

POLITICS AS USUAL: Aurora 150

By Alison Collins-Mrakas

As you readers know, the Town of Aurora is in the midst of celebrating its sesquicentennial year. Aurora is 150 years old and there are a number of special events sponsored by the Town that will occur throughout the year.

The first was the Mayor's levee held at the historic Town Park on February 3 at the date of the Town's actual birthday. On an absolutely frigid Sunday afternoon, crowds of residents enjoyed games of broomball, and wagon rides and tug of war and a beautiful multi-faith candle lighting service in honour of this milestone event. It was a great day enjoyed by all ? even those of us with absolute popsicles for hands!

Well, there are more wonderful events to come!

On Sunday May 5, the Town of Aurora will play host to a very unique, first time event - the Aurora Tattoo. Starting at 11 a.m., in Machell Park, there will be a fun day jam packed with activities for the whole family.

There will be a lunch with the Queen's York Rangers in collaboration with Aurora Optimists, static military displays, armoured vehicles, and a kid-friendly ?mudder? (a military style obstacle course for the kids). All participants will get a ribbon - A keepsake to say they finished the Aurora Mudder! At 2 p.m., the day will get truly special as Aurora's first Tattoo will be held across the street at the ACC.

In what promises to be a fantastic two hours of music and dance, we will have a show with pipe and drums from across the province. Bands will include the prestigious Governor General Horse Guards, among others.

The event is free but seats are limited so get there early to make sure you get a seat and enjoy the show.

The following month ? on the Canada Day weekend ? there will be a variety of events to be held all weekend long. Saturday, June 29 will feature an art event, a showcase of the bands and youth dance (details will be made public a wee bit later so wait for that announcement!).

One of the highlights of the weekend will be, as The Auroran has reported elsewhere in this paper, that the iconic band Lighthouse will be the headlining act at the annual Dance in the Park! The Town of Aurora, in collaboration with the Rotary Club will have a truly special Dance in the Park this year.

With music starting at 2 p.m. in the afternoon, residents can enjoy hours of music - bands and singers of all kinds of genres ? with the big show starting at 9 p.m. Lighthouse is a fantastic band, famous for its hit songs of the 70s and 80s. I know that residents are pretty excited about the band coming to Town and playing in our Town Park.

The Rotary Club will once again have a beer garden on site for patrons to enjoy while listening to the music. Again, the concert is free, so come early to make sure you get a spot.

That's just a snapshot of what's coming up in the next few weeks. If you'd like more information on Aurora 150, please consult the website at: www.aurora150.ca or check it out on twitter @aurora_150 or facebook Aurora150.

So that's it for this week. Until next time then, stay informed, stay involved because this is after all, Our Town.