

IN GOOD COMPANY: An exciting events line-up this summer!

By Mayor Geoff Dawe

Summer is a time to relax, have fun and enjoy quality time with family and friends. Thank you to the residents and visitors who attended our ever popular Canada Day celebration. Your strong display of patriotism and love for our country is inspiring. This hot and humid weather looks like it's here to stay for a while. I'd like to remind residents that the Town has air conditioned facilities, pools and outdoor splash pads available to help beat the heat. For more information on facility or park locations, please visit www.aurora.ca or call Access Aurora at 905-727-1375.

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) is recommending a reduction in water consumption while the hot, dry weather persists. Until there is a significant amount of rainfall, water conservation is encouraged. For Aurora residents and businesses, odd/even watering restrictions are in effect. Check out www.aurora.ca/bylaws for more details.

Don't miss the exciting upcoming events for the remainder of July and the month of August. Just recently, I was asked to deliver an exciting announcement about the upcoming Aurora Ribfest event in August. Two iconic Canadian rock bands, David Wilcox and Haywire, will perform at Aurora's Ribfest on Friday, August 26 and Saturday, August 27 at Machell Park. This year's event is sure to be another hit with this fabulous entertainment and activities line-up. Stay tuned for more details to emerge about this annual celebration!

Join us for Concerts in the Park during July and August. Enjoy dancing and songs by a list of live entertainers. Concerts are free to attend. A food donation to the Aurora Food Pantry is appreciated. Food vendors are also on-site selling a variety of treats for a nominal fee. For your seating comfort, please bring your own lawn chairs.

Also, starting in August, watch some of your favourite movies outdoors on Canada's largest screen! Movies are free to attend. A local food donation is suggested. Arrive early to enjoy movie-themed activities and special pre-movie surprises. For more information about these events or to view the schedules, please visit www.aurora.ca/specialevents.

The Town of Aurora's Finance Committee has started meeting to discuss the 2017 Budget process. Council and staff are working together to create an efficient and effective budget process like last year. The 2017 Budget will follow a similar process as the 2016 Budget, with this year's target being an inflationary adjustment, plus 1 per cent for infrastructure.

The process with Council was open, communicative and well-organized with only minor changes to the proposed budget. The Finance Advisory Committee and Council have finalized and approved two foundational documents regarding the annual budget; the Council Budget Principles and Council Budget Process documents. These documents will help guide and ensure a fair, progressive and affordable budget for Aurora.

I'm pleased to mention that the Ontario Government will be building three new GO Train Stations in York Region/Simcoe County. The new stations will be along the Barrie GO Transit line as part of Metrolinx's GO Regional Express Rail (RER) program. The areas will be on Kirby Road in Vaughan, Mullock Drive in the Town of Newmarket and Innisfil in Simcoe County.

This service will provide travellers with access to all-day, two-way, 15-minute electrified service between Aurora to Union Station, including evenings and weekends, weekday rush 30-minute service between Allandale Waterfront to Union Station and 60-minute service midday. There will be 180 trains per day with 15-minute service. I am pleased about this beneficial announcement because the program, over 10 years, will help manage congestion, increase job opportunities and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by reducing car trips and travel times.

Stay connected to the Town. Visit the Town's website, read the local Notice Board, subscribe to our social media feeds and sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter, Aurora Matters.

Enjoy the summer!