

Take a tour of new Joint Operations Centre on Saturday



By Brock Weir

It has been a long time coming, but Aurora's Joint Operations Centre is finally ready to open its doors to the general public. The Town will host the building's formal Grand Opening on Saturday morning, complete with tours of the state-of-the-art new home to Aurora Parks and Public Works departments, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. There will also be a ceremonial tree planting, cake cutting, as well as a chance to win a complimentary composter kit.

“The Joint Operations Centre is a centrally located, modern facility that houses many of our important municipal services,” said Mayor Geoff Dawe in a statement. “We are working towards LEED Gold Certification for the JOC. The Centre is an example of environmental excellence through its use of solar panels, green roofs, fresh air ventilation systems, rain water harvesting program and more.”

On a sneak peek with *The Auroran* on Friday, Phil Galen, Manager of Facilities, Property and Fleet highlighted a number of key features including the building's extensive use of environmentally friendly and recycled materials, the storage of rainwater used to water municipal flower beds and wash municipal vehicles, the state of the art greenhouses and salt dome, on-site woodshop, and expanded garage facilities which allow in house cost-saving vehicle service.

“There has been great feedback from this building,” said Galen, pictured here, left, with Operations and Fleet Supervisor Greg McClenny before a display of archival material. “People love the openness. From all sides, you're getting natural light and it is very collaborative.”