

Easter Bunny set to hit trail and hop back to Aurora



By Brock Weir

You might wonder where the Easter Bunny gets the energy to visit so many homes on Easter Weekend to cleverly hide his chocolate treats for kids of all ages to hunt and find. Well, if you ask the dude himself, he gets his energy right here in Aurora.

As he prepares come out of his burrow to preside over the Town's annual Easter Egg Hunt next Saturday, March 26, he says he always leaves the event "raring to go", thanks in no small part to the energy of the crowds and a few cookies slipped to him by local Girl Guides, who are volunteering at this year's event.

The Auroran caught up with the Easter Bunny as wristbands for the party, which much be purchased in advance, went on sale at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex and Aurora Family Leisure Complex.

The Auroran: What is it about the Aurora event that is such a draw for you?

Easter Bunny: Many of the events I have been to are all focused on a particular hunt and getting as much chocolate as possible. I really like the way this event is organized because everybody is getting an equitable goodie bag at the end. But, the emphasis isn't just on the hunt because there are over 12 activities, so kids get to go from one to the next. This enables me to interact with the kids for longer periods of time and do photos. It is a much more relaxed setting because there is more to Easter than that one hunt.

TA: You often leave eggs when children are asleep for them to find in the morning. What's it like to see the event unfold?

EB: Technically, when you see them sleeping on Easter Eve, their eyes are closed and at the event their eyes are always down scouring. It is ironic I don't get to see any of their eyes up at me until they actually interact with me. The one thing I do like is that all the kids at Aurora's Easter Egg Hunt aren't shoving,

TA: Outside of the hunt and the interaction, what are you most looking forward to?

EB: From what I am hearing, there is going to be a baby boom there with live baby chicks and live baby bunnies on display as well. I think some of my presence might be outshone by some of the baby chicks. I don't know if you have seen baby chicks lately, but they are so adorable!

TA: Are the baby bunnies yours?

EB: Well, we rabbits have a very strong kinship. The rabbits that will be coming to this event are velveteen rabbits, which are a very rare but special rabbit because their fur feels like cashmere and velvet at the same time. Although my fur is not like that, I do like that kids get to see different types of rabbits versus my line.

TA: What's going on inside to keep the attendees happy and well fed?

EB: Aurora is such a special community and, of course, there are many groups involved in this event. The Optimist Club of Aurora

is putting on a pancake breakfast. I haven't tasted them myself, but I hear their pancakes are egg shaped and the Optimists themselves get into the whole theme dressed in bunny ears. It is nice to see the adults engaged in this activity because not only did I personally leave them treats 30-or-so years ago, I now get to see them spreading the magic and the fun.

TA: What kind of feedback do you get from some of the people you left treats for many years ago, who return with their own kids?

EB: A lot of parents are constantly wowed that there are a lot of activities to do, or they haven't finished a lot of the activities and then, of course, they run into me and I call it the paparazzi because of all the photos being taken. I have yet on record to meet a disappointed parent!

TA: So, with such a busy Saturday how do you keep your energy level up for the busy night ahead?

EB: By the time this event is over, I am raring to go. This event just gets me fully ready for Easter Eve! In the goodie bags this year, there is a brand new feature called a 'Bunny Beacon.' All the children are going to be given the tools to be able to make their own egg bright on Easter Eve so when they place it on their doorstep, I can see them from far away. I am really excited to see all these glowing eggs on Easter Eve which will also remind me which children were at Aurora's Easter Egg Hunt!