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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 25 No. 34 905-727-3300 **TheAuroran.com** **FREE** Week of May 30, 2024



COMMUNITY HEROES

Town Hall was a place of celebration on Monday night as Aurora hosted the annual Community Recognition Awards in Council Chambers. Hundreds of years' worth of community service was honoured over the course of the evening in a variety of different realms, culminating in the presentation (left) of Citizen of the Year to Vern Cunningham. For full coverage, see pages 12 to 15.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger/Rosalyn Gonsalves Image

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Vern Cunningham named Aurora's 2024 Citizen of the Year

BY BROCK WEIR

From promoting business to lending a very kind and warm helping hand to those experiencing bereavement and loss, Vern Cunningham has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make Aurora a kind and caring community.

He's done so quietly for decades, but his volunteer achievements were trumpeted loud and clear on Monday night as he was named Aurora's 2024 Citizen of the Year.

Unable to be present at this week's Community Recognition Awards

ceremony due to a long-planned vacation, Cunningham was surprised with the recognition on Wednesday night at a small ceremony hosted by Mayor Tom Mrakas at a local restaurant where he was celebrated by friends and family. He will formally receive the award at Council on June 25.

At this week's Awards ceremony, the Mayor said Cunningham was "incredibly honoured and humbled" by the recognition.

"Vern has achieved a lot here in our community over the years, as a businessman, but of course also as a volunteer," said Mayor Mrakas at the May 27 event.

"While running his very successful local business, Alutron, Vern helped support other small business owners through his work at the Chamber (of Commerce), serving as a board member in the early 2000s, chairing the Business Achievement Awards, and serving as an ambassador for the York Region Small Business Enterprise Centre.

"In his retirement, Vern doubled down on his commitment to strengthening our community, joining the Optimist Club and serving as president of the Probus Club

Continued on page 15

Beer, burgers, and family-friendly fun on tap for Street Festival

BY BROCK WEIR

From music, shopping, beer and even free burgers, Yonge Street will be the place to be this Sunday as the Aurora Chamber of Commerce gears up for the 2024 Aurora Street Festival.

The popular annual family-friendly event, one of the country's biggest such festivals, will take over Yonge Street

Continued on page 8



PAWS FOR A CAUSE – Pups and their two-legged humans set out from Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park over the weekend as the Aurora Lions' Club hosted the PetValu Walk for Dog Guides.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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SENIORS EXPO

Friday June 7, 2024 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Newmarket Community Centre and Lions Hall

200 Doug Duncan Drive

Hosted by Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP for Newmarket–Aurora

Free Admission

Speakers Program:

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM: Seniors Wellness

Dela Fotoohi is a registered psychotherapist and cofounder of the Senior Iranian Multicultural Association (SIMA). Dela is committed to senior well-being and mental health.

10:45 AM - 11:30 AM: Scams Targeting Seniors

Constable Danielle Froud has been with York Regional Police for 20 years, and is currently an officer with the Senior Safety Unit. Danielle works to provide awareness and education about elder abuse, crime prevention and personal safety.

11:45 AM - 12:30 PM: Seniors Financial Safety and Cyber Security

Kim Madore is a seasoned business leader with IBM Canada. Kim is deeply committed to safeguarding individuals against financial fraud, and creating a safer and more secure cyber environment.

Activities:

Information Sessions: Join our specialists in sessions related to senior wellness, safety and cyber-security.

Engaging Local Exhibitors:

Providing a range of services, resources, and social connections for seniors.

Discover new opportunities for activities, support, and engagement in your community.

Complimentary Tea Room: Enjoy a relaxing environment with light refreshments, socializing and a free take home mug.

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Gilliland candidacy nixed by Conservatives

Candidate to be chosen this week

BY BROCK WEIR

Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland's bid to carry the Conservative Party of Canada banner for Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill in the next Federal election has been nixed by the Party.

In a statement to supporters and media on Wednesday, May 22, Gilliland said the Conservative Party (CPC) had denied her bid to be on the ballot ahead of this Tuesday's riding meeting where local party members will ultimately vote on the winning candidate.

In her statement, Gilliland said the party had "denied" her the opportunity to participate in the riding contest, a move which has left her with more questions than answers.

"I decided to run for federal office on a platform to protect our democracy, keep our communities safe, and bring back pay cheques that provide us with the very basics of food and shelter," she said in the statement. "I started my campaign for the federal Conservative nomination a year ago by stating that I would be running a clean campaign. I believe people deserve to have their elected officials possess the basic integrity needed when making decisions on their behalf and I am proud to say I have kept this promise. I was overwhelmed with the support I have received for my candidacy and am proud to have signed up over 580 members for the Conservative Party in Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill."

Many of those she signed up, she said, "have never been in a political party before."

The CPC, she contended, has not given her any reason for rejecting her bid and giving residents the "choice to decide for themselves."

The CPC, however, says Gilliland did not abide by Party rules.

"Rachel Gilliland was in clear violation of rules outlined in the CPC 'Rules and Procedures for Candidate Nominations'," said Sarah Fischer, the CPC's Director of Communications. "The local Candidate Nomination Committee (CNC) recommended disqualification and the National Candidate Selection Committee upheld the local CNC decision. After review, the National Council did not accept Ms. Gilliland's appeal of this decision."

The decision pertaining to Councillor Gilliland is just the latest turn in the fraught race to challenge Liberal MP Leah Taylor Roy in Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

in the next Federal campaign.

Earlier this month, former Postmedia columnist Sabrina Maddeaux suspended her bid for the riding citing a lack of "faith in the integrity" of this election process.

"Despite raising concerns to the Conservative Party nearly two weeks ago — despite submitting clear evidence of a corrupted process and potential illegal actions taken by another campaign — nothing has been done," said Maddeaux in her statement. "There has been no evidence that a promised internal investigation is actually underway. No next steps shared."

"Despite repeated requests, there's been zero communication to candidates or our riding's Conservative voters to make them aware of interference with the democratic process. Zero communication that my campaign has been the clear target of highly unethical, and potentially illegal, efforts to sway the vote. Zero meaningful reassurance to me, other candidates, or voters, that this will still be an open and fair election."

Many of these sentiments were echoed by Gilliland last week.

Gilliland said she had been "very concerned and troubled" by what she described as a "number of irregularities and suspected contravention" of nomination rules, including "negative character emails against three candidates sent to new members prior to the release of any final lists, targeted emails and door knocks on new members as recent as April 2024, current EDA Board President and other Board members actively campaigning in favour of a candidate."

"I believe strongly in the values and principles of fairness and transparency and this extends to my public work, my personal decisions, and to my conduct in the local nomination process," Gilliland concluded. "I have provided all evidence of inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour by one of the current candidates' campaigns that was forwarded to me by many of my supporters to the Conservative Party of Canada to aid in their internal investigation."

Asked for a response to Fischer's statement, Gilliland added that while she understood that the CPC's decision did not need to be accompanied by reasons, "obtaining this information is crucial for my professional development and future participation within the party."

Still in the race are former Richmond Hill MP Costas Menegakis and Richmond Hill Councillor Carmine Perrelli.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coalition calls on Ford to "shelve destructive housing plans"

A broad-based coalition of 65 organizations and many prominent Ontario residents has petitioned Ontario Premier Doug Ford and MPPs calling on them to shelve the government's Bill 185 and proposed changes to the Provincial Planning Statement that governs land use in the province.

"Your proposals are the wrong medicine to solve the housing crisis. Your government's prescription will actually make things worse," the petitioners say.

"These proposed changes to Ontario's housing rules will destroy farmland, natural areas and make it harder to get affordable homes built," said Mark Reusser from the Waterloo Federation of Agriculture. "They will take away the last remaining provincial protections that have stopped land speculators from rezoning farmland, wetlands and wilderness. The changes will encourage building expensive houses in the wrong places."

"This government has used the housing affordability crisis to justify changing rules to make it easier to build more expensive, single-family homes on farmland and natural areas," said David Crombie, former Mayor of Toronto and Chair of the Friends of the Golden Horseshoe. "This is bad planning, bad for the environment and it won't help the housing crisis. These policies would divert construction workers and material away from building the affordable homes we need in communities where people already live and services already exist."

"Bill 185 continues the Ford government's systematic dismantling of our democratic rights by taking away the right of the public to appeal sprawl development decisions," said Victor Doyle, professional planner and former Manager of Planning with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "This means only developers will have the right of appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal - making it essentially a developers' only tribunal. How is that fair?"

"Bottom line: Instead of making homes more affordable, these bills will make housing more expensive," said Margaret Prophet, Executive Director of the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition. "If MPPs want to solve the housing affordability crisis, their only option is to shelve these bills now."

Franz Hartmann
Alliance for a Liveable Ontario

We can't afford to ignore climate action

We absolutely must make a more serious attempt at Climate Action. The provinces with the lowest electricity costs are the ones that use the least oil, coal and gas.

We cannot afford NOT to take climate action. New research published in the journal Nature concludes that the cost of environmental damage will be SIX times higher than the cost of limiting global heating to 2°C.

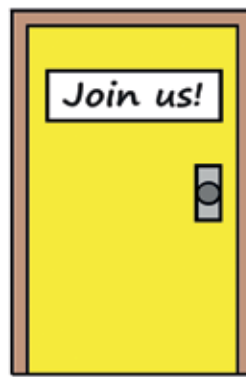
We must take every action possible now. Let's make CANADA the Leader for all countries to follow in the fight against Climate Change!

Donna Deneault
Stouffville

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Letters, fares and own-goals

A few days ago, I attended an event that involved emergency personnel.

These occasions are always a great opportunity to express appreciation for the persons who tirelessly give of themselves day in and day out to make our communities better – and safer – places to live, work, and play.

In this job, I also enjoy seeing the wonder on the faces of kids when they have the chance to get up close and personal with a person in uniform, the vehicle they use to get to the point of emergency or interest, and the equipment that allows them to rise to the occasion on behalf of us all.

Do these occasions sow the seeds for future police officers, fire fighters, paramedics or other emergency personnel? Maybe – only time will tell, but it certainly doesn't hurt.

Instances like these often remind me of my youngest cousin.

Six years separate us, so when we were growing up, in retrospect, I must have thought I was the proverbial "big man on campus." Although the age difference matters little now, there was enough of a gap there that I could exercise a bit of adult-level snarkiness about some of her youthful ideas.

I don't know if she ever had a chance in her earliest days to visit a fire station, but I remember her boldly proclaiming one day, when the well-worn question of what we both wanted to be when we grew up bubbled to the surface, that her goal was to be a "fire truck or a cow thing."

Not a firefighter, mind you, but the truck itself.

Not a cowgirl, cowboy, or cow-person, of course; but a mysterious – and potentially ominous-sounding – "cow thing."

As far as I know, some thirty-odd years later, she hasn't yet hit the wild, wild, west, become a ranch hand, secured a job at an abattoir, or pursued a career at her nearest meat counter. Nor has she tapped Tony Stark to see what he could do to make her fire truck dreams come true. But the intentions were good, despite by juvenile and precocious eyerolls.

Truth be told, I was in no position to roll. My goals at that age were only slightly more grounded. For reasons that escape me, around that particular time I loved the idea of working in a gas station – that is, one of those basic gas stations from the 1980s and 90s that pumped fuel, had a tiny kiosk of the most basic of convenience items, and – and maybe this is why I thought the job was particularly glamorous – dispensed all manner of prizes to young customers. If memory



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

serves, they offered everything from fairy tale and wildlife books penned by Dr. Jane Goodall to flimsy drinking glasses promoting everything from the Michael Keaton "Batman" movies to flavours of the month that came out of what was then the World Wrestling Federation.

Perhaps placing second in my employment stakes at that time was anything to do with Canada Post. I loved the idea of being on the committee that selects stamp designs and being part of the creative process, but, truth be told, I would have picked any job in their hierarchy. I just thought it was cool, and for that I solely attribute my philatelist grandfather.

Those dreams were short-lived, but I still felt a bit of a pang last week when Canada Post's latest forecast was published.

According to a report from The Canadian Press published on Friday, 2023 wasn't Canada Post's most successful year; to put it mildly, posting a loss of \$748 million before taxes. It was, they said, their "second-worst year on record."

Among the reasons cited for this loss were less traditional letter mail going around, and courier companies nibbling into the parcel business.

Some of the possible methods the Crown Corporation might explore to help right the ship are higher stamp prices to send a letter; employee layoffs, and even, per the federal government, easing up legislation to potentially allow for delivery a few times a week rather than all five weekdays.

Personally, when COVID-19 came knocking and so many of us were unable to get out and shop for the non-essentials, I thought this would be a boon for Canada Post as more and more people were getting what they needed online – after all, it had to be delivered somehow. Courier services saw a bump, certainly, in the volume they were hauling, but it seems Canada Post somehow missed the mailboat on this.

Maybe it's just me, but I fail to see

how raising prices on the cost to send an envelope, reducing existing services, or laying off individuals who are ultimately tasked with delivering the product would help in any significant way. Making things more difficult and costly for customers has never, in my experience, been a sure-fire way to have patrons proverbially beating down your door to fork over their dough.

If people are interested in sending a letter or parcel at the moment, hiking up the rates sure isn't going to entice people.

It might sound counterintuitive on the surface, but wouldn't it be smarter in the long run to lower the cost to send a letter, a parcel or take advantage of the myriad other services provided by Canada Post to incentivize people to take a second look at the organization that was a ubiquitous part of our lives? Or, at the very least, position themselves as an alternative to courier services?

The same could also be said for our transit providers.

In York Region, for instance, we hear year in and year out that in many cases ridership is on the decline and, as a consequence, so are revenues. Finding efficiencies is always the name of the game when it comes to publicly-funded services, but raising fares for potential customers who might find existing fares already out of reach for use on a regular basis seems like an own-goal.

Take, for example, Orangeville's method of transit delivery. Over the last couple of years, the Town has eliminated transit fares and is currently providing it as a free service to residents.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the system has seen a surge in use – in February, they reported ridership was up 102 per cent.

Now, of course, this does create a financial burden on the municipality as they are not collecting fares to help with the cost of fuel and regular maintenance, but with ridership seeing such a surge, even a nominal fee shouldered by this new surge in patrons would surely narrow the gap.

When times get tough for customer-driven services, thoughts should turn to enticing people back rather than driving them away.

Unfortunately for Canada Post and transit providers the country-over, offering books on chimps, wildebeests, baboons, zebras, elephants, hyena, giraffes, and lions, no matter Dr. Goodall's talents, or dinner wear featuring the unappetizing image of The Penguin, as depicted by Danny DeVito in Batman Returns, won't do the trick.

But it might help be a balm for sticker shock at the pumps!

THE AURORAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

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NOTICE TO PATRONS
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Change of Time
and
Time Table
Commencing Sunday, Sept. 21st, 1924, the new Time Table will be effective and all cars will operate on Standard Time.
HYDRO-ELECTRIC RAILWAYS
Toronto & York District
W. R. Robertson
Gen. Superintendent
C. H. Wilson,
Superintendent.
37-2r.

...An Hour Ahead of Schedule

This clipping and timetable (994.35.18) are from 1924. During part of the 1920s the railway operated on Daylight Savings Time. When it was 6 a.m. in Aurora it was already 7 a.m. in Toronto. Toronto kept daylight savings after the Great War ended in 1918, but by 1921 Aurora had done away with the wartime measure. This was partly because farmers were grumbling, a considerably influential group in those days. They said the loss of the hour interfered with processing crops; the crops needed to dry in the morning sun before being cut and stacked or they would rot. Aurorans had to wake up four hours early to get to Toronto for 9 a.m. To learn more about timetable headaches read the newest Time Travellers Diary!

Not Standard Time

My time machine is a powerful and complicated tool: a whirl of gears and levers surround my pilot's chair and can whisk me to anywhere at a whim.

But today, I was halted in my travel plans by a persistent warning beep. Sighing, I turned down Steve Miller's Fly Like an Eagle, and focused on my malfunctioning machine. "Tick, tock, tick..." The holomap showed an aerial view of Southern Ontario with a shimmering red bubble over the communities up Yonge Street. "TEMPORAL ANOMALY" flashed above it, also red. This was something I'd have to report to the Guild, so I landed my machine behind the United Church and stepped out to investigate on foot.

It was May 26, 1924 – a crisp Monday morning not quite heralding the long-awaited summer weather. As I approached the Radial Railway station, I heard grumbling and sounds of impatience from some well-dressed commuters. One voice got louder; "...and Toronto is STILL one hour ahead! If the farmers could just see it OUR way, they might understand!" There were murmurs of assent. The man, spurred on, continued, "How can we keep rejecting Daylight Savings? Who out here voted this down on Friday?" The groan from the crowd was cut short by the shrill screech of the Southbound train arriving at the station. As the commuters



Time Travellers Diary

By **Jeremy Hood**
Museum Collections Technician,
Aurora Museum & Archives

filed onboard, I saw the sign posted on the station wall that read, "Daylight Saving Plan Time, NOT STANDARD TIME, will be used for schedules."

I realized that the Temporal Anomaly was centred here in Aurora which was, effectively, stuck one hour in the past! I felt a vague sense of kinship with these unwilling time-travelers and followed them onto to train to learn a bit more.

During the war-weary summer of 1918, the federal government had mandated Daylight Saving, but in the following years the decision to adopt it was left to each city or town.

Aurora's Council had continued the scheme for two summers but caved to a small petition in 1920 asking to end it earlier than scheduled – and it would not

return for several years.

Here in 1924, the issue of Daylight Saving still strongly divided the Town's occupants from the rural population. The count taken the previous Friday had seen the scheme defeated 484 to 241 votes. The one-hour time change, while convenient for saving electricity-generating coal and providing extra sunlight after working hours, could throw off a farmer's schedule, preventing proper processing of their crops. Despite Aurora's close link with Toronto, the rural faction won the day.

Surrounding communities found themselves similarly confused, with Newmarket adopting DST in 1921 but rejecting it in 1923, and Richmond Hill catching up in June of 1922.

In Aurora, votes were held in 1924 and 1926: both would fall to the whims of the rural population, much to the consternation of locals. It would not be until May of 1927 that 800 Aurorans would sign a petition that led to adoption of DST, leading to many brighter-eyed commuters.

As the Town sprung forward into alignment with Toronto, I found myself again with Steve, "slippin' into the future," to inform the Guild and prevent the anomaly from ever falling back into obscurity.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Chair celebrates National AccessAbility Week

On behalf of York Regional Council and The Regional Municipality of York, I am pleased to recognize May 26 to June 1, 2024, as National AccessAbility Week.

This week is an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions and leadership of York Region residents living with disabilities and highlight the work of individuals and organizations that are removing barriers to make a better, more accessible and more inclusive York Region for all.

This year's theme, Forward Together: Accessibility and Inclusion for All, emphasizes the valuable contributions and leadership of persons with disabilities and the work of allies, organizations and communities that are removing barriers. It also recognizes the importance of creating barrier-free communities where all residents can participate freely in society.

National AccessAbility Week also offers the opportunity to recognize the invaluable work and countless contributions of the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC). Made up of passionate, professional and insightful individuals – many with lived experience – the YRAAC provides expertise and advice to York Region and York Regional Police with a focus on making programs, services and facilities more accessible.

During National AccessAbility Week we celebrate the past, current and future members of the York Regional Accessibility Advisory Committee and all York Region residents who are working to make our communities stronger and more inclusive places to live, work, learn and play.

On behalf of York Region and our more than 1.25 million residents, happy National AccessAbility Week. Let's continue to work together to build a better York Region where people with disabilities aren't just accommodated but included from the start.

Wayne Emmerson
York Region Chairman and CEO

Environment Week June 2 to 8

Established in 1971, Canadian Environment Week is a celebration of our accomplishments and an opportunity to create greater awareness of the challenges to be addressed. Climate change is real, and it is here, with a real cost to Canadians both economically and to our health.

This winter, Canadians experienced warmer-than-normal temperatures and widespread drought conditions across the country, adding to existing drought and low-water conditions. The latest seasonal weather outlook indicates that higher-than-normal temperatures are expected for the spring and summer, boosted by El Nino weather conditions. This sets the stage for the possibility of another active wildfire season and other incidents of extreme weather.

The abnormal winter temperatures and drier than usual conditions may result in some regions, including southern regions of the prairies and western provinces experiencing early, above normal, fire activity in April and May.

Since last year's historic wildfire season, the Government of Canada has worked closely with First Nations, provinces, territories, and other emergency management partners to complete a robust lessons-learned review. As a result, we have engaged earlier in convening wildfire emergency preparedness planning and risk assessments.

Wildfires, drought, and flooding are highly visible evidence of the risks we face from a changing climate. But the impact and challenges to our planet comes in



MP'S REPORT

Tony Van Bynen, MP
Newmarket - Aurora

many diverse forms. Canada is a country of vast natural resources traversing a wide variety of landscapes – rich fertile soils to mountain ranges to vast freshwater lakes and rivers to frozen tundra with oceans on three fronts. Ours is a landscape to be envied, but also a gift in need of protection. From the air that we breathe, to the water we drink to the food we consume, we must do so in balance with nature, preserving this gift of life for future generations. Climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss threaten our ecosystems. Now is not the time to walk back on the progress we have made. Let's keep moving forward to a healthier future.

Countering Foreign Interference

Earlier this month our government announced the introduction of Bill C-70, An Act respecting countering foreign interference. This Bill seeks to enhance the government's ability to detect, disrupt and protect people in Canada against the

threats posed by foreign interference.

The Bill includes:

- Changes to the Security of Information Act;
- the modernization of the 40-year-old Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act;
- the modernization of certain Criminal Code offences;
- and amending the Canada Evidence Act to introduce a standardized regime to protect and use sensitive information in administrative proceedings in the Federal Court of Canada.

Bill C-70 also introduces the Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act (FITAA), which would enable the creation of a Foreign Influence Transparency Registry. Under the proposed framework, individuals or entities who enter into an arrangement with a foreign principal and undertake activities to influence a government or political process in Canada would be required to publicly register these activities.

Our government is committed to protecting Canada and the Canadian public from the threat of foreign interference, and to enhancing whole-of-society resilience against malign foreign influence through transparency mechanisms like the FITAA.

Building a stronger social safety net From universal public health care to Employment Insurance to strong, stable, funded pensions – like the Canada Pension

Continued on page 21

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Do you support the Ontario Government's move to allow alcohol sales in convenience stores?

YES NO UNSURE
33% 50% 16%

www.theauroran.com
Previous Poll
Do you feel Aurora is a safe community?

RESULTS TO DATE MAY 28, 2024	YES	NO	UNSURE
	33%	50%	16%

Why manufacturing matters



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THE PRINCIPLES OF AN ECONOMIC CHARTER OF RIGHTS

By Frank Stronach

Made in China. It's the label you see on most products sold in stores throughout the country. The odd time, you'll see a product manufactured in some other country.

But you almost never see a product that's made here in Canada any longer.

We used to make fridges and phones and TVs in Canada not too long ago. We even built the world's fastest fighter jet – I once worked in a factory that made parts for the supersonic plane.

When we were a manufacturing powerhouse, our living standards were the envy of the world. Today, as our manufacturing sector shrivels, our living standards are likewise dropping.

China, on the other hand, is a rapidly rising economic and military super-power. They used to buy their fighter jets and aircraft carriers from other countries – now they mostly make their own.

Back in the 1990s and early 2000s, it was popular for economists to say that advanced economies like Canada and the US no longer needed to manufacture products. This work, they argued, could be offshored to countries where it could be done more cheaply.

In the meantime, they said, we should focus instead on building wealth through software and the knowledge economy – products and services that didn't require physical input or materials like steel and plastic.

According to the experts, we'd all end up being highly skilled knowledge workers creating software and manipulating data, and we'd be much better off, no longer needing to dirty our hands digging minerals from the earth and toiling on factory assembly lines.

I never believed that line of thinking – and not just because I worked in the so-called "old economy" of manufacturing. To me, a country that abandons its manufacturing is doomed to fall behind and decay.

The manufacturing industry and its supply base jointly develop a vast array of technologies and products – everything from sophisticated electronics to new composite metals and plastics. For example, when I was Chair of Magna International, our

mirror systems unit and Apple jointly developed the touch-screen glass technology on the new iPhone.

The technologies incubated in the manufacturing sector have

applications not only in a wide range of industries but also in the defence industry, which is vital for the safeguarding of our freedom and the protection of democracies around the world.

At the end of the day, the continued deterioration of the manufacturing sector in North America and Europe will impact a wide range of other industries, including defence, and it will rob us of one of our chief engines of technological innovation.

What can we do to halt this erosion?

For one, we need to first work on restoring our technical skills base. That means training hundreds of thousands of skilled tradespeople across Canada through the creation of technical trade centres in every province focused on every industry from mining to manufacturing.

It's a major reason why technical trades training is one of the principles contained in the proposed economic charter of rights I believe Canada needs to adopt. Technical skills will give us the foundation to rebuild our manufacturing, revitalize our economy, and restore our prosperity.

But if we don't protect and foster our manufacturing base, then years from now we shouldn't ask: How did China become so strong?

The real question we should ask is: Why did we stand idly by and watch the dismantling of the industries that made us prosperous in the first place?

To learn more about how an economic charter could help revitalize our economy and raise the living standards of young Canadians, contact info@economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and the Stronach Foundation for Economic Rights.

(www.economiccharter.ca).

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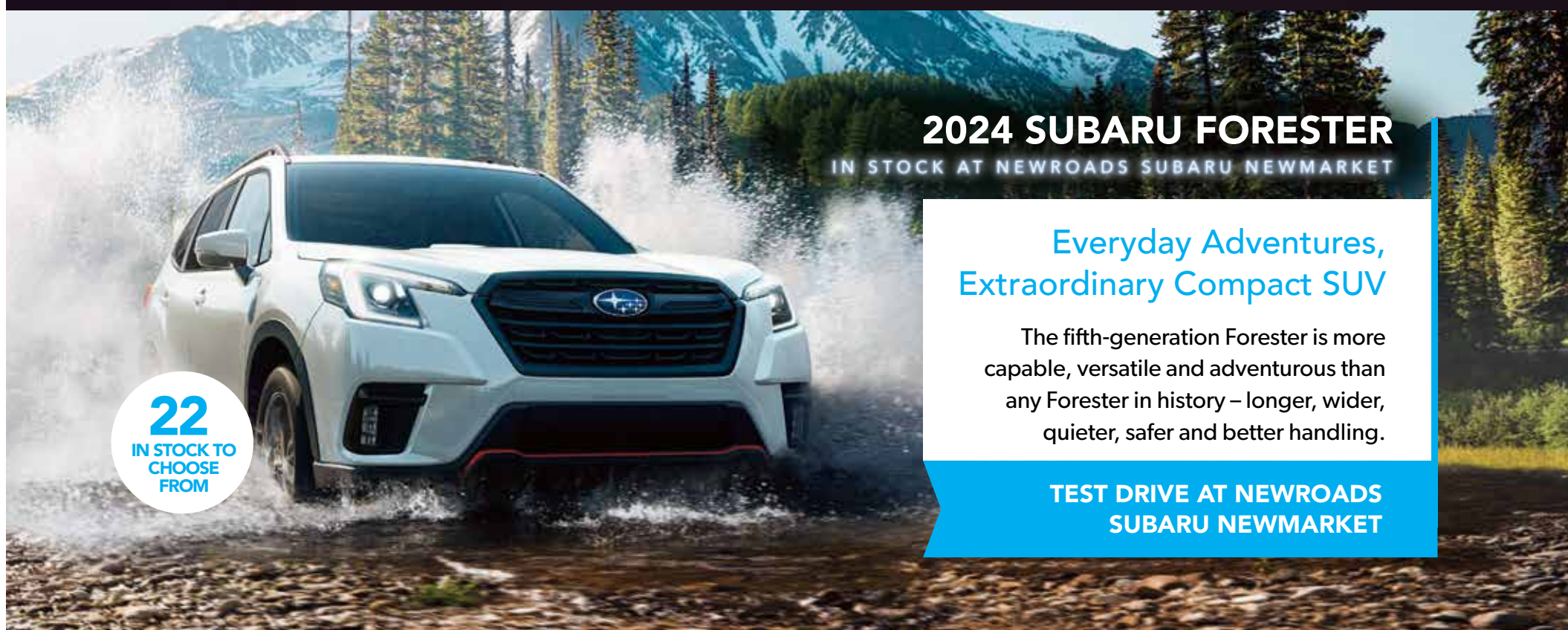
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BUSINESS & FINANCE



Tens of thousands expected to flood Yonge Street for Sunday festival

From page 1
from Wellington Street in the north to Murray Drive in the south on Sunday, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hundreds of vendors are expected to fill the streets, along with an anticipated 30,000 patrons, for what's being billed as the biggest such event in years.

"The festival is 25 per cent larger than last year, and it will be the full length from Wellington to Murray and we're really excited about that," says Sandra Ferri, President & CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. "It's going to be a family fun event, just like it has been in the past."

"This year, some of the highlights are a Community Craft Beer festival happening inside the Law Insurance parking lot; We'll have every type of food you can imagine – everything from samosas to Caribbean chicken, Mexican cuisine, poutine trucks, desserts, ice cream – and Harvey's will be offering free burgers as part of their community engagement program. Who doesn't love that!"

Throughout the day, there will be street performers, such as the ever-popular Fire Guy, who will be stationed near Brookland Avenue, the Roaming Magician who will be quite literally roaming the Festival doing card tricks and other fun stuff, and live music on multiple stages.

The music program will begin at 11



An estimated 30,000 people took part in last year's Aurora Chamber Street Festival.

Auroran file photo by Glenn Rodger

a.m. at the Church Street Stage with contemporary roots singer-songwriter Mimi O'Bonsawin at 11 a.m.

O'Bonsawin will be followed at 12 noon by Shining Water Singers with "Songs on the Drum", followed by The Baleen with their program of funk, pop and rock. The Shining Waters Singers return to the stage at 1.15 p.m., followed at 1.30 by Juno Award-winning Calypso and Caribbean artists Kobo Town.

On the Golf Links Drive stage, the Coyotes will be performing all day.

Rounding out the program will be an encore performance of the Shining Waters Singers at 2.30 p.m., the Aurora-

based Borealis Big Band at 2.45 p.m., and Cheryl Lynn and The Catalysts with danceable funk and R&B at 3.45 p.m.

"The Aurora community has changed over the years, so we're looking at bringing a more diverse group of performers and something that will be lively, entertaining – and it doesn't matter what background you're from, you're going to enjoy it regardless!" says Aurora Chamber Events Manager Sandra Watson. "There will be something for everyone. You're going to come onto the street and you'll meet your neighbours, you'll find that little hidden gem of a business that you're going to love. You're just going to really enjoy the day."

Of course, showcasing these local businesses is always at the heart of the Festival.

Ferri says the Festival is a great way

for businesses to promote their products, services, and even the tasty treats they whip up in the kitchen or the libations they pour out.

"It's a great opportunity for those businesses to be showcased in a very fun, enchanting way," she says. "This is the biggest street festival in York Region, probably one of the biggest in Ontario... and [this] is definitely back to pre-pandemic levels."

"I think we'll see the streets full and crowded. I think there is a real desire to be out. It was such a beautiful day last year and we're hoping for the same. People just want to be out enjoying themselves, having some good food, some fun, and listening to some good entertainment."

"It will be an enchanting day – people on the streets, having a great time, hopefully the sun is shining – it's magical!"

Magna Community Fund now accepting applications

BY BROCK WEIR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you're a local charity, non-profit or community group looking for a financial boost, consider applying for Magna International's 2024 Community Fund.

Applications are now being accepted for the Magna Community Fund, which was established by the local automotive parts giant as a way to continue supporting deserving community organizations in lieu of the annual Hoedown.

10 beneficiaries will be selected this year for the program, which will include a monetary donation, along with community engagement opportunities at events like Aurora's popular Concerts in the Park summer series and Aurora Ribfest.

The deadline for applications is Monday, June 10, at 3 p.m., and information can be found at www.network.org/MCF.

www.network.org/MCF.

"Our team is proud to facilitate the Magna Community Fund and help organizations that provide such critical programs and services in our local communities," said Erin Cerenzia, Magna's Manager of Community Relations in a statement.

Last year's beneficiaries of the Magna Community Fund were Blue Door, the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, CAYR Community Connections, Girls Inc. of York Region, Hospice Georgina, Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers, Skills Upgrading Centre, the Food Bank of York Region, York Region Centre for Community Safety, and the York Region Food Network.

"Last year, over 40,000 York Region residents were directly impacted through the work of selected charitable beneficiaries," said Neighbourhood Network.

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Community input sought for Budget 2025 – and pizza is in the offing

“Slice it Your Way” campaign runs through June 16

BY BROCK WEIR

Whether you’re hungry for change or simply hungry for pizza, consider taking part in the Town’s annual Budget Survey.

Community input is now being sought on Aurora’s financial blueprint for the coming year through the Town’s Engage Aurora portal at engageaurora.ca/budget2025.

“Your voice matters greatly in shaping the financial direction of our community for the coming year,” says the Town. “This survey is your chance to share your priorities, concerns, and aspirations, ensuring that the budget aligns closely with the needs and desires of all residents.”

Participants will be entered for a chance to win a pizza dinner for four valued at

\$50. “We want residents to feel empowered to shape the future of our community,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement. “The ‘Slice it Your Way’ campaign encourages everyone to participate and contribute to decisions that impact Aurora. All feedback will be shared directly with the Aurora Town Council for their consideration during the budget planning process. The Town Council is committed to transparency and ensuring that the budget reflects the needs and priorities for the community.”

This year’s survey is more concise than in years past – and it’s the goal of the Financial Services department to “minimize” how much of a resident’s time is needed to complete the survey, says Jason Gaertner, Financial Manager for the Town of Aurora.

“It is to reduce the number of questions yet hopefully glean from the remaining

questions a feeling from residents as to whether [they feel] they’re getting good value for their tax dollars as well as a bit of feedback on which Town services in particular they’re most interested in. Generally speaking, we always leave a potential kind of comment box at the end... that captures any other feedback they might like to provide.

“We have one question that speaks to a lot of the major service areas the Town provides; there’s a question that asks the respondent to identify the three service areas they would like to see more tax dollars spent and we’re hoping through that to get an idea as to how our residents and businesses actually prioritize these services that are most important to them.”

In previous budget years, Gaertner says he and his department have presented what they’ve taken from the survey directly to Council. This will again be the case this year, he stresses, and then Council has

the “opportunity every year to adjust the budget in response to the feedback that we have received.”

“Council is hearing what the survey respondents are saying,” says Gaertner. “It’s up to them to respond to that feedback and they do. Last year, we had 60-ish responses. We didn’t give all 60 responses verbatim to Council, but we summarized what we heard and provided it to them in the form of a memo to the Budget Committee.”

At the end of the day, it’s all about getting that all-important resident feedback – and Gaertner says the overriding message is this feedback does indeed matter.

“If the existing questions in the survey don’t allow residents to get their feedback to us, by all means use that last question to share that feedback in words with us,” he stresses. “If a resident doesn’t want to do the formal online survey, send that feedback to ourtownbudget@aurora.ca and we can take feedback that way.”



WALK FOR MEMORIES – The Alzheimer Society of York Region brought scores of participants to Oak Ridges on Saturday for the annual IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer’s. Here, Priscilla and Pascal sent the message that they were walking for “everyone who needs support.”
Auroran photo by Brock Weir

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Pflag York Region looking forward to “busiest Pride Month ever”

BY BROCK WEIR

Pride Month is just around the corner and Pflag York Region, in conjunction with the Aurora Public Library, is looking forward to their “busiest Pride Month ever.”

So says Pflag York Region President Tristan Coolman, noting the roster of this season’s events is designed to entertain, engage, and spark conversation.

As The Auroran reported earlier this month, festivities will begin at Aurora Public Library (APL) on Saturday, June 1, with Drag King Story Hour, a new spin on the APL’s traditional Drag Queen Story Hour, headlined by Gustav, the alter ego of Toronto performer Sare Thorpe.

Events continue on Sunday, June 2, when Pflag and APL team up to present Two-Spirited painter and graphic designer Patrick Hunter with the “Fabulous Adventures” paint class.

“We knew we wanted to kick off Pride Month in a really strong manner and APL has been an amazing partner with us since before the pandemic, since 2019, when we first started in person programming there,” says Coolman.

“It was a no-brainer to partner with the Aurora Public Library. It was their idea to bring in Gustav, a Drag King, and we wanted to bring in Patrick. We aligned those events together on the start of Pride Month.

“There is a perception out there that drag is only a female-impersonating practice and form of entertainment and it is not. It has certainly expanded over the years and it has become more diverse. We thought, why not bring in a Drag King and have a great time with reading a few storybooks, great entertainment for kids – a family-oriented event and our whole team will be remembering the event last year, which was so well-attended, and we’re looking to echo that attendance last year.”

Drag story hours have been increasingly targeted by protestors in recent years, with two masked individuals positioning themselves outside APL to make their views known in 2023. In response, Pflag formed a “choir” of community members to drown out any hecklers in song and are prepared to do so again this year “if we catch wind that it is necessary,” says Coolman.



Artist Patrick Hunter

Contributed photo

Anyone looking to join in can email Coolman at president@pflagyork.ca.

“While your kids are inside enjoying Gustav and the entertainment there, you can join us on the outside in case we need to greet other members of our community who want to show their displeasure at such an event,” he says.

2023’s Story Hour was a filled-to-capacity program, as was Hunter’s last visit to APL the same season.

The feedback to Hunter’s previous painting event was so positive they had to turn people away at the door.

With days to go until the 2024 edition, the wait list is already lengthy.

“After the event again, such an incredible amount of feedback that was received, the community really enjoyed getting together, meeting new people, learning a new skill, learning something about painting and some painting techniques they didn’t think they could do, and also learning a little bit along the way about Ojibwe culture and some really important lessons there that Patrick embeds into the paint class,” Coolman says. “It is a little bit of art, but it is a lot of learning, too, and it is a great way to connect with the community.”

Throughout the month, and, in the case of Aurora, on the evening of June 12 at 6.30 p.m., Pflag has partnered with York Region public libraries to host a series of events dedicated to “Challenging Queer Misinformation.”

These sessions have been inspired by what Coolman describes as “the rise of anti-queer disinformation” particularly targeted towards the trans community, including legislation either passed or proposed in New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta that “really restrict the policies, the movements and the rights of queer folks – and trans people in particular.”

“A lot of these policies and a lot of the arguments out there, we have heard them shared by even the leader of the Official Opposition federally. It’s not rooted in fact, at all. They’re using phrasing like ‘parental rights’ developing policies that don’t really have the need to be developed,” he says. “We break all those arguments down and show people what is really behind this argument. If it is something

not rooted in fact, what’s the intention behind it and what’s fuelling this? We really want to give people that deeper understanding of these arguments so if they ever hear this, if they have a family member or a friend or someone kind of challenging on them, or even in the workplaces, they can say, ‘Hey, have you thought about this perspective of what it means when people say parental rights? Have you thought about the rights of our youth and trans youth in particular, who need to be protected the most?’

“Even if it is one trans youth at a school who needs that type of place to feel welcome and open because of what’s happening at home, we’re allowing someone to live as affirmingly as possible in a space they consider to be safe.”

This work is going hand in hand with a free lawn sign campaign being spearheaded by Pflag.

The signs in question are “trans-affirming” messages to encourage the defence and protection of this community and spur “action in support of the trans, gender-diverse, and non-binary community.

“There is such an increase in rhetoric right now in Canada and it is becoming normalized,” says Coolman. “We need to take Pride Month this month, and every day moving forward, and draw a line in the sand to say not here and it can’t happen here. We need to really understand that there are folks in our community who we care about deeply whose rights are at risk. That is not the statement I make lightly. It might sound like an overstatement, but it is not; that’s how people feel and that’s what we are seeing in action across the country right now.

“There are people frustrated about what’s happening in their personal lives and the cost of living, I certainly am, too – a lot of people are. But you know what? When our rights and freedoms are on the line, that is the line in the sand and people really need to think about whether they are going to sacrifice the rights and freedoms of others for their own personal comfort.”

For more information on these events and initiatives, including how to take part this month and beyond, visit pflagyork.ca.

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Voices of Joy celebrates 25 years with special concert

BY BROCK WEIR

Joyous voices will come together to celebrate a remarkable anniversary this Saturday at Newmarket's Bethel Church.

The Voices of Joy Community Choir will mark their milestone with a concert on June 1.

A free will offering, the event will mark a quarter century of joy, of the health benefits of music, and the power of simply "finding your people."

The Voices of Joy Community Choir is a place where adults living with cognitive disabilities, on the Autism spectrum, and the community at large, quite literally find their voice and forge valuable and lasting connections.

Founded 25 years ago by the late Linda Middlebrook, it was an answer to a time when many individuals were, according to conductor James Brown, "coming out of institutions, weren't really accepted, and still stigmatized and marginalized within the community."

"This is really honouring the opportunities Linda gave them to be visible in the community and to contribute to the community," says Brown. "That's the spirit with which we're approaching the 25th anniversary – honouring the people that got us here and looking forward to what we're going to do in the future as a choir. It's amazing to us that we got through the pandemic, so we're celebrating the fact that we're still here and we're still going."

That's as much of a testament to the people behind and within Voices of Joy as it is to the power of music.

Brown, who is a music therapist by trade, became involved with Voices of Joy when he was still exploring the vocation. He was drawn to music's ability to support people with disabilities in a therapeutic way.

Before joining the choir, while working with a non-verbal girl living on the Autism

spectrum, he saw this power firsthand.

"Through singing lessons, she learned the mechanics of opening the jaw, of moving your tongue, how to enunciate words, take a breath... and through the process of learning to sing she became speaking. I entered Voices of Joy seeing how music literally gave this woman her voice."

In his years with the choir, he says the simple "joy" of music keeps people coming back for more.

"We have a fair mix of lived experiences, and we have a strong handful of folks who are just community people who want to support adults with disabilities or autism. It's the joy of it all – just being in a room with those individuals singing their hearts out is infectious. You can't help but become a part of that, to take on that spirit, that energy, that joy. The more I've shared music with them, the more I've identified with the community that has been created around them – really feeling like I belonged to that community, finding a sense of belonging at Voices of Joy. It's a powerful sense of belonging that we all share through singing together."

"I hope anyone who joins us is just seeking an opportunity to express themselves in a safe and loving and comforting environment and I hope that people who might consider joining us will want to contribute to something. There is a really strong element in Voices of Joy of just contributing and sharing your musical talents with others, sharing who you are as a person with others. Even to sit beside someone with a disability or find a piece of music in the binders is a very meaningful role for folks to take on."

For more information about Voices of Joy and this week's concert, visit www.facebook.com/VOJmusic.

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Volunteers hailed as “essence” of community at

BY BROCK WEIR

Local heroes were in the spotlight on Monday night as the Town of Aurora hosted the 2024 Community Recognition Awards at Town Hall.

Each year, the Community Recognition Awards honour Aurora residents who have tirelessly given back to the Town they call home.

This year’s event was once again emceed by Mayor Tom Mrakas, in the presence of Council who presented the individual awards, who hailed the evening’s honourees as the “essence” of what Aurora truly is.

“It is undeniable that the essence of any community lies in its people, especially the volunteers who are its beating heart,” said Mayor Mrakas. “Tonight, we gather to honour the countless contributions of these

volunteers whose dedication keeps Aurora a vibrant and extraordinary place.

“We are fortunate to have so many generous individuals who call Aurora home and are deeply grateful to our volunteers for their countless positive contributions to the lives of their fellow Aurorans. Volunteers enhance our community and play a vital role in mentoring others, supporting charitable causes, coordinating sport leagues and cultural programs, and organizing key initiatives that benefit our Town and its residents. They are the glue that holds the bricks of our community together.”

Following presentations to numerous volunteers who were honoured for the years they have been involved in community life – 25, 30, 35, 40 and 50 years – individual awards began with a presentation of the Youth Volunteer Award.

Youth Volunteer Award DABRIA PETA-DRAGOS

The Youth Volunteer Award is presented each year to a young citizen who has made a “significant contribution” to the community and has demonstrated leadership. Peta-Dragos was hailed for her nearly 350 volunteer hours accumulated over the last three years with organizations as varied as the Aurora Community Arboretum, Neighbourhood Network, Aurora Public Library, Toronto General Hospital and Chartwell Retirement Homes, in addition to her role as co-chair of the Town’s Youth Engagement Committee. “In her role as President of the York Secondary Catholic Presidents’ Council, Dabria advocates for students and initiates impactful projects, such as ‘Plant a Tree with Us!’ and ‘Secret Santa’ presents for Indigenous children,” read her citation. “Her organizational

skills and commitment to enhancing youth experiences make her an exemplary youth leader.”

Older Adult Volunteer Award ALEX & RIN VAN HEMERT

Dedicated volunteers at Southlake Regional Health Centre for more than a quarter of a century, the Van Hemerts were honoured with the Older Adult Volunteer Award, which is presented each year to an individual or individuals who have made a significant contribution to their community. “Alex and Rin have served Southlake Hospital for 25 years, bringing comfort to patients and staff. Additionally, both of them have volunteered at various organizations such as the York Regional Police Chorus, Salvation Army, Northridge Community Church and more. Their volunteering and commitment continue to have a positive impact on the community. They help wherever they see a need. Both are kind and lovely people and truly are a great asset to the Aurora Community.”

Green Award DONNA LEWIS

A familiar face at community events in her eye-catching monarch butterfly-inspired outfit, Donna Lewis of the Garden Aurora is this year’s Green Award honouree, which is presented each year to those who support the “protection, preservation, sustainability or conservation of our natural environment.” In her citation, she was hailed as a “leading advocate” in the community both within her role with Garden Aurora and well beyond. “Donna educates families on eco-friendly gardening at local events such as the Aurora Farmers’ Market where I saw her recently and works with the Aurora

Historical Society on sustainable landscaping for Hillary House,” said Mayor Mrakas. “Her dedication to environmental stewardship makes her an outstanding recipient of the Green Award.”

Arts & Culture Award ROSA CALABRESE

Since transforming the former Caruso’s just south of Yonge and Wellington into the Royal Rose Art Gallery, the space has become nothing short of a community hub – and this was recognized by the Town as gallery owner Rosa Calabrese was awarded the 2024 Arts & Culture Award. The Award is presented to an individual or group that has enhanced our community through their support or promotion of culture, music, visual, performing or the literary arts. “Rosa Calabrese has enriched Aurora’s arts scene with the Royal Rose Gallery, a hub for cultural exchange and community engagement,” reads her citation. “Her leadership shines through diverse events, Indigenous art celebrations and the gallery’s youth arts program. Rosa champions social narratives live women’s rights in Iran and Canada’s Indigenous traditions.”

Community Leadership Award COMMUNITY LIVING CENTRAL YORK

The Community Leadership Award is presented to individuals or organizations that have “significantly enhanced the Town through their contribution, commitment and leadership in the areas of charitable giving, civic engagement, community events or community spirit.” This year’s honouree is Community Living Central York, which has been supporting people living with

From page 13



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annual Awards Ceremony

From page 12

developmental disabilities for more than 70 years. “Their literacy, cooking, wellness and employment programs help more than 400 people each year,” reads their citation. “Additionally, they provide people the opportunity to experience a variety of leisure activities, and their associate family program is a residential option that provides caring home environments. By adapting to community needs, Community Living Central York offers programs that promote inclusion and empowerment.”

Good Neighbour Award DAVID NISBET

The Good Neighbour Award is presented each year recognizing the simple acts of kindness and compassion that helps create connected and vibrant neighbourhoods. This year’s honouree, David Nisbet, was hailed for his “community stewardship” at St. Andrew’s Valley Golf Course on St. John’s Sideroad. “Each winter, he opens the club to the public and personally clears snow from the parking lot and paths, creating a space for dog walking, skiing, and snowshoeing,” reads his citation. “David’s dedication transforms the golf course into a cherished community resource, fostering neighbourhood connections and encouraging outdoor activities for all.”

Good Business Award COBS BREAD

Cobs Bread’s commitment to supporting the community programs and initiatives led to their being named the 2024 Good Business Award honouree. This award is presented each year to a business that has “shown its commitment to corporate responsibility and

community involvement through its ongoing support of charitable causes, events and programs.” COBS Bread owners Bhavin and Nidhi were saluted for their support of groups ranging from Aurora Storm Volleyball to Welcoming Arms, to CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors) and John Cooper Learning Academy. “Since acquiring the store pre-pandemic, they’ve donated over \$450,000 annually in products and hosted charity barbecues. They also give unsold bakery items to Welcoming Arms and the Salvation Army daily. Their commitment as residents and business owners demonstrates their dedication to Aurora’s well-being.”

Inclusivity Award CHATS (COMMUNITY & HOME ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY)

Year in and year out, CHATS and its volunteers have worked tirelessly to serve the senior community – and this year, their collective dedication saw CHATS named the recipient of the 2024 Inclusivity Award, which recognizes an individual, group or business that has contributed to making Aurora “a more accessible and inclusive place to live, work and play for all people.” CHATS, according to the citation, promotes inclusivity through diverse outreach programs in multiple languages, serving the Iranian, Russian, Korean, Italian, South Asian and Tamil communities. “These programs foster social interaction, cultural celebrations, and offer resources in preferred languages. CHATS helps to inspire older adults to discover the possibilities of aging at home longer, and they help empower caregivers to look after themselves, so they can better provide compassionate assistance for those they care for.”

York, Peel Police launch facial recognition partnership

BY BROCK WEIR

York and Peel Regions’ police departments are joining forces to fight crime using facial-recognition technology.

The move, which was announced May 27, will forge a digital system for storing, searching, and comparing crime scene images to mugshots using the recognition tech.

The system, they said in a joint statement, has been developed “in consultation” with the Information and Privacy Commission of Ontario to determine best practices on how to use the tech in an “investigative capacity.”

“As we’re all too aware, criminals don’t limit their activity to a single jurisdiction,” said York Regional Police Chief Jim MacSween in a statement. “Partnering with Peel Regional Police is cost-effective and enables us to collaborate more extensively to make both communities safer.”

The Police say this collaboration encourages information sharing while also saving money by going in together on purchasing, maintenance and operating costs.

“Facial recognition technology allows police to compare obtained images of people identified by investigators as suspects or persons of interest with mugshots in an existing police database pursuant to the Identification of Criminals Act,” they say. “Images are not

gathered or obtained by police from any live CCTV footage or any other live-streaming material including social media—they are collected during the course of an investigation, following a criminal incident. Law enforcement agencies and border checkpoints across Canada are already using facial recognition technology to help solve crimes in the communities they serve and keep Canadians safe.

“Individuals whose criminal booking image (mugshot) has been captured by York Regional Police under the authority of the Identification of Criminals Act, may be eligible to have their photograph and fingerprints destroyed provided certain criteria are met. All fees for photograph and fingerprint destruction requests have been waived by York Regional Police.”

Criteria in this case for individuals 18 and over include having no criminal convictions with any police agency; no outstanding charges before the courts; and not being the subject of any police discharge.

Applications can’t be made within one year of an absolute discharge, within three years of a conditional discharge, or within a year of a stay of proceedings (other than a judicial stay).

Eligibility can apply as well with no waiting period if charges were “withdrawn, dismissed, quashed, discharged, or if you were acquitted or given a judicial stay.”



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Community Recognition Awards honour Local Volunteers



Among the residents honoured by Mayor and Council at Monday night's Community Recognition Awards were: (Top Row) Dabria Peta-Dragos received the Youth Volunteer Award from Mayor Tom Mrakas. Alex and Rin Van Hemert received the Older Adult Volunteer Award from Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland. (Second Row) Terry Pressmar was honoured for a remarkable 50 years of volunteer service by Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson. Donna Lewis of Garden Aurora received the Green Award from Ward 3 Councillor Wendy Gaertner. (Third Row) Rosa Calabrese of the Royal Rose Gallery was presented with the Arts & Culture Award by Councillor Gilliland. Community Living Central York received the Community Leadership Award from Councillor Thompson. (Fourth Row) Councillor Gaertner presented the Good Neighbour Award to David Nisbet of St. Andrew's Valley. Ward 5 Councillor John Gallo presented the Good Business Award to Cobs Bread. (Fifth Row) CHATS – Community and Home Assistance to Seniors – received the Inclusivity Award from Councillor Gallo. Following the ceremony, Council held a reception on the second floor of Town Hall.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

Vern Cunningham named Aurora's 2024 Citizen of the Year



Unable to attend Monday's ceremony due to a long-planned holiday, 2024 Citizen of the Year Vern Cunningham received the honour from Mayor Tom Mrakas at a special reception held at a local restaurant last Wednesday evening. **Photo by Rosalyn Gonsalves**

From page 1

for two years, where he still remains on the Board. He has done other incredibly important volunteer work, including sitting on the board of the Bereaved Families of York Region, and becoming a member of the Hope House Hospice bereavement team.

"Most recently, in 2022, Vern joined the board of the Aurora Seniors' Centre and began chairing the Fundraising Committee – in his first year as Chair, he helped raise over \$15,000. Vern is also the driving force behind the Aurora Whiskey Society, where in addition to being a place for whisky lovers to socialize, the society has also raised funds to support important local organizations like CHATS."

Mrakas hailed Cunningham as a "compassionate, selfless community leader who has touched so many lives and whose work has made Aurora a stronger and better place."

Helping to nominate Cunningham for this year's Citizen of the Year award was Rosalyn Gonsalves, who first met Cunningham through her leadership work with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

She said Cunningham is the epitome of what it means to be a volunteer – someone who does their work out of conviction rather than for recognition.

Citing several losses within his family over a short period of time, Gonsalves said he has had "so much going on in his life" in these past years but he has still been "able to get out there, volunteer, raise money, and carry on as if nothing ever happened in his life."

"There are few people who can do that, in my mind," said Gonsalves. "Vern joined the Seniors Centre in June of 2022 and there he set about to raise funds. He raised \$15,000 for them. Of course, he was a member of the Aurora Chamber and I remember distinctly the year that I retired in 2006 he was the Chairperson for the Business Awards that evening. He is still an Optimist, he was past-president of the Probus Club, still is a member, and was the driving force behind the Aurora Whiskey Society, which does raise funds for, again, other organizations, CHATS, and all of those people."

"There are many deserving people in this community and some of them do it, like Vern, like [past Citizen of the Year] Brian North, not wanting to receive any big accolades. You do it because you care and you want to give back to your community. That is what I hope that people will realize from all that he has done. If you're just going to be volunteering to be patted on the back, forget it. That is, to my mind, you're just looking for self-praise. A true volunteer does it without wanting any reward at the end."

Founder of Alutron Modules, among Vern Cunningham's many achievements is spearheading a memorial for community members to pay tribute to their loved ones at Fleury Park, installed on behalf of Bereaved Families of York Region – a particularly challenging fundraising goal at the height of the Global Pandemic.

He has also served as a member of the Town of Aurora's Economic Development Corporation.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS: This past Saturday, May 25, Frankie Panini at 15117 Yonge Street in Aurora held their official grand opening celebration. Pictured here from left to right is Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas, Kaytlin Sorbo, Frank's daughter who runs the business with her father Frank and husband Robert, Frank's sisters Teresa and Vicky, and owner Frank Marchese. Frank used to own the ever-popular Tutti Panini in Oak Ridges at Yonge and King Road, now closed. He now shares over four decades of his love for authentic Italian food with the community of Aurora. Frankie Panini specializes in Italian sandwiches and warm foods.

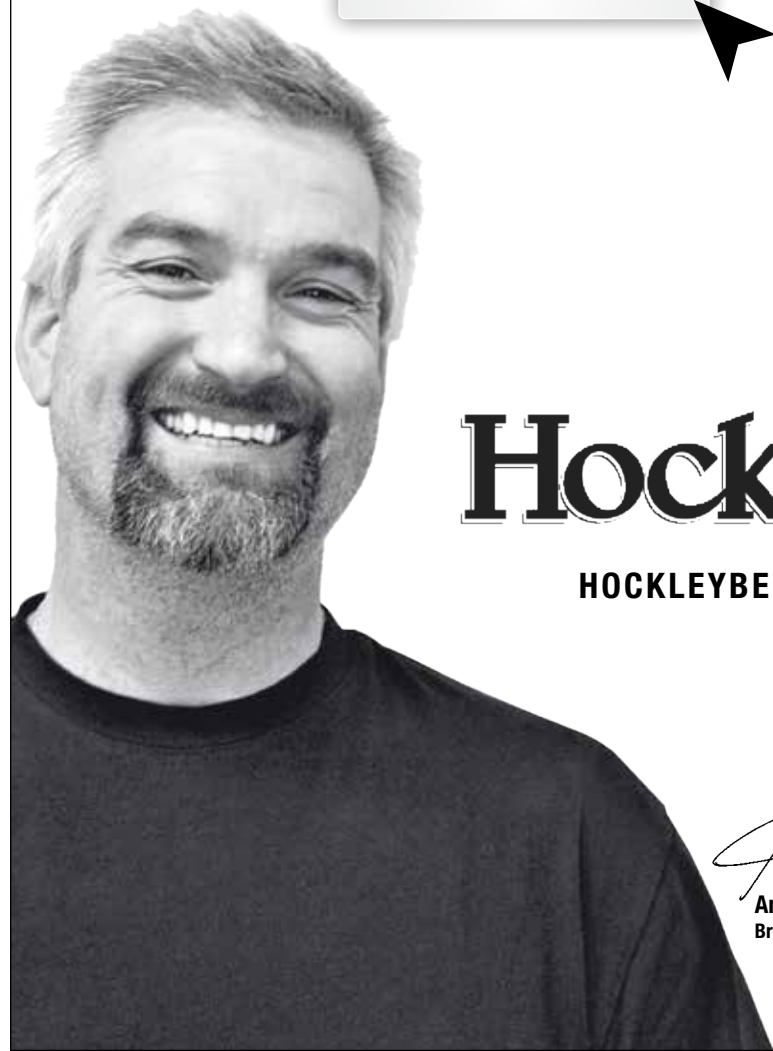
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Week of May 30, 2024

Hundreds attend ACC Reception to honor AMHA President Bentolila for 25 Years of distinguished community service



Outgoing Aurora Minor Hockey Association president Joe Bentolila was presented with the Key to the Town by Mayor Tom Mrakas last week to mark his 25 years of community service. **Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger**

By Jim Stewart

Long-time Aurora Minor Hockey Association President Joe Bentolila has skated his last shift as the Town's hockey boss and hundreds showed up on Friday night at the ACC to show their appreciation.

Bentolila, who is stepping down from his leadership role after 25 inspirational years at the helm, was shocked by the turnout and felt "totally humbled—so many people are here that I love seeing."

"My heart's full tonight," he said. "These are the faces of the people I've known for so long—then all of a sudden, I realize that so many were kids who played in the organization and now are parents and coaches in roles of responsibility."

The affable administrator disclosed his principal aim as leader of the AMHA: "My goal was to see kids smiling when they came off the ice. I always maintained with the coaches that their success would not be measured by just wins and losses—it's how we maintain and retain our players that really counts and what kind of positive energy we bring to the rink for the kids."

When President Bentolila was asked about the secret to his stunning longevity as a high-profile sports leader in a hockey-mad town, he humbly noted, "I always had a vision where we created an environment for kids who would enjoy playing the game they love. It was up to us as the adults to provide life lessons in a supportive environment, especially for kids that might have been cut from a rep or select team and had

to cope with that perceived failure. It was up to us to make sure players in those situations were let down gently and supported."

Well-wishers supported and surrounded Joe throughout our interview and their genuine love for this sports executive was evident.

Hundreds bid Bentolila pleasant goodbyes and thanks for twenty-five years of dedicated work.

Prominent among the well-wishers was Mayor Tom Mrakas who presented Bentolila with the Key to the Town.

The outgoing President said he was moved by Mayor Mrakas's gesture.

"I got this overwhelming feeling and said to myself, 'Oh my God, there is so much love in the room tonight.' It made me feel good that I've managed to touch lives in the community in a positive way on this journey. When the Mayor gave me the key, I felt a deep feeling of satisfaction and gratitude. I didn't work at this for the accolades, but when the Mayor presented me the key—and I know it's coming from a person who is a big advocate for youth sports—it was a great feeling."

One of the best anecdotes shared at Joe Bentolila's reception was the AMHA providing a home for one of the greatest players currently playing in the NHL.

Bentolila regaled us with the tale: "Connor McDavid was six-years-old and wasn't permitted to play rep in Newmarket. His father, Brian, called me to explain the predicament and I mentioned on the phone, 'Let's have a look at him.' I took one look and said he's too good to play with our 7Us.

He's too good to play for 8Us, too. We settled on having Connor play with the 9Us and all I could think was 'We're going to see this kid again somewhere down the line.'"

To acknowledge how his famous son was accommodated in Aurora to start his rep career, Brian McDavid presented Bentolila with a framed Connor McDavid Edmonton Oiler jersey, including a personal thank you note under glass from the superstar: "Just wanted to congratulate you on your 25 years of service to the hockey

community of Aurora, from all the players who have played in the Aurora Minor Hockey Association myself included, we thank you for all your great work and service you have provided to the community. Wishing you the best in your retirement from the AMHA. Celebrating a job well done!"

Echoing McDavid's long-distance celebratory sentiments was incoming AMHA President Corby Saltzman.

"We're celebrating Joe tonight. We've been planning the party since February. He's a guy that deserves a truly great send off and we were so happy that it was a complete surprise for Joe."

When asked about the quality that he admired most in Joe Bentolila, Saltzman offered me a concise response: "His honesty—Joe always tells it like it is. He also had a way of keeping things in perspective and in times of stress, he showed his empathy for parents, players, and coaches who might be having a difficult time. He was an expert on turning down the temperature in the room and understanding people."

The incoming President also maintained that the "Executive that Joe has built is such a strength to build from."

"No one is successful without a great supporting cast. Like Joe, I'll have to lead by example. The Executive is filled with good listeners and they want to be the best models for the community. Hockey is a vital part of the fabric of this community."

Hockey is, indeed, a vital part of the fabric of our community and Aurora is a better town to live in due to Joe Bentolila's 25 years of dedicated, steady, and honest leadership.

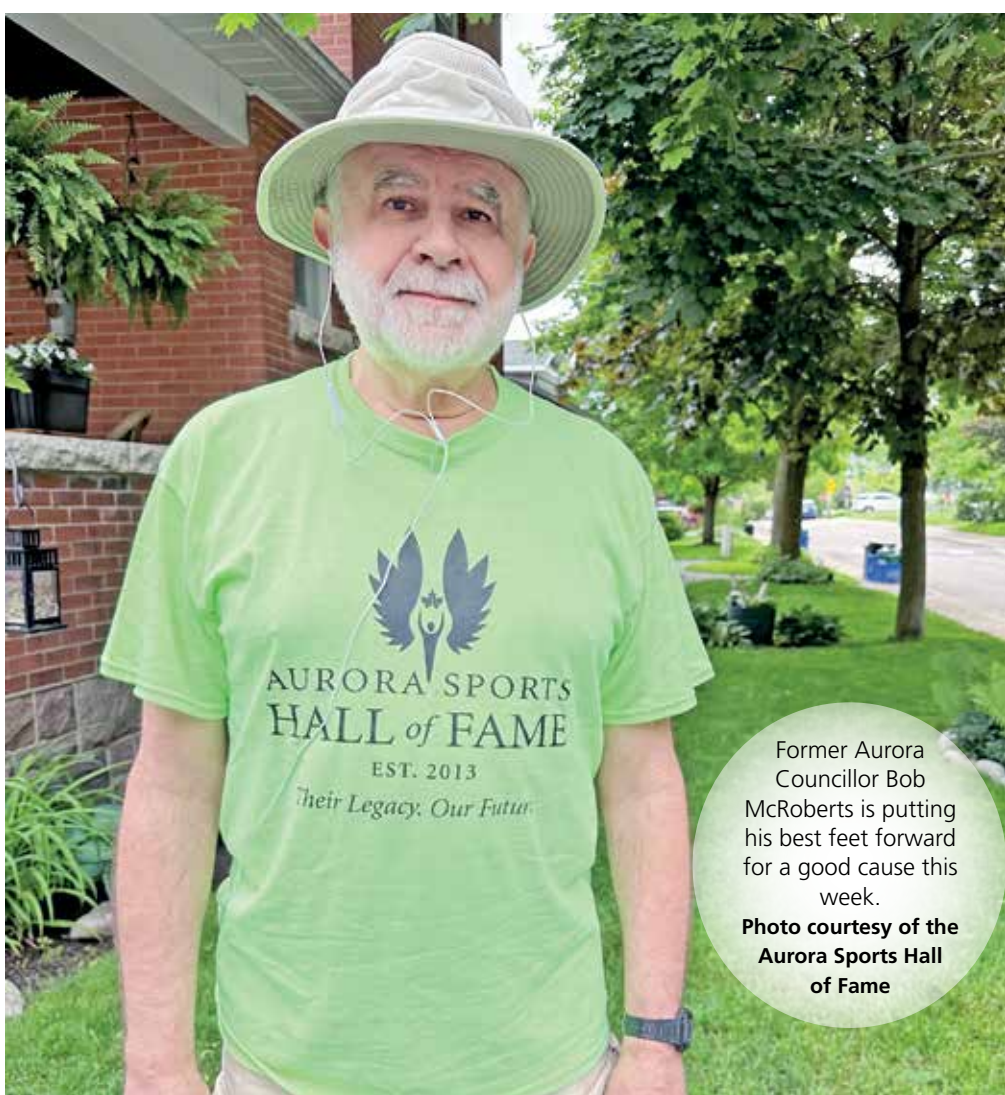
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Former Aurora Councillor Bob McRoberts is putting his best feet forward for a good cause this week.
Photo courtesy of the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame

Camp Day, Performing Arts fest, Pride Luau planned for Recreation & Parks Month

BY BROCK WEIR

June is Recreation and Parks Month and, as part of this Ontario-wide initiative, the Town of Aurora has planned something for everyone.

The theme for this year's "June is Recreation and Parks Month" is "Community Thrives Here" and is intended to show how recreation and parks spaces bring community together.

As such, this year's local programming features an array of new events and returning favourites including a LeadHER Camp Day on June 7 and Pride Luau on Wednesday, June 26, both sponsored by ParticipACTION. Also planned is a new Play in the Park series tailored to nature, science, crafts, and sport, and a series of drop-in programs ranging from open gym time for youngsters and their families to a seminar for older adults entitled "Ask the Pharmacist."

"For us, this is a way to communicate to the community that Rec & Parks have a variety of benefits," says Franco DeMarco, Recreation Supervisor for the Town of Aurora. "It's really a way for us to promote healthy, active lifestyles. We know Rec & Parks provide many physical and mental health benefits to the community. That is why we're choosing to celebrate and using the Town's resources [such as] the trails systems, the many parks and amenities that are there in the community, and even our Town drop-ins. It will have a number of free drop-ins for the community to

promote those active lifestyles. Whether you're trying a new activity for the first time or continuing with your regular programming, there are several ways to engage the community."

A full list of drop-in activities scheduled throughout the month of June can be found at aurora.ca/jrpm.

New this year are the LeadHER Camp Day, Pride Luau, and Play in the Park initiatives.

LeadHER Camp Day will take place Friday, June 7, at the Aurora Family Leisure Complex from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

This presentation is hosted in partnership between the Town and the Newmarket-based Centre for Immigrant and Community Services, building on their existing partnership on the Newcomer Bus Tours for older adults. The Camp Day is geared towards newcomers to the community.

The Pride Luau, set for Wednesday, June 6 at the AFLC, is also in keeping with the themes of inclusivity and diversity, says DeMarco.

"We have a whole evening scheduled," he says. "The event itself is in collaboration with You Can Play, York Pride, and funded by ParticipACTION. It is in celebration of the LGBTQ2+ community [but] it is for the whole community. It is a full evening of activities at the Leisure Complex including rock climbing, a family open gym, a smoothie bar, programming in The Loft, a vendor hall, a leisure swim and registration is now open. Anyone interested is definitely welcome."

Play in the Park activities will activate nearby Lambert Willson Park beginning Saturday, June 8, and running on select Saturdays and Sundays through June 23.

First up is Nature Seekers on June 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. This will be followed on June 9 from 1 – 3 p.m. with Spotlight on Science; on June 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon with Beach Volleyball; Crafty Critters on June 22 from 1 – 3 p.m.; and Multi-Sport Fun on June 23 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

These outdoor workshops are "aimed at getting you and your family moving, laughing and learning."

"We're always looking at adding different programming to activate different spaces," says DeMarco. "When we were looking at the lineup for this year, obviously a number of the drop ins are free, we talked about other opportunities to provide some family-based programs. That is a new series that is available for all ages and abilities. No pre-registration required. It will be our recreation staff that are delivering that programming and it is very unstructured. Families are welcome to drop in at any point in the two hours, stay for the whole time [or] come for a half hour with the kids."

"For us it is encouraging the community to be active, whatever that case might be. We know that residents and visitors to Aurora are doing these things anyway. The weather is now nicer. We'd [also] love to see how everyone is celebrating 'June is Rec and Parks Month' in their own way. We have a social media option: if you're going for a walk, walking the dog, going for a bike ride with the family, playing pickleball, tennis, outdoors on the courts, whatever the case might be, just keep us in mind and if you're posting to social, they can tag the Town and use the hashtag #aurorajrpm24."

"It's a great time of year for us. Aurora has so many beautiful trails and parks and great amenities that make Aurora a great place to work, live and play and that's why we choose to celebrate 'June is Rec and Parks Month.'"

Aurora Sports Hall of Famer McRoberts's Big Walk to Union Station raises funds for leukemia and lymphoma research

By Jim Stewart

Aurora Sports Hall of Famer Bob McRoberts's Big Walk for Charity rolls out of Aurora on Wednesday.

Bob's destination: Union Station in Toronto.

Bob's target: raising \$5,000 for Leukemia and Lymphoma research.

Aurora Sports Hall of Fame President Javed Khan invited all residents to support McRoberts's inspirational endeavor.

"We would love your help to get the word out and help Bob McRoberts

reach his goal of raising \$5,000 for his walk from Aurora to Union station for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada."

The ASHOF President was taken by the former Councillor and Education Trustee's charity walk and noted that "Bob needs our help to reach that goal. Let's support Bob in his mission!"

To make a donation and support Bob McRoberts's fundraising Charity Walk to Union Station, please go to www.bloodcancers.ca/bobsbigwalk.

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WORKING AT THE CAR WASH

The Central York Fire Services' Station 4-5 on Earl Stewart Drive was transformed into a community car wash benefiting charity on Saturday, May 25. The CYFS joined forces with the Central York Professional Firefighters Association for the Car Wash for the United Way. All members volunteered their time for the special event and accepted donations of any denomination – cash, credit or debit – to support local United Way initiatives. Among the dignitaries who stopped by were Newmarket-Aurora MP Tony Van Bynen, Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MPP Michael Parsa, and Mayor Tom Mrakas.

Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger



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THINGS...you ought to know

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

The Aurora Farmers' Market returns to Town Park today. Come by and shop local from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pride Month is all about being your most authentic self! The Aurora Cultural Centre is pleased to offer a free "Build Your Alter-Ego workshop with Jonah Strub," (exhibiting artist, Early Bird Gets the Worm). With plasticine, glitter, feathers, and a sprinkle of creativity, this workshop will help you bring your inner Queen/King/Anything in-between into this world. Limited spaces; for details, and to register in advance at AuroraCulturalCentre.ca.

York Symphony Orchestra Presents: The Music of John Williams tonight at 8 p.m. at Trinity Anglican Church, 79 Victoria St, Aurora. Don't miss the YSO's last concert of the season, celebrating the great film composer. The program will draw from Raiders of the Lost Ark, Superman, Schindler's List, Harry Potter, 1941 and Jurassic Park, along with a heavy dose of Star Wars!

Tickets at Eventbrite.ca or at the door.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

York Region's largest community event, the Aurora Chamber Street Festival, is held annually on the first Sunday in June. The Festival is a fun-filled family event for all ages with 500+ vendors, fantastic street performers, live music, food galore and so much more. Yonge Street is closed to traffic between Wellington Street and Murray Drive, allowing vendors and visitors full access to the street. Plan to attend rain or shine! Free parking and admission.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

The Aurora Seniors Association Presents: Mexican Fiesta! From 6.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. At the Aurora Seniors Centre, 90 John West Way, Aurora. Featuring: Mexican Buffet & Dessert Bar, Coffee Tea, Mariachi Band, Photo Booth, Games with Prizes, Cash Bar. Tickets must be purchased in advance at \$60. Tickets on sale now from the Aurora Seniors' Centre or by calling 905-726-4767. For more information please contact Sandy Bundy at ssbundy@sympatico.ca or 416-580-7866

ONGOING

Partagez le Français: Ce groupe accueille les ADULTES / 18+ (des francophones aux débutants capables de converser) - qui cherchent à mettre en pratique leurs compétences Conversationnelle en français. Over Zoom with a nominal fee of \$2.50. RSVP by visiting meetup.com/Partagez-le-francais. For more information, email partagez.york@outlook.com.

Support AbuseHurts' Delivering Hope Full Circle Program textile recycling and donation program. In the current COVID climate, a greater number of people are wanting to donate or get rid of unwanted items, increasing the need for more outlets being available to receive the items. This program will provide a convenient way for people to donate or get rid of used/unwanted clothing, blankets, linens and furniture and will help lessen the amount of items ending up in landfills. Materials that were previously perceived as waste will now be seen as a valuable resource further encouraging redistribution. The items will be recycled in the following ways: To be given to individuals who are survivors of violence and are transitioning from shelters into new homes; To be sold in our store; To be sold to a textile recycler, which makes for an ongoing source of funding for Abuse Hurts enabling them to provide their services to the thousands of people that require them each year. When and Where: Monday and Wednesday, every week, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., with 30-minute time slots - only 1 drop off per time slot. If you do not have an appointment, we cannot accept your donation. The Abuse Hurts Warehouse is located at 1208 Gorham St, Unit 4, Newmarket - rear unloading dock. Visit AbuseHurts.ca to select your drop off time slot.

MP'S REPORT

From page 5

Plan (CPP) - there has always been an agreement that as Canadians, we will take care of our neighbours when they are in need.

In Budget 2024, we're delivering on this agreement to ensure our social safety net works for every generation, especially for Millennials and Gen Z. This includes key measures like:

- \$200 billion over ten years to strengthen universal public health care - because a strong and effective public health care system is at the heart of what it means to be Canadian;
- Launching the new National Pharmacare Plan with \$1.5 billion over five years. The first phase will ensure the effective roll-out of pharmacare, while providing immediate support for the health care needs of women, as well as covering lifesaving diabetes medication;
- Providing \$1 billion to launch a new National School Food Program in partnership with provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners. This program will expand access to school food programs to more than 400,000 children;
- Launching a new Canada Disability Benefit with \$6.1 billion over six years, and \$1.4 billion ongoing, to supplement provincial and territorial benefits, increasing the financial well-being of over 600,000 working age-persons with disabilities;
- Launching a \$1 billion Child Care Expansion Loan Program to build more and renovate existing child care centres, saving more families

thousands of dollars a year on child care;

- Extending increased student grants and interest-free loans to help hundreds of thousands of low- and middle-income students pursue education, regardless of their backgrounds.

These measures build off historic investments we've made to help people get ahead, like investments in Canada-wide child care, the Canada Child Benefit, the Canada Workers' Benefit, and more.

Celebrating Arts and Culture

Earlier this month I joined in an opportunity to celebrate community milestones. In Aurora there was the Art Show and Sale - a celebration of their 60th year. In partnership with the Society of York Region Artists, these talented local artists showcased their creations. I always enjoy the opportunity to connect with art enthusiasts.

Then it was on to Theatre Aurora's 65th Anniversary celebration. From The Sound of Music, Annie, South Pacific, Murder on the Orient Express, and most recently On Golden Pond, Theatre Aurora has provided hours of joy to audiences and challenging roles for actors. Live theatre captures our imagination, enriches our lives, and provides a shared experience for audience and actor. Theatre is enchanting, an emotional experience when done well that takes us out of our seats in a state of complete joy and perhaps even with tears in our eyes.

Theatre Aurora has provided an opportunity for audiences to experience that range of emotion while providing professional type experiences for those involved - actors, directors, producers, set

designers, costume makers, musicians, and ticket sellers. The breadth of opportunity is endless, and the creativity limited only by one's imagination. Playing a character builds character. All of this captured in what was once a cement factory is testament to the creativity and drive of all involved providing us, the audience, with a memorable experience.

For all that you do, thank you!

If you are seeking information or require assistance with Federal programs and services, please reach out to my team by e-mail at Tony.VanBynen@parl.gc.ca or by calling 905-953-7515.

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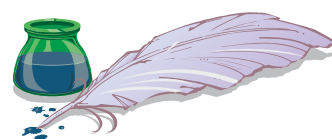
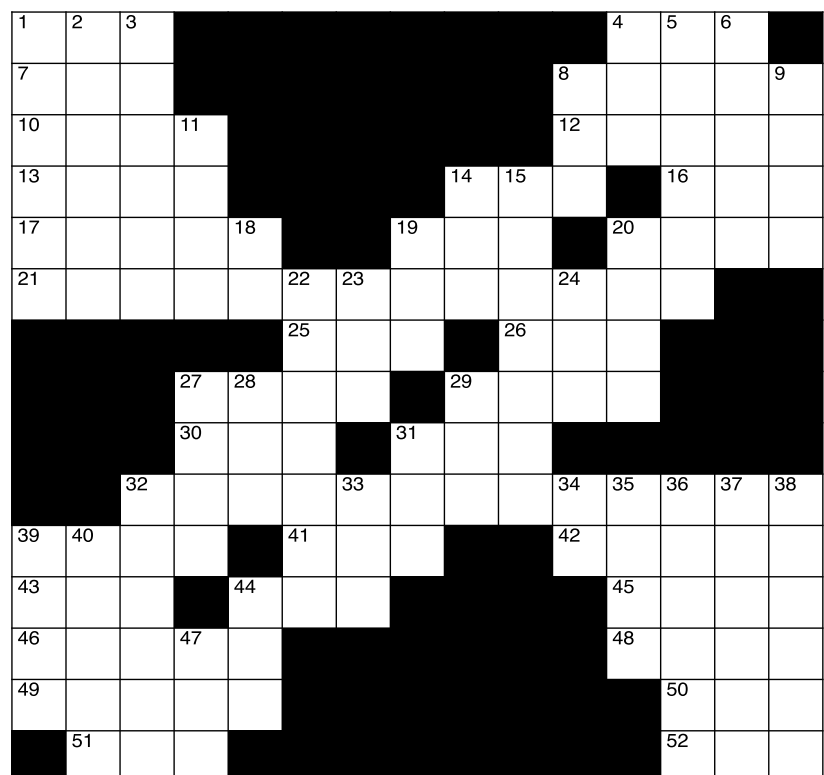
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Fashion accessory
4. Engine additive
7. Small, faint constellation
8. Gives a job
10. Self-righteous person
12. Caucasian language
13. Surinam toad
14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
16. Former French coin
17. Levels the score
19. What stage performers do
20. Egyptian Sun god
21. Localities
25. Spherical body
26. Licensed for Wall Street
27. Perfect
29. It's on many people's heads
30. Boxing's GOAT
31. Photo
32. Popular HBO show
39. Popular music awards show
41. Pouch
42. Lake in Botswana
43. Unruly group
44. One-fourth
45. Very eager
46. Edward __, author and writer
48. Flying insect
49. Dragged forcibly
50. Thus far
51. Not just "play"
52. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

1. Occur
2. Show up
3. Capital of Taiwan
4. Brother or sister
5. Secret get-togethers
6. Type of tea
8. Where the action is
9. Cast out
11. Crime group
14. Type of vessel (abbr.)
15. Accept and handle
18. Sacrifice hit
19. One who buys and sells securities simultaneously
20. Month
22. Most thin
23. Naturally occurring material
24. Luke's mentor __-Wan
27. Postmodernist Austrian "Hous"
28. Aquatic salamander
29. Baseball stat
31. Beginning military rank
32. Talk rapidly and unintelligibly
33. Paddle
34. Caregiver (abbr.)
35. Old Irish alphabet
36. Japanese city
37. In a way, acted
38. Things to see
39. Nursemaid
40. Type of tooth
44. To be demonstrated
47. Defunct European group

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EXECUTIVE HOME WITH LUXURY UPGRADES

Brand new executive home in Princeton Heights, Aurora Estates! This luxurious Fernbrook Homes property features a 3-car tandem garage, white oak hardwood floors, an elegant living room with coffered ceilings, a chef's dream kitchen by Downsview, a great room with 20ft ceilings, and a finished lower level with an exercise/media room, recreation room, wet bar, and spa-like bathroom.



BRAND NEW EXECUTIVE "GREEN" & "SMART" HOME

Experience eco-smart luxury in South Aurora's prestigious Royal Hill. This home features a gourmet kitchen, spa-like master suite, hardwood and porcelain floors, 10' ceilings, and an oak staircase. Highlights include a walk-out lower level, green technology, and serene views. Located close to amenities, nature, and transit for unparalleled sustainable living.



EXECUTIVE HOME: \$400K EXTERIOR UPGRADES

Nestled in a tranquil cul de sac, this executive home boasts a 4-car garage, 19ft foyer ceilings, a gourmet kitchen, and a luxurious primary suite. The basement rec room includes a theater and hockey room. Enjoy resort-style amenities: saltwater pool, cabana, sunroom, and over \$400K in exterior upgrades.



LUXURIOUS HOME WITH RESORT BACKYARD

Experience luxury living with modern finishes, hardwood floors, a gourmet kitchen, an elegant family room, luxurious bedrooms, a finished basement with an extra suite, and a stunning backyard featuring a saltwater pool and cabana. This property is the epitome of refined elegance and contemporary comfort.



ZONED FOR HOME BUSINESS, SALTWATER POOL

This fully renovated executive home in Richmond Hill boasts a 4-car garage, finished basement, solariums, and a pool with a waterfall. Perfect for remote work, it's near schools, parks, and amenities. Zoned to allow 35% of its space for home business, it also includes a sunroom, indoor hot tub, and fenced backyard.



CUSTOM-BUILT LAKE WILCOX DREAM HOME

This soon-to-be-built executive home in Lake Wilcox is situated on a 150' lot and features 4+1 bedrooms, 5 baths, a chef's kitchen with JennAir appliances, gas fireplaces, hardwood floors, and a skylit primary suite. The finished lower level and ability to personalize finishes ensure a fully customized luxury residence.



BRAND NEW - DOUBLE LOT SIZE

Discover unmatched luxury in Richmond Hill with this custom-built executive home on a premium 96' x 126' lot. Features include an open layout, 10' ceilings, gourmet kitchen, spa-like ensuite, spacious bedrooms with walk-in closets, and a bonus 38' x 126' easement providing extra space for your own enjoyment or potential for creating a building lot.



90 X 200 FT LAKE WILCOX GEM

Discover your secluded paradise in Richmond Hill's prestigious Lake Wilcox community, close to Hwy 404 for easy commuting. This versatile home offers a unique layout, a large front porch for sunsets, and a prime 90 x 200 ft lot. Near Lake Wilcox Park and amenities, it's ideal for renovation or building your dream home.



OAK RIDGES HOME WITH ADJACENT LAND

Beautifully renovated home, nearly 3000 sqft plus lower level, on a 74 x 296ft lot in Oak Ridges. Features a modern kitchen with walk-out to a pool-sized backyard, large family room with gas fireplace, formal living and dining rooms, and a primary suite with walk-in closet and luxurious ensuite. Rare chance to purchase with adjacent vacant land, totaling over 48000 sqft.



SPACIOUS MODERN CORNER UNIT

Nestled in Express Condos, Clanton Park, this stunning corner unit features 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a den, high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, and a gourmet kitchen. Includes private parking, a storage locker, and amenities like a pool, fitness room, BBQ facilities, and more.



ALMOST NEW BUNGALOW LIVING

Exceptional 4-bed, 3-bath bungalow featuring an open concept layout with 9ft ceilings and hardwood floors. The chef's kitchen has quartz counters, and the family room opens to a fenced backyard. Enjoy a luxurious primary suite, finished lower level, and convenient access to amenities, schools, parks, water, and highways.

We Speak Your Language



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