p.m. Exploring the theme, "Aurora and the World", how did late 19th century Aurora, a town of barely 2,000 people, make a name for itself in the world? Bill Fleury and Fiona Smith will address this question from two perspectives that shed light on Aurora's manufacturing history and on the history of women born in the Town, 15372 Yonge Street. \$5 for Aurora Historical Society members. \$7 for non-members. For more information or to reserve your seat call 905-727-8991 or community@aurorahs.com.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Brevik Hall Presents the legendary Heather Bambrick Jazz Quartet for an evening of jazz classics and Bambrick's hilarious banter. Don't miss her Aurora debut at the Aurora Cultural Centre! Tickets, \$45 (HST included). Concert at 8 pm; cash bar and CDs available for sale. For info, or to purchase, call 905-713-1818, or visit the Centre at 22 Church Street, Aurora. www.aurora-cultural-centre.ca.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Trinity Anglican Church will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar today at 79 Victoria Street from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Luncheon – hot or cold meal – served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come in and get inspired for Christmas! Baking, plants, attic treasures, silent and raffle auction, costume and fine jewellery, kiddie corner, children's toys and books. \$2 adult admission.

Expanded Gift Shop open 9am to 2pm at Hillary House, 15372 Yonge Street, Aurora. Start your Christmas shopping and support Aurora's National Historic Site! More donated items for sale include high quality dishes, glass, china, silver serving dishes, antiques, and so much more. New local books available. Some used books. www.aurorahs.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Complimentary Hot Chocolate on the Veranda starting at 5:30 pm at Hillary House during Santa Under the Stars. Enjoy as you watch the parade! 15372 Yonge Street, Aurora. www.aurorahs.com

NOVEMBER 24 – 25

The annual Aurora Studio Tour will take place each day from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit twelve artists in five studio locations throughout Aurora. Original art, photography, ceramics, sculpture, poetry books and greeting cards. For more information, visit www.aurorastudiotour.com.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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-le.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

A Family Christmas at Hillary House. Drop in between 1 pm and 4 pm or stay for the afternoon to enjoy a visit with Santa, music, carols, refreshments, a children's craft, shop in the gift shop, and tour a decorated historic doctor's home and practice where Aurora's first health care professionals treated local residents for 100 years. Help support Aurora's National Historic Site! \$5 per adult, \$3 per child. 15372 Yonge Street, Aurora, 905-727-8991 www.aurorahs.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

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-le.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

The Aurora United Church Chancel Choir & Handbell Ensembles will host their Annual Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church (79 Victoria Street). For more information, contact 905-727-1935x21.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

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-le.

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- Attending meetings and recording minutes

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- Diploma in journalism preferred
- Candidates should have experience working on the editorial side of the newspaper industry
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