

Aurora Public Library Board

### MEETING

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

### 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom video conference

## AGENDA

1.	Adoption of Agenda	
2.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
3.	Minutes of: .1 November 17, 2021 Meeting	(enclosure)
4.	Reports .1 Operating Hours Report SR2021.28	(enclosure)
6.	Library CEO Updates .1 CEO Updates	(verbal report)
7.	General Business Information/Questions .1 APL Updates (Media clips)	(enclosure)
8.	Member Announcements	
9.	Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, February	<u>16, 2022</u>

10. Adjournment

\*\* Please advise Maida Rae of regrets for attendance, by noon on December 8<sup>th</sup> at <u>mrae@aurorapl.ca</u>.





### Aurora Public Library Board

### MINUTES of MEETING

### Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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

Present:	John Clement, Tom Connor (Chair), Councillor John Gallo, Councillor Sandra Humfryes, Adam Mobbs (Vice Chair), Marie Rankel, Ken Turriff
Chief Executive Officer:	Bruce Gorman
Staff:	Mario Baleno (IT Manager); Mary Ann Gruppuso, Manager, Collections and Access; Reccia Mandelcorn, Manager, Community Collaboration; Jodi Marr, Manager, Customer Opportunity; Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA (recorder); Julie Rocca, Business Manager

The Chair called the meeting to order at 07:01 p.m.

### 1. Adoption of the Revised Agenda

MOTION: **21.08.75** Moved by: J. Clement Seconded by: A. Mobbs CARRIED **THAT** the revised agenda be approved

Ken Turriff joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

### 2. Disclosure of Interest

### 3. Approval of Minutes:

.1 Regular meeting of October 20, 2021

MOTION: **21.08.76** Moved by: K. Turriff Seconded by: J. Clement CARRIED **THAT** the Minutes of the October 20, 2021 regular meeting be approved

### 4. Reports

### Third Quarter Operations Report SR2021.26 .1

A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: 21.08.77 Moved by: M. Rankel Seconded by: K. Turriff CARRIED

**THAT** the *Third Quarter* **Operations Report to September** 30, 2021 be received as information

### .2 2022 Service and Holiday Hours Report SR2021.27 A staff report was issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: 21.08.78 **THAT** the 2022 Service and Moved by: K. Turriff Seconded by: J. Clement CARRIED

Holiday Hours Report be approved

Councillor S. Humfryes joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

### 5. Library CEO Updates

.1 **CEO Updates** 

A verbal report was provided at the meeting.

MOTION: 21.08.79 Moved by: K. Turriff Seconded: Councillor J. Gallo CARRIED

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

The recent Library financial update presentation to Town Council was well received.

Collective Bargaining for Library Pages and Temporary Workers (905.27) has been finalized and CUPE 905.02 negotiations started today for an agreement that expired April 1 2020. There are four days booked for negotiations in 2021, with a goal of completion by year-end.

APL recently increased our capacity limit to 75 people.

All Library staff have complied with the Board approved COVID-19 vaccination policy.

The Aurora Town Square construction project will be further delayed by three months. This means the Library will not have access to the programming rooms before March 2022. Once completed, we can anticipate a month to get these spaces fitted and approved for occupation. The Town is focused on the wider project, rather than completing the aspects that directly impact the Library, resulting in a March 2022 timeline for programming rooms and the Yonge Street entrance and exits. Timelines are often fluid with construction projects of this nature.

### Agenda item 3.1 The Church Street public entrance and staircase was intended to be a temporary access and is not ideal for the longer term, especially the coming winter months. Library ELT met to discuss options and decided to convert the staff entrance/exit into the customer doorway. It will also remain the accessible entrance/exit. The staircase entrance will close and serve as an emergency exit only. The greeter station will subsequently be relocated, and lighting will be added over both the primary and emergency doors. Additional lighting will be installed over the materials pickup windows as well.

Library ELT will continue to examine expanding our operating hours and adjusting staff schedules and service points to meet the current service levels. A report will be prepared for review at the December Board meeting, including a timeline and recommendation regarding Library operating hours.

The Library continues to work with Aurora Town Square regarding governance issues relating to IT and programming. Since APL is community-led, our programming evolves to meet changing community needs and interests. As a result, APL is not able to provide specific details on future programming plans. The MOU under development will secure blocks of time in the programming rooms for APL use, providing the flexibility for the Library to determine programming that meets current and future community needs.

An SLA is under development for IT that will ensure APL can leverage ATS contracts and vendors to receive the best pricing and equipment and allow for consistency throughout ATS.

Library Storytime will transition indoors from Town Park due to the colder weather. This is the only in person program currently offered.

### 6. General Business Information/Questions

.1 *APL Updates and Aurora Town Square Stakeholder Updates* Articles, photographs and a project update were issued prior to the meeting.

MOTION: **21.08.80** Moved by: J. Clement Seconded by: A. Mobbs CARRIED **THAT** the APL Updates and Aurora Town Square Stakeholder Updates be received as information

Newspaper articles and media coverage from mid-October to mid-November highlighted APL's programs and services.

The Town of Aurora provided an update on the Aurora Town Square construction project in an email to the Board.

### 7. Resolution to Move Into Closed Session

.1 Personal matters about an identifiable individual

MOTION: **21.08.81** Moved by: K. Turriff Seconded by: A. Mobbs CARRIED **THAT** the Board move into Closed Session to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual

At 8:05 p.m., the Board moved into Closed Session.

MOTION: **21.08.82** Moved by: K. Turriff Seconded: Councillor J. Gallo CARRIED **THAT** the Board return to Open Session

At 8:55 p.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

MOTION: **21.08.83** Moved by: K. Turriff Seconded by: J. Clement CARRIED **THAT** the Library Board confirms the CEO receives the recommended step increase after completing the third year of service at Aurora Public Library

### 8. <u>Member Announcements</u>

M. Rankel attended the OLS Trustee meeting. A Library Board self-assessment was recommended. M. Rankel will take the lead on this, with assistance from B. Gorman.

### 9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

### 10. Adjournment

MOTION: **21.08.84** Moved by: MRankel Seconded by: AM CARRIED **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

T. Connor Chair B. Gorman Chief Executive Officer



### Aurora Public Library Board

REPORT SR2021.28

SUBJECT: APL REGULAR OPERATING HOURS REPORT

FROM: Bruce Gorman, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: November 17, 2021

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the return of regular operating hours in line with the state of COVID-19 and Town Square project milestones during the Spring of 2022.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2021, the Library continues to face considerable challenges in its service to the community. Like all other libraries, Aurora Public Library (APL) was confronted with the day-to-day, often moment-to-moment dynamics of an evolving pandemic in addition to the fully entrenched Town Square construction project. These factors together influenced the hours of operation in a unique way, unlike almost all other libraries.

APL introduced our current operating hours in April 2020 in response to the altered service levels offered due to the COVID-19 related closure. The Library established modified services in support of our curbside pickup ahead of almost all other libraries in Ontario. APL has operated with consistent hours since that time of Monday to Saturday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Still to this day, many libraries are presenting sporadic hours of service, and many have abandoned their pickup service. APL's operational consistency in terms of hours and offerings has served the community well, as evidenced by the ongoing considerable use of our pickup service.

In July 2021, we reopened our library for in person visits adhering to COVID-19 protocols with no in-library programming. Consistently since that time, we have not seen many more than 60 people in the library at any one time. We increased our capacity to 75 people in November 2021. Both COVID-19 and the Town Square construction project continue to influence these numbers.

Given that we are open each day of the week except Sunday for a total of 42 hours, there has not been a notable demand or inquiry from the community for additional library operating hours.

### **Discussion**

APL looks forward to returning to regular hours in a responsible manner and at a time in line with both the state of the pandemic and the Town Square construction project. With the continuing unpredictable nature of COVID-19, including the newly identified Omicron variant and rising infection rates together with the shifting timelines of the construction project milestones, in conjunction with the approach of winter, the Library wants to continue our proven approach that has served our community with distinction particularly through our pickup window. With continuing rates of over 20 people served per hour, the community, given the conditions we are facing, has demonstrated this is an excellent way for them to engage with us by accessing library materials in a convenient and safe manner during these challenging times.

We opened to the public in July and have seen regular visitation at any given time. Anecdotally, I am hearing from my professional network that customers have been slow to return across the province and beyond. This is not surprising to hear, particularly with no meaningful indoor Library programming occurring along with the communal heightened sensitivity to congregate and the variety of government regulations in place. APL is in a unique situation compared to most other libraries with the addition of the construction project.

At the November 2021 meeting, the Board learned of the Library's plan to redesign the Church Street points of entry and egress after the most recent Town Square project delay of three months. This delay will continue the closure of the new Yonge Street entrance and egress into 2022. As a result, we are working to provide a safe winter entrance and egress to the facility by converting the staff entrance on Church Street into our primary entrance and egress for customers as well, effectively closing the other entrance and egress on Church Street save for emergencies. This includes installing slip resistant surfaces, new lighting and a redesign of the greeter area.

The library management team reviewed opening additional hours in the evening until 8 p.m., one or more days during the week. Considerations included:

- The current state of COVID-19 where, as of this writing cases are on the rise to levels not seen in 6 months in Ontario, the Omicron variant is getting notable attention, compounded by concerns around the indoor nature of winter living and the continued use of a crowded temporary Library entrance and egress.
- Supporting additional staff roles such as the greeter and the multiple staff required to continue operation of the library pickup service presents additional risk as they are all unplanned COVID-19 roles that we are servicing with the same staffing levels pre-pandemic. As winter approaches, and with the current COVID-19 employee self-screening requirements, staff sick incidents increase which could lead to unexpected and reduced service levels in addition to challenging scheduling considerations.
- Lack of parking and associated concerns particularly during winter months and darkened evening hours.
- Plowing and associated winter weather conditions including increased customer liability regarding slips and falls using a non-standard entry and

egress with temporary lighting, and unproven in winter months particularly as related to accessibility. Does the ROI for a number of additional evening hours exceed the liability?

- APL has not returned to in-library programming which is a significant customer draw in the evenings.
- APL has had consistently more open hours than most libraries in Ontario. Many are closed throughout the week and have limited hours when they are open. Given the importance of our library pickup service, maintaining it throughout the winter should be a priority. There have also been only a few customer inquiries regarding offering evening hours.
- The Town is planning a soft launch of the Library side of Town Square in Spring 2022. With the attention this will likely draw and the availability of the new spaces, it would be an opportunity to return to normal hours in a celebratory fashion.

### CONCLUSION

With value and safety of our customers being paramount, the Library believes the return on investment of additional evening hours during the winter months under the current circumstances represents an unacceptable risk.

### Assisted by: APL Executive Leadership Team Maida Rae, HR Coordinator/EA

Bruce Gorman Chief Executive Officer



## COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAM FOR NEW RECRUITS

In order to support and nurture the development of new OPP (Police)

**Recruits** and to help them understand the value of strong partnerships within the community, a mentoring program has been developed that partners them with a senior member who has existing relationships within the community. The one-day session has the recruit and mentor attend a variety of locations and meet people that reflect different aspects of the communities that the police serve. This will assist the recruit in

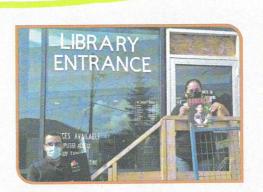
seeing how these different people and different support services interact with the police and the community, for the benefit of everyone in the community. This will also allow the recruit to understand some of the diverse groups and members of the community that they may come into contact with and to have a greater appreciation and more inclusive perspective when conducting their job. @OPP\_News @OPP\_Hire #OPP #InThisTogether

Cham Shan Buddhist Temple. 7254 Bayview Avenue



Neighbur @NeighburNewmarket

Central York Fire Services @centralyorkfire



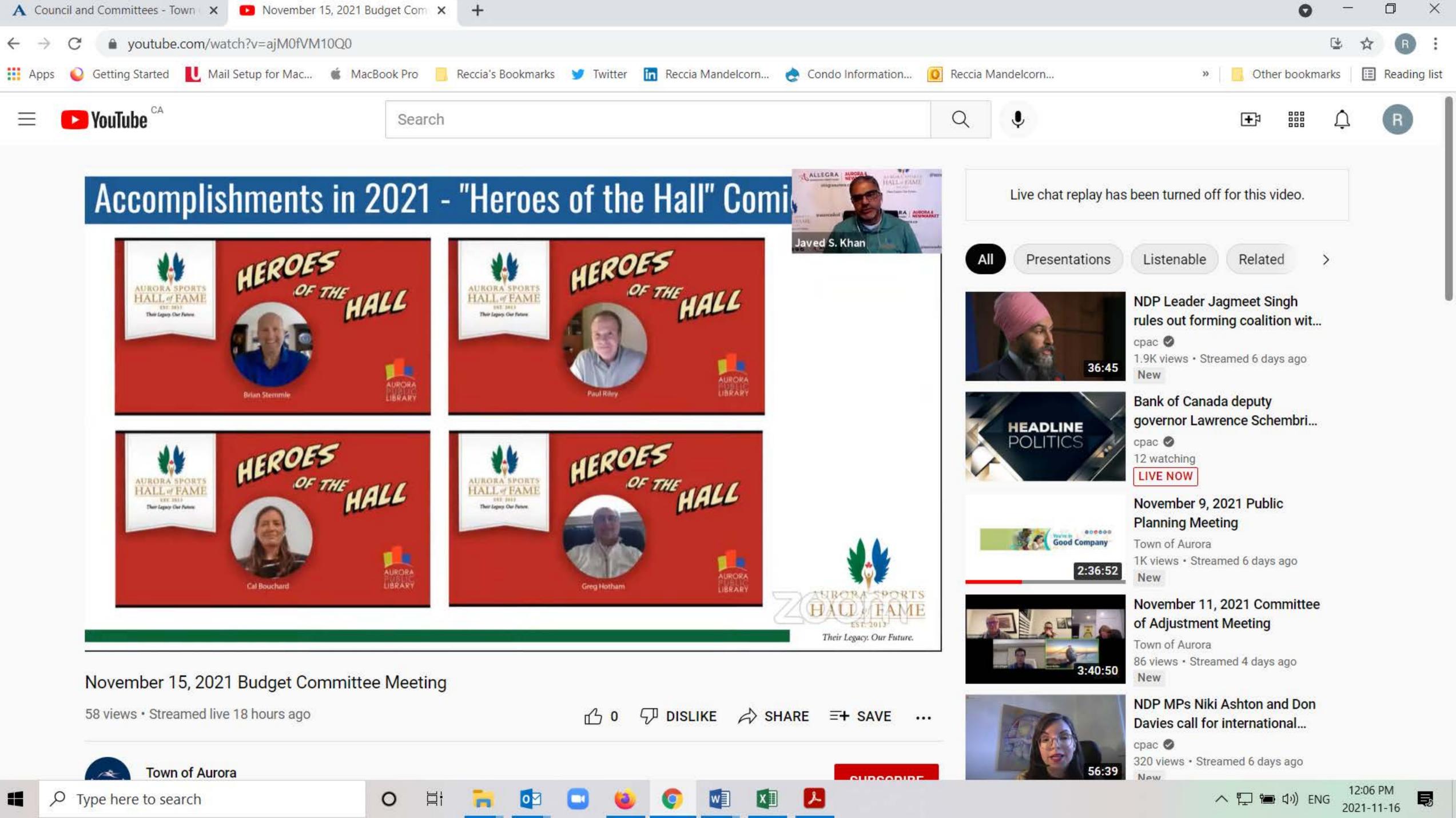
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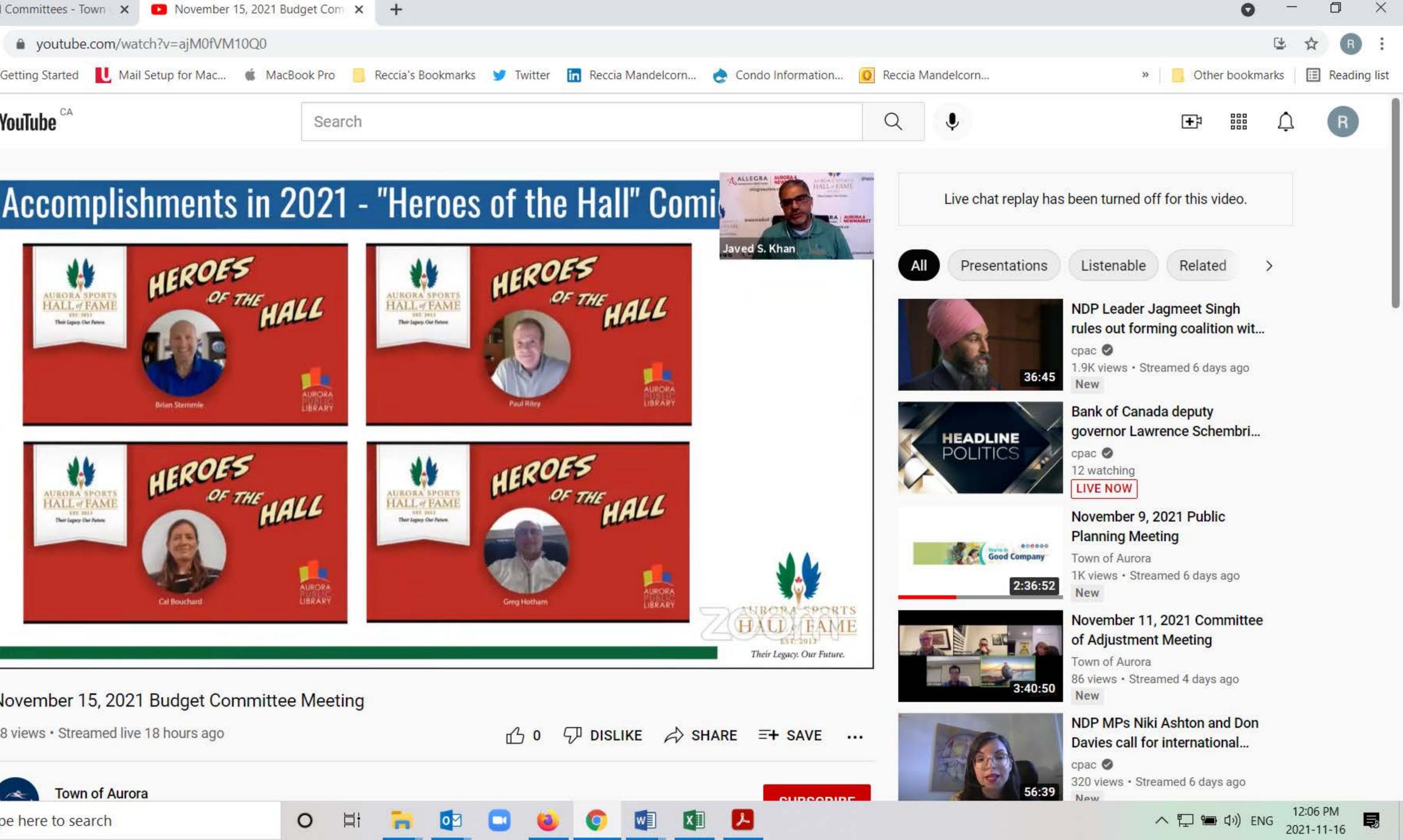
The Hindu Temple Society 10865 Bayview Avenue

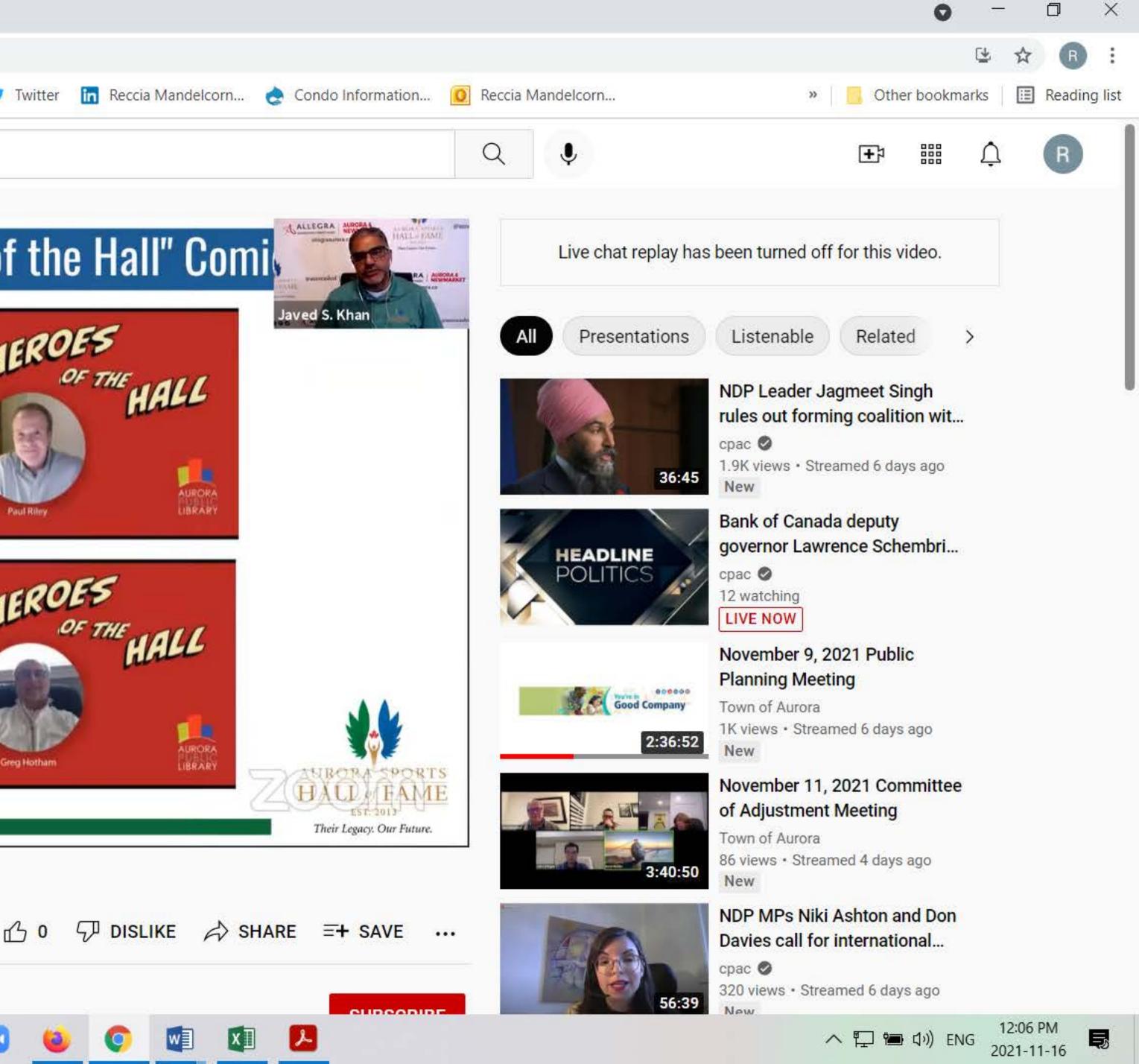
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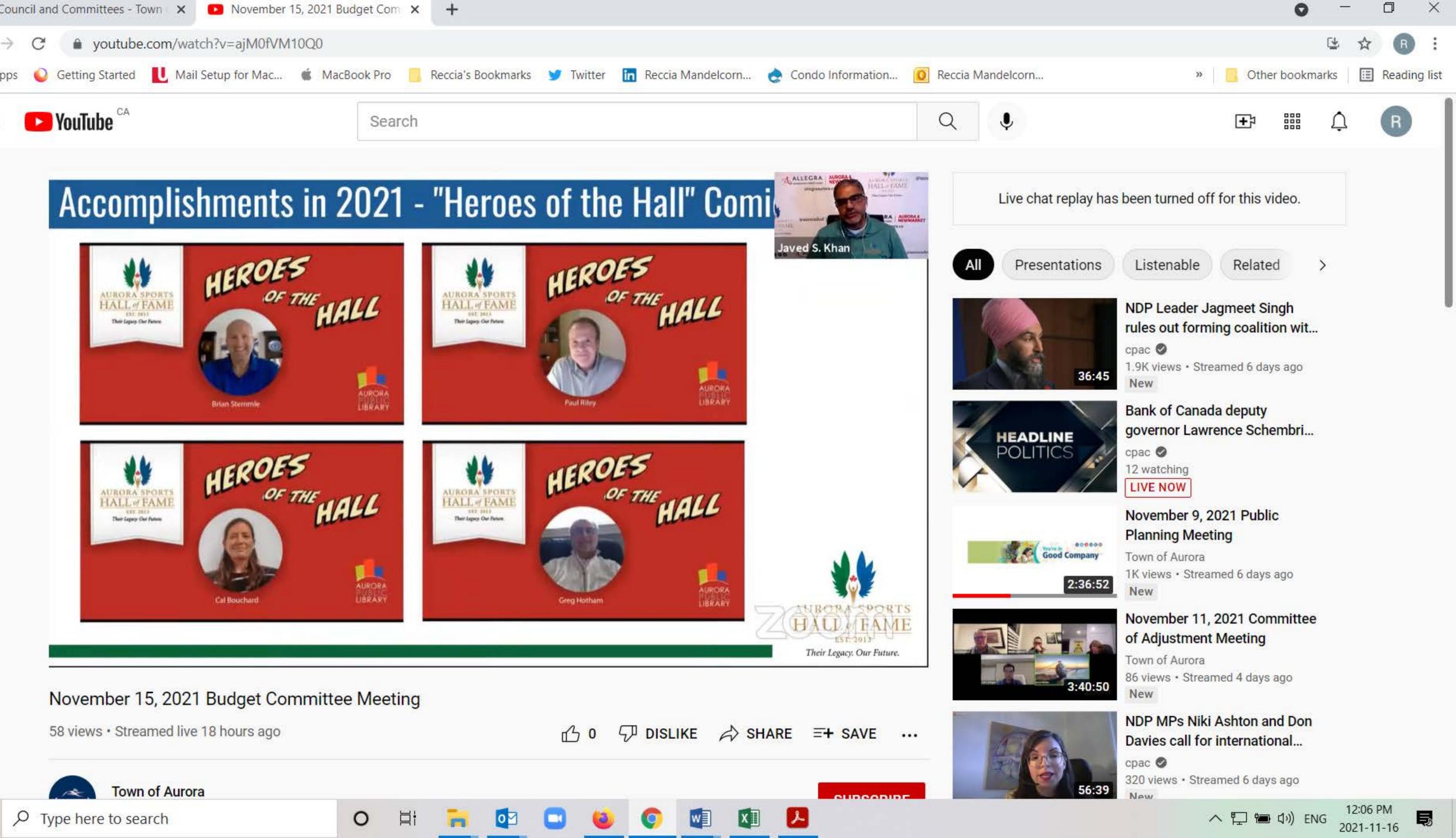


Barrie Native Friendship Centre **@barrienativefriendshipcentre** 









In the goods of Stephen Willson late of the Township of Fing Yerman Deceased he person One day mare " Somrell mare 3 cours 20 each Buggh cair of harrows Slorigh wagon Jearrom 20



## **The Aurora** Museum & Archives is remembering...

## The Value of Things!

This excerpt from a December 3, 1883 document (77.10.2) details the contents of Stephen Willson's estate. The term "Yeoman" indicates that he

was a land-owning farmer, a fact confirmed by the livestock and farming implements listed with their values. "Harrows" were used to break up and smooth out soil that had been upturned by ploughing. Some may find it harrowing to think that all of Stephen's household furnishings added up to only \$25 (under \$700 in 2021 dollars)!



## Welcome to Library Land

By Reccia Mandelcorn

The streets and laneways of Library Land extend and intersect in surprising directions, but most of us walk along the path of familiarity. Once we find our comfort zone, we are reluctant to explore new avenues.

Those of us who work in Library Land have tools in our skillset that enable us to direct readers to their next "read-alike." Cozy mysteries? We've got them. Psychological thrillers? We've got your back (metaphoricallyspeaking, of course). We get to know our customers and the genres they enjoy. And just like them, many of us fall into a reading rut.

My tastes have always veered in the direction of award-winning and classic literary fiction. Not to be a snob about my reading habits, but mysteries? I'd take a pass. Yet over the time of COVID, I'd find myself up at all hours, unable to sleep and searching online for something to read that would not tax my already over-worked thought processes. That's how I discovered the magical powers of Louise Penny and Linwood Barclay.

Now, there are some books that just haven't worked for me. Hard sci-fi – not so much. But couple this with a humanistic perspective and a protagonist I can relate to, and I'm on board for the ride. Three of the episodes in the new Netflix animated series, Love, Death & Robots, were based on short stories by John Scalzi. His (2005) novel Old Man's War combines relationships, aging and quality of life with a hard-core story of war for the human colonization of space. Surprising intersections for readers not yet into sci-fi.

I have a general rule about how much time I will give a book before I give up; much like the rule of how many dates it takes to know if you should cut your losses and move on. Reading books we don't like is not fun,

Last week, Council dealt with yet another iteration of a heritage permit application at 74 Centre Street.

Once again, the application was before Council for review and approval.

As I said at the table, this redevelopment is welcomed; however, what is not welcomed is a design and built form that does not conform to the Heritage District Plan.

While a triplex would be a great addition to the area as it would add more housing stock, including much needed rentals, this is in an area that has specific built form guidelines that must be met.

Leaving aside the fact that this proposed redevelopment will need to go to the Committee of Adjustment for variances, this application does not conform to the requirements of the Heritage District Plan.



**Tom Mrakas** heights and styles;

Consistent alignment of buildings in the streetscape"

This proposed development does not conform to multiple elements of the guidelines. While some may argue that the District Plan is just a set of guidelines and it is the zoning that is important, I will remind everyone that when it comes to heritage permit applications heritage trumps planning. And that is made clear in the terms of the Heritage District plan where it states in section 7.3 Land Use and Built Form in the District Policy subsection "b": "Notwithstanding 7.3 a., policies and guidelines included in the heritage district plan which further refine standards established in the zoning by-law to ensure compatibility with the heritage district context shall prevail under the authority provided by Section 41.2 (2) of the Ontario Heritage Act."

"shall." Not "may," but "shall" prevail. So, in other words, the heritage district plan supersedes the zoning.

This is why Heritage districts are created; to ensure that the built form of new or renovated properties continue to keep the character of the community. If we are simply going to disregard the Heritage District Plan then why have a plan at all? If we are to protect our heritage properties and continue to grow our heritage districts in a responsible way, new proposals need to conform to the plans that we, as a Town, have laid out.

With respect to 74 Centre Street, as this application does not conform (it might be close, but it does not conform), Council in the majority moved a recommendation to extend the heritage permit for another 60 days so that the applicant can make the necessary changes to cont torm with the Heritage District Plan. This motion passed 6 – 1 (Councillor Gaertner Opposed). I am pleased to note that the applicant is willing to extend the heritage permit another 60 days to work with the Town and the area residents to come up with a design that conforms to the plan. I am looking forward to when this permit application comes back to us so that we can move forward with a great addition to our Heritage District. If you have any questions about this update please contact me by email tmrakas@ aurora.ca or by phone 905-726-4746. I am here for you.

Specifically, per section 9.1.2 Overall Site and Scale Conditions:

"Key elements of scale, massing and site which predominate in the northeast old aurora neighbourhood and should be maintained are as follows:

- The predominant Single Detached dwelling form; - Side yard driveways and rear or flankage yard garages which results in generous side-yard spacing between buildings;
- Generous rear yard amenity space; - Front yard porches and verandas;
- A compatible range of building

Let's take a look at some events

of the past few months in Aurora

through that well-known story telling

device, the limerick.

The key word in that clause is

# **Year End Limericks**

The roadwork on Yonge Is finally done A miracle of the season

### **Restrictions being lifted**

With vaccines to save us from harm Things are opening up, that's the charm Not just you and me But the economy Got a needed shot in the arm

### Santa Under the Stars charity drive

During the parade a big bus Was stuffed full of toys, plus Treats, gift cards galore Toiletries and more Chartwell Park Place thanks all of us

### Minimum wage going up

On paycheques this soon will appear But those who greet it with a cheer Will soon discover It'll barely cover The Town's tax bump coming next year

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

and unless it's for work or a course, I have no hesitancy to close the cover (or hit "return early").

So how do you find the unexpected turns that lead you off in new directions? You can join a book club. APL hosts multiple book clubs, and chances are, if you ask around, you'll find books clubs right in your neighbourhood. Some book clubs are very social, with wine and nibblies. Interestingly, the pandemic has actually sparked participation in online books clubs, with increasing membership across the globe making for great perspectives.

You can ask your friends or family what they are reading. When my daughter and I get together, we always share our current reads. And as her reading is much more eclectic than mine, I always find nuggets of gold I would not have otherwise seen.

Writers are readers and surprisingly, they often read out of their genre. This is how they grow as authors. The Toronto Star and CBC often feature books Canadian authors have on their personal bookshelves. If a favourite author mentions what they are enjoying, it's likely going to show up on my "to-be-read" list.

This year, I have been consciously reading for diversity, looking to Continued on page 22

## THIS WEEK'S NEW POLL

Has the emergence of the omicron variant caused you to re-think your holiday plans?

### Yes No Unsure

www.theauroran.com

PREVIOUS POLL Do you support the Province's minimum wage increase?

RESULTS TO DATE November 30, 2021	YES 92%	N0 8%	UNSURE 0%
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### **COVID** shots for 5-11-year-olds

When kids get vaccines there are fears Their screaming will rattle your ears But shots kids don't mind And you'll likely find Their parents shed most of the tears

### **Buying locally** at the Christmas Market

You shop at a local craft stand For the right gift made here by hand Then soon as you pay It's yours right away And not stuck on a ship from Japan

### **In-person Santa Under the Stars**

The parade's back in the Town's heart We're counting the days till its start We'll see you on Yonge For all of the fun But let's all keep six feet apart



## **INSIDE AURORA**

Scott Johnston

### **Rising prices**

Being stuck indoors made us pout "We're finally free", we now shout We can eye the prize But inflation's rise Means we can't afford to go out

### Locals opposed to proposed disc golf course

Neighbours on hearing were jarred Many of them took it quite hard Until they were told They'd make cash when they sold All the discs that fell in their yards

### **Repairs on Yonge completed**

It's news to drivers most pleasin' After delays for no reason

# **Community continues to grow as Meadows** of Aurora's Park Tower construction is launched



Participants in the November 22 event included individuals from The Meadows, Lisgar Construction and the Town of Aurora (from left to right) Hank Kampen, Mary Mount, Mike Morale, Clarence Baker, Gino Bifolchi, Jim Verkaik, Al Romkema, Pete Ryzebol, Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas, Simon Frankruyter, Dawn Irwin and Bea DenBroeder. **Contributed photo** 

### Submitted to The Auroran

Monday, November 22 for the exciting launch of The Meadows of Aurora next building phase—Park Tower.

Construction has begun on

Community's third phase that features 125 surperbly designed suites on seven It was shovels in the ground on floors. When completed in late 2023, Park Tower owners will join hundreds of other residents who already call The Meadows "home".

The idea of The Meadows, located Park Tower, the Senior Retirement at 440 William Graham Drive, was

spawned over 15 years ago when a small library, lounge, outdoor patio, gazebo, group of like-minded York Region residents realized that a faith-based community with Christian values could transform the idea and vision of a caring community built on the foundation of near family, friends, church and love, respect, trust and dignity.

acres of protected forestland with a the finest in independent living stream that feeds a 1-acre backyard pond.

are a welcoming entrance lobby, stunning dining room, concert hall, café,

exercise room, craft room, wellness centre, walking trail and salon.

Believing that seniors prefer to remain in a caring community healthcare providers, The Meadows The 25-acre property includes 14 has not only created and built accommodations, but it is also now home to Sandalwood Terrace, for Among amenities at The Meadows assisted living support and Oakdale Manor, caring for those with memory care challenges.

## Welcome to Library Land

### From page 5

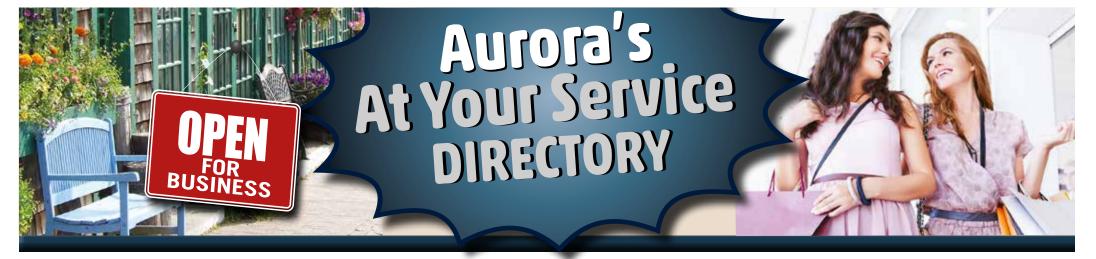
understand the world through the lived experiences of others. High on my list have been books written by BIPOC authors (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour). And reading the stories (fiction and non-fiction) of the newer immigrant experience expands and enriches the canon of Canadian literature.

APL offers book clubs, reading challenges and curated lists for all tastes and ages. Consider taking a walk on the wild side. You always have the option to swipe left and move on.

What I've been reading:

- In Five Years by Rebecca Serle
- House Divided: how the missing middle can solve Toronto's affordability crisis by Alex Bozikovic (and others)
- A Tap on the Window by Linwood Barclay
- The Story of a New Name by Elena Ferranta

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.



## Who does what in our community

## **CLEANERS**

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## CREMATION





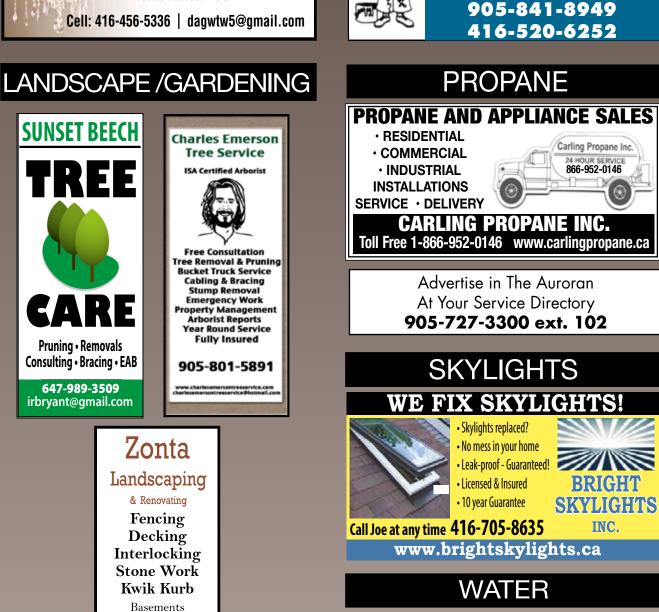
Flooring

Bathrooms

Kitchens

(647) 668 4949

zlr.ca





### **NOT EVERYONE** needs your services all the time, but if you want to be there when they do...advertise in Aurora's At Your Service Directory Call 905-727-3300 Ext. 102 to book your ad