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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 15 No. 12 905-727-3300

theauroran.com

FREE Week of January 15, 2015




JOHN A'S SPECIAL DAY

Alexander and Athena get into the patriotic spirit at the Aurora Public Library on Saturday afternoon in a special celebration to celebrate the 200th birthday of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. For more on the festivities, see Page 5.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Parking overhaul proposed for Yonge St. core

By Brock Weir

If you ask people where Aurora's biggest traffic problems lie, residents are most likely to look in the general direction of the Yonge and Wellington intersection.

This month, however, may lay the foundation for significant changes down the road which could help alleviate regular traffic snarls in Aurora's busiest corridor.

Next week, Council is set to consider two notices of motion on Aurora's Downtown Core. The first is a plan touted by Mayor Geoff Dawe throughout the 2014 Election Campaign to overhaul on-street parking in Yonge

Street's historic core. The second is a proposal from Councillor Tom Mrakas to implement left turn restrictions at the intersection.

In his pitch to Council, Mayor Dawe proposes a plan that would reduce Yonge Street to single lanes of traffic with the second lane on the east and west sides of the street reserved for parking and other streetscape improvements.

"The Town of Aurora recognizes the importance of Yonge Street as a corridor of business in our historic downtown and is fully committed to ensuring its long-term commercial sustainability," says Mayor Dawe in his notice of motion, citing studies focusing on downtown revitalization

going back to 2009, as well as the Aurora Promenade Secondary Plan of 2010.

"The Town of Aurora Economic Development Action Plan and Business Retention and Expansion Strategy emphasize the importance of supporting local business and revitalizing the Downtown [and Aurora] approved the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) to support downtown revitalization in 2014."

This concept, he says, will work hand-in-hand with these plans and, if passed, the notice of motion will direct staff to investigate the feasibility of implementing the plan.

Starting in the south, the one lane of

Continued on page 6

Soccer stars showcase skills



The AYSC Stingers '98 face off against the Oshawa Kicks Inferno '98 at the Aurora Sports Dome Saturday as part of the 2015 AYSC Invitational Showcase, where universities came looking to fill places on their rosters. For more, see page 13.

Auroran photo by David Falconer

2015 will bring changes to your curbside garbage pickup

By Brock Weir

The arrival of 2015 brought with it a number of changes related to what will and will not be picked up from your curbside waste collection, but there are more changes in store for the year ahead for Aurora residents.

As of January 1, all those using curbside waste services will be prohibited from disposing of e-waste and batteries. There is also a set maximum of five extra "bulky items" that will be collected in addition to your garbage bags and cans, as well as your

green bins and blue boxes.

According to Ilmar Simanovskis, Aurora's Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services, however, these changes are just the beginning for what Aurora has in mind for the next eleven months.

The first priority, he says, is the formal launch of the Clear Bag Program, which will shift residents away from the black and green bags used by most households today, towards clear plastic bags.

The intention of the controversial

Continued on page 11

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Weekly Notice Board



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Email info@aurora.ca • Website www.aurora.ca

Accessible formats
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accessibility@aurora.ca

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 20	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Council
Wednesday, January 21	7 p.m.	Aurora Public Library	Aurora Public Library Board
Monday, January 26	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Special General Committee Budget Overview*
Wednesday, January 28	7 p.m.	Council Chambers	Public Planning*

Meetings are open to the public and can be seen on Rogers TV, channel 10. For a full list of upcoming meetings, please visit www.aurora.ca

*Meetings can be viewed online by visiting www.aurora.ca/gcstream



REMINDER

Winter Parking Restrictions in effect from November 15 to April 15, 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.

It's that time of year again! Snow and ice are due to arrive soon. Please make it safe for everyone and ensure that your vehicles are not parked on the street. It is also important to not park over sidewalks or onto the roadway. This is a hazard for residents and it severely hinders the ability of our Infrastructure and Environmental Services staff to efficiently plow our roads and sidewalks.

For more information, please call 905-726-4751 or visit www.aurora.ca

UPDATE: Club Aurora will remain open at The Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex

Due to unforeseen delays, Club Aurora will NOT be moving to The Aurora Family Leisure Complex in January.

Club Aurora will continue to remain open at The Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC) located at 1400 Wellington Street East.

Fitness classes will resume on **Thursday, January 15** at the SARC.

There are no changes to registered swimming lessons at the AFLC. All aquatics drop-in programs will remain at the SARC.

For more information on Club Aurora's operating hours, please contact The Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex at 905-726-4770.

We appreciate your patience and co-operation.

Waste and Recycling Pick-up Reminder

All waste, blue box and green bin materials must be set out at the curb by 7 a.m. on the collection day.

To view the area collection map, please consult your 2015 Waste Management Guide and Recycling Calendar or visit www.aurora.ca/waste

Electronic Waste and Clothing Recycling Event

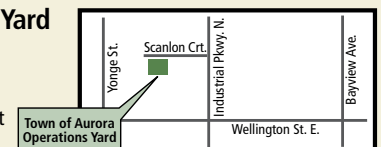


Saturday, January 17 • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Drop off all your unwanted or obsolete electronic devices and gently used youth and young adult-sized clothing!

**Town of Aurora Operations Yard
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Aurora's Borealis

Don't miss Aurora's Borealis!

Come to Aurora Town Park every evening from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. until Monday, February 16, 2015 and enjoy the beautifully lit trees and festive atmosphere.

For more information, please call 905-726-4762 or visit www.aurora.ca

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Aurora is now accepting applications for the following positions:

Summer Labourer - Parks

Application deadline is **Monday, January 19**

Part-Time Program Leader

Applications deadline is **Monday, January 19**

Part-Time Lifeguards/Aquatic Instructor

Application deadline is **Monday, January 26**

Summer Camp Positions

Applications deadline is **Friday, January 30**

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/employment

New Changes coming to Curbside Collection!

As of **January 1, 2015** all residents and businesses in Aurora who participate in curbside collection must comply with the following changes:



- E-waste and batteries are banned from curbside collection
- There is a maximum of **five extra bulky items** per scheduled collection. For example, you can set out a maximum of five extra bulky items along with your green bin(s), blue box(es) and garbage bag(s)/can(s).

Please note: Any items over the five extra bulky item limit will be tagged and left at the curb. You do not require an appointment to pick-up your five extra bulky items.

Residents can dispose of their E-waste and batteries at one of the The Regional Municipality of York's local depots or at the Town's scheduled E-waste events at 9 Scanlon Court.

Extra bulky items can also be taken to one of The Regional Municipality of York's depots, wait till the next garbage cycle, or contact a private removal company.

For more information, please visit www.aurora.ca/wasteandrecycling or call Customer Service at 905-727-1375.

For a full list of The Regional Municipality of York's depots, please visit www.york.ca



The Town of Aurora believes in recognizing citizens who have made a positive impact in our community. We are once again calling for nominations for the **2015 Community Recognition Awards**.

The awards honour individuals, groups and businesses that have actively supported the Town's development and enhanced the overall community.

The Town of Aurora's Community Recognition Awards recognizes the following:

- Volunteer Service Award (5, 10, 15 and 20+ years of service)
- Youth Volunteer Achievement Award
- Civic Appreciation Award
- Outstanding Achievement Award - Individual
- Outstanding Achievement Award - Non-Profit Organization
- Good Neighbour Award
- Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award
- Quarter Century Organization
- Community Organization of the Year
- Bob Harman Memorial Award
- Citizen of the Year Award

For more information or to submit a nomination, please visit www.aurora.ca/cras

Nominations will be accepted until **Thursday, March 19** at 2 p.m.

For more information about the Community Recognition Awards, please contact Jennifer Norton at 905-727-3123 ext. 4232 or email jnorton@aurora.ca

REMINDER

Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning has started

Please be advised that Municipal Street Tree Block Pruning has started and will continue through to late March 2015. For a list of affected streets please visit www.aurora.ca/trees

If you have any questions, please contact the Parks & Recreation department at 905-727-3123 ext. 3233.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dinner and a Movie

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes
(Rated PG)

Where: Aurora Public Library
When: **Saturday, January 17,**
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Ages: 11 to 14 year-olds
Price: Entry is \$3 per person
and pizza will be served.



For more information, please call 905-727-3123 ext. 3121.

2014 Citizen Budget Survey Contest Winner

The Town of Aurora recently administered a Citizen Budget survey inviting residents to provide feedback on service levels as part of the annual budget process. The Citizen Budget survey allowed residents to make recommendations on how funds should be budgeted across a variety of municipal service areas. Congratulations to Gino Martino, who was randomly selected to win an iPad Air.



From left to right: CAO Neil Garbe, Mayor Geoffrey Dawe, Aurora resident Gino Martino and Dan Elliott, Director of Corporate and Financial Services.



TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED CHANGES TO 2015 FEES AND CHARGES BYLAW

The Town of Aurora will be considering the adoption of the new Fees and Charges Bylaw for 2015, By-law Number 5680-15, at the Council meeting on **Tuesday, January 20 at 7 p.m.** at Aurora Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 100 John West Way.

The report regarding the Fees and Charges Bylaw (Report No. CFS14-034) was presented to General Committee on Tuesday, December 9.

The final version of the Fees and Charges Bylaw will be available on the Town's website on the Friday before the Council meeting.

For further information, please visit www.aurora.ca/fees or direct inquiries to Laura Sheardown, Financial Analyst, Cash Flow and Investment at 905-727-3123 ext. 4136.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123, ext. 4136

Awards recognize heroes in the Police, Fire and Emergency services

By Brock Weir

Seven-year-old Arjunpal Khattrra was hailed as a hero this week at the York Regional Police's Aurora headquarters after helping save his father after he fell down a well.

The incident occurred in the early hours of November 9 in Markham, when the boy knocked on the door of a nearby home seeking help in rescuing his father who was trapped in a well just four feet wide and almost 30 feet deep. The previous evening, Arjunpal was asked to stay in the car as his dad went out to check on a property. After falling asleep, he awoke to find his dad had not returned and he went out to look for him.

Arjunpal was saluted by the York Regional Police, Toronto Paramedics, emergency responders from across the GTA, and Members of Federal and Provincial Parliament for his bravery on Monday at the launch of the Public Heroes Awards campaign, hosted by the Intercultural Dialogue Institute of the GTA.

Also recognized for their community contributions were Chris Thind, who received the Public Heroes Youth Recognition Award from Toronto Paramedics for his service in the 1st Downsview Medical Venturer Troop, and efforts on the road to achieving his dream to be a paramedic.

"There is no question that Chris' name is well deserved to be brought forward and we have no doubt he will

continue to act as a role model for his fellow MedVents in the years to come as he continues to provide volunteer service to the residents of Toronto and beyond," said Toronto Paramedics.

Here in York Region, Newmarket's Cody Kaslove was recognized with the award for his considerable contributions to many facets of the community, including volunteerism in his church community at the local and international levels, work with the YRP's Community Safety Village, the Anti-Bullying Advisory Committee for the York Region District School Board, all with an eye of becoming an officer with the York Regional Police.

Toronto Police also recognized Lovejeet Bhatti, an alumna of the Youth in Policing Program, for her continuing involvement in the course.

"Given the events of the past few days in Europe and over the last year in North America, we can understand the need for greater social cohesion and for leaders within our communities to help emergency responders to find a better way to connect with our community," said Toronto Deputy Police Chief Peter Sloly. "[Youth] have a great role model in Lovejeet and the recipients here."

But, now it is time to salute the men and women of the police, fire and EMS forces these youth continue to support with the Public Heroes Awards. Nominations are now being accepted through March 12 for members of these services who have demonstrated



Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard congratulates six-year-old Arjunpal Khattrra for his heroism, helping to rescue his father after he fell down a well in Markham this past fall. Khattrra, who turns seven on Wednesday, was one of four youth recognized by police, fire and emergency services from across the GTA in Aurora on Monday at the launch of the 205 Public Heroes Awards campaign. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

altruism, dedication, and community involvement.

Winners from across the GTA will be recognized in a ceremony in Oak Ridges this April.

"We encourage everybody in the GTA to go to www.publicheroes.org to nominate a police officer, firefighter or paramedic for an award on those three basic criteria," said M. Fatih Yegul of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute. "These awards are just one way that we, as a community, can honour the excellent work police, firefighters and paramedics do each and every day."

Chasing the winter blues away? Embrace them at the Aurora Winter Blues Festival

By Brock Weir

If you're thinking about ways to chase the winter blues away, why not embrace them instead?

That is the motto of Jamie Macdonald, co-founder of the Aurora Winter Blues Festival, which is set to take place next month at Theatre Aurora, as well as a variety of locations around Town.

Now entering its fourth year, after starting more informally as a house party hosted by Mr. Macdonald and his wife, Festival co-founder Helen Gushue, the Festival continues to grow and will be fanning out in the lead-up to the February event.

In fact, you can get a head-start on the festivities now at the Aurora Cultural Centre through the exhibition, "Rooted in the Blues." Spearheaded by Mr. Macdonald as part of the Centre's Community As Curator program, it not only charts the history of the blues genre at its foundations in the United States and its subsequent spread through Canada and the rest of the world, but also the roots of the Aurora Winter Blues Fest itself.

"The exhibit focuses on the origins of the blues, but we also have a Canadian twist as well in how the origin of the blues made its way up into Canada," Mr. Macdonald explains. "We highlight some of the influential people in the blues scene in Canada and we highlight

female blues artists in Canada.

"Rooted in the Blues also focuses on other genres that flourished and came out of the blues recognising R&B, soul, rock and roll, and some of the other big name artists who have their roots in the blues as well. People often think of the blues as a one-off genre, but it was one of the original genres that came out of North America that spurred other genres of music as well."

Mr. Macdonald's own love of the blues has its roots in the music of Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters, two men he describes as the "godfathers of the blues." From there, Johnson and Waters' albums led him to an interest in Stevie Ray Vaughan, and east coast blues master Dutch Mason, who is at the pinnacle of the Canadian blues scene.

"He was a true road warrior and lived and breathed the blues, which came out of the soulfulness of his music," says Mr. Macdonald.

Macdonald and Gushue too live and breathe the blues and after the early incarnation of the Aurora Winter Blues Festival outgrew their home, they expanded to Theatre Aurora on Henderson Drive, which remains its primary venue to this day. Last year, however, operations expanded to the Aurora Cultural Centre with their first annual Blues Bash, a party atmosphere which not only highlighted established

and up-and-coming blues musicians, but also provided an opportunity to salute the work of the two community beneficiaries of proceeds stemming from the Blues Fest - CHATS (Community and Home Assistance to Seniors) and Blue Door Shelters.

Continued on page 16



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Advertorial

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and mind to experience the world from a fresh perspective.

The body is miraculous and with regular yoga, it can get back to working like it did when you were younger. Andrea Roth has been a yoga teacher since 1979 and has been teaching yoga in Aurora for over 20 years. The winter session for 2015 starts Wednesday January 19th. If it's time to put your body back on your priority list, the Wednesday night classes could be just the thing to get you started. Experience the joy, relaxation and recharging effects of yoga.

More info at <http://www.yogaforlife.ca>, info@yogaforlife.ca or call Andrea 905-505-1324

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resident questions MPP's stance on Anti-SLAPP legislation

On December 8, our current Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard rose in the Provincial Legislature to deliver his inaugural speech.

In it, he stated:

"To friends Ken Whitehurst and former Aurora mayor Phyllis Morris, who incubated and encouraged my political ambition to be a Town Councillor and, later, an MPP: Thank you."

Two days later, on December 10, MPP Ballard rose once again, to speak in support of an important bill, Bill 52: "An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act, the Libel and Slander Act and the Statutory Powers Procedure Act in order to protect expression on matters of public interest."

Otherwise known as the "Anti-SLAPP" legislation. (SLAPP: "Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation")

Referring to Bill 52, MPP Ballard stated: "But for those who don't have the backing of a large organization, it is extremely anti-democratic to be able to pour cold water on a citizen's right to talk and to raise important issues."

Shortly thereafter, MPP Sylvia Jones rose to offer her support of Bill 52, citing many examples of the damages a SLAPP action can have on the public and our democratic right to free speech.

At one point she stated:

"I'm going to go to my next example. This offers perhaps the most startling but also clear case of a SLAPP example that I can discuss here today. In this case, the claimant was the mayor of an Ontario town - so, a politician - and the defendants were members of the town's news media. One of them was also a former town councillor. In essence, Speaker, one of the defendants was known for commenting on the town's municipal issues, not unusual in our local papers. He frequently wrote articles dealing with municipal issues as a recurring column that was published on the Internet on a local website focused on current events in the town. The other defendant was a former town councillor and was the website's moderator."

MPP Jones goes on in her statement, detailing the pertinent issues regarding the 2010 Morris lawsuit, to which she is referring.

The entire record, including both MPP Ballard's and MPP Jones' full statements, can be found at this Legislative Assembly of Ontario link: <http://tinyurl.com/oladec10>

So to the point of my letter:

Prior to, and while an Aurora Town Councillor, Chris Ballard made it very clear that he supported ex-mayor Morris in her ultimately failed lawsuit.

In fact, when the newly-elected 2010-2014 Aurora Town Council tabled a motion to cease Ms. Morris' access to taxpayer dollars funding her very "anti-democratic" SLAPP action, then-Councillor Ballard voted against this motion.

To this day, I believe he still maintains that Ms. Morris' actions were not a SLAPP, despite the Ontario court's ruling otherwise.

Now as an MPP, and within a 48-hour span, MPP Ballard praises the ex-mayor, then goes on to support stronger anti-SLAPP legislation, a bill moved by his current bosses.

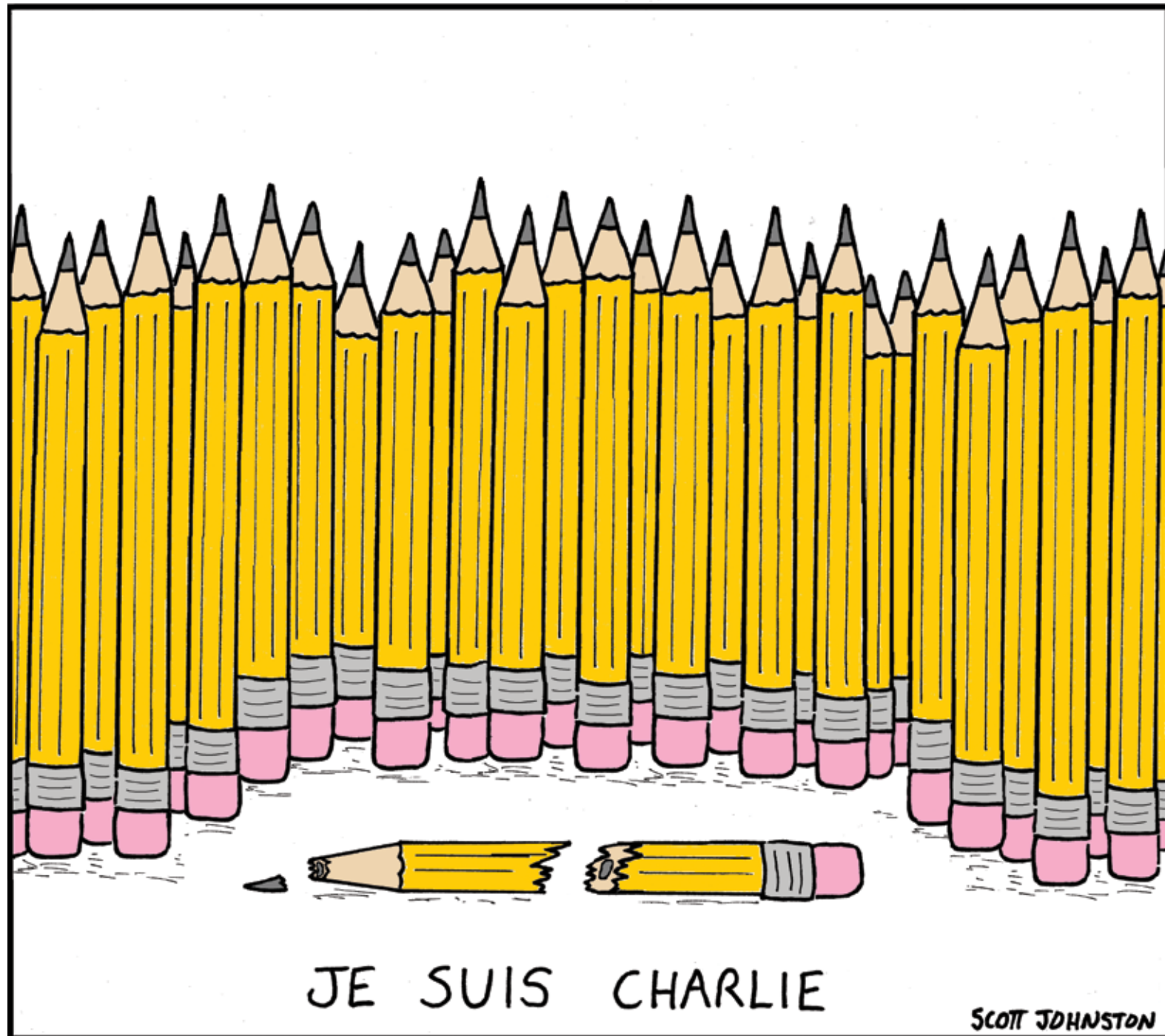
I am not surprised at the contradictory stance taken by our Newmarket-Aurora MPP. It is my personal opinion that he will continue to capitulate to whatever body is most strategically positioned to feed his "political ambition".

**Matt Maddocks
Aurora**

**To submit a letter to the editor,
please send your email to
letters@auroran.com**

**Deadline for submissions is
Sunday at 1 p.m.**

Machell's Corners



Meet Charlie



**BROCK'S
BANTER**
Brock Weir

Many of us are brought up with the philosophy of turning the other cheek.

It is not a matter of burying one's head in the sand when you see something on the horizon which might seem, at the outset, best avoided, or simply ignoring a wrong you have the power to make right; rather, the philosophy extends to not feeding oxygen to the attention seekers hell bent on disrupting our lives in various ways.

Today, in our new, modern internet parlance, it might be called "feeding the troll", but it is an adage that people all too often forget when taking action.

We have seen it locally when litigation called national attention to an online publication with a very niche following. We have seen it provincially and nationally when politicians deny, deny, deny - and very publically, too - allegations made by one individual no one has ever heard of, thus broadcasting said allegations to the wider world, keeping the chestnut "Where there's smoke there's fire" primed and ready to go at a moment's notice.

As we have seen over the last week, however, sometimes this way of thinking can get caught up in very tragic circumstances.

Consider the terrorist situation in Paris which continues to grip the world. The massacre of 12 individuals at the Parisian headquarters of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, followed by the terror attacks in other parts of France over the next few days, has led to an outpouring of international reaction.

Few will forget the endless streams of people marching throughout France on Sunday, citizens at large, political friend and foe alike, in solidarity not just with the French people, but with a way of life that so many nations around the world hold dear, and many might take for granted.

Before last Wednesday's tragedy, I wonder how many people outside of the media, or maybe even political junkies, had the vaguest idea what Charlie Hebdo is or what it stands for. There might have been a blip on our collective radar

screens in 2006 when controversies arose in early 2006 when the newspaper printed cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad. Their publication in the newspaper, along with similar cartoons elsewhere in the world, stoked widespread condemnation from the Muslim community. A few years later, their offices were firebombed after further publications, culminating in last week's massacre.

If the intent of attacks was to silence such editorial freedom, it might not have been the wisest move. In the hours and days following the attack, those who did not know about Charlie Hebdo became a rare breed. Almost immediately - and as depicted above - "Je suis Charlie" became a motto adopted by people from all corners of the world interested in protecting democratic freedoms.

Not only did people now know Charlie, they have come to be Charlie. Charlie is now a way of life and Charlie is stronger than ever.

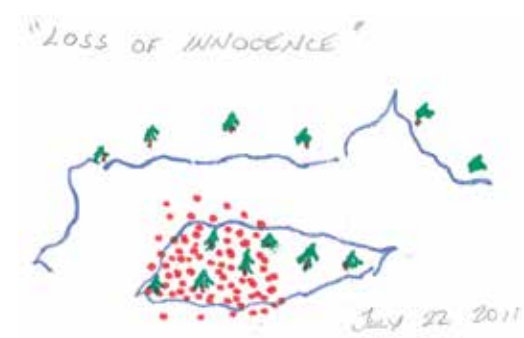
On a personal level, since last Wednesday's attacks I feel almost as though I am looking at art - and, I know, what one man calls art could be called by another man...well, something on the opposite spectrum of art - with a renewed lens.

Browsing the paintings, sketches, and other art forms created by students from Aurora's two Catholic high schools which currently adorn the walls of the Aurora Cultural Centre, it is clear that these are students who are uninhibited, encouraged to hold nothing back while expressing themselves on paper, canvas, or other media. There is a joy from the students that jumps off the walls, the joy that comes with the freedom of expression, and a joy which should be celebrated. I look forward to seeing what the students from Aurora

High School and Dr. G.W. Williams High School have in store for us when they install their works next week.

Art - whether it is visual, musical or dramatic - has the unique power to tap into the human experience, but I think the events of the last week have only served to bolster this force. Editorial cartoons, on the other hand, have always had the power to inflame passions, as they should. It is a very unique medium that has the ability to tap directly, and immediately, into the issues of the day and strike while the iron is hot, so to speak.

Over the last few days, my mind goes back to the summer of 2011 when the Centre hosted a travelling exhibition of editorial cartoons, some controversial, others more pedestrian. Visitors to the gallery were invited to grab a white index card, along with a pen or a couple of crayons to create their own ideas of what an editorial cartoon should be. Unfortunately, I can't tell you what most of them were, but there was one which has stuck with me since then - and likely will for years to come.



Created just days after the 2011 terrorist attacks in Norway which let nearly 80 dead in separate attacks in Oslo and on a nearby summer camp on the island of Utøya, it depicted a freehand shoreline dotted with trees with an island in the middle.

Scattered over the island and into the nearby water were 77 drops of red ink, one dot for each life lost.

The simple title? "Loss of Innocence." I wonder where that anonymous artist is today and how they would interpret Wednesday's attacks.

Chances are, he or she is Charlie too.

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Aurora's Community Newspaper

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Ankita prepares to belt out a few bars of O Canada for a video being prepared by Cindy Shaver of the Aurora Public Library on Saturday afternoon as part of Sir John A. Macdonald's 200th Birthday celebrations. The Library got a head start commemorating Canada's First Prime Minister, whose milestone anniversary would have been on Sunday, with cake, crafts, maple leaves churned out on the Library's 3D Printer, and the opportunity to fill up a "tree" with leaves inscribed with your wishes for Canada in the years ahead.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Giving Ontarians the retirement future they deserve

The good news is that we're living longer and are able to enjoy healthy and fulfilling lives well into our retirement years.

The stressful news is too many Ontario residents don't have financial savings adequate enough to see them comfortably through their retirement years.

The reasons for this lack of saving are many. To start, pension coverage is low.

Fewer than 35% of Ontario workers have a workplace-based pension plan. At the same time, people are not taking full advantage of retirement savings vehicles.

In 2012, there was almost \$280 billion in unused RRSP room in Ontario. Even for those who do manage to save, high management fees, low interest rates and unpredictable market performance has led to lower returns.

On an individual level, this lack of adequate savings is of great concern. But, it has the potential to compromise our shared goals.

When a growing portion of our population faces inadequate savings, they will spend less in the future when they retire. This, in turn, has the potential to slow consumption and growth, and put pressure on our publicly funded services.

That's not good for people, that's not good for business, and that's not good for Ontario's economy.

And that's why the government of Ontario has decided to take action now.

Mitzie Hunter, Associate Minister of Finance, has been talking with Ontarians about the retirement income system. She reports after months of conversations with business and labour, organizations and associations, families and communities, there is



View From Queen's Park

Chris Ballard, MPP
Newmarket-Aurora

consensus that the under-saving problem is real, and that the long-term threats it poses to our residents and the economy are real.

The Ontario government's preferred solution is to enhance the Canada Pension Plan. Our government has been pushing for this since 2010, with the Premier and Finance Minister leading national discussion on the issue.

Unfortunately, despite agreement from all provinces and territories to continue discussions on CPP enhancement, the federal government has unilaterally shut down any discussion on the issue.

We know the cost of inaction is simply too high, and that's why our government is taking action to ensure Ontarians have the secure retirement future they deserve. We are proceeding with a made-in-Ontario solution. We have introduced the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) Act, 2014. If passed, it will require the Government of Ontario to establish the ORPP no later than January 1, 2017

Building on the strengths of the CPP, the ORPP would assist those most at risk of under saving.

The ORPP would be mandatory for all eligible employees working in Ontario who are not benefitting from a

comparable workplace pension plan.

Combined with CPP, the ORPP would supplement voluntary savings measures and help to ensure a secure retirement income for life.

It would require contributions to be shared equally between employers and employees, with each contributing not more than 1.9% of salaries and wages between the minimum and maximum earnings thresholds.

As well, the ORPP benefits would be earned as contributions are made, ensuring the system is fair, and younger generations are not burdened with additional costs associated with older worker's benefits.

By pooling longevity and investment risk, members would be able to benefit from a cost-effective approach to investment management.

Responding to a decline in workplace pension plans and an increasingly mobile workforce, the ORPP would allow plan members to contribute to and accumulate benefits as they move between employers participating in the plan.

This is especially important in addressing the changing nature of our workforce. Young workers are expected to change employers – even careers – multiple times throughout their lives.

This feature of the plan means eligible workers will be able to build a pension – even if they change employers often during their working life, or if they work at more than one job at a time—when their employers do not offer a comparable plan.

The reality is that today, the cost and administration involved in certain workplace pension plans has made it difficult, if not impossible,

Continued on page 16

Engaging our citizens regarding important matters

I was all set to write that this community seems increasingly willing to be governed by the few (who vote, that is).

I was going to list the ever declining voter turnout for all levels of government as the key piece of evidence to support my contention.

Municipal voter turnout was down over three per cent from the last election.

Only 35.74 per cent of us voted. Shameful!

Also witness what occurred concerning the two ballot questions that voters were asked to consider during the last municipal election.

The first question asked if the number of Councillors, excluding the Mayor, should be reduced to six from eight. 65 per cent of the 12,000 plus voters supported this initiative. The problem was that the 12,000 plus voters in favor of this initiative only comprised 33 per cent of the electorate; 50 per cent of eligible voters are required to make the ballot question a reality.

The second question asked if you support a ward system, where candidates are divided up geographically. Only 45 per cent were in support of this initiative, so again, it did not pass.

This is not great when you know that Mayor Dawe and his newly elected Council have a number of important decisions that they need to make, including what to do with the \$35M Hydro Reserve, improvements on Yonge Street, keeping a lid on tax increases



FRONT PORCH PERSPECTIVE

Stephen Somerville

and the like.

These types of decisions really do impact the quality of life in our community and we should - collectively - take our civic duty more seriously.

This writer believes that we should adopt mandatory voting or, at the very least, offer an incentive, like say "\$X" off next year's property tax bill for those who cast a vote.

However, just when I thought our community does not care, I realized that they can be mobilized for two types of endeavors; volunteering for something, or when an issue does affect them specifically.

We have all seen the success of Rib Fest, the Santa Claus parade or the Haunted Forest. It seems that we need a fun family activity to get people interested enough to assist.

I have also seen families at the churches in town work together to help someone or to support an initiative.

We also take action when a particular item affects our community or a neighborhood.

Look no further than the Highland Gate issue. It has been estimated that over 370 people came out to an impromptu meeting a couple of weeks back.

Hopefully, the Highland Gate community (and, if need be, Aurora Council) can work with ClubLink, the owner of the Highland Gate Golf Course, on a solution that accommodates both sides.

This brings me back to the \$35M in Hydro Funds.

While the Mayor and Council have been duly elected and are responsible for the ultimate decision regarding the Hydro Funds, they should solicit feedback on this issue.

The Council might not receive a lot of responses nor have many people attend a meeting, but a few or even one well thought out idea could prove helpful.

One thought would be to take say 25 per cent of the \$35M and use it for some type of recreational use that can be enjoyed by everyone.

This could mean the Town using the \$8.75M to purchase land and potentially keep it as a park for everyone.

Alternatively, Town Council could come up with a number of ideas, boil these down to a manageable number and then have citizens provide their input.

Stephen can be contacted at
stephengsomerville@yahoo.com



POLITICS AS USUAL

Alison Collins-Mrakas

Fragile Democracy

The events of the past week have been truly devastating.

The horrific attack in Paris has caused us to question not only the safety and sanctity of the fifth estate, but our own personal safety.

It has forced us to re-examine what is important to us. We all say we value our rights, our democracy. But, I think we see those rights in the abstract. We take their presence as a given.

We don't see the reality that there are those – a not unsubstantial number of people - who do not share our vision of the world and what it means to be a free and autonomous person.

We don't see that there are a frightening amount of people who do not agree that a person – any person - has the right to say and to believe what they want.

I believe we all see that now, and it is a truly terrifying sight.

I write this column each week for the paper. I do so because I am interested in politics and its impacts on my community. On occasion, I have concerns that "some" may find what I have to say offensive and take me to task for it. But, I say it anyway because that is my right. I have a right to my opinion. I have a right to express that opinion. Regardless of what you think. Regardless of whether you are offended.

There are, of course, some extraordinarily thin-skinned folks who see slights to their persons at every turn and are thus quick to turn to the courts to silence those that seek to expose; that poke the bear. That is their right too.

But the threat of a lawsuit isn't the threat of death. Not to diminish the very real hardships suffered by those who have been sued for speaking their minds, but litigation, while frightening, expensive, life altering as it may be, is not death.

I have never been afraid for my life when giving my opinion; afraid I might get sued perhaps, but never afraid that my house will be fire-bombed.

I recognize now how lucky I am.

Think about that statement for a moment. I feel "lucky" because I can express my opinion freely without fear of being physically attacked. Granted, I do not write about geo-political affairs. I do not write about religion. But leaving that aside for a moment, assume that I do write about religion and have a penchant for making provocative statements associated with same. In Canada, we are lucky that we can make such statements, but why should I, or anyone for that matter, feel lucky that I can?

Why should I feel the need to comment at all on whether or not I have the right to form an opinion and express it publicly? Shouldn't that be a matter of course?

But it isn't a matter of course.

If we are honest – and by "we" I mean those in the media – we all self-censor lest we offend. That is a good thing in many cases to a certain extent. It makes no sense to offend simply for the sole purpose of offending. Personally, I think some of the loud, obnoxious blowhards – the shock jocks and "pugnacious pontificators" - that seem to populate various media these days should just shut the heck up.

They offer nothing but bile. But, that's just my opinion. It is their choice to say what they say and it is our choice to listen.

Continued on page 14

AURORAN POLL

Do you think the Town of Aurora should purchase downtown properties to help guide revitalization?
Yes No Unsure

Go to www.theauroran.com to vote!

RESULTS TO DATE	YES	NO	UNSURE
JANUARY 13, 2015	86%	14%	20%

Municipal land reserves around Highland Gate shouldn't be used as "leverage"

By Brock Weir

The Town of Aurora's one-foot land reserves around the former Highland Gate Golf Course shouldn't be used as leverage in a "heavy handed or arbitrary manner" as far as future development is concerned, according to the municipal solicitor.

In a report before Council this week from Town Solicitor Warren Mar, the Town of Aurora confirms it has a complex series of one foot land reserves dotted around the perimeter of the former golf course, which recently announced plans to become a housing development.

These one-foot reserves line segments of Bathurst Street, Highland Gate, Timberline Trail, Cranberry Lane, as well as lie at the dead ends of George Street, Highland Court, Brookland

Avenue, and George Street where the road meets the golf course lands.

According to Mr. Mar, many of these one-foot reserves were established when the land surrounding the current footprint of the course was turned into a residential development through the 1980s.

These one-foot reserves were confirmed in the 1990s when developers came forward with further re-development plans for the course, a plan which subsequently fizzled by the middle of the decade.

"One foot reserves along public highways, or at the end of public highways, are a common planning tool used by municipalities in order to control access and development, and enable municipalities to require that developers enter into appropriate development agreements and

installation of services before building permits are issued.

"Once construction is completed... one foot reserves usually become part of the public highway and municipal street. One foot reserves are basically a way to guide development and ensure that it occurs in an appropriate fashion, according to established plans, guidelines and provincial policies. While municipalities have been able to uphold the use of one-foot reserves in court as a proper planning tool, the use of the one-foot reserves is subject to certain rules established in case law."

Citing these case studies, Mr. Mar cautions that using one-foot reserves as leverage does have limitations, and using its discretion on lifting the reserves can't be made "in bad faith, for arbitrary reasons, or for extraneous, irrelevant or collateral considerations that have nothing to do with relevant planning principles."

Such reserves, he notes, are not under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Municipal Board, but Ontario's Superior Court of Justice.

"Practically speaking, using a one-foot reserve to frustrate a developer after a municipality loses planning arguments at the Board would likely be seen by the Court as an inappropriate attempt to set aside or frustrate the Board's decision," says Mr. Mar. "One foot reserves do exist within Highland

Gate, but their use as 'leverage' in any future development of the lands cannot be heavy-handed or arbitrary.

"The purpose of one-foot reserves as a planning tool is to enable municipalities to control access and development on the adjacent lands. The courts have ruled that a municipality exercising its discretion to lift a one-foot reserve cannot make its decision in bad faith, for arbitrary reason, or for extraneous, irrelevant or collateral considerations that have nothing to do with relevant planning principles."

The closure of Highland Gate Golf Club was announced by landowner ClubLink in November.

On December 23, ClubLink announced a 50-50 partnership with Geranium Group to redevelop the land into a residential development.

While the move has left many area residents worried they could have another "Glenway" on their hands, citing a battle between the Town of Newmarket and owners of the former Glenway Golf and Country Club over a similar redevelopment of that golf course, a Ratepayers' Group was established last month to provide a united voice for neighbours.

Geranium promises their development will be "compatible" with the existing neighbourhood and anticipates further dialogue with the residents later this month.

Traffic congestion at Yonge and Wellington remains priority for Council

From page 1

parking and one lane of traffic concept begins at Kennedy Street, running north to Wellington Street where two lanes of traffic would then resume. But, speaking to The Auroran, he emphasises this is strictly a conceptual plan and it is likely to significantly change down the line.

That being said, Mayor Dawe said the reception to the idea since the election campaign has all been on the "positive side of the ledger" to various degrees of enthusiasm.

"A number of places have done this, so it certainly isn't new," he said, noting the concept was really brought home to him during the Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference in Niagara Falls last year, with a tour of the city's downtown.

Should the plan be approved in whatever form it ultimately takes, it will bring benefits not only to traffic flow, but also local businesses, concludes Mayor Dawe, noting business owners have also expressed enthusiasm.

"If you cruise around the Library parking lot a couple of times and don't see anything, you either park on Church Street or on Yonge Street. I don't have a great feeling of parking on Yonge Street in front of the Library, although it is a perfectly valid thing to do. I think by creating a very specific parking area that will change that tenor. People will be more comfortable to park there and perhaps it can drive business."

If Councillor Mrakas' Notice of Motion gains traction, it will

institute a pilot project at Yonge and Wellington to restrict left turns at the intersection. It calls upon the Region of York to investigate "the feasibility of implementing a pilot project for left turn restrictions to north and southbound Yonge Street at Wellington Street turning [morning and afternoon] peak traffic periods for the purposes of addressing traffic congestion."

It goes a step further calling on the Region to provide Council with a presentation on whether such a move is feasible and impacts it would have.

"Traffic congestion at the intersection of Yonge Street and Wellington Street is an ongoing concern for Aurora residents and businesses," says Councillor Mrakas in his Notice of Motion. "The flow of northbound and southbound traffic is significantly impeded during peak traffic periods due to left turning vehicles. Many municipalities restrict left-hand turns at high volume intersections during peak traffic periods as a means to address similar concerns with traffic congestion."

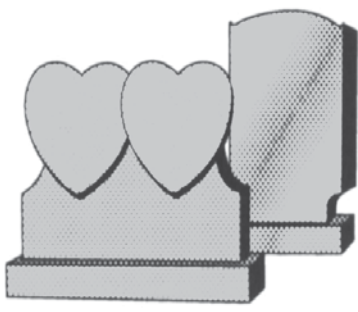
Bolstering his motion, he harkens back to a pilot project undertaken by the Region in 1998 which prohibited left turns at the intersection during peak periods having "a significant improvement in traffic operations."

HAVE YOUR SAY - Do you think these changes will make a difference in traffic flow at Yonge and Wellington? Do you have any other ideas? Send your thoughts and suggestions to letters@auroran.com.

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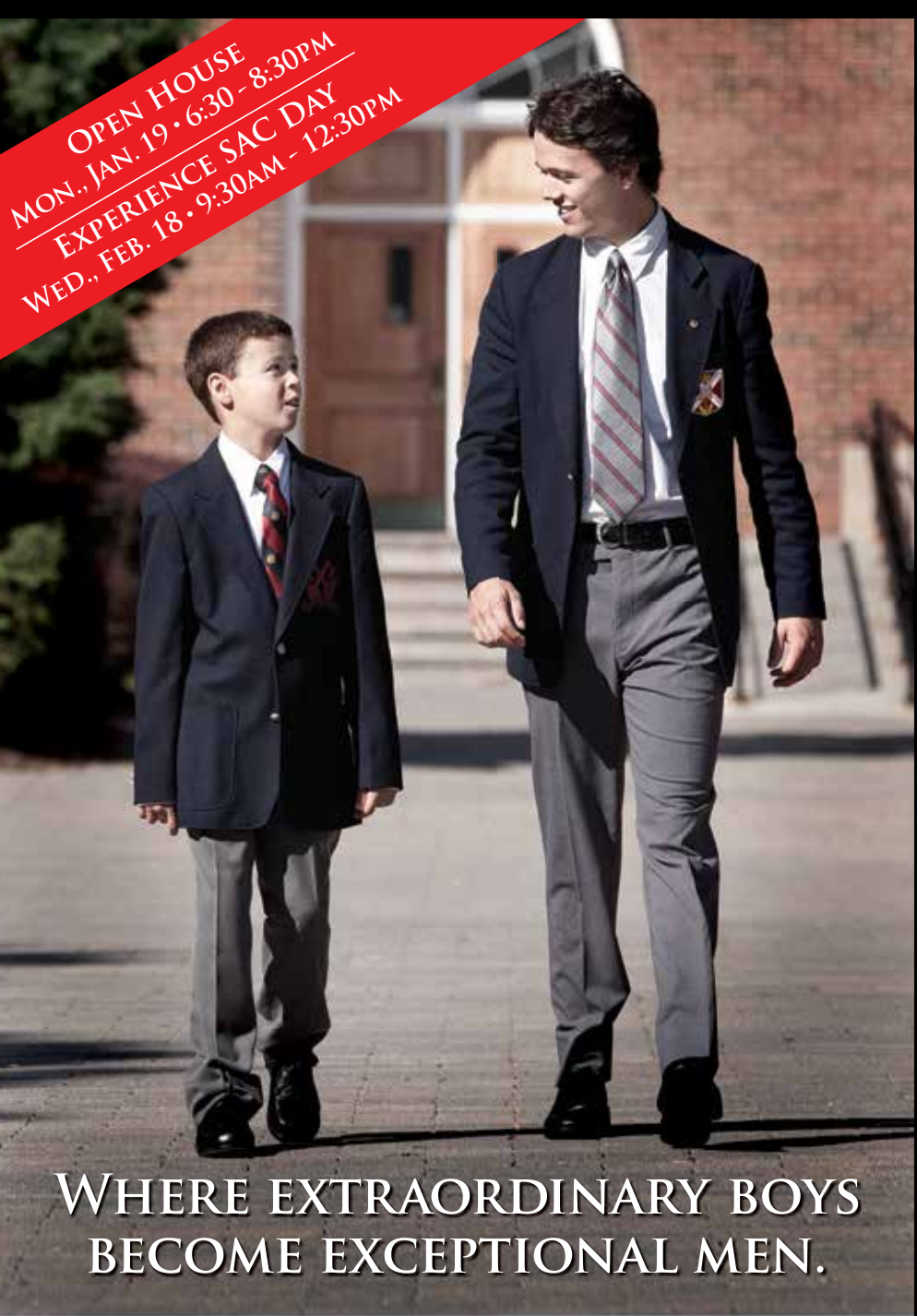
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Aurora tenor's timbre to hit the heights at New York's Carnegie Hall

By Brock Weir

As a multifaceted musician, John Willoughby likes the intimacy of small ensembles.

The Aurora vocalist and musician, who is a dab hand on the tuba and the baritone sax in Aurora High School's concert and jazz bands, respectively, admits he doesn't "connect well" with big orchestras.

"A big ensemble has too much professionalism in a certain way," he muses. "It is too organized. In a smaller group you have more liberty to share your ideas and to grow closer to the people you are working with."

Auditioning via video for a place in the 2015 High School Honours Performance Series, the Grade 12 student had to rely on himself and himself alone to secure a place in the program. Evidently that was enough as his voice secured him a place in the prestigious choral program, which will see him hit the stage at the famed Carnegie Hall in February.

Having studied music since the tender age of two, however, there were many people who helped him along the way before he prepared his audition tape.

This love of music has its foundations in his father enrolling him in a music appreciation program as a toddler and, from there, music teachers stoked that interest into a passion.

By the time he came to Aurora High School, he found new outlets to express this passion.

"I just wanted to be a part of our school's music groups and figure out how I could take part and participate," he says. "When I first heard about the school's a capella group, I was really excited because it was a student-led group and the thought that maybe someday I could lead it was huge for me."

"When I went in, it was a really tight-knit group, but it was just a men's group at that point and they were all super close. We would all joke around with

each other, but we all had the same love of music. That inspired me to go more into making music a bigger part of my life, and eventually it led me to lead the group."

Without any backup music to rely upon, singers in an a capella group rely on listening to one another to get a feel on how the music moves. You have to work together and bounce things off one another while still singing. As he prepares for his Carnegie Hall debut, he is working together with his music teachers who have been particularly influential on him, bouncing ideas back and forth, and working on getting a

"I was just amazed they liked my voice well enough.

It is a professional group, so they demand a certain amount of perfection. I was just hoping I was close enough to make it through."

handle on six very different pieces he needs to have under his belt before he heads to the Big Apple.

"I was really proud I made it and a bit surprised because there are a lot of people who applied," says John. "I was just amazed they liked my voice well enough. It is a professional group, so they demand a certain amount of perfection. I was just hoping I was close enough to make it through."

As he looks ahead to the trip, he says he is most looking forward to meeting the program's director and seeing how he approaches not only the music, but the choir itself. Every director is different with their own approach, he explains, with different ideas on how to speak to the choristers, their interpretation of the music, and the "motions" they use to direct the group.

It is in this direction where John's true passions lie.

It is now that time of year when Grade 12 students across Aurora have



Grade 12 student John Willoughby is preparing for his debut at Carnegie Hall next month, keeping his eye firmly on the goal of earning his doctorate in music on the road to becoming a professor.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

that challenging task of choosing what they want to do once their high school life has come to a close. John has a very clear idea, narrowing his options down to three Ontario universities – with the University of Western Ontario having a slight edge, in his book – with a dream to follow in the footsteps of these directors.

"I would like to get a doctorate degree in music and be a professor, so I could teach other people, other people who have a love for music the same as mine, and I would have the opportunity to direct a lot of groups. Music is different for everybody. For me to tell everybody how I think it should be played and how I believe that it would best accentuate their talents and abilities, and would be best for the group, is huge for me. I think being able to share what I know about music with other people and share my experiences with them to help them become better musicians is interesting."

"Through music, I learn a lot of new things. In music, you are almost always working with somebody else, and that is a lot of fun. I work alongside people who teach me a lot about music, but also life. It is an integral part of who I am."

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According to Dr. Sean Eastman, "This new form of computerized treatment is so gentle and effective, that it amazes even the most skeptical patients. It's called the ProAdjuster and is the latest, state-of-the-art technology in existence today, and the only one in the north Richmond Hill area."

The ProAdjuster can safely and gently analyze and treat the spine and other joints to remove the nerve impingement that is often the cause of pains in the lower back, neck, shoulder, and elsewhere in the body. It also works on a variety of muscular conditions to loosen tight muscles with ease and comfort. Many patients say that it's like getting a mini-massage.

It can also help increase the amount of motion in almost any joint. Even patients with knee, hip, and foot problems such as plantar fasciitis are being helped. It is also covered by insurance companies since this is a chiropractic treatment and does not cost you anything additional.

Dr. Eastman says that "The secret to the Pro-Adjuster lies in its advanced piezoelectric sensor that is able to detect the slightest amount of restriction in a joint and then deliver an extremely precise adjustment." He says that "Even though traditional forms of adjusting also work, people are drawn to this new technique because of how gentle it is and does not involve any twisting, especially



Dr. Eastman uses the Proadjuster to analyze a patient's spine and pin-point areas of nerve impingement syndrome causing mal-function and pain.

in the neck. Many people love getting adjusted with traditional manual techniques, all of which are safe and effective. But there are a large number of people who never get to experience the amazing benefits of chiropractic because they are scared to have their spines adjusted in that way," says Dr. Eastman. Now, there is no longer a reason to be leary. The ProAdjuster is perfect for anyone who has been thinking about going to a chiropractor, but hasn't yet made that decision. Dr. Eastman wants everyone to be able to experience these same benefits and if you have any of the following conditions, the ProAdjuster may be the answer you've been looking for...

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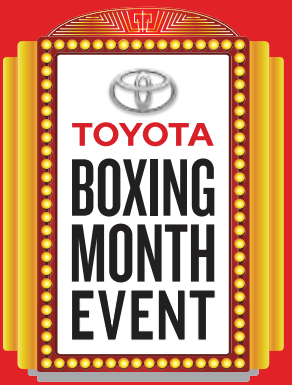
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MARKET MUSINGS
Jan Freedman

Happy New Year's greetings to all. I hope that you experienced a wonderful time with family and friends over the holidays.

Now that everyone is back at work and school, the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair also gears up for our first indoor market of 2015 at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Saturday, January 17.

More about that later.

I'd like to introduce you to Sue Williams and her SDD Flags business.

Sue grew up in Washington, a small town in northeast England. She attended Washington Comprehensive School, but left at the age of 16 to begin work in a factory making jeans.

This was where she learned to sew.

At the age of 26, she gave birth to her son. Later on, she began working at a small factory in Consett making flags and custom banners and discovered that she loved her work.

At about this time, she began to think about moving to Canada. The prospect was both exciting and scary. She was 37 years old when she moved from England to Canada, settled in Winnipeg and began working at Sears part time with a second part time job in a shop making flags.

Sue, however, did not feel fulfilled doing the work for someone else and wanted some reward for her hard work. She decided to make flags as a hobby and to sell them, and interest grew in her work.

She soon began to create beautiful flags, banners and custom flags for companies such as Kitchen Craft, schools and sign companies.

After two years in Winnipeg, she moved to Ontario, where she started making custom banners for Sears and other companies. While her business was growing, Sue also worked other jobs. Then, in 2014, she decided to

try to take her business to farmers' markets and became part of the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair.

She participates in both the outdoor and indoor seasons. She absolutely loves being part of the market and enjoys meeting lots of new people, many of whom have become her customers. I encourage you to stop by her table to meet her and admire her lovely work.

The following vendors are those who have confirmed their attendance at the indoor market on January 17 at the Aurora Cultural Centre at press time. Please keep in mind that there are sometimes last minute changes to this list which occur after the column has gone to print.

The farmers will be represented by Andy and 19th Avenue Farm, Peter and Oakridges Finest, John and Snowden Farm, Kate and Kind Organics and Andre or Jim of Pioneer Honey.

The food vendors will be represented by Jan's Country Pantry, Dos Mariachi, Sass Teas, Catharina's Kitchen, Nutmeg Bake Shop, Sasha's Sweet's, Rustic Bread, Boulangerie St. George and Rob's Good Foods. The York Region Food Network also will be there.

The artisans will include Green Leaf Designs, Kibo Soaps, Captain Ted's Knick Knacks, Eva Designs, Heartsease Company, Catch My Drift, Katie Argyle's Out of My Mind, artist Robert Pow and SDD Flags.

Please plan to come to visit the farmers, food vendors and artisans of the Aurora Farmers' Market and Artisan Fair this Saturday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Aurora Cultural Centre.

We'll all be looking forward to seeing you again.

See you at the Indoor Market!

Ex-firefighter credits squash players with saving his life

By Jake Courtepatte

The phrase "timing is everything" rings especially true when a life is on the line.

In Aurora resident Brian Johnson's case, he credits the quick actions of an off-duty nurse, firefighter, and police officer with being alive today.

On October 6 of last year, Johnson had just finished a game of squash at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex and was in the process of cooling down.

That's when he fell down "V.S.A." which, in medical terms, means "vital signs absent."

"I was dead on the floor," said Johnson. "I had no pulse, non-breathing."

Happening on a Monday, it just so happened that it was a league night the night of the incident, and on hand were

the three people who would save his life.

Firefighter Brian Erskine, police officer Greg Payne, and pediatric nurse Branka Asadi immediately went to work over the new patient right there at the squash club.

"They were working on me within thirty seconds of me dropping to the floor."

Using the defibrillator at the complex, the trio were able to bring Johnson back with a few shocks.

He was then taken to Southlake Regional Health Centre, where he received a quadruple bypass a few days later.

Southlake's cardiac program is among the best in Canada, and Johnson knew that he was in good hands.

Johnson also knew that it was the quick timing and availability of

Continued on page 11

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—THE AURORAN— Arts & Culture



(L) Cardinal Carter student Christian Piasentin reveals his "Self Portrait" at the Aurora Cultural Centre. (C) The artists with Councillors Tom Mrakas and John Abel, the Centre's Stephanie Nicolo, Mayor Geoff Dawe, and Councillor Jeff Thom. (R) St. Max student Celine Petricone with her designs. (Below) Ms. Nicolo and MPP Chris Ballard congratulate the three students from the two area high schools responsible for the exhibition – Alessia Carinci, Jacqueline Cherubini, and Sarah Punzalan.

Auroran photos by David Falconer

From the Ground Up: The Baha'i Faith and Community Building

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Students unleash their inner thoughts in exhibition opening

By Brock Weir

Art is a window into the "self, the imagination, and the inner workings of the mind," according to local Grade 12 students.

Upcoming graduates from Cardinal Carter Catholic High School and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School unveiled themselves, their imaginations, and the inner workings of their respective minds before a packed house at the Aurora Cultural Centre on Thursday night, splashing out their experiences on canvas and through other media for all to see.

"This is not merely a collection of art pieces by Grade 12 students suspended on these walls for admiration, but rather a collection of likeminded individuals that, by mutual love of creating, have joined together this evening," said Olivia Malito, a student at St. Max. "Art is the expression of the banes and delights of human existence; it is a representation of the self, the imagination, the inner-workings of the mind and it does not have to be understood."

Artist Jackson Pollock defined art as the "expression of emotion", she continued, noting he did so with every "splatter and dribble" on his canvas.

"The product of human emotion deserves to be acclaimed," she said.

Olivia, and Sarah, who greeted the audience on behalf of Cardinal Carter, certainly found the perfect audience for such acclaim last week – and the message of what they were trying to convey was not lost on the people on hand for the opening.

"It never ceases to amaze me the incredible depth of talent of these young people on display," said Mayor Geoff Dawe. "It is fabulous you are doing this. You have a Board and teachers who put so much time and effort into teaching you art. Our middle daughter took art and it really helped to expand her view of life and got her out of her shell."

"This is a fabulous opportunity for you folks as you explore some of your feelings, some of your views of life, and put that down in art. It makes it easier for us, quite frankly, to understand what is going on in your lives."

A similar view was also offered by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard, who said he was impressed not only by the quality of the work on the walls, but

also the "maturity" on display.

"I come from a family where luckily I have children who are artistic and can express themselves in artistic ways, so we have been big believers in arts, culture, and heritage," he said. "Paintings, poetry, music, fashion, design and dialogue all define who we are as humans, as a community and as a nation. It is so wonderful to see that happening in our schools at early grades through the later grades in high school."

The joint exhibition, which will be followed later this month in a similar show by students from Aurora High School and Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School, was entirely spearheaded and curated by students from each respective high school, who received a few pointers along the way from Stephanie Nicolo of the Aurora Cultural Centre.

The Centre has provided a venue to celebrate the work of Aurora's budding artists through these shows for five years running, but this is the first year all four of Aurora's high schools were able to participate.

This is the first year participating for Cardinal Carter and, as an alumna of the school, this had particular resonance for Ms. Nicolo.

"This [show] has the most inspirational pieces and the most items to consider," she said. "You have such inspirational moments within your life that you are leaving on the canvas that is why we wanted to expand the program and I am so happy we did. You guys put a polished show together and I hope you are proud because you worked so hard over the holidays and put in countless hours."

"To your parents – because you won't say thank you to them until you are in your 30s – thank you for picking me up late because I stayed late at school painting murals on the walls. Thank you for letting me get to school early because I needed to drop off drawings due today and I just finished it two hours ago. Thank you for bringing me to Michael's or Curry's because I really, really needed that crayon. Thank you for buying crayons when I was four years old because it allowed me to experience light, colour and inspiration. You guys frame their lives and without that we would be without wonderful works on these walls."



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Use of backyard composters to be encouraged in the year ahead

From page 1

program is to help deflect certain materials from getting into the waste stream and ensure waste gets into their proper channels. Although the program experienced considerable questions and concerns from the last Council before it was given a tentative greenlight, Mr. Simanovskis says plans are underway to begin a “soft launch” of the program this summer.

“It will be a two part program,” says Mr. Simanovskis. “There will be a soft launch through advertising, promotional campaigns, and ensuring all retailers have stock on clear bags. Our first step obviously is to go back to the new Council and get approval for the program in early February. Then we go to the soft launch in the spring.”

A “hard launch” will follow, along with a compliance review at the end of the year, he adds.

“What we are really going to do is encourage use. There will be sticker, so once we hit a threshold date where we’re looking for clear bags throughout the community, if people are still using opaque bags there will be stickers indicating they need to move to the clear bags and there will be an opportunity for them to comply.

“If there is education or information required, we will provide some additional information to those residents who might not be aware of the program. It is no difference to

compliance now. If somebody puts inappropriate material in the blue box, that material is stickered and left behind so the resident is made aware of its suitability or other avenues of recycling.”

The last time around, one of the main concerns expressed by Council and residents alike surrounded privacy of what they dispose of, as well as the value of converting, he adds.

“With privacy, the main thing for me is I am trying to promote material from getting into the garbage stream that is better off recycled. It is not your everyday garbage, it is things like yard waste, grass clippings, soil, and maybe even construction material – the things that can be hidden in a black bag. From a privacy perspective, we’re totally on board with not changing the behaviours in the home. If you’re using a used grocery bag for your waste collection, you can continue to do that. You can put the grocery bag into the clear bag so privacy remains intact.”

As for the efficiency of the system, Mr. Simanovskis says Aurora has heard from other municipalities who have clocked “substantial reductions” in deflecting material that shouldn’t be in the stream into their proper channels.

Outside of the clear bag programs, Aurora is also looking at ways to join forces with the Region of York to reduce food waste. Ideas are still being kicked around on how to do this, he says, but a pilot project is in the offing to recruit

“volunteer residents” to see how they can “optimise the use of both the street bin and backyard composters.”

Indeed, although what form this program will eventually take remains to be seen, there will be an increased emphasis on reviving the popularity of backyard composters.

“They will sort their green bin materials in such a way that they can fully benefit their organic needs in their back yards, as well as dispose of materials that are suitable for green bin disposal but not suitable for back yards,” says Mr. Simanovskis of the volunteers. “What we are trying to create is a program that basically brings both of those worlds together. Although some still backyard compost, it isn’t necessarily a first choice option for a

lot of people. We’re just trying to create some awareness about the benefits [of composting] and if done with just select materials, that makes sense and it is a really good way to manage waste and recover some of that nutrient value in your own garden.”

Part of this could be making backyard composters more readily available at Town Hall, but that is an idea still in the incubation stage. If there is a cost savings in reducing the amount of material collected through green bins, Mr. Simanovskis says he would be interested in looking at using some of those savings to subsidize composters to encourage more use.

“As we develop and look at the cost benefits, that would be the kind of model I would like to support,” he says.

Heart attack survivor to pay tribute to rescuers

From page 9

medical experts on hand that saved his life that day.

Having retired almost two years ago, Johnson was actually a firefighter in Etobicoke for 31 years.

He had run “literally thousands” of medical calls over his career and says he never thought that he would be on the receiving end of a case.

“I’ve done all these calls over the years, but I’ve never realized the pain these guys were in until I experienced it myself. I wouldn’t wish it on anyone.”

Johnson spent nine days in the hospital before his release.

“It was a pretty fortunate event,” said Johnson. “I’ve seen a lot of stats...I know that our success rate for something like that was about five percent.”

Despite the low success rate, Johnson said it has nothing to do with a lack of

effort or training, but rather the time frame in which the patient is attended to.

“If whoever is at the scene is able to start CPR, that’s usually the defining difference.”

Johnson also wishes to credit the Town of Aurora for keeping a working defibrillator on the wall in the complex amidst the construction going on.

Against all odds, Johnson came out of the ordeal without any heart damage. He hopes to be able to play squash again in six to nine months.

Johnson will be presenting the three individuals he credits with saving his life with an appreciative plaque at Town Council next Tuesday, January 20.

“I couldn’t have fallen into better hands,” he said. “There’s not much more you can say but thank you, so I just want to do something in recognition of what they did.”

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FREE Week of January 15, 2015

Munroe perfect in net in back-to-back shutouts for Tigers

By Jake Courtepatte

Aurora's Junior A Tigers were back in action in Lindsay last Tuesday

looking for their first win of the New Year, facing the divisional rival Muskies.

Looking to bounce back from a



Nicholas Erb chases a Spirit player around the Aurora net. The Tigers fell to the Spirit 4 - 1 at home last Friday.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

Advertorial

Hands-on, project-based learning critical to student success in Middle School

Just three years ago, Pickering College revolutionized its approach to teaching its Grade 7-8 students. As a part of the implementation of its Global Leadership Program, the independent co-educational day and boarding school recognized the need for a unique program that is responsive to the needs to Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. The result was the introduction of the Middle School Program.



Pickering College's Middle School curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, relevant and project-based. Student Anastasia Moskaltcova is pictured with Grade 7 teacher Elaine Kliem.

"The Middle School years are a critical transition time where students experience rapid and profound personal development," says Janet Downer, Director of Middle and Senior School at Pickering College. "Since we know what makes adolescents tick we designed an academic program that is developmentally responsive to their needs. Active learning is the key and this is accomplished through varied activities that promote student engagement and ownership."

to develop their strengths, talents and interests. Students explore music and art, and on elective days they can pursue a different interest such as filmmaking, radio broadcasting or rock climbing.

Daily physical activity is important for adolescents and Middle School students benefit from a Physical Education program, the recess intramural sports and the school's co-curricular program. In addition, Pickering College's robust outdoor education program, at the school's own Blue & Silver Farm, offers students the chance to combine what they learn outdoors with science, language arts, French and photography.

In Middle School, Pickering College welcomes boarding students from around the world. With international students from more than 20 countries, such as Mexico, Japan, Colombia and China, the classroom experience is further enhanced by this unique global perspective.

The Grade 8 graduating class in June 2014 was the first to have completed the Middle School Program.

"We could never have done it without the guidance and support of our teachers," says Katelyn Beswick, Aurora resident and valedictorian of the first Grade 8 Middle School class. "We feel a sense of accomplishment and a sense of pride. We know as a class that it is working together that has brought us to where we are today, and we are who we are because of every step in this journey."

After considerable research, Pickering College designed its Middle School curriculum to be challenging, exploratory, integrative, relevant and project-based.



Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in outdoor education activities, including dogsledding. Katelyn Beswick is from Aurora.

"One thing I like about project-based learning is that the opportunities for differentiation are limitless. Projects can be differentiated for content, process and product. It is rewarding to see the students working all over the room on different things (or similar things in totally different ways). Busy, yes, but I wouldn't have it any other way!" says Jay Fletcher, a Grade 7 teacher.

"I am a visual and tactile learner," says Nupur Krishnan, a day student who is now in Grade 9. "Projects allow me to learn and present my work in either way. This allowed me to fully understand the information."

Middle School is a time for students

mediocre December, the Tigers' offence came out pressing, putting up eighteen shots in the first period alone.

Only one beat Muskie goaltender Boyd Diclemente, as Mack Lemmon notched a goal from Drake Board and Daniel Mantenuto for the 1 - 0 lead at first intermission.

Board doubled the lead in the dying seconds of the second period, scoring his fifteenth of the year in an impressive sophomore season.

Meanwhile, at the other end, Tigers goaltender Andy Munroe was strong between the pipes stopping all thirteen shots in the period.

After solid goaltending on both sides for most of the third, Lemmon and forward Johnny Curran each found the back of the net in the final two minutes to run up the score to a 4 - 0 win.

Munroe made a total of 37 saves in the shutout.

His stellar performance had him back between the pipes for a back-to-back the next day, as the Tigers headed East to take on the Wellington Dukes.

This first period was a much more defensive affair, as the Tigers put up only eight shots to Wellington's six in a scoreless frame.

Neither goaltender was beaten until the final five minutes of the second, when Shane Beaulieu gave the Tigers a 1 - 0 lead with assists from Neuman and Sam Quaranta.

That score would remain until the Dukes were forced to pull their goaltender for the extra man in the dying minutes of the game, allowing

Cameron Morrison to bury one into the empty net for Munroe's second shutout in two nights.

Returning home to the Aurora Community Centre two nights later, Munroe may have happened to show his first signs of fatigue, giving up two power play goals to the Stouffville Spirit in the first period.

Eric Williams would put the Tigers on the board with his own power play marker in the second, but that was as close as the Tigers would come, giving up two more in the third in a 4 - 1 loss.

The Tigers more than doubled the Spirit in shots on goal, totalling 44 in the losing effort.

With the loss, the Tigers give up their OJHL crown for the first time in over two months, handing it over to the Trenton Golden Hawks of the East Division.

The Golden Hawks have won eight straight games, their last loss coming at the hands of the Tigers over a month ago.

Aurora remains dominant in the North Division, fifteen points up on second-place Stouffville.

The Tigers return to action at home on Friday to face the Cobourg Cougars in only their second meeting all year.

Cobourg will be looking to avenge an 8 - 2 loss at their home rink earlier this season.

Puck drop is at 7.30 p.m. at the Aurora Community Centre.

For stats, schedules, and more information, visit www.auroratigers.pointstreaksites.com.



Jerrold Forte eyes down a defender in the offensive zone at La Brier Family Arena on Monday. The Saints lost to Crescent School 3 - 0.

Auroran photo by Jake Courtepatte

J.V. Saints drop fourth straight league match

By Jake Courtepatte

The Junior Varsity St. Andrew's College hockey squad took to the ice Monday afternoon looking to bounce back from a tough 7 - 0 home loss to Nichols School last week.

La Brier Family Arena played host to Toronto's Crescent School, fresh off their own second win of the season.

Crescent had the home team on their heels right from the get-go, maintaining possession in the offensive end while the only reprieve the Saints could manage was in the form of icing the puck.

However, solid goaltending from

Aidan Link kept the game competitive, highlighted by a quick blocker save on a point-blank shot early on.

He continued his stellar play into the first Saint's penalty-kill of the game, but was eventually beaten when a loose puck would squirt out to a Crescent forward, roofing it over Link for a 1 - 0 lead.

The Saints managed less than a handful of shots in the first period.

Link continued his stellar play into the second, opening up the frame with a fantastic glove save hoping to spark his team as they headed into their first powerplay of the game.

Continued on page 14



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The Aurora Youth Soccer Club hosted thirteen teams from across Ontario for their annual soccer showcase last Saturday. Ontario post-secondary coaches were on hand to meet prospective players.

Auroran photo by
Jake Courtepatte

Prospective student athletes gather in Aurora for soccer showcase

By Brock Weir

Soccer clubs from across Ontario gathered at the Aurora Sports Dome last Saturday, looking to further both their education and their soccer careers.

The Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC) hosted their annual Invitational Showcase, a chance for post-secondary schools to bolster their rosters with young talent while allowing the high-school athletes to get their faces out there.

This year's showcase differed from past years, as it was the first to host both boys and girls teams – having been a primarily girls event in the past.

Sixteen post-secondary institutions sent a coach or coaches to scout the talent, as each squad played two 45-minute "matches" throughout the day against an opposing team.

To the players, those 90 minutes were crucial in earning a spot on a post-secondary roster after graduation.

"It's a great way to just get your name out there," said Jacob Veruto of the Oshawa Kicks. "It's hard to try to get noticed by schools and something like this gets you noticed."

The schools represented ranged from all across Ontario, at both the college and university level.

The event not only gave the coaches a chance to pick their newest crop

of recruits, but also gave the student athletes a chance to make decisions of their own.

Like many high school seniors, Veruto is still unsure of where his education will take him.

"I have no idea," he said when asked what schools he's looking to impress. "I just want to meet some of the coaches and hopefully get a feel for my options. Hopefully I'll have options."

Amidst the on-field action, a "Meet the Coaches" session gave the athletes and coaches an opportunity to get to know each other.

University of Ottawa's Steve Johnson said the showcase makes the job of the school coach much easier.

"It's great to get a lot of good talent under one roof. Instead of travelling all over the place or watching footage, you get to see a lot of diverse talent in one day."

Johnson also said an event such as the showcase allows the coaches to get to know the players on a more personal level.

"There's more to a student athlete than just the athletic ability. You have to know the person behind it, if they're a hard worker, all that stuff. It's all important."

Four AYSC teams participated in the event, as both the boys and girls Aurora Stingers '97 and '98 teams gave their all for a chance to further their soccer careers.

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PICKERING COLLEGE



Janice Waugh, pictured above at the Taj Mahal, has covered a lot of ground as a "Solo Traveller" and she will share her expertise with Aurora residents next Wednesday in a talk at the Aurora Public Library. **Supplied photo**

Solo travel allows you to see the world on your own terms – with unexpected souvenirs

By Brock Weir

Janice Waugh was bitten by the travel bug at a very early age.

With a life-long passion for seeing the world, however, in 2006 she had to recalibrate her lifestyle.

After her husband died that year, Ms. Waugh entered what she describes as a "significant period of mourning" which ebbed and flowed for the next two years. But, eventually she decided it was time to get back to her old self, but having to come to grips with the realities of being a "solo traveller."

"I picked up the laptop and Google 'solo travel'," says Ms. Waugh. "What was there was very commercial, full of spammy ads, and there was some stuff there that was more about hooking people up, so I wanted to give a voice to this. I have been a writer my entire life, so I just decided to be that voice and sure enough it took off."

Ms. Waugh brings this voice to the Aurora Public Library next Wednesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. to share the "Six Things You Absolutely Must Know About Solo Travel." The author of *The Solo Traveler's Handbook* will share tips on how to awaken one's sense of adventure and reveal your own resilience while discovering yourself and the world at the same time.

In a Choose Your Own Adventure-style talk, attendees of the talk will get to choose which aspects of solo travel Ms. Waugh focuses on and whichever direction they ultimately decide to travel on Wednesday, there will be plenty of information interwoven with personal stories of her own adventures.

"Travel is becoming more and more popular and solo travel in particular is becoming more and more popular," she says. "People are not hanging around waiting for friends and family, or partners, and they are going off on their own."

As the popularity of solo travel has increased, so too has Ms. Waugh's speaking schedule. While she isn't complaining by any stretch of the imagination, she says it is "interesting" to speculate just why solo travel is on the rise.

"One aspect is the aging population," she opines. "There are a lot of women and men who have been left without a partner, whether it is by divorce or by loss. You have those independent people and they also have means. With

the younger generation, when you think of Gen X and Gen Y, they have so much confidence about their ability in the world that many don't hesitate to go off by themselves, and sometimes for very long trips.

"Then there is also the fact of those in between. We are in a world now where more adults are unmarried than married, whether that is because of sequential monogamous relationships or not, but you have these gap periods where people will go off. Then there are people who have experienced older travel, they do connect and have a partner again in life, but they will still travel by themselves on occasion. Demographic shifts in terms of the aging population, more people being unmarried than married, the confidence in that Gen X and Gen Y have been raised on their position in the world all play a big factor and role."

After Ms. Waugh decided to be a voice for solo travel, she discovered there was truly a niche out there unfilled by online spam and hookup sites, and it is a niche that has since continued to grow. She has seen her blog grow by leaps and bounds with participants coming into the forum from all over the world to say her writings have given them the confidence to go out and see the world on their own, and on their own terms. But, she often hears from people lacking that certain confidence.

"People are nervous," she says. "They are nervous about being responsible for things themselves and they are nervous about their safety. That is why I try to allay those fears. The counterbalance of those fears, what people discover and the trend that I get back all the time from people is that by taking this on themselves, being responsible for all the planning and navigating, negotiating deals – and even how to buy a bus ticket is a negotiation when you're in a foreign country – by doing these things yourself you get such a surge of confidence.

"It really is life-changing and people carry that home with them. It is one of those unexpected souvenirs."

Solo Travel: Six Things You Absolutely Must Know takes place next Wednesday, January 21 from 7 – 8.30 p.m. in the Magna Room of the Aurora Public Library. For more information, contact the Adult Information Desk at 905-727-9494 x275.

SAC gears up for MacPherson Tournament in their newly opened arena

From page 13

Unfortunately, it was more of the same, as perhaps the best chance of the powerplay was a Crescent 3-on-1 that had Link flailing to keep his team in the game.

And the Saints very much were until only ten minutes left in the game, when Link was finally beaten a second time on a scramble in front of the Saints' net.

With time running out and less than three minutes on the clock, the Saints got a great opportunity on a 2-on-1, but the Crescent goaltender made an impressive pad save on the deke to

backhand.

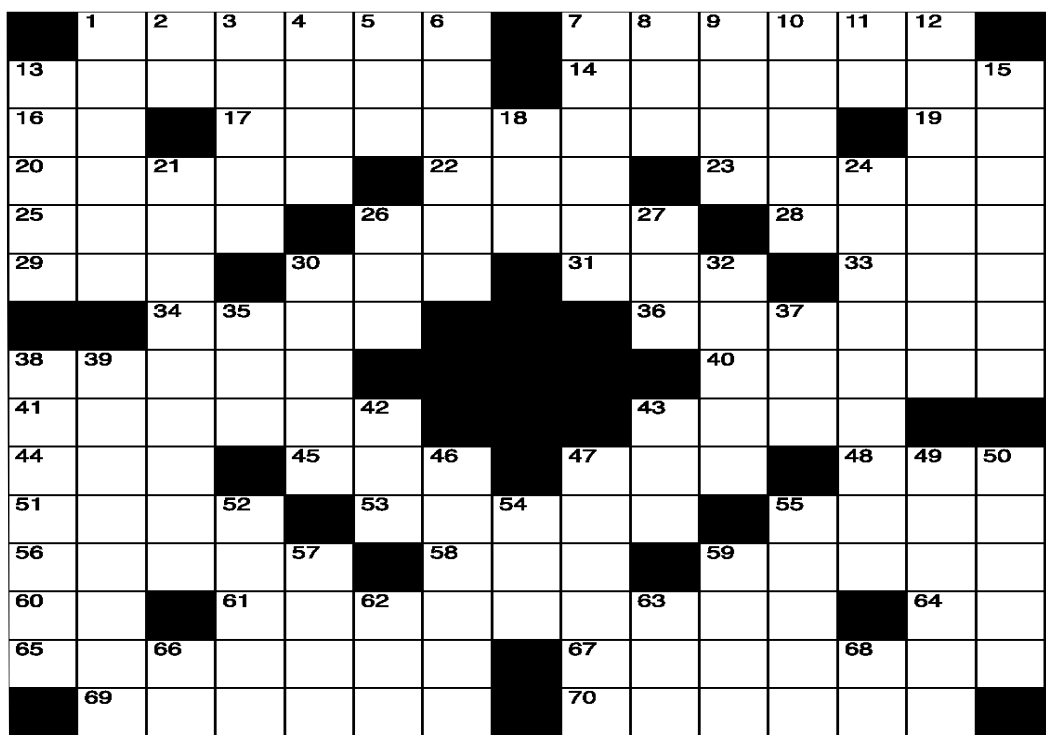
Crescent added a late empty-netter to seal the game by a 3 – 0 score.

After travelling to Upper Canada College to take on the Varsity Blues on Wednesday, the J.V. Saints are in action again Monday at home, hosting De La Salle at La Brier Family Arena.

St. Andrew's will host the 32nd annual MacPherson Hockey Tournament from January 30 – February 1, both at the La Brier and at the Aurora Community Centre.

For full schedules, visit www.sachockey.ca.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Contradicted
7. The Donald's Marla
13. Mediterranean sandstorm
14. Shoulder adornment
16. Earth crust's 5th element
17. Rainbow prize
19. NCIS star's initials
20. Mischa __, violinist
22. Constitution Hall org.
23. More dried-up
25. First on moon
26. Braid
28. 11% of Guinea population
29. Sea eagle
30. Scottish variant of "to"
31. A border for a picture
33. Belonging to a thing
34. On top
36. Automobile hood (Brit.)
38. Skewered Thai dish
40. Clamors

41. Eggs cooked until just set
43. Flat
44. 13th Hebrew letter
45. Short poking stroke
47. Japanese classical theater
48. 007's creator
51. Romanian Mures river city
53. Music term for silence
55. A crane
56. Ringworm
58. Romanian money
59. True frog
60. Integrated circuit
61. "Highway Patrol's" Crawford
64. Point midway between S and E
65. On a whim
67. Protagonist
69. Quantity with only magnitude
70. Oversights

CLUES DOWN

1. One who operates a dial
2. Trauma center
3. Prickly pear pads
4. Fashion superstar
5. Shock treatment
6. Mindless drawing
7. AKA migraine
8. Military mailbox
9. Buddies
10. Heavy tranquilizers (slang)
11. Raised railroad track
12. School session
13. Picture
15. Stabs
18. Supervises flying
21. Early American militiaman
24. Downfall
26. Cooking vessel
27. Check
30. In a way, manipulated
32. Sacred book of Judaism

35. Chum
37. Negating word
38. Relating to the body
39. W. hemisphere continents
42. Make lacework
43. Witty remark
46. More hairless
47. Relating to a nerve
49. Originates
50. Consumer advocate Ralph
52. Actress Winger
54. Center for Excellence in Education (abbr.)
55. Japanese brews
57. Fleshy seed covering
59. Canadian law enforcers
62. So. Am. wood sorrel
63. Actress Lupino
66. Personal computer
68. Do over prefix

Last Week's Puzzle Solution



Politics as Usual

From page 5

Evelyn Beatrice Hall said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it". Indeed prescient. That is what it means to live in a free and democratic society.

If I don't like what you have to say, I don't have to listen to you. I can

argue with you. Loudly. Vigorously. Vehemently.

But I don't have the right to shoot you just because I don't like what you have to say.

Nous sommes Charlie.

Until next week, stay informed, stay involved because this is – after all – Our Town.

TOWN OF AURORA
PUBLIC NOTICE

AURORA

SEEKING CITIZEN MEMBERS FOR THE TOWN OF AURORA ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Aurora Town Council invites residents to apply to participate as a citizen member of one of the following:

Advisory Committees

Application Deadline: Friday, January 23, 2015

- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Trails and Active Transportation Committee

For more information on roles and responsibilities for Committee members, please visit Aurora Town Hall, Aurora Public Library or the Town of Aurora's website at www.aurora.ca

For more information, please call 905-727-3123, ext. 4227.

What is the application process?

Appointment to Advisory Committees is open to all residents of Aurora, or owners of land within the municipality, or a tenant of land in Aurora. Applications must be submitted to the Town on the approved application form. Application forms and additional information can be picked up at Aurora Town Hall, Aurora Public Library or by visiting the Town's website at www.aurora.ca

Applications should be addressed to the Deputy Clerk and submitted by email to pthoma@aurora.ca or by fax at 905-726-4732. Applications can also be submitted by mail or hand delivered to 100 John West Way, P.O. Box 1000, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1.

Town of Aurora 100 John West Way, Aurora, ON L4G 6J1 | www.aurora.ca/publicnotices | 905-727-3123, ext. 4227

Opportunities available for Aurorans to have say on Town's future

By Brock Weir

If you have ever wanted to take an active role in helping shape the future of Aurora, but might not want to throw your hat into a municipal election, now is your chance.

The search is now on for citizens to join Aurora's advisory committees.

Applications are being accepted through Friday, January 23, for residents looking to participate on the Town's Environmental, Economic, Heritage, Parks and Recreation, and Trails and Active Transportation Advisory Committees.

Membership is open to all residents or landowners within Aurora and applicants will be considered and appointed by Council.

Council approved the re-establishment of these advisory committees last month, following discussions over composition and frequency of the meetings. They concluded meetings of these "discretionary" committees be held every other month, leaving it in the hands of each committee's chairperson to decide if additional meetings need to be called.

"I like the start of this because it allows committee members to set up the terms of when they would like to meet," said Councillor Sandra Humfryes, supporting an amendment put on the floor from Councillor Paul Pirri to change the frequency of meetings from monthly to bi-monthly.

While the amendment passed, some Councillors expressed a degree of concern that citizens signing up for bi-monthly meetings might get cold feet if they were meeting more frequently than what they originally signed up for.

"If people put their names forward [on the basis that it is] bi-monthly and then it starts to change to a monthly aspect, they might be overwhelmed by that aspect and they might end up dropping out," said Councillor Tom Mrakas. "I think that is a real possibility."

Councillor Jeff Thom said this needs to be clear in each committee's terms of reference, but Councillor Pirri said he did not see this as a significant issue.

"It is a valid point, but on the committee I sat on last term, individuals dropped off because they felt they weren't being utilized because some of the meetings were not as intense as others. I see both sides of the equation,

but I think it makes most sense to come at it from opposite ends."

Added Councillor Harold Kim: "Have it scheduled for bi-monthly [meetings] but let people know there is a chance it could be monthly and have tentative dates set out so people know to have that scheduled in their calendars."

There will also be further opportunities for more residents to have their say in accessibility issues facing Aurora.

Council gave the green light to a request put forward by Councillor Wendy Gaertner and supported by Councillor John Abel to boost the membership of Aurora's Accessibility Advisory Committee – a committee required to be reinstated under provincial legislation – from five members to seven.

For mandatory committees such as this, rules are set out as to their composition and mandate but for Councillor Gaertner, the terms of reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee do not go far enough. In the last term of Council, it was a group comprised of one Councillor and four citizen members who were stakeholders in issues of accessibility.

According to the Councillors, the group should be expanded because it was among the smallest in York Region.

"The committee of five members is a difficult number to work with because apart from the Councillor and citizen members, everybody else has accessibility issues and often people are not able to come and that gives us an issue of quorum," said Councillor Gaertner. "I would like to suggest that we take this to seven members, as we do the other committees, and that gives us a better chance to get a better turnout in winter weather, in sickness, etc."

During the last term of Council, a number of questions were raised at the table over recommendations coming to Council directly from committee on important initiatives and developments, oftentimes without a summary of the arguments made at the committee level.

Once the committees are re-established for this term, Mr. Huycke is introducing a new method of reporting where decisions and recommendations made by the Committee to Council would come to Council as minutes, with summaries of the arguments made to underscore their role in "providing advice" to Council.

COMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents "Blues in the Blue" from 10:30 am – 12 pm. Enjoy live music in support of the Rooted in the Blues Community as Curator Exhibition, now on in the Reception Hall Gallery. For more info, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca, call 905 713-1818 or drop by the Centre.

JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 28

Aurora's Eating Disorders of York Region Riverwalk Wellness Centres and Addiction Services for York Region roll out a series of sessions related to their Expressive Arts Program. Poetry with Michael Ferrell gets underway January 17 for four Saturdays. A three session program with Susan Stortini, Certified Zentangle Teacher, begins January 26, and TeleStory (Photography) with Michelle Scott, Peer Recovery Facilitator, runs for five Saturdays starting February 28. All sessions will be held at Riverwalk, 15213 Yonge Street, Ste 15, Aurora. For more information, call 905-886-6632.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

The Aurora Public Library launches a new art exhibition today featuring the work of Geri Adam. Working mainly with acrylic on canvas, Adam focuses on interpreting her response to nature and human character through form, colour and mood. Her work is sometimes impressionistic, more recently verging on abstraction. The exhibition runs in the Colleen Abbott Gallery through March 1.

Instructional art classes start this week at the Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street. From guitar and creative writing, to painting and acrylics, watercolours, drawing and sketching, wood carving, jewellery and more! For more information, and to register, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca, call 905-713-1818, or drop by the Centre.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Join Janice Waugh, author of The Solo Traveler's Handbook, at the Aurora Public Library tonight for her presentation on travelling solo. Awaken your sense of adventure and reveal your resilience; discover yourself as you discover the world. An inspiring presentation with lots of practical advice which starts at 7 p.m. Free, but please call to reserve your seat at 905-727-9494 x275.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, presents the Great Artist Music Series with the Henderson-Kolk Classical Guitar Duo. Program includes works by Albeniz, Bach, Mozart and Rodrigo. Concert at 8 p.m. for more information, including ticket information, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca, call 905-713-1818, or drop by the Centre.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Children's Art Classes start today at the Aurora Cultural Centre. Mixed Media Mash-Up (10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., ages 6 – 10), and Drawing and Painting (ages 11 to 14); instruction in art fundamentals in a joyful studio setting. For more information, and to register, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca, call 905-713-1818, or drop by the Centre.

The White Heather Pipes and Drums presents their annual Robbie Burns Dinner tonight with

cocktails beginning at 5 p.m. and dinner served at 6 p.m. Enjoy an evening of bagpipes, Scottish music and dancing. Enjoy haggis, roast beef, tatties and neeps, and Yorkshire pudding. Silent auction. Performance by the White Heather Pipes and Drums. Live music by Aurora's own classic rock band Dalayne Drive. Tickets are \$40 per person and on sale now from the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) or from any band member. For more information, email tomkatbrown@yahoo.ca.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Aurora's Animal Rights Advocates host their fifth Vegan Potluck and Movie Night today with a screening of Forks Over Knives. Bring a friend to share this movie's important message, as well as a dish of vegan food. The screening will be held at the Aurora Public Library, with doors opening at 12.30 p.m. and screening at 2 p.m. A brief discussion will follow. A \$3 cover charge helps pay for the room and other expenses.

The Seniors Evergreen Choir of Aurora, in a company with six other choirs from York Region, invite you to come and join us for an evening of song as we take part in the Choral Extravaganza 2015 from 6.30 – 9 p.m. Events get underway at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available from members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre Choir, from the front desk of the Centre, or at the door. Adults \$20, Students \$10.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Taoist Tai Chi will host the open house Cultivating the Spirit for Better Health today at 73 Industrial Parkway North, Unit 2B, from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Come for tea and a demonstration and introduction to Taoist Tai Chi. Gentle turning and stretching movements are designed to improve circulation, contribute to better balance and posture, and increase strength and flexibility. The movements exercise the whole body and help relieve harmful stress and anxiety. Movements can be adapted for people with reduced mobility. For more information, call 905-836-1219 or visit www.taoist.org/newmarket.

The Canadian Federation of University Women Aurora/Newmarket meets at the Royal Canadian Legion (105 Industrial Parkway North) at 7.15 p.m. Senior team member Gary Ryan will speak about innovation and expansion and other highlights at Southlake Regional Health Centre. All are welcome. For more information, call Judy Craig at 905-895-8713 or visit www.cfuauroranewmarket.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

The Aurora Cultural Centre, 22 Church Street, welcomes John Sheard Presents with very special guest Sylvia Tyson, Canada's own Queen of Folk. Tickets selling quickly - don't delay! For more information, including ticket purchase info, visit auroraculturalcentre.ca, call 905 713-1818 or drop by the Centre.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir will play Trinity Anglican Church tonight in a concert benefiting Welcome Table. The concert gets underway at 7.30 p.m. For more information, visit www.welshchoir.ca.

To submit your event send details in 100 words or less to letters@auroran.com with the subject line "Coming Events".

AURORA Winter Blues FESTIVAL

AWBF Blues Bash

FESTIVAL KICKOFF

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2015

6:30 PM ~ Aurora Cultural Centre

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- Live painting "to the beat" – artist Adubi Akinola
- Hors d'oeuvres food stations by Mississippi Queen
- Good old fashion Dancin'
- Door Prizes

Purchase tickets at awbf.ca





















Great Artist Music Series

AURORA CULTURAL CENTRE

2015 season

HENDERSON-KOLK

classical guitar duo

Fri. January 23 8pm

Bach, Mozart, Rodrigo & Piazzolla



MOSHE HAMMER

violin

ANGELA PARK piano

Fri. March 6 8pm

Brahms, Franck & Sarasate



JUE WANG

piano

Fri. May 1 8pm

Liszt, Strauss & Gershwin



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Aurora Cultural Centre
presented by
ALUMERIA



Aurora to get strict in enforcing parking restrictions at area parks

By Brock Weir

Aurora residents could soon be facing a crackdown on parking at local recreation areas.

Beginning in March, Aurora's bylaw department will be stricter in enforcing parking restrictions in various locales around Town, with a particular emphasis on parks.

According to a report before Councillors this week from Techa van Leeuwen, Aurora's Director of Building and Bylaw Services, further signs could be posted outlining these restrictions, along with increased enforcement activities by late winter.

In her report, Ms. van Leeuwen states parking in Aurora parks is only permitted in designated areas, with overnight parking prohibited without a permit.

"Occasionally permissions have been granted to park overnight at certain parks to accommodate sports groups travelling for tournaments," she says. "These are special circumstances for one or two nights and in these situations, staff ensure overnight parking will not interfere with other

events or activities."

A particularly problematic area as far as parking is concerned is Town Park, the Downtown Aurora hub bordered by Wells Street, Larmont Street, Moseley Street, and Metcalfe Street, which is surrounded by parking spots. These parking spots, she says, are intended for park users, but that is not always the case in practice.

"Until recently, Town Park parking areas did not have signage indicating restrictions negating any enforcement efforts," she says. "In an effort to ensure parking at Town Park is being properly allocated to users of the park, signs were erected. This created some concerns from surrounding residents who have been parking vehicles at the Park because they have insufficient space to accommodate the numbers of vehicles they own.

"Town Park parking area has also been used to store trailers [and is] also being used by commuters during the day. These activities are contrary to the bylaw and create challenges with snow removal and parking shortages for park users."



SENIOR SCAPE

Jim Abram

New Years' Resolution Time!

A Stroll in the Park for Aurora Seniors

It is that time of year again when you are contemplating embarking on your New Year's resolutions. Well, here is a wonderful idea: even though the current weather might not be the best, it is still time to think about keeping fit for the rest of the year.

If you are a senior aged 55+ living in Aurora and you are looking for friendship, fun and healthy exercise, join our Walking Club at the Aurora Seniors' Centre.

The goal is to promote seniors' health through enjoyable, non-competitive outdoor social activities. Walks are held on Wednesday mornings and are about an hour in length. Walking through green space is beneficial for both physical and mental health.

These popular walks travel the trail system at the Aurora Arboretum adjacent to the Aurora Seniors' Centre or at Sheppard's Bush and Vandorf Sideroad trails. These trails are scenic and safe trails, and are maintained in excellent condition to accommodate our group of walkers and our canine mascot, Ziggy!

Walking is one of the least expensive and most broadly accessible forms of physical activity. It is rarely associated with physical injury and can easily be adopted by people of all ages, including those who have never participated in physical activity.

Studies have shown that walking has higher levels of adherence than other forms of physical activity, possibly because it is convenient and overcomes many of the commonly perceived barriers to physical activity: lack of time, lack of money, lack of fitness or lack of skill. Walking is a particularly accessible form of

physical activity: it is low impact, appropriate for all age groups and it is free. Not only is it a good way to get from A to B – brisk walking speed is about 3.5 miles (5 km) per hour – but walking can also help people to avoid weight gain over the long term.

Even slow walking burns around 114 calories per mile walked for someone weighing 200lb (91kg).

"Many of us are pretty fit from all the walking we do," says Ruth Church, ASA Walking Club convenor, "but some members found it a bit of a challenge when they first started. Our walks are open to all members of the Aurora Seniors' Centre and we really welcome new walkers. We start the walk at a slow pace appropriate to active seniors and work up to the longer distance and modestly faster pace. We don't want people to be put off by trying too much. We'd rather they felt encouraged that 'one day soon, I'll be walking with more and more confidence'.

The walking club is active all year round. As weather permits, we try some other trails as well. We do not walk if the trail gets icy or if the weather is bad. If in doubt, check with the Aurora Seniors' Centre Reception Desk 905-726-4767 early Wednesday morning.

We meet at the Centre at 9.30 a.m. and car pool to the starting location. No pre-registration is required, just show up. We are always looking for eager members to walk with us, so come out and join us.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, email auroraseniors@rogers.com or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Briefly

MORE THAN 1,450 IMPAIRED DRIVING CHARGES IN 2014

The numbers are in and York Regional Police laid more than 1,450 charges related to impaired driving over the course of the last year. This, they say, include R.I.D.E. spot check, calls from concerned citizens, and uniform patrol officers on the streets. "In 2014, York Regional Police received over 5,600 calls from concerned motorists who called 911 through our Safe Roads...Your Call campaign," said Constable Laura Nicolle. "York Regional Police encourages citizens to call police if they believe a motorist is impaired by drugs or alcohol. We will respond to these calls promptly as they are considered to be a crime in progress."

AURORA MUSEUM GETS CURATOR

The soon-to-be-restored Aurora Museum has a new curator. Shawna White of Cultural Asset Management Group (CAM) has been hired as curator of the new museum, which is set to take over the Aurora Room at the Aurora Cultural Centre in 2015. Council approved the hiring of a curator last year amid lengthy debate over who should be leading the effort. Despite coming in at considerably less than competing bids for the contract from the Aurora Historical Society and Aurora Cultural Centre, Council initially rejected CAM's bid before reconsidering the issue months later.



COMFORT FOR LIFE



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View from Queen's Park

From page 5

for some employers to offer them. The ORPP allows employers – who may not otherwise be able to offer their employees the opportunity to contribute to and accumulate benefits – to help them save for their retirement years.

The ORPP would be administered by an organization arms-length from the government. That entity would collect contributions and invest them, and administer benefits. The assets of the ORPP would be managed for the benefits of workers and will not be included as part of government revenues.

There are worries about how the ORPP might impact businesses. Steps

are being taken to help minimize the impacts by, for example, allowing enrolment to take place in stages, starting with the largest employers. And contribution rates would be phased in over two years.

This would especially assist small business with the transition and help lessen the short-term impact. As well, the government is committed to introducing the ORPP in 2017 to coincide with the expected reductions in Employment Insurance premiums.

The ORPP would be a cost-effective way of helping workers achieve a secure retirement income they can rely on so that all of us can rest assured about our collective future.

What's the 'Hockley secret'? You'll have to ask Mr. Kohnen.

Andrew Kohnen
Brewmaster



Hockley

IT'S ALL TRUE.

HOCKLEYBEER.CA



Aurora Winter Blues Festival co-founder Jamie Macdonald is pictured with the Aurora Cultural Centre's Jane Taylor in their newly installed exhibition "Rooted in the Blues", now on at the Church Street landmark. Blues performers will be on hand at the building for this weekend's Market. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

— THE AURORAN — CLASSIFIEDS

**Deadline: Friday, 4 pm, week prior to publication.
905-727-3300 Open: Monday – Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

HELP WANTED

JAN WOODLANDS (2001) Inc. lebelcambium.com located in Bolton, is now hiring: Forklift Operators. Permanent / Full Time / Days. Benefits in 3 months. License is an asset. Fax resume: 905-951-8257 Attn: Stuart Robinson or email: srobinson@lebelcambium.com

LIVE OUT POSITION AVAILABLE for experienced Superintendent in condominium Building. King Township location. Please fax resume: 905-948-1300 or dan@aragon-buidling.com

JANWOODLANDS (2001) INC. lebelcambium.com located in Bolton, is now hiring: Machine Operators & General Labourers. Permanent / Full Time /Days, Benefits in 3 months. Fax resume: 905-951-8257 Attn: Stuart Robinson or email: srobinson@lebelcambium.com

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Get an appetizer of the Winter Blues Festival this weekend with exhibition and performance at Farmers' Market

From page 3

The Blues Bash returns for a second year Thursday, February 19, at the Aurora Cultural Centre, featuring the music of the 24th Street Wailers. It signals the start of the three day festival, which runs through February 21. The lineup on February 20 is billed as "Slide Guitar Explosion" featuring Paul Deslauriers, Steve Pinchin, Conor Gains and their bands. The ladies take over on Saturday, February 21 with "Lady Sings the Blues," featuring Shakura S'Aida, Angel Forrest, Angelique Francis, and the Ben Racine Band.

If February 19 – 21 is too far away for you to get your blues on, you're in luck.

You can get appetizers of what's to come at multiple venues in the lead up to the event, including this Saturday when the Blues take over the Blue Gallery at the Aurora Cultural Centre, in conjunction with the Aurora Farmers' Market, which runs until 2 p.m.

"Pop-Up Performances" are also planned throughout January and

February at the Aurora Public Library and other venues around town.

"We have three local performers coming in through January and February that will do mini pop-up 15 minute performances on Saturday afternoons," says Mr. Macdonald of the initiative that is new this year, adding onto the success of additional components introduced in 2014. "What was really surprising and quite pleasing [last year] was the introduction of music workshops, both for the youth in our partnership with The Arts Music Store, which was very well received and exceeded our expectations. That was all freely provided to the youth of Aurora. [With this exhibition] we just want to kindle those questions about the blues, have people start following up and enquiring about our efforts, not only how they can take in the different events and activities, but how they can get involved in helping grow the festival too.

"It is our opportunity to cross-pollinate interest in the Festival."

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