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THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper



Vol. 13 No. 20

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FREE

Week of March 27, 2012



The Aurora Skating Club is presenting their biennial ice show this Saturday at the Aurora Community Centre. The show will highlight the talents of many of the Club's skaters in its Push "Play" And Dance Show. Pictured above are club members Marilena Perri, Taylor Piotrowski, Katie Sutton, Kendall Mannella, and Jasmine Biasi who will feature in the performance. Tickets are available during rehearsals at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Industrial Parkway North Tuesday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and at the door March 31.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Deadline set for new Cultural Centre agreement

By Brock Weir

The Town and the Aurora Cultural Services will have until the end of the year to come up with new agreement.

The timeline was outlined in a report which will be presented at Council this Tuesday on the ongoing negotiations between the Town of Aurora and the Cultural Centre stemming from a motion brought forward in February calling for the termination of the agreement.

Since the February 28 meeting, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe and Town Staff had been meeting with members of the Cultural Centre board in developing terms of reference for a committee to oversee the negotiation of a new agreement.

If the report is passed as-is by Councillors on March 27, representatives for an ad hoc committee will be selected by April 10, two councillors and an alternate will be picked for the ad hoc committee by April 24, followed by three interim reports in April, June, and August. A further

interim progress report due on October 2 will contain a draft agreement in principle serving as the basis for a new agreement.

A final draft of a new Cultural Services Agreement will be completed by December 31, and presented to Council by January 15, 2013, after being first presented to the Centre's board of directors.

When the ad hoc committee gets underway next month it will consist of two council members, plus the alternate and two reps from the Cultural Centre, and "a neutral third party" to act as facilitator during the negotiations, the cost of which will be "shared equally" between the Town and the Centre.

Participating in the discussions as "technical support" will be Aurora CAO Neil Garbe, the Centre's Executive Director, the Centre's lawyer, "and other stakeholders." It is also noted the two Councillors sitting on the ad hoc committee will not be appointed Town representatives on the Centre's Board of Directors.

Please see page 18

Students and teachers are "Dancing for Life" for upcoming Relay

By Brock Weir

When Sandy Smith, one of the moms at Somerville Dance Academy, was diagnosed with cancer in 2004, a small group of students and teachers set out to raise \$100 for Relay for Life in her name.

Sadly, Ms. Smith did not survive her battle, but her memory lives on in the form of Dancing For Life, an ever-expanding team of teachers and students from the school, who have participated almost every year since.

And they haven't just participated, these dancers have waltzed their way consistently into the top three in the fundraising leader board. If they have their way, they will rise to the top again

this spring when Relay for Life convenes on the lawns of Magna on the evening of June 8.

The annual fundraiser is the initiative of the Canadian Cancer Society and teams spend the night celebrating, remembering, and fighting back against the disease which has touched the lives of so many.

Michelle Marshall's life has been touched many times by cancer. The Aurora native, the team leader for Dancing for Life, has seen her father - Aurora Doctor William A. Faudemer - succumb to the disease in his 58th year, and her grandparents were affected as well.

"That is my inspiration," said Ms.

Please see page 17

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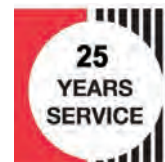


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COMING EVENTS

ON NOW

FEBRUARY - MARCH 31

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Story Quilts featuring the work of Aurora quilter Angela Krotowski. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

FEBRUARY 9 - MAY 5

The Aurora Cultural Centre presents Under Sacred Skies; panoramic oil paintings by Michael Fromowitz in the Great Hall Gallery. Continues through until May 5; Gallery Hours Tuesday - Saturday, 1 - 4 p.m. and during special events; free admission. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or info@auroraculturalcentre.ca

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Garden Aurora! Calling all young gardeners! The Aurora Garden Club invites gardeners aged 5 to 15 to create a 'Floral Clock' using natural materials. Meeting starts at 6.30 p.m. Adults meet at 8 p.m. to hear Rose and Ed Addison speak on the Unique & Diverse Flora of Western Australia. Please join us at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. For further information call 905-713-6660.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

The Aurora Public Library presents MEDIEVAL STAINED GLASS from 7 - 8 p.m. In the Middle Ages, stained glass windows decorated churches and cathedrals. The light streams through in different colours for a beautiful glow. In this exciting workshop, we will replicate stained glass by using tissue paper to create our own Medieval windows. Ages 7+. Registration is \$7.50. For more information contact Polly Ross, Children Services Librarian at 905-727-9494 x 280 or by emailing pross@library.on.ca.

MARCH 29 - APRIL 1

Every three minutes another Canadian is faced with fighting cancer. Throughout April, volunteers in Aurora and across Ontario will be working together to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society during Daffodil Month. Join the fight against cancer March 29 until April 1. Buy daffodils for \$7 a bunch or two bunches for \$12 at Metro, Real Canadian Superstore, Sobeys, LCBO, and No Frills and unite behind those living with cancer. Daffodil pins are also available for a donation throughout the month. Money raised during Daffodil Month helps the Society do everything it can to prevent cancer, fund research to outsmart cancer and empower, inform and support people living with cancer right here in Aurora. Visit fightback.ca or call 905-830-0447 ext. 3833 for more information about Daffodil Month, daffodil sales locations, where to get your daffodil pin or to volunteer.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Trinity Anglican Church is hosting a fundraising concert tonight featuring Canadian singer/songwriter Jodi King. Trinity is delighted and fortunate to have her entertain and inspire our community this week! Money raised at the concert will be used to build a playground for the kids in the community of Attawapiskat near James Bay. Doors open at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For more information, contact 905-727-6107.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

The final indoor Aurora Farmers' Market of the season will be held today at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. All are welcome to shop, browse and eat our indoor Farmers' Market that will feature over 20 of your favourite Vendors including farmers, good and artists. For more information on this and the upcoming

outdoor season of the Market, visit www.theaurorafarmersmarket.com.

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents a special "Earth Hour schoolHOUSE Concert" featuring the voice and guitar Glenn Marais. A seasoned performer and Juno nominee, don't miss this magical evening, with an entirely acoustic portion of the show in observance of Earth Hour. Bring the family! Tickets: \$15; available in advance at the Centre, over the phone with a credit card, or at the door. Fully accessible building; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818, or visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Aurora Skating Club Presents: Push "Play" and Dance, their 2012 Ice Show. Push "Play" and Dance will take place today at the Aurora Community Centre, 1 Community Centre Lane (at Aurora Heights Boulevard). The matinee performance begins at 1 p.m. with the evening performance at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and available during rehearsals at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex on Industrial Drive North March 26 through March 29 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., or at the door on March 31 at the Community Centre.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

An Order of Canada 2011 recipient, Mary Lou Fallis holds a unique position in the music scene as "Canada's foremost musical comedienne". Visual and Performing Arts Newmarket (VPAN) is honoured to present her to our enthusiastic Newmarket audience as the final offering in the 2011/2012 concert series which will take place on April Fool's Day afternoon! The concert will take place today at the Newmarket Theatre. Order your tickets from the theatre's 24-hour box office at 905-953-5122 or visit www.newmarkettheatre.ca.

APRIL 1 - APRIL 30

Artists from L'Arche Daybreak will mount their exhibit With Our Own Hands at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts this month. The exhibit will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and one hour prior to all ticketed performances. The exhibit will be closed to the public on Sundays unless a performance is taking place. "Those with intellectual disabilities have been called 'artisans of the heart' by Jean Vanier," said Richmond Hill artist and L'Arche supporter Jacquie Boughner in a statement. "In this exhibition, the Daybreak artists create works full of joy, life, and peace - a perspective of the heart with which to view and engage the world and society in which we live." For more information, contact L'Arche Daybreak at 905-884-3454.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

Spring classes start today at the Aurora Cultural Centre. A variety of children's art classes starting at age four up through teens, to adult classes in painting, photography, guitar, creative writing and more. Advance registration required. 22 Church Street; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info please call 905-713-1818; class descriptions available at www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

Your hospice needs you! Training commences today for volunteers for both Hospice King-Aurora and the Doane House Hospice. Whether you live in Aurora, King Township, Newmarket, Bradford, or East Gwillimbury, we have a volunteer position that will suit you. For more information, please contact Heidi Bonner at 905-967-0259 or 905-773-0155.

Girls Incorporated of York Region and the Girls of Charles Darrow Co-Op will be hosting a fundraiser at the co-op (135 James Henry Drive, Aurora) tonight from 6 to 7 p.m. entitled "Photovoice - Girls' Vision, Girls' Voices." For more information, contact 905-830-0776.

APRIL 11 - MAY 30

A Bereavement Support Group for adults experiencing the death of a loved one is again being offered at the Aurora United Church for an eight week session, from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Wednesday, April 11 and ending May 30. There is no fee for this program. It is non-denomina-

tional and is open to all in the community. For info call Paula at 905-727-2584 or email bereavement@live.ca.

APRIL 13-28

Theatre Aurora presents "Harvey", Mary Chase's 1944 Pulitzer Prize winning play. The story is about a man whose best friend is Harvey-a six-foot, three-and-one-half-inch tall invisible rabbit. This is the final show of the 2011-12 season. Directed by Reg O'Brien and produced by Anne Currie-O'Brien, the show runs April 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22 (matinee), 25, 26, 27 28. Curtain times are 8.00 p.m. with the matinee at 2.00 p.m. Visit the Theatre Aurora web-site www.theatreaurora.com for further information. Tickets are available on-line through the website, by phone at 905-727-3669, by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca or in person at the Theatre. Theatre Aurora is located at 150 Henderson Drive, Aurora.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

The schoolHOUSE Season Finale Concert at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street is tonight, bringing together favourite musicians from the past season, including Evolution, Judy Marshak and Postcard Comets, as well as newcomers Coca Saviour and Memories Unplugged. Great local talent in a coffeehouse setting - imagine listening to great music in your living room and you'll see what we mean! Tickets: \$15. Doors open at 7.00 p.m.; concert at 7.30 p.m. Tickets available in advance over the phone, or in person at the Centre. 22 Church Street, Aurora; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info: www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

Two yoga classes, suit all levels, 1.00 - 3.30 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria Street, Aurora. \$10 donation to Amnesty International. All welcome. For more information, call 905-476-6535 or email mbf@lindavarnam.com.

The York Symphony Orchestra welcomes Brazilian conductor Rafael Luz to the podium for its next series of concerts celebrating "Northern Images". The guest soloist for the enormously popular romantic masterpiece, Edward Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor is York Region's own Maggie Ho. Their program will include two other orchestral crowd pleasers from the romantic period as well as Dvorak's Sixth Symphony, in D Major. The Performance will be held tonight at 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church. Tickets may be purchased by calling 416-410-0860 or at the door the night of the performance.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Xi Gamma Mu, a chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority will be holding a social tea at St Andrew's Valley Golf Club on St John's Sideroad East, Aurora, today from 2 to 4 p.m. All proceeds will be given to Belinda's Place. "Help Build the Hope....Belinda's Place will offer hope to women without a home and will provide life-changing services that promote stability, dignity and self-reliance." Ticket price is: \$35. Ticket includes tea, coffee, sweets & savory treats, and afternoon entertainment. Tickets can be purchased from: Pamper Me Please in Aurora (905-726-3605) Neighbourhood Network at 14996 Yonge Street, Aurora, and Roadhouse & Rose Funeral Home 157 Main Street South, Newmarket.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Bob McRoberts will lead a heritage discussion entitled "Postcards of Old Aurora: The McRoberts Collection" at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. A digital unveiling of his vast and unique collection of local postcards, alongside current photos. Admission by donation is gratefully received. Light refreshments are provided.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

The Aurora United Church will hold its Spring Rummage sale today from 1- 8 p.m. with today being the individual sale. Items include clothing, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. All proceeds fund local charities and some charities received leftover clothes filling their wish lists for their clients free of charge.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

The Aurora United Church continues its Spring Rummage sale - this time its bag sale - today from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Items include clothing, linen, books, toys, and garage sale items. All proceeds fund local charities and

some charities received leftover clothes filling their wish lists for their clients free of charge.

The York Region Food Network will host the York Region Seedy Saturday Garden Show at the Aurora Cultural Centre (22 Church Street) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include a seed exchange, guest speakers, food demonstrations, door prizes, and much more! Come on out! Admission by donation. For more information, contact info@healthyfestivals.org or go to www.healthyfestivals.org/events/seedy.aspx.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

The fourth Annual Runway to Spring 2012 Fashion Event in Support of the Easter Seals Kids takes place today at the Country Day School Performing Arts Centre from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. hosted by Michele Denniston of Century 21 Heritage Group of Richmond Hill. The event features many local restaurants, caterers and food specialists, and will bring together some of this year's trendiest fashion retailers from the surrounding community. There will be food samples and a wine tasting followed by a fashion show as well as a silent auction, raffle prizes, and a live band throughout the afternoon. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. For more information contact event coordinator Michele McDonald at 647-454-6025 or flumpydog@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

2nd annual "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" dinner dance will be held at the Mansion (formerly Dinardo's) tonight. A website www.iloverockandroll.ca is also up and running for further information. Tickets are available now by calling 905-727-8600 and expected to sell out fast so if you are planning to attend and don't want to be disappointed, get your tickets soon.

The Aurora Seniors' Centre will hold its annual spring sale, including a white elephant sale, a book area, and amazing home baking. Members of the ASA's sewing, wood shop and knitting groups will also have their treasures for sale, along with members of the Aurora Farmers' Market. There is something special for everyone.

The Aurora Cultural Centre proudly presents the 4-member a capella group Soul Influence with "A Musical African Journey". A Pan-African celebration of gospel sounds to mark their new CD "GIGO". An amazing collection of four voices - a perfect family night! Check them out at www.soulinfluence.org. Tickets: \$20. Doors open at 7.30 p.m.; concert at 8 p.m. Tickets available in advance over the phone, or in person at the Centre. 22 Church Street, Aurora; wheelchair accessible at north entrance. For info, visit www.auroraculturalcentre.ca.

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum presents History Hands On (H2O) in Spring today from 12 noon to 4 p.m. H2O in Spring is a chance to really experience life as it was more than 100 years ago! Visit the Log Cabin and try your hand at some Pioneer chores. Help prepare treats in the Farmhouse kitchen and recite your lessons to the Schoolmaster in the 19th century classroom. Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted. The museum is located at 14732 Woodbine Ave in Gormley. Call 905-727-8954.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Aurora's St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hosts its Spring Indoor Vendor Market today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local vendors and artisans are all under one roof with unique one-of-a-kind products and services. Jewellery, home ware, foods, clothing, etc are just a few of the items available. Some local familiar names are Twist, Nady Dog Biscuits, Pampered Chef, Creative Bears, R&J Concepts, Simply Sweets by Patti and many more. Looking for that special Mother's Day gift? This is the perfect place. Proceeds from the event go to local charities. Vendors/Artisans... book your spot now. 905-841-2864.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Ron Wallace will lead a heritage discussion entitled "How the Word Got Around: A Historical Look at Local Newspapers" at the Aurora Cultural Centre at 7 p.m. A

Continued on 22

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Friday was a busy day around Aurora for members of the ABE Network. Adam Brookes (pictured above left) was busy working at Omar's Shoes, while Celine Trembly, Elaine Hurst, Doug Sooley, Amanda Parker, and Evan Fawns, prepared a lunch for members out at other work placements throughout Town. Auroran photos by David Falconer (L) and Brock Weir (R)

Network provides support and opportunities where school leaves off

By Brock Weir

Joan Hurst and Barb Allen's daughters had several things in common. They were in high school at the same time. Both had blossomed in their inclusive school environment. Both were ready to leave high school, but both has special needs.

When Joan and Barb sat down one day to talk about their daughters, who were leaving their high school programs at the age of 21, the women wondered what the future held for their kids. Both mothers wanted them to continue the well rounded community lives they enjoyed in high school and both set about to make that a reality.

The duo founded Aurora's ABE Network, an Aurora based non-profit group which seeks to provide young adults with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to live, work, and play within their communities.

"It just started as a simple conversation, and we certainly didn't have the ABE Network in mind," said Ms. Hurst of the group's concept days. "We just mulled over the idea for about a year and just said, 'Let's do it! Let's go and investigate.'"

Looking at what other community groups were doing in and around York Region and the Greater Toronto Area, the two decided they wanted to create something unique to fill what they saw as a "huge need" in developmental services for young adults leaving high school. They soon formed an advisory committee of other parents and people who had worked in the developmental field, and developed their "response" to the need.

"Our response was to really target a population of young adults who are leaving high school," Ms. Hurst told The Auroran. "You get them before they are sitting at home for a year or two with or without their parents, without a really concrete plan for

them. Our intake people who are just coming out of high school have had really good co-op experiences in a high school setting, and they are ready for the next challenge.

"We really want to build it so they can build their skills, knowledge, and confidence so they can participate in the workplace and the community. That's the key to build those things."

When The Auroran visited The ABE Network on Friday, many of its members were scattered around the community at their various work placements, including Adam who spent his morning at Omar's Shoes, while other members were working in-house on different activities at their headquarters - the rectory of Aurora's Trinity Anglican Church.

One could sense the flurry of activity immedi-

ately after crossing the threshold. A few steps into the front door and rounding the corner were ABE network members Elaine Hurst, Doug Sooley, and Evan Fawns peeling vegetables for the day's lunch - sweet potato and Gouda soup - with volunteers Celine Trembly and Amanda Parker. Upstairs was quieter as Mary Haberer, Devin Turner, and Andrew Hughes worked in the solarium on their literacy programs. It was all in a day's work, but the soup had to be ready before the others at their workplaces came back to grab some grub.

Literacy is just one of the many programs the ABE Network offers its members. Additional programs include transit training to help members get around Town independently and enjoy all the community has to offer, volunteering pro-

grams to "contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community", recreation programs with every member becoming enrolled at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, and, of course, their work placement program.

Nearly 20 local companies have signed up as community partners with ABE to provide work opportunities for members including ACS Distributing, Apple Suites, Fitness Clubs of Canada, Five Below, Longo's, Mark's Work Wearhouse, Mastermind, Omar's Shoes (owner Raz

Continued on 18

Briefly

AIDS GROUP GETS FEDERAL BOOST

The AIDS Committee of York Region has found new support in the Federal Government. The investment was announced last week by Newmarket-Aurora MP Lois Brown on behalf of Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health. The investment is in support of community based projects that raise awareness of the virus throughout the community. "By supporting this project, high-risk populations in York Region will see improved access to relevant information and resources focused on HIV prevention and transmission," said Ms. Brown in a statement. The Committee plans to invest this money in programs such as workshops, outreach materials, and the development of social media to build community awareness. "These investments will help us work towards our goal of helping those living with and affected by HIV or AIDS to overcome social, economic and service challenges so they can lead an informed, healthy, and empowered lifestyle," added Marnie Sigmar, Chair of the committee's board.

MORE POLICE, LESS FORCE

13 new officers were recently appointed by the York Regional Police as cadets-in-training. The appointments were made by the Police Services Board last week. According to the YRP, the new officers bring wide-ranging skills and life experience to the force, as well as a pantheon of languages including French, Hebrew, Norwegian, Slovak, Czech, German, Russian, and Italian. With the appointment came word that the use of force across the Region was down last year compared to 2010. According to the YRP, 177 Use of Force incidents were reported for the 2011 calendar year, down 15 per cent from the year previous. "In 2011, 60 firearm rounds were discharged during 51 incidents which represents a decrease of 31 per cent from the previous year," said the Police.

PUBLIC TO HAVE SAY IN TREE PROTECTION

Aurora has extended its public consultation period to gauge residents on new measures to protect trees in Town. The extension was made to accommodate a new public consultation session on Wednesday, April 25, which will be held at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. New measures in the draft tree protection bylaw affect the number of trees individual homeowners can cut down, as well as regulating the number of trees that can be felled in the course of a year by golf courses, and new standards for heritage trees. In the meantime, you can have your say by commenting on the new measures by visiting www.aurora.ca/aurora/drafttreebylaw, or contacting Parks Manager Jim Tree at jtree@aurora.ca or 905-727-3123 ext. 3222.

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Brock's Banter

By BROCK WEIR

Choose your own adventure

I'm feeling lucky this week.

Of course, I'm tempting the fates by saying that. I could, after all, be hit by a bus at any moment (one of the most important reasons for wearing a fresh pair of underwear daily, my grandmother informs me) but Friday afternoon I became suddenly confident on how this Tuesday's Council meeting will go.

It wasn't a dream, nor was it a hallucination, but like many interested bystanders in this great debate over the future of the Cultural Centre, I was one of the many people that eagerly anticipated Friday's release of the Council agenda.

Opening up the document, I experienced a strong sense of déjà-vu.

Councillors are once again going to take another crack at hearing the options available for Aurora's long proposed youth centre from Al Downey and the unfortunate consultants who had to sit through last month's dog and pony show ultimately for no reason whatsoever.

Perhaps knowing what their Friday afternoon audience would be, the cunning people in charge of drafting the agenda put the main event as the very last item.

In the lead up to Friday, both parties promised a calm and sedate meeting, describing something that could be one step removed from a pure catharsis; knowing the task ahead, knowing what it takes to get the job done, and clear parameters to meet those expectations.

Let's stroll through those plans for a moment, shall we?

The document starts off with a heartwarming section devoted to fleshing the values and principles shared by both the Town and the Cultural Centre. Fine, they're both on the same page for the potential value Culture can bring to the community. They both want to have a balanced program that contributes to Town goals. Great. They both support an arm's length corporation. Okay, that could inspire some spirited discussion but nothing we haven't heard before.

Both parties list a number of grievances they want addressed, most of which have been addressed in lengthy debates for well over a year. Collectively, they have identified Council representation on the board, the Centre participating in budget discussions, the development of key performance indicators ...and the care, interpretation and display of heritage artefacts.

That could be a sticking point, but press on, but let's move on to Section 5 addressing "technical support."

"Both parties shall agree on a neutral third party to act as a facilitator...with the cost for the facilitator shared equally by the Town and the Centre."

I paused, and re-read.

"Shared equally by the Town and the Centre."

Uh-oh.

It was at that point I heard the firm voice of Councillor Buck.

"Shared equally by the Town and the Centre!" exclaimed an exasperated Councillor Buck in the scene unspooling in my mind. "We provide the Centre's funding so we're going to be paying for the whole damn thing!"

Arms flew up, hands hit the table, points of order were being called left and right to counter that assertion. Councillor Ballard pointed out the Cultural Centre has their own stream of revenue coming in from ticketed events and donations. Mayor Dawe chimed up and said he wasn't going to allow the discussion to continue and ruled Councillor Buck out of order. She challenged the ruling of the Mayor. Unsuccessful, she took her Christmas hat out from under the desk (kept there for just such an opportunity), threw it into the audience like Mary Tyler Moore, and challenged the Cultural brigade right then and there to pass the hat and take up a collection for their share of this mediator.

As the scenario continued to play out, I made a note to bring a magazine and an Easter egg or six to nibble on in case this does happen. And I can't rule it out.

If supporters of the Cultural Centre pack the room once again to the gills, the report is probably going to be pulled forward and handled near the start of the evening anyway.

I hope the Youth Centre people have learned the hard way and bring books and Snuggles with them to settle in for a long evening.

By the time ground is finally broken on a youth centre, the kids of today will be getting their kicks at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

SENIOR SCAPE

Speaking of the Aurora Seniors' Centre, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Brian Warburton for his hard work on his Senior Scape column for The Auroran. Brian has been submitting his weekly column to us diligently through the years. After last week's column, Brian has decided to give his keyboard a well-earned rest and focus on other interests. Knowing how vividly Brian has described all the wonderful opportunities provided by the Centre, we're sure his dance card quickly filled up. Thanks, Brian!

Letter to the Editor

Run for Southlake is approaching

To the editor:

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, Aurora will be the hosting municipality for the third annual A&B Courier Run or Walk for Southlake

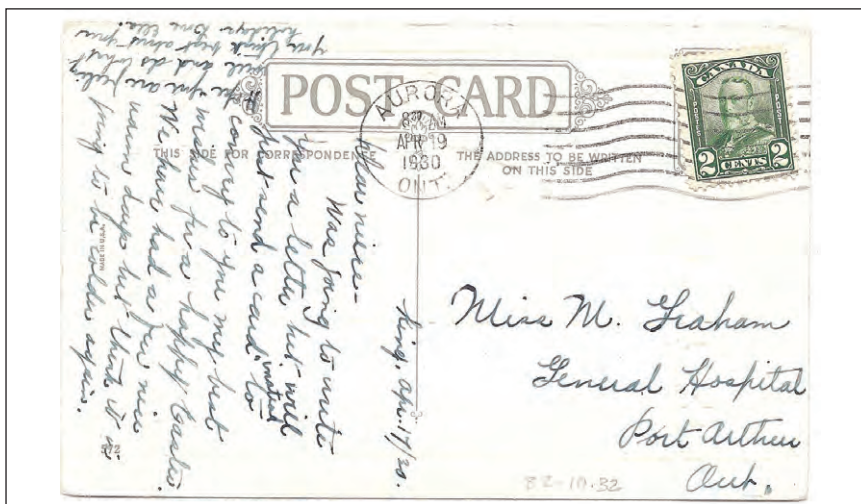
Hospital.

The fundraising event features a 5km or 10k walk or run, and a kids' mini mile. Friends, Family & Children are welcome! Mayor Dawe has a registered team,

"Town of Aurora", and all are invited to join! For more information or to register visit www.runforsouthlake.ca or feel free to contact me at 905-727-1433. Register by March 31st to take advan-

tage of lower registration fees! Hope to see you on the 29th!

Councillor Sandra Humfries
Aurora



The above Easter greeting was sent from Aurora on April 19, 1930 to an M. Graham at a Port Arthur hospital by the recipient's Aunt Ella in King. In her note, Ella says, "Was going to write you a letter but will just send a card instead to convey to you my best wishes for a Happy Easter. Have had a few nice warm days but think it is going to be colder again. Hope you are feeling well and do what you think best about your holidays." We're glad to see citizens of 1930 were also experiencing this erratic Easter-time weather!

To submit a letter to the editor please send your email to letters@auroran.com – deadline for submissions is Saturday at 1 p.m.

Letter to the Editor

Residents should be able to support trails by donation

To the editor:

Today, I shall request the Town of Aurora allow me to make a five minute presentation at Tuesday's Council meeting to request the setting up of a special "trails reserve account."

The purpose of such an account will be for the Town to receive donations specifically earmarked for the costlier expenditures related to the trails network expansion.

In October of last year, Aurora Town Council adopted unanimously the Trails Master Plan.

During the study that led to that Master Plan, and to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan two years earlier, the residents of Aurora indicated that they not only strongly favour expansion of the trails network, but want the Town of Aurora to spend tax dollars on achieving just that.

During one survey, the residents who are currently using sidewalks and roads to do walk-

ing and cycling, also strongly indicated that they would switch to off-road trails, if they become available.

At this time there is no opportunity for Aurorans to show their support of off-road trails in a tangible way.

The setting up of a charitable organization would be a very cumbersome way of dealing with such shortcoming.

But the Town of Aurora could set up a reserve account into which any person like me, and corporations included, could pay donations. The donations would be eligible for tax deductions, provided an official receipt is issued by the Town.

My request to Aurora Town Council, therefore, amounts to a request to allow such receipts to be issued. That is a relatively small task for a potentially large benefit.

Naturally, a list of donors will have to be kept. Also, an annual report on donation activities and payments made from that account, would have to be

made.

All indications are that Aurorans appreciate the trails we already have. I believe that Aurorans are not only appreciative, but are quite willing to contribute what amounts to extra tax dollars, provided they know that they will be spent on an amenity

they appreciate.

And I'm hoping that all Councillors will agree to facilitate such tangible shows of support by voting for the setting up of a Trails Reserve Account.

Klaus Wehrenberg
Aurora

—THE AURORAN—

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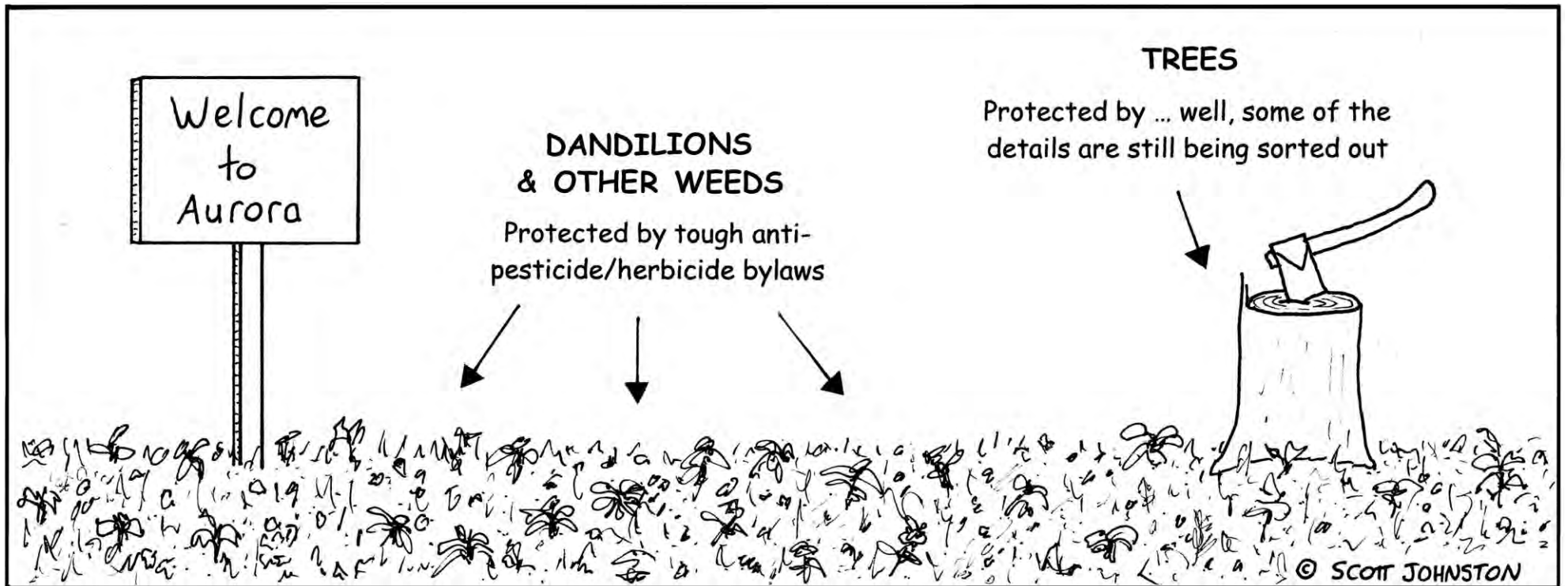
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Frankly Speaking

By FRANK KLEES
MPP Newmarket-Aurora

Auditor General on ORNGE: Didn't Pass The Smell Test

In my last column, I told you that I met with the Auditor General last summer to discuss my concerns about what was going on at ORNGE, Ontario's air ambulance service.

I also explained that I had attempted to bring those same concerns to the attention of the Premier, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Health as far back as April of 2011, but my warnings in the legislature were met with an arrogant dismissal.

This past week, it was gratifying to see that my concerns and the information that I conveyed to the Auditor General were validated in his Special Report on ORNGE.

In a scathing indictment, the Auditor General confirmed that the Minister of Health and senior government officials, including senior advisors to the Premier had ignored what should have been obvious signs of trouble at ORNGE.

Another Billion Dollar Scandal

In addition to the more than \$700 million that the Ministry of Health gave to ORNGE since 2006 to provide air ambulance service, taxpayers are on the hook for another \$300 million that was borrowed through companies owned by the President, members of senior management and the Board of Directors of ORNGE.

Here's the real scandal...

In a letter addressed to the Minister of Health and copied to Deputy Ministers in three ministries and senior advisers to the Premier and the Minister of Finance, ORNGE's outrageous scheme was described in great detail. And yet, not one among them triggered to the fact that the public interest may be at risk... Or did they?

**"To the nose of this watchdog,
this just didn't pass the smell test!"**

These were the exact words used by the Auditor General when he tabled his report in the Legislature on March 21. He was referring to that scheme of non-profit and for-profit spinoff companies that was disclosed in such detail to those senior government officials, including the Minister of Health.

There has not been one person, with whom I've discussed this issue, who believes that the alarm bells didn't go off - at least in the minds of those civil servants who were fully aware of their responsibilities to protect the public interest. So why the silence? Who and what was behind the silencing?

Friends of the Premier and the Liberal Party played key roles...

We know that one of the key architects of the complex corporate scheme at ORNGE was the former Liberal Party President, who collected millions in legal fees for his advice. We know that the former Chief of Staff to the Premier and Liberal Party Campaign Director, facilitated numerous meetings between the government and ORNGE. We also know that key positions at ORNGE were populated by Liberal insiders and former staff of Liberal cabinet ministers.

Who knew what and when?

On March 28, the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature will begin hearings on the Auditor General's Report. Unfortunately the scope of those hearings are limited, and the Committee will not be able to call the witnesses who have the answers as to the important questions about who influenced whom and why this scandal was allowed to spin out of control right under the nose of the Premier, the Minister and numerous public officials.

That's why the legislature passed my Motion on March 20th to

establish an All-Party Select Committee of the legislature for the express purpose of investigating the ORNGE scandal. That Select Committee would be empowered to call a wide range of witnesses and would not be limited to the narrow scope of the legislature's Standing Committees.

The objective of that Committee would be twofold:

First, to get to the bottom of who knew what and when and who was responsible for waste and mismanagement at ORNGE.

Second, and most important, to hear from current and former front line staff at ORNGE about what went wrong, and what needs to be done to restore confidence in Ontario's air ambulance service.

Those employees would be granted whistleblower protection to ensure that there are no reprisals against them for testifying before the Committee.

Every Liberal MPP voted against the Select Committee

Although the McGuinty government has made it clear that they will do everything possible to stop the striking of a Select Committee, the NDP have committed to support our PC Caucus in its efforts to force these hearings.

When asked if he believes that there are other issues at ORNGE that are still uncovered, the Auditor General replied, "I am 99 per cent sure that there are other companies and other issues."

The public deserves to know and we intend to do our part to get those answers.

To view the full report by the Auditor General, visit www.auditor.on.ca

As always, I look forward to your comments and advice. I can be reached at 905-750-0019 or through my website at www.frankklees.com.



Inside Aurora

By SCOTT JOHNSTON

It was an unusually sunny day, and although the trees weren't out yet, I was enjoying a stroll through the Aurora Arboretum. It was here that I came across the Easter Bunny sitting on a bench.

I don't think I'd ever seen him so happy.

I was surprised, as I had run into him in previous years, and he always seemed in a last-minute panic about not having everything done in time.

Sitting down next to him, I remembered an encounter we'd had a few days before Easter a couple of years ago, when he was completely disheveled, with his fur matted and covered in blotches of food colouring. The Bunny before me was the exact opposite; well-groomed, serene, and not a hair out of place.

"You look great," I remarked, "and so relaxed, too. Don't tell me you're all ready for the town's annual Easter Egg hunt?"

"Yup," he smiled, lacing his paws behind his head and leaning back in the sunshine. "For the first time, I'm done early."

"That's amazing," I said. "All that work? It usually takes you forever to colour and hide fourteen thousand eggs. You must have gotten help this year."

"I don't need assistance, anymore. They've changed

how it works," he explained. "In the old days, the kids rushed to collect as many eggs as they could find. It was a free-for-all," he said, shuddering at the memory, "especially when we had the chocolate eggs."

"Anyway, that's why I used to have to prepare so many; to ensure there were enough for the children to fill each of their baskets. In the new process, the kids only need to find one egg, and then they turn it in for a prize."

"There are only a fraction as many eggs needed now," he concluded. "After all those years of decorating thousands of eggs, doing a few hundred is a snap, and doesn't take any time at all."

"That's great," I said. "And obviously a lot easier for you."

"I'll say," he replied. "And now I can sit back and enjoy this terrific spring weather."

We sat contentedly for a few minutes. A bird landed on a nearby branch. We listened to it sing for a moment before it flew away.

I was curious to learn more about this new Easter Egg Hunt format, and turned to look at him. "So, what kind of prizes have you obtained for the kids?"

"Prizes?"

"Yeah. What sorts of things will each child be able to redeem their eggs for?"

His eyes went wide, as he unlaced his paws and sat up straight.

"What?" I asked, perplexed.

"I'm used to just doing the egg part," he said, a nervous twitch starting at the left side of his mouth, and causing his whiskers to tremble violently.

"You said you finished that already."

"Yeah, but I forgot all about getting the prizes. I've never had to do that before!"

His eyes went wide with increasing realization. "That's the most important part!"

He jumped off the bench, and looked around wildly trying to figure out in which direction to turn. Then, before I knew it he had run off up the trail, a desperate cry of "Easter's this week-end!" trailing behind him.

As I watched him disappear into the distance, I thought how nice it was to have seen him calm and not disheveled for a change.

I should have known it wouldn't last.

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

Easter Time



Poor Ronnie

By RON WALLACE

I Love Rock 'n Roll

Elvis, the guy from Richmond Hill, won't be at the second annual Rock and Roll dance April 28 in Aurora, but organizer Alan Hayes promises someone better.

He and Brian Larter preceded the discussion on the Cultural Centre at a recent Town Council open forum.

The two of them presented the April 28 dinner dance and encouraged anyone that is planning to attend to get their tickets soon, as they are 50 per cent sold with only seven weeks to go.

Freddy Vette and the Flames are returning, but the Elvis Tribute Artist will be Roy LeBlanc, a Vegas World Champion and multiple Collingwood Champion.

Roy is from St. Thomas and also does amazing renditions of Roy Orbison and Johnny Cash.

This year's event will include another electric scooter in a silent auction, plus plans are in the works to have a "Heads and Tails" contest as well as a 50/50 draw.

Visit the website: iloverockandroll.ca and watch a great promotional video created by Aurora's Brian Larter.

Remember the evening with a professional framed photograph, featuring Elvis, the showgirls or a Harley Davidson motorcycle. The photo is available for a nominal fee.

Alan presented the outline of the event on Tuesday, February 28 and got a round of applause when he thanked the large crowd for coming to hear his presentation. (The crowd was actually there to listen to the Cultural Centre's issues).

All proceeds from this year's dance will go to CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors). Last year, more than \$7,000 was raised for Community Living in Aurora and Newmarket.

The dance will again be held at The Mansion (Dinardo's), on Industrial Parkway South and tickets, now on sale for \$75 each, are available at Highland Chevrolet Cadillac, or by calling 905-727-8600. You can also get a table of 10 for \$725 or a table of 12 for \$870.

A ticket includes a three-course dinner plus wine. There will also be a silent auction, and door prizes, etc.

Here's what they're saying about Roy LeBlanc:

"Roy LeBlanc has an amazing stage presence and a powerful voice, but what is most impressive is his respect for others which truly reflects the same values as my cousin Elvis Aaron Presley"

- Donna Presley

"...had people of all ages up dancing and singing. The way he interacted with the crowd was truly amazing. At Defasco Steel's Canada concert all 15,000 in attendance couldn't believe their eyes or their ears. Elvis Lives!" - Dan Kay, Defasco Steel.

"There are many Elvis acts and the ones that have the look rarely have the voice. Roy LeBlanc has been blessed with both. Combine that with his charisma and you can see why Roy and one of the most sought after shows on the planet! -Will Chambers - Collingwood Elvis Fest (World's Largest Elvis Festival)

Sounds like Alan has another winner on his hands

In two weeks, we'll talk about the 125th birthday for the former Aurora High School, better known today as Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School. I should have been at the meeting a couple of weeks ago, but I elected to attend a PACT meeting instead.

Feel free to e-mail Ron at: rwall9999@rogers.com

Aurora Seniors Duplicate Bridge Results

March 12

N/S
1st - Jean Bongard and Peter Winders
2nd - Nan McLean and Carole Bell
3rd - Dave Legallais and Lucille Sequeira

E/W
Tied for 1st - Marion Warburton and Noreen Hashem and Suzanne Nunn and Shirley Laurin
2nd - Kay Morrison and Murray Sinclair

March 19

N/S
1st - Lucille Sequeira and Dave Legallais
2nd - Carole Bell and Nan McLean
3rd - Simmo and Lisa Pii

E/W
1st - Barbara Wittmer and Audrey Robertson
2nd - Greta Ogden and Judy Salmon
3rd - Ed Smereka and Priscilla Hull

Letters to the Editor

Reader identifies "huge flaw" in past traffic studies

To the editor:

A huge flaw in the whole traffic calming solution that was implemented is the fact that the residences that were consulted for input into the solution did not truly and accurately represent

the residences that would be directly impacted by the implemented solution.

I live on Odin Crescent and commute on Walton each and every day - sometimes several times a day - to get in and out of my neighborhood.

Aurora has been very generous to arts and culture

To the editor:

In response to Nancy Newman's, chair of Society of York Region Artists, paean of praise for the Aurora Culture Centre in last week's *Auroran*, allow me to note the following:

The Aurora Art Show and Sale has been fostered and nurtured by the Town Of Aurora for fifty years.

It was started by two young artist mothers, Mabel Pearson and Cathan Schonicker, residents of Jasper Drive and Sunray Place.

Pat Barber of Holman Crescent and Dorothy Clark McClure became part of the Aurora organization.

Pine Tree Potters received the same encouragement and support that allowed them to flourish, from Ernie Batson, our Community Centre manager and recreation director, fifty years ago.

It quickly became a Juried Art Show by the level of excellence achieved by Aurora's artist com-

munity.

When our new Town Hall was built, a Skylight Gallery was included in the design as a home for a proud aspect of our community life.

The Aurora Art Show has been held in May in our Town Hall every year since. A budget is dedicated to the event by council each year. In 2011, a budget of \$6,580 was allocated.

The funds were dedicated primarily to extensive marketing and a promotion campaign.

SOYRA provide volunteers for the event, assisting staff with set-up, take down and reception duties during the show.

In 2011, \$5,100 was spent from the budget.

A registration fee of \$22 was charged each artist and 20 per cent commission on all sales during the show and sale. Last year's revenue from the show was \$4,500, leaving a deficit of \$600. Traditionally the show breaks even.

The town provides a grant of \$1,000 each year to SOYRA to

When the study was launched several years ago, I was never directly contacted by the Town nor the consulting group hired at the time.

I had heard that direct consultation was performed and I contacted Town Hall to inquire

why I was never contacted and [it was] because my street was north of Mark, I fell outside the zone of direct consultation.

The solution as implemented has always benefited the residences of those particular streets in the smaller area of Centre, Mark, Walton and Spruce at the expense of everyone else who lives in the wider neighborhood and needs to commute through the area to get to and from their homes. I am not taking a short-cut when I drive on Walton.

I am a resident of this neighborhood and I have been negatively impacted by the traffic calming.

The consultation area should have been widened to streets north of Mark up to Batson and beyond. This is a solution that started off with good intentions, but got flawed along the way in the execution of the solution.

And the first flaw is I and other residences who live in this neighborhood were never consulted. And the result is a solution that benefits a small portion of homeowners along the specific streets targeted for traffic reduction at the expense of everyone else in the neighborhood.

hang art on the walls of the second floor reception area of the Town Hall.

For decades, the Town has provided free use of space in the old library building every Tuesday from 6.30 to 10.30 p.m. for art classes and meetings.

For fifty years the town has been a supportive partner with the art community in Aurora and since it became the Society of Artists of York Region.

It ill-behooves Nancy Newman to denigrate support received from the Town by comparison with free facilities, staff and sales opportunities provided at the Culture Centre. They are not free. They are provided at taxpayers' expense.

By the way, I had no idea the extent of Town generosity until I asked for specifics.

Councillor Evelyn Buck
Aurora

Kevin Pare
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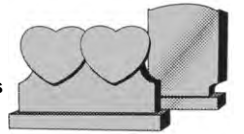
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Aspiring Aurora chef wins competition

By Brock Weir

It was more Ironman than Iron Chef for aspiring foodies this weekend as they participated in a race against time right here in Aurora.

It was all part of the Farm to Fork Culinary Competition, the first of its kind in North America.

The brainchild of Aurora's King Cole Ducks, the Farm to Form Culinary Competition - and particularly the Great Amazing Duck Race -- saw culinary teams from Algonquin College in Ottawa, North Bay's Canadore College, London's Fanshawe College, George Brown and Humber Colleges in Toronto, Peterborough's Fleming College, and Kingston's St. Lawrence College descend on Aurora to kick off the culinary journey which culminated in a cook-off at George Brown.

The competition began at daybreak with teams collecting eggs, then running to the main farm to "showcase their

knife skills by prepping galantines, supremes, and confit," said King Cole Ducks. "They busied and subway'ed as fast as possible to Union Station where they raced to St. Lawrence Market to shop for the ingredients of their recipes before the last stop, a cook-off at the kitchens of George Brown College.

"The dawn to dusk gate to plate recipe competition focused on the farm, food, cooking and presentation of the best duck appetizer and entree."

According to Patti Thompson, Director of Canadian Sales and Marketing for the company, which consists of a network of 14 farms throughout York Region which hatches and dispatches the poultry, the event was to showcase the journey of food from its farm beginnings to how it ends up on your plate in an endless variety of different preparations.

"We are pleased to create a true 'Farm-to-

Fork' event for the culinary students of Ontario," said Ms. Thompson, just prior to the event kickoff. "As the future chefs of the industry, we wanted them to understand the importance of the farming side of food, and enjoy the unique challenge and opportunity duck offers. And, of course, choosing local."

Just prior to the race, Ms. Thompson told The Auroran that the idea for the race came out of ideas bounced around to celebrate King Cole's 60th anniversary this year. They wanted to establish an event that would "hit a number of key important issues" for them as duck producers.

"We wanted to do something that would truly demonstrate our farm to fork capabilities," she said. "King Cole is unique because we have our own breeding, hatching, growing, processing, development kitchen and cook plant. We are proud of how we farm and believe it's really impor-

tant for chefs to know that good farmers equal good food.

"I am confident that after the Great Amazing Duck Race, these teams who won the opportunity to race with us by submitting incredible duck appetizer and entrée recipes, will have a new appreciation for duck, our farm and the quality of King Cole products."

Once their culinary creations were cooked, plated, and presented, entrants were judged on creativity, practicality, kitchen skills, appearance and flavour. The winning team was awarded \$1,000, with second and third place finishers receiving \$500 and \$250 respectively.

First prize ultimately went to Bianca Aversa and Aurora's own Jonathan Williams of the Niagara College Wine and Culinary Institute for their menu consisting of appetizers duck broth punch, duck egg tortellini, and duck banh mi, and an entree of honey roasted duck breast.

Second prize went to DeAille Tam and Simon Wong of George Brown for their duck a l'orange ravioli in broth and hoisin roasted duck breast with pancake. Third prize was awarded to Steve Richer and Anthony Lamanna of Humber College who prepared "upbeet" duck salad, and a dual entree of port-briased duck legs and pan-seared duck roulade.



Culinary students descended on King Cole Ducks on Saturday in the Great Amazing Duck Race. From top, the students race to be the first into the barn to collect the very best eggs the ducks had to offer. Before they could go in, however, they had to suit up. Eggs collected, the chefs picked out and prepared their duck meat before heading on the bus and the subway to get back down to George Brown College to prepare their meals and ultimately win the prize. Auroran photos by David Falconer

Advertorial

Headaches and Migraines: Modern Approach Provides Remarkable Results

Many headache sufferers are frustrated with the ongoing need to take drugs to find relief and perform their daily activities.

Physicians work to rule out underlying medical conditions as a cause for your headaches but these conditions are only the problem in a small percentage of headaches and migraines.

Current research indicates that the vast majority of headaches and migraines are caused by nervous system disturbance due to stress, faulty posture, and poor spinal alignment.

Some headaches and migraines are caused by nutritional deficiencies while other causes include toxicity (poisoning) from chemicals in the air, food and water.

Pain relieving drugs are designed to provide relief but obviously do not address the underlying postural problems, nutritional deficiencies or toxins (poisons) that we take in our bodies.

Most people are not aware that there may be serious risks associated with the chronic use of pain pills.

A great concern is that ongoing or excessive use of many drugs (including over the counter drugs) may damage the liver, kidneys and gut.

Of note is a very common type of headache called cervicogenic headache that results from mechanical and postural problems in your neck – and this causes pain in your head.

You go to your medical doctor and they provide you with pain pills and sometimes other types of medications to help provide you relief. But you find the headaches keep coming back – sometimes causing other side effects that reduce your quality of life.

It is also important to know that some medications may actually cause headaches - these are

called rebound headaches.

When it comes to headaches and migraines, medical doctors largely focus on medications as a way to provide relief. Sufferers need to be aware that there are additional choices available that are effective, modern, natural and safe. These approaches have helped many headache and migraine sufferers change their life forever.

To help sufferers an upcoming workshop is scheduled to reveal effective ways to feel better so you can be more productive, less stressed and happier.

As a community service the workshop is free.

The workshop will be held on Wed April 4 from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. at the King West Wellness Centre 141 King Rd., Unit 10, Richmond Hill. Seating is limited.

To make reservations call (888) 837-0407.

Honour your pet heroes

By Brock Weir

This is your last week to vote for your favourite "heroes" in the field of animal and pet care.

Nominations are part of the wider Heroic Heart Pet Service Awards being hosted by Global Pet Foods and Hill's Science Diet through the month of March.

The Heroic Heart Pet Service Award serves to recognize people, particularly volunteers, who work "tirelessly to help homeless pets find a forever home", according to event organizers.

Through Saturday, you can nominate your very own pet hero by filling out a ballot at Aurora's local Global Pet Food Store

located in the Zellers-Sobeys plaza on Bayview Avenue, just south of Hollidge Boulevard, and sharing a brief story on how your selected nominee has contributed to the care of homeless animals.

"The incredible animal caregivers we meet during our annual Show Us Your Heart fundraiser inspired us to create the Heroic Heart Award," said Jim Walker, President of Global Pet Foods, in a statement. "They are true unsung heroes who work tirelessly to love, care and protect pets in need."

After Saturday, all nominations received in-store or through their Facebook page (facebook.com/GlobalPetFood s) will be reviewed by a

judging panel and one recipient will be selected for all of Ontario, as well for Quebec and the Atlantic and Western regions of the country. The winner will be announced in April.

Aurora's store participated once again in the Show Us Your Heart campaign earlier this year with a fundraising campaign for the North Toronto Cat Rescue. According to store owner Scott MacLennan, the North Toronto Cat Rescue, which houses nearly 150 rescued cats in the GTA, was selected for its volunteer programs. They aimed to raise over \$1,000 for the shelter during the 2012 campaign.

CHATS Walk for Wellness raises \$30K

By Wendy Soloduik

Meeting your goals - priceless. Exceeding your goals - a testament to the human spirit.

The third annual CHATS Virtual Walk for Wellness raised \$30,000 in 2012.

This amount exceeds last year's fundraising accomplishment by \$10,000 and is \$5,000 more than organizers anticipated.

CHATS supplied pedometers to registered participants, who in turn, committed to walking 50,000 steps each

between January 14 and January 20.

95 people took part in the fundraiser, walking the equivalent of 3,600 km each, in total.

Proceeds from the Walk will be used to support programs for seniors in York Region, Bradford West Gwillimbury and New Tecumseth.

Bond Head resident June Chambers reflected on this year's event, and said "it was interesting and challenging for me to play a part in this fundraising initiative. I must admit I pushed myself hard to do over

6,500 'steps' a day. In the end, my total was 45,550 steps, a little shy of 50,000. Thanks to the support of family and friends I raised \$1,255."

Launched in 1980, CHATS serves over 6,800 seniors annually through home care and community support. The not-for-profit charitable organization has 550 volunteers, a board of directors, and 200 staff members. CHATS' head office is located in Aurora.

For more information about CHATS or a list of available services, visit www.chats.on.ca

All options to be considered on where to display Aurora's artefacts

By Brock Weir

Finding a permanent home to show off Aurora's historic collections is a top priority for the Town and the Historical Society, but that home might not be found in the Aurora Cultural Centre.

The comments were made last week by Al Downey, Aurora's Parks and Recreation Director, who outlined plans for the Town's acquisition of the Aurora Historical Society's (AHS collections) at General Committee on

March 20.

As The Auroran reported last week, the two groups have presented a memorandum of understanding which outlines the year-long process to make the acquisition a reality and a permanent venue to display the

collections has been earmarked. Exactly where and when that might be, however, is the question.

"We haven't identified, nor do I think we should, where these things should be exhibited or how they should be exhibited and

how often they should be exhibited, or any other questions we have with regards to exhibits," said Mr. Downey.

"We're going to review options with regards to that. We're then going to select preferred sites for the exhibition. Presently there is a thought that the Aurora Cultural Centre would be an ideal place to hold a museum, or a museum exhibit...except that no agreement presently exists between the Historical Society and the Cultural Centre [for that].

"We feel that no matter where we display it, whether it is at the Cultural Centre or elsewhere within the community, agreements need to be in place so they outlive any group that we're presenting to today to ensure the ongoing exhibition of this collection."

Before that process gets underway, however, a preliminary first step needs to be, of course, figuring out exactly what is in this collection. At the moment, Mr. Downey said, they don't know precisely which parts of the collection or what degree of the collection has historical significance to the Town. Ascertaining that information, through a process with an assessor to determine the merit of each item, would go a long way to achieve that end, said Mr. Downey.

"If you asked me today what the collection consisted of, I wouldn't be able to answer that," he said. "As the staff person assigned to this, I believe it is important to have a clear understanding first of all, what the col-

lection contains, what the value is to Aurora, and, if possible, some appraised value so we have some idea when we get into insurance we know what we're looking at."

A component of this will be a review of the gifts agreement at the AHS for items donated by the public. A review of that is necessary, he added, to ensure that these items can indeed be transferred from the AHS to the Town.

Regardless of where the items eventually find their permanent home to be exhibited, when they might be exhibited, and how they might be exhibited, the location might come with some branding as the Town and the AHS look to public and corporate sponsorship of exhibitions and space.

"[Partnerships and sponsorship opportunities] should be sought so it is not only on the Town's responsibility to ensure that there is ongoing funding with regards to this," said Mr. Downey. "We are looking for alternative revenue models that help offset the capital and operating fund that we're going to need in order to manage and exhibit this display or these artefacts."

"If there is a sponsor out there that wishes to assist us in that, we should be seeking them out. Whether or not our major businesses within the Town would be interested in presenting a State Farm exhibit or Magna exhibit, this is something we should consider."

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the AHS is up for final approval this week.



Local historian Jacqueline Stuart took to the podium at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Wednesday for a lecture on what was once the wrong side of the tracks. Ms. Stuart, in the latest heritage lecture presented at the Centre, gave an illuminating talk to her audience on the railway lands in Aurora. From the early arrival of rail travel, to the development of the industrial, commercial and residential community around the station, Ms. Stuart revealed what was at one time referred to as "The Worst Place Inside the Corporation."

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Programs to help heritage home owners to be discussed this week

By Brock Weir

This week, the ball could start rolling on new measures to prevent further deterioration of heritage structures.

Councillors are set to discuss a notice of motion from Councillor Sandra Humfries, who gave notice of motion for the matter on February 14, at this Tuesday's Council meeting. The motion was due to be discussed last month, but was deferred until this week after the Cultural Centre dominated the bulk of the last session.

In her motion, Councillor Humfries calls on Town Staff to report back to Council "through investigation of what measures may be put in place to prevent future deterioration of Heritage buildings of significance and in support of maintaining and honouring our heritage."

She said the Ontario Heritage Act allows municipalities to designate properties determined to have heritage value and interest, but there is nothing in place to regulate maintenance.

"There is no current bylaw to prevent and/or regulate the deterioration of a heritage

property [and] this is causing resident concern that the future heritage buildings will deteriorate to the point of not being safe or possible to preserve," she said in her motion.

The discussion for finding something to fill the gap between designation and, at the very least, ensuring resources are available to help owners of properties maintain them, has been simmering since several designated properties were allowed to be demolished because they had deteriorated beyond the point of no return.

The latest of which was the George Browning House on Yonge Street at Tyler. Earlier this year, Council approved a recommendation from the Heritage Advisory Committee removing the heritage designation on the building to allow the owners to demolish it to make way for a new Montessori school.

The owners of the property initially wanted to use the building for the school while using a laneway at the back of the property for access. This laneway, however, proved

unfeasible and in order to have access from Yonge Street the house would have to be moved. It was, however, deemed structurally unsound to move.

The decision garnered significant debate not just at Council and Committee but from the community as a whole and Councillor Humfries said she wanted to find a solution.

"It is really to look at the property standards that we have today and hopefully kick them up a little further than what we have at the municipality, and we have an opportunity to look at heritage properties and make sure that some of the basics are being looked after so we aren't in a position of looking at a home that has gone to a point of disrepair," she said.

Councillor Humfries added that she had the opportunity to do a site visit to the George Browning House, now biding its time until demolition, and it was "worse close up."

"What I'm hoping this motion will do is [give staff] the opportunity to investigate maybe what other municipali-

ties have out there and what we can come up with ourselves to protect [buildings]. It really is about the protection of our heritage properties and ensuring that they don't get to the point of disrepair.

"There may be an opportunity to help some privately-owned heritage building owners too. Sometimes it is just very expensive and they may not have foreseen some of the pressures to keep a home like this going. Maybe there is an opportunity - I don't know how, I'm sure it is a financial issue, so I don't know how far it will go once staff get into it - but maybe take a low interest loan out or a grant or some tax breaks in order to jeep their heritage home in a good, solid state.

"We don't want to go back there again where we see a property getting into that state. We all love it, we all get to enjoy it and we're all passionate about it. We have to save these homes, but we have to help them stay in a good state. I have got some positive feedback [on the motion] and I was looking forward to talking about it at the last Council meeting."



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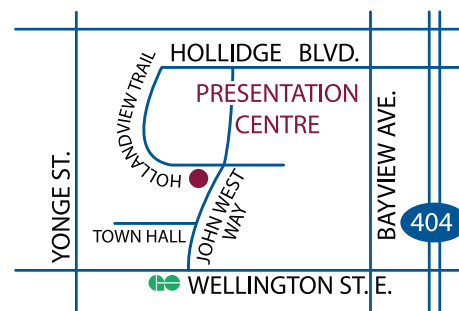
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Council grapples with "lofty" goals of Official Plan

By Brock Weir

When recommended changes to the Town's Official Plan by the Region come up for final Council approval, the refrain from the table is likely to question if plans need to be so stringent.

During recent discussions over the official plan, Councillor Evelyn Buck, raised a number of issues related to how specific the document which sets the game plan for new development in the Town of Aurora for future decades was too specific.

Whether it was related to recommendations from the Region of York to instigate a public art policy, or to continue a prohibition on new drive-thrus in the downtown core, said she believed some of the provisions in the official plan, particularly when it comes to what homeowners can do to their individual properties was too constricting.

Councillor Buck said she was recently approached by a property owner who said they

had spent over \$50,000 processing a planning application and she said she was "seriously concerned" that people have to spend that kind of money without any guarantee their applications would be successful.

"There is something very wrong with that, that we are taking that kind of money from people and not being able to give them any kind of assurance that it is worth their while to go forward with an application before they start," she said.

"I don't think it is treating people fairly and I don't think it is having any concern at all to the business they are in, and the business they are in is growing our towns. That is where our business comes from, the assessment that is gained in growth. We have an interest in making sure they are successful because that is where our success comes from."

Over the course of the meeting, Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning, recognized

that some have said that the goals in the official plan "seem to be a bit lofty and perhaps difficult to achieve", but said those are issues common to most official plans.

"It does set out a vision and some key objectives, and some of the objectives are set high and they are lofty - especially related to some of the community building and green building policies - but they are coming from the Region as well," said Mr. Ramunno.

"In working with the Region, we needed to be consistent. Some of those objectives appear to be lofty, but it is something to strive for. Whether we are able to meet those, we set those objectives. Over the years, it may not happen over night as the life of a plan is 20 years, but they are goals that we set and try to achieve.

"There are some differences between some of the real prescriptive points in the plan and some of the loftier objectives."



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Auroran photo by Diane Buchanan

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Service groups and businesses could duke it out over vendor contract

By Brock Weir

The stage is being set for what could be a battle between service groups and local businesses when it comes to food served up at community events.

The issue could stem from new criteria, which is expected to be presented at Council this week, seen by one local business owner to be tipping the scale in favour of service groups like the Optimists.

Last week, Councillors considered changes to the scorecard in how potential vendors for Town events like Concerts in the Park and Theatre in the Park are evaluated to sell food. The move came after issues that arose last year after the Optimist Club asked Council to reconsider their bid for the 2011 events.

In their initial application, the Optimists indicated they give 10 per cent of their profits back directly to the Town of Aurora and scored lower than M&M's Meat Shops. The Optimists argued that as the remaining 90 per cent of their proceeds is reinvested in community events throughout Town that there should be special consideration for service groups. The changes outlined last Tuesday - and set for approval at Council this Tuesday - address some of these concerns.

Up for discussion is a new scoring matrix which awards 10 points for resident for-profit groups, while 20 points are awarded to resident non-profit groups. The changes, according to Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and

Recreation, are an "effort to be proactive and to be as fair and equitable as possible in the 2012 process."

When the new scoring system, which originally contained 5 points for profit groups and 10 for non profit, came up for debate last week at General Committee, some Councillors, including Wendy Gaertner and Michael Thompson, said they would like to see a special designation particularly for service groups like the Optimists when it came to how much of their revenues was received by the Town.

Under the revised plan, points awarded to groups in this area can range from five points for 1 to 5 per cent of their sales coming back to the Town, up to 20 points for 21 per cent or higher. Before revisions were made for this week, the proposed score was 40 points for more than 21 per cent.

Mr. Downey, however, said the additional points that would be received by a group for being non-profit levels the playing field.

"We are putting a greater weight on those community groups than we are to a private, for-profit resident group, which was identified last year," said Mr. Downey.

According to some Councillors, however, it is important to give consideration to the full picture when weighting how much money each applicant promises to give back into the Town.

"The argument when it came back to us [from the

Optimists last year] was that upwards of 80 or 90 per cent was going back into the Town, but they were contributing a smaller amount to the Town financially," said Councillor Pirri. "They were contributing a smaller amount to the Town financially but the work they do is in support of the Town."

One Councillor, however, who argued against that philosophy was Councillor Evelyn Buck, who pointed out it would be in the Town's interests to be mindful of local businesses, which also serve to sponsor these park events.

"[Businesses] are contributing to our tax revenues," said Councillor Buck. "They are entitled to fairness in the competition. If you give a service club a slight preference, how much of a preference do you want to give them over people who are in the community and contributing to our tax revenues and providing employment to people at the same time?"

"You have to think about fairness and equity and they're making a huge contribution to the enjoyment of people in the Town."

Perhaps not surprising-

ly, one local business owner who agreed with this was Greg Foster, owner of the local M&M's Store which has been a mainstay in the Town Park events.

"We have done this for seven or eight years now and if I go back and add my total contribution back to the Town, which I have always been advised supports Concerts in the Park and the movies, I would venture that my contribution to the Town has probably exceeded \$10,000," he said. "That doesn't arbitrarily mean that I should receive the concerts again, and I'm not making any suggestion of that, but I was under the interpretation that the donations back to the Town was going back into Town coffers so they could fund more activities for the Town to enjoy, versus someone like the Optimists where their donations go into a special interest group like hockey or baseball, in which only a section of the Town can benefit."

Mr. Foster stressed that his comments were not a slight on the Optimists and the work they do in the community, but said there needs to be a "fair and

level playing field for all groups" and not give "special interest groups" an unfair advantage.

"Competition is good and choice is good, and the Town has to make a decision on who they want there," he said.

"It comes down to I would like to know what is better for the Town? If the Town is really looking for a donation from a group,

where are those donations best to be directed? If the Town wants it as Town revenue so they can fund more movies and form more concerts then the money should be donated back to the Town. If the Town wants to see an organization funnel it back out into where their interests lie, is that in the best interests of the Town? I'm not so sure."

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Healthy Habits & Lifestyle Lessons

By WENDY SOLODUK

The goal of any good fitness program should be the achievement of "healthy vitality."

Literally translated, vitality means "life" and is the expression of one's internal dynamic. In the absence of vitality there can be no life, and the feeling goes up from there.

Achieving a healthy vitality is not solely based on incorporating an exercise program into your life. Feeling "alive" can be bolstered by any number of activities that make you feel "sparkly" from the inside out.

For me, maintaining a healthy vitality requires balance. When I don't exercise, I feel lousy, when I exercise too much I feel worn out and become prone to injury. My sense of wellbeing is also based on how I balance work with home, friends with family and need-to-dos with like-to-dos. It also means eating right, getting plenty of sleep, surrounding myself with people who make me laugh, and reading.

Currently, I am reading the novel, "So Much Pretty", by Cara Hoffman. I picked up the book on a recent trip to Chapters. I went in to buy John Irving's, "The World According to Garp", and walked out with four paperbacks, having spent \$75.

Hoffman's character, Alice, a teenage girl with many talents, is the perfect example of healthy vitality. She is active, academic, has learned the value of true friendship, concerning herself with the world she has created while ignoring the opinions of others. She also is a tad odd, and often goes against the grain of "normal teenage

behaviour" in pursuit of achievements essential to her feeling of vitality.

In one instance, she creates a hopscotch board 3 miles long, in another, she makes a mobile out of live crayfish. She also plays the game, Bigger, Better, a concept that has captured my attention. Simply, Bigger, Better is played by trading something you already have (like a paperclip), for something bigger or better (like a coffee mug) and repeating the process until you're satisfied with the result.

In real life, this concept has been used as a team building exercise for corporate executives. In a few extreme cases, the winners have ended up with cars and homes, having started with almost nothing at all.

The Bigger, Better game can also be considered a recipe for life. Start with what you have, and trade up until you're satisfied. If it's money that you want - trade a loonie for a toonie and continue, or start with an item of low value and don't stop until you have something you can sell for big bucks. If it's power that you're after, ask your boss for additional responsibilities or start a small business on your own. Make it your goal to "go bigger" every day, until you've achieved the level of success desired.

For me, Bigger, Better works in achieving healthy vitality - the measuring stick of a life well lived.

As a teenager, I had an idea of what I wanted in life - a safe place to live, a family that loves me, health and a career I

Play the "Bigger, Better" game of life

could be proud of. Back then, I had no idea how to achieve that, and it was obvious that it would not happen overnight. Without knowing it, I played the Bigger, Better game, working towards the life I envisioned for myself, by continuously trading-up.

As I rapidly approach my forties, achieving and maintaining a healthy vitality has become more important than ever. When I look around at people my age and older, I find myself subconsciously sorting them into two groups - the "lacklustres", who are lost to a world of conformity, and

the "shining stars", who still move to the beat of their own drum. I consider the latter group an example of visible vitality.

Applying the Bigger, Better concept to our lives ensures that we are continuously striving to be more, have more and do more. If, like me, healthy vitality is what you desire, stop comparing yourself to other people and focus on measuring your success by how well you treat yourself, the people you love and how bright your spirit shines.

In the case of vitality, sometimes bigger is better.

Aurora address needs of walking, biking commuters

By Brock Weir

If you walk or bike to work - or wherever you need to go - more emphasis could soon be placed on your needs in and around Town.

The move could come as early as this week if Council approves a plan to re-constitute the committee that has guided the development of the Aurora Trails system into a stand-alone committee looking at the wider area of all active transportation.

If passed, the proposed new committee would report directly to Council rather than to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and look at the increasing use of cycling on streets, trails, and in parks in recent years.

"There has to be some emphasis placed on the utilitarian aspects of the trails network, meaning commuters, and that is most commonly known as active transportation," Klaus Wehrenberg, a driving force behind the Aurora Trails network told The Auroran. "That is a very important aspect and it has been fully recognized in the Aurora Trails master plan and the official plan which is just about to be passed.

"The official plan mainly says that the plan shall be consistent with the Aurora Trails Master Plan, which then covers everything you have, which, in turn, says that by adopting the trails master plan the Town Council officially recognizes the dual function of the trails system of it being

utilitarian as well as recreational."

It is also recommended the committee report directly to Council rather than through a more circuitous route of reporting to the Parks and Recreation Committee and then to Council.

"This is very necessary because the routing is almost impossible to cope with when it comes to reacting to anything at all," said Mr. Wehrenberg. "We have to go from subcommittee to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan advisory committee now and they will have to deal with it at their level. They have to make a recommendation to basically Council which then goes to general committee and from there it goes back to Council. It is four steps and you can't afford to lose all this time in this context, even if everything goes normally. It is a very important aspect of putting together the committee."

The idea for a broadened mandate for the Trails committee came at the recommendation of its predecessor, said Al Downey, Aurora's Director of Parks and Recreation in a report to Council, noting that a new committee would comprise of a member of the Parks and

Rec committee, a member of the Environmental Advisory committee, three members of the public, and four staff members.

While Councillors were supportive of mandating a new committee, perhaps with the addition of one Council representative on the committee, Councillor Wendy Gaertner expressed some misgivings about what she saw as a heavy complement of staff members sitting at the table. Councillor Buck put forward a similar view questioning the necessity of various staff members being on the committee in light of the committee's reliance on volunteers "split into walking the land" and making recommendations.

"We felt that with the former trails committee, there were concerns with both the design and planning, construction, and maintenance of the trails, so all those aspects were part of the ongoing discussion," said Mr. Downey. "It's quite logical that one of our landscape architects and our parks supervisor or parks manager would be [there along with] two staff members; that way we could deal with planning design as well as the maintenance aspects with regards to that."



Members of the Aurora Skating Club get into the swing of things last week as they go through their routines for their upcoming ice show. The Press "Play" and Dance Program will feature (front row, left to right) Marilena Perri, Emma Smith, Samantha Duncan, Ashleigh Calvert, Taylor Piotrowski, Alex Johnston, Nicole Marino, (back row, left to right) Shauna O'Conner, Geneva Bailey, Raquel Burgess, Kaitlin VanWinckle, Matthew Warner, Erin Foster, Kendall Mannella, Katie Sutton, Julie Briscoe, and Jasmine Biasi.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Aurora Jays are "hungry" for a championship

By Kevin Michie

After an early and disappointing end to their North Dufferin Baseball League season last year, the Aurora Jays are hungrier than ever to win a championship.

Two years ago, the Jays reached the NDBL finals but were defeated by the Bolton Brewers, and the next season looked primed to return to the finals.

Their run was cut short, however, in the semi-finals, once more defeated by the Brewers in a thrilling seven game series.

"That one was a tough one to swallow," said coach and outfielder Michael Keon.

The loss, however, seems to have motivated the Jays

into a "championship or bust" mentality this season.

"We have high hopes," said Keon. "We have aspirations to get back to the championship and win it. We've always been one or two hits or pitches away, and I think this is the year [we win]."

The Aurora Jays are hoping the addition of two, and potentially three, new pitchers to their rotation will make them a stronger team when it comes time for a long and draining playoff run.

"I think picking up those new pitchers is really what's going to put us over," said Jays coach, outfielder and backup catcher Rob Wilson.

In the seven game series against the Brewers last

year, the Jays played the games with only two starting pitchers, so adding some extra arms to their pitching staff was a key priority in the off-season.

The new pitchers add strength to a returning offensive core including Ian Rettie, Chris Rettie, Stephen Valley and Justin Tamane, who has won an Ontario University Athletic baseball championship with Brock University.

"We have, for the most part, the same core of guys," said Keon. "Every year, we get a couple of new players and I would say through the spring work outs, some of them are looking good."

The Jays, entering their eighth year in the storied

NDBL, have grown from junior aged players, looking only to continue playing competitive baseball, to a group of players who are not only dedicated to winning and bringing respectability to the Jays, but were also seen as more of an inconvenience to the some of the other teams in the League based in smaller northern communities.

"Our perception, as we've aged, has changed from coming into the League and saying, 'we just like to play baseball, and we don't care who we play against,'" noted Wilson. "Now, we know it's a League with a lot of history and there's a lot of pride that goes into every lineup and every game, and [that's]

something that we're trying to incorporate."

The NDBL will begin its 81st season in May, with each team scheduled to play 26 games stretching to the end of August. The top eight

teams in the 14-team league will advance to the playoffs.

Be sure to check the NDBL website for more info on the Jays and, when available, a complete schedule for the team.

Aurora soccer club taps into "massive" potential

By Kevin Michie

Aurora is no longer just a hockey town.

After a very successful 2011 summer, where the Aurora Youth Soccer Club saw their '96 boys and '98 girls advance to the York Region Soccer Association tournament, the soccer organization is looking forward to another successful year.

"In terms of development, our players are developing well," said Scott Guy, who oversees the rep program and ensures proper coaching development. "There are great people involved in the club here who just need a little bit of direction and a little bit of education to help them develop as coaches and, hopefully, develop the young players as well."

Guy is entering his second season as the Head Coach at the AYSC, and in his short time here, has implemented some new initiatives to help the soccer players in Aurora grow.

The AYSC runs a free academy once a week, during the summer, for the U8's to U12's to help develop their skills as they progress as young soccer players.

"The parents can't believe what they're getting," Guy noted. "It's qualified, licensed level coaches for an hour, for free. The participation is filled every week."

"It's good for us a well. The coaches come to sessions to see what we have to offer. It's good for them because they can come back to their training sessions [with their team] and do the same practices that [academy coaches are] doing."

Guy has brought in some coaches from Europe in order to better educate the players and coaches, in the hopes of turning them into elite players.

"The potential, it's like a sleeping giant," said Guy. "The potential here is massive. You've got a lot of kids and you've got a lot of enthusiastic volunteers."

Before the soccer season kicks off in May, the AYSC will be holding week-long practices for the rep teams, with the European coaches leading the sessions.

The players will receive specialized training from the coaches, and at the same time, will play some friendlies against other teams from the area to test out their newly acquired skills.

The AYCS will also be running a free talent identification course once a week, starting

June 9, for boys and girls in the U5-U7, where players will get opportunities to receive training from some rep coaches.

Last season, the AYSC also introduced the Stinger Stars program for children with special needs. The program is the biggest in Ontario, and had 40 children on the roster last summer. The program is free and parents are still welcome to sign their child up.

"The kids love it," said Guy, of the program. "It's the kind of

soccer you want to get yourself down to once that starts."

Registration for the upcoming soccer season is still open. Be sure to check the AYSC website (www.aysc.ca) for more details.



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Aurora Minor Hockey Association



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING 2012/2013 REGISTRATION

On-Line Registration begins: April 1, 2012

In-House Registration dates: April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 15, 23, 30 (7 - 9 pm)
April 21, 28, May 5, 12 (10 am - 1:00 pm)
AMHA Office at ACC1

Please refer to our website www.auroraminorhockey.net for further Rep tryouts policies and schedule.

REGISTRATION fees for the 2012/2013 season are:

\$530.00	Players born 1998 through 2006*
\$565.00	Players born 1992 through 1997
\$ 50.00	Late fee effective June 1 - 30, 2012
\$100.00	Late fee effective July 1, 2012
\$ 50.00	Non-Resident Fee (if applicable)

*Tyke players born in 2005 and 2006 must submit a copy of a birth certificate. It is recommended that 2006 players have either taken skating lessons or completed one year of Opti Hockey. A 10% discount applies to families with 3 or more players.

Late fees do not apply to new registrants.

The payment schedule is posted on the website.

Full refunds will be issued to anyone withdrawing prior to September 1, 2012.

Players MUST be registered PRIOR to any tryouts for AAA or any AMHA rep team. AMHA tryouts begin April 28, 2012.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

Guaranteed spots are available ONLY to players who register on or before June 30, 2012.

We will not add teams in September to accommodate late registrants.



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Aurora Minor Hockey Association

Results up to March 25, 2012




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HOUSE LEAGUE

107 Timbits - Nashville Silver 5 - Andrew Parsons 3G, Lucas Wilhelm 1G 1A, Noah Bobrow 1G, Jordan Sieber 3G, Nate Windle 1A. **108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky 0.**

107 Timbits - Nashville Silver 4 - Jordan Sieber 1G, Nate Windle 2G 2A, Julian Martin 1G 1A, Ben Cordingly 1A, Zac Green 1A. **105 Timbits - Pittsburgh Black 1** - Daiki Negishi 1G, Ryan Clutterbuck 1A, Tyler LeBlanc 1A.

105 Timbits - Pittsburgh Black 6 - Ryan Clutterbuck 3G, Hayden Klugerman 1G, Tyler LeBlanc 1G, Ethan Powell 1G, Daiki Negishi 2A, Connor Fortin 1A. **104 Timbits - St. Louis Blue 0.**

102 Timbits - Boston Gold 8 - Matthew Gianforcaro 3G 1A, Jacob Anselmo 2G 3A, Jakob Israel 1G, Chase Keeler 2G 2A, Jeffrey Belvedere 1A, Dylan Vasilevski 1A. **107 Timbits - Nashville Silver 8** - Andrew Parsons 3G 1A, Jack Hunter 2G, Lucas Wilhelm 2G 1A, Kenan Butler 1G, Nate Windle 3A.

106 Timbits - San Jose Teal 4 - Ryan Blakley 3G, Vince Russo 1G, Joshua Mcleod 1A, Alex Nechadim, shutout. **103 Timbits - Toronto White 0.**

108 Timbits - Atlanta Sky 2 - Marco Djordjevic 1G, Zack Smith 1G, Kian Barraclough 1A. **101 Timbits - Calgary Red 1** - Stephen Gummersall 1G.

201 Caravan Kids - Calgary Red 6 - Aiden Peel 4G, Liam Parris 1G, Liam Parris 1A, Jonah Spataro 1G. **204 Caravan Kids - St. Louis Blue 1** - Andrew Flores 1G.

203 Caravan Kids - Toronto White 5 - Stefano Iervasi 3G, Remy Pietrangelo 1A, Adam Flicker 1G 1A, Aidan Quinn 1G. **202 Caravan Kids - Boston Gold 5** - Christopher Goncalves 1G, Cristian Troubitsin 1G 1A, Rory Callaghan 1G, Cameron Mills 2G, Jackson Maclean 1A.

408 McDonald's - Grey 10 - Brennan Powell 1G 1A, Jack Viney 2G, Sebastian Negulescu 3G, Andrew Schaus 3G, Jacob Peticca 1G, Daniel McKay 1A. **410 McDonald's - Orange 11** - Giuliano Iervasi 3G, Evan Robertson 1G, Sebastian Brstilo 2G, Garrett Kohler 1G, Kyle Trumper 1G, Steven Seitz 2G, Jack Gautier-Moulton 1G, Aaron Murphy-Sealy 1A.

403 McDonald's - White 6 - Aidan Otoole 1G, Ethan Moulds 1A, Carter Beacom 1G, Francesco Dinardo 1A, Kyle Fowler 3G, Ben Fulford 1A, Alex Jones 1A, Christopher McGee 1G. **407 McDonald's - Kelly Green 0.**

408 McDonald's - Grey 9 - Shawyan Niavarani 2G, Brennan Powell 2A, Christian Romas 1G 1A, Sebastian Negulescu 1G 1A, Justin Schembri 2A, Jack Viney 4G, Emerson Parkinson 1A, Nathan Smith 1G, David Moschella 1A. **409 McDonald's - Teal 3** - Andrew Campbell 2G, Brian Turner 1G, Andrew Fiorini 1A.

402 McDonald's - Gold 6 - Luke Pignatelli 2G, Michael Parkin 1G, Ethan Joiner 1G 1A, Cameron Lang 1G 1A, Austin Martin 1G, Mason Barone 2A, Andrew Pignatelli 1A. **406 McDonald's - Purple 6** - Gianluca Rotondi 4G, Jackson Galbraith 2G, Jacob Lopez 3A, Brice Wiseman 1A, Giancarlo De Appollonia 1A.

407 McDonald's - Kelly Green 7 - Connor Elbaum 1G, Colby Harrison 3G, Kevin

Song 1G, Casey Baek 1G, Aaron Preiano 1G. **410 McDonald's - Orange 3** - Jack Gautier-Moulton 2G, Luke Parris 1G, Evan Robertson 1A.

404 McDonald's - Blue 6 - Greg Gatzopoulos 1G, Zachary Diaz 1G 1A, Matthew Cowl 2A, Matthew Muxlow 1G 2A, Ryan Funston-Clarke 1A, Johnathan Avgousti 2G, Ethan Edwards 1G, Cole Spragg 1A. **401 McDonald's - Red 4** - Logan Kidder 1G, Andrew Scott 1A, Mitchell Weatherall 3G, Anthony Miranda 1A, Alex Murgida 1A.

607 Crabby Joes 8 - Bradley Shennan 2G 1A, Anthony Livia 3G 2A, Roberto Iervasi 1G 1A, Ben Pitre 1G 2A, Nathan Sherrard 1G. **611 Rotary Club 5** - Justin Miller 1G 1A, Alexander Louie 1G 1A, Claudio Basso 1G, Ryan Cameron 2G 2A.

606 Dr. Weaver's Drillers 2 - Dillion Varone 2G, Christian Ridd 1A, Evan Bryan 1A. **601 Chouinard Bros. 0.**

605 Crossley Contracting Ind. Restoration 6 - Tristan Floyd 1G 1A, Ryan Cooper 2A, Vaughan Hewgill 1G, Read Colin 1G, Dustin Crossley 1A, Braeden Joynt 2G, Noah Murphy-Sealy 1G 1A. **602 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr 5** - Tristan Hicks 2G, Andrew Hammond 1G 2A, John Powell 1A, Liam DeSouza 2G 1A, Adam Wochenmarkt 2A.

604 Omar's Shoes 3 - Andrew Warner 1G 2A, Paul Cotturo 1G, Joshua Fallavollita 1G. **603 Optimist Club of Aurora 3** - Mathew Lancaster 1G, Adam Mizuguchi 2G, Jayson Perkins 1A.

608 Mastermind Toys 4 - Christian Loria 1G, Nicklaus Reid 1G, Louie Simonin 1G, Mack Snelgrove 1A, Evan Lambert 1A, Ryan Mascarenhas 1G 1A. **610 IOOF Aurora Lodge #148 1** - Jacob Cann 1G, Chris Sands 1A.

609 Kumon Aurora-East 3 - Ethan Brooks 3G, Jack Campbell 1A, Jack Mayo 1A, Matthew Winters 1A. **612 H.J. Pfaff Audi 2** - Evan Knowles 1G, Chris Walsh 1G, Trevor Barnett 1A, Jordan Kagan 1A, Cameron Palmer 1A.

805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 4. 809 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 1.

802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr. 1. 805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 4.

802 Aurora Home Hardware Bldg Ctr. 1. 807 Crabby Joe's 2

810 Benson, Kearley IFG 1 - Joey Leger 1G, Mitchell Albert 1A. **808 Laurion Law Office 0.**

801 Diamond Groundskeeping Services 6 - Cameron Screech 1G 1A, Michael Imseis 1G, Joey Hodgson 1G, Tyler Bundy 2G, Matthew Hall 1G 1A, Alex Negri 1A, Colin Dyer 1A, Jordan Screech 1A. **809 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 1** - Z. Fletcher 1G.

804 Optimist Club of Aurora 5. 805 Lakeshore Valu-Mart 1.

803 McAlpine Ford 7 - Adam Ashraf 1G 5A, Michael Walsh 3G 1A, Jordan Bodimeade 1G 1A, Alex Sesto 1G, Liam Gray 1G 1A, Grant Kavanagh 1A. **806 Backyard Pool & Spa Co. Ltd. 2** - Alex Carter 1G, Ryan Ouwroules 1G, Matthew Barnett 1A.

907 Crabby Joe's 7 - Morgan Walker 5G, Tom Mason 1G, Sean Foxwell 1G 1A, Neil Duggan 3A, William Allen 2A, Alec Barnett 1A, Kevan Cress 1A, Zac Kroll 1A. **905 Continental Ingredients 4** - Jake Arcangeli 1G 1A, Christopher Cherubini 1G 1A, Brendan McDonald 1G 1A, Austin Boudreau 1G, Owen

Nisbet 1A.

904 North York Plumbing & Heating 5 - Josh Lawlor 2G 1A, Alexander Harrison 2G, Declan Johnston 1G 1A, Matthew Iamonaco 2A, Liam MacKikan 1A. **908 Benson, Kearley IFG 3** - James Johnston 1G, Kentner Arkell 1G, Luc Martineau 1G, Liam Devlin 2A, Elias Jeries 1A.

906 ATS Healthcare 4 - Will Brogan 1G 1A, Eliot Harkin 1G, Jerryd Jensen 1G 1A, Braydon Babineau 1G, Maxwell Brown 1A. **912 Pizza Pizza 2** - Michael Liscio 2G, Dylan Indos 1A, Robert Ruscica 1A, Robert Ruscica 1A.

903 A.D.C. Aluminum 3 - Trevor George 2G 1A, Joseph Veneziano 1G, Thomas Scougall 1A. **909 Manhattan Trophies Ltd. 1** - Brian Pedron 1G, Dustin Partanen 1A.

911 AHPA 4 - Ryan Byerlay 1G, Michael Bitzos 1G 1A, Joey Stel 1G, Graham Killby 1G, Kieran Cullen 3A, Ethan Cullen 1A, Joshua Carducci 1A, Mitchell Carter 1A. **901 Rogers TV 1** - Daniel Wochenmarkt 1G.

902 Aurora Chrysler 5 - Ben Hankins 2G 1A, Cameron Staples 1G 1A, Scott Taylor 1G 1A, Andrew Staples 1G, Kyle DeSouza 1A, Scott Dunlop 1A, Matthew Roach 1A. **910 INARIA 2** - Matthew Walker 2G, David Roberts 1A, David Roberts 1A, Daniel Bresolin 1A.

909 Manhattan Trophies Ltd. 2 - Brian Pedron 2G, Michael McCreesh 1A. **906 ATS Healthcare 1** - Eliot Harkin 1G.

912 Pizza Pizza 6 - Casey Severini 2G 1A, Tyler Indos 2G, Michael Liscio 1G 1A, Kyle Strachan 1G, Dylan Indos 1A, Tyler Hindley 1A, Gregory Milligan 1A, Robert Ruscica 1A. **902 Aurora Chrysler 3** - Ben Hankins 2G, Scott Taylor 1G 1A, Kyle DeSouza 1A, Christian Frappier 1A, Cody Mulhern 1A.

910 INARIA 3 - Daniel Antoniel 1G, Mitchell Arnold 1G, Matthew Walker 1G, Daniel Bresolin 2A. **905 Continental Ingredients 1** - Brendan McDonald 1G, Owen Nisbet 1A, Dylan Sutton 1A.

903 A.D.C. Aluminum 2 - Christopher Sanita 1G, Joseph Veneziano 1G, Thomas Scougall 1A, Matthew Warner, shutout. **901 Rogers TV 0.**

904 North York Plumbing & Heating 3 - Declan Johnston 2G 1A, Matthew Iamonaco 1G, Adam Petit 1A. **911 AHPA 1** - Michael Bitzos 1G, Graham Killby 1A, Russel Johnson 1A.

908 Benson, Kearley IFG 4 - Liam Devlin 1G, Alexander Gouthro 1G, Luc Martineau 1G, Mark Presacco 1G 1A, Duncan Eveleigh 1A, Jordan Stephenson 1A. **907 Crabby Joe's 1** - Tyler Futterer 1G, Alec Barnett 1A.

1004 BMO Bank of Montreal 4 - Justin Killens 2G, Josh Bentolilla 1G, Ali Akbar 1G. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora 2** - Chase Riddell 2G.

1002 INARIA 1 - M. Bishop 1G. **1006 Caruso & Company 1** - Taylor Butler 1G.

1003 Tom & Jerry's 2 - Scott Tenello 1G, Quinn McGowan 1G. **1005 BrokerLink 2** - Tom Hagias 1G, Trevor Best 1G.

1008 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 2 - Ty Brochu 1G, Lucas Poleto 1G. **1007 Crabby Joe's 4** - Steadman Dinning 2G, Brian Puskar 1G, Adam Kiroff 1G.

1005 BrokerLink 1 - Zach Seto 1G. **1007 Crabby Joe's 4** - Steadman Dinning 3G, Matt Miller 1G.

1003 Tom & Jerry's 7 - D Kovac 5G, K Piper 1G, Quinn McGowan 1G. **1002 INARIA**

6 - G Forrest 2G, W Reid 2G, L Ghegin 1G, I McGoldrick 1G.

1001 Pizzaville Aurora 3 - Marco Ghegin 2G, Chris Peron 1G. **1006 Caruso & Company 4** - John Dinicolantonio 1G, Brian Tree 1G, Tyler White 1G, Reid Sisson 1G.

1004 BMO Bank of Montreal 5 - Kelley Hudson 2G, Ali Akbar 1G, Chris Youtoff 1G, Royce Kirby 1G. **1008 Danny & Scotty Puck Bandits 3** - Chris Blumresinger 1G, Conner Fennel 2G.

1006 Caruso & Company 8 - Andrew Kimber 4G, Taylor Butler 3G, Jim Tatum 1G. **1007 Crabby Joe's 3** - Steadman Dinning 3G.

1003 Tom & Jerry's 2 - J.P. Sunseri 2G. **1001 Pizzaville Aurora 5** - Braedon MacKenzie 1G, John Haralampopoulos 2G, Marco Ghegin 1G, Mady Schaefer 1G.

1002 INARIA 3 - G. Forrest 1G, Jake Hindley 2G. **1004 BMO Bank of Montreal 1** - Chris Youtoff 1G.

REP LEAGUE

Novice AE - Aurora 7. Innisfil 1.

Novice AE - Aurora 12. Bradford 1.

Novice AE - Aurora 7. Bradford 1.

Novice AE - Stouffville 4. Aurora 3.

Minor Atom AA - Markham 2. Aurora 0.

Minor Atom AA - Markham 3. Aurora 0.

Minor Peewee AA - Richmond Hill 5. Aurora 3.

Minor Peewee AA - Aurora 9. Toronto 0.

Minor Peewee AA - Aurora 4. Ajax 4.

Minor Peewee AA - Aurora 4. Ajax 1.

Peewee AA - Aurora 0. TNT 5.

Peewee AA - TNT 2. Aurora 1.

Peewee AE - Barrie 4. Aurora 2.

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 4 - Daniel McConnell 2G, Brendan Ramsay 1G, Nicolas Pearce 1G, Nicholas Sansalone 1A, Eric Shennan 1A, Jeff McKay 1A, Jack Bryant 1A. **Georgina 1.**

Minor Bantam AE - Aurora 3 - Jack Bryant 1G 1A, Nicholas Sansalone 1G, Brendan Ramsay 1G, Daniel McConnell 2A, Louis Kirkos, shutout. **Barrie 0.**

Minor Bantam AE - Newmarket 3. Aurora 2 - Nicolas Pearce 2G, Anthony Orlandi 1A.

Minor Bantam AE - Newmarket 4. Aurora 2 - Nicholas Sansalone 1G, Daniel McConnell 1G, Nicolas Pearce 2A, Jack Bryant 2A.

Minor Midget A - Aurora 3 - Jordan Nanos 2A, Erik Balkovec 1G, Zac Cowl 1G, Alec Ground 1A, Kyle Nice 1G. **Barrie 2.**

Minor Midget A - Aurora 7 - Jordan Nanos 2G 2A, Erik Balkovec 1G 1A, Austin Persaud 1G, Liam Coll 1G, Brayden Bewswick 1A, Matthew Tozer 1A, Jack Caldwell 1A, James Thomson 1G 2A, Kyle Nice 1A, Zac Cowl 1G, Robert Stokes 1A, Liam Beresford 1A. **Barrie 1.**

Minor Midget AE - Aurora 2 - Nathan Nealon 1G, Brett Bond 1A, Harry Smith 1G, Nicholas Steiner 1A. **Richmond Hill 1.**

Minor Midget AE - Aurora 4 - Joel Gouveia 1G, Nicholas Steiner 1G 1A, Gabe Ouahen 1A, Graham Robinson 1G 1A, Brett Bond 1G, Nathan Nealon 1A, Harry Smith 1A. **Richmond Hill 2.**

Minor Midget AE - Stouffville 5. Aurora 2 - Nicholas Steiner 1G, Gabe Ouahen 1G 1A, Graham Robinson 1A.

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School development puts arts students in the spotlight

By Brock Weir

Local students with a passion for art will have more room to flourish once new developments at St. Andrew's College get underway.

Additions to existing buildings on the private school site will go towards top priority programs at the school - particularly music and drama, according to Scott Hayter, Executive Director of Advancement for SAC.

Plans for the redevelopment of the site include an

addition of a multi-purpose stage theatre to the existing Ketchum Auditorium, a new up-to-date music room and practice facilities, an outdoor amphitheatre, as well as classroom and lab spaces for additional areas of study including their business programs and robotic engineering.

The plans are part of a second phase of development at the site following Phase One, which included outdoor playing fields, grandstands, basketball courts and batting cages, a baseball diamond, and new

parking facilities to accommodate spectators.

"The school has a strategic plan and the plan calls on the school to continually ensure that its facilities are up to date, modern, and competitive," Mr. Hayter told The Auroran, noting the facilities have nothing to do with increasing size in their student body.

Student numbers at SAC are currently approximately 585, and the current strategic plan has capped those numbers at 600, so there is a little bit of flexibility, he said. This is attributed to the

addition of a new grade five class starting this fall

"All these [planned] new facilities that we're looking at specifically address areas that we've wanted to improve in the last 15 years," he said. "Music and drama are great programs that we have had at St. Andrew's for some time and they are good programs, but we want to make sure we give the teachers and kids the proper facilities to do a really great job of it."

When asked which among dramatics, music, business, and engineering

are the top priorities for the new facilities, Mr. Hayter said the music department was "probably the top priority" in terms of an immediate need.

Following appropriate approvals, construction, and opening, Mr. Hayter anticipates these facilities would be subject to the same policies SAC has had all along in terms of community usage. The school has a great relationship with the municipality and the community, he added, noting that local swim clubs and other community groups regularly use their facilities and expect to continue in the future. With community use, however, safety of students remains a top priority.

"It is a boarding school with 280 boys who live on campus and upwards of 25 or 30 families, so we need to be careful about our security," he said. "The security of our students and families is the highest level of concern to us."

Aurora Council is set to

approve the site plan agreement for this construction this Tuesday. It was passed on consent at last week's committee meeting. The plan approved last week indicates the exterior of the additions will be "clad with red brick with stone bands and cornice lines to match the adjacent building materials." The amphitheatre will be built with swan limestone blocks and include landscaping.

"Based on preliminary discussion on the proposal, planning staff are not anticipating any significant concerns given the fact that this proposed building addition and courtyards are an infill to the existing buildings located at the west side of campus," said Marco Ramunno, Aurora's Director of Planning in a report to Council. "The development will have no impacts on adjacent lands. A tree removal permit may be required if the works are carried out prior to the execution of a site plan development agreement."



Pianist Soyeon Lee performed to a packed audience on Friday as the latest installment in the Aurora Cultural Centre's Great Artist Piano Series. First prize winner in the 2010 Naumberg International Piano Competition, Ms. Lee (pictured above at Friday afternoon's rehearsal) presented a program called "Invitation to Dance" which featured the works of Bartok, Schumann, Liszt, and Albeniz. The next Great Artist concert will be held at the Centre on Friday, April 27 with a performance by Katherine Chi.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Theatre Aurora season ends with Harvey

Final preparations are being made to cap Theatre Aurora's successful 2011-2012 season.

Rehearsals are well underway for their upcoming finale production of "Harvey", the classic story of Elwood P. Dowd, a man whose best friend is an imaginary, six-foot-three-and-a-half tall invisible rabbit, who lends his name to the title of the play. The show opens at the Factory Theatre on Henderson Drive on April 13.

The play, written by Mary Chase, won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1945, and was adopted into the beloved film of the same name five years later starring James Stewart and Josephine Hull. Mr. Stewart reprised his role of Elwood P. Dowd in a television remake of the play over twenty years later which also featured Arlene Francis, Martin Gabel, Helen Hayes, and Richard Mulligan.

"Harvey" follows the story of Elwood and his rabbit as his family becomes increasingly dismayed with the "friendship" and has him committed to a sanatorium. Directed and produced by the husband-and-wife team of Reg O'Brien and Anne Currie-O'Brien, there are many familiar faces in the play's cast, according to Andrew Kipfer of Theatre Aurora.

"There are 11 cast members which include some very familiar faces to Theatre

Aurora," said Mr. Kipfer. "Peter Shipston, playing Dowd, recently appeared in 'The Laramie Project.' Susan Lane appeared in 'The Cemetery Club' and Chuck Therrien appeared in 'The Drawer Boy'. The other cast members are Ruth Bennett, Sal Agulia, Tami Van Bakel, Kyle Dickie, Jamie Hair, Matthew Jemmett, Justine Scott and Zara Stuart-Jones.

Tickets for Harvey are on sale now through the Theatre's website at www.theatreaurora.com, through the box office by telephone at 905-727-3669, by email at taboxoffice@bellnet.ca, or in person. The show runs on selected dates through April 28.

Theatre Aurora's 2012-2013 season will get underway with a production of Noel Coward's "Private Lives," a perennial favourite which recently spent time treading the boards in Toronto and New York with Kim Cattrall and Paul Gross in the lead roles. Additional productions in the cards for the season include Raymond Storey's "The Glorious 12th," the musical murder mystery "The Last Resort" by Norm Foster, Michel Tremblay's "Les Belles-Soeurs," a watershed play in Quebec culture, and "Jitters" by David French, a story about mounting a play in a small community theatre.

What to do when the lights go out: Aurora marks Earth Hour

By Brock Weir

This Saturday is Earth Hour, and several activities are planned across Aurora to keep you entertained while you power down for 60 minutes.

For those of you who live by your electronic devices - not to mention your light bulbs (of both varieties, no judging here) - one thing that might tickle your fancy is a special schoolHOUSE concert over at the Aurora Cultural Centre featuring musician Glenn Marais.

Mr. Marais will be on hand for the concert on Saturday night, which is scheduled for 7.30, for the third "house concert" style event hosted by the Centre in a coffee house setting.

"We put on the coffee urn, lay out a few treats, set out the tea lights, and settle

in for an evening performance celebrating indie musical talent," said Jane Taylor of the Cultural Centre.

"Glenn Marais is well-known to folks in York Region - and beyond - as a seasoned singer and songwriter. His song, Everybody Wants to Be Like You, performed by the artist Snow, was nominated for a Juno Award, and is the fifth most-played song in Canadian history. Another Marais composition, On the Shoulders of Giants, was selected by the Nelson Mandela Children's Foundation to commemorate his 90th birthday."

In conjunction with Earth Hour, of course, a portion of the concert will be entirely acoustic.

Proceeds from Mr. Marais \$15 per ticket performance, will be donated to Grade 4

Newmarket elementary school student Emma Hill. A student at Stonehaven Elementary School, Emma is awaiting diagnosis "of a mysterious illness that has kept her hospitalized" at Sick Kids in Toronto. The fundraising program is helping towards adapting the Hill residence for Emma's return.

Over at Town Hall, the lights will be turned off as well for the annual observance from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30. At the municipal end, all non-essential building systems will be turned off, maintaining "only those needed for programs and the safety of patrons."

This year's program hopes to build on the success of previous years Town-wide. Last year, for instance, energy consumption was reduced in Town by

14.3 per cent during earth hour and now the Town is hoping to beat that record with a 15 per cent reduction.

To help this effort, they're putting in an added incentive. If residents share with the Town through Facebook or Twitter how they plan to while away Earth Hour, you could have a chance of winning one of three Eco-prize packs from RONA Home Improvement valued up to \$250.

"The Earth Hour campaign serves as a yearly reminder to consider our environment first before using electricity needlessly," said Mayor Geoffrey Dawe. "I encourage all residents to participate in Earth Hour 2012 by scaling back on electricity use, as well as make an ongoing commitment to energy reduction throughout the year."



Members of Somerville Dance Academy's "Dancing For Life" Relay for Life team are eagerly anticipating the June 8 event. Pictured above are (back row, left to right) Erica Tiano, Caiti Malone, Michelle Marshall, and Amanda Lytle. Middle Row: Alexandra DiGiacomi, Ella Quinn, Tatianna Marshall, and Sophie Feld. In front, lying down with their Relay for Life gold registration is Laura St. Germain.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

Team work is key to fundraising success for Dancers

From page 1
Marshall on her involvement with Relay for Life. "It is what pushes me to keep going."

Her personal experiences added an extra layer of purpose to the reason the dancers were participating in the first place. The struggle of Ms. Smith added "a lot of meaning" to the entire group as well because she was very involved in the Somerville community.

"Her two girls had danced at the studio, so we were providing support for them," Ms. Marshall recalls. "In the studio family there are so many different families that are touched by it. We may have put Sandy's face on it that year but everybody has their own connection."

"We've had mothers and fathers over the year that have battled it. As a studio, we support the children because they come to the studio and it is kind of their release, their escape."

Between 2004 and 2011 - with one year off in 2006 - the team has raised over \$52,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. This year they have set a \$15,000 goal, and with just over two months to go before the big day, they are already at \$8,500.

At first, Ms. Marshall said she found the fundraising aspect a bit daunting, but over the years they have developed a winning system where fundraising takes place year-round in the Somerville community, which is based in Oak Ridges.

"I started organizing team fundraising events as opposed to doing their own thing and I just found it pulls people together," said Ms. Marshall. "They are so energetic and they are just so motivated. It's not always because of someone with cancer, they just want to help. They want to do something."

Their year-round fundraiser so far has included workshops run by volunteer teachers, 100 per cent of the proceeds from which go directly into their fundraising drive, bake sales,

and an annual dancing showcase at Theatre Aurora which also affords the students the opportunity to show off their skills as choreographers.

"They come up with some really good stuff," said Ms. Marshall of her students. "By coming up with a performance for the team, it kind of works as a win-win for everybody because the kids get the opportunity to perform their own work, they start getting the idea of what it is like to do their own choreography, rehearsals - and some of them start preparing in June for the December show."

Among some of the instructors preparing for the relay this year is Denise Quinn, owner of the dance studio. She participated on the original team in honour of Sandy Smith. She noted that last year's fundraising effort was dedicated to their backstage manager who lost her battle with cancer two years ago.

"We've definitely had contact and known many people over the years just through meeting parents and their families who have struggled and lost their battle with cancer, and also some stories of people who are currently winning the fight," said Ms. Quinn, adding her own daughter is joining the team for the first time this year.

"Michelle has done a really fantastic job in making it a fun activity for the kids involved. All of the kids involved do dance as an extracurricular activity and she has found a way to make them turn that activity into a way to help raise money. It is finding the interest of this whole entire group of kids and their families and using their interest and their passion for dance, and translating it into fundraising."

Another mother who has two kids enrolled at Somerville for competitive dance is Sandy Rutherford. Ms. Rutherford has lost both her parents to cancer over the past four years and said the issue became not only much closer to her heart, but also brought home the sup-

portive atmosphere at Somerville.

"[My mother's death] hit my kids - and one in particular - very hard and she had trouble grieving," said Ms. Rutherford. "The environment at Somerville was very...well, I cannot say enough. I will forever in my heart be grateful for them because they just, without saying a thing or blinking an eye, they became ever that much more supportive and got us through a tough time."

When Ms. Marshall suggested she join the team, she said it made absolute sense and joined up the first year after her mom died.

"That is when we had it at the [Aurora Family] Leisure Complex and it just happened to be the most gorgeous evening, a beautiful sunset, and when the luminaries were lit and the piper went by, it was just incredibly moving being there with the Somerville gang and the Relay for Life team."

Since that perfect spring evening she has been a regular participant and has set a \$500 fundraising goal for herself.

Between now and June, the Dancing for Life team members are now doing their individual fundraising efforts to find the balance. There might be one more group fundraising event in the offing, however, but Ms. Marshall is mum on plans.

Not one to discourage any healthy competition, when asked what other teams and individuals can do to up the ante and start nipping on their heels to join them in the top three this year, her advice is simple: work as a team.

"That's really what brought us together," she said. "If you can do group events like garage sales and bottle drives, we've done it all. Working as a team has been key to our success. The enthusiasm [of co-captain Amanda Lytle] has really pumped up the kids this year. She does a lot of online work on Facebook and she is very competitive when it comes to raising money!"

Whether or not that was a challenge to the other groups remains to be seen, but there is still time for you to round up and register a team before Relay For Life comes to Aurora in June.

To find out how to register, join the survivors' victory lap, volunteer for the event, or pledge to a registered participant, visit civio.cancer.ca/site/TR?fr_id=10503&pg=entry. At press time dancing for Life was leading the top five registered teams with \$8,513.57 collected so far.



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Community support has been "phenomenal" for group

From page 3

Khamissa is now on ABLE's board of directors), Staples, Sunrise Senior Living, Swiss Chalet, Tim Hortons, and the Town of Aurora.

"This is where the community has been phenomenal in their support for the program," said Ms. Hurst. "Very few people have said 'no' to us and we have work contracts with these different businesses. We try to match people's interest with a work placement and the goal is eventually these will lead to paid opportunities."

While initially ABLE contacted these employers, more organizations have recently contacted ABLE, offering placements.

"I think we have a good reputation and we're very credible," said Ms. Hurst. "People are hearing about what we do."

Additional support is provided to the group through a multi-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Trinity Anglican Church ("That faith community has been really supportive. We are not part of that faith community but they have been very supportive of us."), and York Region Transit.

Looking ahead to the future of ABLE, Ms. Hurst said the board is in the middle of a self assessment to examine existing program objectives, see if they are being met, and address any outstanding issues head on. They need to come up with good data to prove that the organization is sustainable. While the cost per member is significant, sustainability is key.

"For us to be sustainable we have had very successful fundraising and just to keep that momentum going [is important]," said Ms. Hurst. "We got a three year Trillium Grant and we have to show sustainability. Then you can reapply to that and it is only for new projects. It's not ongoing funding from Trillium. They have been wonderful with us. Other foundations have supported us over the years, individual donations.

"We have an annual dinner called "Come to the Table for ABLE" and that has been a major fundraiser. Last year we were an Official Charity for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon and we're going to be doing that again. Everybody trained to do the 5k. Some people ran it, some people walked it, and there was a whole group of

us that went down. We're going to be doing that again and we are going to be looking at other foundations to sustain it."

That being said, ABLE is always investigating new opportunities with business partners, and two new participants will be joining them in September. More information on The ABLE Network including how to join, how to partner, and how to donate to the group can be found on their website www.theablenetwork.ca.

With sustainability, Ms. Hurst said Aurora's pioneering ABLE Network can be replicated to serve to fill the after high school gap for young adults with intellectual disabilities in other communities large and small so long as the community is supported by a transit system for the independence of its members.

"We really assist with the transition from high school to ABLE Network into the community," said Ms. Hurst. "When people come to us they come in January and then we really work hard to make it a smooth transition from high school into the ABLE Network and that is when we assess needs, find out what people want, and then find work placements."



ABLE Network participants Andrew Hughes, Mary Haberer, and Devin Turner worked on their literacy programs in the Trinity Rectory solarium on Friday afternoon.

Auroran photos by Brock Weir

Contract due in the New Year

From page 1

The terms of reference, which were released on Friday afternoon, outline a number of outstanding issues both parties see in the current contract.

From Council's perspective, issues include Council or Town representation on the Board of Directors, Council's approval of a grant to the centre within the municipal budget process, the development and evaluation of key performance indicators (KPIs), municipal access to the Church Street School, and making the Centre's board meetings open and accessible. Of particular interest given the discussions that have led to this point is the inclusion of the "care, interpretation, and display of heritage artefacts."

The Centre, on the other hand, has identified: ensuring the "integrity, transparency, and accountability" between the two parties; the creation of a "collaborative environment" on the delivery of Cultural services in Town; a coordinated approach to delivery; clarification on financial reporting and payments; fundraising expectations; details over the relationship between the Centre and the Aurora Historical Society collections;

and "ensuring a mutually acceptable process to establish multi-year stable core funding to support the Centre's Strategic Plan," along with the "logistics" of having Council representation on the board.

Since the nearly four-and-a-half hour meeting on February 28 at which the termination of the Cultural Centre's contract was taken off the table and deferred to this Tuesday, the two parties met on March 5, 13, 15, 20, and 22 to come up with the terms of reference outlined above.

In the terms, both parties underscore the value they believe is added to a community by a regular Cultural diet.

"Cultural services within Aurora are essential in developing a strong sense of community," reads the draft. "The provision of cultural programs and opportunities for the residents of Aurora contributes to the goals identified in the Town's Strategic Plan and adds value to the community. The development of a Cultural Services Purchase Agreement provides an opportunity to promote, nurture, and expand Cultural Services to the residents of

Aurora. "A balanced program of Cultural Services can make a contribution in achieving specific goals in the Town's Strategic Plan and the Town's Parks and Recreation Master Plan."

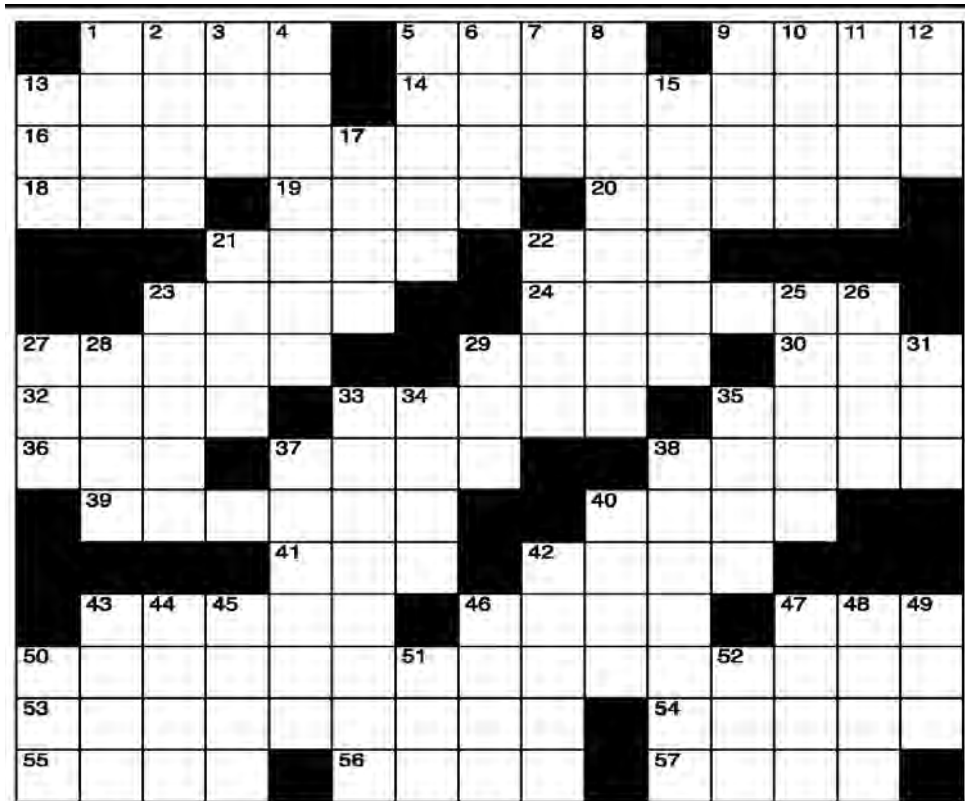
In their report to Council, Aurora CAO and Parks and Recreation Director Al Downey singled out Council representation and having financing for the Centre as part of the budget process as two of the most significant issues during the negotiations.

They noted as well that the ongoing negotiations of the ad hoc committee will have minimal impact financially.

"The only direct cost to the Town in accepting the Terms of Reference for an Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a new Cultural Services Purchase Agreement will be retaining an independent facilitator which cost will be shared by the Town and the ACC equally," they said.

"There may be additional costs associated with the negotiations for such things as external legal advice. Every attempt will be made to accommodate any additional costs within the Town's existing operating budget."

CROSSWORD



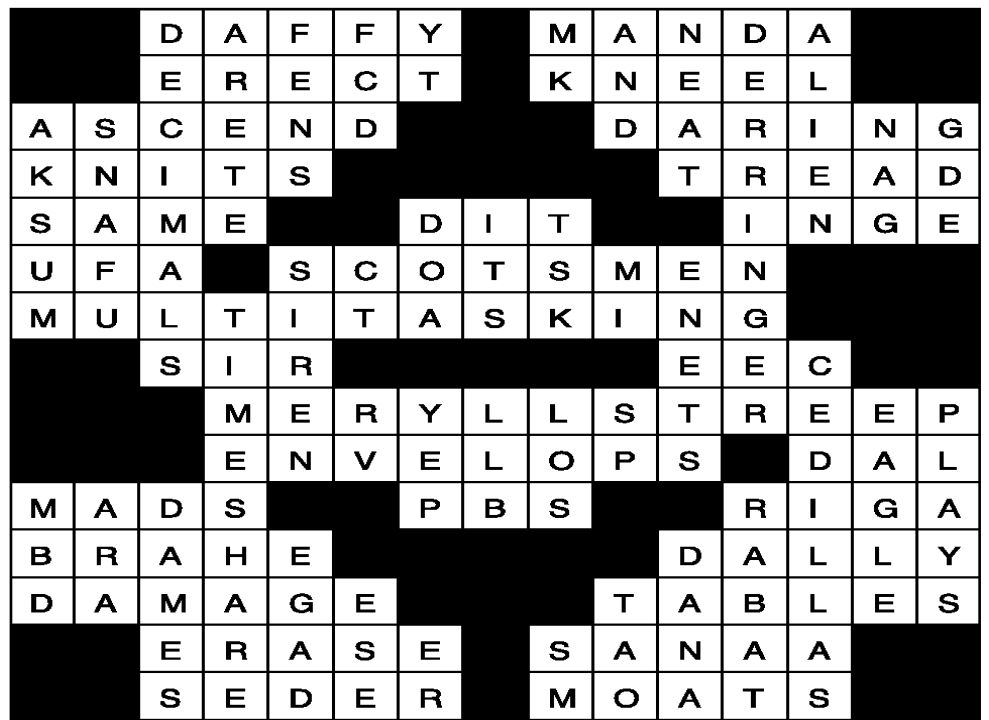
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Medical products manufacturer
- 5. Depletes gradually
- 9. Metrical foot used in poetry
- 13. Brand of clear wrap
- 14. Gabriel was one
- 16. Famous for his window's & glass
- 18. H. Potter's best friend
- 19. Tennessee's flower
- 20. Narrow inlet
- 21. Puts it on the chopping block
- 22. Fed
- 23. Hall of Fame DJ Rick
- 24. Most loathsome
- 27. Farewell (Spanish)
- 29. Plant germination vessel
- 30. Am. Heart Assoc.
- 32. Sock repair
- 33. Gather fabric in rows
- 35. Muscat is the capital
- 36. Goat and camel hair fabric
- 37. Raised meeting platform
- 38. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 39. Yield to another's wish
- 40. A country's entry permit
- 41. Hero of Spain El ____
- 42. Partner of pepper
- 43. Famous grandma artist
- 46. Freedom from difficulty
- 47. Supervises flying
- 50. In spite of
- 53. Insatiable
- 54. Source of chocolate
- 55. Sulk
- 56. CCC
- 57. Amounts of time

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Popular Mexican dish
- 2. Fe
- 3. Obstruct
- 4. Fixes firmly in
- 5. Indian frocks
- 6. Music, ballet and literature
- 7. What part of (abbr.)
- 8. More deceitful
- 9. Informal term for data
- 10. Chinese gelatin
- 11. Repair fabric
- 12. Nellie ____, journalist
- 13. Single Lens Reflex
- 15. Away from one's home
- 17. Mined minerals
- 21. Longest division of geological time
- 22. Affirm positively
- 23. Paul Adrien ____, Br. physicist
- 25. Ballroom dance
- 26. Tai (alt. sp.)
- 27. Dental group
- 28. Aha ____ Honeymoon
- 29. Female sibling
- 31. Today host Curry
- 33. Deriving pleasure from cruelty
- 34. Went quickly (archaic)
- 35. Kiln for drying hops
- 37. Misrepresentation
- 38. Absence of sound
- 40. Many blood vessels
- 42. Satisfies to excess
- 43. Glandular fever
- 44. Capital city of Shiga, Japan
- 45. Hit sharply
- 46. This (Spanish)
- 47. Payroll tax
- 48. Freshwater duck genus
- 49. In the past
- 50. A small drink of liquor
- 51. Own (Scottish)
- 52. Daughters of the Am. Revolution

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Vacancy could give you the opportunity to make a difference for disabilities

By Brock Weir

If you have experience or background in the world of accessibility and disabilities, you could soon have your opportunity to shine.

The Town of Aurora is looking to fill a vacancy on its Accessibility Advisory Committee, following the resignation earlier this month of Committee vice-chair Kayla Scott. The committee, which consists of three members who are citizens with disabilities, one member of Council, and one citizen volunteer, parent with a child with a disability, or a stakeholder, has two months to fill the vacancy left by Ms. Scott.

While Council has the ability to seek new members from the wider community or look to people who have already applied

for a place on the committee in the past, from last week's General Committee discussions, it seems members are going into this Tuesday's Council meeting leaning towards the former rather than the latter.

Last Tuesday, Councillors debated the merits of looking to their stockpile of committee applicants versus seeking new members by a variety of means. Councillor Paul Pirri moved the motion looking to seek new applicants for the position by outreach. This was seconded by Councillor Sandra Humfries.

"I would hope the previous individuals who did submit applications would do it again, but I just have to see who else is out there and see if anyone comes

out of it," said Councillor Humfries.

Councillor John Abel, however, said he did not believe there was a large pool of applicants to choose from after the last call for nominations, but said finding persons with disabilities, or facing accessibility issues, has been a challenge in the past.

The move to seek new applicants was supported by Councillor Wendy Gaertner, who noted that Council would have the ultimate say in the appointment anyway, but Councillor Evelyn Buck went against the general flow of the discussions.

She said she believed that previous applicants should have a first crack at the job.

"It almost strikes me that

when people are asked to apply, they go to a lot of work to make an application and then one person is selected," said Councillor Buck. "We already have, I gather, a number of candidates who have expressed a willingness [to serve on the committee.]

"I don't think I would vote for advertising it again. I would prefer to see the clerk work with the names we have and call them and see if there is someone willing to serve and then we can advertise. I don't think there is any merit in going through that process again. What was done should serve in this instance."

If Councillors approve the motion to go forward in seeking new applicants, the ball could be rolling as soon as Wednesday.

Local noise laws may not change after all

By Brock Weir

Suggested changes to the Town's noise bylaw to cover things such as outdoor pumps should not be put into action, according to Aurora's bylaw director.

Techa van Leeuwen, the Town's Director of Bylaw Services, made her recommendation in a report presented to General Committee last week. Her report was in response to a resident complaint and a few delegations last year that called on the Town to tighten up its noise regulations and set maximum sound limits.

Introduction of such a limit, however, would bring "several challenges" to the Town and require extensive planning and review, she said.

"The Town would have to consider the impact and effect the specific regulations would have on specific individuals, activities, and property uses in Aurora," said Ms. van Leeuwen in her report. "We consulted the [Solicitor] for the Region of York [and] he was able to provide us with numerous case law examples of municipal bylaws that were passed with the intent of regulating, controlling, or prohibiting a specific activity, place or person."

"When these bylaws were reviewed by a court of competent jurisdiction, the bylaws were quashed and found to have been passed in "bad faith" by the municipality."

In speaking with other municipalities that implemented similar bylaws, common noise complaints included manufacturing noise, and noises from bars, pubs, hotels, clubs, and student housing. Getting the program up and running, however, had its own issues for towns, including extensive staff training and purchasing of new decibel mon-

itors in the thousands of dollars.

"Staff did consult with the Supervising Prosecutor for York Region who advised that municipalities have been more successful in the courts using the qualitative sections of a noise bylaw than referring to maximum sound levels," said Ms. van Leeuwen, noting they also had concerns with the qualifications of bylaw officers to "stand up in Courts under the attack of the defence" even after technical training.

The Town's bylaw department received 54 noise complaints in 2010 and 47 last year. Of these 101 complaints, only two related to outdoor pumps and filtration systems from pools and hot tubs, which was the reason for the initial complaint which brought about the suggested changes.

According to Ms. van Leeuwen, one complaint was resolved by the owner of the pump, but one is still outstanding and could end up in the courts.

Speaking to the report before Council, Councillor

John Abel, who initially brought the concerns forward regarding outdoor pumps, questioned the weight being given in the director's report to comments from the Region's Manager of Prosecutions when prosecution happened very rarely in the noise complaint process. While Ms. van Leeuwen said all angles needed to be considered, including all risks, before a report came back to Council, Councillor Abel questioned whether there could be another solution.

"If we were to amend the bylaw to include maximum sound levels for certain activities and we received a complaint, we would only be successful if we had reports indicating that they exceeded those maximum sound levels," said Ms. van Leeuwen.

"We could purchase equipment and train staff. There are some concerns about whether or not the courts would challenge the expertise of staff. We could contract the services out

and whether or not we received those types of complaints, we could contract those services to the consultant, or we could require that the complainant provide that report and we would take enforcement action based on a report provided by them by a person who is qualified and competent."

The report was received by Council at the Committee last week and will be up for final approval on Tuesday.

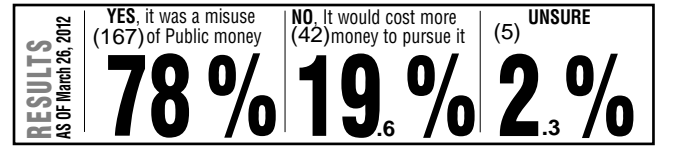
Noise complaint issues reported in Aurora over the last two years include persistent dog barking, parties, loud music, construction on new buildings and home renovations, snow removal, landscaping, and commercial garbage collection.

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Carters would like to congratulate Colin on recently becoming a Registered Trade-mark Agent with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. Having articulated with the firm, Colin was called to the Ontario Bar and joined Carters in 2011 to practice in the areas of intellectual property, information technology and privacy law.

A graduate of Queen's University, Faculty of Law, Colin gained litigation experience before numerous courts and tribunals as a student, and received several awards including the Sabbath Prize in Wills and Estate Planning. Colin is available to serve local business or charity clients and can be reached by email at cthurston@carters.ca.



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COMING EVENTS

From page 2

glimpse into past days of news media in Aurora - from an expert in the field. Admission by donation is gratefully received. Light refreshments are provided.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

The 2012 Upper Canada Mall Easter Seals 10k Run and 5k Run & Walk will take place today in a new location - the Newmarket Riverwalk Commons in Downtown Newmarket and is expected to draw nearly 1,000 participants. The new venue located on Doug Duncan Drive offers a beautiful, flat and scenic run course through Fairy Lake Park and the Tom Taylor Trail System. For more information visit www.eastersealsrun.com.

The Aurora Seniors Association's Evergreen Choir, under the direction of Dr. Richard Heinze, warmly invite you to attend their annual Spring Concert, Sing, Smile, Be Happy, to take place at the Aurora Seniors Centre, 90 John West Way, Aurora, at 2.30 p.m. Tickets, will be available after April 15 at the Centre Reception Desk. \$10 for adults, children are welcome and are free of charge. Refreshments will be served during the break.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Doane House Hospice will hold its third annual Unique Craft and Gift Show today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Newmarket Community Centre (200 Doug Duncan Drive, Newmarket). For more information, call 905-967-0259.

CONTINUING

The Aurora Probus Club meets every second Wednesday of the month (except July and August) at the Aurora Legion. Memberships consist of retired and semi-retired PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS people, hence the name Probus. It is a fun fellowship with well-chosen speakers. New memberships are welcome. For more information call Marilyn Munslow at 905-727-9344 or Bob Saunders at 905-841-3558.

The Aurora Garden and Horticultural Society is always looking for new members of all ages. Monthly meetings with guest speakers are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. (youth meet at 6 p.m.) at the Royal Canadian Legion in Aurora. For more information call Cindy at 905-713-6660.

York Regional Police Venturers have openings for boys and girls aged 14 to 17. Police Venturers meet every Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 240 Prospect Street, 1 District police station community room. This is a joint program between York Regional Police and Scouts Canada. There is a Scouts Canada membership fee. Service uniforms are provided. High school students can earn community service hours through the program. If interested visit a meeting. For further information visit YorkRegionalPolice.org or contact volunteers@yrp.ca.

Trinity Anglican Church "Clothes Closet", located at

44 Metcalfe Street, Aurora, is the local source for gently used women's, children's and men's clothing. All monies raised are used to support the needy of Aurora, since it goes directly to the "Welcoming Arms" Ministry. Open weekday mornings, 9.30 a.m., to 11.30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. The Bag Sale happens the last Monday of each month.

GRANAurora, the local Grandmothers To Grandmothers group, meets monthly to raise awareness, generate funds and lobby on behalf of the grandmother care-givers in AIDS-ravaged Africa. For more information call Kay at 905-841-9318 or Joan at 905-727-5586.

Alateen meets every Sunday at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, corner of Victoria and Mosley Streets. Al-Anon meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Aurora United Church on Yonge Street. For more information go to al-anon.alateen.on.ca.

The Aurora Garden & Horticultural Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, 105 Industrial Parkway North. Visitors are welcome for only \$2. For more information call Ray at 905-727-6168.

York Highlands Chorus is an award-winning a capella Sweet Adelines chorus, a group of women who gather Tuesday evenings at the Old Fire Hall, Newmarket, to sing, share in the harmony of friendship and learn the barbershop art form. York Highlands is always looking for new women who share the love of a capella music. Call Karen at 905-726-2113 or e-mail Vikki at information@yorkhighlands.com.

The Upper Canada Chordsmen, Aurora-Newmarket's award winning chorus, is looking for male singers. The group meets every Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Old Fire Hall, 140 Main Street South, in Newmarket.

The Optimist Club of Aurora meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Aurora Legion. New members are welcome. Call 905-727-5012 for more information.

The Aurora Lions, have moved to their new meeting place at the Aurora Legion in the Coulson Hall where they have three meetings per month. The second Monday of the month is the dinner meeting at 7 p.m., the third Tuesday is the business meeting at 7.30 p.m. and the fourth Monday is a dinner meeting at 7 p.m. The club is welcoming people to come out to the meetings to see what the Aurora Lions are all about and consider joining the Lions and reach out to the community in many events. For further details go to their website at www.auroralionscanada.com.

The Aurora Rotary Club meets every Monday night at

Gabriel's Restaurant on Yonge Street. New members are welcome. For further information, go to their website at www.rotaryaurora.com

Meet for lunch and a sense of community at Martha's Table, based in St. Andrew's Hall at Aurora's Presbyterian Church. The thriving, volunteer-run program reopens September 1. Lunch, featuring soup, sandwiches, and dessert, is offered between 11.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. Net receipts go to local charities. The hall is on the corner of Mosley and Victoria Streets.

The York Regional Police Male Chorus is looking for new members. You do not have to be a police officer nor are you required to read music to volunteer. The group

rehearses Monday evenings between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. For further information, contact the chorus supervisor at 905-727-9676 or the co-ordinator of volunteer services for YRP at 905-830-0303, extension 6717.

Aurora's Air Cadets meet every Tuesday night at Cardinal Carter School from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and offer a program for 12 years and older boys and girls.

Queen's York Rangers Army cadet corps has openings for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The group parades every Friday night between 7 and 9 p.m. There is no membership fee and those in high school can earn community service hours through the program. For further information, call 905-726-8600.



As people all across Aurora shook off the winter and welcomed the new spring which arrived a few days early this year, so too did new spring flowers as they popped out of the ground to enjoy the sun.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

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Hey Aurora!

ANNOUNCEMENT from **THE AURORAN**



*Kids...looking to
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Money?*

The Auroran Community Newspaper would like to announce that as our paper continues to grow we are switching to

Carrier Delivery

One of the many benefits of this switch is that it will be employing the youngsters of Aurora in delivering our paper.

The Auroran is continuing to secure carriers for routes all over Aurora.

To book your route please email
Zach at zach@auroran.com