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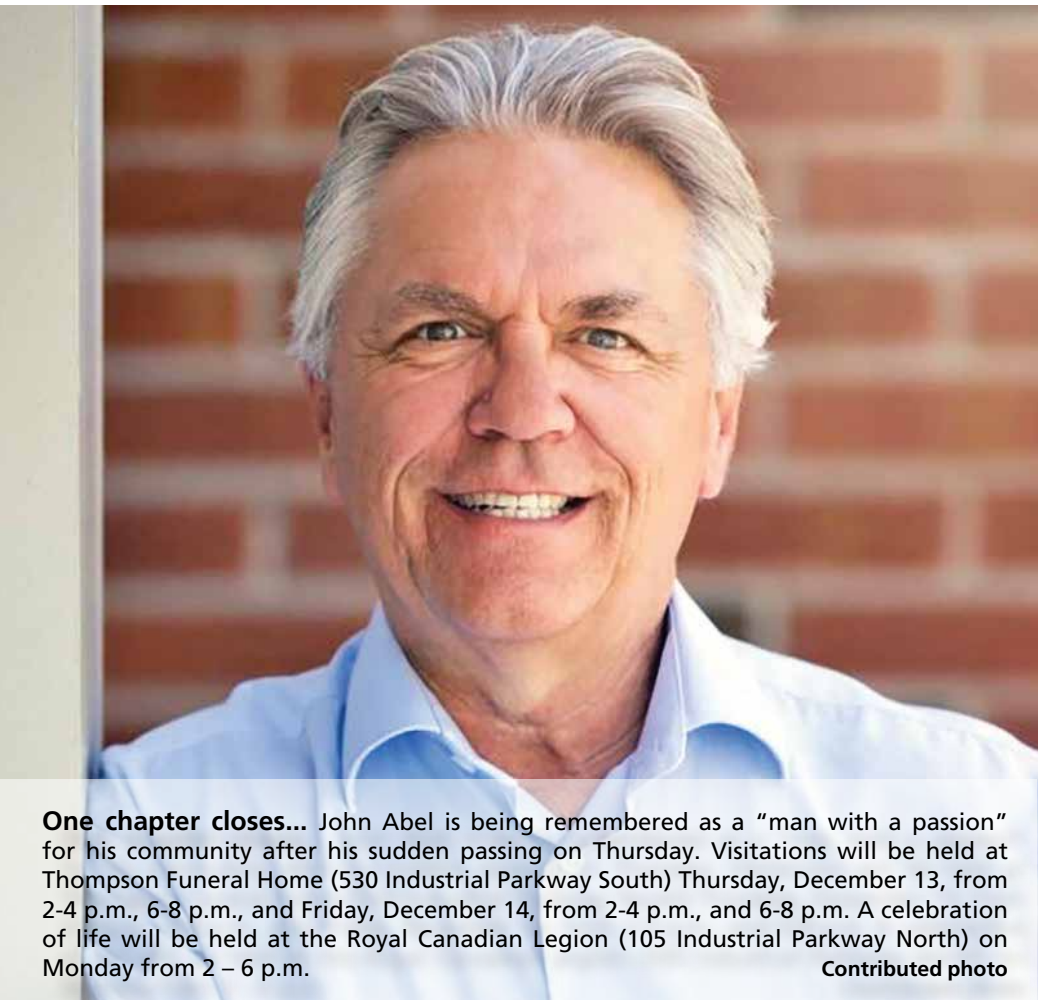
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FREE Week of December 13, 2018



John Abel remembered as a "man with passion"



Eight-year Deputy Mayor collapsed just over 24 hours after end of term

By Brock Weir

John Abel is being remembered as "man with a passion."

Tributes continue to pour in for Mr. Abel, who died at Southlake Regional Health Centre on Thursday afternoon at the age of 64 surrounded by his wife Tracy, family and close friends; his final act of giving being a double lung transplant for a patient in need, his family confirms.

Mr. Abel had been hospitalized since December 2, just over 24 hours after his eight years as Aurora's Deputy Mayor came to an end.

"We are all devastated at the tragic

Continued on page 6

One chapter closes... John Abel is being remembered as a "man with a passion" for his community after his sudden passing on Thursday. Visitations will be held at Thompson Funeral Home (530 Industrial Parkway South) Thursday, December 13, from 2-4 p.m., 6-8 p.m., and Friday, December 14, from 2-4 p.m., and 6-8 p.m. A celebration of life will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) on Monday from 2 - 6 p.m.

Contributed photo

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Mrakas promises "more liveable community" in first address as Mayor

By Brock Weir

Aurorans want a "more vibrant, more liveable community" that respects our past while also looking ahead to the future, according to Mayor Tom Mrakas in his inaugural address last Tuesday night, which set addressing the issue of stable neighbourhoods as priority number one.

Mayor Mrakas, along with Councillors Harold Kim, Wendy Gaertner, Sandra Humfries, Michael Thompson, Rachel Gilliland and John Gallo were formally sworn in as the 2018 - 2022 Aurora Council before a packed Council Chamber on December 4.

The next four years, said Mayor Mrakas, represent a "pivotal point in Aurora's history" that will take fitting together several important puzzle pieces to achieve collective goals. Among those puzzle pieces are addressing the needs of Aurora's so-called stable neighbourhoods, addressing the issues of affordable and accessible housing,

Continued on page 25



...as a new one begins – Town Clerk Michael deRond congratulates Mayor Tom Mrakas after presenting him with his Chain of Office at the inaugural meeting of the 2018 - 2022 Council on Tuesday night.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Sports personalities return to roots in Aurora's Hometown Hockey

By Jake Courtepatte

He may be known now as the face of Roger's Hometown Hockey, or the host of CBC's Hockey Night in Canada, or simply as the man to Don Cherry's left, but for 23 years, Ron MacLean donned

the referee's stripes.

Splitting his time between the broadcaster's suit and the zebra uniform in junior, minor pro, and university leagues across Canada, it was in the late nineties when his on-ice work first brought him working with the Junior A Aurora Tigers.

"When I officiated the Tigers, my officiating would take part in Newmarket or Richmond Hill for whatever reason," said MacLean in a phone interview. "Maybe the Tigers played home games on Saturday nights, and I'm usually a little preoccupied Saturday nights."

MacLean, of course, refers to his position as the head honcho of the famed Hockey Night in Canada broadcast, a post he held from 1986-2014, and again since 2016 after a brief restructuring stint.

Off the ice, his connections to the Town of Aurora may have played an even more significant role in his rise to the top of the broadcasting world: it was Bill Yuill, namesake to the St. Andrew's College varsity hockey captain's trophy presented each year, who first gave MacLean his first big break.

"He was a Medicine Hat, Alberta guy that hired me to do radio in Red Deer," said MacLean, who entered the business in 1978. "He's a huge benefactor of St. Andrew's College, he loved the College and would get me to come and speak at it."



Former Humboldt Broncos players Ryan Straschnitzki, Xavier Labelle, Layne Matechuk and Jacob Wassermann come to centre ice at the Aurora Community Centre on Saturday night to a thunderous standing ovation.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

St. Andrew's was given the star treatment by MacLean and the Hometown Hockey crew in a segment during last weekend's broadcast from the Aurora Community Centre, where thousands poured in between the two-day festival before climaxing with the national broadcast Sunday evening.

"This is a privilege playing a game against UCC," said varsity hockey coach David Manning in the piece, speaking to

his team before a game against Upper Canada College in November. "We've been playing these guys for 120 years. That's special. There aren't many rivalries in sport that are 120 years long, let alone hockey."

One of the top preparatory programs in the country, MacLean said he was able to catch a game on the road a few seasons back.

Continued on page 20

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Tara Slone meets Aurora residents outside the ACC during Rogers Hometown Hockey.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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The Aurora Community Centre was the scene of a two-day carnival atmosphere as the community welcomed Rogers Hometown Hockey. The parking lot was transformed into a hockey wonderland complete with photo ops, a tribute to the Maple Leafs, and hockey-themed circus acts. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Jake Courtepatte

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

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Police's new naming and shaming is "ugly, life-altering practice," says reader

After reading your editorial and hearing about this issue in other news this past week, I welcome the chance to respond.

While I am not a lawyer, I certainly have dealt with law enforcement officials enough over the years to know the law is not always applied equally and fairly to all. Thankfully we have the courts to sort out what is fair and correct.

Most experts that I have heard weigh in on this particular subject don't seem to think it will stand a constitutional challenge. (I wonder who foots the bill for that exercise...).

That being said, since when do the police get to decide these policies? They are not elected by the people. Making off the cuff remarks as justification for this change such as they have about incidences not declining enough to suit is irresponsible. The laws have changed to lower limits and enforcement practices have undergone cost cutting that result in "blitzes" now instead of regular officers on duty doing the enforcement.

Could this have any effect on their stats?

To add to the mix, someone (don't know where this one came from!) has decided officers can now do away with their reasonable suspicion requirement and are now planning to make every stopped driver take the test. 1984 is not far off!

If elected officials decide on policy changes that help the community (and they are lawful) I would hope they at least insist on the person being convicted before this ugly, life altering practice begins.

I am not in favour of anyone driving impaired... or distracted... or while putting on makeup... or while arguing or any number of other accident causing preventable situations but we don't shame those people, nor should we.

I guess they don't have groups for victims of those people who can successfully lobby our police.

P. Service
Aurora

On the other hand...

I would just like to pass on my thoughts regarding the Police publishing the names of those convicted of DUI. I'm in favour. If there is a chance it will influence people's attitudes and behaviours related to drinking and driving it's worth doing.

Donna U
Aurora

—THE AURORAN—

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is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Machell's Corners



Remembering John Abel



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

It wasn't that long ago when he just stopped what he was doing, looked down, widening his eyes just a little bit, and then proceeding with just a little bit more tentativeness than he had just moments before.

It wasn't a unique reaction. Many people in his new position had already done the same, more have done the same since.

But, from that deliberate start just over eight years ago, he soldiered on. Gradually becoming more comfortable in his role – and the little silver digital voice recorder I took out of my pocket just seconds before those bespectacled eyes widened, so much so that just a few weeks ago he remarked with no small degree of pride about how comfortable he now was with his natural candour as soon as I hit the dreaded red "Record" button.

John Abel was a newbie at that time. Although he was well known to local families through his involvement in sports activities with local youth, he was, as far as politicians go, a veritable greenhorn.

Despite his initial nerves in that first interview as he began his first, and ultimately successful stab at securing a seat around the Council table, he acquitted himself well. Articulating his positions clearly and showing signs of that strength of character that was to become, in my opinion, one of the hallmarks of his eight years on Council, particularly when he occasionally decided to go against the current of prevailing opinions around the Council table.

It is this backbone, along with a deep devotion to this community and an inimitable sense of humour and kindness that I am remembering this week as the community grapples with the reality of John Abel's untimely death last Thursday afternoon, aged just 64.

In a way, it seemed almost fitting that our politician-reporter relationship came full circle in what sadly turned out to be our final formal interview together. Although we spoke to each other a few more times in person after that, including his last Council meeting on November 27, and just after he finished giving testimony as a witness in a civil matter on November 30, just hours before his eight years as Aurora's Deputy Mayor formally drew to a close, and less than 48 hours before he collapsed at his home on December

Eric's successes on the musical stage at Stratford and beyond, or, in the last couple of months of the most recent mayoral race, making sure he had the time to practice his steps for his father-of-the-bride dance at his daughter Devon's autumn wedding to Ian.

Personally, I remember with a smile the time he took to come over to our offices here at The Auroran to loan me a special edition magazine dedicated to Lucille Ball he and his wife Tracy had purchased, as he took special note my own personal interest – or, some would say, healthy passion – for the redhead and I Love Lucy. His enthusiasm for it was such that when I returned it to him at a Council meeting, fully read, a few weeks later, I was subjected to an impromptu pop quiz! (I think I passed with flying colours!)

Rest in peace, John.

A FITTING TRIBUTE

Over the next few weeks, I am sure many people will be brainstorming a fitting tribute to the late John Abel. There is no shortage of opportunities in this Town – from a municipal facility to a trail link – that might be a lasting legacy for a man that contributed eight years of his life for what he envisioned was the betterment of Aurora.

In my mind, however, there would be no fitter tribute than rededicating the band shell at Town Park in his honour.

The band shell at the northwest corner of the popular green space was often a centre of John Abel's activities.

Whether he was helping three young siblings make their dream fundraising concert a reality, taking the stage himself, or organizing a weekend music festival there a reality through his work with Music Aurora, he was there.

The bandshell provided a backdrop for the international Making Peace exhibition he tirelessly worked to bring to Aurora, and it was also the focal point for many thousands of people who gathered in Town Park to watch the Tragically Hip's farewell concert, an event he was determined to make a reality here in Town, come hell or high water – and an achievement he looked back on with no small degree of pride.

If there is anything in this Town that can or should be dedicated to the late John Abel, the Town Park Band Shell certainly has my vote.

2, our last telephone conversation has added poignancy in retrospect.

"It was probably one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences in my life, being an elected official," he said at the end of the chat, before turning his attention to his relationship with the press. "I just never thought I would be doing any of this, being elected and how much I learned about my community and myself.

"I don't know if you remember the first time you had a recorder going," he continued. "I was quite nervous. Now I am quite candid, knowing we all have a role in this."

Did I remember the first time I had that recorder going? In all honesty, it was hard to forget. He was indeed nervous, and, indeed, he did become quite candid. If you went to John Abel with a question, you could always be sure, thanks to this candour, that he would actually tell you exactly what he thought on a subject, rather than simply tell you what you want to hear.

That caused some consternation in some quarters, but that might have been the secret to John Abel's electoral success in his back to back Council runs. People knew who he was, knew what they were going to get, and, of course, they liked what they saw.

John Abel wore his heart on his sleeve outside of the political arena as well.

He was an unabashed lover of all things musical. Whether you popped into the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, took part in the Terry Fox Run, went into Aw, Shucks, or strolled through the Aurora Farmers' Market at any point over the last eight years, chances are that you probably have an image of your mind of John Abel with his guitar in hand, often donning a Stetson, belting out a tune with his distinctive country twang.

It was a love of music that he passed down to the next generation, relishing any opportunity he had to share his son

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Founder
Ron Wallace

Publisher Emeritus
Rosemary Schumaker

Subscriptions available within Canada and U.S.
email: administration@auroran.com

EDITOR
Brock Weir
brock@auroran.com

ADVERTISING
Zach Shoub
zach@lpcmedia.ca

ADVERTISING
Doug Sherritt
doug@lpcmedia.ca

GENERAL MANAGER
Zach Shoub
zach@auroran.com

ADVERTISING
Diane Buchanan
diane@auroran.com

ADVERTISING
Rachael Magee
Rachael@lpcmedia.ca

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Cynthia Proctor
cynthia@auroran.com

TODAYS NEW HOMES
Zach Shoub
zach@auroran.com

MOTORING
Heather Erwin
heather@caledoncitizen.com

CLASSIFIEDS
905-727-3300 ex.102
cynthia@auroran.com

PHOTOGRAPHY
Glenn Rodger
grodger@rogers.com

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Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



The Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

The Bowler Hat!
(December 17, 1849)

This photo (994.35.53) is somewhat of a mystery – our records have no information about who these people are, where they are standing, or what year the photo was taken. Although one thing that we are certain of is that the gentleman is wearing a bowler hat. First sold on December 17, 1849, this style of hat was invented by London hat-makers Thomas and William Bowler at the request of Edward Coke, who was looking for an alternative to the top hat. Coke reportedly paid 12 shillings for the world's first bowler hat – but only after stomping on it two times to test its strength!



TIME TRAVELLER'S DIARY

By Rachel Dice
Volunteer, Aurora Museum & Archives

A Gift Yule Remember

With just under two weeks to go until Christmas, we are all in a tizzy making sure that everything is prepared for the upcoming holiday season. You might have a list quite a bit like Santa's that you're checking at least twice—a list of gifts and people to buy for. For those of us who are scrambling to find something for the more difficult people on our lists, the December issues of the 1914 Aurora Banner have plenty of holiday gift advice for those last-minute shoppers.

Christmas in 1914 was an interesting affair. The First World War was raging in Europe, and while there had been hope the war would be over by Christmas, it was beginning to look like that wouldn't be the case. The local paper urged Aurorans to continue as normal and make Christmas as merry as it has ever been. The advice was to “buy gifts, give gifts, and keep things normal here while helping to care for the distressed, wounded, and bereaved” (Aurora Banner, November 26, 1914). Other advertisements remind readers not to forget an annual Christmas gathering, and to forgive the absence of Santa Claus as he has gone to fight the war. Undoubtedly, Aurorans were doing their best to celebrate the season with enough zeal to rival the Yuletide feasts of old.

Clearly, the most difficult part of Christmas is deciding just what to get for our friends and family. One advertisement urged Aurorans to get all they can out of Christmas and enjoy the atmosphere by making their own gifts (Aurora Banner, December 3, 1914). There's nothing more wonderful than receiving a scarf knitted just for you, or a patchwork quilt made with love in each stitch. Making homemade gifts can help send the message that Christmas is a giving time, meant for showing loved ones how much you appreciate them.

If homemade gifts aren't your style—and truly, that's understandable since at the time of writing I still have a blanket, two scarves, and one more hat to knit—then thankfully there are other options. A gift list published on December 14, 1914 provided plenty of fun suggestions for him, her, and the family home.

Popular gifts of the season for the house were corn poppers, piano lamps, or luminous radiators. Looking for gifts for a man on your list? A cigar lighter comes highly recommended, as well as a shaving mug or a bedside reading lamp. Need some gifts for the ladies on your list? An art glass table lamp might be a good idea, or even a hot water kettle or coffee percolator. If those gifts fail to tickle your fancy, then there is always home medical devices, which were pretty popular in 1914 for treating cases of hysteria and discomfort.

So, wherever you find yourself this holiday season, remember to keep up the spirit of giving and be thankful that Santa Claus won't be off fighting the war this time around!

— NAFTA to USMCA; Not Just Loss of “Free” Trade —

Recently the Liberal Government agreed to the next version of NAFTA, now called the USMCA.

How should the success of this new trade agreement be measured? To adequately evaluate the new agreement, the following three issues should be considered:

Loss of Sovereignty vs. Trade Deal

The USMCA is not just a simple free trade agreement between states, it also contains clauses that constrain Canada's freedom to set our own political and economic agenda; our sovereignty. Chapter 33 limits Canada's independence in monetary policy, and Chapter 32.10 states that the US must approve all future Canadian trade deals for our continued participation in USMCA.

Managed Trade vs. Free Trade

The USMCA replaces some “free trade” elements with “managed trade” conditions that restrict Canada's participation in the North American market. The USMCA gives American farmers increased access to Canada, while also eliminating regulations slanting the playing field in favour of the US. It also caps the growth of the Canadian Auto sector and raises Canada's cost of production jeopardizing our competitiveness. Additionally, the USMCA extends US patent protection resulting in higher drug costs for Canadians



MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

No Relief on Punishing Tariffs

In June, the Trump administration imposed punishing tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum, on the basis that these imports posed a threat to US national security. It was assumed that these tariffs would be lifted once a new trade deal was signed. Not only do these tariffs still exist, there is also a new protocol that makes it easier for the US to impose future national-security related tariffs against Canada.

Severe limitations on our sovereignty, increased restrictions on our “free” trade, and punitive tariffs are elements that ensure this is a worse deal for Canada. But is a worse deal better than no deal because it removes the uncertainty? However, the uncertainty remains. There is no timeline for when the tariffs will be lifted, and no guarantee that new ones will not be imposed. The impact of the restrictive monetary policy clauses and our inability to diversify through future

trade deals is unknown. Additionally, the negative impact of caps on growth and the increased costs of production, may drive jobs and future investment out of Canada.

But was this the best deal Canada could get?

To answer that question, the government's actions outside of the negotiating room must be considered. Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs levied veiled criticism of the American President during a speech she gave in Washington, and participated in the “Taking on the Tyrant” panel discussion which compared Trump with Syria's Bashar al-Assad and Russia's Vladimir Putin, all amid NAFTA negotiations. Regardless of personal opinions, this is not behavior befitting Canada's highest diplomat during a free trade negotiation.

Furthermore, at the G7 in Charlevoix Quebec, Prime Minister Trudeau made inappropriate comments directed at President Trump which were not taken lightly.

This pattern of undiplomatic behavior ensured that Canada did not receive the best trade deal. Now, Canadians must decide whether Canada should accept a bad deal rather than no deal.

As always, please feel free to contact me by e-mail: Leona.Alleslev@parl.gc.ca, phone: (905) 773-8358, or drop by my office at 12820 Yonge St., suite 202 in Richmond Hill. My team and I are always here to help.

‘Twas Two Weeks Until Christmas 2018

‘Twas two weeks until Christmas,
and far north of here
Santa's workshop prepped for
the big night of cheer.
The old elf for a moment was
taking a break
And catching up on all those
decisions to make

Aurora, for example, was
always a task

Frequently requesting
some impossible ask
Funds, buildings, traffic
calming, tried Santa's powers
They even once asked he
remove some cell towers

Their likely expectations,
filled him with dread
And explained the sudden
dull ache in his head
He had best be prepared,
so taking a seat
He skimmed some Aurorans
and put up his feet

But ‘stead of needing more things,
St Nick would soon find
That the Town was working
to make up its own mind
Rather than asking for things,
of every stead
They were now taking control,
and moving ahead

MPPs and the mayor,
Santa Claus found
Had been shuffled resulting
in new ones in Town
E'en a Federal riding had
changed direction
And this in a year when there
was no election!



INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

Another action that caught
St Nick by surprise
Council had volunteered
to reduce its size
He mused why this year
this had prompted a “go”
When for years Council's viewpoint
had always been “no”

This sudden new direction
left Santa vexed
In 2022 could a ward
system be next?

But whatever the reason for
this new change in tack
The reindeer would be happy
fewer gifts he'd need pack

But the news that made
Santa jump out of his chair
Was the Town moving forward
on Library Square
For 20 years that one had
been argued each way
To see it built Santa felt he'd
not see the day

Reading on further Santa was
visibly stunned
To see the cost would come from
the Town's Hydro Funds
The Town was long reluctant to

access this stash
And this scheme would swallow
up most of the cash

As Santa read with great awe
about all of this
He marveled at all the things
he had missed
Arenas were now serving much
healthier fare
At Hallmark the call “play ball”
would be in the air

Aurora United was planning
its venue
Food and wine would be
on the Armoury menu
Neighbourhoods were stabilizing
more than in past
Williams High School was bound,
for Bayview at last

Santa put down the papers
and pondered a lot
With the Town making
decisions, they now needed naught
This year no infrastructure,
they'd be requiring
At this rate Santa Claus could
think of retiring!

Aurorans were confident,
and their future clear
So Santa's team could bypass
their Town Hall this year
He'd instead wish them good luck,
if they would heed it
‘Cause based on experience,
they'd probably need it.

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

THIS WEEK'S POLL

Do you agree with the
Police's decision to name
and shame impaired drivers?
Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
Dec 11, 2018	65%	25%	10%

Eight-year deputy mayor died Thursday in hospital

From page 1

news of former Deputy Mayor John Abel's passing," said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement issued Friday morning. "This is a very difficult time for everyone as we remember our time with John. John was loved by so many in our community.

"This community has lost a great man who has done so much for Aurora over the years. On behalf of Council and staff, we are all deeply saddened by John's passing and our prayers are with his wife Tracy and the whole Abel family at this difficult time."

Following his death, flags across Aurora were lowered as a mark of respect. A condolence book was made available for the community at Town Hall while Sunday night's Rogers Hometown Hockey broadcast paid on-air tribute to his contributions.

Visitations will be held at Thompson Funeral Home (530 Industrial Parkway South) on Thursday, December 13 and Friday, December 14, each day from 2 – 4 p.m., and 6 – 8 p.m. A celebration of life will take place Monday from 2 – 6 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North).

Mr. Abel was first elected to Council in 2010. Coming in first amongst the top eight highest vote-getters in the Council race, he succeeded Bob McRoberts as Aurora's Deputy Mayor.

He retained this post in the 2014 Council Election.

Following his bid for the Mayor's Seat this fall, he said in his final interview

with The Auroran that he looked back on the last eight years with a great deal of pride.

"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 said, noting how much he valued the opportunity to serve on the Boards of the Aurora Seniors' Association, the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame, the Aurora Cultural Centre, and more.

He said he was particularly proud of the push he made at the Council table that helped lead to securing the land for what is now Mavrincac Park (formally Thomas Coates Park), advocacy for a new home for Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School slated for Bayview Avenue at Borealis, the Town's purchase of the historic Aurora Armoury at the northeast corner of Town Park, and advocating for a new Cultural Services Agreement between the Town and the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Mr. Abel helped tackle the Cultural Services agreement in his earliest days on Council and said it was the issue that helped him "cut his teeth" and find his mettle as a politician.

"It made me realise I could stand up to people who oppose me and stand there for what I believed," he shared. "I was proud that I was able to do that with the Cultural Services Agreement, knowing now that the relationship is just fantastic. I am not saying it wasn't,



John Abel and wife Tracy are pictured here at Father's Moustache on Election Night in October. Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

because it was very good before with Mayor Morris setting it up, but we 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."

In looking back on the life and legacy of Mr. Abel, former mayor Geoff Dawe paid tribute to the tenacity his eight-year deputy had in standing up for what he believed, even if they didn't always see eye to eye on the issue at hand.

"John was certainly very passionate about what he believed in and he was always very forceful about it. You never doubted his passion, for sure," he said.

Mr. Dawe said they had "a lot of fun" together, particularly in their first term of Council when the then-Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and then-councillor Paul Pirri pooled their musical talents to form the tongue-in-cheek band they dubbed "The Council Critters."

Indeed, music was another passion for Mr. Abel, evidenced in his work on many cultural initiatives, including the foundation of Music Aurora, which has spearheaded the popular Aurora Winter Blues Festival and numerous initiatives to support up-and-coming youth musicians.

"John's tireless support, vision and

involvement in the arts, culture and sports in the Town of Aurora have made our community a better place for all of us today and going forward," said Music Aurora in a statement. "His true passion for music and live performances helped instill a dynamic music scene at the grassroots level in Aurora, whether it be on the streets, in the parks, or any one of the many indoor venues – John was always involved either performing on stage or behind the scenes making it happen for the enjoyment and benefit of his community."

Mr. Dawe added he hoped people would remember Mr. Abel for his "commitment to his job and moving the Town forward."

This is a commitment Mr. Abel was prepared to extend into the new Council meeting.

"I wish everyone here the best of luck," he said in his final address, giving his best wishes to Council members who began the 2018-2022 term on Saturday. "I know it is going to be a challenge and you deserve nothing but our support going forward, and I know you have it. I wish everyone the best and I thank everyone for giving me this opportunity."

John Abel is survived by his wife Tracy, their daughter Devon, her husband Ian, and their son Eric.

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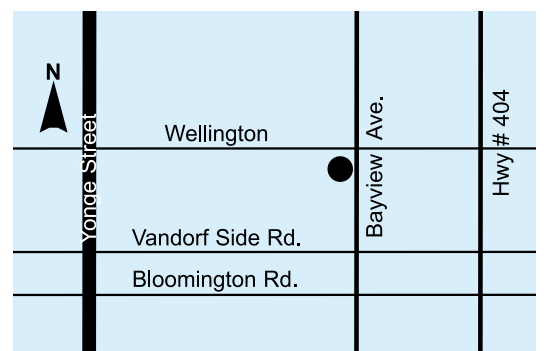
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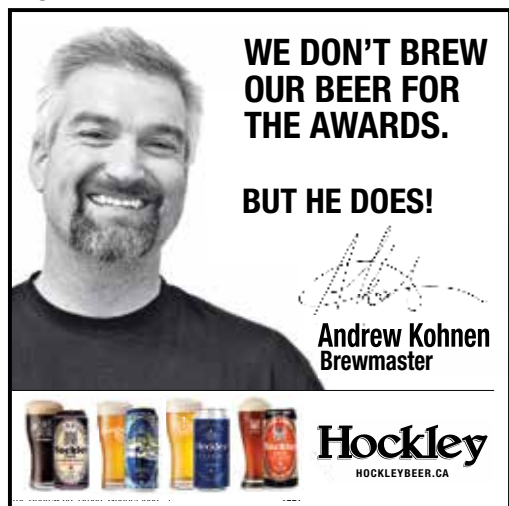
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Ground officially broken on Holiday Inn Express & Suites

By Brock Weir

They may have wanted to seek shelter inside after huddling under a tent in the grey, fall chill on Wednesday afternoon, but Aurora's newest hotel won't be ready to welcome guests until early 2020.

Business representatives and dignitaries gathered on Eric T. Smith Way last week to formally break ground on Holiday Inn Express & Suites, the second of two hotel constructions now underway in Aurora.

Once complete, the six-storey hotel will boast 110 rooms, 11 of which will be accessible, along with 14 extra large king suites. Amenities will include an indoor pool, board room,

meeting rooms, a fitness centre, and two outdoor patios.

"We hope to be up and running in twelve to 13 months from now," Aldo Gottardo, President of property owner Gottardo Group of Companies, which is also developing an adjacent property for an office building, told The Auroran. "Aurora is really a fledgling area with a lot of new development.

"We have always wanted to be here [and] we have a lot of major clients here. Our whole thing is development and we saw an opportunity coming in here. We bought a nice site [near Highway 404] which I think started us off well. We want to be a resident here. We have never been here before building for ourselves, we have built for



Dignitaries gathered 95 Eric T. Smith Way on Wednesday afternoon to formally break ground on the 110-room Holiday Inn Express & Suites development, which is expected to open in early 2020. Auroran photo by Brock Weir

others, but this is a good opportunity to plant our roots here. Holiday Inn is obviously a great opportunity to start." The Holiday Inn Express & Suites Development is a development in conjunction with InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG). On hand for Wednesday's ground-breaking was IGH's Stuart Laurie who said the company operates 5,500 hotels around the world with 800,000 groups. 185 properties in their portfolio are in Canada, representing 25,000 rooms.

"This is not just another dot on the map," said Mr. Laurie, addressing the Gottardo Group. "We are honoured and excited to be your partner. You are the sponsors that are accepting the risk and you will be living the Holiday Inn Express brand every day. Congratulations and we look forward to the next one."

Representatives from the Gottardo Group on hand for the ceremony paid tribute to the outgoing Council, including former mayor Geoff Dawe, as well as the Town of Aurora's Economic Development Office,

for helping make the Holiday Inn development a reality.

Addressing Mayor Tom Mrakas, who formally received the Chain of Office less than 24 hours before, they said he hoped he would "continue to grow [the business community on Aurora's east side] more."

"This is a very exciting opportunity," said Mayor Mrakas. "It is an exciting opportunity due to the fact we're looking at becoming a premiere destination when it comes to sports tourism and this allows us to provide the opportunity [for people] to have a place to stay within our town. That is a very exciting opportunity for us and we're looking forward to not only the business and sports community, but for everyone to come here and learn and see the uniqueness of our town and be able to stay here within our town, shop, and create more business."

Added Gottardo's Peter Duma: "Let's hope we get a lot of the soccer and hockey teams and everything else on the weekends - and hope they don't beat up the hotel too bad!"

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COUNTRY TOY TEA RAISES \$25,000 – The 14th Annual Country Toy Tea, an initiative that originated with a group of parents from Country Day School, gathered last week for a good cause, raising \$25,000 in donations and gift cards, along with 1,500 toys that will be distributed to Blue Door Shelters – Leeder Place Family Shelters, 360 Kids, Sandgate Women’s Shelter, the Rose of Sharon, Women’s Centre of York Region, and York Centre for Youth & Family, for area families in need. This year’s Country Toy Tea, hosted in Aurora by Dawn Beswick, welcomed 325 women, along with a group of elves and, of course, Santa Claus. Business sponsors this year included The Artsy Baker, COBS Bread (Aurora), Longo’s Supermarket, Nature’s Emporium, Starbucks Coffee Company, The Roost Café, The McEwan Group, Hurst Bakery, Maunder’s Food Shop & Catering, Neal Brothers Foods, Summer Fresh, Tim Hortons, Black Forest Garden Centre, Higgins Event Rentals, Inside Out Design/McFee Maintenance & Construction, Nella Food Equipment, Bloomsbury Design, Continental Cosmetics, Formula Brands Inc., Hempen Jewellers, James Dimitri Hair Atelier, Joan Kelley Walker Designs, Legs & Lace, Panera Bread, Spot On Beauty, Two Sisters Winery, Canadian Tire, Estee Lauder, Hawk’s Nest Jewelry Studio, injoy boutique, Jaxx & Marbles, Joia Restaurant, Locale Restaurant, Snapdragon Designs, Tara Mcgrath Photography, and Vanguard Hair. Auroran photos by Diane Buchanan

This time of the year is full of happy music, wonderful decorations and cheerful spirits, but has been interrupted this year by the news of the sudden loss of a wonderful person, former Councillor John Abel.

John had a long, informal association with the Aurora Farmers’ Market both in showing support for us as well as organizing numerous musical performances. The members of the Board of the Farmers’ Market and Artisan Fair join the vendors in their sadness and in sending heartfelt condolences to John’s family. We certainly will miss him.

The Aurora Farmers’ Market and Artisan Fair is hosting one special Christmas Indoor Market on Saturday, December 15 at the Aurora Cultural Centre from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be vendors both upstairs and downstairs. Along with many of your favourite vendors, there will be several new vendors and we will have something for everyone.

Pioneer Honey is the only farmer coming this time with his amazing honey and honey products. He will be joined by the following food vendors: Jan’s Country Pantry and Preserves, Catharina’s Kitchen with cookies, scones, squares, soup and coffee, Café Louise Bakehouse with bread and pastries, Pascal Poilbout with soups, French pastries, biscuits and packages of crepes, Ginger’s Cupcakes and Desserts with squares, brownies and gingerbread kits and Nutritious with grainless granola.

Among the many and diverse artisans you will find: Eva Nagy with handcrafted fabric items and seasonal gift items, Beading Mama with elaborately beaded jewellery, Blue Sky Accessories and jewellery, Brainy Games with laser cut games, magnetic puzzles and



MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

MARKET MUSINGS

card games, Clean Shave Canada with shaving items for men, Coco and Pea with wooden disc ornaments decorated by photo transfer, French Girl Boutique with handmade kimonos, kaftans and shawls, Gelmania with gel candles, Great

Turnings with turned wooden items including pens, Green Leaf Designs and jewellery, Heartsease Co. with crocheted items, therapy packs, tote bags, aprons and dishtowels, Hydemark with welded ornaments, Judy Weagle with books she has written, Katie Argyle and Minda Davis with ceramic items, cards, paintings and pins, Kibo Natural Body care with natural soaps, lotions and lip balms, Limitless Jewels with sterling silver jewellery and scarves, Diggin up Bones and dog treats and dog care products, Michelle Zikovitz with handwoven basketry items, baby blankets and seasonal ornaments, Janet Allin with a selection of stained glass items, The Bear’s Den with socks, mittens and bears, and Whiskey Jack Flowers with plants, wreaths, flower arrangements and gifts using plants.

We are so pleased to announce that the music for the day will be presented by the well-known local musician Glenn Marais.

There will be a mix of music styles which will include some seasonal favourites.

Please plan to include a stop at the Cultural Centre to take in the Farmers’ Market’s Christmas Market on Saturday, December 15 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. to discover more treasures to enhance your holiday planning.

This is our last Market until we return in May to Wells Street and Town Park.

Have a wonderful holiday season and good health and happiness wishes for 2019!

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LIGHTING UP THE DARKNESS



Over 100 people filled the forecourt of Town Hall last Wednesday night for the Town's Second Annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony. The Menorah was lit on the fourth day of the eight-day festival of lights, commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem in the second century BC. To rededicate the temple, the Jewish people needed oil to light the Menorah, but they could only find enough to keep the flames burning for one night. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. Wednesday night's ceremony was led by Rabbi Yossi Hecht of Chabad Lubavich of Aurora. The first to light the Menorah at the event, which was also attended by Councillors Harold Kim, Rachel Gilliland and Wendy Gaertner, along with representatives from MPs Leona Alleslev and Kyle Peterson, was Mayor Tom Mrakas. Inside, there were a variety of fun and games – and fresh donuts and latkes for all. **Auroran photos by Brock Weir**



SCALLION NOODLE



3 bunches 350g



1

Add 250 ml canola oil and chopped scallions in a sauce pan. Set stove temperature between medium and high. Stir fry scallions around 10 to 15 minutes, until the oil turns a light green color.

2



5 ml.
(1 TSP)



105 ml.
(7 TBSP)



15 ml.
(1 TBSP)

Add all three ingredients showing above, keep stirring around 1 to 2 minutes, turn off the stove and use as "Scallion Sauce" later. (Good for 3 servings).



3

Add whole package of noodles into 3000 ml boiling water for boiling around 8 minutes, drain water well.

4

Add 4 to 6 tbsp. scallion sauce on top of cooked noodles and stir evenly, sprinkle a dash of fresh chopped scallions and ready to serve.

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Risk is essential in advancing Aurora, says Deputy Mayor Kim

2018 – 2018
Council members
outline visions
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Councillor Harold Kim has an issue, and it lies with people who say Council members should shy away from taking risks.

“The magnitude of the reward is commensurate with the risk you take,” said Councillor Kim last Tuesday night at the inaugural meeting of the 2018 – 2022 Council.

The top vote-getter in the October 22 Council stakes, Councillor Kim succeeds the late John Abel as Aurora’s Deputy Mayor.

In his first address from this new position, the Councillor began his second term at the table by bringing big issues down to a local level.

Addressing his fellow Council members, he said it is his hope they all work well together “for

the betterment of the community” regardless of whose ideas are being put forward.

“It is my hope that whichever and whomever’s ideas move forward that we work as a team to get the project through to completion,” he said. “In the end, each of us are proxies to the people. It is recognized that that part of politics is the existence of the official opposition where parties who aren’t in power are expected to criticize those that are. However, the municipal arena is not partisan – and for good reason; it is a community of people who live together in tight quarters. We see each other on the street, walking our dogs, grocery shopping and at the local community centres. My hope is that going forward we, as a community of neighbours, can work together for the success of this neighbourhood we call home, without personal agendas.”

Citing work on the last Council that went towards laying the groundwork for the development of Library Square and the ongoing renovations at the historic Aurora Armoury to make way for a new campus of Niagara College’s Canadian Food & Wine Institute, Councillor Kim said both were “worthwhile risks” for Aurora to take.

“There are those in Town who say we should not take any risk with Town resources, but I tell you what: the magnitude of the reward is commensurate with the risk you take,” he said. “You know the saying: you can’t take a hit unless you take the bat off your shoulders. Taking no risk means we do not advance the wellbeing of the Town. Essentially, it was status quo because we were hamstrung by fear.

“Municipalities are the best first responders to real social issues that affect our neighbourhoods and communities. I would like Aurora to be a conduit for dialogue on issues of social conscience at other levels of government... We have our ears to the ground... Dialogue begins with us. We my not have the budget at the municipal level [on some big ticket items] but we can certainly initiate a dialogue with the Province to get the ball rolling. We need the spirit of volunteerism to be alive and well in Aurora. Let’s make it all our goals to make this happen.”

WENDY GAERTNER



Wendy Gaertner began her fifth consecutive term on Council by outlining how she sees her role.

“I see my job as helping residents and local businesses solve problems, taking care of our community,” said Councillor Gaertner, offering her gratitude for her campaign team and her two children, for their support and energy. “Going forward, now is the time to put protections in place for our stable neighbourhoods. They are long overdue.

“Planning Library Square is now underway. Some cautions though: adequate, accessible parking is required, for this community hub will not be inclusive for those with mobility challenges, including our seniors. To know if the approved cost and design of the Square is viable, engineering studies on underground water and the foundation of the Church Street School must be done now. It is crucial to have business operations and use plans in place before Council makes any final decision on the square. Taxpayers deserve to know how much this complex will cost them to run.

“I believe that this Council has the responsibility to do everything possible to mitigate causes and effects of climate change and severe weather. All our decisions, including designs for new buildings, should have higher regard for this reality.

“In closing, I hope that this Council will welcome community input and govern with caring and common sense.”



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Christine Elliott MPP - Newmarket-Aurora

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Council's Class of 2018 – 2022 officially take their seats

SANDRA HUMFRIES



MICHAEL THOMPSON



RACHEL GILLILAND



JOHN GALLO



Councillor Sandra Humfries began her third term with a shout-out to, among others, her mother-in-law Beth Humfries, a third-generation Aurora resident.

“I hope you’re proud of us because it is your legacy we’re carrying on,” said Councillor Humfries, her voice breaking at Tuesday’s inaugural, highlighting legacy projects of the last Council, including the Armoury and Library Square.

“I am beyond honoured and beyond privileged to have gained your trust and confidence to represent you here on Council for another four years,” she told the audience. “I had eight amazing years previous, another four will be exciting. The groundwork is laid – Library Square, the Armoury – we’re going to have an incredible, amazing downtown that you’re going to love. We are going to work really hard to do what you expect from us. We owe it to you and I know the great leadership we have this evening is going to get a lot of work done and we’re going to have a lot of fun while doing it. I can’t wait for the next four years!”

Councillor Thompson is also at the start of his third term and, at the first meeting of the new term, reiterated Mayor Mrakas’ commitment to “get things done.”

“It is an honour and a privilege to have been re-elected to once again serve and represent the residents of Aurora,” said Councillor Thompson. “Although this will be my third term, I still find it just as exciting an experience as the first time I was elected, and I am very grateful for the trust and respect the community has given me. As I have done for the past eight years as a member of Council, I will continue to use my business expertise and experience to help provide leadership, strong financial management of our tax dollars, and a practical and common-sense approach to the issues.

“As we begin our new term of Council, I believe our residents have spoken very clearly about their expectations. They wanted an experience Council that will continue to work together to get things done – and there is much to be done this term. In particular, I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on the completion of Library Square, the Armoury and our continuing efforts to revitalize our downtown core.”

Rachel Gilliland is the lone newcomer to the Council table this term, having secured victory on her very first election campaign.

“Somebody asked me what was the one thing you feel helped you win the election and I thought, ‘That’s a good question,’ because it was an answer I just could not pinpoint,” she said. “The more I thought I gave to that question the more I realised there was no one thing: it was a multitude of things. There is no doubt in my mind that pounding the pavement and knocking on doors and connecting with the community was extremely important and rewarding. However, it was also the help I received from so many other people.

“Whether you helped me with my table displays, photographs, helped make flyers, were part of my sign team and editor, hosted a meet and greet, or simply just connecting between more people...It was all a huge role in my success. Now it’s official; I am humbled, honoured and am proudly ready to serve the community.”

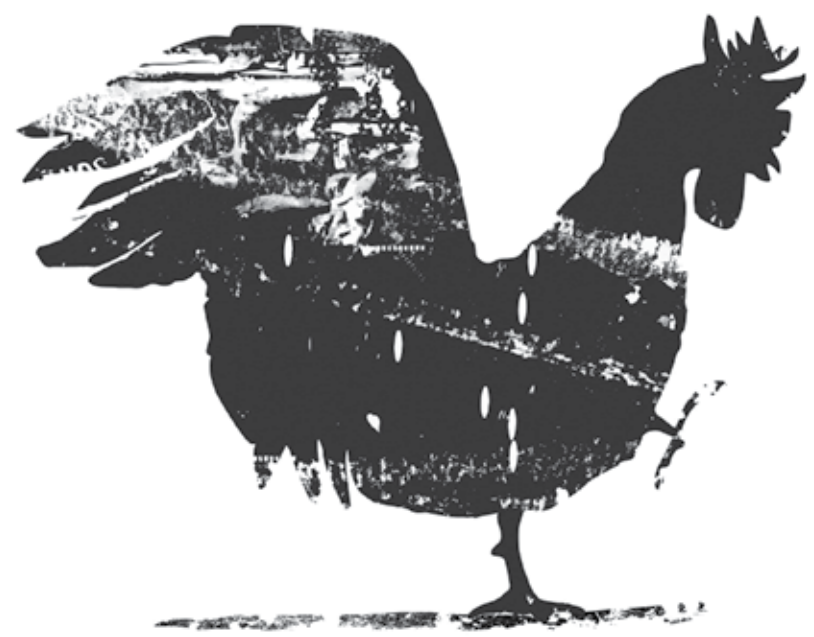
Councillor John Gallo returns to the Council table with six years of experience under his belt, serving his first two years in the last two of the 2006 – 2008 Council, and the following four years after Aurora residents voted him to serve again. After running for mayor at the end of his term in 2014, he’s back – and back with a promise.

“While the election is over and the expression of promises is thought to be over, I wanted to give you, the public, a promise: a promise to work hard, to represent you to the best interests and my ability and to make decisions that reflect your best interests,” he said, after thanking his wife Anita, son Dante and daughter Tosca for their support.

“Four years is a long time, a lot can be accomplished. I look forward to working with this new team. I can feel there is a sincere desire to move this Town forward in a positive direction and I am very glad to be a part of that. I also wanted to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of all the other candidates that ran in the election. It is not an easy thing to do to put your name out there for public scrutiny and sometimes praise. Their commitment to the Town has not gone unnoticed and I look forward to seeing their contributions in varying capacities.”



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Lions Club Christmas Campaign gets big boost from Canadian Tire

By Brock Weir

The Christmas Season is here and that means the Aurora Lions Club is hard at work collecting toys, food, and donations to help make the season bright for local families in need.

Partnered once again with the Salvation Army, the Lions' Christmas Program often benefits over 200 families each year, costing the local service club \$10,000 and \$12,000 annually to meet demand.

This year, however, many families will feel the spirit of the season thanks



On hand to celebrate the partnership between the Aurora Lions and Canadian Tire were, from left, Lions Trudy, Ed, Michelle and Jim, and Canadian Tire's Lynn, Olivia, Sandra, Michael and Akil.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

to a generous donation of \$3,100 from the employees at Aurora's Canadian Tire.

Over the last month, employees at the Bayview Avenue store have been working hard to raise funds within the store, whether making donations out of pocket or deducted automatically from their paycheques. The amount raised by employees was subsequently matched by store management.

"This was a big staff thing," says office manager Lynn Parkes. "We worked really hard – we even bought a set of Leafs tickets and raffled them off. I was down here saying, 'Don't forget the Christmas campaign at every morning huddle – and every payday!'"

"It was a lot of fun. Everyone was encouraged by it and always had a little story to bring every morning, and it really helped people think about [the community's] needs."

The Lions Club have spent the fall doubling down on raising awareness and securing donations and partnerships after deciding to forego their traditional Christmas gift wrapping services this year and directing their energies on

the groundwork.

"The Aurora Lions supply grocery gift cards to all the needy in Aurora and we work in conjunction with the Salvation Army where we give away non-perishable food, toys and gifts at the same time," says Lion Jim Bondy, chair of the Christmas Basket program. "Last year, we helped 161 needy families in Aurora and, last year, it was 220. We're a small club, so we're just hoping it is not going to be 220 this year!"

Throughout the Christmas Basket campaign, Mr. Bondy notes the Lions will accept donations of non-perishable foods and gifts of all kinds. There are ten donation boxes set up throughout the community, including at local fire halls, all of which is collected at the Salvation Army's depot in Aurora for organization and distribution on December 18.

To arrange a donation, contact Jim Bondy at jbondy@rogers.com or call 905-591-1913. For more on this campaign or the Aurora Lions Club, visit www.aurora-lions-club-ontario.com.



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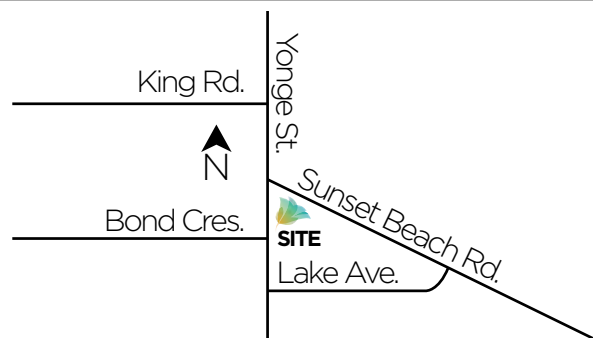
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Jury delivers mixed verdict in Pullano – Hinder trial

By Brock Weir

A “punch” did take place, but it didn’t cause the injury former council candidate Anthony Pullano alleged in his civil assault lawsuit against Magna’s Steve Hinder, a jury ruled last week.

The six-member jury of four women and two men delivered their decision on Friday afternoon at the end of a two-week trial following nearly two days of deliberations.

They found that Mr. Hinder did indeed “punch” Mr. Pullano at a March 2014 political meeting, but found it “caused no injury,” ultimately awarding no damages to the plaintiff.

Conversely, Mr. Hinder was awarded \$50,000 in damages relating to his countersuit of defamation against Mr. Pullano, citing a number of tweets posted over the last two years that characterised him as a “bully” and a “thug.”

Although William Reid, the lawyer representing Mr. Pullano, had not responded to The Auroran’s request for comment following the verdict by press time, Magna spokesperson Tracy Fuerst said, “We feel the result ended in Mr. Hinder’s favour and confirms his good character and reputation in the community.”

The matter in question has been working its way through the courts since February of 2015. In his lawsuit against Mr. Hinder, Mr. Pullano claimed on the evening of March 20, 2014, he was confronted by Mr. Hinder at The Mansion, just before Newmarket Councillor Jane Twinney was acclaimed the Progressive Conservative party’s candidate for Newmarket-Aurora ahead of that year’s Provincial election..

He alleged Mr. Hinder approached him at the event and struck him on the chest with his fist where his Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) is located. As a result, Mr. Pullano said he suffered injuries and damages, including a hospital stint following an infection he claimed was caused by the punch.

Mr. Hinder, on the other hand, claimed that while he was indeed at the meeting, he merely approached Mr. Pullano, shook his hand, and, knowing Mr. Pullano attended the previous evening’s acclamation Chris Ballard, Ms. Twinney’s Liberal counterpart, asked him who he was supporting that evening.

The civil trial began late last month after aggravated assault charges against Mr. Hinder were withdrawn by the criminal court after the Crown concluded there were no grounds.

Mr. Pullano and Mr. Hinder both took the stands in their defence over the ensuing two weeks.

Those testifying on Mr. Pullano’s behalf included former Newmarket council candidate Wanda Cena and Fred Rankel, both of whom were in attendance at the meeting in question, as well as Brian Morris, who appeared as a character witness.

Appearing on Mr. Hinder’s behalf were then-Councillor John Abel, former council candidate Arshad Desai, both of whom were at the 2014 meeting, as well as Magna’s Marc Neeb.

Both sides called doctors to give their medical perspectives.

“You will have to assess the evidence of each Mr. Pullano and Mr. Hinder in determining issues of what His Honour describes a credibility and reliability,” said Deborah Berlach, lawyer for Magna and Mr. Hinder in closing arguments last week. “You had the opportunity to see [Mr. Pullano] didn’t answer questions (on the stand) directly, he chose very often to go off on speeches to you about the state of affairs in Aurora as a justification for either not answering or providing a different answer for the tweets or position. Given that we take the position that there was no

punch and there is no evidence to support there was a punch, it follows that there was no injury that could lead to the infection of Mr. Pullano’s ICD pocket.”


Regarding Mr. Pullano’s tweets, Ms. Berlach said there “can be no

doubt” they were intended to lower Mr. Hinder’s reputation and role in the community, pointing out that these tweets were not “private interactions” with people but very public.

Mr. Reid, on the other hand, told

the jury that Webster’s Dictionary defines “bullying” as “treating someone in a cruel, insulting, threatening or aggressive fashion” and that definition fit the bill in this case.

Continued on page 23



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
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FREE Week of December 13, 2018

Packed house welcomes surviving Broncos to Hometown Hockey



The Aurora Tigers and Newmarket Hurricanes families, and local dignitaries, welcome representatives of the Humboldt Broncos to centre ice for Saturday's ceremonial puck drop.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

By Jake Courtepatte

Sometimes, hockey is more than just a game.

That was the sentiment shared by Ryan Straschnitzki, one of a handful of former Humboldt Broncos players to make the trip to Aurora for last weekend's Hometown Hockey event, before the Aurora Tigers game Saturday night hosting the Newmarket Hurricanes.

"It's about adversity, friendships relationships...it teaches you life lessons as well. When you face adversity, it's how you overcome that and what you're going to do next."

The positive attitudes, and the overall enormity of their story on that fateful day in April was a major reason for a sold-out crowd of 1,400 fans to pack the Aurora Community Centre for the matchup between the longtime rivals, where the Broncos and their family were honoured with a pre-game standing ovation.

Crowds lined up outside the ACC starting around 6 p.m. for the 7:30 puck drop, a sight not seen in decades for the Junior A club. Once inside, and with the puck dropped, the rink turned into a time machine with the atmosphere akin to that of the glory days of junior hockey decades ago.

Unfortunately for the Tigers, the on-ice product came up short in front of plenty of fresh faces, falling to their Yonge Street rivals by a score of 5 - 1. Yet the game still provided plenty of entertainment by two clubs stirred up by emotion from the large crowd.

Adding to the luster of the night was the raining of teddy bears in the dying minutes of the first period, when Aurora's Payton Schaly broke a 2 - 0 goose egg with a curled wrist shot from in close. Hundreds of bears were tossed onto the ice, providing about a ten-

minute delay while the Tigers emptied their bench to collect. The bears were delivered to Southlake, while a crate worth of non-perishable food was also donated to the Aurora Food Shelter over the weekend as well.

The loss was the third in a row for the Aurora club, the first real slump of what has otherwise been a stellar season. They now trail the Oakville Blades by thirteen points in the NorthWest conference race, while the Markham Royals inch slightly closer in the division, behind by eight yet with two games in hand.

Second-year Aurora keeper Jack Irvine, who was between the pipes for Friday's 6 - 3 loss to Pickering, is still confident his team has the ability to go all the way.

"This season has been great so far, for me coming from last season as a rookie backup to a starter this year has been pretty much a smooth transition," said Irvine. "I feel so far that my play has been good, and I aim to continue to be consistent with my numbers and my plan to be a top goaltender in the OJHL."

He added that he believes his team will "only get better" in the second half of the season.

"We have a great group of men who are all about business and our locker room is great and getting better as we continue to get to know each other. I'm looking forward to the second half and the final stretch before the playoffs, I believe we can come together completely and that we have the team to win a championship."

The Tigers will look to get back on track in a back-to-back schedule this weekend, first visiting Markham in a key matchup at Markham Centennial Centre on Friday night. They close out the weekend Saturday in hosting the Stouffville Spirit, who were finally able to solve the Tigers in their last meeting in mid-November after Aurora took

their first three meetings this season.

Puck drop is set for 7:30 p.m.

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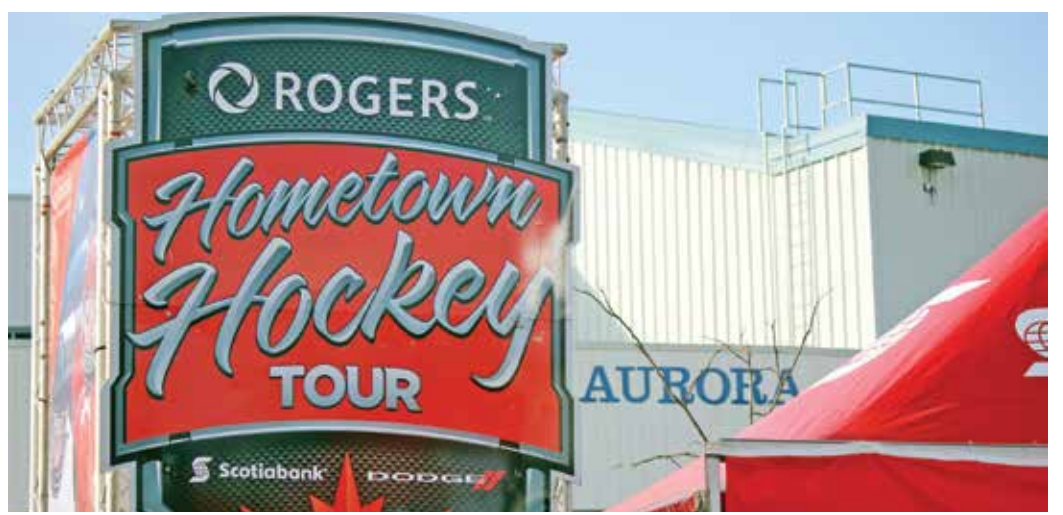
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HOMETOWN HOCKEY – (TOP ROW) Outdoor activities kept hockey fans busy under the December sun. (BOTTOM LEFT) Curtis Joseph signs autographs for fans. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Future hockey stars test out their skills.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger and Jake Courtepatte

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From page 2

“It’s a terrific program,” said MacLean. “I know a lot of the York-Simcoe guys play there, they get recruited heavily, so that’s a nice pipeline they have going there.”

That pipeline often diverts in one of two directions: either to the Saints program, or that of the Junior A Aurora Tigers, who were also featured on the Sunday night broadcast.

Co-Host of Hometown Hockey Tara Sloane recounted the history of the franchise, calling it one of the most “storied teams in Canada”, highlighted by future NHLers like Dominic Moore, who signed autographs throughout the day.

Thinking back to his refereeing days, MacLean recalled coach Brad Selwood, an ex-NHLer with one year behind the Aurora bench. He called that season, in 1997-98, his “glory years” of refereeing.

“I’ve been there a lot,” said MacLean. “I’ve loved it each and every time.”

That season happened to be one of two Moore spent with the Tigers, where he notched 112 points in 102 games with Aurora.

“You grow up always wanting to play a game seven in the NHL, and playing those games in Aurora, you’re cherishing the opportunity,” said Moore.

Fellow ex-NHLer Chris Kelly, who played with the Tigers one season prior to Moore joining the squad, happened to be there for the first season back as the Tigers, after a brief stint as the Aurora Eagles.

“The town was pretty ecstatic that they finally went back to the Tigers,” said Kelly in the broadcast, who helped the Tigers to their first league championship since 1967. “To win the championship in the first year back as the Tigers, it was pretty special, not only to us but I know to the town.”

This year’s incarnation of the Tigers are not only replicating that success on the ice,

but off the ice as well in their philanthropy. MacLean said he “really appreciated” Tigers owner Jim Thomson and the Tigers bringing in former Humboldt Broncos players for the weekend, who were able to join MacLean and the CBC crew Saturday morning for a segment for that evening’s HNHC broadcast.

“That’s our way of giving them a chance for a starring role in our broadcast,” said MacLean.

No stranger to the media spotlight, MacLean and Thomson go back to Thomson’s days with the Los Angeles Kings, when Thomson played the role of bodyguard to Wayne Gretzky.

“Don was giving it to Wayne Gretzky, after Gretzky was saying we had to maybe think about getting fighting out of hockey. Because of ESPN, and the American audience, we may have to eliminate hockey.”

“Don was outraged, but he didn’t quite know how to say it, because you can’t pull on Superman’s cape. So, he went on the TV, and said ‘well, Wayne’s right, and here come the dancers now. Hockey is a silver ballet. There’s Marty McSorley, and Jim Thomson, and Kelly Hruddy in his blue chiffon.”

Tigers forward Cael Cavallin joined MacLean and Sloane in the booth to announce the three stars of the Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames contest, as did Aurora Panther Emma Irwin, whose intermediate squad had the two hosts drop the puck on their Sunday matinee game against Kingston.

Sunday night’s broadcast also opened with a touching tribute to John Abel, the former Aurora deputy mayor who passed away suddenly on December 6.

“He was a driving force in Aurora sport,” said Maclean. “We just want to extend (to his family) our condolences by singling you out at the start of the telecast.”

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Wayne Emmerson re-appointed Regional Chair

By Brock Weir

Former Whitchurch-Stouffville mayor Wayne Emmerson will once again lead Regional Council for the next four years.

Mr. Emmerson, who was first appointed to the position by Regional Council in 2014 following the retirement of Bill Fisch, was re-elected to the position by Regional Councillors at Thursday evening's inaugural meeting.

He said he feels the Province will make changes to both the Region and local communities, and he called for a place at the table in those discussions.

Nominated by Richmond Hill Mayor Dave Barrow and East Gwillimbury Mayor Virginia Hackson he was uncontested despite others floating themselves as possibilities after the Provincial Government this summer nixed plans to have the position elected by all eligible York Region voters.

"Municipal government is the most important government; it effects the lifestyle of the people the most," said Mr. Emmerson after taking his seat at the head of the table. "We had a great four years and I feel the next four years will be just as good."

The next four years might bring a



York Region Chair Wayne Emmerson prepares to take his seat at Thursday night's inauguration.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

degree of uncertainty to the Region, he added.

"I feel the Province will make changes to our Region and local communities. All I ask is that we are at the table so we can be a part of the decision-making process. We are part of the solution, not part of the problem. Exciting times ahead, but I know this Council is up to

the challenge."

A number of further issues will need to be addressed, he said, outlining the Region's priorities for the term. Top of mind during budget time, he said, was addressing debt, as well as an extension of the Yonge subway line up to Richmond Hill.

"The Yonge Subway Line is our most needed transit project," he said. "We will continue to ask the Province and Federal Governments for the funding to make it operational by 2031 or sooner. An integrated fare system is a must for this term of Council. We will be waiting to see if the Province will do this and upload all transit in the GTA. Housing rental is a high priority. Our DC (development charges) referral and funding from the Federal and Provincial Government will help. We hope to reduce our wait list [and] we can't do it alone on property tax."

Mr. Emmerson called on the Feds to support the Region's commitment to broadband to keep everyone connected, especially businesses, on the Province to enact further "green" measures, while noting growth targets are expected to be reviewed.

"We need more jobs as we continue to grow," he said. "We will continue to build roads and keep our assets in good repair. Our residents can be assured Regional Council will continue to provide funding for our community and health programs. We will maintain our high-quality water and wastewater systems."

Thursday's meeting afforded each member of Regional Council for the 2018 - 2022 term a few moments to address the packed audience gathered at York's Regional headquarters in Newmarket, including Mayor Tom Mrakas.

"I truly am very humbled and honoured to be sitting here with all these elected officials and all of you here tonight," he said. "I am looking forward to working with my Regional Council colleagues to protect and promote the interests not only of the Town of Aurora, but the Region as a whole. I am looking forward to a very exciting and great four years."

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For a copy of a Board Application Package, please contact Claire Shave at 905.853.3040 ext. 302 or cedar@cedarcentre.ca and indicate "Board of Directors" in the subject line.



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AHS student continues support for Kerry's Place with holiday gift cards – and so can you

By Brock Weir

Gift cards are always a safe bet for those on your shopping list this time of year; but local student Amanda Bishop is spicing up the occasionally bland gift of plastic by coupling it with an opportunity to give back.

Amanda, a Grade 11 student at Aurora High School, is encouraging the people in this community to come together and put a few checkmarks on their lists, all in the name of supporting the Aurora-based Kerry's Place Autism Services.

She has created a website at auroragives.tk that gives shoppers the chance to purchase dining gift cards for themselves or others with a portion of each purchase going directly back to Kerry's Place. The first option is the Ultimate Dining Card. With the purchase of a \$100 gift card that gives you entrée to such restaurants as Swiss Chalet, Kelsey's, East Side Mario's, State & Main and much more, \$7 will be donated back to Kerry's Place. Cards purchased at a value of \$100 or more will be shipped free.

A second gift card option, cards can be purchased to cover everything ranging from groceries at Sobey's, to Amazon.ca, and just about anything in between, will see 1.5 – 10 per cent of each card purchase, according to value, going to Kerry's Place.

"I thought, since the holidays were

coming up, there are going to be a lot of people buying gift cards and gifts for other people, and this would be a great way to fundraise for Kerry's Place," says Amanda. "Kerry's Place is an initiative I see that is really needed. They do a lot of great stuff for students and families who have students on the autism spectrum. They run a lot of great initiatives, so I feel we can help as a community to give back to them."

Amanda first became aware of Kerry's Place Autism Services through her father, who has served on the organization's real estate board, which takes care of Kerry's Place residential homes across much of southern Ontario.

The more she learned about the organization and the services they provide, the more she wanted to become involved.

Her involvement began in earnest this past spring around World Autism Awareness Day when she and her fellow students on AHS's Empowering Students Partnership began their Tulips for Autism fundraiser, one they plan to spearhead again in the new year.

"The fundraiser went really well and we raised quite a bit for Kerry's Place, which we were really happy about," she says. "Part of that success is what motivated me to see people in our community care about this initiative and want to support them. I think that people don't

realise how much of an effect ASD has on everyone's lives, because there is quite a large number of people affected by ASD or who have it. It is effecting everyone's lives. Kerry's Place really helps with it, wherever you are on the spectrum, or whether

you're a family member of someone on the spectrum."

For more information on Amanda Bishop's Aurora Gives initiative, including the purchase of gift cards, visit auroragives.tk.




Costs and further submissions to be made January 31

From page 17

"If it happened, Mr. Hinder is a bully," said Mr. Reid. "If Mr. Hinder is a bully, the defamation action, in my submission, fails."

The "punch", he said, took place in a matter of seconds and the entire two-week trial hinged on the jury's perspective on this brief moment of time.

"When (Mr. Hinder] said, 'And who are you supporting tonight?', that alone was bullying," said Mr. Reid. "That alone was meant to ostracize Mr. Pullano and it was accentuated by a punch. It was a jocular punch, which is meant to accentuate the intimidation, insult and demean."

Touching upon the witnesses Mr. Pullano called in this case, Mr. Reid said the minor inconsistencies in their recollections, or parts they didn't remember, strengthened the case, arguing that was mere "human nature," while suggesting Mr. Hinder's witnesses had been "rehearsed."

"The punch happened," he continued. "It wasn't the worst

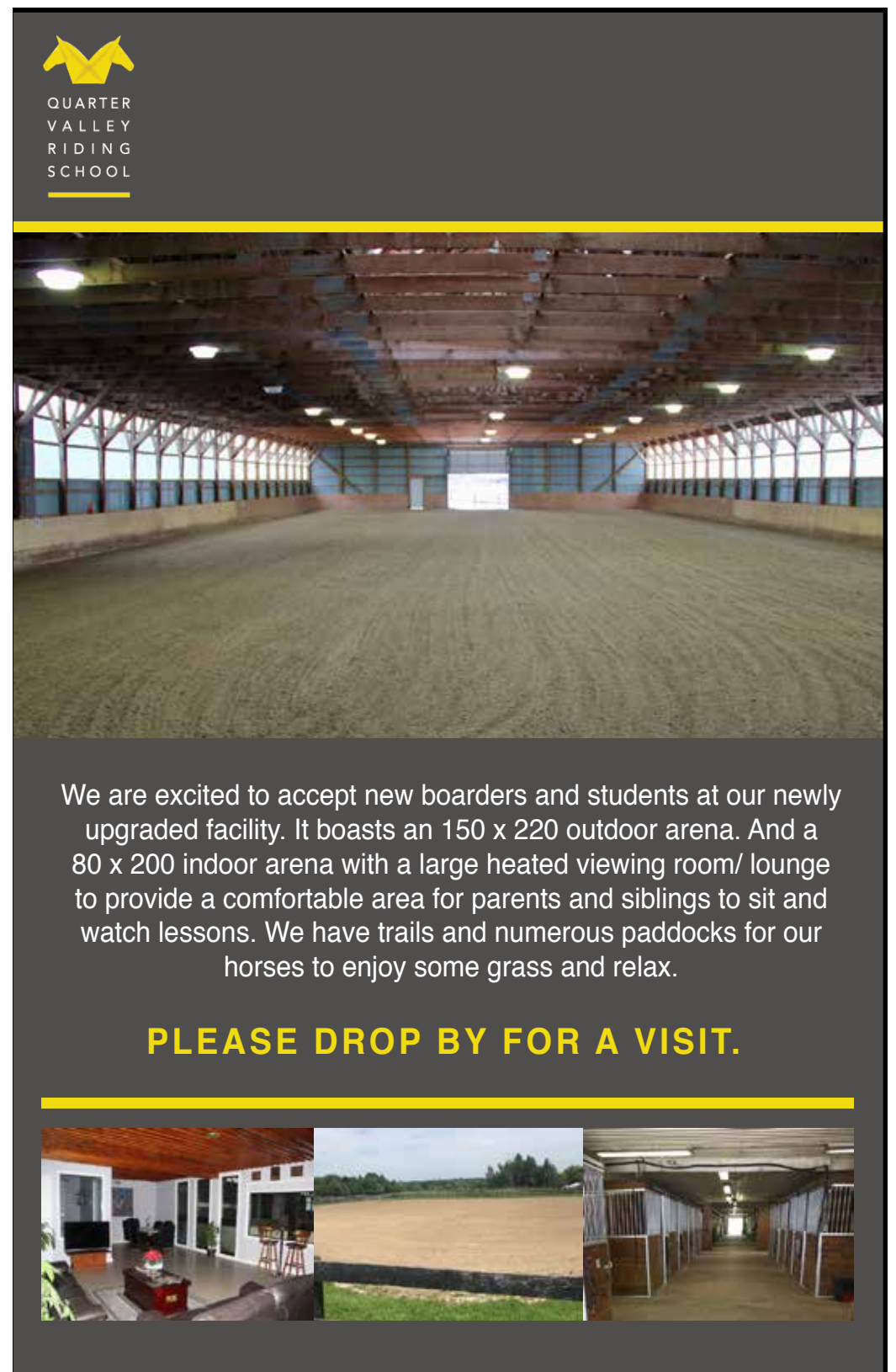
punch in the world. It wasn't meant to cause all these consequences. In my submission, there is pain, suffering, disability, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment of life, emotional and psychological harm."

Considering the "embarrassment, humiliation, anger" experienced by Mr. Pullano, Mr. Reid conceded that his client, later "lost it" on social media, but the ultimate question, he argued, was whether or not Mr. Pullano's tweets were true.

"If it is true, it is not defamation," Mr. Reid told the jury. "If Mr. Hinder punched Mr. Pullano under those circumstances, he's a bully and this is your chance to send a message. The issue here is, did a punch happen? Did the words happen? Was it bullying? If it was, in my view, 98 per cent of these allegations...you can decide what's left."

The jury's question on what constituted a punch, an issue posed to Justice McCarthy during deliberations, went unclarified.

Submissions for cost will be submitted to the court on January 31.



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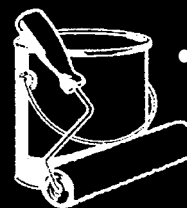


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Mrakas promises “collaborative leadership” in first speech as Mayor

From page 1

traffic solutions that address growth, and fiscal responsibility.

“I am profoundly humbled by the honour of representing our community and I am confident we will work hard to deserve that trust you have placed in us,” said Mayor Mrakas. “Tonight represents the sum total of the hard work, the hopes, the dreams not only of the representatives you see before you, but the residents we represent. Every one of us here tonight has a mission for Aurora.

“Throughout the campaign, each candidate shared their vision and, by your vote, you have chosen us and given us a mandate to bring that vision to life. We recognize that it will be our ability to work towards that realization of that shared vision of Aurora that will mark the success of this term of Council. That future begins tonight.”

The work ahead, he said, will build on much of the groundwork laid by the last term of Council which has made Aurora “now positioned to move forward on important initiatives that will be key community builders in years to come.” These initiatives include the development of Library Square and the renovation of the historic Aurora Armoury, each of which he said will be important building blocks in revitalizing the Downtown Core.

“Heritage buildings are very important to our community and our residents, and businesses expect us to do what we can to protect our history,” he said. “Smart and appropriate growth, development that is in keeping with the vision we have for our community, is the key to a thriving and sustainable community. I will work with Council to ensure the planning decisions we make are focused on providing big city amenities and services while maintaining Aurora’s small-town charm and green spaces for our future generations.

“There are many other important pieces to the puzzle to get us where we want to go: a better community for everyone. Improving the liveability of our community is a key part of community building. Our neighbourhoods are where we call home and it is very important to all of us, but our stable neighbourhoods are under increased pressure due to the demand of development.

“There is widespread concern about inappropriate infill development that does not fit in or keep with the character of our community, and a blanket statement of ‘no monster homes’ isn’t a plan; more needs to be done and that is why one of the first issues this Council will address is a strategy to address that issue of stable neighbourhoods. Work is already underway as the consultant’s report is due in January and I commit to ensuring that we respect our past in our decision-making.”

The issue of affordable and accessible housing are to that work hand in hand with protecting stable neighbourhoods and heritage buildings, he added. Seniors want to stay in the community in which they built their lives and, at the

same time, young families want to put down their roots. Therefore, he said, a “diversity of housing options” such as bungalows and purpose-built rentals is a community need.

“We have the tools to improve the accessibility of housing in Aurora and we will use them,” he said.

Tools to address the issues of traffic and transit are often seen to be in the hands of other levels of government, primarily at the Regional and Provincial levels, but Mayor Mrakas said Council is committed to working with these higher levels to come up with key solutions to get people moving.

Being able to move around – whether on the roads or trails, whether in cars, on foot, or while cycling – is an integral component of a “liveable community,” but a liveable community is also based on “the foundation of sound financial planning and management.” Mayor Mrakas told the assembled audience that Aurora’s financial health is “good” and Council will “prioritize fiscal responsibility in all its decisions.”

The establishment of a Financial Advisory Committee in the last term was an important step towards this, one which the Mayor said implemented the policy of setting Aurora’s tax rate at inflation plus one per cent to keep municipal reserves healthy. The benefit of this, he added, is Aurorans can anticipate what their tax rate will be and will not get caught off-guard “by a massive tax hike.”

“But, there is still a lot of work to be done; we need to continue to grow our reserves while, at the same time, looking at ways to provide the best services in the most cost-effective way without raising taxes,” he said, before touching on efforts this Council will make towards another economic driver: sports tourism.

With new hotels under construction, Aurora will have “leverage” to create a “strong, diverse sports community that will bring in tourism.” At the same time, Aurora will need to be “creative” in how it upgrades existing facilities while working with sports partners to create what he described as “a true centre of excellence, appropriately located to ensure maximum usage.”

“Aurora will always be in good company, but we need to do more,” said Mayor Mrakas, after saying the “time is now” to act on moving forward with a ward system of government. “We need to grow as leaders in York Region and the GTA and that starts right here at this Council table, how we as a Council table work together on your behalf. As we said before, hard work and great ideas aren’t enough to get things done. To get from vision to reality, you need to build support for your ideas and you get support by giving support. That requires two critical elements: collaboration and communication. Collaboration isn’t an empty buzzword, it is an effective tool to get things done. It doesn’t mean we’re always going to agree. That’s impossible. Nor is it desirable. If we all thought the same way all the time, how would we

ever innovate? Respectful, considered, informed debate, is what the residents can expect from this Council.

“As your mayor, I will provide the collaborative leadership in community-focused, common sense solutions that you expect. We were all elected to work in the best interests of Aurora; that is the core principle that our residents expect will guide our every decision. If we collectively and individually consider every issue within that context, add to

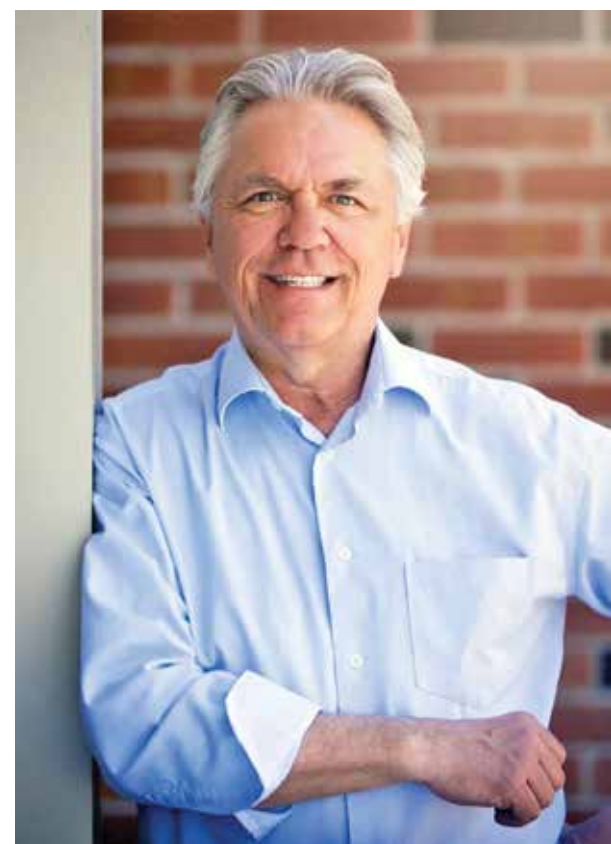
that capacity, residents might not always agree with our decisions, but will respect the integrity of our decision-making process and that, to me, will be a success.

“Together, we will take action to find solutions that represent the challenges and move forward with the innovative possibilities to realise our opportunities. Tonight, ladies and gentlemen, we take our first step toward a shared, positive future. I say to you and your fellow Council members: Let’s get to work.”

THE AURORAN CLASSIFIEDS

DEATH NOTICE

ABEL, John Michael



On Thursday December 6 2018, John Abel, husband, father, brother, uncle, and beloved friend passed away at 64 years of age. John was predeceased by his father James, mother Catherine, and brother Michael. He leaves his beloved wife of 32 years, Tracy, his daughter Devon (Ian), his son Eric, his brother Stephen (Laurie), his sisters Maryanne and Suzanna (Larry) and his many nieces and nephews.

John was passionate about making the lives of everyone in his community better. He had a tremendous, quirky sense of humour, was an avid musician, and in his prime was an excellent, smooth-skating hockey player. John volunteered his time for his children and others as a coach in hockey, baseball and soccer. He continued to volunteer after his children were grown up and embraced his passion for music by playing guitar and singing at various events and charities. John entered politics eight years ago and served two terms as Deputy Mayor. His main objective – and mantra – was to improve the lives of the people of Aurora.

No words can express how much he will be missed by everyone who knew him. Visitation for the family will be held Thursday December 13th and Friday December 14th at the Thompson Funeral Home in Aurora from 2-4 and 6-8 pm. There will be a celebration of life on Monday December 17th at the Aurora Legion from 2-6 pm.

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Join the York Symphony Orchestra for its traditional annual holiday concert filled with seasonal favourites and an audience sing-a-long. Bring the family for this delightful winter concert. Tonight at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's Anglican Church in Richmond Hill. For tickets, call 416-410-0860.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Hillary House expanded Gift Shop open 1 pm to 4 pm, 15372 Yonge Street, Aurora. Complete your Christmas shopping and support Auroras 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

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.

The Newmarket-Aurora Conservative Association is hosting a "Holiday Open House with Lois Brown" today from 2 - 6 p.m. at the Aurora Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway

North, Aurora.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Hillary House expanded Gift Shop open 1 pm to 4 pm, 15372 Yonge Street, Aurora. Complete your Christmas shopping and support Auroras 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

HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR - Join the York Symphony Orchestra for its traditional annual holiday concert filled with seasonal favourites and an audience sing-a-long. Bring the family for this delightful winter concert. Two concerts today at Trinity Anglican Church Aurora: 3.30 p.m. and 8 p.m. For tickets, call 416-410-0860.

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-fr.



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