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THE AUROREDAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 25 No. 41 905-727-3300 **TheAuroran.com** **FREE** Week of July 11, 2024

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Dawn GALLAGHER MURPHY
MPP
Dawn Gallagher Murphy are pictured last week at the Regional Municipality of York celebrating the latest steps towards a York Region mental health hub.

Rebecca Shields, CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, and Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy are pictured last week at the Regional Municipality of York celebrating the latest steps towards a York Region mental health hub.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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"This facility will save lives" Mental Health Hub moves one step closer to reality for York Region

BY BROCK WEIR

Jim Eliopoulos saw the fire diminish in the eyes of his son, Jake.

Adopted from Ukraine as a 22-month-old in 1993, Eliopoulos says he and Jake "were soulmates in baseball," with his son passionately pursuing the sport into his post-secondary career.

Then, what he describes as a "black

cloud" descended over his son's head.

He was less communicative, more "minimalist" in describing how things were going in his life, and, after four unsuccessful attempts to take his own life, the family lost Jake in 2013, just weeks before his 22nd birthday.

"There has been tremendous positive change in chipping away at this mental health stigma that was overwhelmingly

present at the time Jake was suffering," says Eliopoulos, adding that what was present he now understands to be deep depression.

Further positive steps forward now lie ahead as the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, the Province of Ontario, and the Region of York move forward on the construction and development of a new

Continued on page 13

McKenzie Marsh residents call on Council to continue opposition to proposed development

BY BROCK WEIR

Residents surrounding the McKenzie Marsh on St. John's Sideroad, and from across Aurora, are calling on Council members to continue their opposition for a proposed townhouse development on the west side of the popular wetland.

This past January, Council rejected a proposal to build 45 townhomes

Continued on page 6

CONCERTS IN THE PARK – Aurora's popular Concerts in the Park summer music series kicked off Wednesday, July 3, with country singer Leah Daniels and her band. For more on Daniels' performance and the ongoing concert series, see Pages 11 & 12.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger

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New Federal funding will help municipalities address climate change



The Federal Government's Green programs were touted at the Oak Ridges Community Centre recently by Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy, who was joined by a host of dignitaries from local governments and environmental organizations, including Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

BY BROCK WEIR

A Federal infusion of \$530 million will help municipalities address and adapt to climate change.

The money will go to the Green Municipal Fund, spearheaded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to further the fund's work to help towns and cities across Canada adapt to the new normal.

The investment was recently celebrated by Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill MP Leah Taylor Roy and representatives from the Town of Aurora and the City of Richmond Hill, in Oak Ridges.

Here, MP Taylor Roy said the investment will help fund approximately 1,400 projects at the community level honed in on

“adaptation projects, with a particular focus on inclusion and equity.”

“There are so many different programs that will come under this, but we know that our communities require infrastructure to support healthy, affordable living and ensure the safety of our homes right now and businesses,” said Taylor Roy. “We need more resilient roads, bridges, water treatment facilities. We need to restore wetlands, we need to have green roofs, we need to do a lot of things that will help us adapt to climate change, but we’re not stopping the fight against climate change. Mitigation is probably more important, but for our day-to-day lives, adaptation is essential and that’s why this fund is so exciting.”

“The Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation Initiatives is going to

provide funding and skills to support local governments to adapt and build long-term resiliency to the impact of climate change.”

The funding, she added, is not limited to municipalities but towns and cities can also work with organizations such as non-profits to address these climate change-related goals.

Representing Aurora at the announcement, Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese said there is “significant interest” in this funding at the municipal level.

“We really believe in thinking globally but acting locally because that is the only way climate is going to be reversed from the pathway it is going right now. I can tell you that for residents in Aurora, our staff, and

all of our representatives, we believe in that 100 per cent,” he said. “We have an Environmental Advisory Committee that meets regularly from a residents’ standpoint that feeds information into our planning department. We also have an Energy Conservation and Management Demand plan that were working on to try and become Net Zero. We’re looking at every single thing in our community where we can save energy and we also have a lot of pressures [related] related to the development and development pressures are encroaching. We’re very serious about trying to control the adequate and sustainable development that we have, but maintain the natural heritage that we also enjoy.”

An investment in this fund is just the latest environmental measure spearheaded by the Federal government, said the MP. Such initiatives include the Federal Nature Accountability Bill, programs to halt and reverse a biodiversity loss across the country, and conserving land “about half the size of Manitoba.”

“We know protecting nature is core to everything we do in trying to fight climate change, mitigate and adapt climate change, and it is the foundation of our economy and our health,” she said. “The science is clear: nature needs more protection.”

“When you look at the amount of land and water that was protected under previous governments...we’re making great strides to ensure that our future is going to be one where we really focus on protecting our environment and the adaptation is necessary now, the mitigation, but the hope is that we will get to a place where we will be more in balance as we continue to work forward.”

NOTICE OF PASSING: MUNICIPAL-WIDE DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BYLAW

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipality of the Town of Aurora passed a Municipal-Wide Development Charges Amending By-law No. 6614-24 on the **25th day of June, 2024** under section 2(1) of the Development Charges Act, 1997, S.O., 1997 c.27, as amended;

The schedule of development charges imposed by the by-law, which came into effect on **June 25, 2024**, is as follows:

SCHEDULE B: By-law No. 6614-24

Service/Class of Service	RESIDENTIAL					NON-RESIDENTIAL	
	Single and Semi-Detached Dwelling	Multiples	Apartments - Large	Apartments - Small	Special Care/Special Dwelling Units	(per sq.ft. of Gross Floor Area)	(per sq.m of Gross Floor Area)
Town-Wide Services/Class of Service:							
Wastewater Services	1,233	946	692	476	383	0.55	5.92
Water Services	1,003	769	563	387	312	0.45	4.84
Services Related to a Highway	9,404	7,212	5,281	3,629	2,922	4.22	45.42
Fire Protection Services	1,292	991	726	499	401	0.58	6.24
Library Services	2,935	2,251	1,648	1,133	912	0.15	1.61
Parks and Recreation Services	21,280	16,321	11,950	8,211	6,612	1.07	11.52
General Government (Studies)	556	426	312	215	173	0.23	2.48
Total Town-Wide Services/Class of Services	37,703	28,916	21,172	14,550	11,715	7.25	78.04

DATED at Aurora this 25th day of June, 2024.
Michael De Rond, Town Clerk.

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Aurora, ON, L4G 6J1
905-727-1375

A copy of the complete by-law is available for review at Aurora Town Hall during regular business hours (weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) excluding statutory holidays.

It can also be examined online at aurora.ca/developmentcharges.

Aurora Pet Cemetery documentary takes Gold at Telly Awards



Aurora's Happy Woodland Cemetery, the choice for generations of families to bury their four-legged furry friends, is the subject of a new award-winning documentary.

Photo courtesy of the Aurora Museum & Archives

BY BROCKWEIR

It will still be a while before Aurora residents can fully experience what's left of the Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery, but people can get a sneak peek of what once was – and what will be – in the new documentary “Happy Woodland Pet Cemetery: Uncovering History.”

The documentary, commissioned by the Town of Aurora and the Aurora Museum and Archives, charting the remarkable history of what could very well be Canada's first purpose-developed pet cemetery, recently took home top honours at the Telly Awards.

Produced by Tracy and Tom Strnad of Mountain Goat Film Company, the documentary will premiere locally as part of the grand opening celebrations of Aurora Town Square this fall.

“The pet cemetery here in Aurora is truly one of the most unique parts of our history, and we've been working on a way to preserve and showcase its fascinating history,” said Mayor Tom Mrakas in a statement. “This film beautifully captures some of the really creative work our team at the Museum & Archives is undertaking to make that a reality.”

The pet cemetery was originally opened and operated by Victor Blochin and Anne Wilson in Aurora's south end, and was formally dedicated in 1934. From its inception, it became a popular place for Aurora residents to immortalize their four-legged friends and, soon, a destination for people across the country to inter their animals – everything from budgies to RCMP horses.

The property was sold in the late 1970s and, facing neglect, its importance and legacy began to fade from memory – that

is, until the Town purchased the property in 2011, tasking what's now the Aurora Museum & Archives to begin the challenging task of restoration and cataloguing as many burials as possible.

“Much of this painstaking and detailed work is captured in the film, including cataloguing the burial sites of more than 800 named pets on the property, unearthing headstones that were displaced from their original locations, and using archival footage and photos as well as ground-penetrating radar, to determine the original boundary of the cemetery,” says the Town. “Informing all of this work is building upon the cemetery's current designation under the Ontario Heritage Act to potentially be designated as a national historic site.”

The future of the site, as much as the past, is just one element that attracted Mountain Goat Film Company, which has previously produced a documentary on the Queen's York Rangers for the Aurora Museum & Archives, to the project.

“It's an evolving story,” Tom Strnad tells The Auroran. “It's not just telling the history, but we're capturing the story as it unfolds, as well. There's a history, but there's contemporary history to it, which is finding the cemetery, rehabilitating and preserving the cemetery, figuring out its place in Aurora, and that story has been really exciting and a parallel to what it was in the past. It's really exciting when there's a story like this basically happening as we're filming. A lot has happened that is captured in this film and we're also going to continue working on the next parts of it as the story unfolds, too.”

It's a unique place, he adds, that is a relatively unknown historic landmark.

“There is a nice, new unfolding story on how the Town is going to be able to turn it

into a parkland and acquiring that property and I think that is really a great idea because, at first, it was more of a preservation project and trying to secure that cemetery area, but essentially it's now growing and there is interest in these parklands,” he says. “As things are developed and houses everywhere, it is really important to have these spaces where we can celebrate the lives of [the past] whether it is pets...and you can take a moment. There's the real solitude you can find there in the woods and these great 100-year-old trees. I think it is so important that we have these greenspaces and parklands and I think that would be the greatest thing that this now will be available for everyone, not just Aurorans, but anybody visiting or wishing to go to a one-of-a-kind parkland with this unique pet cemetery.”

Adds Michelle Johnson, Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator at the Aurora Museum & Archives: “We're not just restoring a pet cemetery, but also telling a really important story about the lives of people from the 1930s all the way to the 1970s and the strong connection they had to this very special place. And with Happy Woodland likely being the first pet cemetery in Canada, we feel a great responsibility to restore this incredibly unique place as best we can to its original form.”

Future stories of the lives of individuals and pets associated with the Pet Cemetery will be featured in sequel documentaries, Johnson adds, noting that “interdepartmental” work at Town Hall continues to ensure residents will be able to access the landmark safely and accessibly.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paramedic programs and fast response times are saving lives

York Regional Council received results for Paramedic response time performance for 2023, outlining Paramedic Services surpassed response time targets for all areas.

Improvements include surpassing the Ministry target time for sudden cardiac arrests, due in part to integrated community strategies involving local municipal fire services and the Automated External Defibrillator Program.

“Supporting community well-being by protecting residents’ health remains a priority for York Regional Council,” said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson. “By continuing to invest and improve Paramedic Services, we help ensure paramedics continue responding to the growing and diverse needs of our communities.”

2023 highlights include:

- Integrating community-based strategies involving local municipal fire services and the Automated External Defibrillator program allows for better response time for sudden cardiac arrest;
- Maintaining hospital transfer times below 30-minute targets, enabling paramedics to better respond to call volumes and meet response time goals;
- Building and operating one new response station in the City of Markham (180 Cachet Woods)

The ability to meet and exceed these targets is largely driven by the activities and initiatives outlined in the Council-approved Paramedic Services Master Plan, 2021 to 2031. The long-term plan provides data and insight on what is required for continued excellent paramedic care across York Region’s nine cities and towns.

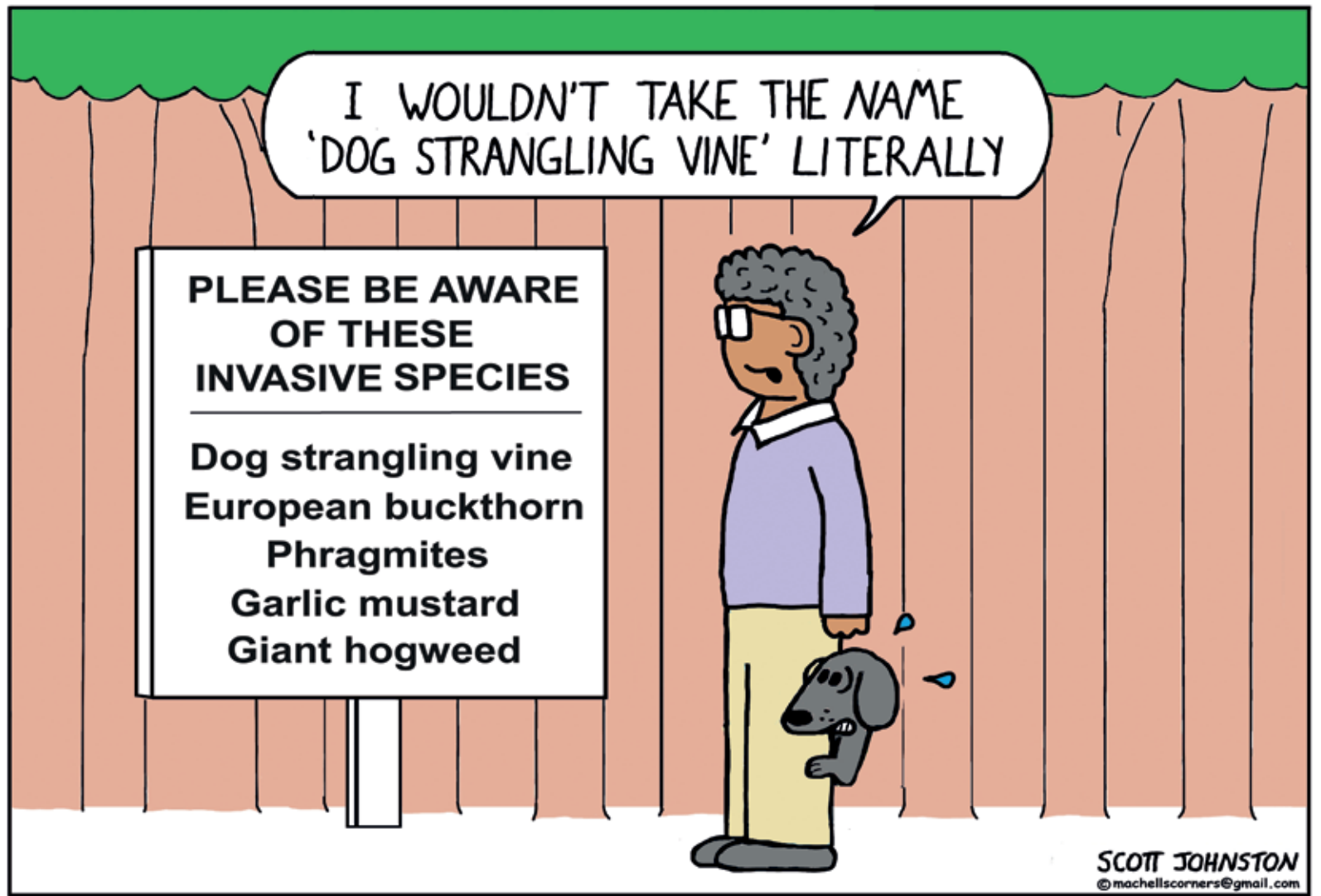
Initiatives planned for 2024 and beyond include:

- A modernizing dispatch system is expected to be implemented at the Georgian Central Ambulance Communications Centre in November 2024 and will assist Paramedic Services to continue to meet higher priority response time targets;
- Building and operating a new station in the City of Vaughan’s Maple community (53 Jacob Keffer Parkway); currently, there are 27 operating stations with additional stations being built for a total of 30 by 2031.

Continuing to deliver innovative community paramedicine programs such as Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care, supporting those on long-term care waitlists, Improving Patient Access to Care in the Community which enables paramedics to perform enhanced diagnostics and provide on-scene treatment and discharge and the CP@Clinic which provides support in seniors’ housing buildings and clients’ homes connecting them to service providers and supporting system navigation.

Region of York

To submit a letter to the editor, please send your email to brock@lpcmedia.ca Deadline for submissions is Sunday at 1 p.m.



Follow the Leader



BROCK'S BANTER

Brock Weir

In this job, you come to realize that there are a few simple questions that can reveal a lot about a person. What’s your favourite colour? What’s your favourite band? Or, to borrow a question from the late broadcast journalist Barbara Walters, as she so infamously asked actress Katharine Hepburn, “If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?”

Actually, those questions reveal little, but one question that more often accurately hits a bull’s eye, speaking of Katharine Hepburn, is “Katharine Hepburn or Audrey Hepburn? And why?”

This is not, I hasten to add, an attempt to pit one woman against another. Rather, given that two actresses remain wildly famous, even decades after their death, for very different bodies of work and approaches to life, which one you gravitate towards says a lot about what makes you tick. And, I also hasten to add, there is no wrong answer.

Another revelatory question has been, “How do you cast your vote when you’re at the polling station?”

Taking municipal politics out of the equation, as there are no official party lines, it’s often telling to learn whether they’re a party voter, a leader voter, or a local representative kind of voter. Given the continued rise of personality politics, I fear the local rep kind of voter is becoming an endangered species, and that’s a phenomenon that, in my view, doesn’t do us any favours, but I digress.

If you are a local rep voter, chances are you’re more likely to be engaged in your town or city at the community level and feel the real vested interest you have in the place you call home.

If you’re a leader voter, you’re either looking for someone who shares your worldview and vision for the province or country (although, it has to be said, there’s a newer subset of voters who are voting for an individual because of who they’re *not*) or the best person to get you closer to that ideal.

If you’re a party voter, it can mean one or both of two things— you’ve either taken the time to delve deep into a party and/or an individual’s platform, or you’re voting for a party because you’ve always aligned with them.

Again, there really isn’t a wrong approach, but if you’re casting your ballot for someone or something out of nothing more than habit, then that’s not the best sign of our collective democratic health.

Which brings me to the United States, a country for whom democratic health appears to be on life support.

Vying to either continue in or resume the role of President of the United States

are an 81-year-old man who will be 86 by the end of the next term, and a 78-year-old man who will be 83 at the end of the same time period.

One appears to ramble at rallies, sometimes incoherently, other times in misstatements that require a decoder ring, and sentences that seem to have neither a beginning nor an end.

The other appears to ramble at debates, sometimes incoherently or stumbling over words, and uttering sentences that too seem to be in search of a start and end point.

Both have strong following of supporters and detractors.

Both want to get back into that prime piece of Washington real estate....

And there, really, end the similarities — which begs the question, in my view, why the sudden huge pile-on of politicos and pundits who are calling for Joe Biden to drop out of the race due to his poor performance in his first debate against Donald Trump?

Since the floodgates opened within minutes of the debate, scores of media outlets across the United States and abroad have called for Biden to throw in the towel, even though there was nothing particularly surprising about this particular piece of political theatre. Alarming, yes. But surprising? Not much we haven’t already seen before.

One such call came from the editorial board of the New York Times, which said, if the race came down to just the two candidates, they would endorse Biden, but a “stronger opponent” was needed to combat what they describe as “the scale and seriousness of Mr. Trump’s challenge to the values and institutions of this country and the inadequacy of Mr. Biden to confront him.”

“Ending his candidacy would be against all of Mr. Biden’s personal and political instincts.... Supporters of the president are already explaining away [the debate] as one data point compared with three years of accomplishments. But the president’s performance cannot

be written off as a bad night or blamed on a supposed cold, because it affirmed concerns that have been mounting for months or even years. Even when Mr. Biden tried to lay out his policy proposals, he stumbled. It cannot be outweighed by other public appearances because he has limited and carefully controlled his public appearances.

“It should be remembered that Mr. Biden challenged Mr. Trump to this verbal duel. He set the rules, and he insisted on a date months earlier than any previous general election debate. He understood that he needed to address longstanding public concerns about his mental acuity and that he needed to do so as soon as possible. The truth Mr. Biden needs to confront now is that he failed his own test.”

That last sentence might indeed be true, but through all of this there is a small sense of déjà vu.

Two elections ago, when Hillary Clinton was the Democrat candidate for the States’ top job, questions about the former Secretary of State’s health and fitness for office were raised when she was caught on camera stumbling while getting into a vehicle — and she, at that point, was approximately a decade younger than the two men in the race today.

When it comes to fitness for the job, the incumbent appears held to a much higher standard than his strongest rival — and while it’s not a bad thing to hold an incumbent to such a standard, neither is a newbie here.

Throughout the race, Biden’s closest competitor has had more than their fair share of rally, interview, and social media flubs, and uttered tangents that would make that aforementioned decoder ring give up and hit the golf course. Then there’s that pesky thing about felony convictions, which in a different day and age likely would have rendered this entire conversation moot.

At the end of the day, I don’t think Biden’s debate performance, Trump’s legal woes, or the ongoing pile-on against the incumbent is going to make a world of difference.

With such diametrically opposed men running for the office on such diametrically opposed platforms (such as they are), I find it hard to believe there are any voters who were “undecided” before either guy stepped onto the CNN stage.

Chances are, eligible Americans have already locked in their decisions, whether they’re a party voter or a leader voter. Whether that’s a good thing or a bad thing — well, only time will tell.

THE AURORAN

Aurora’s Community Newspaper

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is busy... **Getting the Boot!**



This boot jack (66.1.9) was used to help remove muddy or snowy boots without sullyng the wearer's hands. For the case of Canadians, probably to remove boots at the door too. The user would step on the back to stabilize the jack with one foot and place the booted foot in between the prongs and pull upwards, releasing the foot from the footwear. Boot jacks were first patented in 1887 and came in several materials. This one is made of cast iron and intricately shaped, implying a more habitual use. Today one sometimes needs to be "jacked" themselves to release a tightly fitted boot!

July got off to a tremendous start with the Town of Aurora's Canada Day Parade and the Tim Hortons Canada Day Festival in Newmarket. It was wonderful seeing so many residents out enjoying the day's festivities and celebrating the anniversary of Canada's Confederation with you all.

Six years ago, I met with Rebecca Shields, CEO of CMHA York and South Simcoe to talk about the gaps in our local mental health services. On July 3, after much planning and hard work, I was incredibly proud to announce our government will be investing in the new York Region Mental Health Community Care Hub that will be located in Newmarket.

Alongside the Honourable Sylvia Jones, we outlined how the facility will make it faster and easier for people in York Region to connect to high-quality, comprehensive mental health and addictions services close to home.

Mental health challenges have emerged as one of the most serious health and social challenges facing families, children, and youth. It is estimated that 30% of Ontarians will experience a mental health issue at some point in their lives. Right here in York Region, by 2029/30, emergency department visits for mental health and substance use are projected to grow by 63%, significantly outpacing the 30% increase projected for all other emergency department visits.



DIALOGUE WITH DAWN

By Dawn Gallagher Murphy
MPP, Newmarket-Aurora

The new York Region Mental Health Community Care Hub will provide essential supports to our community. It will be the first model of its kind in York Region, bringing together a wide range of supports for both youth and adults under one roof. The hub will provide a range of comprehensive care for those aged 12 and older and their families, connect people to the care they need sooner, increase access to crisis and stabilization supports, and offer culturally appropriate services to ensure that everyone in our community can access the help they need, when they need it.

This announcement builds on our government's commitment to drive down waitlists and get people the help they need sooner. As we move forward with the planning and construction of the hub, we are dedicated to creating a system that is easy to understand and navigate, ensuring transparency

and accessibility for all residents of York Region.

As MPP for Newmarket—Aurora, I am your voice at Queen's Park, and it is a job I take very seriously. I will continue to deliver on the critical health and social infrastructure for our community. I am thrilled that under the leadership of Doug Ford, our government is committed to building this great province. It is not just transit, roads, bridges, and homes we are building to support our growing population; it is the building of our social infrastructure and the training of people to ensure all our community members receive the care they need close to home. As always, I look forward to continuing our journey in Building Our Community Together.

This summer, I am door knocking to engage in conversations with YOU to see how I can further support our community's needs. In the interim, before I get to your door, please know that I am available to meet with you at my constituency office or in the neighbourhood. Call me at 905-853-9889 if you would like to chat.

To all the Royal fans in our community, I have complimentary portraits of King Charles available to you. Please visit my office at 16635 Yonge Street, Unit 22, Newmarket, Monday to Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to pick-up your copy today.

Happy July everyone – enjoy the summer and stay hydrated!



GETTING THINGS DONE

Mayor
Tom Mrakas

As assets get older their performance will decline; Aurora's infrastructure is no different. Just like a car needs regular oil changes, tire rotations, and occasional repairs to run smoothly and last longer, the Town's infrastructure—such as roads, parks, and public buildings—needs regular maintenance and upgrades.

Asset management ensures that we schedule and budget for these necessary tasks, keeping our community's "engine" running efficiently and effectively.

The information in our comprehensive asset management plans is key to making informed decisions about when and where to invest in our infrastructure. This not only helps us allocate resources efficiently but also ensures that we are prepared for future

growth and challenges.

We are proud to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). This is a testament to our strong fiscal foundation, which has been carefully built and maintained over the years. Our prudent financial practices ensure that we can meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to enjoy the same level of service and infrastructure.

As we look to the future, our commitment remains unwavering: to manage our assets responsibly and to keep our tax rates competitive, fostering a thriving and sustainable community for all residents of Aurora. I am confident that tax increases will remain at 3.5% in 2025 and 2.9% in 2026 as outlined in our multi-year budget proposal.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email tmrakas@aurora.ca or by phone 905-726-4746. I am here for you.



Time Travellers Diary

By Ally Falzone
Exhibitions and Programs Assistant
Aurora Historical Society

Lemon Drops and Poison

Speaking from experience, finding puddles in summer can be a herculean task. And before you ask: No! Puddle travel does not work if I pour water on the road. There's no magic in that, the puddle needs to already exist in the sun.

Hence the magical aspect of a puddle where none should theoretically be.

I was walking past Medical Hall, the tall white building on Yonge St. with the highly decorated parapet. There on the sidewalk was my opportunity. I cannonball into oblivion and end up exactly where I was standing, but in the 1870s. Except this Medical Hall before me was one only in name, as the building we're familiar with wasn't built until 1885 by H.J. Hartman. I decided to walk into the druggists.

Now our North American use of the term drugstore dates to the 18th century. The Dutch word for "dried" is "droog" and since most medicine at the time was made from dried botanicals you get "drugstore" and a druggist. I am greeted with wooden shelves filled to the brim with bottles of liquids, patent medicines and tinctures, salves, and balms. Everything imaginable for the ill or unfit constitution.

Had I strolled into this shop before 1871, I would've been taking my life into my hands.

Prior to the Ontario Pharmacy Act of 1871, Pharmacies in Ontario were completely unregulated. Anyone could set up shop as a pharmacist and sell products. Furthermore, trained and untrained pharmacists alike could create and invent what they pleased in their backrooms to sell to their customers, and this too was unregulated. Unlike today with our fancy ingredient labels, manufacturers (including the local druggist) were under no pressure to tell anyone what was inside their patented cure-alls. In-fact, those were trade secrets. It wasn't until the Food and Drug Act of 1920 that pharmacists were compelled to add ingredient labels in Canada.

A woman approaches the druggist, presumably H.E. Connors who ran Medical Hall after Dr. R.W. Hillary of Hillary House. She requested a draught prepared for pneumatic cough. My eyes follow as his fingers fly across the bottles. My heart squeezes as his hands hesitate over the ribbed greens and blues of some of the bottles. Those are poison.

Arsenicum, Valerian, Solanaceae – all were available for purchase by anyone until 1859. That year, legislation was introduced because the government was trying to prevent trappers from using poison for hunting. He mixes up the tincture and instructs her on its application. Meanwhile, I see a jar of lemon drops I help myself to. It's important to remember that drugstores have always operated as businesses, and the need to drive traffic and regularly profit meant sweets and sodas were mainstays in these local shops. Having the chemicals needed to create those tasty concoctions in their backrooms also helped the cause.

Zooming back to the modern day with my sweet lemon-drops in hand I can firmly say; I'm glad I left the poisons behind!

Last week at Committee, Council discussed the Town's 2024 Asset Management Plan.

Asset management is the process of managing and maintaining the Town's assets such as roads, parks, buildings, and natural resources to ensure they remain in good condition to serve our community effectively.

An Asset Management Plan (AMP) is a living document, updated as new asset and financial data become available. Regular reviews help the Town reassess the state of its infrastructure and track progress on asset management and financial strategies.

Aurora has recently completed two critical plans: a Corporate Asset Management Plan and a Natural Asset Management Plan. These plans meet the requirements of Ontario legislation, well ahead of identified deadlines. This proactive approach demonstrates our commitment to maintaining and improving Town infrastructure that supports our vibrant community while maximizing financial sustainability.

THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Did you stock up ahead of the LCBO strike?

YES NO

www.theauroran.com

Previous Poll

Did you take part in any Canada Day activities?

RESULTS TO DATE	JULY 9, 2024	YES	NO
		75%	25%

McKenzie Marsh residents call on Council to continue opposition to proposed development

From page 1
 on the edge of the Marsh based on what the majority said was an “inappropriate” use for the land in question.

Developers behind the plan, however, appealed Council’s decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal, where it is currently under review.

Concerned residents descended on Council Chambers to call on Council to fight for the original rejection, even suggesting Mayor Tom Mrakas use his Strong Mayor powers to overturn an unfavourable decision from the Tribunal (OLT).

Council initially rejected the proposal on a vote of 5 – 1, voting down a recommendation from staff to bring the proposal back to a future General Committee meeting (a session that has since been restructured as a Committee of the Whole) for further review.

Ward 2 Councillor Rachel Gilliland was absent from the January meeting, but the lone voice against rejecting the proposal wholesale was Ward 5 Councillor John Gallo. He said while he was not in favour of the plan as it stood, the intervening weeks between meetings would allow questions to be answered and put the Town in a stronger position at OLT.

Residents’ concerns were

represented at the podium on July 2 by Trish Lear, on behalf of local ratepayers.

“I would like to take the opportunity this evening to remind the Council that this is not just a Ward 1 Concern, this is an Aurora Community Concern,” said Lear, directing Council’s attention to an ongoing petition that has since collected more than 2,500 signatures calling on lawmakers to uphold existing zoning on the property. “This shows sentiment across Aurora that we must do everything we can to maintain our natural heritage and the environment.”

Lear cited comments made at Council on January 23 by Ward 6 Councillor Harold Kim that the McKenzie Marsh was “part of our identity” and road salt and garbage leaching into the area, as well as the impacts of fill, would be too high a risk. Similarly, she also referenced comments made at the same meeting by Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson that Marsh is “a valued community asset” and any risk was unacceptable.

Councillors, she added, could argue “further information has come to light” that could result in a “compromise,” but she cautioned that “information submitted by the developers is often accepted at face

value and is not scrutinized and fully validated. It is often void of fact.”

“By allowing any other development other than what the property is currently zoned for, a single dwelling home, places the Marsh at risk. I appeal to all of you to reconsider the entertainment of any alternative proposals. Stand up for the Town of Aurora and our community at OLT. Get external counsel and help your Aurora community fight for what I know you know is right.”

If there was “any time” for the Mayor to use Strong Mayor powers, she concluded, “I believe this would be the time.”

Councillors have been able to say little about the application since the January 23 meeting as matters before the OLT are discussed in confidential Closed Session meetings. At last week’s Committee of the Whole meeting, Ward 3 Councillor Wendy Gaertner said she opposed direction received in Closed Session because “I didn’t think it was the right way to proceed for the Marsh” and it was not good planning.

Councillor Gaertner noted that she too would support the use of Strong Mayor powers in this context, but Town Solicitor Patricia de Sario cautioned that doing so would be beyond the parameters set out by the Province.

“I was the only one who voted against killing the application (in

January) and one of the reasons was for this very reason, that I hoped I communicated, that I foresaw this happening,” said Councillor Gallo. “At minimum, it should have gone to another Public Planning meeting so all of you (residents) will be very clear on what every one of us had to say about the application. That was denied and the course of action was such that we made decisions behind closed doors because that is the way the process is, because it was denied when it came here. It’s unfortunate.

“It is disappointing. I can’t speak much about all the details until they are fully disclosed, which probably won’t be much longer, and as far as I’m concerned...I’m happy to meet with anyone to explain...why I voted the way I did.”

Mayor Mrakas, on the other hand, defended his vote at the January 23 Public Planning meeting as “the right decision.”

“It was an unacceptable application in my mind,” he said. “The process is the process at this point in time. We’re at the Tribunal, but as I stated a couple of times, when we’re able to, I am sure all of us will make sure that all of you (residents) are well aware of what each of our thoughts were and the decisions that we make as a Council in your best interests. We will make that known when the time comes and we’re allowed to, legally.”

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TONY Van Bynen

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SHOPPING LOCAL – Summer shopping is in full swing at Town Park as it hosts the Aurora Farmers’ Market each Saturday through to the end of October. On July 6, Aliya and Mila took a well-earned break from shopping on the band shell bleachers.

Auroran photo by Glenn Rodger



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BUSINESS & FINANCE



User fees could be in the future for windrow removal program

BY BROCKWEIR

Aurora's windrow removal pilot program could continue into the year ahead – but with user fees in place.

A cost recovery model will be considered by lawmakers this week as Council weighs options to ensure the continuation of the program.

According to a report before Council by Luigi Colangelo, Manager of Public Works, 96 per cent of 460 respondents to a municipal survey indicated they would like to see the Windrow Removal Pilot Program continue in the future – but this satisfaction could change if user fees are implemented.

“A majority of respondents indicated they would not participate in the program if there was a fee between \$75 - \$150 with 41 per cent not comfortable with paying any amount, and 56 per cent of respondents comfortable paying a mean of \$70 annually,” said Colangelo.

Sitting at the Committee level last week, Council was presented with

three options should they want the program to continue in some form.

The first option would see the municipal staff deliver the program internally with the hiring of six additional seasonal staff, similar to how the program was delivered during the winter of 2023-24. The second would see the Town contract the program out. The third would involve the implementation of a “partial cost recovery rate” for people enrolled in the program.

The first option would cost the Town an estimated \$253,000, which was calculated on 2023 costs based on 1,100 participating households. The second option was presented with an estimated price tag of \$325,000 based on a 1,000-household uptake or \$404,000 based on 1,500 homes. The third option is estimated to come in at \$143,000 for in-house services, \$225,000 if contracted for 1,000 households, or \$254,000 based on 1,500 households.

Following Committee discussions last week, Council voted for the third option of partial cost recovery, in a

decision that could be ratified this week.

“I was open to the pilot program and to see how this played out and I really appreciate staff and the feedback they have received from residents through the survey,” said Ward 6 Councillor Harold Kim, touching on presentations earlier in the meeting that outlined a number of tax pressures that will be faced in Aurora going forward due to aging infrastructure and assets. “There are going to be significant tax pressures this year and we’re going to have to make some big decisions.

“There [are] a lot of social service gaps in society and I don’t believe that it should fall on the municipality to cover most of them. I think we should try our best to ensure if we continue with this program... I believe there has to be some form of cost recovery.... I truly do empathize with those who don’t have anyone [to assist with windrow removal] but I think we can only provide the service that we

can provide – and I think if we go ahead with it, I would be in favour of some form of fee for the household. I think a small, nominal fee...is not an inordinate ask. I am not in favour of having a second year fully-funded by the Town.”

Also in favour of further exploring a cost recovery model was Ward 4 Councillor Michael Thompson, who noted that when Council first approved the pilot they were expecting up to 500 households signing up, but the ultimate uptake was more than double that.

“As we continue this as a pilot program to better evaluate, I am supportive of the idea of trying option three and applying a cost associated with it so that when it does come time for Council to decide whether or not this program will be permanent and how it will be paid for, we have seen both options and can make a decision,” said Thompson. “I am cognizant of the fact there are some seniors for whom this might be a struggle.”

Should Windrow Removal Program have more stringent criteria?

Council mulls new rules

BY BROCKWEIR

If Aurora brings back its Windrow Removal Pilot Program this year, should there be stricter rules on eligibility?

That was a question mulled by local lawmakers at last week’s Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council this week is considering moving forward with a modified program for the winter ahead, this time with fees in a partial cost-recovery model rather than the free program seen in the winter of 2023-24. But discussion turned to ensuring residents who actually need the program, such as seniors and residents with mobility challenges, actually benefit from it.

Concerns were raised by Ward 1 Councillor Ron Weese, who said a “number of people” have had questions regarding eligibility, particularly households where seniors do indeed live, but there might be a younger person under the roof who is “capable” of removing that last bit of snow from the end of the driveway.

“It is important for the integrity of the program that we’re diligent about this,” said Councillor Weese

of ensuring eligibility, questioning whether a fine of some kind would be effective in this goal.

Staff said that, as the program currently stands, residents sign a declaration stating they meet the criteria of either being 65 years of age or older, or “have a physical disability that limits them from participating in shovelling snow.” They also admitted, however, that Town Hall received complaints from some neighbours during the initial pilot that, in some cases, “able-bodied” individuals were living with some of the senior applicants.

“From the standpoint [of] staff, it is very hard for us to control or deal with it without knocking on the door and asking for proof ourselves,” said Sara Tienkamp, Aurora’s Director of Operational Services. “We’re going on the truth that somebody has signed and acknowledged that they are the only people in the house that are capable of doing that.

“Certainly, other municipalities have been trying to deal with this as well. It’s difficult for us as municipalities to deal with that and prove it. Some municipalities have implemented a cost recovery program

Continued on page 21

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Region aims to tackle homelessness through newly-approved plan

BY BROCK WEIR

York Region is aiming to tackle homelessness following the approval of the new 2024 – 2027 Homelessness Service System Plan.

The new plan identifies priority areas throughout the Region that “aim to improve, enhance and align homelessness services and supports” from housing stability, to homelessness prevention, to renewed bonds with community partners.

“The Plan aims to end chronic homelessness in the Region by prioritizing prevention to keep people from losing their homes, supporting people to obtain stable housing and investing in housing retention and wraparound support services to ensure people remain housed,” says the Region. “It also works to strengthen the Region’s human rights-based approach to addressing homelessness by working with partners to deliver supports and services reflecting the personal rights and dignity of the people that need them.”

The plan’s goals include adding 139 new beds in existing emergency and transitional housing, seasonal shelters and hotel shelters, boosting the Community Paramedicine and Outreach Response Team by adding staff, and new outreach workers to assist people living unsheltered or in encampments.

Priority areas in the plan are Prevention and Diversion, with the goals of improving eviction prevention and enhancing diversion programs to connect people with alternatives to emergency housing; Intervention and Housing Stability, which aims to provide further “wraparound” supports including help navigating the housing system and providing housing programs for people with “high needs and complex barriers, including people experiencing chronic homelessness”; Systems Responses; and Advocacy and Engagement.

Goals for as early as this summer include adding more beds in emergency and transitional housing facilities, hotels, increasing the capacity of paramedicine, and bringing the outreach workers into play. Fall goals include adding seasonal shelter beds.

Last week, the Region reported that 40 out of 46 action items in the complimentary 10-year plan, Housing Solutions, have been met.

1,294 people, according to the Region, were successfully transitioned from emergency housing to permanent housing, with a further 671 diverted from entering emergency housing to “alternative housing options.”

28 new transitional housing units were opened Georgina and East Gwillimbury, while further funding went to Newmarket-based Inn from the Cold, on an annual basis, to extend its emergency housing and homelessness programs to year-round.

“Federal and provincial funding has been critical to advancing Housing Solutions, but predictable and long-term funding is needed to effectively plan,” said the Region. “The Region will continue to advocate for long-term funding commitments from the federal and provincial government, including the expansion the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit to add more households, and establishing a trilateral table to include Service Managers in negotiations for the final three-year allocations of cost-shared funding under the National Housing Strategy. York Region is requesting the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Members of Provincial Parliament who represent York Region for an increase of \$7 million to York Region’s annual Provincial Homelessness Prevention Program allocation, starting in 2025, to fund operating costs of the rapid deployment actions.”

Stronach court date set for October 7

BY BROCK WEIR

Sexual assault charges faced by Magna founder Frank Stronach will be next before the courts on October 7.

Lawyers representing Stronach appeared before a Brampton court via video link on Monday morning. The fall date was set to allow time for discovery for a second wave of accusers who came forward following Stronach’s initial arrest and first round of charges on June 7.

On June 7, Stronach was arrested and charged with five criminal offences including rape, indecent assault on a female, two counts of sexual assault, and forcible confinement.

Eight further charges were laid on June 26, including attempt rape, indecent assault on a female, and six counts of sexual assault.

Police claim the first set of charges stem from alleged offences in 1980, 1986, and as recently as April 2023. Court documents indicate the latest allegations range from the mid-1970s to earlier this year.

The charges have not been proven in court.

Lawyer Brian Greenspan, who represents Stronach, said his client “categorically denies” the charges and will “vigorously defend these further untested allegations” in court.

Prior to the July 8 court date, a further statement was issued July 5 on his behalf.


“In many free and democratic societies, the identities of both the accuser and the accused are protected when the police initiate a charge against a citizen. This is not the case in Canada,” said Greenspan in the statement. “Frank Stronach, like all Canadians values the time honoured legal principle that a person is innocent until proven guilty. However, unlike most Canadians, he faces the reputational damage which constant media attention attracts. Although gratified by the many expressions of support he has received, we ask that the public respect the fundamental precept that Mr. Stronach remains innocent of any wrongdoing and that he will respond to these allegations in a fair and public court of law.”

A publication ban has been issued to protect the identities of the accusers.

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The Great Big Yawn is Aurora sisters' love letter to dad, book for kids

BY BROCK WEIR

There were few things Margaret and Eleanor Clowater loved more when they were kids than a trip to the zoo – except, perhaps, a new, vivid bedtime story from their dad, Roger.

A natural storyteller, it didn't take

Roger too long to unite his daughter's two loves – but he couldn't have foreseen that his off-the-cuff bedtime story of a relatively sleepy visit to a zoo would result in his daughters' first work as published authors.

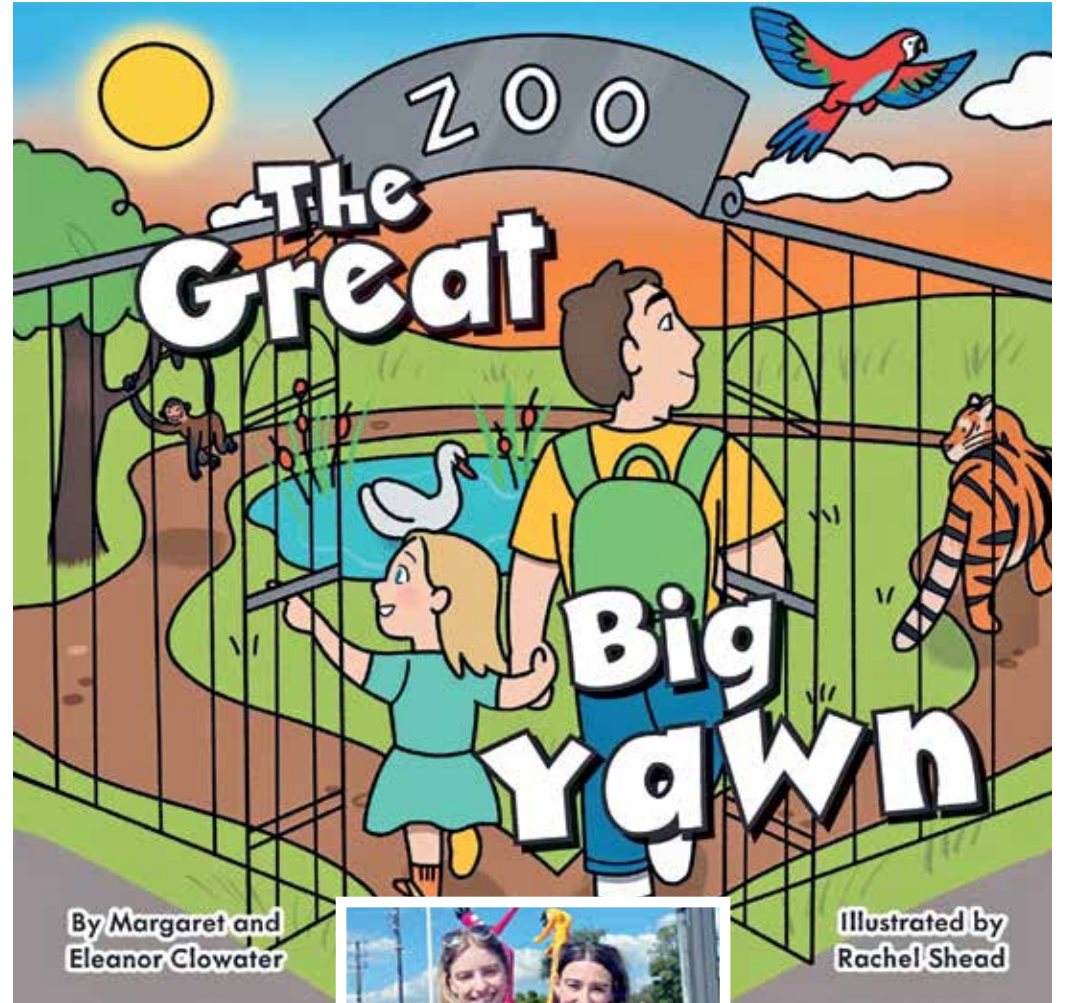
Ella and Margaret, both students at the University of Guelph, have taken inspiration from one of their favourites of Roger's yarns, and the result is *The Great Big Yawn*, published by FriesenPress and illustrated by Rachel Shead.

The *Great Big Yawn* tells the story of a father-daughter visit to a zoo where one tiny yawn from an equally tiny fawn sparks a chain reaction throughout the entire mini-animal kingdom calling the zoo home.

"Both of our parents are very hard-working individuals," says Ella. "After a long, hard day at work, you come back to your kids crying, wanting to see you and all of these things, and they want to spend time with us – at the same time, our dad was so tired from working all day he came up with this story called *The Yawn* to get us to sleep.

"He would exaggerate the yawn every time to make us yawn ourselves and eventually fall asleep – and when you read this book you're guaranteed a yawn."

The sisters decided to sketch the story out into more of a physical representation as a Father's Day gift last year. So impressed was Roger



Aurora students Margaret and Eleanor Clowater are first-time authors with the publication of their new children's book, *The Great Big Yawn*. **Contributed photo**

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he suggested putting their heads together on a "real" book – and now on sale at most booksellers, readers far and wide can get drawn into the *Yawn* as well.

"Once you start the process, you realize how exciting it is, how much fun it is to see your vision come to life," says Margaret. "The fact that we actually have the book and you can see it is so crazy and it has definitely sparked interest in creating more books. We had such a great experience with this and it was so much fun writing a book that connected our family."

And it's connected well beyond their nuclear unit.

A two-year-old cousin, they say, was among the first beta readers of *The Great Big Yawn* and the sisters knew they were on to something when they could follow along, relate to the story, and leave them wanting more.

Aurora has left the authors wanting

more as well. Despite being located in Guelph, Margaret and Ella retain strong community ties and say they look forward to the chance to sharing their book with more local readers.

"We've talked about getting involved with the community in Aurora and would love to create awareness and engagement," says Margaret. "We'd like to go to the Aurora Farmers' Market and the Aurora Public Library to do a reading."

Adds Ella: "A parent and a child, we also think it is super-important to sit down and read with your kid. Both of our parents did that with us and we remember it forever. We loved just having that one-on-one time with our parents, reading a book. I just think it helps with our relationship, as opposed to being sat in front of a TV. Don't get me wrong, we would sit and watch TV with our parents and we loved it, but this is different!"



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Daniels brings energetic start to Concerts in the Park



Aurora's Concerts in the Park series kicked off July 3 at Town Park with (MAIN) country singer Leah Daniels. Joined by her band, the Uxbridge native had the crowd on their feet from 7 – 9 p.m. Enjoying the show were (Clockwise from Bottom Right) the Mullholland family, Mike and Sarah, Ian and Hadley, and Joey and Megan. Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger

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Leaf of an infected Oak Tree pictured above. Leaves change colour starting at the tip and moving in towards the centre and then down towards the stem.

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REPORT OAK WILT

Fan-favourite Hotel California brings music of Eagles to Aurora

BY BROCK WEIR

Aurora's Concerts in the Park summer series will continue Wednesday, July 17, when fan favourite Hotel California returns to the Town Park band shell with their Tribute to the Eagles.

"For over 30 years, they've captivated audiences with their masterful tribute to The Eagles' music," say organizers. "Boasting over a century of combined professional experience, they continue to dazzle and resonate with fans, showcasing that their passion for the music remains as strong as ever."

Since Hotel California's inception around 1990, they have shared the stage with such notables as the Doobie Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Alice



Contributed photo



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"You can only learn good habits from people like that!" says Hotel California's Andy Lapointe with a laugh.

As the music of The Eagles endures, so too does Hotel California, and key to that success is connecting with the audience, says Lapointe.

"It's the reaction, the loudness, the energy – you're on a high by the time you're done – and sometimes the crowds are louder than the band!" he says. "To get them going, all you have to do is ask questions and have fun with it; they can sing with you, clap, dance. Getting the people on board is the big key – you shouldn't just play one song after another and just stand there. We don't believe in

that."

As they continue to engage with audiences, in addition to the hit of their name, Hotel California finds that music lovers click particularly with Dirty Laundry, which Lapointe says gets everyone up on their feet and dancing, as does Heartache Tonight.

"The thing about The Eagles is it touches different styles: rock, pop, country, and everyone knows the words. Everyone knows the words so they sing along with you and that is fun! They get rowdy, they yell, and it is just like when you listen to an Eagles Live album. You hear that reaction and it feels good for sure. It is music made really good [and for younger fans] their parents or grandparents played the tunes on their radios and phones; that's where they get it from, and it is crossing many

generations, that's for sure. They all tell you that – they will talk to you and say, 'I have been listening to it all my life because' their mom or dad, grandparents...'

"We want people to leave the concert feeling happy, very moved, smiling and having forgotten about their everyday problems and whatnot. A lot of people will say you took me away for a couple of hours, memory lane back in the 70s or 80s... that's nice. That feels really good."

To "get in" on that feel-good experience, come out to Town Park next Wednesday, July 17. Concerts are free and run from 7 – 9 p.m. Food and other vendors will be in place beginning at 6 p.m. Although admission is free, donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged.

For more information, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.

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11:15 Falls Prevention

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Mental Health Hub moves one step closer to reality for York Region

From page 1

mental health hub, based in Newmarket, that will serve residents of York and beyond.

Eliopoulos was among the advocates who filled the Great Hall at the Regional offices on July 3 as Minister of Health Sylvia Jones announced further provincial supports in making this hub a reality.

“As the first model of its kind in the Region, the York Regional Mental Health Community Care Hub will expand mental health access to mental health care and support for both youth and adults,” said Minister Jones, recognizing more than 20 stakeholder organizations assembled for the announcement. “Once opened, the hub will provide a range of integrated care and support for services of those 12 years of age or older, delivered in partnership with local hospitals, community mental health and social service providers, primary care and first responders.

“The range of comprehensive services will connect those in need with mental health to the care they need when and where they need it, instead of emergency departments. This hub will also increase access to crisis and stabilization supports and culturally-appropriate support services to connect more people with community-based mental health and addictions resources.

“York Regional Mental Health Community Care Hub is a great example of how government is working hand in hand in the community with local healthcare partners, municipalities, including many who are represented here today – to make it easier for people to connect to world class mental health and addiction supports, that is responsive to their needs, close to home, now and for years to come.”

Jones said the tender for building the hub is due to go out this summer, news which was greeted warmly by Newmarket-Aurora MPP Dawn Gallagher Murphy, who has been a leading advocate for making the dream of a hub a reality.

It is estimated, said the MPP, that 30 per cent of Ontarians will experience a mental health issues and recent data from Statistics

Canada suggests that 63 per cent of adults living in Canada have reported exposure “to a potentially traumatic event at some point in their lives.”

“It is estimated that more than two million people per year go to their doctors for mental health and addiction-related reasons and nearly one in ten Canadians who visit the ER for health, with mental health and/or addictions, have four-plus visits a year right here in York Region,” said Gallagher Murphy. “By 2029-30, emergency department visits for mental health and substance use are projected to grow by 63 per cent – significantly outpacing the 30 per cent increase projected for all other emergency department visits. These numbers are staggering.

“Here in Newmarket-Aurora and across York Region, we know we have our challenges and we know that we need to ensure that our residents have access to our health system that is easy to understand and transparent so that people will know what services are available and how and where to access them.”

A “Centre of Excellence” like this would focus on targeting “specific gaps” in mental health services locally, offering high quality care.”

“The fact of the matter is that mental health is health and I am proud to be part of a caucus that not only recognizes this, but is doing something to ensure Ontarians get the help they need and where they need it.”

MPP Gallagher Murphy’s advocacy for this project began when she was Constituency Assistant to former Newmarket-Aurora MPP Christine Elliott when she served as Ministry of Health in from 2018 to 2022.

Integral to this advocacy has been Rebecca Shields, President & CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe, an organization which will take the lead in operating the hub.

Shields said a group of individuals came together “about eight years ago” to look at ways to address a “growing



Ontario Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones announced support for the Mental Health Hub for York Region at Regional Headquarters last week.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

mental health crisis” in the community and its impact on youth, adults, families, emergency departments, police, paramedic services, shelters, and other community organizations and service providers.

The need for improved services was apparent then, and became ever more so during the pandemic, she added.

“Together over the last eight years, we established the case for support for a new solution that will bring compassionate, caring, and specialized services when people need it most,” said Shields at last week’s announcement, noting that many of these individuals were assembled in the Great Hall, and she hailed them for “never giving up on bringing forward their case for change.”

“Change is necessary. The York Region Mental Health Community Care Hub is that siren’s call for change,” Shields continued. “Together we are solving and building services and support and navigation that answers the question: what needs to change so somebody’s first crisis will be their last? When a 13-year-old is struggling with overwhelming anxiety, what should she, her family, doctor or school know about our hub before bringing her so she knows what to expect upon her arrival? How do we welcome her and her family

in a culturally safe and supportive manner, and provide them with the therapeutic environment where recovery begins at the door? How do we connect her with the right level of care and not just to another wait list and empower her in her recovery? Most importantly, how do we as provider embed evaluation in every step so we are an example of a learning health system that focuses on quality in outcomes? This is a bold and ambitious vision, and one we are all committed to because it is necessary for people, for community, to stop the cycles that exacerbate illness, crisis and prolonged recovery.”

The hub will be an interdisciplinary, connected, community-based model of care that Shields hopes will serve as a “template to spread across Ontario.”

“Together, alongside people with lived and living experience, family members and our supporters, we’re already collectively rolling up our sleeves and committing to collaborate to make this dream a reality,” she said, adding that it’s important to look at the hub through a lens of understanding crisis. “I am not a clinician, but after 17 years in community mental health, I picked up a few insights along the way. I have never met somebody who wasn’t trying to cope, doing the best they could, when one moment they realized they needed help and vulnerably sought care. The service must start with helping someone come to the front door, welcome them and assessing what they need, supporting them to stabilize and ensure they have the right connections and information to take the next best step in returning to health and wellbeing.”

Once complete, the hub will be client- and family-centred, with specialized care for diverse cultures and the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and for people aged 12 and up. Services will include child and youth mental health, Indigenous-led healing rooms, assessment and stabilization services, substance withdrawal, and perhaps even a bed for the night.

“Together,” said Shields, “we can truly solve and support better crisis care for our community.”

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Taking its place in the historic core



The new home of the Aurora United Church, which was destroyed by fire in April 2014, is continuing to take shape at its historic and spiritual location at Yonge and Tyler Streets. On Thursday, the frame for the south steeple was gently lifted into place as parishioners and community members gathered on Yonge Street's east side to watch the spectacle unfold. **Auroran photos by Glenn Rodger**

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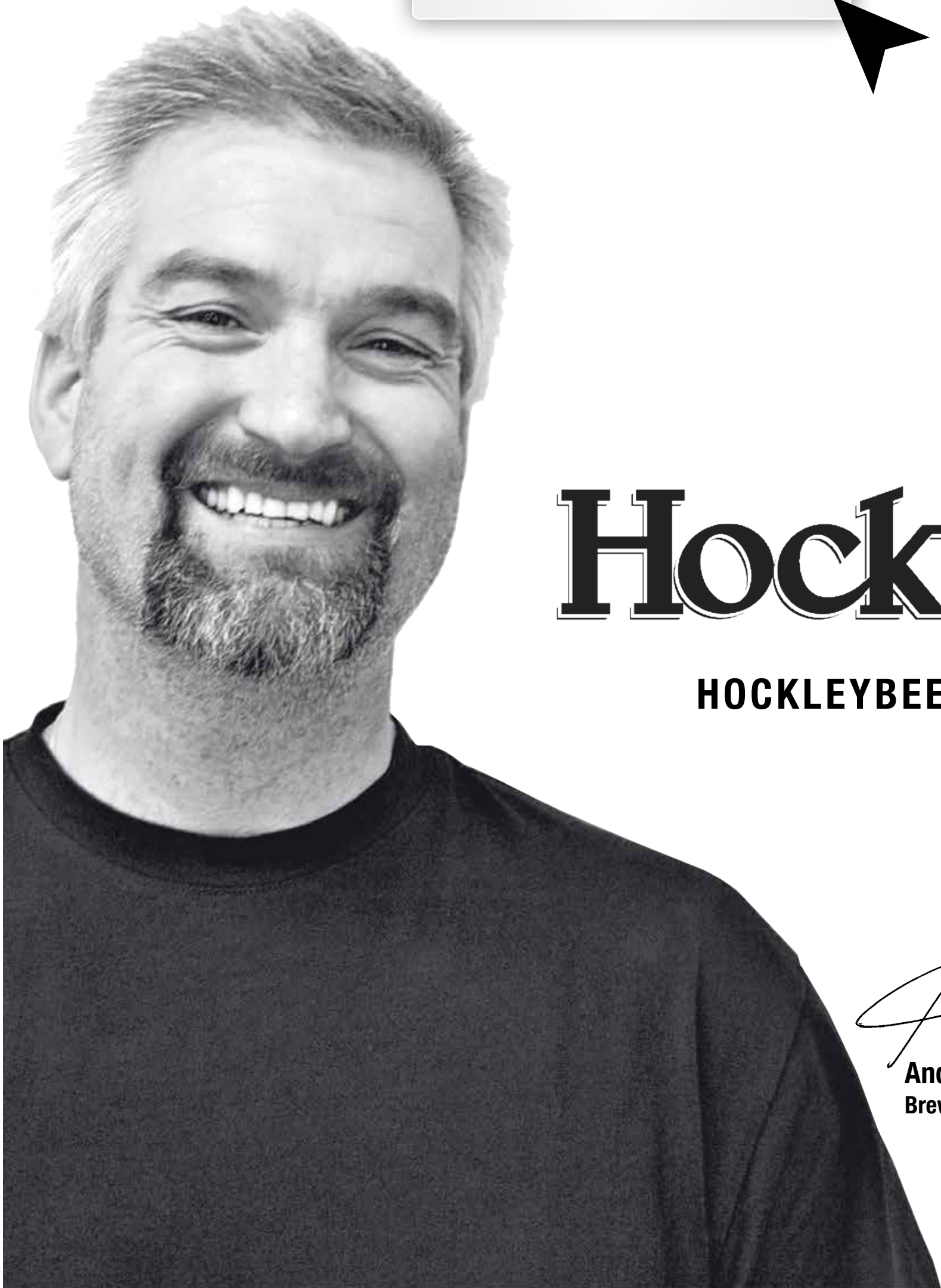


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EXECUTIVE HOME: \$400K EXTERIOR UPGRADES

Rare executive home in a tranquil cul-de-sac beside a parkette. This 8000 sqft custom-built residence features a 4-car garage, 19ft marble foyer, gourmet kitchen, primary suite with a gas fireplace, and an entertainment basement with a rec room and theater. Outside, enjoy a saltwater pool, cabana, sunroom, mini-golf green, and outdoor bar/kitchenette. Over \$400K in upgrades.



BRAND NEW - DOUBLE LOT SIZE

Brand new custom-built executive home on a premium 96' x 126' lot in Richmond Hill. Open concept layout with high-quality craftsmanship, 10' ceilings, chef's kitchen, spa-like ensuite, and spacious bedrooms. Includes a 38' x 126' easement. Free finished basement if sold by July 5th. Truly a masterpiece!



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.



LUXURY LIVING WITH HIGH-END FINISHES

Welcome to luxurious living in King City. This custom home features a \$500k chef's kitchen, saltwater pool, and outdoor kitchen. Perfect for entertaining with a rec room, cedar cigar room, and 4-car garage. Enjoy solid wood flooring, a spacious primary suite, and proximity to top schools and amenities.



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.



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.



LUXURIOUS 'FERNBROOK' HOME IN AURORA

Presenting the exquisitely designed 'Fernbrook' executive home in Princeton Heights, Aurora Estates. This expansive lot property boasts premium finishes and a gourmet kitchen, with customization options available. It includes four generously sized bedrooms, each with its own private bathroom.



PRESTIGIOUS HOME WITH PREMIUM FENCED LOT

This executive home boasts a 3-car garage with an EV port on a premium lot in a prestigious community. Enjoy a grand 2-story foyer with a 3-way fireplace, a chef's kitchen, a private deck, a luxurious primary suite, and a finished walk-out lower level with a gym, recreation room, and additional office.



PERSONALIZE YOUR EXECUTIVE DREAM HOME

Explore this magnificent new 'Fernbrook Homes' property in prestigious Princeton Heights, Aurora Estates. Featuring a customizable kitchen with buyer-selected cabinetry and appliances, this executive home offers luxurious finishes, four spacious bedrooms with private bathrooms, and ample natural light.



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Week of July 11, 2024

450 Rugby Players flock to Aurora for the 2nd Annual Barbarians' Festival



Auroran photo by Jim Stewart

BY JIM STEWART

Over fifty rugby teams from across Central Ontario and the GTA competed in the 2nd Annual Aurora Barbarians' Festival at Sheppard's Bush on Sunday morning.

Khalil Ajram, Co-President and Treasurer of the Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club, expressed his satisfaction about the setting of the tournament.

"It's great to showcase Aurora and the playing facilities at Sheppard's Bush. We

have the York Central Firefighters here today for the kids and local food vendors to feed the players and families. It's great to do this in Aurora and the Town has been so supportive of the Festival. Next year, we'll have a second turf field,

too, as the facilities at Sheppard's Bush continue to improve."

Coach Ajram noted that "over 450 families travelled to the tournament from centres including Guelph, Collingwood, Oshawa, Caledon, and Toronto. We have fifteen different rugby clubs competing on the pitches today."

Ajram elaborated on the experience for the young athletes participating in the Barbarians' Festival:

"The day provides positive feedback for players from coaches after playing rugby for a day, the kids get freezies, and enjoy a Harvey's hamburger after the matches are completed. Teams tend to hang around after the matches are completed; they enjoy their meal and socialize. There are so many good friendships that are generated on and off the field after a day of rugby."

The Barbs' President spoke about the growth of his Rugby Football Club and the brotherhood and sisterhood that is woven into the fabric of rugby culture: "Our motto is 'A Club for All' and we've registered 490 players from the ages of 4 to 70."

Ron Weese, President of Sport Aurora, praised the Barbarians' positive impact on rugby and the Town of Aurora: "The best part of this tournament is how it serves local interests and visiting families. It shows us that rugby is growing. Committing to out-of-town sports events stimulates parents and children to get involved and gives them an opportunity to see a well-organized tournament. The Festival has a real economic impact on local businesses, too, especially restaurants serving breakfasts, coffee shops, and sports stores selling last minute equipment needed on the pitch. We're happy to promote a tournament like this through Sport Aurora's social media."

Aurora's Ward 1 Councillor doubled down on the Barbarians' reputation as a sports organization: "The Aurora Barbarians are recognized as a club with lots of expertise with good facilities for their athletes. The Barbs are producing players for the national and provincial teams, as well as university and college teams across the province. There are no limits it seems regarding the Barbs' rugby opportunities."

As he scanned the playing fields where hundreds of kids were competing, Councillor Weese discussed the importance of athletes playing different sports rather than focusing on only one, especially at a young age: "Most of the kids here today are probably playing multiple sports. Probably hockey in the winter, and rugby and possibly other sports in the summer. It's so healthy for kids to play multiple sports and enjoy various athletic and social environments with other kids and other parent groups."

Rugby Club of Aurora Junior Program co-founder Steve Bernardo passes away at 78

BY JIM STEWART

The Town of Aurora lost an influential sports figure on Tuesday night when Steve Bernardo passed away peacefully in his home in the presence of family after a long battle with cancer. He was 78.

In 1999, Bernardo co-founded, established, and coached in the Junior Program of the Aurora Rugby Club. He oversaw a significant merger in 2002 when Aurora RFC combined forces with the Toronto Barbarians RFC. The revamped franchise was rebranded as the Aurora Barbarians RFC and has grown into one of the largest and most successful Rugby Football clubs in Ontario.

Bernardo "always considered himself an Aurora boy" and spent a considerable part of his life living and contributing mightily to the community. He lived in Aurora for "nineteen years before departing to study for undergraduate and law degrees at McMaster and Queen's, respectively."

In 1991, Bernardo joined the commuter ranks when he and Gemma moved their family of five to Aurora where "he was heavily involved with Canadian Parents for French and

coached basketball and rugby."

Bernardo retired from Mathews Dinsdale & Clark in 2020 as "the most senior partner in the 80-lawyer specialty law firm."

I was lucky enough to have enjoyed Steve Bernardo's presence as a neighbor. Not only were we Queen's guys, as it turned out, but we were also bound by the charming process of maple syrup production—its arduous collection, its laborious processing, and, ultimately, its tantalizing enjoyment—an apt metaphor for the stages of human experience.

The use of metaphors was at the heart of one of the most amusing conversations I had with Steve. I was pruning my raspberry grove on Storrington Gate when he approached me using an accusatory voice. He stated excitedly: "How dare you elevate the language of The Auroran newspaper by using metaphors on the sports pages!" I burst out laughing. So did he. To receive this fun-loving compliment about my word choices, as I was embarking on a new career as a journalist, meant so much coming from this silver-tongued orator.

I will miss Steve's fun-loving and supportive nature. He was a brilliant

conversationalist. We would trade stories about Queen's and sports, especially rugby. I considered it an honor and a pleasure to have bonded with Steve over the last few years. Our commonly-held values manifested themselves in chats over a libation by the woodstove — with the heavenly aroma of maple syrup bubbling on the Sugar Shack's evaporator in Dave Hunt's backyard.

As "an Aurora boy," Steve took pleasure in these local activities and was proud that the Barbs were hosting another 60-team Rugby Festival at Sheppard's Bush this weekend to celebrate a sport that he loved.

Steve is survived by his wife of almost 49 years and best friend of almost 50 years, Gemma; his three sons—Matthew (Elizabeth), David (Laura), and Andrew (Jana); and seven grandchildren: Sophia, Rhiannon, Conrad, William, Aubrey, Colin, and Helena. Steve is the son of Clifford (deceased) and Doris (Age 101) Bernardo, and brother of Craig (deceased) and Deborah.

A Celebration of Life ceremony to honor Steve Bernardo will be held on Sunday, July 21 at the Aurora Royal Canadian Legion Branch #385 at 105 Industrial Parkway North from 2-5 p.m. Speeches will start at 3 p.m.

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In a society divided by age, “Intergenerational” recreation and sport emerge as powerful unifiers, helping families bond and communities thrive.

From parks to playgrounds, these shared experiences are reshaping how we connect, learn, and thrive – one game at a time.

It is really called “Intergenerational” recreation and sport because multiple generations play together and the benefits certainly

extend beyond mere physical activity. By bringing together individuals from different age groups, these activities foster a sense of community, promote social interaction, and enhance overall well-being.

Research shows that when parents and grandparents play together and with their offspring, they form a much stronger bond. Further, this bond continues through the lifecycle.

But one of the most significant advantages of intergenerational recreation is the opportunity for shared experiences and mutual learning. Younger participants can gain valuable insights and wisdom from older adults, who in turn often benefit from the enthusiasm and fresh perspectives of the younger generation. This exchange helps bridge generational gaps, promoting understanding and empathy among age groups.

Moreover, engaging in recreational activities together promotes physical health and fitness across all ages at one time. Whether it’s playing a game of soccer, going for a hike, or participating in a dance class, these activities encourage active lifestyles and improve cardiovascular health, strength, and flexibility. For older adults, maintaining physical activity can also help prevent or manage chronic conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, and heart disease, while having fun.

Intergenerational recreation also has



SPORTS SCRAPS

By Laurie Mueller

Play together, stay together: the joy of intergenerational sports

significant mental health benefits. It reduces feelings of loneliness and isolation, particularly among older adults who may be at risk of social exclusion. The sense of belonging and camaraderie developed through shared activities can improve mood and overall psychological well-being. In younger participants, interacting with older adults can provide role models and mentors, fostering personal growth and a broader perspective on life.

And when older adults learn to coach or lead, it keeps them active and engaged in their communities.

Often missed is that intergenerational activities contribute to the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage and traditions. Through storytelling, crafts, music, and other shared activities, participants can learn about their own and each other’s cultural backgrounds, fostering cultural appreciation and understanding.

Sport Aurora encourages intergenerational recreation and sport because they create opportunities for social connection, physical health, mental well-being, and cultural enrichment. By bringing together different generations in meaningful and enjoyable activities, communities can promote inclusivity, resilience, and a more vibrant social fabric overall.

Why not look for a sport or recreational pursuit, see where there are “try-me” events or even rekindle your old “sport-glory” and begin to lead others of your own age or younger.

Watch for Sport Aurora’s All Sport/One Day for adults coming soon.

And go play with the kids!

Laurie Mueller is the Executive Director of Sport Aurora. She has served in that capacity for 19 years and is a certified coach and advocate for Women Leading Girls in sport. She can be reached at executive.director@sportaurora.ca

NDBL hosts annual All-Star game in New Lowell

BY BRIAN LOCKHART

The North Dufferin Baseball League hosted its annual All-Star game on the diamond in New Lowell on Saturday, July 6.

This is a chance for players to mix it up a little with players from other teams and showcase some of the League’s talent.

It was the 58th annual All-Star game for the senior division and the 29th year the junior division has hosted the game. The senior game got underway with a 1:00 p.m. start. The juniors played later in the afternoon with a 4:00 p.m. start.

The senior division has a tradition of dividing players into East and West teams and they play a full nine inning game.

Representing the East Division this year were, Steve Barrett, Saunders Mireault, and Nolan Thomson from the Barrie Angels, Josh Catalanotto, Cameron O’Neil, and Matteo Struthers from the Bolton Brewers, Mason Walker, Parker Walker, and Josh Wilkins from the Ivy Rangers, Eamon Chiodo and Shawn Hood from the Midland Mariners, Brett Beardsall, Blake Faulds, and Pierson French from the Orillia Majors and Nate Kramer, Ryan McNeil, Bryan Post, and Trevor Smith from the Owen Sound Baysox.

Jarrett Vanderpost of Ivy managed the team with teammate, Alex Banski, taking on coaching duties.

The West team included, Alex Cubitt, Corey Ervin, Quinn Hawton, and Devin Stephens from the Clarksburg Blues, Tom Gateman, Eric Orser, Brandon Watson, and Kashtin Winchester from the Creemore Padres, Eric Jones, Daniel Morningstar, Brad Petch, and Kyle Windsor from the Lisle Astros, Alex Attenborough, Braden Doiron, and Tyler Sawyers from the Mansfield Cubs, and Josh Hanley, Nick

Hodgson, Kurt Roy, and Tanner Zeggil from the New Lowell Knights.

Pete Kinghan of New Lowell managed the team with Sean Hayward of Creemore and Scott Anderson of Lisle coaching.

The East team won the game 1-0.

In the Junior Division game, six of the seven junior teams were divided into two teams pitting teammate against teammate in a seven-inning affair.

Team Spitfires include: Brayden Greech and Zach Owen from the Barrie Baycats, Zach Hayward, Josh McBride, and Liam Reynolds from the Creemore Padres, Ben Larsen and Aiden Pain from the Mansfield Cubs, Dale Critchley, Aidan Gagnon, and Joseph Parke from the Orangeville Bengals, Nolan MacNeal, Teddy McCollum-Kuntz, and Jhett Winkle from the Orillia Majors, and Luca Cutrone, Sevan Khalafain, and Noah Testaguzza from the Richmond Hill Phoenix.

Wes Winkel of Orillia and Daniel Nepton from Richmond Hill managed and coached the team.

Team Renegades include: Jack Larmer, Matthew Leek, and Evan McFadden from the Barrie Baycats, Gavin Mikaczo, Brady Reynolds, and Josh Young from the Creemore Padres, Cole Campbell, Dylan Brown, Cody Bryan, and Ben Nicholson from the Mansfield Cubs, Zach Davis and Brady Janes from the Orangeville Bengals, James Pritchard and Whyatt Winkel from the Orillia Royals, and Junhee Lee and Ryan Nepton from the Richmond Hill Phoenix.

Managing the team was Anson Dupuis of Creemore, with coaching chores shared by Lance Bryan of Mansfield and Bob Sinclair of Orangeville.

In the Junior Division, the Spitfires came out on top with a 10-2 win.



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King's Township-Wide Recreation Centre will be known as the Zancor Centre



BY MARK PAVILONS

King's Township-Wide Recreation Centre, located at 1600 15th Sideroad in King City, now officially has its name.

Zancor Homes is the new naming rights partner of the multi-use recreation facility, now known as the Zancor Centre.

The developer has a long-standing history of supporting community services and events in King through donations and sponsorship, and paid \$1.5 million for the rights, which will last 15 years.

"I am thrilled to announce that King's new zero-carbon, Township-Wide Recreation Centre has been renamed the Zancor Centre, thanks to a generous contribution from Zancor Homes. This partnership, reflecting Zancor's long-established commitment to our community, symbolizes the collaborative spirit that drives King Township forward. I extend my deepest gratitude to all the partners, contributors and residents who have made this vision a reality. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant King," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

"Zancor Homes is proud to partner with King Township in naming the Zancor Centre. Our commitment to community development goes beyond building homes; it's about fostering spaces where families and individuals can thrive. We believe that the Zancor Centre will become a cornerstone of the community, providing invaluable services and amenities that enhance the quality of life for all King residents for many years to come," noted Fabrizio Cortellucci, President, Zancor

Homes.

As well, 10-year partnerships have also been secured by four different businesses for the naming rights of the ice pads, aquatic centre and athletic centre, as follows:

- JTF Homes Arena: Ice Pad 1 (home rink of the King Rebellion Junior A Team).
- The Country Day School Arena: Ice Pad 2.
- Municipal Maintenance Athletic Centre: the artificial turf fieldhouse with running track, and a multi-use community space.
- Aqua Tech Solutions Aquatic Centre: the six-lane lap pool and leisure pool.

Funding from all naming rights totals \$2.7 million, which will go towards future needs and maintenance of the facility.

With the opening of the new ice rinks, user groups of the King City Lions Arena will relocate to the Zancor Centre.

In recognition of its namesake and the organization's volunteers who have served the King community since 1917, one community room in the Zancor Centre will be named the King City Lions Community Room and another named the Gord Orr Community Room, after a charter member of the club.

The \$86-million facility sits on 25 acres at the southeast corner of the King Campus of Seneca and will be accessible from 15th Sideroad (Bloomington Road).

The Zancor Centre will include an aquatics centre with a six-lane lap pool and leisure pool, two NHL-sized ice rinks, spectator seating, an artificial turf

fieldhouse with running track, and a multi-use community space. Outdoor amenities include a large courtyard with direct access to social and community rooms, with future plans for the site including connections to the Oak Ridges Moraine trail system and outdoor sports fields.

Construction of the multi-partner facility was jointly funded by the Township of King, the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada through the Investing in Canada Plan, as well as Seneca College and the development community.

In January, the multi-use recreation centre became the first combined aquatics and ice-sports community facility in Canada to achieve Zero Carbon Building Design Certification by the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC).

This certification is awarded for new constructions which demonstrate climate

leadership through innovative carbon reduction strategies and optimal building performance.

Innovative features designed to reduce carbon emissions include all electrical building systems to recover waste heat, daylight optimization for energy efficiency, minimal dependence on gas-fired equipment and geothermal readiness.

Construction of the recreation facility broke ground in April 2022. The ice rinks are on-track to open in September 2024, with the athletic centre and aquatic centre both slated to open later this fall.

The first big event will be the inaugural home opener for the King Rebellion Junior A Team, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 22. The official grand opening event will take place in January 2025.

For a project overview, visit king.ca/ZancorCentre.

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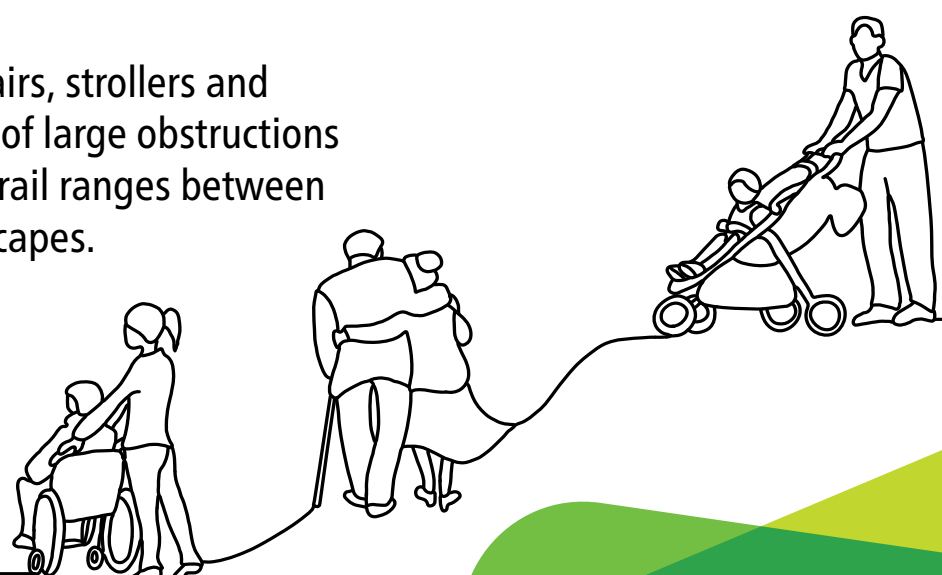
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Mark Your Calendar!

Monday, September 16th
at Mill Run Golf Club



Join us for our Tee Off for Hospice 2024 golf tournament and help us to raise funds in support of Margaret Bahen Hospice and Doane House Hospice!

Get ready to enjoy a fun day with a complimentary breakfast and post-golf BBQ.

Stay tuned for more details.

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THINGS...you ought to know

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

Aurora's Concerts in the Park summer series continues tonight at Town Park with Grand Evolution: A Tribute to Styx and Journey. 7 – 9 p.m. Concerts are free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. "This powerhouse group of musicians united by their love for the legendary sounds of rock giants Styx and Journey. With their high-energy performance, they transport you to the arena rock era, delivering iconic hits with precision. This show will be an unforgettable experience." For more, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

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

SUNDAY, JULY 14

The Aurora Historical Society presents a Victorian Garden Party today from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Hillary House National Historic Site. Event includes a mini high tea service of scones, sandwiches and desserts. Optional activity stations include ballroom dancing, croquet and badminton, Victorian board games, and learning the basics of heritage crafts. Featuring live music from Take 2. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for children. For more information, visit www.aurorahs.com or call 905-727-8991.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

Aurora's Concerts in the Park summer series continues tonight at Town Park with The Beresfords performing Taylor Swift. 7 – 9 p.m. Concerts are free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. "To all the Swifties, don't miss this incredible concert night. The Beresfords bring the incredible music of Taylor Swift to life. No lawn chairs, only dancing shoes will be needed for this summer concert, as you will be dancing and singing the entire evening." For more, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

Aurora's Concerts in the Park summer series continues tonight at Town Park with Hotel California: A Tribute to the Eagles. 7 – 9 p.m. Concerts are free, but donations to the Aurora Food Pantry are encouraged. "For over 30 years, they've captivated audiences with their masterful tribute to The Eagles' music. Boasting over a century of combined professional experience, they continue to dazzle and resonate with fans, showcasing that their passion for the music remains as strong as ever." For more, visit aurora.ca/summerconcerts.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

The Aurora Historical Society's Speakers Series continues this evening with Arlene Chan, speaking on the subject of Chinese-Canadian Game Changers. A hybrid presentation will take place from 7 – 8.30 p.m. Pioneers, heroes and game changers – extraordinary Chinese-Canadians defied the odds and overcame challenges to make a lasting difference. Stories of courage and determination celebrate their legacies. Arlene Chan has written seven books and contributed to numerous publications about the history, culture and traditions of the Chinese in Canada. Her work has been recognized with several awards and serves as an advisor for the Chinese Canadian Archive and president of the Jean Lumb Foundation.

ONGOING

JULY 4 – AUGUST 29

St. Andrew's Village (2 Orchard Heights) will host a Courtyard Market each Thursday from 4 – 7 p.m. Live music, fresh produce, flowers and baked goods, local artisans, and a pre-loved clothing pop-up with proceeds benefiting Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Partagez le Francais: 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.

Should Windrow Removal Program have more stringent criteria?

From page 8

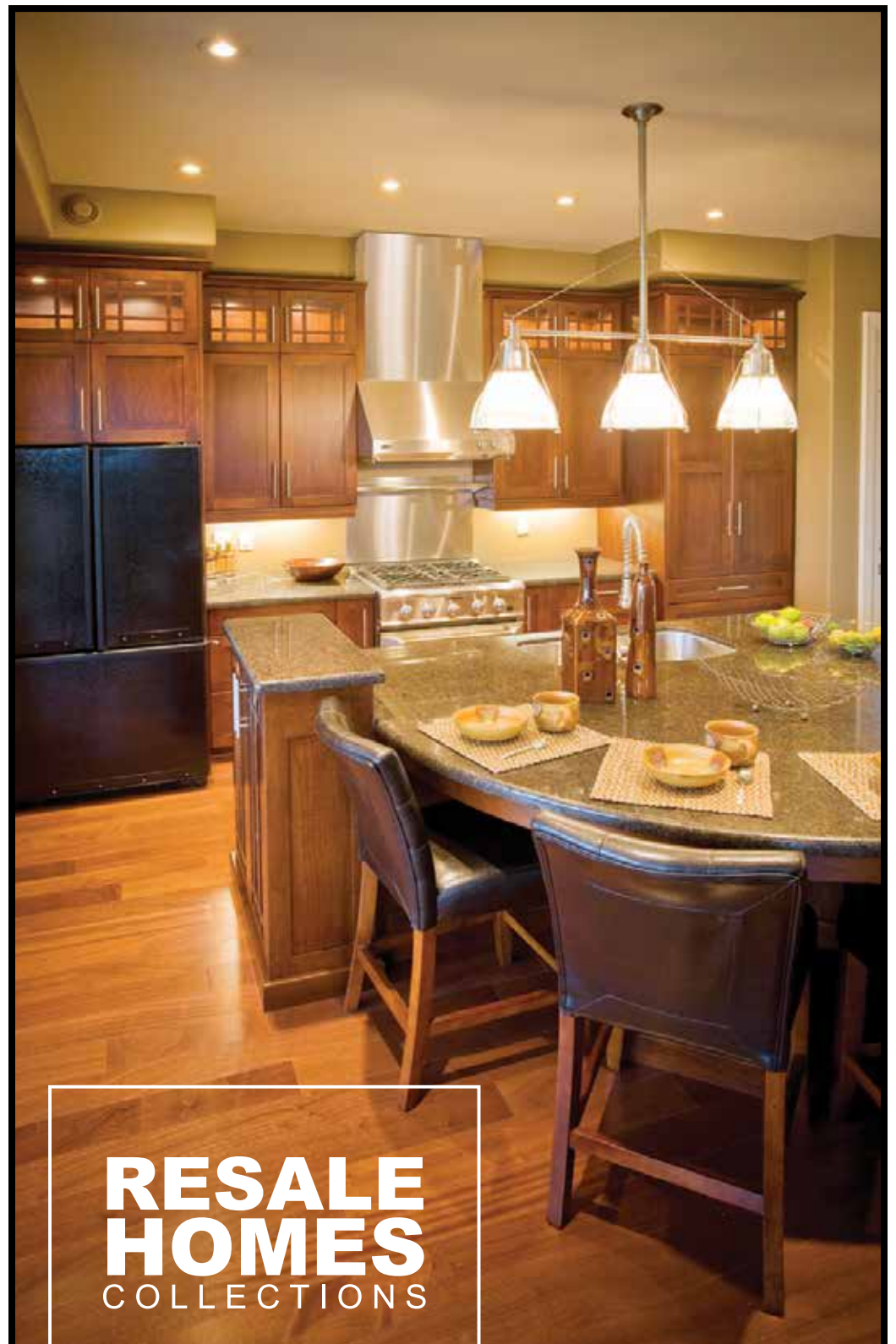
where residents are responsible for paying for the service, or a nominal fee towards the service, and that seems to help weed out some of the people that are, maybe, not eligible for the program or applying the program when they are not qualified."

Councillor Weese said considering these factors would ensure the "integrity" of the program, and also asked whether income thresholds should be considered for eligibility – particularly who might have to pay and who might not.

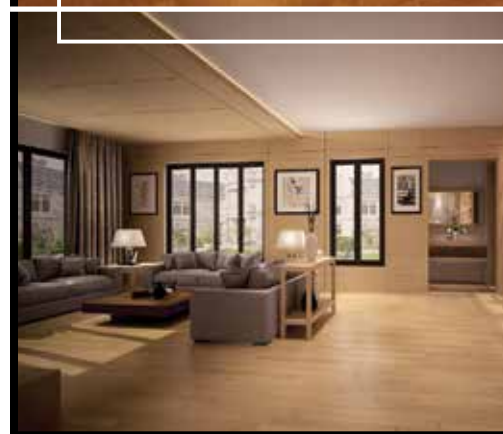
"I like the notion of cost recovery, but on the other hand then we have so many other seniors who are

struggling economically, we want to make sure they're safe with their windrows cleaned out," he said. "There are economies of scale for everybody to have it or many people to have it, but we also can't afford to have everyone having it unless we are targeting those people who are low income or those...who are older. I like the work that has been done thus far...[but if we can] find a way that the eligibility is clear to everybody, and if there is an option for cost recovery from people that should be able to get that.

"I don't want any seniors or disabled people to be struggling with this, particularly if they are unfunded."



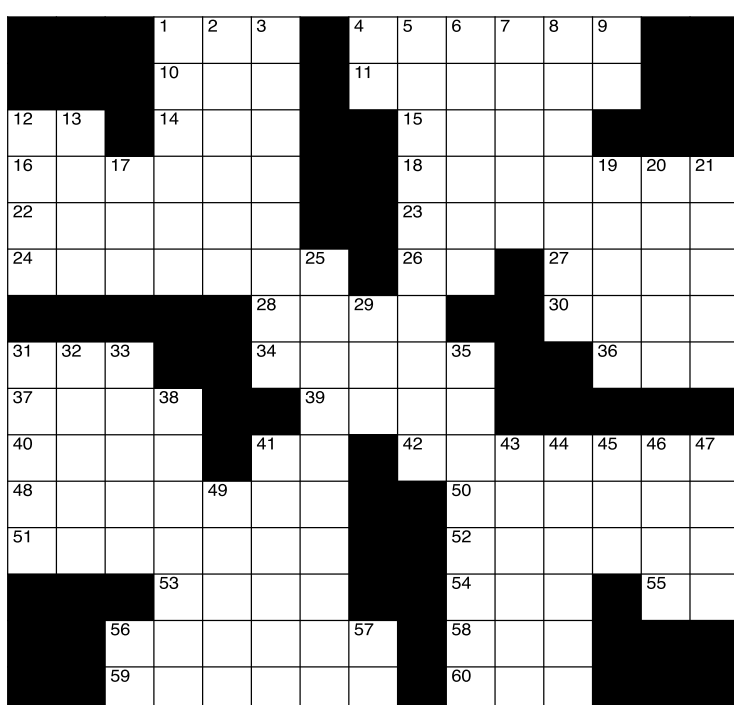
RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS



SEE NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR YOUR ISSUE OF RESALE HOMES COLLECTIONS.

CROSSWORD

Puzzle No. TAJULY1124 • Solution in Classifieds



CLUES ACROSS

1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
4. Cause to become entangled
10. Swiss river
11. Conversation
12. "Magnum" was one
14. Small integer
15. Christmas
16. Of a specific mountain region
18. Burrowing bugs
22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
23. A type of syndrome
24. Cephalopod mollusks
26. Metric ton
27. Ornamental box
28. As quickly as can be done
30. "Hoop Dreams" subject Arthur
31. Old TV part
34. Extinct flightless birds
36. Former CIA
37. Successor
39. Archaic form of you
40. Within
41. Danny Hurley's alma mater
42. Not sacred or biblical
48. Written law
50. Popular hairstyle
51. Congressman
52. Type of font
53. A predetermined period in off
54. Pouch
55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
56. One from a particular Asian region
58. One's sense of self-esteem
59. Headgear used to control a ho
60. The habitat of wild animals

CLUES DOWN

1. A right conferred through legal means
2. American island state
3. Inflexibly entrenched
4. "Pollock" actor Harris
5. Foolish person
6. Follows a particular Chairman
7. Choose
8. Sunrooms
9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
12. A symptom of some physical hurt or disorder
13. South American hummingbird
17. "Girl Chopping Onions" painter
19. Wild dog
20. Units of land
21. Footwear
25. Possessing a constant temperature
29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
31. Popular game
32. Pension (German)
33. Giant of industry
35. Inferred
38. One who revolves
41. Kept possession of
43. Loss of electricity
44. Stopped bottle
45. Everything
46. First to walk on the moon
47. Engrave
49. Female organs
56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
57. Northeast

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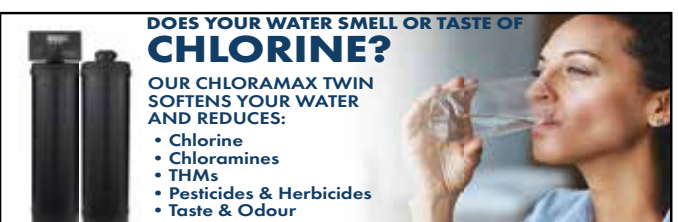
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AURORAN CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

Shirley Laura Kathleen Turner (nee Hare)



Passed peacefully on May 30, 2024 at the Southlake Residential Care Village at the age of 91. Much loved wife of the late Robert (Bob) Arthur Turner and predeceased by her daughter Patti Reed. She will be forever in the hearts of her children Patti (Doug Reed), Shelley (Jim Vanni) and Bob (Beth Stevenson). Shirley was the adored Nana of Samantha (Delon), Carly (Mike), Joe (Inga), Kyle (Emily), Nolan (Rem), Hayden and Toby. She was also Great Grandma to Lola, Hugh, Leo and Elle.

Shirley worked with Bob in the insurance industry for many years and was a Returning Officer for Elections Canada for 4 federal elections.

Life for Shirley was all about her family. This was her greatest joy, big family dinners, celebrations and summers spent at the family cottage on Head Lake. She also enjoyed curling for many years and played bridge well into her senior years.

Shirley was the most supportive, loving and generous mother and Nana with the best sense of humour. Her family will miss her very much which includes her nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at Southlake Residential Care Village for her care but mostly PSW Ana who became her friend and amazing caregiver taking care of Mom for many years.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Society of York Region.

A celebration of life for Shirley will be held on Friday, July 19, 2024 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Thompson Funeral Home, 530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, ON L4G6W8.

OBITUARY

Donald Livingstone



January 18, 1944- July 2, 2024

Peacefully at Margaret Bahen Hospice, Newmarket, with family by his side on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at the age of 80 years. Don Livingstone, beloved husband of Sharon (nee Powell) of Willow Beach. Dear father of Jeffrey and Joshua and his wife Lindsay. Grandpa Donny to Scout, Mason and Bodie. Dear brother of Norman (Lec), Melville (Rosemary) and Dianne Millette (Yves). Uncle to Bradley, Isaiah, Caroline and Sam. Fondly and respectfully remembered by his extended family and many friends. Don was a long-time member of the Masonic and Shrine organizations. Don retired from Petro Canada as a Sales Representative in 2005. Cremation has taken place. Memorial Visitation in the Forrest & Taylor Funeral Home, 20846 Dalton Road, Sutton, Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 7 - 9 p.m. Memorial Service and Masonic Memorial Service, in the funeral home chapel, Sunday, July 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. with visitation from 1:00 p.m. Memorial donations to the Margaret Bahen Hospice, Newmarket, <https://www.myhospice.ca/donate/> would be appreciated by the family. Memorial condolences may be made at www.forrestandtaylor.com

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