



## Aurora Public Library Board

### MEETING

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom video conference call

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## AGENDA

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
3. Minutes of:
  - .1 February 17, 2021 Meeting *(enclosure)*
  - .2 March 18, 2021 Special Board Meeting
4. Correspondence *(enclosure)*
5. Reports
  - .1 First Quarter Use Indicators Report SR2021.05 *(enclosure)*
  - .2 2021 Holiday and Service Hours Revised Report SR2021.06 *(enclosure)*
6. Items for Consideration
  - .1 APL COVID-19 Operating and Safety Plan SR2021.07 *(enclosure)*
  - .2 Intellectual Freedom Report SR2021.08 *(enclosure)*
  - .3 APLB Committees Terms of Reference Report SR2021.9 *(enclosure)*
7. Library CEO Updates
  - .1 CEO Updates *(verbal report)*
8. General Business Information/Questions
  - .1 APL Updates
  - .2 Library Square Stakeholder Update April 2021
9. Member Announcements
10. Date of Next Meeting: **Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

## 11. Adjournment

***\*\* Please advise Maida Rae of regrets for attendance, by noon on April 21<sup>st</sup> ([mrae@aurorapl.ca](mailto:mrae@aurorapl.ca)).***

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85600229089>

Meeting ID: 856 0022 9089

Passcode: 197118

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

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Meeting ID: 856 0022 9089



## Aurora Public Library Board

### MINUTES of MEETING

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

The Aurora Public Library Board held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 via video conference.

Present: John Clement, Tom Connor (Chair), Councillor John Gallo, Councillor Sandra Humfries, Adam Mobbs (Vice Chair), Marie Rankel, Ken Turriff

Chief Executive Officer: Bruce Gorman

Staff: Mario Baleno IT Manager; Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager, Community Collaboration; Jodi Marr, Manager, Customer Opportunity; Ashley Nunn-Smith, Manager, Content, Access & Innovation; Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA (recorder)

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 07:05 p.m.

Board Chair Tom Connor welcomed Councillor John Gallo to the Library Board. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

#### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION: **21.01.01**  
Moved by: K. Turriff  
Seconded by: A. Mobbs  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Agenda be approved

#### **2. Election of the Library Board Executive 2021**

The CEO acted as the meeting Chair for this item of business. The position of Chair and Vice-Chair to the Library Board were declared vacant and the position of SOLS Trustee Representative was declared open.

MOTION: **21.01.02**  
Moved by: A. Mobbs  
Seconded by: K. Turriff  
CARRIED

**THAT** Tom Connor be nominated for the position of Chair of the Library Board

The meeting Chair called for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Tom Connor was acclaimed to the position of Chair.

*Tom Connor assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

MOTION: **21.01.03**  
Moved by: K. Turriff  
Seconded by: J. Clement  
CARRIED

**THAT** Adam Mobbs be nominated  
for position of Vice-Chair of  
the Library Board

The Chair called for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Adam Mobbs was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair.

MOTION : **21.01.04**  
Moved by: Councillor S. Humfryes  
Seconded by: J. Clement  
CARRIED

**THAT** Marie Rankel be nominated  
for the position of OLS Trustee  
Representative

The Chair called for further nominations. There being no further nominations, Marie Rankel was acclaimed to the position of OLS Trustee Representative.

### **3. Disclosure of Interest**

### **4. Approval of Minutes:**

.1 Regular meeting of December 9, 2020

MOTION: **21.01.05**  
Moved by: M. Rankel  
Seconded by: J. Clement  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Minutes of the  
December 9, 2020 meeting be  
approved

### **5. Correspondence**

Copies of correspondence were circulated for information.

.1 Barbara Franchetto, CEO  
Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS)  
Melissa D'Onofrio-Jones  
Ontario Library Service - North  
Re: SOLS Amalgamation Update

January 2021

.2 Aurora Public Library Staff  
Re: Thank you for holiday party

December 2020

MOTION: **21.01.06**  
Moved by: K. Turriff

**THAT** the correspondence be  
received as information



Seconded: A. Mobbs  
CARRIED

*Adam Mobbs left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.*

## **6. Reports**

### **.1 *Fourth Quarter Operations Report SR2021.01***

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **21.01.07**  
Moved by: J. Clement  
Seconded by: K. Turriff  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Fourth Quarter Operations Report to December 31, 2020 be received as information

*Councillor Sandra Humfries left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

### **.2 *Fourth Quarter Use Indicators Report SR2021.02***

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **21.01.08**  
Moved by: K. Turriff  
Seconded by: M. Rankel  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Aurora Public Library Board receives the Fourth Quarter Use Indicators Report to December 31, 2020 as Information

*Councillor Sandra Humfries rejoined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.*

### **.3 *Annual Health and Safety Report SR2021.03***

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **21.01.09**  
Moved by: J. Clement  
Seconded by: K. Turriff  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Library Board receive the Annual Health and Safety Report for 2020 as information; and endorse the attached Aurora Public Library Board Health and Safety policy statements

## **7. Library CEO Updates**

### **.1 *CEO Updates***

A verbal report was provided at the meeting.

MOTION: **21.01.10**  
Moved by: K. Turriff  
Seconded: M. Rankel  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Library CEO Updates verbal report be received as information

The provincial government's lockdown announcement effective December 26, 2020 led to a brief shutdown of holds pick up while APL adjusted operations. Town of Aurora staff assisted in putting in a pick-up window on the south side of the Library and APL was able to resume customer holds pick-up on January 20, 2021.

There was a confirmed COVID-19 case for one Library staff member. We requested medical clearance from their doctor prior to the individual returning to work. There was no workplace spread, and the safety of staff and customers continues to be the priority.

B. Gorman continues to work with the Library Square Governance Committee, discussing programming, space, IT etc. The north end of the Library continues to be an active construction zone (Magna Room, foyer) with the staff room and one of the Library manager offices now unavailable due to the construction project.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> year, APL is participating in yarn bombing. To adapt to the construction and limited customers permitted inside the Library due to COVID-19, this will be outdoors in 2021, along the construction fences near the pick-up window. Make and Take kits are available for customers who would like to participate in this art installation project.

Mayor Mrakas addressed the Aurora Business community, mentioning Library Square as an important project. B. Gorman appreciated being invited to this online event.

The HRIS implementation continues, with B. Gorman participating on the Steering Committee. J. Rocca and M. Rae continue to work with Town of Aurora staff on this software implementation.

R. Mandelcorn is representing APL on the Town of Aurora Official Plan Review (Cultural aspect).

Library Board members and staff have 6 months virtual access to all content from the recent OLA SuperConference.

A new book return will be placed at Aurora Go station in 2021.

Virtual programming highlights were shared with the Board. These included Black History Month speaker Cheryl Thompson, I've Got a Cool Job program aimed at teens, online reading challenges, Make and Takes for adults and children (1500 kits in 2020 to showcase Creative Studio possibilities), online trivia and games nights, Pandemic Pen Pals, Academic Assistance from a Distance, meditation, chair yoga.

## **8. General Business Information/Questions**

### **.1 *APL Updates***

Articles and photographs were issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **21.01.11**

Moved by: K. Turriff

Seconded by: M. Rankel

CARRIED

**THAT** the APL Updates be received as information

Newspaper articles and media coverage from late mid-December to early February were provided that highlight APL's programs and services.

**9. Member Announcements**

R. Mandelcorn shared that APL will host an Editor in Residence, featuring three seminars in April, May and June.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**11. Adjournment**

MOTION: **21.01.12**  
Moved by: K. Turriff  
Seconded by: J. Clement  
CARRIED

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned  
at 8:59 p.m.

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T. Connor  
Chair

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B. Gorman  
Chief Executive Officer



**Aurora Public Library Board**  
**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

The Aurora Public Library Board held its special meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2021 via video conference.

Present: John Clement, Tom Connor (Chair), Councillor Sandra Humfries,  
Adam Mobbs (Vice Chair), Marie Rankel, Ken Turriff

Absent: Councillor John Gallo

Chief Executive Officer: Bruce Gorman

Staff: Mario Baleno IT Manager; Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager, Community  
Collaboration; Jodi Marr, Manager, Customer Opportunity; Ashley  
Nunn- Smith, Manager, Content, Access & Innovation; Maida Rae,  
HR Coordinator/EA (recorder); Julie Rocca, Business Manager

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 07:03 p.m.

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

MOTION: **21.02.13**  
Moved by: K. Turriff  
Seconded by: J. Clement  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Agenda be  
approved

**2. Disclosure of Interest**

**3. Reports**

**.1 *Aurora Public Library COVID-19 Operating and Safety Plan  
Report SR2021.04***

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **21.02.14**  
Moved by: M. Rankel  
Seconded by: A. Mobbs  
CARRIED

**THAT** the Aurora Public Library  
COVID-19 Operating and Safety  
Plan dated March 18, 2021 be  
received as information

Library CEO B. Gorman asked J. Marr, Manager, Customer Opportunity to share comparisons with York Region libraries regarding open hours and current levels of service. Aurora Public Library continues to offer consistent, regular hours to service the public during the pandemic.

Board members M. Rankel and A. Mobbs requested Library staff explore extending pandemic operating hours and services and provide a follow up report at a future meeting.

#### **4. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **5. Adjournment**

MOTION: **21.02.15**  
Moved by: K. Turriff  
Seconded by: M. Rankel  
CARRIED

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned  
at 8:23 p.m.

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T. Connor  
Chair

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B. Gorman  
Chief Executive Officer



**Aurora Public Library Board**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**Wednesday, April 21, 2021**

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- I. Anna Lozyk Romeo, Aurora resident      March 5, 2021  
Re: Potential Cannabis site near Aurora Public Library

Sent via email March 5th, 2021

To the Board Members of the Aurora Public Library

*(Bruce Gorman, Tom Connor, Adam Mobbs, John Clement, Ken Turriff, Marie Rankel, Cllr Gallo, Cllr Humfries)*

I am writing this letter in reference to a property that is currently listed on the "Status of current Cannabis Retail Store Applications" AGCO page (<https://www.agco.ca/status-current-cannabis-retail-store-applications>) and is in a close proximity to the Aurora Public Library. The property of interest is located at 15114 Yonge Street and is somewhere less than **70 meters** away from the library. Observing the state of the current building renovations at the 15114 Yonge Street site, it appears that the store could be set to open very soon.

According to the Town of Aurora documentation and additional information provided during my correspondence with the Town staff, it is clear that:

a) The Town of Aurora objects to any recreational cannabis store applications based on the criteria that Town of Aurora Council established in January 2019. Source: <https://www.aurora.ca/en/your-government/resources/Legislative-Services/Agendas-and-Minutes-Archives/2019-Archive-Agendas-and-Minutes/Council/Council-Agendas/2019-01-21-Council-Special-Agenda-bookmarks.pdf>

*"That Council request the AGCO to consider the following restrictions as a matter of public interest when reviewing retail store authorization applications for proposed stores within the Town of Aurora: a. That private cannabis retail stores not be permitted within **150 metres** from daycares, nurseries, group homes or addiction and counselling facilities, the Aurora Community Centre, the Aurora Family Leisure Complex, the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex, the **Aurora Public Library** and Town Hall."*

b) Aurora Public Library is a primary / only occupant of a building and is equivalent to school or private school.

c) The following restriction would apply to all potential recreational cannabis stores: 150 metres shall be measured from the property line of the property on which the school or private school is located.

Therefore, considering all of the above, my question to the Aurora Public Library Board Members is - **did the Aurora Public Library register an official objection to the AGCO within 15 days of notice of the application for 'ASHARIO 15114 Yonge Street' considering its violation of the 150 meters minimum distance from the Aurora Public Library?** The public notice period for the 15114 Yonge Street property was from October 27th, 2020 to November 10th, 2020.

As acknowledged in the resolution passed by Council and the Town of Aurora in January 2019, as a matter of public interest your response would be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Anna Lozyk Romeo  
Resident, Aurora, Ontario





## Aurora Public Library Board

### REPORT

SR2021.05

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**SUBJECT:** *FIRST QUARTER USE INDICATORS DRAFT REPORT*

**FROM:** Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** *April 21, 2021*

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the *Aurora Public Library Board* receives the *First Quarter Use Indicators DRAFT Report to March 31, 2021* as information.

The Library closed March 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; Virtual programming commenced April 17; Curbside pickup of holds commenced May 25.

To adapt to the Town's Library Square construction project and the pending winter weather, on Tuesday October 13, pickup of holds moved inside the facility to the Magna Room and on Monday, December 7, due to internal construction by the Town, to the Lebovic Room.

When Ontario went into a province-wide lockdown on December 26, libraries were permitted to continue offering curbside pickup. Due to the Town's construction project, the Library was not able to resume pickup of holds until Wednesday, January 20 when a new window for holds pickup was installed at the south end of the building on Church Street. For the convenience of customers, a new return slot was installed at the same location.

On April 8, the province enacted a provincial emergency and stay-at-home order; no change in service delivery was required

Holds pickup hours remained the same for curbside, in-library and window pickup: Monday through Saturday, 11:00 am – 6:00 pm.

Closure of the Library and disruption in holds pickup led to an overall decrease in metrics previously measured; new virtual programming and an uptake on social media provided innovative ways of connecting online with the community which will likely continue in parallel to in-library programming when the facility reopens.

## **BACKGROUND**

One of the Library's chief priorities is to ensure we remain relevant and responsive to our community. A key component of advancing this priority has been to gather, analyze and interpret our quantitative data with the understanding that the numbers do not always reflect the qualitative usage and benefits of library service.

Aurora Public Library has tracked use indicators for many years with the actual indicators evolving over time. New and emerging technologies continue to impact the indicators and serve to demonstrate the diverse nature of customer usage of collections, programs and services.

The Library depends on the reporting by vendors or site for metrics on database sessions, Niche Academy and some social media. Metrics for the Niche Academy are provided by the vendor without detail as to unique/all users or time spent viewing the learning videos.

Metrics for programs are provided by Library staff or community partners. Metrics for virtual programs present unique challenges. While we can more closely measure attendance through registered platforms like Zoom and Google Classroom, analytics for FB and YouTube programs only report views of one-minute duration or views of 95% of the program.

APL's use indicators report the one-minute views which over-represent engagement but under-represent viewers potentially watching together. This is consistent with the metrics all libraries provide for the provincial annual survey. Metrics are taken end-month, so online programs viewed into the next month are not counted.

One interesting observation is that virtual programming knows no boundaries and APL programs are being enjoyed by participants beyond York Region, and even Canada.

The Use Indicators serve two important purposes:

- tracking changes and trends in Library use patterns for planning collections, programs and services
- fulfilling the annual reporting requirements of the Province of Ontario for public library boards

The Library Board is provided with quarterly updates of our current use indicators to monitor trends and to plan for future strategic opportunities and developments. Attached is the first quarter summary of the 2021 APL Use Indicators.

### **Some Use Indicator Definitions:**

#### **Circulation**

Circulation includes the number of physical items borrowed/checked out from the Library's collections for use outside of the Library during the given period. Items that are used within the Library that have not been checked out and therefore never physically leave the facility are not included in this total. Circulated items that are renewed are included in this statistic.

Circulation also includes the number of digital items streamed or downloaded by active cardholders during the given period. Digital items include eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines and digital media such as music and movies.

### **In-Library Use**

In-Library use represents items removed from their usual location and used in the facility. The count includes reference materials, circulating materials, magazines and newspapers.

### **Holds**

Holds is an aggregate of both physical and digital materials. Physical holds represent items not currently available (in-use or on order) or materials the cardholder reserves remotely for staff to retrieve from the shelves as a customer service.

With the Facility's closure, physical materials can only be borrowed through the placement of holds by the customer through the library catalogue.

Digital holds represent eBooks and eAudiobooks purchased by APL on cloudLibrary that currently are in use.

### **Courses**

Included in this metric are both registered courses (e.g. Gale online learning and Lynda.com) and courses in database format (e.g. Mango language learning). In September 2019 Lynda.com changed to LinkedIn Learning requiring a LinkedIn account for access. After feedback from public libraries, in March 2021 Lynda.com allowed access to the learning modules without a LinkedIn social media account.

### **Public Workstation Usage**

This metric reflects the number of times a customer logs in during the given period. The amount of time that the public workstation is used is not reflected in this statistic.

Public Workstations were not available from the initial lockdown in March until August; and again not after the second lockdown.

### **Wireless Internet Usage**

This metric reflects the number of times visitors utilized the free wireless network during the given period. The amount of time that the wireless network is used is not reflected in this statistic.

A review of how the metric for wireless internet usage is obtained was undertaken in Q3, resulting in a more accurate calculation of actual monthly usage.

### **Facebook Reach**

This metric defines Reach when the post is shown in a News Feed, either directly or through a liking or sharing of the post.

### **Online Followers**

This metric combines Followers on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

### **Library Programs**

A program is a planned presentation, program or event given at a scheduled time in the library facility or in the community.

In April 2020 the category of Virtual Programs was added to the use indicators.

### **Outreach**

Outreach includes exhibits/displays and promotional library booth at events, festivals, agencies and schools.

### **Volunteer Services**

Volunteer Services includes the total number of hours provided by high school students and Visiting Library Service (VLS) volunteers. An estimate of two hours per visit (to include material selection, delivery and interaction between client and volunteer) is allotted to each VLS transaction.

Volunteer services provided by high school students was enhanced in 2019 to include assistance at Library events; also a change was made to count actual hours rather than people (March 2019).

When the facility closed due to the pandemic, visits to clients by VLS volunteers declined due to public health recommendations, library closure and lockdowns.

### **In-Person Visits**

Gate counters at the Yonge Street and Parking Lot entrances capture the number of visitors entering the facility.

### **Library Membership**

Membership is defined as the number of library cardholders who have used the card in the past two years. This metric is taken as a snapshot at the end of the given period. While the Library encourages each member to have a personal library card, families often share one or two cards among them.

After the initial lockdown, APL developed virtual options for customers to acquire a temporary digital library card that could be enhanced for full borrowing privileges through presentation of ID through video conferencing. Library privileges for current members were set to not expire before the end of August to provide ample time for members to renew.

### **Community Use Statistics**

A comparison of metrics indicates an overall annual decrease in Circulation of 49.6%. Circulation of print materials decreased 63.9%; audio/visual decreased 75.2%; Streaming & Downloads increased 29.5%.

Streaming and Downloads includes eBooks & eAudio, movies and music. eBooks and eAudio increased 5.1%; Hoopla decreased 35.4%; Freegal decreased 0.3%

In 2021 APL replaced Zinio with PressReader, providing access to 7,000+ newspapers and magazines in 60+ languages that can be translated into 19 languages. Increased usage with PressReader was 334.6% and is included in Streaming and Downloads.

Staff continues to monitor the popularity of individual products to ensure that APL's offerings match customer preferences.

Holds increased 62.5%. Holds on physical materials increased 75.3%; holds on eBooks increased 2.5%. Holds on cloudLibrary (2020) can only be placed on circulating APL materials.

Online learning (both registered courses and those accessed through database format) increased 48.3%. The Niche Academy (series of learning videos) was added in February 2021. Counts provided by the vendor are 999 to date, but we are not currently able to drill into what these counts mean in terms of engagement.

Facebook Total Reach shows an increase of 41.5%; Online Followers (Twitter, Facebook & Instagram) increased 29.5%. Social media statistics are difficult to measure due to analytics provided by sites; also by what is being measured and offered over Facebook were largely responsible to this increase.

The metrics for Virtual Programs and Attendance present unique challenges. While we can measure actual attendance through a registered program over Zoom (e.g. Writers' Group) attendance at a Virtual Storytime is measured by one-minute views on Facebook. While it is important to recognize that accurate comparisons cannot be made between live and virtual programming, APL delivered 296 programs with attendance of 5,798 on virtual platforms, keeping the community engaged during the closure and likely reaching new audiences.

Volunteer Services are up 142.9%. Online teen volunteer hours increased 193.1%; Visiting Library Service decreased 10.5%. Volunteers and clients of the VLS are hesitant about the safety of delivering material during the pandemic.

### **Library Membership**

Membership (27,754) is down 12.3%. APL offers temporary digital library cards and virtual full registration during our closure.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. APL First Quarter Use Indicators 2021

***Assisted by Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager, Community Collaboration***

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*Bruce Gorman*  
*Chief Executive Officer*



## Comparatives Quarter Use Indicators

Period: January - March 2021

	2021 Quarter	2020 Quarter	% chg	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	% chg
<b><u>Circulation</u></b>						
1. Print	38,957	108,023	-63.9%	38,957	108,023	-63.9%
2. Audio/Visual	6,522	26,276	-75.2%	6,522	26,276	-75.2%
3. Streaming & Downloads	36,305	28,035	29.5%	36,305	28,035	29.5%
4. Miscellaneous	0	16		0	16	
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,784</b>	<b>162,350</b>	<b>-49.6%</b>	<b>81,784</b>	<b>162,350</b>	<b>-49.6%</b>

<b>In-Library Use</b>	0	6,902		0	6,902	
<b>Holds</b>	36,738	22,610	62.5%	36,738	22,610	62.5%

### **Electronic Services**

1. Catalogue Logins	38,664	45,129	-14.3%	38,664	45,129	-14.3%
2. Electronic Database Sessions *	8,171	10,548	-22.5%	8,171	10,548	-22.5%
3. Courses	1,001	675	48.3%	1,001	675	48.3%
4. Niche Academy *	999	n/a		999	n/a	
5. Public Workstation Usage	0	6,745		0	6,745	
6. Wireless Internet Usage	1,530	10,660	-85.6%	1,530	10,660	-85.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,365</b>	<b>73,757</b>	<b>-31.7%</b>	<b>50,365</b>	<b>73,757</b>	<b>-31.7%</b>

<b>Website Visits</b>	49,704	82,478	-39.7%	49,704	82,478	-39.7%
<b>eNewsletter Subscribers</b>	7,753	7,643	1.4%	7,753	7,643	1.4%
<b>Facebook Total Reach **</b>	90,731	64,121	41.5%	90,731	64,121	41.5%
<b>Online Followers **</b>	3,982	3,076	29.5%	3,982	3,076	29.5%

### **Programs**

#### **Sessions (In Library)**

Youth	0	195		0	195	
Adult	0	103		0	103	
All Ages	0	12		0	12	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>310</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>310</b>	

#### **Sessions (In the Community)**

Youth	0	4		0	4	
Adult	0	15		0	15	
All Ages	0	0		0	0	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>Total Live</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>329</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>329</b>	

#### **Sessions (Virtual)**

Youth	131	n/a		131	n/a	
Adult	147	n/a		147	n/a	
All Ages	18	n/a		18	n/a	
<b>Subtotal Virtual</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>296</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>-10.0%</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>-10.0%</b>

## Comparatives Quarter Use Indicators

Period: January - March 2021

	2021	2020		2021	2020	
	Quarter	Quarter	% chg	YTD	YTD	% chg
<b>Attendance (In Library) ***</b>						
Youth	0	3973		0	3973	
Adult	0	1,103		0	1,103	
All Ages	0	636		0	636	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,712</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>5,712</b>	
<b>Attendance (In the Community) ***</b>						
Youth	0	83		0	83	
Adult	0	303		0	303	
All Ages	0	0		0	0	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>386</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>386</b>	
<b>Total Live</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,098</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>6,098</b>	
<b>Attendance (Virtual) ****</b>						
Youth	1,895	n/a		1,895	n/a	
Adult	3,727	n/a		3,727	n/a	
All Ages	176	n/a		176	n/a	
<b>Subtotal Virtual</b>	<b>5,798</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>5,798</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>5,798</b>	<b>6,098</b>	-4.9%	<b>5,798</b>	<b>6,098</b>	-4.9%
<b>Outreach</b>	0	2		0	2	
<b>Volunteer Services</b>	374	154	142.9%	374	154	142.9%
<b>In-Library Visits</b>	0	49,343	-100.0%	0	49,343	-100.0%
<b>Library Membership</b>	27,754	31,639	-12.3%	27,754	31,639	-12.3%

\* Metrics provided by vendors

\*\* Metrics for Social Media provided from social media sites

\*\*\* Metrics for attendance provided by staff, facilitators and community partners

\*\*\*\* Metrics taken from a combination of views on Facebook, Livestream & YouTube (1 min. views), Google Classroom  
& Zoom registrations

12/4/2021



## Aurora Public Library Board

### REPORT SR2021.06

**SUBJECT:** Revised 2021 SERVICE and HOLIDAY HOURS

**FROM:** Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** April 21, 2021

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the revised *2021 Service and Holiday Hours Report* be approved.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Library has established public service hours which are adjusted in the course of each year to reflect times of closure resulting from statutory and public holidays, the Collective Agreement and discretionary closures. Any resulting adjustments in service hours are advertised in advance. The APL website includes advance information for the entire year. Accordingly, the public service hours are being confirmed for 2021.

### **Times of Closure:**

Friday, January 1	New Year's Day	Statutory holiday
Monday, February 15	Family Day	Public holiday
Friday, April 2	Good Friday	Statutory holiday
Sunday, April 4	Easter Sunday	Discretionary holiday
Monday, April 5	Easter Monday	Holiday as per Collective Agreement
<b>Monday, May 24</b>	<b>Victoria Day</b>	<b>Statutory holiday</b>
Thursday, July 1	Canada Day	Statutory holiday
Monday, August 2	Civic Holiday	Public holiday
Monday, September 6	Labour Day	Statutory holiday
Monday, October 11	Thanksgiving	Statutory holiday
Friday, December 24	Christmas Eve	12:00 noon as per Collective Agreement
Saturday, December 25	Christmas Day	Statutory holiday
Sunday, December 26	Boxing Day	Statutory holiday
Friday, December 31	New Year's Eve	12:00 noon as per Collective Agreement
Saturday, January 1, 2022	New Year's Day	Statutory holiday

Since 2016, the Library has conducted staff development days, a single day closure for training purposes. For 2021, a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday in the Fall is the anticipated closure date for the staff training, and will be confirmed based on



availability of trainers/speakers. Consideration will also be made to minimize the impact of the closure on the public, and once details are confirmed, the change in operating hours will be widely publicized.

**Regular Weekly Service Hours:**

Monday	09:30 a.m. – 09:00 p.m.	
Tuesday	09:30 a.m. – 09:00 p.m.	
Wednesday	09:30 a.m. – 09:00 p.m.	
Thursday	09:30 a.m. – 09:00 p.m.	
Friday	09:30 a.m. – 06:00 p.m.	
Saturday	09:30 a.m. – 05:00 p.m.	
Sunday	01:00 p.m. – 05:00 p.m.	(January 3 – May 9 & September 12 – December 19)

It should be noted that due to the pandemic, our current operating hours are Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. As circumstances warrant, we will return towards our regular service hours.

**CONCLUSION**

Most of the proposed closures result from requirements related to statutory and public holidays and to the Collective Agreement. There will be two discretionary closure dates in 2021 – the Fall Staff Training Day and Easter Sunday, which is observed as a holiday within the community and has traditionally been a day of closure.

***Assisted by: Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA***

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*Bruce Gorman*  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Aurora Public Library COVID -19 Operating and Safety Plan****Updated (March 2021)**

At a unique time in our history, Aurora Public Library is confronted with additional complexities during a pandemic that no other library in Ontario has had to endure. Adding a complex multi faceted construction project has presented additional challenges in the provision of service and the safety and well being of staff and customers.

This update to our plan affords the optimal scenario given our unique converging circumstances.

**Construction**

The Library is working with the Town of Aurora, Colliers Project Leaders, and Chandos Construction on establishing a safe, consistent library environment for our customers to return including a safe and compliant entrance and egress. This can only occur in the north end of the building which is the current epicenter of construction and at the most disruptive time in the APL phase of the project, according to Colliers. There have been times when the library staff had to use the entrance/egress of the other tenant in the building, disrupting their activities, as the north entrance was unavailable. There have been times when washrooms were not available due to water supply issues. There have been times when the building needed to be evacuated due to a construction related false fire alarm. There have been times when the building was excessively warm due to a malfunctioning temporary HVAC system. There have been times when construction noise exceeded to levels causing public complaints. This all said the library remains a safe environment for staff.

View from Yonge Street

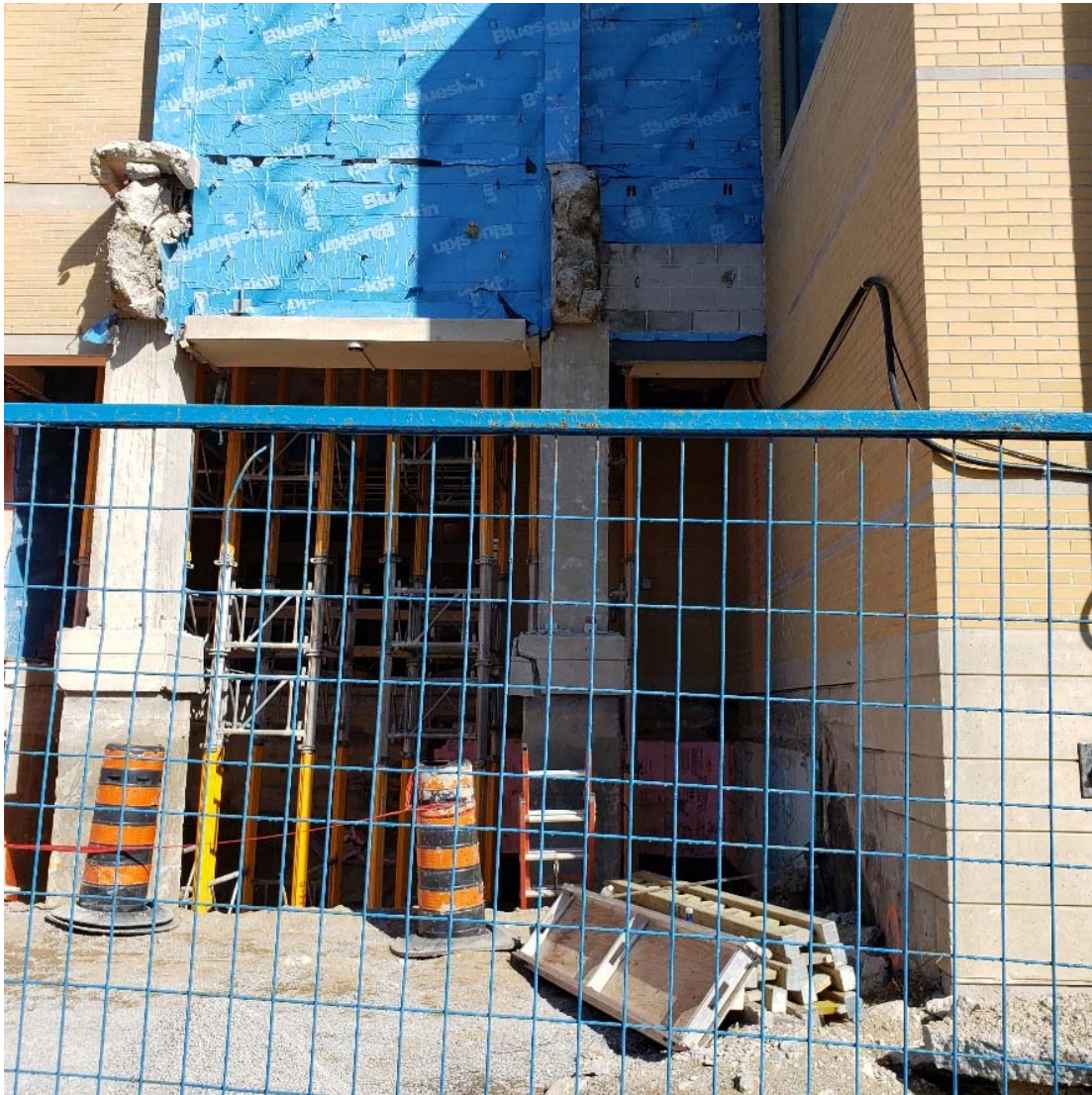


View of public and staff entrance and egress





View of Yonge Street entrance



View of public and staff entrance and egress

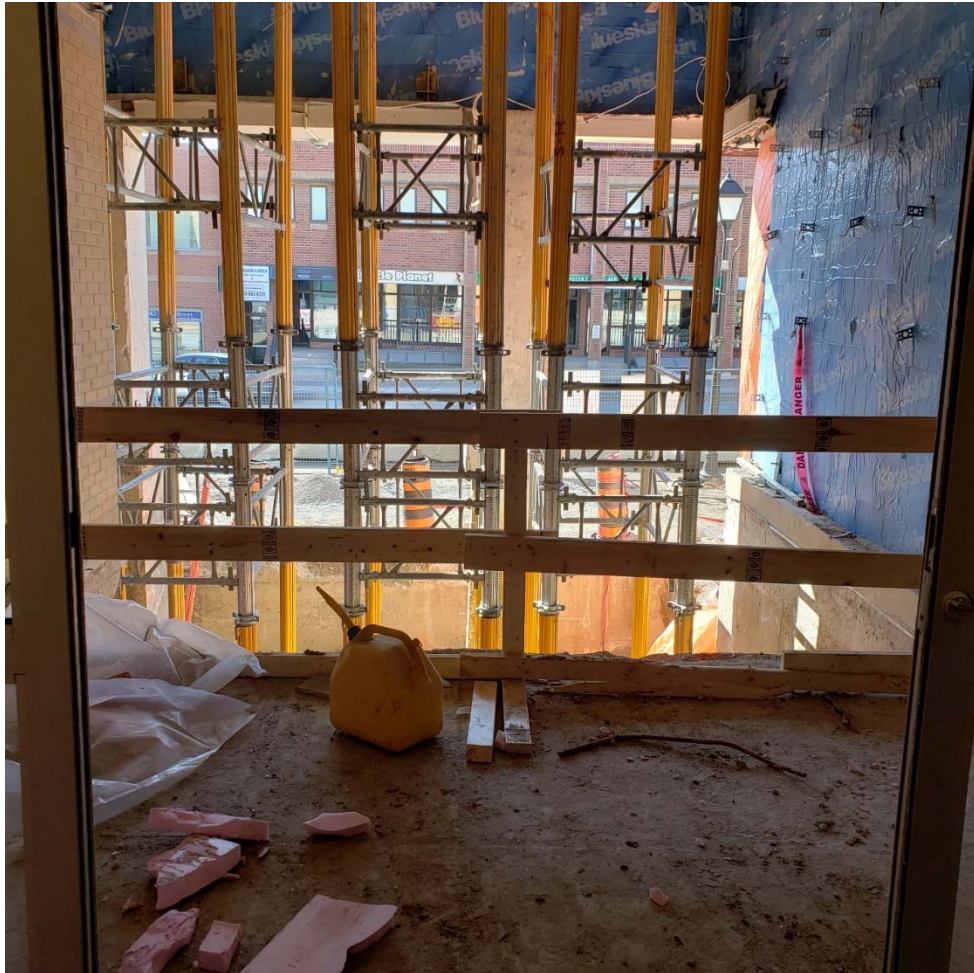




View of public and staff entrance and egress



Looking out to Yonge Street from foyer





View of proposed entrance/egress



The Town through Colliers and Chandos have informed the Library that our portion of the project has been delayed to December 2021 due to renovation issues related to the roof and new program rooms. This will impact substantial completion and occupancy.

Chandos is working on entrance/egress to the Library that conforms to safety protocols, COVID-19 protocols, construction protocols, and government regulations. This includes continuous use of existing washroom facilities in the foyer for customers, particularly as the second floor accessible washroom is out of commission for upgrades and the other public washroom in the

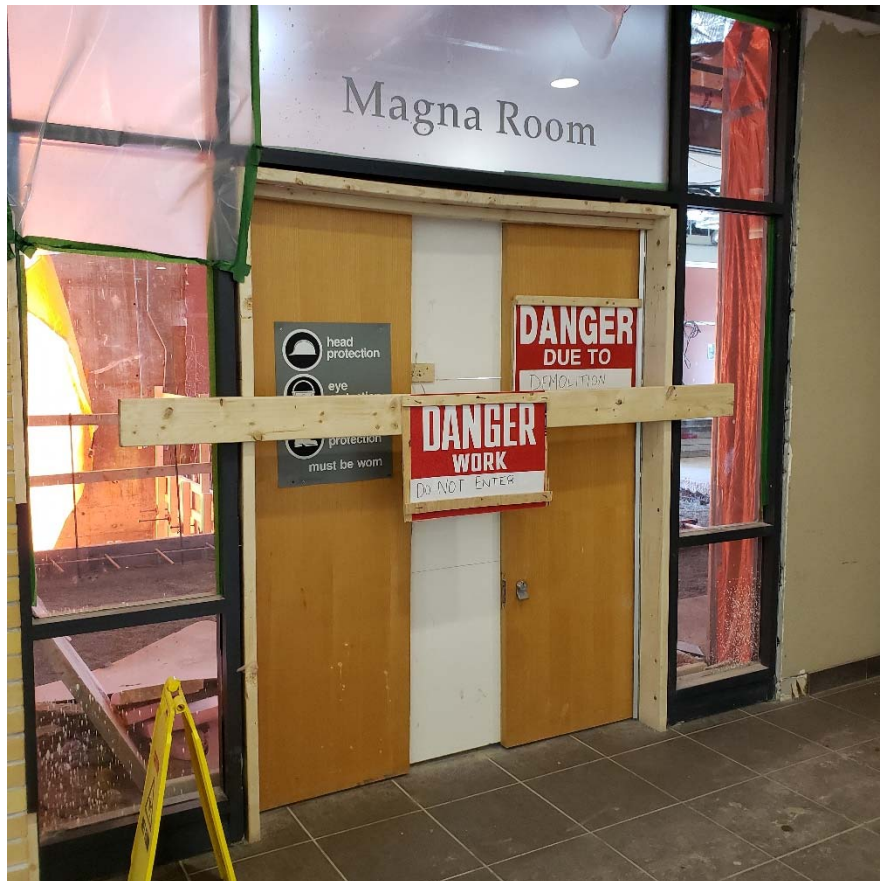
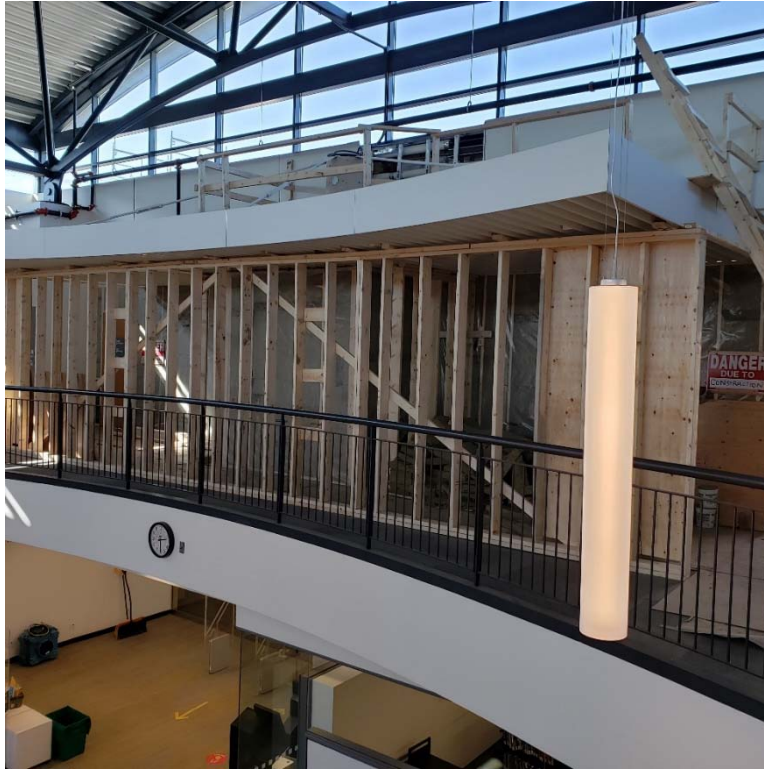
young reader's room is designed for children. Further, this also includes operational requirements of the Library including deliveries of all sorts, functioning HVAC, and the like.

The Library has informed the Town that any disruptions occurring up to and including required closure of the facility, for incidental and safety reasons would require preplanning with the Library. As well the Library continues to advocate for a south entrance to the building. This would benefit Library Square going forward as well during the construction phase.

The plan is now in place to create a temporary accessible entrance at the south end along with a south end egress. These will avoid construction activities in the north end and provide a welcoming environment for staff and customers to enter and exit in the south end. This will also include evening illumination and is expected to be complete before the end of the current Provincial Emergency and shutdown order issued on April 7, 2021.

### **Library operational considerations**

Implications from the construction project have closed the second floor public accessible washroom (as noted above). The former teen area at the north end of the second floor will not be accessible. The Optimist room will not be accessible as it is repurposed as a staff lunchroom, and one of the study rooms is not available as it has been repurposed as a material drop off location. Further, the Magna and Lebovic rooms along with the two new rooms are not available. According to the state of the pandemic, once we reopen to the public, the operations of the library pickup window service will move to the rotunda, thus making the area inaccessible to the public. Computer service will be limited to the first floor. The living room will act as primary study space.



**Pandemic**

The library has always made decisions based on provincial government regulations and further to that in the best interest of our customers, staff, and the community.

As we safely reopen, we will continue in this context and use the provincial government COVID framework as a guidepost. As well, we will continue to follow all provincial directives and continue with our existing cleaning and safety protocols, including new distancing requirements for the public.

Effective April 8, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., enhanced public health and workplace safety measures, consisting of a declaration of a state of emergency and province-wide stay-at-home order, are in place.

O. Reg. 265/21 is the Stay-at-Home Order. Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 265/21 notes that individuals should stay home unless leaving their residence is necessary. Schedule 1 outlines the specific purposes for which a person may leave their residence, including two that are relevant to libraries:

- "Working or volunteering where the nature of the work or volunteering requires the individual to leave their residence, including when the individual's employer has determined that the nature of the individual's work requires attendance at the workplace."
- "Purchasing or picking up goods through an alternative method of sale, such as curbside pickup, from a business or place that is permitted to provide the alternative method of sale."

Ontario Regulation 82/20, Schedule 3, specifies the rules for public libraries:

Places that Must Close Or that Are Subject to Conditions in Shutdown Zone

**Public libraries**

1. (1) Public libraries may only open if they comply with the following conditions:

1. Circulating materials must be reserved over the telephone or online.
2. Circulating materials may only be exchanged with members of the public through contactless drop-off, pick-up or delivery.
3. Patrons must only be permitted to enter the premises to facilitate contactless drop-off and pick-up or to access computers, photocopiers or similar services.
4. Patrons must not be permitted to be in the book stacks, or to handle circulating materials that are shelved, or in other areas of library storage.
5. Circulating materials returned to the library must be disinfected or quarantined for an appropriate period of time before they are recirculated.

6. The person responsible for the public library must comply with subsection (3), if applicable.

(2) The conditions set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of subsection (1) do not apply with respect to any space the library provides for,

(a) Revoked: O. Reg. 239/21, s. 3 (1).

(b) a provider of child care within the meaning of the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014;

(c) mental health support services or addictions support services, so long as no more than 10 people are permitted to occupy the space; or

(d) the provision of social services.

(3) The person responsible for a public library shall,

(a) record the name and contact information of every member of the public who attends the space described in subsection (2);

(b) maintain the records for a period of at least one month; and

(c) only disclose the records to a medical officer of health or an inspector under the Health Protection and Promotion Act on request for a purpose specified in section 2 of that Act or as otherwise required by law.

The colour-coded framework is on pause during the "emergency brake" shutdown, effective April 3, 2021. Once the shutdown order expires, the framework moves into one of the five zones.

Each zone contains guidance on General Public Health Measures, as well as sector specific guidance. Local public health units may implement additional requirements.

Public libraries in Prevent (Green), Protect (Yellow), Restrict (Orange), and Control (Red) public health unit zones are permitted to open to the public as per O. Reg 363/20 and O. Reg. 364/20, which reads:

***Public libraries may open if circulating materials that are returned or accessed within the library are disinfected or quarantined for an appropriate period of time before they are recirculated.***

Public libraries in Lockdown (Grey) public health unit zones are allowed to provide curbside service. The following guidance is provided for Libraries in regions in the Lockdown (grey) zone:

- Open for curbside, delivery and pick-up



- *Patrons permitted to enter libraries for contactless drop-off and pick-up, and to access computers, photocopiers, or similar services*
- *May open for permitted services (for example, child care services, AA meetings)*
- *No classes*

It is understood that the reopening plan may be dependant/and or influenced by the construction project at various times.

The following are guidelines for each of the color-coded zones. As we are permitted, we will refine these to reflect the library's current circumstances.

### ***Grey (Lockdown) zone***

Library customers will have access to the window pickup service.

### ***Red (Control) zone***

Library customers may be permitted to enter the facility, with a limit of 10 customers at a time. In-person services that may be offered would include computer access, printing, and individual study tables.

Library pickup window service will continue.

Collection browsing will not be available. Enclosed study rooms, Creative Studio, and the second floor will not be available.

### ***Orange (Restrict) zone***

Similar to the red zone, except 25 customers are allowed in the facility. We will consider holding small programs, reopening collection browsing, and opening the second floor, with all distancing requirements in place.

### ***Yellow (Protect) zone***

Similar to the orange zone, except that 50 customers are allowed in the facility. Library pickup window service would transition to the first floor One Desk with additional circulation services being added as it is safe to do so.

### ***Green (Prevent) zone***

Similar to the yellow zone, with the potential for more in-person programs, gradual reopening of Creative Studio, etc. with all recommended health measures in place.

## Hours of Operation

The Library has provided consistent public hours since the earliest days of being allowed to reopen in May 2020. Many libraries have closed on Mondays and/or have staggered their hours. Aurora Public Library did not take this approach and will continue to expand open hours beyond the current 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. In comparing York Region libraries, Aurora is second only to Vaughan Public Library in terms of open hours, and we are in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of open hours across the Province. In addition, data shows the decline in customers attending the library after 6 pm. Anecdotally, evening customers are often attending in person programming of which we currently have none. We believe we are providing excellent service to our community in a responsible manner while adhering to fiduciary responsibility and duty of care. As of this writing the Library has received no public inquiry as to additional open hours.

### *Orange (Restrict) Zone*

Hours may be expanded to include two evenings per week on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8pm including Library pickup window service.

### *Yellow (Protect) Zone*

Hours may be expanded to include three evenings per week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until 8pm, with service moving to the first floor One Desk.

### *Green (Prevent) Zone*

Hours will move towards regular hours as appropriate with 9 pm closure Monday-Thursday, 6 pm Friday, 5 pm Saturday, and Sunday re-opening in September.

## Background (March 2020)

This is an unprecedented time in our history. One that will define generations to come in untold ways. Libraries are woven into the fabric of our existence and in times of global and community distress, libraries always lead the community's recovery economically, socially, and otherwise. The community will need the library like never before as the new realities of life continue to unfold. We will be there as we always are.

On April 27, 2020, the government released a framework for reopening the province through a phased approach.

On April 30, 2020, the government further released safety guidelines to protect workers, customers, and the general public from COVID-19 as it prepares for a gradual reopening of the provincial economy. These resources are available for different sectors and will better assist the library in understanding how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as it reopens.

Sector guidelines contain recommendations and tips for employers on how to keep workers safe on the job. Posters for both employers and workers also offer advice on preventative actions, including physical distancing and workplace sanitation.

As new sectors of the economy begin to reopen, additional COVID-19 workplace safety resources will be added. The following are particularly relevant to public libraries:

Retail guidelines

Cashier guidelines

Curbside pickup guidelines

On May 4, 2020 the province allowed for the opening of a few additional businesses. Currently Libraries are in Stage Three of the reopening which is currently on a four month pause as of September 8, 2020.

There is no doubt we are in unsettling times and are further entering unknown territory as we plan for the future. However, this does not mean we are ill equipped to imagine the potential scenarios or graduated stages for our library to reopen.

ELT developed a plan that will consider these essential elements:

- Collections
- Staffing
- Space Planning
- Building Maintenance and Cleaning
- Community Engagement
- Marketing & Advocacy

There are several stages that form the core of the plan likely involving a progressive phasing out of restrictions or a possible return to restrictions if the virus begins to spread more actively as a second wave. The medical community suggests that the pandemic could continue in some form until a vaccination has been introduced. Experts are unsure if summer or winter conditions could result in a second wave. Times are uncertain.

This plan will not be done in isolation, but in consultation with a reopening team as well as the Town and community. It has been created using what evidence-based research we have including library policy and guidelines, and through the Town as landlord.



Prior to the plan and as the rescindment of the emergency order becomes clear we will focus on library materials. They are currently held by our vendors will all require cataloguing and receiving, invoicing, and processing. At this time technical services staffing will be addressed.

As well this document will evolve as new information presents.

### **Health and Safety Guidance**

- Any books that have been handled by patrons in the library are left in a dedicated quarantine area for a 72-hour period prior to recirculating. We are also deploying a book sanitizer
- If physical distance and separation cannot be maintained, workers are provided with personal protective equipment (PPE).
- We will provide access to alcohol-based hand sanitizer for customers on entry to library and at computer workstations.
- We will ask our customers to use a face covering (cloth or non-medical mask) to protect themselves those around them. We will provide our customers with masks as needed
- We have suspending all group activities and gatherings
- We have instituted measures to physically separate or impose physical distance of at least 2 metres between persons. We have altered the workplace layout of the floor by moving furniture (desks, chairs, couches, etc.), using visual cues such as stations and tape on the floor to enhance physical distancing.
- We have reconfigured computers for physically distance use, discouraging longer visits through a reservation system
- We will place signage in high traffic areas asking customers to stay home if they have symptoms (fever, cough or difficulty breathing) and encouraging good respiratory hygiene, hand hygiene, and other healthy practices at the entrance to the workplace. We will have hand sanitizer stations at locations throughout.
- We will provide training to workers on COVID-19, how it spreads, risk of exposure, including those who may be at higher risk (i.e. have underlying health conditions) and procedures to follow including reporting process, proper hand washing practices and other routine infection control precautions.
- We have a system for reporting probable and confirmed cases to the local Public Health unit. Communication about who will take responsibility, ensuring proper

documentation, and implementing any advice given by the Public Health unit is critical for containing the spread of COVID-19. E-mail sent to all staff.

- We have remote work for workers wherever and whenever possible.
- Lunch rooms and break rooms are arranged to follow physical distancing practices. Staggered lunch and break times to reduce the number of workers gathering.
- Blocking off aisles or have one way aisle markings.
- We will limit the number of customers in the library at one time by computer reservations.
- We have reduced hours of operation and limited customer time in the library.
- We have implemented curbside check-outs of material.
- We have implemented Plexiglas screening as a barrier at service counters.
- We have maintained touchless delivery such as during curb side pickup by designating a drop and pick up zone.
- We have limited the number of people at the workplace and where they are assigned to work
- We have provided easy access to soap and water (ways to properly clean hands) or alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- We will provide frequent cleaning and disinfecting of washroom facilities.
- We have posted signage on hygiene so everyone can understand how to do their part respecting hygiene practices.
- Through the town we will provide sanitizing of commonly touched surfaces or areas
- We will clean the computer workstations between each reservation

- We have limited hours of operations in accordance with the Health and Safety Guidance During COVID-19 for Library Employers ([www.pshsa.ca](http://www.pshsa.ca))

## **Current State**

### **Red (Control) Level**

On February 22, 2021, the Library returned to the Red (Control) level. Library behavior did not change at that time

## **Previous States**

On December 26, 2020, Ontario entered a provincial lockdown. This terminated our in library service. The Library retooled to introduce an in-window pickup service which resumed on January 20, 2021 at the south end of the building

On November 16, 2020 we entered the newly developed Red (Control) level. At that time ELT reviewed policies and procedures to ensure compliance. We further implemented the requirement for staff to wear masks in all locations of the Library at all times.

The COVID-19 Operating and Safety Team meets at milestone events of the pandemic including during times when we are considering our existing services and changes to those levels. Moving in the Control level triggered such a meeting. We also have town hall meeting for all staff as appropriate.

All staff report potential exposures of COVID-19 to their manager or building supervisor. From there all incidents are directed to the HR Coordinator who investigates following the guidance of York Region Health and appropriate action is taken.

## **Former Stage Two and Three**

Libraries were permitted to resume limited on-site services in Stage 2. We launched our curbside pick and were one of the first in the province to do so. We have one of the best in the province. It is streamlined for staff safety and efficiency while flexible and safe for our customers with service six days a week. The final numbers indicated almost 23 pickups per open hour.

Our online presence is also second to none and continued. We have not seen the breadth and depth of online services and programming that we have anywhere. It is polished, professional

with high quality content, our online attendance continues to grow along with the offerings and number of programs.

In addition to the services resumed in Stage 2, in Stage 3 libraries could reopen for all on-site services, as long as materials that are circulated, returned or accessed within the library were disinfected or quarantined before being recirculated. Stage three was put on pause for one month in September and on September 25 the provincial government required scanning of all employees on entry each day. The Library implemented a procedure where a sign-up sheet asking a series of questions before staff can begin their shift must be completed each day. On Sept 28 the Province entered the second wave.

We also began offering controlled access to computers allowing both reservation and walk-up

At that time, we implemented procedures for screening of all customers entering the building via the greater.

On Oct 27, due to the Library Square construction project we transformed our Curbside service to in-library pickup following all existing safety procedures already in place for COVID-19.

### **Former Stage One**

In this stage, the library could open, possibly with explicit/implicit rules for interaction and use of the library, but more likely it will be for staff only. During this stage curbside pickup would be enabled. Public communication strategies will begin, virtual programming and related services will continue. We will focus on physical distancing preparation along with staff and public safety measures and review staffing plan.

### **Criteria/Action/Responsibility**

1. Establish APL reopening team

*Action: Create cross sectional team*

*Responsibility: Bruce Gorman*

*Current state: First meeting on May 15. Chris and Tim assisted with Plexiglas parameters. Waiting for delivery and installation. Second meeting June 11 to discuss opening scenarios*

*Complete*

2. Impact of Library Square project

*Action: Work with Town-RFP expected to be released in May/June 2020*

*Responsibility: Bruce Gorman*

*Current State: Ground breaking could be in September*

*Complete*

3. Provincial emergency order lifted along with the stay at home recommendations from health authorities with restrictions

*Action: Per provincial government. Emergency order extended to June 30. Curbside now allowed.*

*Complete*

4. Integrated with government phased reopening plan

*Action: Per provincial government. Library opening is part of Phase Two*

*Contact Tracing – Develop recording system*

*Complete*

5. Workplace Safety

*Action: Follow government issued guideline*

*Responsibility: ELT*

*Current State: Government documents integrated with library guidelines. Guidelines issues to ELT*

*Complete*

6. Building management

*Action: Work with Town to ensure building is prepared for staff and to open to public.*

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca/ Doug Bertrand*

*Current State: Julie Rocca and Bruce Gorman did a building walk through with Doug Bertrand on May 8. Staff now in building. Daily janitorial service occurring. Town staff will return as we open*

*Complete*

7. Building cleaning protocols

*Action: Develop cleaning procedures and frequency. Dedicated town staff when we open*

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca*

*Current State: Working with existing cleaning company and town staff*

*Complete*

8. Parking lot management (physical distancing for curb side pickup procedure)

*Action: Work with Town to ensure parking lot adheres to physical distancing, gathering limits and curb side pickup requirements*

*Responsibility: Doug Bertrand/ Ashley Nunn Smith*

*Current State: Signage for curbside complete. Upper level designated for wifi users*

*Complete*

9. Curb side pick up procedures (Permitted by government as of May 19, 2020)

*Action: Develop staffing and other related procedures. Use Unique Management texting services for public communication.*

*Responsibility: Ashley Nunn Smith*

*Current State: Guidelines complete. Service started*

*Complete*

10. Library owned and operated equipment cleaning protocols (workstations, self checkout, AMH, induction, etc.)

*Action: Develop procedure for cleaning high touch surfaces frequently including staffing requirement.*

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca / Ashley Nunn Smith/Jodi Marr*

*Current State: Supplies ordered. Develop cleaning protocols for cleaning PC area after each use*

*Complete*

11. Staff work environment (physical distance space, staggered scheduling)

*Action: Develop schedule to provide for staff physical distancing. Review physical staff work environment. Provide staff health and safety training.*

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca/ Ashley Nunn Smith/Jodi Marr*

*Current State: Alternate space in multi purpose room if necessary/ schedule in progress*

*Complete*

12. Physical distancing and wayfinding public requirements in place.

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca*

*Current State: Signs, caution tape and Stanchion crowd control retractable posts ordered.*

*Complete*

13. Library access to the necessary PPE equipment for staff

*Action: Acquire staff PPE and determine if mandatory*

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca*

*Current State: Purchased variety of sanitizer, gloves, masks face shields, and aprons.*

*Complete*

14. Physical barriers are in place at points of staff engagement (plexi-glass shield)

*Action: Install Plexiglas shields, at both customer service desks and computer stations*

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca/ Doug Bertrand*

*Current State: Install on second floor July 15*

*Complete*



15. Library collection preparedness (72-hour quarantine, material sanitization)

*Action: Effect 72-hour material quarantine and AMH protocols. Integrate book / multifunction UV sanitizer*

*Responsibility: Ashley Nunn Smith*

*Current State: 72 hour quarantine in place. Multiuse sanitizer received*

*Complete*

16. Manage Library materials and shelf fullness

*Action: Work towards 70% shelf fullness. Utilize extra carts until collection normalizes with circulation*

*Responsibility: Ashley Nunn Smith*

*Complete*

17. Library staffing levels appropriate for service delivery

*Action: Develop staffing plan*

*Responsibility: ELT*

*Current State: Planning for phase two opening*

*Complete*

18. Library staff schedules are adjusted as necessary

*Action: Review CUPE agreement*

*Responsibility: Maida Rae*

*Current State: Request change in schedule as needed. Provide two weeks notice if possible*

*Complete*

19. Communication and marketing plan

*Action: Communicate to the community throughout about our state of openness (email from CEO, special e-newsletter)*

*Responsibility: Reccia Mandelcorn*

*Current State: Planning for reopening. Summer reading*

*Complete*

20. Partnership and community reconnection

*Action: Contact partners to discuss ways to return to meaningful engagement*

*Action : Reccia Mandelcorn /Jodi Marr*

*Complete*

21. Technology preparedness

*Action: Systems ready (Sirsi-dynix, etc.)*

*Responsibility: Mario Baleno*

*Complete*

22. Technical services readiness (ILL, mail, ordering, processing)

*Action: TS services resumed*

*Responsibility: Ashley Nunn Smith*

*Current State: Now receiving materials*

*Complete*

23. Remove and rearrange public furniture for physical distancing.

*Action: Remove old furniture and rearrange existing furniture*

*Responsibility: Julie Rocca*

*Current State: Old furniture removed, rearranged 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and rearranging 1<sup>st</sup> floor furniture with Town staff assistance on June 25*

*Complete*

24. Reduced hours

*Action: Determine operating hours 11am to 6pm Monday to Saturday*

*Responsibility: ELT*

*Current state: 12-6 Mon-Sat*

*Complete*



## Aurora Public Library Board

### REPORT SR2021:08

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**SUBJECT:** *Intellectual Freedom Report*

**FROM:** Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** April 21, 2021

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Intellectual Freedom Report dated April 21, 2021 be received as information.

### **PURPOSE**

To affirm the fundamental role intellectual freedom has in the health and development of a democratic society, and to outline the role the public library plays in providing and supporting access to the widest variety of material.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries reads:

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

With reference to Aurora Public Library Board Intellectual Freedom Report SR2019.04 dated February 20, 2019 and Aurora Public Library's Collection Development Policy, the role and responsibility of the collection is to uphold said values. To that end, selection is made based on a broad collection scope, selection guidelines and selection criteria, including recording and interpreting the past.

On March 2, 2021 Seuss Enterprises announced they had ceased all publication and licensing of six titles due to the inclusion of racial stereotypes: *And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, *If I Ran the Zoo*, *McElligot's Pool*, *On Beyond Zebra*, *Scrambled Eggs Super!*, and *The Cat's Quizzer*. On March 22, Scholastic and author Dav Pilkey also announced they would pull one title, *The Adventures of Ook and Gluk: Kung-Fu Cavemen from the Future*, from print for anti-Chinese racial stereotypes. The Aurora Public Library holds the first four of the six Seuss titles, and one copy of the Pilkey title in our collection.

## **DISCUSSION**

Our collections are broad in scope and variety in order to fulfill the Library's Vision, Mission and Value statements. Furthermore, the Library does not advocate particular beliefs or points of view. The presence of any item in the collection does not indicate endorsement of its content.

The Library supports and defends the intellectual freedom of the individual, including the right of parents and legal guardians to guide, develop, interpret and maintain their own code of values in their family.

Since the announcement by Seuss Enterprises on March 2 and Scholastic on March 22, demand at APL for the titles in question has rose 50% over pre-announcement levels. These titles have always been popular; they are by two of the largest names in children's literature. However, we now have demonstrable evidence that our community wants to learn, wants to discover for themselves what is at the heart of this important issue.

Intellectual freedom is paramount to a democratic society precisely because it is through learning about an issue that citizens can then base an informed opinion. The Library, in keeping, did not remove these titles from the collection. They are part of collective history and will follow the Collection Development Policy as to their exit. The Library has put a bookplate in the titles in question to provide information to readers. It has the foundation of education and information essential to public libraries. It informs readers of the publishers' decision and refers anyone interested in learning more to our catalog or staff for more information.

Going forward, the Library will follow this informational practice if publishers cease to publish other titles in conformance with the APL Collection Development Policy.

## **CONCLUSION**

The APL Collection Development Policy states that selection of material will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval by any sector of the community, including majority public opinion. It is paramount that these values are upheld, as censorship is insidious and devastating to a democratic society.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. *Aurora Public Library Intellectual Freedom Policy*, dated February 20, 2019
2. *Aurora Public Library Collection Development Policy*, dated November 15, 2017.

*Assisted by: Ashley Nunn-Smith, Manager Content, Access & Innovation*

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*Bruce Gorman  
Chief Executive Officer*



## Aurora Public Library Board

### REPORT SR2019.04

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**SUBJECT:** INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM REPORT

**FROM:** Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** February 20, 2019

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#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the report on *Intellectual Freedom dated February 20, 2019* be received; and

That the Board affirm its endorsement of the *CLA Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom*; the *OLA Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual*; and the *OLA Statements on Children's Rights and Teen's Rights in the Public Library*.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

##### **Intellectual Freedom and Equity of Access**

Libraries have historically played a role in strengthening intellectual discourse, civil discussion and participation through unequivocal support of intellectual freedom and equity of access. Aurora Public Library is committed to the key principles of intellectual freedom and equity of access.

Aurora Public Library believes in the freedom of the individual and recognizes the role of libraries in a democratic society to provide access to a diverse range of opinions. Our services must be accessible to all regardless of age, economic means or physical ability and be capable of supporting the levels of service required by the community.

APL endorses the OLA and CLA Statements on intellectual freedom. APL upholds intellectual freedom as a core value in strategic planning. Intellectual freedom and equity of access are guiding principles for the development of APL collections and the planning and delivery of services and programs to our community.

##### **Censorship**

Public libraries contribute to education, literacy and lifelong learning in their communities. Public Library Boards have a responsibility to understand the principles of intellectual freedom and equity of access and support the individual's right to decide what they choose to read.

##### **Children's and Teen's Rights**

The original purpose of the OLA Statements on Children's and Teen's Rights in the Public Library was to ensure that children and teens were not marginalized or

limited in their access to public library services. Aurora Public Library places a high value on children and teens and will continue to dedicate varied resources to serve their needs.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Each term of the Aurora Public Library Board includes a review of the following topics: intellectual freedom; censorship; and children's rights in the public library. Over the course of the previous Board term, teen's rights in the public library have also been developed and endorsed. The OLA and CLA Statements state clearly and simply the public libraries' responsibilities and commitment to upholding these principles. Staff recommend that the Library Board affirm its endorsement of the CLA Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom, OLA Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual; and the OLA Statements on Children's and Teen's Rights in the Public Library.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. CLA Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom
2. OLA Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual
3. OLA Statement on Children's Rights in the Public Library
4. OLA Statement on Teen's Rights in the Public Library

***Assisted by: Maida Rae, Human Resources Coordinator/Executive Assistant***

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*Bruce Gorman*  
*Chief Executive Officer*



# Canadian Library Association

## Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom

*Approved by Executive Council ~ June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983; and November 18, 1985*

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the law, is essential to the health and development of Canadian society.

Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.

Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.

*Endorsed by the Aurora Public Library Board June 8, 1999. Affirmed October 17, 2007; March 24, 2010, May 20, 2015*

**ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT ON**  
**THE INTELLECTUAL RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

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In affirming its commitment to the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and freedom of the press, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following propositions:

- 1) That the provision of library service to the public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality.
- 2) That intellectual freedom requires freedom to examine other ideas and other interpretations of life than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general, and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional or unpopular.
- 3) That freedom of expression includes freedom for a creator to depict what is ugly, shocking and unedifying in life.
- 4) That free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen and view is fundamental to such free traffic.
- 5) That it is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and to implement it consistently in the selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, and other materials, and in the provision of access to electronic sources of information, including access to the internet.
- 6) That it is therefore part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate or curtail access to information, the freedom to read, view and listen by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.
- 7) That it is equally part of the library's responsibility to its public to ensure that its selection of material is not unduly influenced by the personal opinions of the selectors, but determined by the application of generally accepted standards of accuracy, style and presentation.



## Aurora Public Library

# COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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### 1. PURPOSE

Strong library collections are fundamental to excellent library service. Aurora Public Library is committed to developing diverse, robust collections which anticipate and meet customer needs and reflect the Library's Vision to ***transform lives by supporting literacy and cultivating creativity, conversation and joy.***

The purpose of the Aurora Public Library Collection Development Policy is to inform the public as to the principles upon which decisions about the collection are made; to define responsibility for selection and to identify the delegation of that responsibility; and to guide staff in the development of collections that are of current interest and/or lasting value to existing or potential Library users.

### 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

Overall responsibility and authority for the Collection Development Policy rests with the Library Board, while implementation is vested in the Chief Executive Officer who delegates the responsibility to qualified, knowledgeable staff.

Use of the Library's resources is the sole responsibility of the individual user. Parents and legal guardians are solely responsible for use of the Library by children and young adults, including use of the collections and the Internet. The Library believes in the right and obligation of parents or legal guardians to guide, develop, interpret and maintain their own code of values in their family.

### 3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF SELECTION

#### .1 Intellectual Freedom

Aurora Public Library supports the freedom of the individual and recognizes its role in a democratic society to provide access to a wide range of opinions, including those which may be regarded as unpopular or unorthodox. Selection of material will not be made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval by any sector of the community, including majority public opinion.

Collection development is grounded in principles set out in the Aurora Public Library Vision, Mission and Values; the *Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries* of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (see Appendix A); and the Ontario Library Association *Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual* (see Appendix B).

The Library recognizes that some materials may be considered controversial and that a given item may be offensive, in whole or in part, to some members of the community. Their right to reject such materials for their personal use is respected. However, that right does not extend to restricting the freedom of others to make use of that same material.

The Library does not advocate particular beliefs or points of view. The presence of any item in the collection does not indicate endorsement of its content.

## **.2 Collection Scope**

APL collections are broad in scope and variety in order to fulfill the Library's Vision, Mission and Value statements. The Library materials budget is allocated in order to balance community needs and demands with maximum use of space, staff and fiscal resources. To accomplish this, the Library regularly assesses its collection scope and usage in order to provide the widest possible access to recorded knowledge, thought and creativity in a variety of evolving physical and electronic formats.

## **.3 Selection Guidelines**

Selection of library materials is assisted by use of authoritative reviews, consultation with the publishing industry, and recommendations from library users. All material selection is undertaken within the bounds of available funds. Collection development is also based on staff knowledge and expertise with respect to the strength of existing collections, needs and demand of the community, and knowledge of past, present and future trends in materials appropriate for public library use.

Aurora Public Library collections, in support of its Values, will:

- Provide access to diverse expressions of knowledge and creativity
- Foster literacy and nurture lifelong learning
- Record and interpret the past, including local history and genealogy
- Convey a balanced view of current conditions and events
- Support an individual's understanding of, and ability to function in, society
- Entertain and enhance an individual's enjoyment of life
- Include works by significant Canadian and local content creators
- Support accessible and equitable service by collecting a variety of languages and formats reflecting the diverse needs of the community

## **.4 Selection Criteria**

The Library must balance the demand for availability of popular and recreational material with the responsibility for appropriately broad collections to meet the many and varied information needs of our community. Using the above guidelines, all materials, whether purchased or donated, are considered in terms of the following criteria:

- Anticipated and expressed community demand and interest
- Artistic excellence and literary merit
- Accuracy, relevancy and currency

- Reputation and/or significance of author/artist/creator
- Comments by independent reviewers, publishers, critics
- Relationship to existing collection and other resources on the subject
- Evaluation of subject, style and reading level for the intended audience
- Suitability of physical form for library use
- Budget and space considerations

## **.5 Exclusions from Selection**

The Library does not keep or acquire material that violates the Criminal Code definitions of obscene or seditious material or of hate propaganda.

No material will be excluded from selection solely because of the age, disability, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or political or religious views of the author.

No material will be excluded from selection solely because it might come into the possession of a child.

## **4. GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

Gifts and donations of new and used materials are accepted with the understanding they will be used or disposed of as the Library deems appropriate. The same criteria and guidelines for purchased material are used to evaluate donations. The cost of processing and availability of shelf space are also factors in determining the usefulness of gifts.

The Library does not accept the donation of items or collections that are owned or controlled by external groups or individuals. Once received, materials become the exclusive property of the Library.

The Library does not provide evaluation of gifts for tax receipts or other purposes.

## **5. COLLECTION MAINTENANCE**

A maintenance program is essential to ensuring the vitality, size, and scope of the overall library collection. Materials are regularly assessed as to their condition, accuracy, currency, and relevancy. Materials are de-selected or withdrawn when they are found to be outdated, worn, redundant, or outside the desired scope of the given area of the collection. The de-selection of materials is a formal process which complements the initial selection process and similarly is undertaken by knowledgeable, trained staff.

Discarded and donated material not added to the collection may be sold to the public in book sales, donated to another institution or organization, or, if unsuitable for sale or donation, may be recycled at the sole discretion of the Library. Proceeds from the sale of these materials will remain with the Library.

## 6. RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

The content or manner of expressing ideas in material that is purposely selected to fill the needs of some library users may, on occasion, be considered to be offensive by other library users. The Library recognizes the right of any individual or group to reject library material for personal use, but does not accord to any individual or group the right to restrict the freedom of others to make use of that same material.

Requests for reconsideration of materials may be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer using the Request for Reconsideration of Library Materials form in Appendix C. All such requests will be reviewed in light of the Collection Development Policy and a written response will be provided to the user.

## 7. ATTACHMENTS

**Appendix A:** Canadian Federation of Library Associations *Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*

**Appendix B:** Ontario Library Association *Statement on Intellectual Rights of the Individual*

**Appendix C:** Request for Consideration of Library Materials

### Related APL Policies

1. Internet Access Service Policy

Approval Date:	November 15, 2017	Motion #: 17.09.77
Effective Date:	November 15, 2017	
Date of Last Revision:	May 21, 2014	



## **Appendix A**

### **Canadian Federation of Library Associations**

#### **Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries**

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The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

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*Approval History: ~ June 27, 1974;  
Amended November 17, 1983; November 18,  
1985; and September 27, 2015*

*Endorsed by the Aurora Public Library Board  
June 8, 1999;  
Affirmed October 17, 2007; March 24, 2010;  
May 21, 2014; and November 15, 2017*

## Appendix B

### Ontario Library Association

#### Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual

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In affirming its commitment to the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and freedom of the press, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following propositions:

1. That the provision of library service to the public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality.
2. That intellectual freedom requires freedom to examine other ideas and other interpretations of life than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general, and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional or unpopular.
3. That freedom of expression includes freedom for a creator to depict what is ugly, shocking and unedifying in life.
4. That free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen and view is fundamental to such free traffic.
5. That it is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and to implement it consistently in the selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, other materials, and in the provision of access to electronic sources of information, including access to the internet.
6. That it is therefore part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate or curtail access to information, the freedom to read, view and listen by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.
7. That it is equally part of the library's responsibility to its public to ensure that its selection of material is not unduly influenced by the personal opinions of the selectors, but determined by the application of generally accepted standards of accuracy, style and presentation.

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*Approved by OLA Board of Directors  
December 2003;  
Reaffirmed December 2005*

*Endorsed by the Aurora Public Library Board  
June 8, 1999;  
Affirmed October 17, 2007; March 24, 2010;  
May 21, 2014; and May 20, 2015*



**Appendix C**  
**Aurora Public Library**  
**Collection Development Policy**

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**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS**

**Please complete and return to staff**

Request initiated by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Item or material being questioned: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you read/viewed/listened to the entire content of the above item? Yes / No

If no, what portion of the item did you read/view/listen to? \_\_\_\_\_

To what in the material do you object? Please be specific: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to be informed of our decision? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Personal information is collected under the authority of the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chap. P44, Section 23, Subsection 4. This information will be used in the management of Library Services.*

*Questions about this collection should be directed to the Chief Executive Officer, Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge Street, Aurora Ontario, L4G 1M1 Tel: 905-727-9494*

*DLR: October 26, 2017*



**Aurora Public Library Board**

**REPORT  
SR2021.09**

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**SUBJECT: Aurora Public Library Board Committees Terms of Reference Report**

**FROM:** Bruce Gorman, C.E.O.

**DATE:** April 21, 2021

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board approve the Terms of Reference documents for the Aurora Public Library Executive Committee, Finance Advisory Committee and CEO Performance Review Committee

**BACKGROUND**

In May 2020, the Library Board requested staff prepare a Terms of Reference document applicable to each of the current Aurora Public Library Board committees, namely the Executive Committee, Finance Advisory Committee and Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee.

The Terms of Reference documents are to be reviewed annually (in April) to ensure they remain relevant and current.

**CONCLUSION**

Staff recommend adopting the proposed Terms of Reference for the Aurora Public Library Board core committees: Executive Committee, Finance Advisory Committee and Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee.

***Assisted by: Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA***

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*Bruce Gorman  
Chief Executive Officer*



## **Aurora Public Library Board**

### **Executive Committee Terms of Reference**

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#### **1. Accountability**

- 1.1 The Executive Committee is accountable to the Board of Directors of the Aurora Public Library.

#### **2. Composition**

- 2.1 The Executive Committee will be comprised of three (3) members of the Aurora Library Board, to include the Chair, Vice-Chair and a 3<sup>rd</sup> member at the Board's discretion.
- 2.2 The CEO and Secretary will be a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.
- 2.3 The Chair of the Committee will be the Chair of the Board.

#### **3. Purpose**

- 3.1 The purpose of the Executive Committee is to ensure the effective governance of the Library by providing effective and timely guidance to the Chair and the CEO on emerging, time sensitive, and significant issues arising between meetings of the Board of Directors.

#### **4. Authority**

- 4.1 At regularly scheduled Board meetings, Executive Committee motions will be recommended for Board approval.
- 4.2 The Board will be informed, as expediently as possible, of any decisions and actions taken by the Executive Committee on matters requiring the Board's attention.



## **5. Meetings**

- 5.1 The Executive Committee will meet as needed between meetings of the full Board.
- 5.2 The Chair (or designate) will provide a report to the full Board on the work of the Committee at regular meetings of the Board as required.
- 5.3 Quorum requires two thirds of voting members of the Committee.

***Date of Last Revision: June 24, 2019***

## **Aurora Public Library Board**

### **Terms of Reference - Finance Committee**

#### **Mandate**

The Finance Committee (the Committee) provides financial oversight to ensure the long-term economic health and sustainability of Aurora Public Library.

The mandate of the Committee is to provide advice, input and recommendations to the Aurora Public Library Board with respect to the annual Operating Budget and the Capital Budget.

Recommendations made by the Committee are not binding until approved by the Library Board.

#### **Mission**

To fulfill the mandate the Committee will:

- Participate with the Management Team in developing and reviewing draft budgets prior to their presentation to the Library Board;
- At the direction of the Board, provide input, advice and recommendations on ad-hoc financial matters as they arise.

#### **Membership**

- Membership is drawn from citizen or community representatives on the Library Board
- Voting membership will include a maximum of three people elected by the Library Board as well as the Library Board Chair who will be an ex officio member of the Committee
- Committee membership will be reviewed by the Library Board on an annual basis.
  - Elections will be held annually at the April Library Board meeting
- The Library CEO (or designate) and the Business Manager will be non-voting members of the Committee

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Identify a Committee Chair and other positions as the Committee may deem necessary
- Conduct meetings as needed, at the call of the Chair
- Review meeting materials in advance of the meetings and arrive prepared to provide input on the issues under consideration

- Keep notes of all meetings
- Provide timely reporting on Committee recommendations and rationale to the Board as needed
- Review the Terms of Reference annually at the March meeting.

#### **Quorum**

- Three members will constitute a quorum.

#### **Meetings**

- A minimum of two meetings a year will be scheduled at the call of the Chair or CEO.

#### **Record Keeping and Reporting**

- The Business Manager will act as Recording Secretary and shall record minutes of the proceedings and decisions taken at all meetings of the Committee, including recording the names of those in attendance.
- All documents (agendas, draft minutes, etc.) will be circulated a minimum of three (3) business days prior to the meeting within the constraints of established privacy and confidentiality policies.
- The Committee Chair or designate will report to the Board when Board approval is required and/or to present progress reports as appropriate.

#### **Staff Support**

The Library CEO (or designate) will support the work of the Committee in the following ways:

- Support the organization of meetings, prepare and distribute agendas, meeting notes, and arrange meeting space
- Provide draft budget materials and related background to the Committee for discussion
- Provide background material or research as needed on financial matters under consideration
- Provide input, advice and recommendations to the Committee on all financial matters under consideration

Date of Last Revision: April 14, 2021

Approved by the Aurora Public Library Board:

Motion #: 20.08.76

Date: October 21, 2020

## **Aurora Public Library Board**

### **Terms of Reference – CEO Performance Review Committee**

#### **Mandate**

The CEO Performance Review Committee (the Committee) conducts an annual performance appraisal of the CEO.

The mandate of the Committee is to provide advice, input and recommendations to the Aurora Public Library Board with respect to the job performance of the CEO and any applicable step increases, goal setting, and professional development for this position.

#### **Mission**

To fulfill the mandate the Committee will:

- Participate in developing and conducting an annual performance review for the CEO, presenting their recommendations for applicable step increases, professional development and future goal setting to the Library Board, and meeting with the CEO to discuss their performance during the review period
- Update the performance appraisal process as needed to ensure it is a meaningful process for both the Board and CEO. The Human Resources Coordinator may be called upon to assist in the process at the discretion of the Committee.

#### **Membership**

- Membership is drawn from citizen or community representatives on the Library Board
- Voting membership will include a maximum of three people elected by the Library Board as well as the Library Board Chair who will be an ex officio member of the Committee
- Committee membership will be reviewed by the Library Board on an annual basis.
  - Elections will be held annually at the April Library Board meeting
- The Human Resources Coordinator will be assigned as a staff resource to the Committee as required.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- Identify a Committee Chair and other positions as the Committee may deem necessary
- Conduct meetings as needed, at the call of the Chair.
- Review meeting materials in advance of the meetings and arrive prepared to provide input on the issues under consideration
- Provide a written performance appraisal document annually for personnel records

- Provide timely reporting on the performance appraisal process in conjunction with the CEO's anniversary date, including a meeting with the CEO, Committee Chair and Board Chair to discuss the performance review details once approved by the Library Board
- The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually at the March meeting.

### **Quorum**

- Three members will constitute a quorum.

### **Meetings**

- A minimum of one meeting per year will be scheduled at the call of the Chair. It is understood that updating the performance review document may be done via email rather than in person meetings.

### **Record Keeping and Reporting**

- The Human Resources Coordinator will maintain records of the current performance appraisal document and may prompt the Committee regarding the CEO anniversary date. If requested, the HR Coordinator will keep a record of the committee meetings, decisions and proceedings, including recording the names of those in attendance.
- All documents (performance review drafts etc.) will be circulated a minimum of three (3) business days prior to the meeting within the constraints of established privacy and confidentiality policies.
- The Committee Chair or designate will report to the Board when Board approval is required and/or to present progress reports as appropriate.

### **Staff Support**

The Human Resources Coordinator will support the work of the Committee in the following ways:

- Support the organization of meetings, prepare and distribute agendas, meeting notes, and arrange meeting space
- Provide draft materials and related background to the Committee for discussion.
- Provide background material or research as needed on matters under consideration

Approved by the Aurora Public Library Board:

Motion #: 20.08.76

Date: October 21, 2020



# Aurora Black Community spurs year-round conversation

**BY BROCK WEIR**  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

As we come to the end of Black History Month, this is only the beginning of a larger, longer community conversation. That is the mission of Aurora Black Community, a Facebook group co-founded by resident Phiona Durrant last year to spur dialogue throughout Aurora and beyond.

In the intervening months, the Aurora Black Community (ABC) group has grown from a simple forum for community members to share ideas into a community-building organization, one that has stepped up to work with various community partners, including the Town, to make Black History Month one to remember.

Over the course of February, the team has rolled out new programming that has hit a sweet spot for so many, including virtual cooking demonstrations, film viewings and discussions co-facilitated by the Aurora Film Circuit, history and heritage discussions with the Aurora Museum & Archives, Aurora Public Library and the Aurora Cultural Centre, and a series of speakers on the Black experience.

But, according to Ms. Durrant, February has been just the tip of the iceberg.

“It is about the engagement of the people, it has always been about that,” says Ms. Durrant. “It is one thing to do something, but it is another thing if people are engaging, enjoying and participating. It has been moving fast and it has been really, really amazing. Between Rebekah Murdoch, Ron Kellman and I, we have managed to just keep having a conversation making it relaxing and inviting.”

Perhaps the ABC came along at just the right time.

As a community resource, they quickly set to work not only with their own Black History Month programming, but

collaborating with the Town to create something wide-reaching. Playing pivotal roles in this, she says, have been Shawna White, Curator of the Aurora Museum & Archives, Nelia Pacheco of the Aurora Film Circuit, and Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager of Community Collaboration for the Aurora Public Library.

“Shawna is an amazing voice, and just wanting to be part of that conversation and wanting to help us get it along has been tremendous,” says Ms. Durrant. “When I thought about Black history and the role of ABC, which is bridging culture, education, food, art and music – how could I even start without inviting the Library, which is the heart of our knowledge. That was foundational. I love the collaboration because we don’t have to reinvent everything because they are here. It is collaborating and that is a beautiful piece.”

When you’re creating something new, constructive feedback is always important and the ABC group has received plenty of that, providing opportunities to build further collaboration along the way.

“When you create a group, you don’t really know what you’re going to get, what you’re going to be exposed to, and it can be different than what you thought,” says Ms. Durrant. “What I have learned through this and what made it worthwhile for me was the energy from the people, the positivity, the love. I never had any negative experience and even if it did come you embrace it because that is how we learn. It is the energy, support and the interaction that I see there. I don’t feel alone. It is one thing to be there and posting, but everyone is chipping in and doing a part.”

The ABC organization is now in the process of applying for not-for-profit status and as they look to the future, they are keeping their eyes squarely on the opportunities this month has helped facilitate. While the group is called Aurora Black Community, Ms. Durrant says that their goal is not just to be a place for the Black community but a place for

advocacy and bridging cultural gaps – and she doesn’t rule out a name change to reflect this goal.

“The key part of what I say to anybody who is reaching out is, ‘I don’t want to just talk about February. I want to talk forever.’ If this is a forever conversation then I would love to be at the table. Speaking to a school recently, it is the same thing: the teachers are looking for ongoing conversations, so what we have done, and the Town is amazing in collaboration on this, we have that Town webpage for Black History... and it will remain because it is an ongoing conversation for content and we are

continually putting things together. The next plan is to have a survey to the group: what are you looking for? What can you bring to the community? Based on their interaction and what they are looking for, we can have a group who can brainstorm and facilitate that conversation to see how we can implement what people are asking for.”

*For more on the ABC Group, including revisiting past Black History Month programs, access Aurora Black Community on Facebook. For more on upcoming events through the end of the month, visit [aurora.ca/blackhistorymonth](http://aurora.ca/blackhistorymonth).*

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### New Hours Starting March 2nd

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**Our new butcher box program provides our guests with top-quality, organic meat at an affordable price. Take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy 100% organic certified meat at a volume discount price. Our butcher box rates ensure that there is something for everyone. We offer multiple, different, sized boxes, as well as a wide selection of various cuts of meat. Taste the difference in quality, juicy, and organic meat at Frank's Organic Garden.**

**Hours of Operation: Tuesday to Saturday: 8:30am-8:00pm Sunday: 8:30am-5:00pm**  
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# THE AU 20 YEARS RAN

Aurora's Community Newspaper

Vol. 21 No. 19 905-727-3300 **FREE** [TheAuroran.com](http://TheAuroran.com) Week of February 25, 2021 



Mayor Tom Mrakas is pictured in Aurora's downtown core on Friday afternoon. In a speech to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce last week, the Mayor said it is time to take concrete action on downtown revitalization.  
**Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

## Time to move beyond "aspirational" goals for downtown revitalization: Mayor

**BY BROCK WEIR**  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It is time to move beyond aspirational goals to concrete action when it comes to revitalizing Aurora's downtown core, according to Mayor Tom Mrakas.

This was one of the key messages delivered virtually to the business community in an online "State of the Town" address hosted by the

Aurora Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday morning.

The Mayor's Town Hall, which was streamed over YouTube and Facebook, took the place of the annual Aurora Chamber Mayor's Luncheon which, of course, was unable to take place in its traditional format due to restrictions surrounding COVID-19.

"2020 has been like no other," said Mayor Mrakas. "Aurora, like every town and city across the world, has been impacted by the

COVID-19 pandemic. That impact has been profound and, in some respects, devastating. For the business community, the ways of doing business have forever changed; hours have changed, physical environments changed, delivery channels changed, consumers and their habits changed.

"Some businesses have been able to adapt, others have been less fortunate and some have closed. The enormity and toll of the pandemic has and

**Continued on page 8**

### Getting back into Red leaves some questions: Chamber

**BY BROCK WEIR**  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Friday, the Provincial Government followed recommendations from Dr. Karim Kurji, York Region's Chief Medical Officer of Health, bringing York Region out of lockdown and back into the Red (Control) Zone of Ontario's COVID-19 framework.

Effective this past Monday, February 22, York Region entered the Red Zone

**Continued on page 10**



**CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION** – Black History Month is coming to a close, but organizers of local virtual events hope the dialogue continues throughout the whole year. (Clockwise from Top Left) Phiona Durrant, co-founder of the Aurora Black Community group on Facebook chats history with Shawna White of the Aurora Museum and Archives and Reccia Mandelcorn of the Aurora Public Library. For more, see Page 15.  
**Contributed photo**

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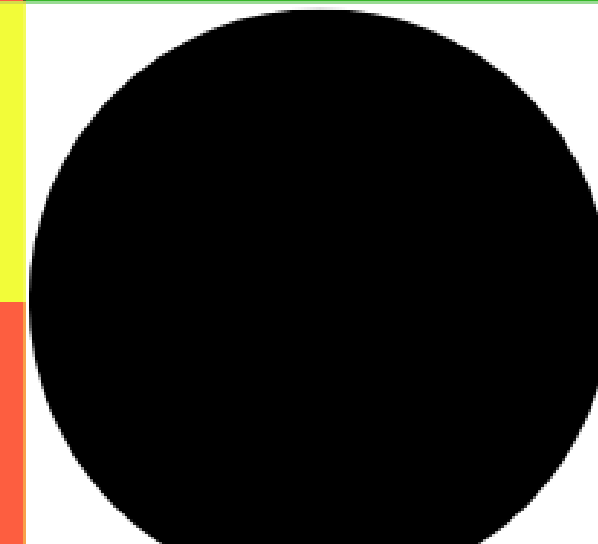




# AURORA BLACK COMMUNITY



"One Vision,  
diverse voices."



*Celebrating*  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH  
2021**



**Phiona Durrant (Host)**  
**President ~ABC**

**CEREMONY SCHEDULE  
FEBRUARY 27TH  
TIME: 6:30 P.M. - 8:30P.M**

**Welcome: Phiona Durrant 7:00 - 7:05**

**OH Canada ~ Fyah 7:05 - 7:15**

**Special Greetings: 7:15 to 7:35**

**Mayor Tom Mrakas**

**MPP Michael Parsa**

**Dawn Gallagher-Murphy**

**Councillor Sandra Humfryes**

**\*\*\*\***

**BHM Highlights: Presentation**



## **Events:**

**Community Leaders Speeches 7:45 - 8:10**

**1. Shawna White ~ Museum and Archives**

**2. Nelia Pacheco~ Aurora Film Circuit**

**3. Reccia Mandelcorn ~ APL**

**4. Rebekah Murdoch ~ Secretary**

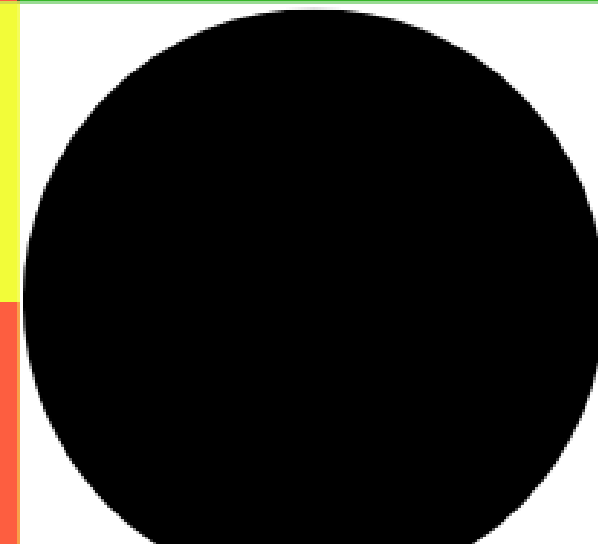
**5. Ron Kellman ~Treasurer**



# AURORA BLACK COMMUNITY



"One Vision,  
diverse voices."



*Celebrating*  
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH  
2021**



**Phiona Durrant (Host)**  
**President ~ABC**

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CLOSING CEREMONY

**February 27th, 2021  
6:30 P.m to 8:30**

A moment to appreciate and recognize the collaborative effort in making Aurora's first Black History Celebration an extraordinary success. To summarize the amazing month of activities and share the vision for on-going actions as we continue to strengthen the unity and inclusiveness in our awesome Town. Enjoy foods and giveaways while supporting local restaurants.



### SPECIAL GUESTS

**Mayor Tom Mrakas**

**MPP Michael Parsa**

**Dawn Gallagher-Murphy**

**Councillor Sandra Humfryes**

**Nelia Pacheco**

**Shawna White Museum and Archives**

**Reccia Mandelcorn APL**



Marnie Maguire



# Aurora author recognized by Irish Writers Centre

**BY BROCK WEIR**  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Aurora writer Marnie Maguire has been named as one of 12 finalists in the Irish Writers Centre’s 2021 Novel Fair.

Described as “a Dragon’s Den for writers,” the Novel Fair introduces up-and-coming writers to publishers and literary agents “giving novelists the opportunity to bypass the slush pile, pitch their ideas and place their synopses and sample chapters directly into the hands of publishers and agents.”

Ms. Maguire, who is well-known to local writers as a creative writing coach with the Aurora Public Library, found her place in the Novel Fair with the mystery “Indecent.”

“Indecent” has been a labour of love for Ms. Maguire who has been working on the coming-of-age story for several years. This contest, however, brought renewed “motivation” to sit down and get it done.

“It was a literary coming of age, but when I went back to work on it, I threaded a mystery plot through it and made it a lot more fun and propelled the novel forward a lot more,” she says. “It is about an expelled high school senior who is terrified of inheriting her mother’s mental illness. The problem is she is hearing the voice of her dead

grandmother who is relaying the events that led up to her suspicious death 18 years earlier. As she pieces together the events that led up to her grandmother’s death, she also comes to terms with her stereotypes, suspicion and fear of mental illness herself.”

Putting the story forward for the 2021 Novel Fair was not only a boost in confidence but a learning opportunity as well.

“I have always been working on other people’s work,” says the literary mentor. “To finally get back to my own work and then have it validated just shortly after returning to it ... I should have words for it – I’m a writer! – but I don’t!


“It was a phenomenal experience for me: the most condensed, intense, positive learning experience I have had as a writer in the last twenty years. Starting at 5 am (because of the time change), I meet with umpteen publishers and agents. I had 15 minutes with each of them. Every time I pitched, the focus of my book and my characters became clearer and clearer. In the end, I was invited to send my novel (sometimes the entire manuscript; sometimes the first 50 pages) to nineteen publishers and agents.”

*For more on the Irish Writers Centre and the Novel Fair 2021, visit [irishwriterscentre.ie](http://irishwriterscentre.ie).*



Social gatherings can have deadly consequences.

Stay home to stop the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at [ontario.ca/covid-19](http://ontario.ca/covid-19)







## Mayor’s Celebration of Youth Arts 2021

A Showcase of Aurora’s 2021 Senior Visual Arts Students


Artwork, installed at Aurora Town Hall, is available for viewing online at:  
[AuroraCulturalCentre.ca/MCOYA21](http://AuroraCulturalCentre.ca/MCOYA21)

Student artist videos  
Behind-the-scenes videos  
Gallery video tours



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Connect with us online







## The Aurora Museum & Archives is feeling...

Locked up!

With the first year of the pandemic behind us, we can reflect on how some of us feel like prisoners in our own homes. We're lucky that there hasn't been a true jail cell lock keeping us here! Prison cell keys such as this intricate, oversized Folger-Adam (994.16.1) have been in continuous use for over a century. This example from our collection was used to lock the cells in the basement of the Aurora police headquarters in the 1960s when it was housed in the old 1888 Waterworks building on Yonge, south of Church Street.

## A Special Committee to Review Canada's relationship with the United States

A new President in the United States brings an opportunity for a renewed Canada-US relationship. However, it is unlikely that the US strategy will substantively shift. For some time, in response to changes in the global economic balance of power, the US has charted a course away from globalization, and placed a greater emphasis on national capability, self-sufficiency, and security. It is unlikely this approach will change under President Biden. Canada's economy and security is highly integrated with the US. Therefore, it is important to determine the impact this approach will have on Canada and this critical relationship as a whole. Canada must also explore if pursuing a similar approach would be in our nation's best interest.

Canada has experienced the changes in the US approach first hand. Punishing national security tariffs imposed by the US on steel and aluminum imports from Canada resulted in an economic hit to the Canadian steel and aluminum industry. Manufacturing jobs in those industries increased in the US as a result.

Changes to the US tax code have incentivized US companies through favourable tax conditions to move manufacturing jobs out of Canada back to the US. Furthermore, during the recent negotiation of the NAFTA agreement, the USMCA, we watched as the US moved away from "free" trade to "managed" trade. This resulted in the imposition of caps restricting the amount of certain goods that can be exported/imported before tariffs are triggered. This is intended to achieve a more equitable balance of trade and to protect US domestic capability. For Canada, it will reduce the amount that Canada's exports to the US can grow.

During COVID-19, the US



## MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP

Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

government has taken one step further by invoking the Defence Production Act to ramp up domestic US Personal Protective Equipment, drugs, and vaccine manufacturing capacity, and restrict external US shipments to ensure their domestic population is addressed first. With highly integrated supply chains between Canada and the US, this has created cause for concern. Canadians are left wondering whether Canada's supply of these critical items is at risk.

Also facing challenges is our energy industry. President Biden upon assuming office immediately cancelled a key energy project, the Keystone XL pipeline. This decision will affect North American energy supply and thousands of Canadian jobs. Additionally, the Governor of Michigan is seeking to prevent oil and gas from transiting through the Line 5 pipeline under Lake Michigan. Enbridge's Line 5 affects thousands of Canadian jobs and is a critical energy supply for thousands of households in Ontario and Quebec. Suspension of portions of this pipeline would have a detrimental affect on Canada's economic and energy security.

Canadian exports to the US in infrastructure and construction services are also in jeopardy. President Biden signed a US executive order entitled

"Buy America" which would exclude Canadian bidders from US Government infrastructure projects, impacting a significant portion of Canada's current revenue.

This direction by the US government is not an isolated incident but rather a trend. The "Roadmap" signed between Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden outlines a commitment to modernize trade rules, including those related to procurement, to ensure that countries can use their own national taxpayer dollars to spur domestic investments. This, in other words, would exclude other countries from bidding on government domestic work.

Determining how to mitigate these potential negative impacts or to pivot and consider adopting similar national capability and self-sufficiency initiatives must be an urgent focus of all Canada's political leaders.

Toward this end, the House of Commons approved a Conservative motion to establish a special committee on the economic relationship between Canada and the United States. This committee is responsible to examine and review all aspects of this critical partnership as well as to explore the economic rules, regulatory frameworks and the security concerns of both nations. I am pleased to serve on this committee.

With over \$1.5 billion per day in trade between Canada and the US, Canada cannot afford to be complacent. Canada must not assume that the conditions that have been in place for the last 20 years will remain unchanged. The US has signalled the areas they intend to change, in some cases, fundamentally. Canada must define our priorities and decide how we plan to respond. The future of our recovery, and our economic security and prosperity depends upon it.

## What's in a Name?



## INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

the library and museum. How about 'Bridge Square'?"

"We're trying to bring people back to the Promenade, and based on the Square's location, how about including the word Yonge?" suggested another one of the staffers, over the sound of a dog barking in the background. "Sorry", he said, before turning away from the screen and urging "quiet, Daisy!"

"In my mind, this is an area of arts, and cultural rebirth," said the lady above him on the screen. "We need to combine those thoughts." She stared off into space with a thoughtful look, and then said "I've got it; 'Renaissance Square.'"

"But it's not just a Centre for the arts, there's a whole educational component," argued someone else. "How about including the word 'Learning'?"

"Or 'Reference'?" chipped in the person beside him on the screen.

"Those two aren't bad."

"We have several good ideas. Why don't we give all of them to Council and they can choose?"

"No," said the man chairing the meeting. "Our mandate is to come up with one final recommendation."

"So, Council's tasked us with coming up for a new name for Library Square."

The Town staff selected from various departments to participate in this endeavor looked out from their boxes arrayed on the computer screen. Of course, as with most meetings held during the pandemic, it was being conducted online via Zoom.

"The current name doesn't adequately describe the space now under construction," the team lead continued. "The designation as a 'Square' is fine, but the focus will no longer be just a library. There's the Cultural Centre, Museum space, a performance hall, amphitheater, splash pad ..."

"There's lots of famous Aurorans we could honour," said one lady. "How about recognizing Ron Wallace?"

"I'm sure the Town will find something suitable to be named after him," responded the team lead, "but we've been directed not to identify the Square with any one person. What Council wants is something short, catchy, and that provides a recognizable link to the area and Town."

"Why not just call it 'Aurora Square'? Then we can all go home early."

The Town staff laughed at their colleague's joke, especially since most of them were working from home, already.

"Aurora' is one possibility, but any more original thoughts?"

"We could honour the Indigenous people who first settled this area," said a man on the left side of the screen.

"That's good."

"One of the central architectural features will be the new bridge between



## Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

It is rare to read a book in which the author doesn't thank their editor. I always look for that acknowledgement much like a film buff will stay on to watch the end credits. Working in the shadow of the author, the role of a good editor is integral to the writing process; the relationship between author and editor built as a respectful collaboration of creatives.

A good editor not only corrects errors; they polish and refine, guiding the focus of the narrative much like the director of a film. They can be ruthless in cutting out the nonessential and helpful in drawing attention to places that require additional concentration. And a surprising number of award-winning books grab us with beginnings that were mere middle chapters in the original manuscript. Full disclosure: I am a self-confessed editor groupie.

Some years back, I studied publishing at Ryerson University. My favourite course was one on editing trade fiction taught by Greg Ioannau. I received an A+ for my efforts. Later, when my daughter went to work for Greg, and our familial relationship was eventually pieced together, he told her I was one of his best students. "Of course" she responded, "I edited all her assignments". The role of a good editor should never be underestimated.

Living in Library Land, my garden is abundant with narrative. And like any other gardener, I am always on the hunt for new stories; particularly those of species native to Canada. In thinking about how to support authors to best improve their writing; maybe to even to get that elusive book deal, I thought to create an Editor-in-Residence position at Aurora Public Library for 2021. The pitch was made; the project accepted.

Greg Ioannou has been named APL's first Editor-in-Residence for Spring 2021. Greg has been editing books since 1977 and is a founding member of the Editors' Association of Canada. He owns and runs Colborne Communications and is the president at Iguana Books. Over his career, Greg has edited more than 3,000 books, including writing by Margaret Atwood, Peter Gzowski, Robertson Davies, and (posthumously), Lester Pearson.

The Editor-in-Residence program will offer three workshops from April to June. Participants will learn about the standard sequence of editing steps, the advantages and disadvantages of traditional, self-publishing and hybrid models, and how to write that most important query letter that can make the difference between "slush pile" to serious consideration.

Library Land presents unknown terrain, including wonderful books yet to be discovered, nurtured and published. Information on the Editor-in-Residence series can be found at [aurorapl.ca](http://aurorapl.ca). Enrollment is limited.

What I've been reading:

**The Push** by Ashley Audrain

**The Forgotten Daughter**

by Joanna Goodman

**Trust Your Eyes** by Linwood Barclay

**Five Little Indians** by Michelle Good

*Reccia Mandelcorn is the Manager, Community Collaboration at Aurora Public Library. The opinions expressed in this column reflect her personal thoughts about the engagement of community with their public library.*

## THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Should Aurora consider a new name for Library Square?

**Yes No Unsure**

[www.theauroran.com](http://www.theauroran.com)

PREVIOUS POLL

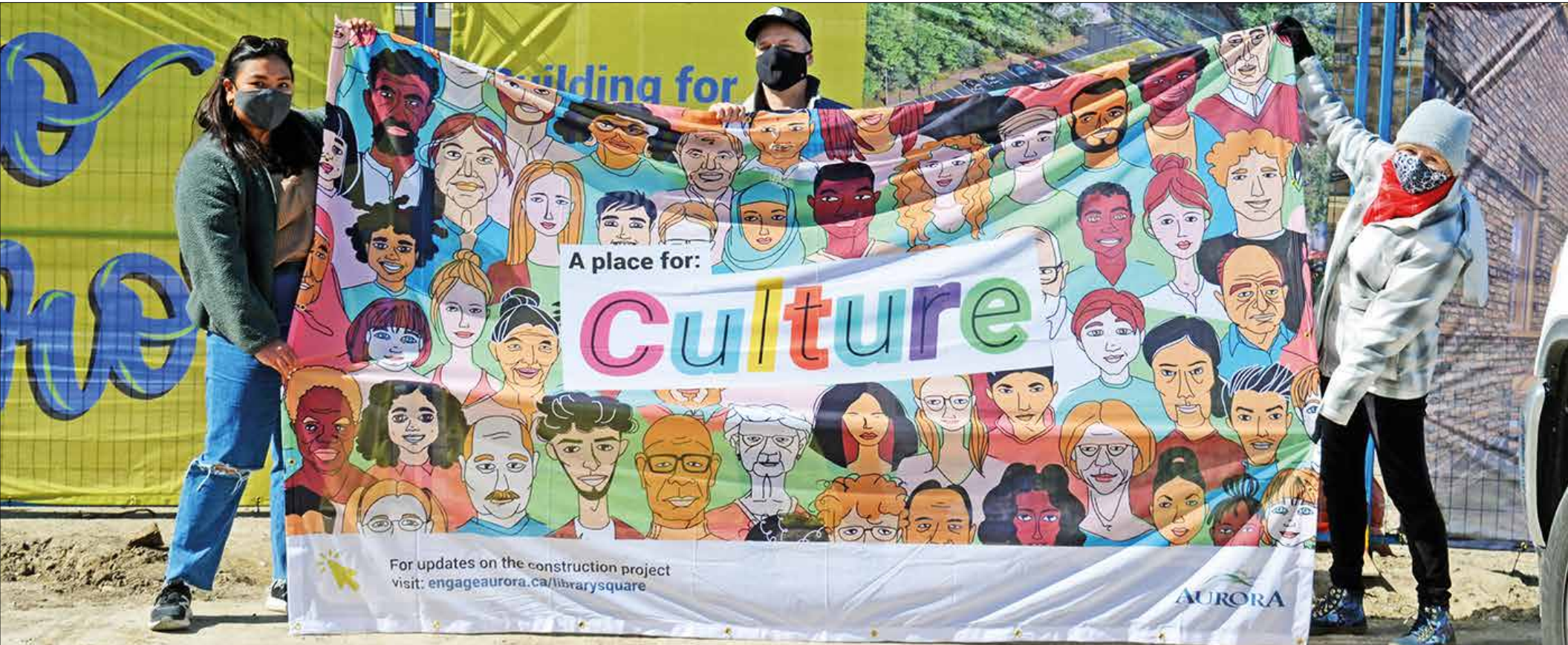
Will you be participating in AURORALICIOUS?

RESULTS TO DATE March 9, 2021	YES	NO	UNSURE
	50%	38%	12%

Feel free to e-mail Scott at: [machellscorners@gmail.com](mailto:machellscorners@gmail.com)



# Banners shine light on Library Square’s future



On Friday, Phil Rose Donahoe, Project Manager for Library Square, Katrina Estacio, Marketing and Creative Specialist for the Library Square project, and Louise Dyer of the Town of Aurora transformed the blue fences surrounding the downtown revitalization project into a showcase of the themes that have come to drive the project. This is the first phase of a multi-pronged banner program which is designed to become increasingly interactive as the project progresses. (Top) Katrina, Phil and Louise prepare the “Cultural” banner, emblematic of the Aurora Cultural Centre and Aurora Museum & Archives’ place within the project. (Bottom Right) The Aurora Public Library has rolled out an interactive component, encouraging members of the public to participate in a “Yarn Bomb” project.



# Community Recognition Awards aim to honour those who have stepped up to meet the challenge



Councillor Harold Kim presents Tom Connor with the 2020 Citizen of the Year Award following a virtual Community Recognition Awards ceremony. **Auroran photo by Brock Weir**

**BY BROCK WEIR**  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The last twelve months have, in many cases, brought out the best in us.

Whether people have been sewing masks to keep their fellow Aurorans safe and healthy, delivering meals to frontline workers, or even helping an elderly neighbour register for and receive their COVID-19 vaccines, community heroes are around us now more than ever before.

And now is the time to step up for your heroes by nominating them for Aurora's Community Recognition Awards.

The Community Recognition Awards are held each year to recognize individuals, organizations and businesses who have gone the extra mile in contributing to their community. Young or old, long-time givers or those just starting out who have made a significant impact right out of the gate, the honours shine a light on the individuals whose work sometimes goes unnoticed.

Nominations for the 2021 Community Recognition Awards are now being accepted through Friday, April 2.

Categories this year include:

- The Youth Volunteer Award, presented to a citizen up to the age of 19 who has made a significant contribution to the community
- The Senior Volunteer Award, presented to a citizen over the age of 55 who, through their volunteer efforts, has made a significant contribution to their community.
- The Green Award honours individuals, businesses or community organizations who support the protection, preservation, sustainability or conservation of the natural environment and have demonstrated a commitment to a greener community.
- Arts and Culture Award – Recognizing individuals or groups who have enhanced the community through their support or promotion of culture, music, visual, performing or literary arts
- Community Leadership Award – Honouring individuals, businesses or community organizations that have “significantly enhanced the Town through their contribution, commitment and leadership in areas of charitable giving, civic engagement, community events, or community spirit.”
- The Good Neighbour Award – Recognizing “someone who embodies what it means to be a good neighbour [recognizing

and celebrating] the simple acts of kindness and compassion that help create connected and vibrant neighbourhoods.”

- Good Business Award – Saluting “an Aurora business that has shown its commitment to assisting Aurora’s economic prosperity, corporate responsibility, and community involvement through its ongoing support of charitable causes, events, or programs.”
- Inclusivity Award – Recognizes individuals, groups or businesses who have contributed to making the Town a more “accessible and/or inclusive place to live, work, and play for all people regardless of race, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, creed, religion, age, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, family status or ability.”
- Community Safety Award – celebrates those who are dedicated to the development, promotion, or support of initiatives that improve community safety, recognizing that “safer communities only happen when individuals take action to make a difference.”
- Citizen of the Year – An annual award recognizing exceptional contributions made by a local citizen to our community, demonstrating “all-round community involvement rather than a specific activity or contribution.”

“Each of our awards are of equal importance,” says Shelley Ware, Special Events Coordinator for the Town of Aurora. “For instance, with the Good Neighbour Award, there are over 55,000 residents in Aurora and we know there are good neighbours there. We have children playing in playgrounds, events happening, and all that happens because the community is safe and there are people who contribute to keeping the community safe. That is why we have developed the Community Safety Award. “Then we have our Youth Volunteer

Recognition Award and I feel our future is in great hands given the recipients we have had, what they are able to accomplish and what they are able to set out to do, especially given the challenges that youth have had to face in the last year. Aurora is a very green community and we take a lot of pride in its nature, its landscape, its preservation, and the overall environment with the Green Award. Then we have the Good Business Award and you can’t even count the good deeds that are happening here, different industries are helping each other and even businesses in the same category are giving each other a hand-up.”

Aurora’s Give Back Awards are traditionally presented at Town Hall before a packed house of recipients, nominators and community members at large.

Last year, due to COVID-19, the ceremony took place virtually. While it was a less glitzy affair, organizers say it enabled more people to take part in the proceedings.

It is yet to be determined how the 2021 awards ceremony will proceed, but a number of options are being considered.

“We’re looking at perhaps hosting the actual ceremony outside for the first time ever at Town Park, which is going to take on an entirely different scope and experience,” says Ms. Ware. “It is going to be mixing enhanced technology with an in-person experience.

“But, before we get to the ceremony, we have to get the nominations in. This is an opportunity to recognize those who have really changed lives and sustained this community in the incredible state that it is in. We’re very dependent on the community to actively participate in the nomination process to bring forward those truly unsung heroes so, in a moment of time, we can recognize that they have made a difference. The number of nominations should be overwhelmingly high because we’re really in a special place. We need the community to let us know who has made a difference, who has helped them, and who has made the sun shine a little brighter in this past year.”

For more on the program, including nomination forms, visit [aurora.ca/cra](http://aurora.ca/cra).

## AURORALICIOUS

SAVOUR THE FLAVOURS OF AURORA

### MARCH 12-28

**Take your taste buds on a tour of Aurora!**

Town of Aurora in partnership with the Canadian Food and Wine Institute and the Aurora Chamber of Commerce is proud to bring Auroralicious To Go to Aurora. Explore Aurora’s culinary delights from a variety of local restaurants during Auroralicious To Go starting on **Friday, March 12 to Sunday, March 28**.

Auroralicious To Go gives patrons an opportunity to Savour The Flavours of Aurora by purchasing from the prix fixe (fixed price) program that many local restaurants are participating in. With so many fantastic restaurants and diverse cuisines in Aurora to choose from the only challenge will be in deciding which establishments to order from. Based on the Provincial Guidelines during the timing of Auroralicious To Go, some restaurants may offer dine-in as well as take-out.

For more information on this initiative or for interested restaurants that would like to participate, please email [auroraliciousON@gmail.com](mailto:auroraliciousON@gmail.com). For a current list of participating restaurants and their available menus, please visit [exploreaurora.ca](http://exploreaurora.ca).

## HELLO Spring!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021**

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Posted on [March 29, 2021](#) by [WattsTrending](#)



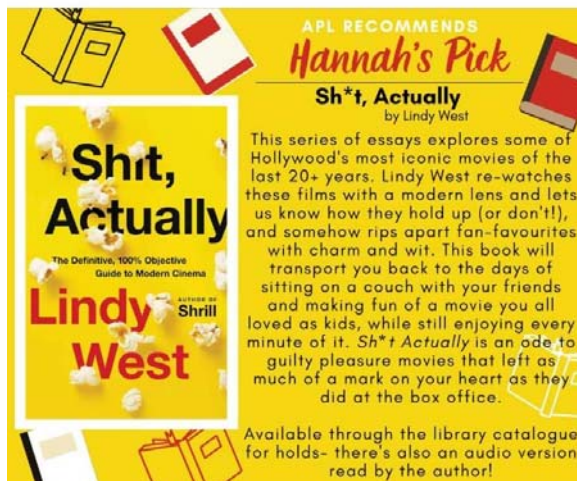
I'm proud of the Aurora Public Library raising the bar with it's most recent staff pick posted to facebook:



**Aurora Public Library, Ontario**

22h · 🌐

This week Staff Pick comes from Hannah, who found a recommendation that combines some of her favourite things- books and movies!



A pick that no doubt resulted in much pearl clutching by the library board's resident Ned Flanders.

You remember the ass-hat who pushed to censor me a year ago because he was offended by a swear word in a blog post that ended up on on facebook:

<https://wattstrending.wordpress.com/2020/03/08/wash-your-eyes-out-with-soap/>

I look forward to reading Hannah's pick knowing that library staff doesn't feel like they have to cater to the delicate sensibilities of its fragile puritan board members.

As for those that embody [Berkley Breathed's term offensensitivity](#) coined in 1982, this song by the dirty knobs sums them up, actually:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nG6Q7MqVCo>

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# Banners at Library Square designed to be a “celebration” of things to come

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It will be more than a year and a half until Library Square is ready for occupancy, but, if you want a sneak peek, the fences surrounding the construction site at Victoria and Church Streets are now shining a light on things to come.

On Friday, members of the Town’s Library Square team were hard at work covering the blue metal fences, which have become synonymous with Library Square’s construction since ground was officially broken last summer, with banners celebrating the themes that have become driving forces of the development: arts, community, music, culture, history, and more.

“I wanted to give the community something to feel proud of, so when they are walking down here they get excited about the project,” says Katrina Estacio, Marketing and Creative Specialist for the Library Square project, who was on site hanging the bold banners alongside project manager Phil Rose-Donahoe and Louise Dyer of the Town. “I really wanted to capture the feel of what the space will be once it is open. It will be a place for community, a place for creativity, and we really wanted to get that out on the banners. From a social media standpoint too, I wanted to have them so vibrant people wanted to take pictures in front of them to create a buzz as well.”

The banners, which are now installed primarily on the Victoria Street side of the redevelopment project, are the first in a multi-phase banner program which is designed to not only entice visitors to the site but to become increasingly interactive as new phases roll out.

“I really wanted to focus on the community and what this place will leave for them,” continued Ms. Estacio. We’re nothing without the people who make this Town and this is what I really wanted to reflect here. It is a place for everyone and hopefully once COVID is over, it will be the place where everyone goes and gets to know everybody again.”

According to Mr. Rose-Donahoe, this is just one way the Library Square team has to engage the public.

“Currently on Church Street, facing south, the Aurora Public Library has put up a ‘yarn bomb’ activity as part of their Take & Make program where you can take

the activity, do some yarn and they will put it up on the fence,” he says. “With their One Book One Aurora challenge [with novel] Chasing Painted Horses, there is a chalk wall in the book where one of the protagonists has in their kitchen and Reccia [Mandelcorn, the Library’s Manager of Community Engagement] and the staff want to replicate that in the summer on the fence around July or August to coincide with One Book One Aurora.

“We’ll have some chalk and people can write a message either about the book or about this project.”

Further installations will include “ribbon art” where people can come by with their family and friends and weave a design in and out through the bars on the fence.

“I think by the time this project is done over the next year and a half or so, we want as much of this construction fencing to become a canvas for something. And it also hides the dirt and the gross stuff that is happening on site!”

Outside of the construction itself, the next step of Library Square’s journey will be Council deciding on a final and permanent name for the community space, including the significant addition to the Church Street School, potentially as early as next month. In the meantime, feedback from the public, says Mr. Rose-Donahoe, is providing staff with a picture of how the community might use the facility once it is ready.

“What we’re hearing is people want it to be something different for each user group,” he says. “It is not just about arts, it is not just about culture, it is not just about theatre; it is about community, kickstarting the redevelopment of downtown, and I think one of the underlying things is collaboration and partnership, whether it is with Economic Development Groups, the BIA or local businesses.

“Of course, we have the Cultural Centre, Museum and Town and Library working together to animate that space. I think a lot of the words we’re getting are fun, community, creativity, innovation, a gathering place, I think people just want a place to go and have a coffee in the morning and sit on the plaza in the summertime, maybe do some skating in the wintertime. I think those are the key phrases we’re getting; moving away from Library Square and focusing on something that is a little bit more inclusive of all the partners that are part of this.”

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## CLUES ACROSS

1. Volcanic crater

5. Long times

10. Swedish rock group

14. Having the means to do something

15. Rods or spindles

16. La \_\_ Tar Pits, Hollywood

17. Missing soldiers

18. Measuring instrument

19. All of the components considered individually

20. Play “\_\_ Irish Rose”

22. Gene

23. Barrels

24. London-based soccer team

27. Feline

30. Breed of sheep

31. Body part

32. Doctors’ group

35. One who follows the rules

37. Cigarette residue

38. Ancient Greek sophist

39. Polish yeast cakes
40. Promotional materials

41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour

42. Completed perfectly

43. Photo

44. A peninsula in SW Asia

45. The common gibbon

46. Disfigure

47. Ribonucleic acid

48. Japanese honorific

49. Pieces of music

52. Expressed pleasure

55. Having ten

56. Type of sword

60. Humble request for help

61. Eating houses

63. Italian Seaport

64. Cain and \_\_

65. Measure the depth

66. U. of Miami’s mascot

67. Political outsiders

68. Greek sorceress

69. Body part

## CLUES DOWN

1. Mother

2. Jewish calendar month

3. Jai \_\_, sport

4. Establish again

5. Swiss river

6. Racetrack wager

7. \_\_ but goodie

8. Closeness

9. Soviet Socialist Republic

10. At right angles to a ship’s length

11. Women’s undergarments

12. Mountain stream

13. Expresses pleasure

21. Painful places on the body

23. Automobile

25. Scandinavian god of battle

26. Expresses surprise

27. Secret political clique

28. Yields manila hemp

29. River in central Italy

32. Brain injury science acronym

33. Mental illness.
34. A person from Asia

36. Father

37. General’s assistant (abbr.)

38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style

40. Large terrier

41. Hillsides

43. Golf score

44. Not or

46. Type of student

47. Flower cluster

49. Closes tightly

50. Saudi Arabian desert

51. Famed vaccine developer

52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)

53. Actress Jessica

54. Pay attention to

57. Beloved big screen pig

58. \_\_ Clapton, musician

59. Take a chance

61. Cost per mille

62. Helps little firms

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# Run for Southlake cooking up something fresh this month



BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

April is here and the countdown to the 2021 Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake is on!

Due to present health restrictions, this will be the second year in a row where the popular fundraiser for Southlake Regional Health Centre has had to take place in the virtual realm, but this year's run will be just a little bit different from the first virtual event last year: The Run will be divided into four challenges designed to help you not only get moving but get – and stay – healthy.

Running from April 12 through May

9, the four-week challenge is divided into four with the first week dedicated to “Eat Well with Southlake”, followed by “Make it a Habit”, “Build Your Endurance”, and “Go the Distance.”

Eat Well with Southlake is focused on nutrition. Title sponsor Nature's Emporium will provide lessons about foods that fuel you as you set your own nutritional goals for the week.

“When we were looking at this year's event, a lot of what we were looking at has to do with how do we make a virtual event something different and completely accessible,” says Melanie Osmond, Event Specialist for the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. “One thing we were looking at with the run is typically...

something one has to train for and prep for, so how do we build that prep into what they are already doing?”

“The first week focuses on nutrition, which is really the backbone of a healthy lifestyle and any training that anyone does. They start with having a healthy meal and being energized. Our title sponsor, Nature's Emporium, is helping out that week with a cooking class that participants can sign up for, and people are setting goals as to how many healthy meals they want to accomplish that week, and healthy is whatever makes sense to them.”

Classes, she adds, will be recorded and made available to all registered participants should the timing of the live sessions not make sense for them. Nature's Emporium will also provide health and wellness tips that will be included in weekly emails to registrants.

“We understand nutrition is something that is very personal for everyone,” she adds. “We didn't want to bring in someone to talk about how to get the right nutrients for running a marathon because that is not what everyone's goal is. We're mindful of the fact the nutrition aspect is very much a personal journey.”

There is still time to join the Nature's Emporium Run for Southlake Virtual Challenge.

Registration will be accepted into the second week of the Challenge.

By Tuesday, March 30, nearly \$36,000 had been pledged towards the Run's \$175,000 goal.

“The Run is flexible and you can do it your own way, so we're really encouraging people to still join us,” says

Aimee Houston, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Southlake Regional Health Centre Foundation. “There are still great opportunities for people to join us and support their local hospital. Now more than ever we need that support. The pandemic has impacted all of us in different ways and so many of us will probably, unfortunately, be able to access Southlake in some way, shape or form... maybe they haven't had before because of the pandemic. Our growing community has needs and it is a fun event.”

For more, visit [runforsouthlake.ca](http://runforsouthlake.ca).

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## Entrepreneurs in Residence program returns virtually April 15



Contributed photos

Clockwise from Top Left: Antonella Cellini, Eddi Rayle, Tracy Smith, and Taylor Lindsay-Noel.

BY BROCK WEIR  
EDITOR  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Are you looking to strike out on your own but need advice on taking those all-important first steps?

That is a challenge faced by just about every potential entrepreneur and those who have already travelled down that road have been more than eager to share their experiences and life lessons through the Aurora Public Library's Entrepreneurs in Residence program.

The popular initiative, which brings together the insights of multiple local business leaders, is set to resume virtually next Thursday, April 15.

Running from 7 – 8.30 p.m., the

virtual session will be a fast-paced evening featuring four entrepreneurs who will share their stories in a short TEDx-style talk.

“It's a chance to mingle, ask questions and meet new visionaries who share your drive to succeed,” say organizers. Participating in the session are Tracy Smith, the Aurora-based founder of Kitchen Table CEOs; Antonella Cellini, CEO and Creative Director of Artsy Baker Inc., on Industrial Parkway South; Taylor Lindsay-Noel, Owner of Cup of Te; and Eddi & Felix Rayle of Goblets & Goblins, a board game café in Newmarket.

For more on the Aurora Public Library's Entrepreneurs in Residence program, and to register for next Thursday's event, visit [bit.ly/39cDCwY](http://bit.ly/39cDCwY).

**March 6 - May 1, 2021**

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# Happy Easter!



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# Newmarket, Aurora entrepreneurs share insights, life lessons for success

Popular Aurora Public Library's Entrepreneurs in Residence program returns April 15

about 4 hours ago By: Brock Weir, Local Journalism Initiative reporter



*Participating in the session are Tracy Smith, the Aurora-based founder of Kitchen Table CEOs; Antonella Cellini, CEO and Creative Director of Artsy Baker Inc., on Industrial Parkway South; Taylor Lindsay-Noel, Owner of Cup of Te; and Eddi & Felix Rayle of Goblets & Goblins, a board game café in Newmarket.*

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For more on the Aurora Public Library's Entrepreneurs in Residence program, and to register for next Thursday's event, visit [here](#).

*Brock Weir is a federally funded Local Journalism Initiative reporter at The Auran*





## Aurora Museum & Archives is celebrating...

Pet Day! (April 11)

Keeping pet animals has long been a part of human societies. Although the cats and dog in this c. 1920 photo (84.30.3) may have had jobs to do on this family's property, such as pest control or defence against predators, the companionship of our four-legged friends (not to mention the scaly, swimming or winged kinds) is something many people cherish deeply. Make sure to give your pet some extra love to celebrate!



## Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

Although I have lived in Library Land for most of my adult life, I continue to navigate the uneven road of telling our stories in a landscape that is ever changing. While the need for libraries to report on lending numbers and foot traffic says a great deal about usage and trends, there is more to the story in assessing the value and impact a public library brings to the community. And at this stage in my career, more than ever, I need to know.

Libraries must complete a Provincial Annual Survey in order to receive their grant. This year's results will certainly be atypical across the board. Libraries could not report on foot traffic due to public health restrictions and facility closures. Attendance counts have adapted to what can be extrapolated from programming in an online environment. For me, this year has highlighted the importance of looking beyond numerical counts in assessing the value qualitative data brings to the conversation.

Christian Lauersen, Director of Libraries & Citizen Services, Roskilde Municipality, Denmark, is leading a project that aims to develop a more nuanced understanding of the value that public libraries bring to communities; a new language so we learn how best to tell and understand our stories.

I had the opportunity to hear him speak on this initiative and learn how his research is challenging libraries to come together globally and move beyond circulation numbers and foot traffic to include storytelling as meaningful data.

Many of my neighbours in Library Land came to settle here because we love stories, yet we have relied so heavily on numbers as a measurement of success. Lauerson proposes we balance qualitative and quantitative data, drawing from both to describe our reality through a critical lens. Do we make a difference? Do we make people happy? Do we grow curiosity? How do we measure community building through check-outs alone?

Throughout the pandemic, staff and management at my library have been truly touched by the many emails we have received from our community. They have buoyed our enthusiasm at times when we were all feeling the effects of isolation. One reader wrote, "It seems like a day for a book and a bed! Here I am about 30 pages in and I have laughed aloud several times, nodded in recognition, and grimaced with sympathy." One numerical stroke as a circulation count, but so much more when we consider the impact on this reader.

Like Lauersen, I am a firm believer in the power of stories. If you have a story to share of how your experiences in Library Land has impacted your life, or even your day, I'd love to hear from you.

What I've been reading:

**Speak, Silence** by Kim Echlin

**Olive Juice** by TJ Klune

**The Midnight Bargain** by C.L. Polk

**Rabbit Foot Bill** by Helen Humphreys

*Reccia Mandelcorn is the Manager, Community Collaboration at Aurora Public Library. The opinions expressed in this column reflect her personal thoughts about the engagement of community with their public library.*

### THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Was the Province right to hit the so-called emergency brake?

**Yes No Unsure**  
**www.theauroran.com**

PREVIOUS POLL  
Do you agree with the Province's plan to redevelop its Bloomington lands?

RESULTS TO DATE April 6, 2021	YES 44%	NO 25%	UNSURE 31%
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## Line 5 should be a Wake Up Call for Canadian Energy Security

On 13 November 2020, the State of Michigan revoked the easement that allows the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline to travel underwater through the Straits of the Makinac, between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

Unless reversed, this decision requires Enbridge to cease operations of this section of the line by 12 May 2021. Any disruption to Line 5 will be devastating for Canada's energy security and economic wellbeing.

I am pleased to serve on the special House of Commons committee on the economic relationship between Canada and the US that is currently reviewing the impact on Canada of the closure of Enbridge line 5. Witnesses at committee have outlined the far-reaching impact that the suspension of Line 5 would have on Canada's energy, agricultural, transportation sectors and supporting industries.

Enbridge Line 5 carries up to 540,000 barrels a day of petroleum products, including light crude oil and natural gas liquids from Alberta and Saskatchewan. It supplies over 53% of Ontario's crude oil and 66% of Quebec's. Line 5 provides an estimated 4,900 direct jobs and up to 23,000 indirect jobs in the supported industries. It supplies significant portions of diesel fuel, propane for Canada's East and much of the jet fuel that supports Pearson Airport. Line 5 generates over \$65 billion of direct and \$28 billion of indirect revenue in annual trade.

Closure of the section of the pipeline under the Straits of Makinac would require 2,000 tanker trucks or 800 railcars a day to keep pace with the demand. Estimates indicate there would not be enough surplus truckload and railcar capacity to support this increase. Furthermore, a rise in the volume of trucks on Canada's roads and



## MP'S REPORT

Leona Alleslev, MP  
Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill

at the border would dramatically increase congestion, vehicle emissions, and the risk of serious traffic accidents.

This should be a wake-up call for Canada.

Citizens in Ontario, Quebec and the maritime provinces heat their homes, support their families, keep planes and trains moving and crops growing because of western Canadian oil and gas that travels to eastern Canada through Line 5.

A unilateral decision made outside of Canadian jurisdiction threatens the very health and security of millions of Canadians. Even if it weren't a US political decision, but instead a natural disaster or equipment failure, that threatened the delivery continuity of this pipeline, Canada's overwhelming dependence on this one infrastructure asset is too great. Canada must have an alternative, preferably one that transits from west to east entirely within Canada.

COVID-19 has made every Canadian increasingly aware of the risk of dependence on other countries for critical health, safety and security supplies. As a trading nation, being a part of global supply chains is central to Canada's economic prosperity. However, this must be balanced with domestic self-sufficiency

## The Rebranding of Aurora

Does Aurora need a new tagline?

I began thinking about this the other day after a discussion with a friend located in another part of the Province.

I was explaining the Town's recent decision not to consider backyard chicken coops, despite neighboring communities allowing them, and Council not having a report to weigh the pros and cons. He suggested that we should put "Not ready for chickens" on the signs leading into Town.

This is kind of ironic in that based on a large processing plant located here many years ago, Aurora was once known as the "Chicken Capital of Canada".

While apt at one point in our history, references to chickens may no longer be the best basis for a forward-looking long-term motto for Aurora.

But it did get me thinking this may be an opportune time for a new catch phrase.

After all, the \$50+ million development at the heart of Town is being rebranded with a new name from "Library Square" to something much better (fingers crossed).

As well, with all of us emerging from being shut inside the past year during the pandemic, and with the growing positivity in the air about the future, it's a great time to come up with a new slogan that will catch the imagination of both residents and visitors and encourage them to visit the businesses and cultural venues in our growing Town.



## INSIDE AURORA

Scott Johnston

I've never been particularly enamored with the Town's current tagline: "You're in Good Company." If one pronounces "you're" as "yer", which many people do, the first two words bear an unfortunate similarity to "urine".

Not the image one would hope to project.

In fact, this is a bit of a knockoff phrase, in that "Urine Good Company" is the catchphrase used in the Broadway musical "Urinetown", which has been performed at Theatre Aurora.

Interestingly, "You're in Good Company" was not the original choice for a motto when it was adopted several years ago. The recommended option was "Our Town, Your Future".

But then someone in Town must have ventured north of Green Lane and noticed that East Gwillimbury's slogan was the almost identical "Our Town, Our Future."

Maybe if Newmarket had decided to throw their hat in with "Your Town,

Your Future", Aurora wouldn't have looked like too much of a copycat. But Newmarket obviously wasn't interested, and perhaps fearing municipal slogan copyright infringement, Aurora decided to come up with something else, which is how we ended up with "You're in Good Company."

This one, in turn, replaced the one adopted almost 50 years ago of "Canada's Birthday Town". Of late, this one was only ever referenced on July 1<sup>st</sup>, if at all, so was not the best year-round slogan.

To be fair, all of these were a little more contemporary than the Town's Latin motto: Sol meus testis (The sun is my witness). Latin's usually not the language people think of when coining catchy contemporary slogans, which is why this one pretty much just appears on the Town crest.

So, if we are to take a cue from Library Square's pending renaming, and rebrand the Town with a new catchphrase, what should we focus on: our history? Culture? Development? Diversity? The fact that it's been several years without any local politicians trying to sue each other?

The possibilities are endless.

Do you have any suggestions for a new slogan for the Town? If you have any, preferably ones that are positive and newspaper-friendly, I'd love to hear them.

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



# McEachern completes Murph Challenge in 24 hours

By Robert Belardi

Caleb McEachern has been on the autism watch since he was three-and-a-half years old.

Just around 10 months ago, Caleb and his father Constable Adam McEachern of the YRPA were training in the basement of their home. Caleb was inspired by the efforts from Canadian hero Terry Fox.

As Adam was running on the treadmill, Caleb asked him a curious question.

“He said, ‘Dad, was Terry Fox alone?’” McEachern said. “I said ‘Yeah, he had people with him, buddy, but most of the time he was on his own.’”

Caleb continued to ask questions. He wondered if what Terry Fox did was hard. He asked his father if it hurt what he did. Then he asked his father why would he do this?

“I said, ‘well, Terry understood that by doing what he was doing it was going to help a lot of people just like him. It was worth it to be hard and all the hurt. He helped millions of people.’ I said, ‘You’re going to go through some things that are going to be tough and hard, and you’re going to have to push through it, pal,’” McEachern recalled.

A few minutes went by and Caleb asked his father if Terry Fox was a hero? Of course, Constable McEachern told his son that he was, and then he heard a resounding sentence that struck him like a bolt of lightning.

“Just like you dad, you’re a hero.” He hit the jackpot with that one. The next day Constable McEachern stumbled on a challenge he had not known of from a colleague: The Murph Challenge named after a Navy Seals veteran Mike Murphy.

His colleague told him she had heard of a record being broken in 24 hours; someone completed the Murph Challenge 16 times in 24 hours.

To beat this feat, McEachern would have to complete 5,100 air squats, 3,400 push ups, 1,700 chin-ups and 34 miles of running.

McEachern didn’t want to do this just

for the fun of it. He planned to do this on World Autism Awareness Day. He planned to support Kerry’s Place, which supports 8,000 people with autism. He set a goal to raise \$10,000 and complete 17 rounds of the Murph Challenge.

And last Thursday, from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, Constable McEachern completed his Murph Challenge with half-an-hour to spare in the YRPA building in Newmarket.

He raised \$22,922 in his efforts. “If I could do something that is far off the charts as far as physical ability, I’m just a normal guy. I’m just a dad doing this for his son and people like his son,” McEachern said.

“If we can raise the awareness [of] such a prevalent issue that there are so many people out in the world and in Canada that need our understanding – there’s millions of great causes, this one is just mine.”

Throughout the 24 hours, members of the YRPA supported McEachern by joining him throughout the Murph Challenge.

“His level of physical fitness he pushes other people as well,” said President of the YRPA Rob O’Quinn. “In the summer time and the weather is nice, pre-COVID, he would take people to an open baseball field and do rope-pulls and tractor tires.”

McEachern does it all. He inspires

others around him. He supports a community of people to raise awareness. He dedicated 24 hours and numerous protein shakes to make a point that anything is possible as long as you put your mind to it.

Even if that means breaking some barriers for Kerry’s Place.

“Absolutely unprecedented. I’ve never seen someone jump into a cause to raise funds and awareness much like Adam. Not only does he put his life on a line as a police officer but he decided to go above and beyond,” said Travis Ambing, Fundraising Manager.

“We can’t thank Adam enough for all that he is doing.”

## Robert’s Rant: Baylor played with nothing to lose

By Robert Belardi  
Opinion

In Monday night’s NCAA men’s national title game, you could tell one team competed as if they had nothing to lose.

The truth is, they didn’t. The top seeded Baylor Bears (27-2) went up against the undefeated Gonzaga Bulldogs (31-0) on Monday night in a game where everyone was anxious to see if the Zags could become the eighth undefeated NCAA team to win it all.

Both schools did have one thing in common: they were both looking for their first school title.

The Bears came out flying with a 23-8 run to start things off. It was as if the Zags were winded by a swift punch to the side of the head. They’ve been used to dominating teams. Monday night was surely not the case.

The Bears shot 43 per cent from beyond the arc on the night. Bears guard Jared Butler came out with an insurmountable amount of confidence finishing with 22 points. The whole group did, while Gonzaga looked

apprehensive and timid.

The Zags coughed up the ball 14 times and gave up 16 offensive rebounds. This team who normally look explosive on every given night with Aurora native Andrew Nembhard and Jalen Suggs leading the way looking bewildered when trying to set something up.

It’s quite fascinating to see how a mentality takes a turn for the worst. When it’s all on the line the pressure is on. I wanted to see Nembhard win the trophy. Since moving to the Zags, it was expected Nembhard would have had to sit out for the year. Just before the beginning of the season, he appealed the decision and was approved to play in this year’s competition.

And what a difference he made on the court. Suggs loves how competitive he is and how good of a player he is to work with. He is surely one of the most underrated guards out there right now.

And simultaneously there is another story. The Baylor Bears basketball program was a mess in the early 2000s and since hiring Scott Drew back in August of 2003. Seeing where it is today, it’s quite special. Drew sat in the

driver seat and steered this franchise in the right direction.

The Bears haven’t had anything to lose. They only had everything to gain. Watching Monday night’s game was hard. The Zags had the potential of being one of the greatest NCAA teams to play in the tournament. But now, they will forever be remembered as the team that came close to having it all, losing to the Bears 86-70.

And that is perfectly okay. They shouldn’t feel that way. It was an incredible year and going undefeated is a mental turbulence within itself.

It was an amazing championship in front of fans in the stands. Thankfully there was an NCAA season to begin with this year. Even though the Zags will be remembered as one of the teams that “could have been”. They became the third undefeated team to lose in the finals. But that’s not what we should remember. We should remember how good this team was while it lasts.

Because when players are drafted it will slowly evaporate into a distant memory.

Unfortunately, that is something nobody wants to lose.



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**Virtual April Events**  
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**Canadian Mental Health Association York and South Simcoe**  
Wednesday, April 14 @ 11:30 - 12:30

**Second Career Information Session**  
Monday, April 19 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am

**Aurora Public Library Info Session**  
Monday, April 19 @ 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

**Literacy Council York-Simcoe Upgrading Centre**  
Thursday, April 29 @ 10:00 am- 11:00 am

To register with RNC and sign up for events call 905-727-3777 ext 0 or [info@rnces.ca](mailto:info@rnces.ca). **Participants must be active, registered clients with RNC.**

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# LIBRARY SQUARE *Updates*



April 2021



Figure 1: Opening for bridge access has been cut.



Figure 2: Foundations for bridge poured at east library entrance.

## Activities Since Last Update

- Demolition and excavation works continued throughout the site, while new infrastructure installment within the Library started.
- Formwork for the retaining wall at the north Library laneway is now in place and pouring/ casting of concrete is complete.
- Demolition of the Library entrance towers, interior spaces and mechanical roof top wells also continued while the Library remains temporarily closed to the public.
- The existing roof top units servicing the Library were craned off-site as the Library continues to receive supplementary heat through the temporary units located on the ground floor.
- The floor slabs within the Library's main lobby and Magna room have been reinstated after the installation of the elevator/sump pit and structural foundations was completed.
- Footings and foundations for the bridge has been poured adjacent to the east Library entrance.
- Waterproofing of footing foundation at east Library entrance also complete.
- Work within the Library continues with a focus on the continued demolition of the west Library entrance tower and installation of shoring while new foundation work takes place.
- The rooftop mechanical screen walls also continue to be demolished and remediated as required.
- At the north elevation of 22 Church St., the grade has been brought down to the approximate elevation of the future ground floor of the addition and compacted with fine granular.
- The Bell overhead lines have been safely disconnected and removed from site.
- Remediation and repointing work continued at the existing rubble foundations of 22 Church St.
- The below grade mechanical pit has been installed at the east elevation of 22 Church St. and has been backfilled.
- The site continued to be stripped and cleared as further soil remediation works take place.
- The installation of the tower crane structural pad is complete.
- Construction site meetings: regular and ongoing
- Construction fencing banners installed along Victoria St.
- Library Square EngageAurora webpage updated with ongoing construction notices and project information - [engageaurora.ca/librarysquare](https://engageaurora.ca/librarysquare)



# LIBRARY SQUARE *Updates*



April 2021

## Activities For Next Period

- Tower crane installation to take place early May
- Mobilization of pro-caissons (structural foundation) for addition to 22 Church St.
- Continue installation of new infrastructure installment within the Library
- Continue demolition of west Library entrance
- Restore wall at 2nd floor of Library
- Continue construction of masonry wall
- Continue mechanical and electrical demolition
- Backfill bridge footing foundation at east Library entrance
- Continue removal of contaminated soil
- Continue to prepare pockets for steel
- Excavate and form footing foundation around generator area
- Continue shoring around 22 Church St. Construction Management Plan to be submitted by Chandos
- Regular site meetings to occur with contractor every two weeks
- Project management meetings are ongoing



**Figure 3:**  
Shoring installed at the west Library entrance.



**Figure 4:**  
North-west corner of School House, rubble foundations repointed.



**Figure 5:**  
Forming for retaining wall at north end being finalized.



**Figure 6:**  
Tower crane pad has been poured.